

The Overton Oracle

Volume 16. Issue 4

April 2014

Overton's Free Newspaper - issued monthly



“CONFUSIONS” - 5 plays for the price of 1



On Friday and Saturday the 11th and 12th April 2014, 7.30pm, Overton Amateur Dramatic Society will be performing “Confusions”, a series of five one-act plays by the country's most-performed playwright, Alan Ayckbourn.

The plays, which are loosely linked, deal with such diverse subjects as loneliness, marriage breakdown and the catastrophic preparations for a village fete where anything that can go wrong does go wrong. In all five plays, we are invited to laugh at the characters and the situations in which they find themselves. As we do so, however, we cannot help but think whether we would do the same in that situation and whether we are as at fault in our relationships with other people as Ayckbourn's characters are in theirs.

A highly entertaining and thought provoking evening is promised. Tickets are available on the door at £5.00 each. There will be usual seating arrangements with a bar available from 7.00pm

Planted in memory

Some may have noticed the newly planted tree at the front of the Village Hall, kindly donated by Mr. James Wright, to commemorate the lives of Tom and Noreen Haynes. Tom was born in 1918 and married his wife Noreen, a local girl; in 1940. They had 3 children Wenda, Sandra and Trena. During World War II Tom served with the Royal Welsh Fusiliers and was deservedly awarded for his heroic activities in the minefields. On leaving the services he soon adapted back to village life and set-up a business in the building trade.

In the late 40's, early 50's he became involved with the Overton St Mary's Football Club and very soon took the helm as Manager. In 1953 they became one of the very few North Wales Village teams to reach the final of the Welsh Amateur Cup with victories over Nantlle Vale and Ton Pentre on the way to an epic final at Newtown where they narrowly lost to Lovells Athletic. St Mary's are also, I think, the only Welsh side to ever win the Ethelston Cup. Funds for the Club were always difficult to come by with Noreen selling teas and draw tickets in all weathers to keep the Club ticking over. A brainwave of Tom and Noreen saw the introduction of the legendary Saturday night Overton Dances. Speak to anyone from the early to mid-60's and it's not long before the topic of Overton Dances and the names of both Tom and Noreen Haynes are mentioned and how very fortunate we were to be teenagers during that period.

In 1969 a vision of them both saw the start of a new venture with the former Overton Snooker and Reading rooms being reconstructed to create the Overton Sports and Social Club providing many great nights both entertaining and competitive. In the latter years of their lives they both became active members of the local Bowling Club.

Many times I've looked at the village younger generation and thought to myself that what is needed is another Tom Haynes but unfortunately there's no one around able to do it, nobody could do it better, nobody can do it better and it will be a long, long time before anyone will be able to do it better, a brilliant organiser. The thanks that we owe them both is scant reward for the hours and hours of their own time that they had given up so that the people of Overton might benefit, hours that could not have been given up so readily had they not have been so happily married. Long to be remembered. R.I.P.

Dave Austin



Caring for the village

There is quite a lot of litter about in the village at present, possibly due to the strong winds that we experienced. 'Keep Wales Tidy' are always on the look out for volunteer litter pickers, so if you feel that you could devote some time to this please contact Pene Coles penelopecoles@yahoo.co.uk 01978 710598. If you are a resident of Overton with an issue to raise, or maybe you would just like to meet the councillors, please attend the next 'drop in' on **Wednesday 16th April**.

Ramblings From the Reverend by Rev'd Canon David Child



We're now about half way through what the Church calls the Season of Lent. Like most churches, we in Overton celebrated its beginning on Ash Wednesday with the Imposition of Ashes. This seems a weird thing to do – having the cross signed with ashes on your foreheads with those words 'Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return. Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ.' But it's a very powerful reminder of our own mortality for we are after all carbon life forms.

We are made up mostly of water - hydrogen and oxygen. The next most important element is of course carbon, then there's nitrogen, calcium and phosphorus, small amounts of iron and tiny amounts of other chemicals. And guess what? If we were to buy all those chemicals that we're made of they would cost about £8. So that's how much each one of us is worth. Or is it? No, we're worth much more than that because we're alive.

But how do we tell whether something is alive? Well a living thing can convert materials and energy for its needs. That's called metabolism. Living things reproduce themselves. Living things undergo evolution, they can change and adapt to their environment.

But what then is it that makes us alive? That's a more difficult question to answer – it's to do with all the connections that link the chemicals in our cells and the connections that link the cells to each other. And it's when those connections break down that we die. But what then is consciousness –that's an even more difficult question – but it's also to do with connections – with the trillions of connections between the cells in our brains.

But for Christians there's one even more important connection and that's the message we celebrate at Easter. Jesus in his resurrection shows us that we are connected for all time to God not only in this life but also in the life to come.

We human beings have evolved to experience this universe, this planet in the dimensions of space and time. But scientists now tell us that there may be many more dimensions. And many Christians now see, now think of the afterlife as existing in another dimension.

A dimension where time no longer exists and where we live continually connected to God and to those we love.

A Happy Easter to you all.
With every Blessing
David

Country Beat

by PCSO Phil Jones



Cash machines are such a handy way of getting at your money, but always be aware of safety. So at the cash machine -

- Where possible, plan ahead and get your cash out during daylight hours.
- Be vigilant when using a cash machine. If you notice anything out of place, any unusual devices attached to the machine or anyone hanging around nearby, report it.
- Skimming or cloning devices are sometimes used to copy details from the magnetic stripe on your card as it is inserted into the machine. Criminals may also try to obtain your PIN number by fixing a tiny camera above the keypad.
- If you do notice any unusual devices, alert bank or building society staff straight away or call the number given on the machine if no staff are available.
- If the cash machine doesn't return your card when you expect it to, do not re-enter the PIN. Report your lost card to the machine's owner as soon as you can.
- Stand close to the machine and shield the keypad, so that nobody can see you enter your PIN number, and it cannot be recorded by a hidden camera.
- Ensure nobody is looking over your shoulder – they may see your PIN number and then target you to steal and use your card.
- Do not accept help from 'well-meaning' strangers or allow yourself to be distracted.
- On completing your transaction, put your money and card safely away and out of sight before moving away from the cash machine.
- On a night out, don't be tempted to draw out more money when you've had a few to drink. You'll be vulnerable to opportunist thieves who look out for people with their guard down and you'll be more likely to lose large amounts of cash.

Thanks, **Phil Jones 2858**

Tel: 01978 348425 or 07854 389056

e-mail: philip.w.jones@nthwales.pnn.police.uk

Non urgent calls 101 or in emergency call 999

Medical News

We were disappointed to be told that some patients have had difficulty getting through on the telephones at peak time. In some cases this has resulted in callers wishing to cancel their appointments not being able to get through on 710666. If Overton's phones are busy, please try the Bangor on Dee Dispensary (780804). They can access the same information as Overton and they can book/cancel appointments for you. Or use EMIS online access system which allows you to book or cancel appointments & order repeat prescriptions.

Brownie News



To celebrate Thinking Day, an important day in the Guiding calendar which reminds us about Brownies & Guides around the world, we had an evening of different activities. Granny Owl talked to the girls about the history of Guiding, the girls made Welsh daffodils, they made passports for our forthcoming trip to Belfast and they made trefoils out of copper coins. The coins were collected up and £11.48 was sent to W.A.G.G.G.S. - a worldwide Guiding charity.

Foreign Legion?

Overton British Legion are supporting local girl Georgie Davies-Hunter in her task to raise money to enable her to take part in a trip to Africa. Georgie will be working with the Ground Level Foundational Trust and helping under privileged people to make a better life for themselves. She has helped raise money for the charity for a number of years and now welcomes the chance to have a more hands-on experience.

Georgie is currently a student at Military Preparation Training College, but will be travelling to Africa for 3 wks from April 9th. She will have the chance to teach orphaned children, build & continue maintenance on 2 schools and widen her range of skills. We look forward to hearing about her trip when she returns.

Lunch Club



The Overton Lunch Club is on **Wednesday 9th April** at 12.30pm at the White Horse.

The menu will be Lunchtime Brunch Grill with Fruit Crumble to follow . To book please ring Gwynneth Austin on 710672.

The Overton Twinning AGM will be held on Tuesday 20th May at 7.30pm upstairs in the White Horse. Everyone welcome

Kids Kolumn

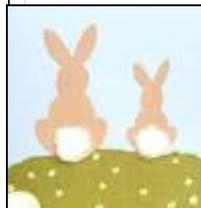


Hello everybody!

It's April and its Easter!



Here's a simple tutorial on how to make your own Easter Card for your family and friends.



Roughly tear a piece of green paper for the grass and glue it to a folded blue card. Use a white pen to draw small flowers at irregular intervals on the grass. Use a yellow marker pen to draw flower centres.

Use a rabbit template like the one on the card in the picture to get your rabbit shapes. Cut out from brown card and glue above grass. Glue small blobs of cotton wool in place for tails.



How to make rice crispy cakes.....

1. Melt some dark/milk/white chocolate in a bowl, with boiling water underneath.
2. When chocolate is fully melted, add the rice crispies/ cornflakes mix together until coated with chocolate. **Caution it may be hot.**
3. Then put the mixture into cake cases and place in the fridge to cool.
4. To decorate you could get some mini eggs, fluffy chicks or hundreds and thousands.



Guess these Easter related words with only a few clues!



What do you get on Easter Sunday?

E _ _ T _ R E _ _ S

Who delivers them?

E _ _ T _ R B _ _ N _

What time of the year is Easter?

S P _ _ _ G

If you go on an Easter Egg hunt what do you put the eggs in?

B _ S K _ _

What do children make that can be worn on your head?



B O _ _ E _

Big Adventures start with a Good Idea!!



Last October I received an email in work asking would I like to join the cycle to work scheme, well I thought I haven't been on a bicycle for a very long time, having just sent my old one to the skip it would be a good idea to have a bicycle just in case I take up cycling um !! Not likely I thought. So off to the cycle shop armed with all the information and one week later I am a proud owner of a brand new silver road bike complete with red helmet and fluorescent clothing "dust gatherer" was one comment.

Then one evening in October glancing through a magazine I saw the "Ride the Night" ladies only cycle ride 66 miles round London in May 2014, starting in Windsor at 10 pm ending up back in Windsor at 7 am, riding into London round the sights and back out again in aid of Breast Cancer, Ovarian Cancer and Cervical Cancer. Before I could say "cycle round Overton" I had enrolled pledging to raise £500 must have been a mad moment. Training has been hard so far and sometimes I think what I am doing as I am not the fittest person on a bicycle, but the added incentive to keep me going is my Mum died of ovarian cancer 7 years ago so this is in her memory, but also it's to support countless other women who have suffered and lost their lives through these dreadful diseases, we need to find a cure for these diseases. So roll on May 14th and if anyone would like to donate to my RIDE please visit www.justgiving.com/ruth-overthrow1 I will keep you posted on my journey.

Ruth Overthrow

April Initiative

The Overton Oracle team has had sight of a press release detailing significant changes that could see the landscape of Overton change radically over the next 12 months. A raft of measures to both improve car parking and deter thoughtless parking is likely to gain agreement following a full Council scrutiny committee hearing. The most notable change will see the introduction of parking bays in the centre of the High Street similar to a local parking scheme in Llandudno, Conwy.

Lead officer Karl P'Arquing explained "It may feel counter intuitive to resolve the village parking problems by allowing drivers to park in the middle of the High Street, but it has proved effective elsewhere and although it will lead to a temporary closure of the High Street for an approximate 6 month period, the long term gain appears beneficial".

Phase 2 of the initiative is likely to prove a little more contentious as the scheme labelled 'Deterrent' will see the introduction of metal anti-parking spikes triggered by inconsiderate parking outside the village school. The spikes which raise automatically are triggered by stationary cars resulting in puncture marks in the offending tyres. Mr P'Arquing went on to explain "When cars park illegally and drivers find that they have suddenly acquired four flat tyres the likelihood that they will repeat this behaviour reduces by 95%. It is a proven, tried and tested method deterrent advocated elsewhere to good effect".

We aim to introduce these schemes on 1st April 2014 with a 12 month pilot being evaluated on 1st April 2015.

Please direct any comments to the Committee At Roadside, c/o Public Authorities Rescinding Kindness Scheme, # C.A.R.P.A.R.K.S @thatwillteachthetoparkitthere.com

Welshampton Plant Fair

The 9th Welshampton charity plant fair takes place at Welshampton Parish Hall on Bank Holiday Monday May 5th. Gates opening at noon for the **Grand Plant sale** in the marquees. There will be a huge choice of quality plants (including annuals, vegetables, herbs and unusual perennials), grown by our dedicated team. All proceeds will again be divided between Shropshire Macmillan Cancer Support and St Michael & All Angels Church in Welshampton. Last year we raised some £6,500, and have totalled over £32,000 since our first Fair.

The "Special Plants" Auction, with choice plants very kindly donated by top plantsmen across the area, will start at 1.15pm inside the Hall. Our auctioneer, Andrew Beeston of Halls in Shrewsbury, will again be producing a catalogue for visitors' guidance on the lots.

"August Pzzazz the Wollerton Way" will follow the Auction, with Andrew Humphris, a noted plantsman and Head Gardener at highly acclaimed Wollerton Old Hall, who will give his top tips for boosting colour into high summer. Many gardens peak in July, whereas Wollerton is renowned for the extended display of its beautiful borders through into August and beyond. Andrew will also be on hand to give his expert advice to visitors.

The Fair team will also provide accompanying stalls, including home-made cakes and preserves, competitions and delicious refreshments.

The Fair has become a big community event in our village and surrounding area. It's a friendly and informal fund-raising occasion, with some 40 local people helping on the day. The Fair is exceptional in bringing together expert professionals and dedicated amateur growers to offer a huge choice of ornamental perennials, annuals and vegetables, along with sound advice. The Fair is organised and run by the Fair team members, with items and costs fully covered by donations or by sponsorship. (No commercial or private stalls)

A warm welcome to all (guide dogs only, please)

Slow down, for all our sakes



These notices spotted outside properties in Cloy Lane, tell us that it is not only in the village centre that it can be hazardous crossing the road.



Perhaps, when all else fails, we might have to resort to something like this to get the message across to errant drivers. For a start, how about

**KILL YOUR SPEED
NOT PEOPLE**

Ken Farrell

A Big Thank You

A big thank you from June Owen to all my friends and neighbours across the village, including the congregation at St Mary's Church and Rev'd Canon David Child for the many supportive messages received during my recovery.

Thank you for the warmth of your good wishes, the phone calls and the wealth of beautiful cards received, all of which kept me positive and brightened my days. I am now at home and recovering well.

OCC Precept

It's time again to look at local Council Tax charges. Overton Community Council submits its precept proposals to Wrexham County Borough Council and once these have been accepted they form part of your Council Tax charge.

Street Lighting. Last year we reduced our precept because we had built up an amount of money for the replacement of street lighting. We still haven't had to use that money, so that saving continues.

Public Toilets. You may well have read in the local press that council tax is capped by central government and that Wrexham Councils grant from the Welsh Assembly has been reduced, meaning WCBC have to reduce their costs by £45m over the next 3 years. In turn WCBC are passing costs down to Community Councils who are not capped. In Overton this means we take on the extra cost for the public toilets which is £3728.

Maintenance of the Playingfields, Cemetery and Cenotaph. Our auditors criticised the Community Council last year for not putting the cost of maintaining the Playingfield, Cemetery and Cenotaph grounds out to tender as the Council had employed the current contractor on an ad-hoc basis. Unfortunately this process has highlighted to both the Council and the contractor the need to cost everything more accurately. As a result the cost of maintaining the grass in the Cemetery which is time consuming and mostly done by strimmer, has increased and is $\frac{2}{3}$ of the increase in tendered costs for grass cutting. There has also been an increase in the cost of collecting litter of almost £1000 which now totals £1560. We can all help by taking our litter home with us from both the playingfield and particularly the cemetery.

Clerks Costs. There has also been an increase in the cost of employing the Clerk, due to the extra hours now required to meet the requirements of the role, this equates an extra £1400 in salary and associated costs.

Grants. The Community Council regularly gives grants to groups in the village. The increase in grants this year is £1000.

Total Costs The total extra costs detailed above amount to £9,351 of the £10,796 increase in the precept.

School News



Our annual Eisteddfod was held at school to celebrate St. David's Day. Children came to school dressed in national costume and rugby shirts. After weeks of practice and preparation pupils enjoyed performing songs, recitals and poetry. Fantastic art work was also entered into the competitions and the standard was exceptionally high.

The day's celebrations culminated in the Chaining of the Bard which this year was awarded to David for his wonderful poem: "I asked My Mum for a Dragon one day"

Llongyfarchiadau David! A special thank you to everybody who helped make this such a special day at school. Diolch yn fawr!

Mr G Wyn-Jones Headteacher

(Read David's wonderful poem on Page 6 of the online edition.)

Thank you

On behalf of all the family, Vonnie and I would like to say a very big 'Thank you' to all our friends and neighbours for the kindness and sympathy shown to us in our recent sad bereavement. Special thanks to Gerry Owen (Overton British Legion) for his input at the Requiem Mass.

Donations of £470.00 given in Paddy's memory have been equally divided between the Overton Doctors' Equipment Fund (where it will benefit the local community) and the 'Connaught Rangers' Association to which he was so proud to belong and of his family's connection to the Regiment.

We are very grateful to you all - THANK YOU!

Marjorie Moraghan

Winning Poem

St Marys School annual Eisteddfod culminated in the Chairing of the Bard which this year was awarded to David for his poem:

I asked My Mum for a Dragon one day

I asked My Mum for a Dragon one day
And she shouted "No!"
When I said "why?" with a puzzled kind of look
She replied.....

"It's because Dragons have:
Teeth sharper than
one hundred chainsaws
Eyes as keen as ten Owls.
Ears like radars searching for prey.
Oh and the fire I don't have to say."

"WHY DON'T YOU JUST HAVE A PUPPY
TODAY?"

I asked my Mum for a Dragon one Day and
She SHOUTED "NO NO! I thought you asked me
this yesterday."

"They have:
Scaly Armour which swords bounce off.
Wings that can cause the biggest trees to fall.
A tail which leaves destruction in its path.
You just can't have one" Mum said.

"WHY DON'T YOU HAVE A KITTEN INSTEAD?"

I asked my Mum for a Dragon one day.
If only she knew I got one yesterday!!!



Playgroup News

April is usually the month were I feel the need for a good spring clean!! If this is how you feel too PLEASE remember Playgroup as we have our children's Nearly New Sale on **SUNDAY 6th APRIL 1-3PM** in the Village Hall.

You can register to become a seller at the event by contacting the Playcentre via facebook, phone or email overtonNNS@hotmail.co.uk OR simply come along on the day and shop for a fantastic bargain. We will have lots of high quality items at crazy prices. **SPREAD THE WORD!!!!**

We are also continuing with our recycle fundraiser by having a bag drop round the village asking for donations of unwanted clothes, bags, shoes etc. The items collected will be donated to Tenovus Cancer Charity and in return for our efforts they will make a donation to us. Look out for your bag, fill it up and leave it out on the designated day for collection by an official Tenovus representative.

On Friday 4th April we are hosting a **PRIZE BINGO NIGHT** at the Village Hall. Doors open 6.45 eyes down at 7.30. Refreshments available. **Free Entry** and Lots of great prizes to win. ALL WELCOME and we are looking forward to seeing you there!!!!

Angie Atkins

Commercial adverts are not included in the on-line version of the Oracle.

Business adverts can be viewed in the Business section of the Overton-on-Dee website page

To advertise on the website please click on link on Business page

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

Sunday April 6th 10.00am Family Village Praise
Palm Sunday April 13th 11:30am Holy Communion
Maundy Thursday April 17th 7.30pm Holy Communion & Vigil
Good Friday April 18th 2.00-3.00pm Stations of the Cross
Easter Sunday April 20th 10.00am Holy Communion with
 Blessing of Easter Eggs
Sunday April 27th 11.30am Holy Communion

April Diary for Methodist Chapel Services

Sunday April 6th No service
Sunday April 13th 6.30pm Evening Service
Good Friday April 18th 7.00pm Rev John Wiggall
Easter Sunday April 20th 9.00am Holy Communion
 6.30pm Rev P Rudden
Sunday April 27th 11.00am All Age Worship
 No evening service

Every Saturday 10.30am -12 noon Weekly Coffee
 Mornings at the Methodist Chapel

Thursday April 3rd 10.30 - 2.30pm Penley Rainbow
 Lunch & Learn - Activity: Aboriginal Art

Friday April 4th 6.45pm Prize Bingo Night at the Village Hall

Saturday April 5th 8.30pm Overton Cricket Club Grand
 National Race Night at the White Horse. Free Entry

Sunday April 6th 1.00-3pm Nearly New Sale at the Village Hall

Tuesday April 8th 7.30pm Overton Community Council
 meeting in the Parish Room. Members of the public
 wishing to speak can do so between 7.20 – 7.30pm.

Wednesday April 9th 12.30pm Overton Lunch Club at
 The White Horse. Booking required.

Fri & Sat April 11th & 12th 7.30pm Overton Am Drams
 present "Confusions" at the Village Hall

Monday April 14th 10.30am Overton British Legion
 meeting for coffee at Woodlands Deli

Tuesday April 15th Playcentre Recycle collection, donation
 bags will be collected kerbside

Wednesday April 16th 10 to 11am Overton Community
 Council Drop-In in the Parish Room

Thursday April 17th 7.30pm Overton WI Meeting in the
 Parish Room. Speaker: Marion Stanton on 'Gardening
 and Hanging Baskets'. Competition: A Pot Plant.

Thursday April 17th 7.30pm Overton Film Club present
 'Inside Llewyn Davis' at the Village Hall.

Saturday April 26th 7.30pm Concert at St Dunawd's Bangor

Wednesday April 30th WI Spring Group Meeting at
 Worthenbury. Speaker: Robert Stones of Peter Wilson
 Fine Art Auctioneers

Thursday May 1st 10.30 - 2.30pm Penley Rainbow
 Lunch & Learn - Activity: Collage

FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

**A very special Happy Birthday to
 Gertie Osbourne who is 102
 on April 24th.**



Happy April Birthdays to Gerry Owen,
 Grace Johnson, Courtney Pugh, Iory Ev-
 ans, Sarah Smith, Hayden Austin, Derek Edwards,
 Lucy Chalk, Geoff Hodgson, Mervyn Haynes, Mike
 Dorey, David Harris, Eileen Palmer, Lily Wyn Jones,
 Dexter Dodwell, Bill Grindley, Tim Hall & Kelly Taylor.
 Happy 1st Birthday to Rose Elise Wyn Jones

Congratulations to Geoff and Davina
 Pritchard who are celebrating their Ruby
 Wedding Anniversary on Easter Sunday.

**Thank you**

Debbie and the Edwards Family would like to thank
 everybody for their kind messages of condolences and
 generous donations at Neil's funeral.
 The sum of £1640.00 will be donated to the Sophie's
 Trust Fund.



Overton Cricket Club
 presents

**GRAND NATIONAL RACE NIGHT**

Saturday April 5th at 8.30pm at the White Horse
 A race night with a difference. Wooden horses on a specially
 made track. Be an owner or just bet on the Tote
 All welcome - Free Entry

For Sale**PLEASE REMEMBER**

**Copy deadline 20th of the
 previous month. Get your
 events & news to us early
 to avoid disappointment**

**THIS INCLUDES
 ADVERTISEMENTS**

**Leave your contribu-
 tions, & announcements
 at the Corner Shop.**

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 Rob Netzband-Piggott;
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 vies; Sean Clarke, & Euan
 Stevenson.**

**Editor - Jill Burton.
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**The Overton Oracle is printed and supported by "Business Print & Design", Wrexham. Tel. No. 01978 664726
 e-mail: info@bpandd.co.uk**

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