

The Overton Oracle

Volume 25 Issue 4

April 2023

Overton's Free Newspaper - delivered to every household monthly for 24 years



Pasg Hapus Happy Easter

Check out

details of the new minibus service Overton to Stans Superstore on Mondays. See page 5.

Can you remember the Coronation?

We would love to publish the memories of those who helped celebrate the last Coronation in 1953. Do send us your memories by email on overtonoracle@gmail.com or ring 710631.



The Cross Foxes, Erbistock

will reopen under new management, Sean, Matt and Robbie Martin, on Easter Saturday April 8th from 3pm.

Spring COVID booster programme

The Welsh Government has confirmed that a spring COVID-19 booster vaccination programme will begin on 1st April for

- Adults aged 75 and over
- residents in care homes for older adults, and
- individuals aged 5 years and over who are immunosuppressed

Overton Community Council

invites you to come along to the Parish Rooms on Monday afternoons, (except Easter Monday) between 2.00pm - 4.00pm for a cuppa and some cake.

There will be a community councillor there too, so if there is anything you want to ask the Community Council, do come along!



The Great Overton Bake Off - and more!

April will be another busy month for us at the Recreational Club. Saturday 22nd April sees the start of our **Hope House & Ty Gobaith fundraising**

- a **Family Fun Evening** which starts at 7pm with lots of music, dancing, games and the Mega Raffle. It's free entry and families with well behaved children are welcome. Local businesses including Two Doves, ME Evans Butchers, Penley Mill Garage, Lucy Bakes, Regent House of Flowers and the Dough Nation Station have been extremely kind and donated prizes - thank you to you all! But we still need more so please get in touch if you can help.

Then on Sunday 23rd April we present the **Great Overton Bake Off!** The theme will be the King's Coronation and we have two categories - Under 12s and 12yrs - 112yrs! Prizes for each category plus a prize for Star Baker. It's free to enter and we ask entrants to drop their creations off at the club at 4pm ready for judging at 5pm. We can't promise Mary Berry or Paul Hollywood will be there, but never say never! Then we will hold our Cake Sale where we hope you would agree for us to auction off your bakes to raise lots of money. Cake donations are also welcome. **So come on Overton - let's get creative!**

A sponsored Bike Ride is also being planned and the lads are preparing for this. If you would like to sponsor them do get in touch. We now have a Just Giving page - search for "Overton's fundraiser for Hope House & Ty Gobaith" where donations can also be made. Every single penny we raise will be donated to these wonderful charities.

Put your baking skills to the test and enter... 

THE GREAT OVERTON BAKE OFF

THEME: THE KING'S CORONATION

Standard Category: 12yrs - 112yrs+

Child Category: Under 12 yrs

Prizes for each category Plus prize for Star Baker!
at OVERTON RECREATIONAL CLUB

SUNDAY 23RD APRIL 2023

CAKE DROP OFF FROM 4:00PM

JUDGING 5:00PM followed by

CAKE SALE - this is where we hope you would agree to auction off your cake to raise lots of money. Cake donations also welcome.



WE'D LOVE YOUR SUPPORT



The Village Fete will this year return to its usual time of the last Saturday in June which this year will be **Saturday 24th June.**

The format of a morning Street Market (10.00am to 1.00pm) and afternoon picnic (2.00pm to 4.30pm) has proved popular in recent years so we'll do that again, but just bigger and better than ever!

Keep checking social media and the Overton Oracle for details and, if you'd like to get involved, why not join the working party! Contact Charlotte on 07960 538089 for more information.

Crowns, Choirs, Callings, Cherry Trees and a Cuppa or Cava!



It's super to have arrived in Overton and I'm already getting to know folk here in the village, and at Bettisfield, Bronington, Hanmer and Penley. Unlike my predecessors, I'm the first priest for 5 churches and the surrounding communities; whilst I'm living in Overton, it means my time has to spread in a new way for a wide area!

One of the things that excites me about coming here, are the activity and groups that get together in the area. It was a joy to both attend the Twinning Association dinner and WI coffee morning here in Overton last month and I'm tremendously looking forward to the Village Pantomime and other fun things later in the year! (I might even take part!)

Next month is the Coronation and this is a once in a life time opportunity for us to get together and mark this historic occasion for our nation. Across the 5 villages there are lots of celebrations taking place. At St Mary's Church – we're having 5 C's to celebrate:

Choir - Sing for the King – inviting everyone to sing *Zadok the Priest* and other songs, together.

Calling - Ring for the King – with Church Towers ringing bells across the nation.

Cherry Tree Planting – adding another tree to our historic yews which the late Queen visited in 1992.

Cups of Tea or Cava! – come and have a cuppa or something stronger, to celebrate.

Crowns – our local children from schools will be decorating our windows with crowns, continuing the creative themes which were done for the Millennium and Jubilee.

The coronation is both the symbolic religious ceremony during which a sovereign is crowned and the physical act of placing a crown on a monarch's head. It brings us together to celebrate all that's good about our Nation and the outstanding work that the King and others do for us (often unnoticed and out of sight – Princess Anne is the prime and outstanding example!)

So join us to celebrate this special occasion and I'll look forward to raising a glass or cup with you! May's Oracle will have further details.

In the meantime Happy Easter as we pray for King Charles giving thanks for his faith in the Risen Christ!

Father Jeremy

Thank you

Thank you to everyone who bought the Overton Knit and Natter group knitted hearts from the Two Doves Coffee and Gift Shop, We raised £50 which will go to vital research into heart related diseases.

Watch out for our next fund raiser, it has a Royal connection!



WI Update

Overton-on-Dee WI were treated to a fascinating insight into the art of real bread making, courtesy of Liz Wilson of Ma Baker, who explained the process in detail and highlighted the difference between the centuries-old recipes which have stood the test of time, and modern mass-produced breads. As an added bonus, Liz brought lots of delicious samples of her various breads for all of us to taste, and several members were lucky enough to win some of her loaves as raffle prizes. It was a super night.

Our next meeting is our AGM, but as always business is combined with pleasure and members will be having a fish & chip supper, and an early Coronation celebration whilst seeing what the coming year's Programme has in store.



Overton Village Handicraft Show 20th May 2023

Schedules for this year's Show are available from the Corner Shop, M E Evan's Butcher, the Library, Two Doves and Willow & Wren, and on the Oracle website.

Please support our Show, either by entering one of the many and diverse classes **open to all**, whether experienced crafters or complete novices, or by coming along on the day to admire the crafts and enjoy the refreshments.

Village Shows are an important tradition, and wherever possible we should do our best to keep that tradition going – Overton has a great reputation in this, and long may it last! If you have any questions or need advice, please do not hesitate to call, we will be pleased to hear from you.

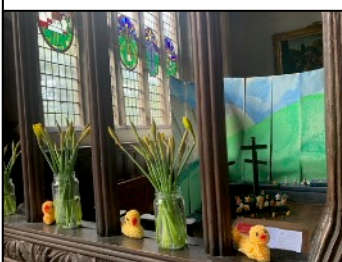
Margaret O'Neill 01978 710451

Donate an Easter Egg

Visit St Mary's Church to see the Easter display in the Lady Chapel. There are tiny eggs dotted about for little visitors. If possible could you donate an Easter egg, which will then be donated to the Salvation Army and/or Wrexham hospital children's ward.

We are asking businesses and local people for their support and kindness in making this happen.

There are two large plastic containers in the Lady Chapel, marked up "Chocolate Easter Eggs". We have no preference on what type of Easter egg or size, we are just grateful for all donations, but please donate by Good Friday April 7th. For more information ring 07753



email: overtonoracle@gmail.com

Return to Conducting

On April 1st, Overton resident, Polina Horelova, from Mariupol, will conduct two Ukrainian songs performed by new Sinfonia orchestra's community vocal ensemble, NEW Voices, as part of the "We Rise Together" concert which will be staged at St Giles Church, Wrexham on April 1st at 7.30pm.

Polina, her husband, Volodymyr, and their four children, Anhelina, 12, Oryna, 11, Liubomyr, 7, and Volodymyr, 3, found a safe haven in Overton thanks to their sponsors Edgar and Elizabeth Coward, to whom Polina says they will always be grateful. She still has family and friends in Ukraine including her brother, Daniel, who was injured when a Russian missile fragment pierced his leg. Polina's husband still returns regularly to Ukraine transporting and distributing vital aid packages to families who have lost their homes and livelihoods. His farm, including land and livestock, was destroyed in the Russian advance on Mariupol and the family's city apartment was annihilated by relentless bombing.

Polina's passion for music was rekindled after joining the ensemble which meets on Saturday mornings at Tŷ Pawb in Wrexham. Polina studied at Mariupol Music College, qualifying in conducting but until she joined the choir she had not sung or made music since escaping to the UK.

Polina said: "Music has always been at the heart of my family, but even before the war I had stopped working professionally after having children. It was difficult to raise a family and continue a career conducting. But after I was introduced to the community choir here it reignited my passion for music. It became a source of joy at a heartbreaking time for us." Polina will conduct the choir for two songs well known in Ukraine, one a traditional prayer and the other is a dance tune hailing from the Carpathian mountains.

Elizabeth thanks the people of Overton and surrounding villages for all the aid donated to Volodymyr to take to Ukraine, and says she is still collecting aid.



Professional Tennis Coaching by Tennis2You

The Overton tennis club is located at the end of St Mary's Avenue, along side the Bowling Club. We will be holding a Family Open Day on **Saturday 22nd April**.

Sessions on the day are as follows:-

- 2.00pm - 3.00pm children over 5years
- 3.00pm - 4.00pm adults.

This is to be followed by 6 weeks of coaching, beginning on Monday 24th April

- 5.00pm - 6.00pm Children over 5 years
- 6.00pm - 7.00pm Adults

All sessions will be **FREE OF CHARGE** and all equipment will be provided.

For any more information please contact Janet Edwards 07812 939068

or email jgedwards56@gmail.com



Looking after our river

The River Dee has a wide variety of threats and problems that are causing declines in its wildlife and fisheries. Welsh Dee Trust is an environmental charity that focuses its work on the practical delivery of interventions that make a difference, working towards the overall objective of restoring the brooks, rivers and streams of the Dee catchment for both wildlife and people. Their vision is free-flowing rivers full of fish!

On 27 May, Welsh Dee Trust is hosting Dee Flows Day, a community celebration to create awareness about the importance of migratory fish and free-flowing rivers. Organisations working to improve aquatic habitats across the Dee will be showcasing their efforts and offering free family activities to learn about the river. Put the date in your diary, Saturday 27 May at Tŷ Mawr Country Park, 11am to 3pm for Dee Flows Day: Connecting fish, rivers and people. For more information see www.welshdeetrust.com



Memories of Overton sledging days

Thank you Pip for sending the photos to the Oracle. The photos reminded me of happy times spent sledging down the 'Bottoms', the hill going down to the river accessed by the field next to the Old Cemetery.

I don't recognise everyone in the second photo but everyone in the first one is - from left to right myself, Margaret Evison (Phillips), Fred Murray, June Jones, (Roberts) Den Metcalfe, Don Roberts, Les Stant and you of course Pip (Phil Andrews) at the end.

I think that was the day I ended up in the brook at the bottom which didn't do much for my new yellow sweater, but at least no injuries.

All good fun, and as I say, happy times and 'Thanks For the Memory'.



Margaret Evison

Relieving the problem

Housing developments across Wrexham CBC have stalled following the introduction of new environmental targets and new planning applications have slowed to a trickle.

Last year Natural Resources Wales (NRW) published new targets to reduce river phosphate levels in special areas of conservation (SAC) across Wales, which includes the river Dee. It follows concerns about an increase in phosphate concentrations – which can cause water pollution. Sewage is often seen as contributing to raised phosphate levels in rivers.

To reduce the quantity of sewage, residents are being encouraged to reinstate the tŷ bachs in their garden or build their own earth closet. If you would like to join the scheme please apply by April 1st to ugot2laff.com



Mums

The St Mary's Mothering Sunday service went with a swing, with the children during the service leading the grown ups in signing the words of 'He's got the whole world in his hands'. Display boards had been decorated by the children of the playcentre with lots of lovely pictures, and thoughts in word form from the younger children. The children who attended the service brought along their pictures and their own words showing what Mum means to them, and these were also pinned up for all to enjoy. Do drop in and see them if you get the chance Thank you to all who took part!



Easter Word Hunt



E	G	G	S	H	U	N	T
N	D	L	F	S	L	L	C
E	Y	A	R	F	R	I	H
S	E	M	B	I	K	L	I
T	G	B	U	N	N	Y	C
I	C	H	I	D	E	F	K
E	A	S	T	E	R	L	W
D	J	G	R	A	S	S	Q

BUNNY
CHICK
DYE
EASTER
EGGS
FIND
GRASS
HIDE
HUNT
LAMB
LILY
NEST

New seating

Many thanks to the Overton Community Council for the placing of two new benches, so that Overton residents can sit in comfort, and contemplate the beauty of the changing seasons in the Millennium Meadow.



Wrexham CBC Revenue Budget 2023/24

The Provisional Local Government Settlement was announced on 14 December 2022 and resulted in an increase in grant support of 8.4% for Wrexham compared to the average increase of 7.9% across Wales. This higher level of settlement is welcome but only recognises half of the pressures that councils are facing across Wales.

The proposals for next year recognise demand pressures in Social Care and inflationary cost increases including pay and energy for all Council Services including Schools. For example pay has increased by £9.7m next year and energy by £2.7m.

Extra investment has been provided for Highways Maintenance & Resurfacing plus Public Transport Bus services. In addition, an amount has been allocated for investment in Council Plan Priorities. The headline investments are as follows:

- £7m for Social Care
- £5.2m increase for schools
- £1m investment in Council Plan Priorities
- £1m additional for Highways Maintenance & Resurfacing
- £200k Public Transport Bus Services with a commitment for a further £200k
- £900k for other service pressures including:
 - £300k Homelessness – £200k increased cost of temporary accommodation due to new legislation and £100k to Accommodation move on crisis (deliver secure “move on” accommodation to those who are owed a homeless duty)
 - £250k additional ICT capacity and resilience, including disaster recovery arrangements
 - £100k Leisure support to ensure sustainability of the remaining contract term

There are no service cuts proposed as part of the 2023/24 budget, though a level of service efficiencies of £300k have been included and are deemed deliverable. The proposals assume a 6% increase in Council Tax. It is proposed as a reasonable balance between ensuring we have a financially resilient Council and recognising the burden of increasing costs to local taxpayers. We have to remember that our level of Council Tax is starting from a lower position than the average in Wales. We know that future years are going to be more challenging and we must use this next year to plan to so that we can continue to deliver services in a financially sustainable way.

Cllr John McCusker

The Rainbow Foundation strives to connect older people with their local communities.

For people who live in rural communities, community transport services provide a lifeline, allowing a freedom and level of independence which would otherwise be out of reach. The Rainbow Foundation have been addressing this need for more than 27 years and today have a fleet of three minibuses which provide transport links to and from their Penley, Chirk and Marchwiel Care Hubs. The charity – who operates across South Wrexham – believe that there is more that can be done and are striving to connect even more people in rural communities with local services and attractions.

Volunteer Coordinator Rebecca Griffiths says: “the reality is that many older people who live in rural communities are becoming more and more isolated as public transport services continue to be cut. We are in a position now where even getting to their local supermarket has become a challenge for many people. Especially in the face of a continued cost of living crisis where calling a taxi to help them is no longer affordable.”

This is why on Monday 20th March 2023, The Rainbow Foundation launched a new weekly transport service to Stans Superstore in St Martins. Leaving the Penley Rainbow Centre at 11:30am each Monday morning, the service will collect from the Cocoa Rooms in Overton at 11:45am before travelling on to Stans Superstore in St Martins. The service will leave Stans at 2pm, returning to the Rainbow Centre via the Cocoa Rooms. This gives anyone who would like to come along around 2 hours to shop or enjoy some lunch.

Rebecca believes there is more that needs to be done though. She says: “We are looking to extend our community transport service even further to include more trips to local services and attractions to enable people to not only meet their basic needs when it comes to accessing local services, but also provides a social and human connection to others. To do this though we need volunteers across South Wrexham to come forward if they have a few hours each month spare to help us support older people in our local communities.”

At a time where rising prices have further limited the lives of the people living in our local communities, The Rainbow Foundation are working to bring people together to support one another. If you are interested in volunteering with The Rainbow Foundation you can find out more at www.therainbowfoundation.org.uk/volunteer or contact them on 01948 830730 and via email at info@therainbowfoundation.org.uk

The Stans Transport service started on Monday 20th March 2023 and will cost £4 for a return journey to St Martins. Places are limited to please contact The Rainbow Foundation on 01948 830730 to book a place.



The litter blighting our environment

Have you noticed the amount of litter on all our road verges? We are litter pickers for Keep Wales Tidy in and round the Overton. We are shocked by the amount of toxic polluting litter we pick up every week. which is getting worse by the day. The amount being thrown is way out of control. We want to see more done to stop the litter throwers. Picking up litter does not solve the problem, it just hides it till the next lot arrives.

From 2020 to 2023 we have filled up over 1,000 red bags full of items thrown from vehicles. That works out on average 150,000 people have thrown a piece of litter in the Overton area, breaking the law by throwing litter from a car or dropping it in the street. We are seeing a total disregard for this law every day. We also now find lots of E cigarette vapour cases, they are everywhere - toxic waste.

We are asking, if you see the shocking amount of toxic litter along the road edges, please think that it takes one second to throw litter but it takes hours and a lot of effort to pick it up. Please let us respect where we and other people live. Make a difference today - take your litter home and put it in your free recycle bin provided by your council. The road side is not an open dustbin please don't treat it as such. Please write to your MP, or the Welsh Assembly, if you want to see more done to stop people from throwing litter from their vehicles. So much more could be done.



More events at the Recreational Club

Easter Bingo will be on Sunday 9th April with cash prizes and lots of yummy chocolate eggs.

Saturday 15th April is **Race Night** - come along to a night at the races and support the Overton Bowling Club and Overton Rec Football Club. Free entry - 8 races plus an auction race. Just bring cash for your bets.

As usual most Premier League football will be shown throughout the month, as well as Wrexham AFC's race for promotion (dependent on what is televised). Bingo is every Thursday and Sunday and we might throw in a quiz - keep an eye on our Facebook page for all updates.

Overton Royal British Legion 120 Club

Results of the “120 Club” for March 2023
119 members entered and the draw was made on 15th March. Winning numbers were selected by Mrs Julie Birrell.

Winners: 1st Prize £238.00 No 103 Nicola Rouse
2nd Prize £119.00 No 13 Walter Roberts
3rd Prize £ 59.50 No 72 Sarah Fell Groom
Legion Fund: £178.50

CONGRATULATIONS

Next Draw will be on Thursday 13th April 2023
If you wish to join please ring Dave Austin Tel: 01978 710678 or contact him by Facebook Messenger.

All new members must play by Standing Order

“IF YOU DON’T PAY --- YOU DON’T PLAY”

Thank you for your Loyal Support

What's On

April Diary for St Mary's

Sunday	April 2 nd	9.30am All Age Worship
Maundy Thursday	April 6 th	7.00pm Holy Communion
Good Friday	April 7 th	2.00pm Devotion
Easter Sunday	April 9 th	9.30am Holy Communion
Sunday	April 16 th	9.30am Morning Prayer
Sunday	April 23 rd	9.30am Holy Communion
Sunday	April 30 th	11.00am Joint Mission Area

Communion Service at St Dunawd's, Bangor on Dee

For all service details see

<https://www.stmarysoverton-on-dee.org/worship>

April Diary for Overton Methodist Chapel

Sunday	April 2 nd	6.30pm Rev Richard Parkes
Easter Sunday	April 9 th	6.30pm Rev Neville Pugh
Sunday	April 16 th	6.30pm Rev Richard Parkes
Sunday	April 23 rd	6.30pm Mr Collen Nodoro
Sunday	April 30 rd	6.30pm Rev Neville Pugh

Services at Our Lady And The Welsh Martyrs

Every Saturday 5.00pm Mass

Every Monday from 2.00-4.00pm The Community Hub,
tea and cake in the Parish Room (not Easter Monday)

Every Monday 10.00am-12.30pm Overton Art Group
in the Catholic Hall, Wrexham Road.

Every Thursday 11.30am - 1.30pm Knit and Natter group
at The Two Doves Cafe, Overton

Sunday April 9th Easter Bingo at Recreational Club

Tuesday April 11th 6.50pm Overton Community Council
meeting in the Parish Room. Members of the
public wishing to speak can do so 6.50pm-7.00pm

Thursday April 13th 7.00pm Overton on Dee Branch
Royal British Legion meeting in the Parish Room

Saturday April 15th Race Night at Rec. Club in aid of
Overton Bowling Club & Football Club

Thursday April 20th 7.00pm Overton on Dee WI Annual
Meeting & Coronation Party in the Village Hall.

Saturday April 22nd from 2.00pm Overton Tennis Club
Family Open Day

Saturday April 22nd 7.00pm Family Fun Evening at
Overton Recreational Club

Sunday April 23rd 5pm The Great Overton Bake Off at
Overton Recreational Club

Saturday April 29th 10am - 12pm Methodist Church
Coffee Morning.

Tuesday May 2nd 7.30pm Twinning AGM in Parish Room

Thank you

A big thank you to the Knit and Natter group who have made these little chicks for us for Easter Day at St Mary's.



All articles & advertisements in the Overton Oracle are published in good faith & without prejudice. Space constraints mean that submitted articles may be edited or not published. Please be mindful that personal details submitted will be available on the internet.

Family Announcements



Happy April Birthdays to Gerry Owen, Aneila Bell, Ruby Grace Whittall, Tim Hall, Derek Edwards, Iory Evans, Grace Johnson, Sarah Smith, Haydon Austin, Lucy Chalk, Geoff Hodgson, Bill Grindley, Mervyn Haynes, David Harris, Eileen Palmer, Dexter Dodwell, Kieron Rogers, Karen Whittaker, Anne Williams, Claire Williams, Enid Thompson & Kelly Taylor.

Happy 60th birthday to Tom. Hope you have a fabulous time celebrating with friends and family, with all our love Deb, Dani, Tajay, Brooklyn, Mike and Charlotte xxx

Sincere condolences to the family and friends of Hilda Evison who passed away in February.

OVERTON VILLAGE HALL NEEDS YOU



- We have a vacancy for a Trustee of the Charity. We meet for approximately one hour every two months.
- We are desperate for local volunteers to assist in promoting our presence on social media, and our website. For more information please contact info@overtonvillagehall.co.uk Tel: 07563 826271

Dustbin Days

Thurs April 6 th	General Waste & Recycling/food
Thurs April 13 th	Garden Waste & Recycling/food
Thurs April 20 th	General Waste & Recycling/food
Thurs April 27 th	Garden Waste & Recycling/food

For Sale

Child's bike VGC, helmet & stabilisers. Suitable for girl or boy, 5-10yrs old
£45 ono Tel: 07966 462697

PLEASE REMEMBER
Copy deadline is 20th of the previous month.

Get your events & news to us early to avoid disappointment
THIS INCLUDES
ADVERTISEMENTS

Leave your contributions & announcements at the Corner Shop or email overtonoracle@gmail.com

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