

The Overton Oracle



Volume 13. Issue 4

April 2011

Overton's Free Newspaper - issued monthly

Your Invitation

and the details



HRH Prince William and Kate Middleton
request the pleasure of your company
on Friday 29th April 2011
at 2pm for
Party in the Park
to celebrate their joining in marriage.



Every one is invited to
Overton's Party in the Park

on
Friday 29th April 2011
at 2 pm
at the playing field, Wrexham Road
Fun, games and activities
Live Music

Dining will be at 4 pm.
Bring your own picnic with prizes for the best table/gazebo or blanket

Children's competition for the best bride and groom.

Be there to be involved and featured in the village photograph.
Free Admission



For more party details



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SPRINGTIME

Ron Towers of Clerc-y-mendy hopes that after the long cold winter, this poem will help celebrate the coming of spring. It was written by his wife's late grandfather Harry Phillips (Bard)

The hills and dales are calling
Awakening bird and bees
There's young life in the hedgerow
And new life in the trees.

All hail the merry springtime
In silks and stains flair.
The oak turns out her trousseau
And the willow combs her hair.

The book of nature opens.
I see on every page
The brilliance of an artist
The wisdom of a sage.



I see the masters hallmark
On every bud that's born
His rubies in the sycamore
His pearls upon the thorn.

I know of untold riches
Beyond a pharaohs dream
Where nature hides her jewels
Beside a mountain stream.

When spring comes to the mountains
And winters phantoms flee
Those hills, dales and woodlands
Are always calling me.



Ramblings From the Rectory

by David Lewis



Dear Friends,

There were two brothers, 8 and 10 years old, who were exceedingly mischievous. Whatever went wrong in the neighbourhood, it always turned out they had had a hand in it. Their parents were at their wits' end trying to control them.

Hearing about a priest nearby who worked with delinquent boys, the mother suggested to the father that they ask the priest to talk with the boys. The father agreed. The mother went to the priest and made her request. He agreed, but said he wanted to see the younger boy first and alone. So the mother sent him to the priest. The priest sat the boy down across from him at a huge impressive desk. For about 5 minutes they just sat and stared at each other.

Finally, the priest pointed his forefinger at the boy and asked, "*Where is God?*" The boy looked under the desk, in the corners of the room, all around, but said nothing.

Again, louder, the priest pointed at the boy and asked, "*Where is God?*" Again the boy looked all around but said nothing.

A 3rd time, in a louder, firmer voice, the priest leaned far across the desk and put his forefinger almost to the boy's nose, and asked, "*Where is God?*" The boy panicked and ran all the way home.

Finding his older brother, he dragged him upstairs to their room and into the closet, where they usually plotted their mischief. He finally said, "*We are in BIG trouble.*" The older boy asked, "*What do you mean, 'BIG trouble'?*" His brother replied, "*God is missing and they think we did it!*"

The above story amused me. And many people in our world today ask the same question when they see terrible things happen. But the marvellous thing about the Easter Story is that it tells us exactly where God is when bad things happen. The cross of Jesus reminds us that God knows what it is like to suffer and grieve and so he is alongside of us when we go through dark times and when bad things happen to good people.

When we see acts of incredible bravery and self sacrifice in terrible situations, there God is.

When someone holds the hand of someone who is dying, there God is.

When someone comforts a weeping person, there God is.

So the next time someone says where is God, we can answer he is there in the darkest of situations, bringing hope and healing and light.

Happy Easter,
David

The Overton Am Drams next production, 2 one-act comedies, has been rescheduled for May 19th- 21st

COUNTRY BEAT

by Constable Stephen Evans



Hello everybody,

Thursday the 17th of March saw the police cadets in Overton and they assisted us in delivering a letter to each household with some basic crime prevention advice. I hope you find this useful.

As part of the re-organisation of North Wales Police I am being posted back to Rhos police station. By the time you read this article I should have gone. I have been at Overton for 15 months and have enjoyed working within the communities that make up the Maelor section. PCSO Jemma White has also left the area for a move up to Rhos. Jemma is replaced by PCSO Steve O'Connell. I'm sure many of you will miss Jemma and her friendly manner in which she carried out her duties.

PCSO Beth Large is remaining at Overton and together with Steve they will be your local police team. Overton still remains a very safe place to live and together with the surrounding areas we have seen a big reduction in crime over the past 12 months or so. This is in part thanks to you the community who have assisted us in reporting suspicious persons/vehicles and also improving home security etc.

Neighbourhood policing is still a big part of North Wales Police and I'm confident that you will continue to receive the service you have become accustomed to, if not better.

Many thanks to the support you have shown us over the years.
Steve.

Contact details are;

Bethan.Large@nthwales.pnn.police.uk

Mobile - 07854 336420

Stephen.O'Connell@nthwales.pnn.police.uk

Overton Police Station - 01978 348425.

Confirmation

This year's confirmation will be in the Deanery Festival in Gredington on Sunday 22nd May. If you know of anyone who would like to be confirmed please let me know as soon as possible. Classes are running on Tuesdays at 4pm in St Mary's School

Lunch Club



The April Overton Lunch Club is on Wednesday April 13th at 12.30pm at the White Horse.

The menu will be Chicken, ham and leek pie with potatoes and vegetables followed by Jubilee Pancakes with ice-cream.

To book please ring Gwynneth Austin on 710672.

Thank you from Anne Butt

The Oracle advert claimed the night would be "Non threatening, jolly and fun" and it certainly was just that! About 50 people were brave enough to come along to the Singing Workshop not knowing what to expect. I think it was a new experience for most of them, and for most people, apart from in church they hadn't sung in a group since school days. And what a lovely sound we made, some of the harmonies were really very good. It certainly helped that Kate is such a good person to have leading the session.

During the interval I asked everyone for comments on the evening and I'll quote just a few so that the words of praise for Kate, are not mine but yours.

"Lots of wonderful, enjoyable, fun". "Singtastic!" "Can't believe we made such an amazing sound" "Harmonies sound lovely." "We were better than the Tabernacle Choir. Bring it on!" "What a fantastic evening, singing brings everyone together." "Good for the lungs and the soul." "Her ability to enthuse and control such a large group was amazing." ""Fantabulous." "Looking forward to the next one."

AND the one I think was most significant for me, from one of the youngest there ~ ~ ~

"I really enjoyed the evening, it brought the community together for a sing-a-long, such good fun! ☺"

So thanks everyone for supporting the event and throwing yourselves into the singing with such gay abandon, without you it would have been a flop. A big thank you to Steve and Jane at the White Horse, your generosity is much appreciated. Kate says she will come back and help us raise even more money so look out for the next Singing Workshop and if you enjoyed this one spread the word.

Oh and by the way - we raised a whopping £406 for Nightingale House, much more than I had hoped for.



Medical Practice

Overton Surgery is open from 8:20am until around 6.00pm, 5 days a week (excluding any Practice meetings). Prescriptions need to be made in writing, handed in at either of the surgeries with 48 hours to enable us and the chemist to have your requirements ready. You can enrol and use the facility on line, come into the surgery and we will issue a unique 'pin' number which allows you to request appointments and prescriptions on line. Order in plenty of time and if you have the same medication on a regular basis ask your GP if you can be put onto repeat dispensing.

Kids Kolumn

by Alice Foster, Lydia Biggs and Lottie Blake



Hi guys,
April means lots of Easter eggs.
Enjoy yours?

Easter Jokes.

What do you get when you cross a bunny with an onion?

A bunion

What did the bunny want to do when he grew up?

Join the Hare Force.

How does the Easter Bunny travel?

By hare plane!

Easter Egg Maze



Help the bunny find the egg

April Birth signs.

These are the two birth signs for April:

Aries = March 21st to April 19th.

Taurus = April 20th to May 20th.

Birth gems.

Diamond is the Birth gem for April.



Overton Village Hall Management Committee

It is now over 10 years since the Village Hall benefited from a Lottery grant to alter and extend the building and install a new heating system. Since then the Am Drams have funded the changes to the balcony area and the Community Council have soundproofed and secured their office. The Library has also been upgraded and totally refurbished thanks to a grant by WCBC. Recently you will have noticed 2 new windows either side of the front door, a cockerel weather vane, donated by our friends in La Murette, window closures have been mended in the Parish Room and the Hall and a replacement window to the left side stage door has been installed. Thanks to the WI for part funding the new blinds in the Parish Room.

Inside the building lighting has been improved and a Bar facility constructed in the foyer area. The entrance hall, and hallway to the Parish Room, Library and Recreational Club is being decorated – adding to the much more modern doors that have already been fitted. It is important to note that rent received from the Library, The Club and the Cottage are vital to the ongoing future viability of the premises as a whole, along with hiring fees of the Hall.

The Village Hall management committee has varied from 15 down to 5 members who act as a sub-committee of the Trustees of the Registered Charity and take the day to day running responsibilities along with a part-time caretaker. Our repairs and refurbishments ensures the future viability of our multi-purpose building. This is full time commitment from unpaid part-time volunteers. Running the Village Hall does take a lot of time and energy but without dedicated volunteers it would seriously run the risk of closure. Every one's time is valuable but more help would be welcome. We have been active on the Committee for 20 years and will be stepping down and taking a long deserved break over the next 18 months, so we really would welcome some "new blood" who can step in and keep this tremendous asset to Overton going. We meet in the Parish Room on the 3rd Monday of the month at 7:30pm and the AGM is planned for on Monday 20th June 2011.
Contact Jim or Sue Glover 710413

Plans for the Future ?

April 1st 2010 marked the beginning of a year long consultation process regarding the development of a major new road building scheme that may result in the landscape of Overton changing beyond recognition in the near future.

The scheme which has been developed to improve access to Wrexham Industrial Estate, is one of a raft of measures introduced in order to reduce congestion caused by heavy plant machinery in the town centre. The plan details a highly controversial proposal to run a bypass from the industrial estate through Bangor and Overton splitting the village into two halves. The two new sites will be renamed Erbistock East and Penley West, the new road will pass through the middle and Overton proper as it is now will be replaced.

A government quango is advising on feasibility under Welsh Assembly Government's 'Justification of Kinetic Enterprises scheme' and at a second stage hearing held in Wrexham recently the ventures economic benefits were said to outweigh the disturbance, noise pollution etc likely to be encountered by Overtonians.

A plan to maintain links between the former village of Overton via the introduction of a subway running from Wrexham road to School Lane was rejected on cost grounds. The quango 'J.o.K.E' found in favour of

total separation of the former site believing that the current residents will welcome the opportunity to belong to either Penley or Erbistock.

Views are still being sought and you can submit your comments to 'J.o.K.E' on April 1st 2011.



S O S K n i g h t s

Following our 'launch' meeting on March 10th we are ready for action! The following ideas were confirmed ~ The Knights will number 6 and 8 people living across the community. They will all be CRB checked (at the expense of the Community Council) and will not only be willing to 'watch over' the vulnerable residents in their area, but also will carry key telephone numbers, contact names etc. to rally help where required.

Backing the knights we also need a group of people to handle the setting up and administration of the SOS service. We plan to assemble a 'key' telephone number list which will be sent out to every household, and also a window card "**SOS Knight- Help**" which can be displayed in an emergency. In this way we hope we will be able to provide help whilst respecting people's privacy, and desire for independence.

Please consider how **you** can contribute to help the vulnerable in our community. We need more 'knights' but we also need people to help with the background work. Please contact the OCC clerk on 01978 710055, or at occ.clerk@btinternet.com and look out for notices of our next meeting on the notice board and in the local shops

Coffee Morning



St. Mary's Church annual coffee morning to raise funds for the Overton senior citizens Christmas Party will be held in the Village Hall on Saturday, May 7th, starting at 10.30 am
Please come along to help us keep this traditional event going

Messy Church Easter Fun Morning



SATURDAY 23rd APRIL,

ST MARY'S CHURCH, 10AM - 12PM



Our next Messy Church event is on Easter Saturday from 10am to 12pm in St Mary's Church. Try your hand at making Easter crowns, bonnets and egg painting. Join in an Easter egg hunt. See how many chocolate eggs you can collect? Why not join in the fun this time! All ages will enjoy the activities & fellowship. Refreshments will be provided

Wanted

Hi there all you brilliant gaming fanatics. As a computer hobbyist I am always looking for old computer machines and old games that people don't need anymore. The sort of machines I am on the look-out for are the legendary 8 bit home computers like the Commodore 64/128, the Amstrad cpc and the Spectrum Sinclair zx and also the Amiga 600. If there are any budding gaming fanatics around the village who have any old computer equipment you don't need anymore and would like it to go to a good home, please get in touch.
Many thanks, Nicolas Russell 01978 710997

Thank you

Can I thank everyone in Overton who sent me 'Welcome to your New Home' cards. They really warmed my heart in what was a traumatic time, and I shall always remember my days in Knolton and Overton and the kindness of everyone. I am seeing a lot of my family which was the reason for me leaving Overton. If you ever are near Bicester on the M40 do call and visit me. *Mary Hilton-Jones*

Thanks to the Volunteers

Recently members of the Oracle Editorial team shared wine and sandwiches in the White Horse with the distributors and regular contributors to the Oracle. This is the first time in 13 years that such an event has taken place. It was an opportunity to say thank you for everyone's hard work. The Oracle is produced and distributed wholly by volunteers some of whom have been delivering since Day 1 in sunshine, rain, wind and snow. A big thank you to every one involved. Without you it would not be possible.



Deanery Mission Festival

Saturday & Sunday May 21st & 22nd

We are holding a special festival in the grounds of the home of Lord and Lady Kenyon, at Gredington, Hanmer.

Saturday 11:00am: Children's Magician, John Bonner & Deanery Church Schools Festival

Saturday 5:30pm: Hog roast to live music. Bring your own drinks, hampers, picnic furniture

7:00pm: An evening with Paul and Fiona Jones. Paul was lead singer with Manfred Mann and has a weekly Blues program on Radio 2. Fiona is a respected West End and TV actress

Sunday 10:30am Eucharist and Confirmation in the marquee.

Tickets on sale from YOUR CHURCH

Calling all Needlecrafters

A suggestion has been made about restarting the Needlecraft classes in the Methodist Schoolroom on Thursday afternoons 1pm to 3pm with a charge of £2 per session.

Anyone who would like to join will be made very welcome, especially beginners who would like to learn to knit, crochet or sew. The experienced among us are willing to teach these skills - we do not like to think that know-how like these crafts may be dying out among young people. Please contact 710139 or 710493 for more information

History Group

Because of the Easter holidays the next History group meeting will not be till Tuesday May 17th and will be collecting memories and information about the local railway.

So if you have memories, photos or stories about the Overton station or the Wrexham to Ellesmere railway line, do come along to the White Horse (upstairs) at 7.30pm. All welcome.

Any spare beds?

Accommodation is being urgently sought in Overton for the week of the Llangollen International Eisteddfod. The village has for many years provided hospitality for one of the groups of performers.

Can you help? Do you have a spare bed or two or more? All you have to provide is bed and breakfast and the maximum number of nights would be Monday 4th July to Sunday 10th July. Hosts receive £10 per person per night to help cover expenses. If you can help please contact Carol Dykes, Overton's coordinator, on 01978 710794

Overton Community Council

Precept/Budget for 2011/2012

The budget for 2011/2012 has been set at £36,824.00. This is an increase on last year's budget primarily due to escalating fuel costs and rates for the Pavilion garage. The Minimum Wage level has risen as have costs payable to Wrexham County Borough Council for the use of their services. We are also aware that some of the Playing Field equipment will require replacing and have taken that into account.

Our Precept is used wholly for the community funding:

Street light electricity; The Playing field; Cemetery maintenance; Insurances; Subscriptions; Millennium Meadow maintenance; Rent; Public conveniences; Community Chest and grants given to local organisations; Christmas lights equipment; Traffic calming upkeep; General administration and various other village activities.

We also have to bear in mind that future cuts made by WCBC in providing public services could be passed onto our Community Council to fund. These will not take place before 2012.

The Annual General Meeting of Overton Community Council will be held on Tuesday 10th May 2011. All members of the public are welcome to attend.

Jacqueline C Maskall, Chairman, Overton C. C.

Your Letters...

Dear Editor,

The parishioners of our Lady & the Welsh Martyrs have commissioned a stained glass window for the side altar of our Church. This we hope will be installed by the end of April as a permanent memorial to a true friend, Monsignor Webb, who lived and worked in our community and remained our beloved Parish Priest in Overton for 56 years.

We have raised £900 toward our target of £1,500 and the Wrexham Diocese have made us a loan in order to complete for what would have been Monsignor's 94th birthday. I am writing in the hope that there may be a few kind benefactors prepared to boost our funds with a donation however small. Thank you, *Vonnie Bamber* 01978 812057

WHAT'S ON**April Diary for St Mary's Services**

- Sunday April 3rd** 11:30am Holy Eucharist
Tuesday April 5th 2.30pm St Mary's School Service in Church. All welcome
Sunday April 10th 10am Sunday Praise and Coffee
Palm Sunday April 17th 11:30am Holy Eucharist
Maundy Thursday April 21st 7.30pm Deanery Eucharist & Vigil at Penley
Good Friday April 22nd 2pm Meditation on the Cross
Easter Sunday April 24th 11.30am Family Eucharist

Methodist Chapel Services

- Good Friday April 22nd** 7pm Service conducted by Rev Andrew Evans. Tea & Hot Cross buns to follow.
Easter Sunday April 24th 9am Holy Communion with Rev Una McLean
6.30pm Evening Service - Rev Richard Sharples
Saturday April 2nd Weekly coffee mornings start at the Methodist Chapel 10.30am till 12.00pm
Saturday April 2nd Overton Playgroup 'bag packing' at Stan's Superstore
Tuesday April 5th 7pm Churches Together Lent Bible Studies in the Methodist Church. All are very welcome
Tuesday April 5th St Mary's Vestry will be at 7pm.
Tuesday April 12th 7pm Churches Together Lent Bible Studies in the Roman Catholic Church. All are very welcome.
Tuesday April 12th Overton Community Council meeting in the Parish Room. Members of the public may speak between 7.20 – 7.30pm.
Wednesday April 13th 12.30pm Overton Lunch Club at the White Horse. Booking required.
Monday April 18th 6.00pm Overton Practice Patient Participation Group meeting at Overton Surgery.
Tuesday April 19th 7pm Churches Together Lent Bible Studies in Parish room. All are very welcome
Thursday April 21st 7.30 pm Overton WI meeting at the Parish Room. Speaker, Colin Evans N.W.D.A. on "Deaf Awareness and Help". Competition: 'A pair of earrings'
Easter Saturday April 23rd 10am Messy Church
Wednesday April 27th 2.00 - 4.00pm Dogs Trust Tea Party in the Foyer of the Village Hall. Enquires to Gwynneth Austin or Cynthia Davies
Friday April 29th Overton's Royal Wedding Party in the Park see page 1 for details

FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to Mark Whittall and Emma on the birth of their son Harry, to Claire and Will Jones on the birth of their son Lewis, to Sam Rogers & Rachel Quayle on the birth of their son Alex, to Mark and Kate Loughlin on the birth of their son Louis, to Pat & Jackie Loughlin on the birth of a daughter, and also another granddaughter for Marlene and Geoff Williams.

Happy April Birthdays to Grace Johnson, Lottie Blake, Courtney Pugh, Iory Evans, Sarah Smith, Hayden Austin, Derek Edwards, Geoff Hodgson, Mervyn Haynes, & Mike Dorey. Belated birthday greetings to Pat Lynch.

Congratulations to Alan Edwards and Jackie Evans on their recent wedding.

Sincere condolences to the family and friends of former Overton resident Millie Hinsley who passed away in March. Sincere condolences to Miranda Austin, family and friends on the sudden death of John. Sincere condolences to Neil and Debbie Edwards on the death of their daughter Sophie, age 17, after losing her fight with cancer. Sincere condolences to Mike Duncan, family and friends on the sudden death of John.

Thank you

Will & Claire Jones would like to thank all friends and family for their overwhelming generosity and support following the birth of their new baby son Lewis William on 26th February. Lewis is a very lucky little boy!

**For Sale****PLEASE REMEMBER**

Copy deadline 20th of the month. Get your events & news to us early to avoid disappointment
THIS INCLUDES
ADVERTISEMENTS

Leave your contributions, & announcements at the Corner Shop.

Your Oracle Team - Chairman & Advertising David Burton; Secretary Nicole Netzband; Treasurer Rob Piggott; Distribution Cynthia Davies; Sean Clarke, & Euan Stevenson.

Editor - Jill Burton.
Tel 710631 or e-mail overtonoracle@gmail.com

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