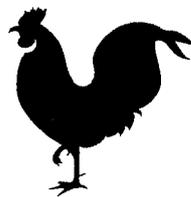


Ho-ho-ho

What's On OVINGTON



December 2004
Volume 12/12

Massive Development Scare Not Justified

Villages unlikely to be affected

All members of Ovington Parish Council were present at a briefing by Breckland planning officers at Shipdham on the 17th November. Among the many concerns raised was the target set by John Prescott to build thousands of houses in the east of England over the next few years. We were reassured to hear that, counting existing permissions and sites already under development Breckland is already halfway to meeting its share of this target. It can be reached without changing the existing rate of about 500 house per year and there will be little effect on villages.

Parish Council Report

filed by Rod Rumsby

A Parish Council Meeting, held on 20th October, did not produce the controversial arguments and heated discussion so beloved by the media. The public (Public - where??) in this instance were treated to an orderly, constructive, discourse on how best to give the people of Ovington that which their hearts so desire. It was decided however, -- due in the main to a fear of murder and mayhem likely to descend on said councillors, should the community tax necessary to fund such luxuries rise to extortionate levels--, and it would be advisable to restrict spending to fund the bare necessities only.

Good signs

Favourable comments were passed on the new Village signs, funded and erected courtesy of the Wayland Partnership. At the risk of excommunicating more of Ovington's residents the Parish Council agreed to part fund a further sign to be erected on Church Road. The larger part of the cost of this sign is being provided by money kindly donated by the Ovington Golden Jubilee Committee.

More bulbs

There were no planning applications to consider at the meeting. Various donations were paid out to organisations within the Wayland area, those which are most likely to be of benefit to Ovington we might add. More bulbs have been purchased and planted in conspicuous areas of the village. The Parish Council appointed Mr. Reg. Farmer to the Ovington Fuel Trust to fill the vacancy sadly left by the passing of Victor Westwood.

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OTHER PAGES

Reminiscences—Laurie Howe

Ramblings—Crossword—Bazaar — Bingo

Ladies Group — Bowls — Garden Club — Letters

>>> from PAGE 1 (Parish Council)

There has been a complaint about the site of the Dog Waste bin currently located adjacent to the Post Box in Crown Crescent. The Council are to look into the possibility of relocating same, if a position can be found that is not likely to offend other persons or more importantly if a move of the said bin is actually affordable at present. The meeting closed at 8.55 pm. No blood was shed all evening-----could this be the reason that so few members of the public attend the meetings? -----or-----are your councillors doing such a *fine job* that you are quite content to leave running of the Village affairs all to them? Anyway, the next meeting, which is to set the budget for next year, will be held on Wednesday 24th November at 7.30 pm, in the committee room of the Village Hall. Members of the public are cordially invited to attend and are actively encouraged to make known their views and opinions to the Council.

You may contact the Clerk to the Council, Mr John Goode, at any reasonable time on 01953 889342.

Christmas Bazaar

Our traditional Christmas Bazaar is on a Sunday this year so put your roast lunches on hold and come on down to the Village Hall where it will be wall to wall fun and festivity.

You may easily be able to buy all your Christmas presents under one roof. Apart from the usual gift stalls there is a tombola, raffle and a sweetie tombola for the children as well as a personal appearance by Father Christmas.

The refreshment counter with its usual tempting assortment of savoury pastries and home made cakes will be open throughout. All donations will be gladly received by the organisers—Lyndia (Thornborough, Church Rd) and Maureen (Oak Farm) on Saturday 4th Dec or from 10 am on Sunday 5th Dec at the Village Hall.

A BIG THANK YOU GOES OUT TO ALL THOSE IN THE VILLAGE WHO HAVE MADE CONTRIBUTIONS AND GIVEN ITEMS FOR SALE AT THE BAZAAR.

**The Ovington
Christmas Bazaar**

Diary for December

1st	
at 7.45 pm	Garden Club
5th	
At 12 noon	Christmas Bazaar
6th	
At 1.45 pm	Bowls
13th	
At 1.45 pm	Bowls
15th	
At 7.30 pm	Christmas Bingo
16th	
At 8.00 pm	Photo-scrap
20th	
At 1.45 pm	Bowls
21st	
At 7.00 pm	Ladies Group

Bingo—15th December

Please give donations of prizes to Karen or Mac by 10th December. Seating is limited so any children will have to sit on the floor, so bring some cushions.

**Doors open at 7.00 pm, 'Eyes Down' at 7.30 pm.
Refreshments will be available.**

RAINFALL FIGURES FOR OCTOBER

2004—	129 millimetres
2003—	42.5 millimetres
1994—	94 millimetres

Considering how dry September was after such a wet and somewhat cool summer October more than made up for it. Rainfall was three times the 2003 level and almost treble this September's levels. Interestingly and coincidentally the level of 129 mm was the same as August's figure.

2004—	1st+15th/17mm 16th/19mm
2003—	5th/8mm— 31st/10mm
1994—	31st/16mm—30th/30mm

Measured and compiled by Ted Bowman

Laurence Howe - reminiscences



The years 1940 to 41 must surely have been the worst of the second world war. Most able bodied workers were directed either to the services or essential and compulsory war duties. My first job was in a small foundry casting iron, brass and alloys. Unfortunately I had an accident so spent a while in the N & N Hospital with, would you believe it, a fractured jaw. Luckily I had paid into a friendly society so the major cost was met by them as the NHS was still 8 years away. Most patients were wheeled off to shelters during the frequent air raids except my section. We were confined to the ward since they thought we might 'do a runner'. During my time at the foundry I was to assist in repairing an old steam engine at the George Cushion farm in Thursford. I have vivid memories of driving

around in ever decreasing circles with George running behind trying to slow me down while hens and pheasants were scattered to the 4 corners of the farm. Christmas 1940 was not the happiest of times. Folks thought it might be the last one of the war. Few could have known we were in for almost 5 more long years of conflict, the loss of loved ones, the austerity and sheer hopelessness of the entire situation. Most local airfields were used by bomber command where bombing raids were launched on Germany. After hugging their wives and children returning airmen would visit local pubs, meet their mates, drink their entire beer allocation in one night and have several games of darts, perhaps the last of their short lives.

Mike Pemberton - ramblings



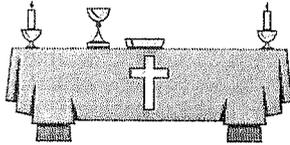
It's not easy for anyone writing at this time of the year to avoid even the merest mention ofwell, you know what.

That it has been creamed to death there is no doubt – that the excitement and anticipation we oldies experienced as children back in the days soon after the second world war have long since evaporated is undeniable. So what happened in the five or so decades since we all became caught up in the early December build up to the great day? How have circumstances influenced our perception of what was once such a thrilling and magical season? Is it simply that we have all grown up? Have we become victims of an unyielding persuasiveness turning us into indiscriminate spending machines?

What possesses people to deck the entire façade of their homes in garish fairy lights and illuminated snowmen? Why do parents rush from one shop to another spending vast sums of money on presents for their increasingly spoilt and demanding children? We seem to be caught up in a maelstrom of sentimentality that destroys all sense of proportion and renders us easy targets for those whose job it is to empty our wallets. And what happened to the idea put forward by some American intellect whose name escapes me? He proposed that the only way to resolve this appalling deception was to buy a present for yourself and no one else. This way you'd not only get something you really want but you'd save all the money normally spent on buying useless

gifts for other people. Shall we put that to the children? Assuming they have no access to ready cash you'd have to buy their present for them anyway but at least you'd not have a lapful of ghastly neckties, socks, cheap perfumes and inedible chocolates while watching her majesty walking her corgis on the 25th. Finally I can't help wondering, with a degree of concern, what happens to the men in red suits after December 24th. I mean there are thousands of them up and down the country and all over the western world. Can you imagine a wardrobe full of dark ever-so-English suits and blazers and, wait for it, in amongst them a bright pillar box red track suit with white fleecy attachments and matching elfin hat with a bell on it? Alternatively do you suppose they all return to Lapland to begin work on next year's festival? I used to know a few out of work actors who would have been mortified had anyone discovered their ghastly secret. Another thing puzzles me. Why are our children not curious about the number of Santas they encounter at this time of the year? Do they still think there is only one? We were on holiday in the Caribbean a few years back. On the morning of the 25th we were told Santa would arrive on the beach around 11 am. The kids expected a sleigh and reindeer instead of which he zoomed up in a speed boat looking magnificent with his black face framed with the whitest of beards. Unforgettable – the magic of – whoops, I nearly said it! Have fun.

Next month— Virginia Lewis.



Church News

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

19th December at 3 p.m. The Churchwardens and P.C.C. invite you all to the Candle by Candlelight Service in St. Johns and afterwards in the Village Hall for refreshments.

The Churchwardens and P.C.C. wish everyone a very happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year. If you are travelling take care and have safe journeys.

DECEMBER

5th No service at Ovington.

12th Parish Communion 9 am.

Lesson: Mr.R.Malton & Mrs.P.Westwood
Steward: Mrs.Lovewell

19th Carols by Candlelight 3 pm.

25th CHRISTMAS DAY 9 am.

Lesson: Mrs.P.Westwood

26th BOXING DAY

Benefice Service at Ovington
See 'Five Alive' for time

JANUARY

2nd No Service

9th Parish Communion 9 a.m.

Lesson: Mr.C.Springford & Mr.R.Hardy
Steward: Mr.R.Hardy
Flowers: Mrs.Westwood

16th Evensong 3p.m.

Lesson: Mrs.P.Westwood
Steward: Mrs.P.Westwood
Flowers: Mrs.R.Rednall

23rd Parish Communion 9a.m.

Lesson: Mr.R.Malton & Mrs.P.Westwood
Steward: Mrs.P.Lovewell
Flowers: Mr.and Mrs.R.Malton

30th Benefice Service

EASY PRIZE CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 Passage (7)
- ~~7 Fashion (5)~~
- 8 Refer to (7)
- ~~9 Serious (6)~~
- 11 Wobbly dessert (5)
- ~~13 Floor of a ship (4)~~
- 14 Ceremonial staff (7)
- 15 Disarray (4)
- ~~16 Premier (5)~~
- ~~17 Stringent (6)~~
- 21 Into the air (7)
- ~~22 Short period of time (5)~~
- ~~23 Branch of mathematic (7)~~

DOWN

- ~~2 Teenager (10)~~
- 3 Lacking in energy (8)
- ~~4 Part in a play (4)~~
- ~~5 Game played on horseback (4)~~
- ~~6 Restrain (4)~~
- 9 Venom (5)
- 10 Think over again (10)
- 12 Entice (5)
- 13 Fine (8)
- ~~18 Wet weather (4)~~
- ~~19 Bistro (4)~~
- 20 Semi-precious stone (4)

Please post your completed puzzles to Chris at Thornborough or Mike at Brovey Lair. The first complete and correct solution drawn on December 15 wins two boxes of delicious and exotic Turkish delight for Christmas. The crossword is sponsored by The Café at Brovey Lair—now officially one of Norfolk's top three restaurants.

Last Month's Answers

Across: 8 Chiffon, 9 Slash, 10 Bathe, 11 Growled, 12 Cork, 13 Offstage, 16 Shipment, 18 Thus, 21 Acclaim, 23 Rebel, 25 Tames, 26 Sacking. Down: 1 Scab, 2 Bitter, 3 Offer, 4 Snug, 5 Espouse, 6 Dahlia, 7 Shudders, 12 Casualty, 14 Fun, 15 Embassy, 17 Income, 19 Hybrid, 20 Trick, 22 Mast, 24 Legs.

What's On wishes all its readers a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

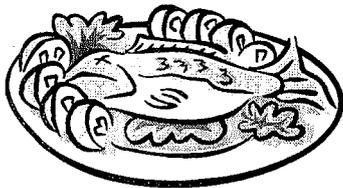


Breckland Harmony wins Scotton Trophy 2004

A very enjoyable evening was had by ten enthusiastic teams from around the area when they competed in the annual Scotton Trophy at the Village Hall. Competition was intense but the Breckland Harmony team (pictured here) came through as clear winners.

LADIES GROUP

The December meeting will be held on the 21st December, please note the earlier start time of 7.00 pm. We will be having our Christmas meal, the choices being Chinese or fish & chips, any Ladies who have not made a selection and are intending to attend please call Michelle on 884544. We look forward to seeing as many members as possible to wish you all a merry festive season.



Poetry Competition

Here's the winning entry for the Ladies Group competition for a bit of Norfolk poetry. Now we know her talents we will expect lots more from Daphne to go in the What's On.

Poem by Daphne Preece

*A bishey barney bee
Sat on a mawkin's head
Along came a mavish
And in excitement said
Get me a mawther as quickly as you
can
Complete with a dwile and match box
And cook it in the pan.*

Thanks Daphne—may we print a translation in the next issue please?—EDS.

next month in *What's On*

Letters column—have your say on any topic you think deserves comment. **Shop Window** where you can offer items for sale—50p will buy you a month's exposure and you can have a picture if there is space and the print quality is OK. A commercial rate sheet for panel advertisements like the one above is available on request.

Regular contributors to WOO should note that copy must be received no later than 10 December for inclusion in January's edition. Please e-mail to chris.lewis@downtoearthcomputing.co.uk or deliver to Thornborough.

BOWLS CLUB

December

Monday 6th 1.45 pm
 Monday 13th 12.45 pm
 Bowls Lunch
 Monday 20th 1.45 pm
 Monday 27th No Bowls

GARDEN CLUB

Wednesday 1st December is the Garden Club AGM followed by refreshments and a competition. The next meeting and the first of the New Year is on 5th January 2005.



NEW ARRIVAL

Congratulations to Sandra and Andrew King at the Dairy Farm on the birth of their son Max in October

Letter to the Editors

Rare sighting of black rabbits

Firstly, we would like to say we enjoy the new format of What's On and appreciate it is not easy to write interesting news stories about Ovington on a monthly basis. However, we would like to make it clear we are not the "home owners between villages who are not sure where they live now". In fact, we are quite happy with the positioning of the new village signs. We think most people would appreciate it represents the "village centre" and we, like quite a few others, are content to be on the "outskirts".

As a "Wayland Village", we are part of a wider community, along with neighbouring villages and Watton town. Wayland is a great place to live in, whether your address is Ovington, Carbrooke or wherever!

On a lighter note, we have over the past year noticed a family of wild black rabbits in our field. Has anyone else ever seen or heard of others in Ovington? Or perhaps someone has lost a pet black rabbit a year or two ago?

Best wishes,
 Maureen and John Simmons

We, the editors, would like to thank Maureen and John for their comments in support of the new look WOO and would ask readers who are quick to criticise to ask themselves if they think they can do better to come forward.

Membership Application Form for Ovington Lottery 2005

First name.....
 Surname.....
 Address.....
Post Code.....
 Tel No.....

Membership is £12. per annum. Payment enclosed: Cash or cheque.
 Please make cheques payable to Ovington Village hall and return to Grace at 31 The Street, Ovington by 5th January 2005.

**Thanks to everyone for your help and support throughout the year.
 We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.**