

The Ovington Oracle

November, 2012

Remember, remember the 5th of November, gunpowder, treason and plot ... be prepared for bangs flashes and smoke as Ovington celebrates Guy Fawkes night, no doubt over several days as we like to party.

Slightly less news this month. If you have news, ideas, items to exchange or share please do let us know. Make the Oracle your own.

Diary Dates:

All at Village Hall unless otherwise indicated

Mondays @ 10:30am	Coffee morning, until 11:30am
Mondays @ 1:45pm	Bowls
Mondays @ 6:00pm	Junior Choir
3rd Nov	Annual Village Hall Supper
7th Nov @ 7:45pm	Gardening Club
11th Nov @ 9:30am	Remembrance Day, Holy Communion (Church)
20th Nov @ 7:45pm	Ladies group
22nd Nov @ 7:30pm	Parish Council meeting
1st Dec @ 12:00	Christmas Bazaar

To book the village hall contact Christine Hardy 889920

More at: www.ovington-village.org.uk

Contents

Diary Dates:.....	1
Village Sign Re-dedication.....	3
Public Meeting (planning reference: 3PL/2012/0820/CU).....	3
Ladies Group:.....	4
Parish Council:.....	4
Nearby events:.....	5
Village Hall (events):.....	6
Village Hall (news):.....	8
Foodbank Update.....	9
Village Lottery:.....	9
Gardening Club:.....	10
Allotments:.....	10
Church:.....	11
Children's Corner:.....	12

Village Sign Re-dedication

A very misty morning but the village sign looked resplendent:



Public Meeting (planning reference: 3PL/2012/0820/CU)

Report: Timothy Birt

A public meeting was called to discuss a recent planning application at Otterwood Kennels for change of use to a gypsy/traveller site. The applicant's agent, representatives from Breckland Council, surrounding parishes as well as a police liaison officer and the direct neighbour to the site were given an opportunity to speak. The meeting was then opened to a packed village hall for questions and comments.

The meeting was exceptionally well chaired by Janine Fairburn who kept everyone concentrated on planning issues.

Residents are encouraged to submit comments either in writing or via the Breckland Council planning portal, use the above planning reference.

Ladies Group:

Maureen Simmons



Our Annual General Meeting was held in October, when two new members, Angela Wynne and Linda Murray, were welcomed to the committee. We would like to thank Chris Lewis for kindly auditing the year's accounts. A bingo session followed the formal part of the meeting.

At the next Ladies Group meeting on Tuesday, 20th November, at 7:45 in the village hall we welcome the return of Mr. Watts who will be sharing more memories of his Norfolk Life. The competition for the evening is something beginning with the letter 'H'.

Our Christmas Social this year is on 18th December at the earlier time of 7:00 pm in the village hall. A light meal will be provided by the committee with the usual Christmas goodies.

We look forward to seeing you all soon.

Parish Council:

Timothy Birt

The next PC meeting will be held on Thursday 22nd November at 7:30pm in the main hall rather than the committee room of the Village Hall.

Everyone is welcome to attend and Councillors are available to discuss issues before and after the meeting. Many councils have an etiquette which restricts public participation during a meeting, however our chairman is particularly good at suspending meetings in order to hear contributions from the floor, so please come along so we know what you think.

Nearby events:

The Wayland Partnership & The Wayland News

... have discovered the world of Twitter with the launch of a Wayland community Twitter account, **@waylandtweets**. For those of you yet to unravel the mysteries of Twitter, it is a micro-blogging service that consists of 140 character “tweets” that are broadcast to a person’s subscribers.

We have been looking at how best Twitter can work in Wayland. It can:

- Promote news, information and advice to followers
- Plug local events
- Provide updates on funding, training and volunteering
- Build relationships between businesses, voluntary and community groups, councillors, MPs and local networks and media contacts
- Provide a portal for business exchange or finding suppliers
- Offer B2B opportunities for sales/procurement
- Anything else you want – lack of imagination is the only obstacle

If you’d like support and advice in setting up your own Twitter account or any other aspect of social media so that you can take part, email Julian Horn on julian@waylandnews.com or Iain Cockburn on iain@wayland.org.uk.

We have already held a free training course on Twitter basics and are planning additional sessions for more advanced users. Details will appear in the Wayland News and at [@waylandtweets](https://twitter.com/waylandtweets).

Village Hall (events):

Christine Reilly

Annual Bazaar - Saturday 1st December 12:00 until 3:00pm

We will be collecting around the village on Thursday 22 November from 2:00pm. If you have any suitable items to donate to the Bazaar, please leave them outside your door, clearly visible from the road. It would help if they were in bags or boxes labelled 'Bazaar'! We need items for the hamper, bottle tombola, raffle, gifts stall, toys – if it is not brand new, please ensure it is clean and in good repair. Due to lack of space, we do not need books this time as we still have several boxes from the summer fête.

Items can also be brought to the village hall on any Monday morning during the coffee morning (10.30am onwards). Anything for the cake stall or refreshments (large or small cakes, pies, tarts, sausage rolls, jams, pickles, etc.) can be brought to the hall on the Friday afternoon (30 November) after 2:00pm or any time after 9am on the day of the Bazaar. Please ensure cakes, etc., are securely wrapped and labelled.

Stall holders can set up their stalls on the Friday from 2:00pm or on Saturday morning from 9:00am. Festive décor would be appreciated as the hall itself will be decorated for Christmas by then.

Stalls	Volunteers
Books	Matt R & Adrian
Cakes	Jane R and Hannah
Crafts	Linda M (+ 1)
Gifts	Mike M & Maureen Simmons
Hamper	Alan
Raffle	Ann & David

Bottle Tombola	Grace & Angela
Toys/Lucky Dip	Lyn
Ted's Birthday	Jill M
Cake Weight	Chris Springford
Soup Kitchen	Pat, Christine R (+ 1)
Refreshments	Marie-Ana, Rute (+ 1)
Various games	Jon and Ed

At time of going to press, some volunteers have not confirmed their availability, hence the gaps! We are compiling a list of 'floaters' to take over any stalls and give people a much-needed break for refreshment. So far the list comprises Rod, but we would welcome further volunteers coming forward (particularly as some of our 'regulars' will be out of the country for this year's Bazaar) if you could spare us some time to lend your support. The proceeds of the Bazaar are split equally between the village hall and the church. It is always a 'feel-good' event which gets people in the mood for the start of the festive season.

Cash Bingo – Wednesday 14 November

Avid bingo fans are invited for a fun evening at Ovington Village Hall on Wednesday 14 November with cash prizes and a raffle. Refreshments (tea/coffee/soft drinks) will be available and all proceeds go to village hall funds. Doors open 7:00pm, eyes down at 7.30pm. Don't be late – space is limited! For details ring Christine on 01953 885848 or see posters locally.

Quiz Champions

At the recent Norfolk Association of Village Halls (NAVH) county final, the village hall quiz team emerged triumphant clutching the Julian Goody Memorial Cup, the Breckland Trophy and a cheque for £250 for village hall funds. It's official – we are the Norfolk Quiz champions again (we won in 2010 and came 3rd last year). It was a close contest and not easy, despite the questions being multiple choice! There were teams representing village halls from all over the county and it was great fun competing against them.

Hire Charges

After discussion at our recent meeting, the Committee have decided not to increase the hire charges of the village hall or the committee room, which have stayed at the same level for some time: £6.50 an hour for the main hall and £4 for the committee room. Residents of Ovington can hire them for half this amount, which represents excellent value for money. All enquiries to Christine Hardy.

Spree Books

If you are stuck for ideas on Christmas presents, do consider giving someone a Spree book. I have a few left for this year at the same price of £23 (£5 of which goes to village hall funds). This year there are 4 tickets for the cinema at Dereham, which will more than pay for the book without using any other vouchers! Most offers are based in and around Norwich, but there are some more local ones. Ring me on 885848 for details or if you would like to view the current Spree book. Vouchers in it are valid until the 1st October 2013.

Foodbank Update

Steve Scott and Helen Riley

Thank you very much to everyone who has so generously donated items of food for the foodbank during the Harvest appeal. The response has been wonderful and thanks to the generosity of churches, schools and individuals in Watton and the surrounding villages we have been able to collect in over half a tonne of food (714.6 Kilograms).

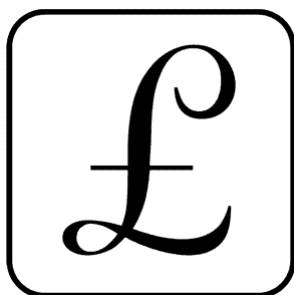
The foodbank is run by volunteers and all food distributed by the foodbank is donated. Frontline care professionals identify local people in crisis and issue them with a foodbank voucher, which they can redeem for a minimum of three days food. Food donations are still needed to ensure that the foodbank is sustainable for the future. Every little bit helps and is very much appreciated. Food items can be dropped in to the Colin MacKenzie Centre in Watton High Street (accessed via the alleyway between William H Brown Estate Agents and the Barnardo's Charity shop).

The Trussell Trust charity runs the only network of foodbanks in the UK. It has revealed that a record-breaking 100,000 people have received emergency food from UK foodbanks in just six months. There are currently 270 Trussell Trust foodbanks across the UK. The Watton Centre is our local satellite of the Thetford foodbank and will add to this number.

If all continues to go to plan we hope the Watton Centre will be fully up and running by the beginning of November.

Village Lottery:

Alan Powell



August winners of the village lottery:

1st (£10) Chris Lewis

2nd (£5) Gordon North

Congratulations to both.

Gardening Club:

Ed Reily



The October meeting saw another last minute change in the speaker to Robert Maidstone, who agreed to talk on 'Wild Flowers of the Central Reservation' at very short notice. After finally gaining access to the hall (because the Secretary had gone on holiday and forgotten to leave the key – oops, sorry!), the speaker proceeded with his subject which proved to be not the best choice for a gardening club, but was very interesting and informative nonetheless.

The November meeting is a talk by Ann Bridge on 'Colour, Chaos and Curry'. This will take place in Ovington Village Hall at 7:45pm on Wednesday 7th November.

Allotments:

Christine Reilly

At the recent AGM, the following people were elected to the Committee:

Paul Alford (Chairman), Jill Burgess (Deputy Chair), Dee Alford (Treasurer), Chris Lewis (Secretary), Harriet Woods, Christine Reilly, Henry Lovick.

Three applications for vacant plots had been received and approved.

On the 11th/12th October two of the sheds were broken into, but luckily very little was stolen. The police have since visited the site and the crime has been logged, but people are asked to remain vigilant about strangers and cars in the vicinity.

Church:

Ann Johnson

Thank you to all who contributed in any way to making the Harvest Festival a great success. It was good to welcome our friends from the other parishes and to hear David and Jane Chilvers' first-hand account of the help being given to the Brazilian Street Children.

It was good to welcome the Revd Suzanne Cooke to our monthly communion service on 11th October and we thank her for her thought provoking interpretation of the day's readings.

Church cleaning will take place on Tuesday 6th November at 2:00pm.

Our next Holy Communion Service will be on Remembrance Sunday, 11th November, at 9.30am.

Our Christmas Carol Service will take place at 5:00pm on Sunday, 23rd December. Mulled wine and mince pies will be served as usual.

Children's Corner:

Tim

Q: How many safety inspectors does it take to light the bonfire?

A: Four - one to light the match, another to watch their back, one to hold the fire extinguisher and one to fill in the paperwork.

Take care on bonfire night

Design a Christmas card and win a prize!

At the Bazaar on 1st December, there will be a prize for the best Christmas card(s) designed by children under 16. Please bring your card (no bigger than A5), with your name, age and address written on the reverse, to the Bazaar by 2:00pm when the judging will take place. We look forward to a colourful display of your artistic skills.

Deadline for next issue: 23rd November

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Printed with an Ecosys printer.

A large print version is available for download at the web-site.