

The Ovington Oracle

February, 2013

It has been suggested that we might include a telephone number directory of key village members; if you are the contact point for any village activity and would like to be included please let us know.

Local free-cycle, we are happy to use the Oracle to match people who have things they want to get rid of with people who can use them, just like the national organisation:

<http://www.uk.freecycle.org/>

Let us know if you have something suitable to freecycle.

Linda & Tim (Editors)

Diary Dates

All at Village Hall unless otherwise indicated

Mondays @ 10:30am	Coffee morning, until 11:30am
Mondays @ 6:00pm	Junior Choir
6th Feb @ 11:00am	Crafters session, until 4:00pm
6th Feb @ 7:45pm	Gardening Club
9th Feb @ 7:30pm	Cheese & Wine at Chestnut House, Church Road (£7), all welcome
10th Feb @ 9:30am	Holy Communion – church
19th Feb @ 7:45pm	Ladies Group
21st Feb @ 7:30pm	Village Hall AGM

To book the village hall contact Christine Hardy 889920

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

Contents

Diary Dates.....	1
Welcome.....	3
Ladies Group.....	3
Safety of our non-driving residents.....	4
Obituary.....	5
Parish Council.....	6
Village Hall.....	8
Village Lottery.....	8
Church.....	9
Allotment Association.....	10
Gardening Club.....	10
Jokes.....	11
Pudsey.....	12

Welcome

We welcome Noel, Liz and Freya Rashleigh to 7 The Street. We hope you settle in and we look forward to meeting you at village events.

Ladies Group

Christine Hardy



Sadly our January meeting was a victim of the weather. With our speaker unable to reach us and the snow and ice becoming worse by the minute it was decided safer to cancel. East Anglian Air Ambulance have offered to speak to us on another occasion so hopefully we can re-schedule this talk.

Our next date is our Cheese and Wine on 9th February at 7:30pm at the home of Christine and John, Chestnut House, Church Road. The cost will be £7 per head to include a drink plus a sumptuous selection of cheeses, quiches, salads etc. etc. As usual there will be an ample spread. Everyone is welcome to this our first social of 2013 – you don't have to belong to the group just come along and have a good time.

Mr. Alan Smith will be our guest speaker on 19th February when he will be bringing along some Bygones and telling us a few of his "stories". He is a great character so we should have an interesting evening. The competition will be something beginning with the letter "L". Again all ladies in the village would be made most welcome please feel free to join us on the night – 7:45pm start – we are a very friendly bunch!

Safety of our non-driving residents.

Hannah Wheeler

Our children are expected to use the main road for going to and from school. Before Christmas I had every parents worse phone call to say my son had been hit by a car while cycling home along the main road; he was thrown from his bike into the ditch. To make matters worse, the female driver only stopped and got out of the car long enough to see if he was moving, before driving off. He is OK, but we all know it could have been much worse.

After speaking to the police and the Academy head teacher, I had no choice but to contact the county council. Having walked the route several times I was able to explain about the lack of path and lighting, as well as the speed and ignorance, at times, of some drivers. People who slow down to overtake you, but shout at you to get out of the road!

The council, at first, gave the usual party line 'it is within the recognised distance...there is a suitable alternative route...' I then recapped the incident from the previous day and explained that if transport was not put on for my son then he would be home educated and I would immediately get in touch with the press.

Thankfully, they saw sense and agreed to organise a taxi to get him to and from school. However, the longer explanation saw the council admit that the routes along the main road are unsuitable for our children. They said that ANY new application for transport from Ovington to Watton, will now be granted and the child given free transport.

It is sad that the council refused the transport before an incident occurred, however, I am relieved no other parent will have to go through the same telephone call that I got about their child being involved in a hit and run at 60 mph.

I beg of the Parish Council don't give up on this issue, use this incident to further fuel your evidence that we need that

footpath. I know that the bridge causes an issue, but would they rather people walk on the road for 4 steps or 400?

Now is the time to push and push and not to stop until we get a footpath, or at least a cycle way, on the road where even large lorries struggle to pass each other.

Obituary

Rod Rumsby

We are sad to report the death of Beresford Marwood-Cross. The funeral service was held on Tuesday 15th January at St John's Church Ovington conducted by Rev Geoff Garret, the organist was Mrs Julia Grover. Our deepest sympathy go to, and our thoughts are with, Beresford's Family.

--oOo--

It is with deep regret that we have to record the sad passing of another of Ovington's long term residents, Miss Pep Sharman.

Pep was well known to all in equine circles as a devotee of ponies from areas such as Dartmoor and the New Forest, pasturing them around her farm. She also supplied feed stuffs for horses and indeed all other domestic animals from her barn.

Funeral at Earlham Crematorium on Jan 29th 3:00pm

Synopsis derived from the unconfirmed minutes of the January PC meeting.

Footpath

We have not received support from Highways for a footpath along the main road. The initial reason given was due to the bridge across Watton Brook, but when the Parish Council suggested we might look at installing a pedestrian bridge this still seems unacceptable. We hoped to access match funding from the Norfolk Construction Fund, which in all physical respects this project complies, however we will need this support of our County Councillor to develop this funding option. We continue to pursue this safety necessity.

Police

Report from PCSO Tonya Winsley. Speeding within Ovington has been a priority following the last SNAP (Safer Neighbourhood Action Panel) meeting. There were three police visits in December and January but there were only a few vehicles passing, none of which were going fast enough for a ticket to be issued, although some official warnings were issued to some motorists. Afternoon checks might have more results, but the reduced light level made this unsafe during winter.

Crime levels within the village are very low with no reported crime since November.

Precept

At the last meeting, the precept was agreed to be set at £3,650. Since then the Clerk has received further information that the 'tax base' (this is how the tax is shared between houses) for the village will be reducing due to the Government policy to localise Council tax housing benefit from 2013/14.

Breckland Council will pass on a contribution from a transitional grant, so we will receive £339.62 to help offset this loss. Allowing for the grant, a precept of £3,310 will be needed to maintain the agreed budget. This equates to an increase of 2.95%. It should be noted that the transitional grant may not be available next year thus putting further pressure on the precept for 2014/15.

Tree management policy

The Parish Council is required to periodically inspect trees under its stewardship. Rod Rumsby performs the local check and notifies the Council if there are visual changes/concerns; however every few years we need a formal survey from an arboriculturalist.

Litter Pick

We will liaise with others groups to organise the annual village litter pick for mid March.

Grit bin

The grit bin at the junction of The Street / Watton Road (A1075) is not used as both roads are on the county gritting route. The Parish Council will request that we may be permitted to move this bin to the corner of Church Road adjacent to Water End Farm. If anyone has any comments on this proposal please let us know.

Village Hall

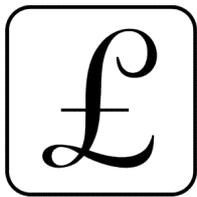
Christine Reilly

The AGM will be held on Thursday 21st February at 7:30pm. There are vacancies on the committee for the coming year, so do come along and join in with the running of your village hall. New faces and new ideas are always welcome. If you are new to Ovington, do come along and meet everyone and find out what events are planned. We are hoping to put on some live theatre at the village hall later this year with help from Creative Arts East – more details later in Spring!

PCSO Tonya Winsley is scheduled to drop in to the coffee morning on Monday 18th February.

Village Lottery

Alan Powell



Congratulations to the January winners:

First Prize (£10)

Reg Tomkins

Second Prize (£5)

Vernon Conie

The February draw will be at Village Hall Coffee Morning on 11th February.

We are indebted to the Revd. Rod Broughall for coming to take our service in January and also for offering to take our service of Holy Communion on Sunday, 10th February at 9:30am and we also thank Christine for playing the organ last month.

Church cleaning will be at 2:00pm on Monday 4th February, weather permitting.

Nearby church information, editor

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER (International and interdenominational)

Friday 1st March @ 2:30pm at St. Mary's Church, Watton.

Speaker: Ms. Martina Rappenecker

Theme: I was a stranger and you welcomed me

Women's World Day of Prayer is a unique organisation; truly interdenominational and truly international, it speaks with the voices of women from all corners of the globe. Involvement in WWDP creates a network of Christian women on a worldwide scale which also reaches into our local communities.

Preparations go on for months in advance. Finally, women and men will be gathering to celebrate using a programme of worship prepared this year by women in France.

All are welcome to attend, men and women and people of all ages. After the service we invite you to join us for refreshments and a time to enjoy friendship. For enquiries locally please contact Margaret Cator at St. Mary's Church Office 01953 881252.

For further information see the WWDP website:

www.wwdp-natcomm.org

Allotment Association

Paul Alford

You are invited to an *Italian Dinner* by the Ovington Allotment Association on 16th March at 7:00pm in the village hall.

Dress and accent optional.

£8 per person, BYOB as no alcohol licence, there will also be a quiz and raffle.

For tickets please contact: Jill Burgess on 883879.

Gardening Club

Ed Reilly



2013 began well with a talk by Terry Rands on 'Container Vegetable Growing'. This showed how pot size, compost and spacing all worked together to produce the best plants. This talk was given by an expert and was very well received by members.

The February talk will be held in Ovington Village Hall at 7:45pm on Wednesday 6th February and will be given by Ian Stanton on 'Gardening in the Shade'. Non-members are always welcome. More details can be obtained from Ed on 01953 885848 or Carol on 01760 440719.

Jokes

Anon villager

Oil shortage

A lot of people can't understand how we came to have an oil shortage in this country.

Well, there's a very simple answer. We just didn't know we were getting low and the reason is purely geographical:

Our OIL is located in the North Sea.

While our DIPSTICKS are located in Westminster.

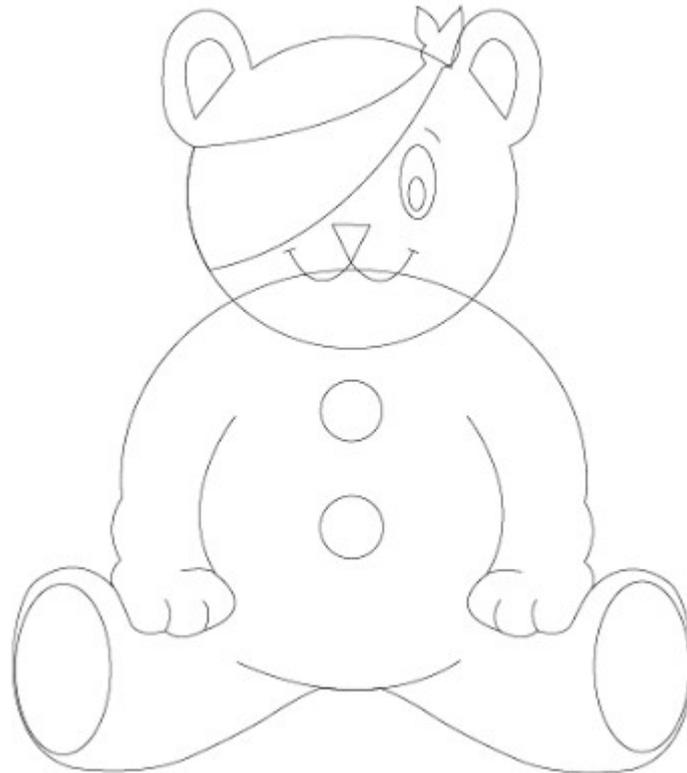
Classic oldie

Q: Can February March?

A: No, but April May!

Pudsey

Colouring (children) / doodling (adults):



Deadline for next issue: 22nd February

Edit and Production: Linda and Tim Birt (889208)
Stone House Farm, The Street

Proof reader: Christine Reilly (885848)

Please send contributions to either above or email:

oracle@ovington-village.org.uk

Printed with an Ecosys printer.

A large print version is downloadable from the village web-site.