

# The Ovington Oracle

July, 2012

## **Welcome:**

Linda & Tim

Linda is away and I'm left with strict instruction not to mention anything to do with Green politics, renewable energy or social policy, so I'll try not to; oops did I just type that?

My thanks goes to all those who have contributed to another bumper Oracle edition, with contributions from many people and organisations we must have one of the most active village magazines in the district, especially considering how relatively small Ovington is; read on for the July issue ...

## **Diary Dates:**

All at Village Hall unless otherwise indicated

Mondays @ 10:30am	Coffee morning, until 11:30am
Mondays @ 1:45pm	Bowls
Tuesdays @ 5:15pm	Karate
Thursdays @ 7:30pm	TaeKwondo
4 July @ 7:00pm	Gardening Club – Blackberry Farm, Dillington
8 July @ 9:30am	Holy Communion – Church
17 July @ 7:45pm	Ladies Group
25 July @ 7:00pm	Cash Bingo

To book the village hall contact Christine Hardy 889920

More at: [www.ovington-village.org.uk](http://www.ovington-village.org.uk)

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### STOP PRESS

Interruption of the mains electric supply to the village on  
Monday 2nd July between 8:00am and 5:00pm.

Coffee morning will still run – we have the technology!

## **Ladies Group:**

Maureen Simmons



We were blessed to have a glorious summer evening for our pub walk on 19th June when 24 members and other halves walked for an hour through the lush fields and lanes of Thompson. This was followed by a very good meal at The Chequers when we all satisfied our thirst and hunger and enjoyed each other's company. An excellent evening!

A representative from the British Trust for Ornithology will be talking at our next meeting on 17th July at 7:45pm in the village hall. The competition for the evening is something beginning with the letter 'F'.

A further date for your diary is Saturday, 4th August, when we are having a picnic in the garden of Christine and John. More details on this later.

Please remember our meetings are open to all ladies in the village (and elsewhere). You do not have to be a member - you can come along as a guest for just £1. We look forward to seeing you all soon.

## **Security Alert**

Grace Rumsby

Please be aware that we have had intruders in the village who have stolen several items of property, a van was also seen in the village without number plates.

Please report to the police on their telephone number 101 any suspicious vehicles or people seen in around the village.

The next SNAP meeting, which anyone can attend and ask questions of the Police will be held at Watton Fire Station at 2:00pm on July 11th. There is usually a representative of Ovington Parish council to ensure our voice is heard.

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## ***Nearby events:***

**'Scoulton Through the Centuries'** Saturday 7th July  
10:00am – 4:00pm at Scoulton Village Hall.

As well as the main display of information on each century both before and after the Norman Conquest, there will be the usual opportunity to research village-related family history and exchange memories and photographs from the last 100 years. For more information ring Scoulton History Group: Julia 483654, Margaret 483785 or Janet 850368.

**Concert in aid of Nelson's Journey** Saturday 14 July

Breckland Harmony (who rehearse in Ovington Village Hall) are giving a concert together with the West End Waiters at St Mary's Church, Watton at 7:00pm. The proceeds are going to Nelson's Journey – a local charity benefiting bereaved youngsters in Norfolk. The compère for the evening is BBC's Carol Bundock who is a keen supporter of this worthwhile cause. The music and entertainment for the evening comes from the 1960s and 1970s. Tickets, costing £7 (£6 for concessions) can be obtained from St Mary's Church office or Mullenger Estate Agents and include light refreshment.

**Mixed Media Art Exhibition 'Blossomings'**

Saturday 21st July – Saturday 28th July

Blossomings is the first exhibition by Myrtle & Rose, three textile artists who have come together to make hats and accessories, often with a vintage twist. Jill Arnold, Marion Barnett and Clare Hedges are all known in their own right. As well as hats, fascinators and accessories, there will be a selection of textile art, much of it featuring flowers.

Dragonfly Gallery, Wayland House, High St, Watton. IP25 6AR  
Weekdays: 10:00 – 4:00pm, Sat 10:00 – 1:00pm.

Contact Susan Hollingworth (01953 880205)

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## ***Goodbye Ovington***

Richard and Ann Akister

As we prepare to move from Ovington to Hampshire, may we use the good offices of the Ovington Oracle to say goodbye to all our friends in the village.

Since 2006 we have enjoyed the company of our neighbours; we have experienced the culinary delights of numerous village hall functions; we have helped put out, and put back again, tables, chairs and bunting for fêtes and bazaars; Ann has been enlightened by speakers at Ladies Group and we have both enjoyed the associated social functions; our gardening skills have been honed and stimulated within the Gardeners Club; we have been part of the fraternity of dog walkers; and an honorary member of the Association of Grass Cutters.

All in all, we have made some marvellous friends and have enjoyed your company, valued your support and will miss all that makes Ovington what it is. We hope the new owners of Redwood House, Helen and Neil Thomas together with their lovely children, Katherine and Peter, will enjoy their time with you as much as we have.

Thank you for having us!

Ann and Richard

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## ***PACT Fund Raising Evening***

Christine Reilly



Tickets are now available for the sit-down buffet supper on Friday 10 August in aid of the PACT Animal Sanctuary. They cost only £8 for a cold meat/pie + salads main course (vegetarian options available) followed by a dessert. There will be an animal-themed table quiz to keep you busy and a raffle. Ring Christine on 01953 885848 to book your places as soon as possible.

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## ***Village Hall:***

Christine Reilly

After what seemed like endless days of rain following the Jubilee, the day of the Fête dawned fine but offering a challenge to our marquee team with a fairly stiff breeze! Nonetheless, everything went well with the preparations and by lunchtime we had a wonderful array of games and stalls crammed full of home-made goodies, gifts and prizes. John Hardy kindly did the official opening and everyone enjoyed a fine, if slightly chilly, afternoon of fun and food. The end result was an amazing £1201.50 which was split equally between the Church and the Village Hall. Well done, everyone for making it such an enjoyable and successful event. Thank-you to all who helped in any way, before, during and after and to those who came along and supported us on the day.

### **Cash Bingo**

By popular demand, there will be a Cash Bingo evening in the Village Hall on Wednesday 25th July. Doors open 7:00pm, eyes down at 7:30pm. The evening will include a raffle and refreshments will be available. All proceeds go to Village Hall funds. It has been some years since we had a bingo session in the village, so come along and don't be late as space is limited!

### **Arts and Crafts Sessions**

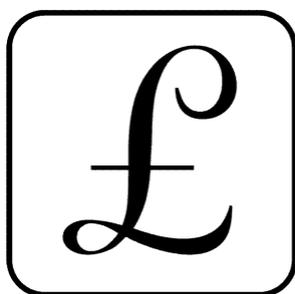
There is a lot of creative talent in this village. You only had to look at the lovingly crafted items on sale at the Fête recently to see that. Some people have since admitted to 'doing a bit of art' in their past and wanting to have another go, but lacking the time (or excuse for making time) to do it. So we propose setting up some sort of Arts and Crafts Sessions, maybe even a club, in the village to give you the excuse (once a month) to make time to be creative. In these modern throwaway times, many people lack the skill to 'make do and mend' or even create things for themselves or their home. Such useful skills are no longer taught in school and could be lost forever if not

passed on. Whether you have needlework/artistic or any other useful skills and would like to pass them on, or you would like the opportunity to learn something, both could be accommodated in a monthly session. Come along on Wednesday 1st August at 11:00am to the Village Hall and join us for a preliminary discussion. Bring some of your work with you if you have any, or just bring yourself and your ideas. Coffee will be provided free on the day – bring a packed lunch if you intend to stay longer and do something creative. Don't hide your light under a bushel. If you need a project, you could always create something for the Christmas Bazaar!

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## ***Village Lottery:***

Alan Powell



June winners of the village lottery:

1st (£10)

Christine Hardy

2nd (£5)

Sandra King,  
Linda Murray

Tim Birt (Editor – whoo hoo!)

Congratulations to all and good luck for July

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## ***Gardening Club:***

Ed Reilly



The June meeting was a visit to West Acre Gardens near King's Lynn. This garden is totally enclosed by a ten foot wall and is leased from West Acre Hall. The gardens held many interesting and special plants and part of the garden is a garden centre. This proved to be very attractive on a fine afternoon and the gardens were well received by members.

The July meeting is also a visit, this time to Norfolk Herbs at Blackberry Farm, Dillington, Dereham NR19 2QD at 7:00pm on Wednesday 4th July. Further details can be obtained from Ed on 885848 or Carol on 01760 440719. If you need transport, please contact a committee member to arrange details.

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# ***Queen's Jubilee Celebrations***

Rod Rumsby (PC Chairman)

The morning of June 2nd, the planned date for our celebrations, dawned bright and clear, quite often a bad omen for forthcoming weather conditions, but nothing deterred the Parish Council team from their preparatory efforts to ensure everyone in Ovington had a good time.

Well aware of the formidable appetites of our residents and the Village's reputation for gastronomic excellence, no stone had been left unturned to ensure that all tastes were catered for. With a Hog Roast forming the centre piece, the sweet trolley (?) groaned under the weight of confections and locally baked cakes, all complemented by a choice selection of cheeses.

Would any one turn up? Was there enough to satisfy them if they did? Can they be entertained for the whole evening?

Thankfully the answers to all three was yes! yes! yes!

The program of events will be familiar to all those who attended, which on reflection would appear to be the greater percentage of our population, but for those unfortunates who missed it we started off with a spirited ringing of the Church bell, followed immediately by the gorgeous hog roast (crackling to die for) and the usual culinary accompaniments.

Maintaining the impetuous, the sweets were demolished at an alarming rate whilst the children disported themselves in and around the Churchyard on a fiendishly engineered treasure hunt, their success rate marked by their delighted cries as they received their just rewards for completing the course.

As an aid to digestion, we were serenaded with a selection of songs by the "Live Wire Opera Company" who completed their set with a spirited rendition of the National Anthem, joined by their appreciative audience.

Advised to top up their glasses and given a hefty piece of

Union Jack cake, all were invited to join in the Loyal toast and give a resounded three cheers for Her Majesty. The winners of the various competitions, i.e Scarecrows, Quizzes etc. were announced and awards presented.



*Pirate Councillors: Janet, Jeremy, Tim & Rod. John was VERY camera shy!*

Responding to queries as to why the Parish Councillors were dressed as Pirates the Chairman explained that as most of the population on receiving their Council Tax demands regarded all councillors as pirates, he saw no reason to cause disillusionment.

All the children present were then given their own personal commemorative mug, by which time the temperature had descended to an un-June like figure, so in attempt to warm us all up the beacon was lit, but did little to raise the ambient temperature despite blazing away merrily.

As usual in operations like this there are people who deserve recognition for their efforts above and beyond the call of duty and top of this list must be Councillor John Hardy. John had most of the bright ideas for the scarecrow displays, he did most of the organising of the various factions that resulted in what all concerned considered a very impressive celebration. A special vote of thanks also to Ed Reilly who demonstrated his usual skills in erecting the numerous protective awnings and marquees, and we might add after a long hard day helped take them down again and stow them away just before the rains came down.

I suppose for once the words "Parish Council" and "Unmitigated disaster" were NOT synonymous!

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## **Church:**

Ann Johnson

A big thank you to all our friends from the other churches who came and supported our Annual Summer Fête.

Sunday 8th July @ 9:30am,                      Holy Communion.

Monday 9th July @ 2:00pm,                      Church cleaning.

Regular services are restarting on the first Thursday of the month, commencing:

Thursday 2nd August @ 9:30am,              Said Holy Communion.

Some dates for the future, further details to follow:

Sunday 9th September

    Combined open air service / Pet service in the afternoon.

Sunday 7th October

    Combined harvest festival service and auction with a re-dedication of the village sign.

Sunday 23rd December @ 5:00pm

    Christmas carol service.

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## **Comment:**

### **Ovington driving etiquette**

I am fed up with drivers not pulling over in time and ending up being forced onto people's gardens and verges in Church Road and also people driving too fast on the Street! Also, some people are very rude with gestures and shouting and so on. Ovington isn't that kind of village.

Janet Armstrong (by email)

Editor: I suspect many culprits are not from the village, we will address at the next SNAP meeting

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## ***Village Sign***

Rod Rumsby (PC Chairman)

You may have noticed that our lovely Village Sign has made a welcome appearance after a long period of restoration.

The painted main emblem certainly sparkles in the, sadly far too rare, sunlight, the change to a flower bed at the base adds a further splash of colour, which it is hoped will remain bright throughout most of the year.

The comments from those who have stood and admired the sign have been most positive.

Work behind the scenes necessary to bring the sign back to life must not be forgotten and I would take this opportunity to give heartfelt thanks to those folk whose diligence has not gone unrecognised.

Peter Johnson whose painting skills has revived the main picture depicting life in Ovington, Tony Watson for remounting the support column and planting up the flower bed, Paul Clark for restoring the scrolled metal work supporting the sign, and all those sturdy lads who re-erected the post and hefted aloft the heavy sign.

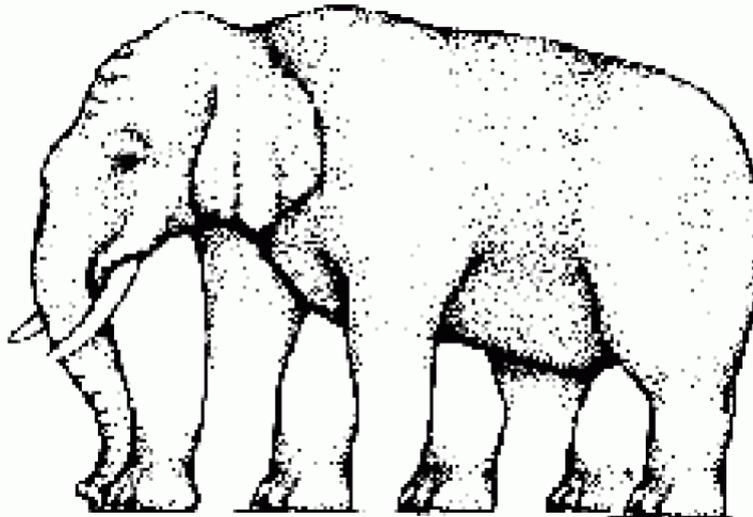
It is twenty years since the sign was first erected amid great ceremony and celebration and it is felt that a repeat of that occasion would be appropriate, so the Rev Jane Atkins has proposed a re-dedication ceremony later in the year, possibly coinciding with the harvest celebrations. Ovington tradition dictates that this be accompanied by a bun fight, with emphasis on the bun, so watch this space. Once again many thanks to those mentioned above for their sterling work.

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## **Children's Corner:**

Tim

How many legs on this elephant?



Q: What do you call an elephant that flies ?

A: jumbo jet !

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**Deadline for next issue: 20th July**

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