

The Overton Oracle



Volume 26 Issue 4

April 2024

Overton's Free Newspaper - delivered to every household monthly for 25



Overton Village Fete Returns

The 2024 Village Fete will take place on Saturday, 29th June. Returning for its 4th year will be the ever popular Overton Street Market from 10.00am to 1.00pm. Check the OCC website, Facebook and emails for further details including how to register for a stall, costs and stall locations after Easter.

There will be other events later in the afternoon which are being finalised at the moment. Keep your eyes peeled for further details in the coming weeks!

If you're interested in helping to organise the Village Fete please contact Charlotte, either on 07960 538089 or ccopeman@overton-on-dee.co.uk. It's a lot of fun!

Overton Village Hall news

We are looking for a Treasurer to administer the Charity's Accounts, working closely with the Chairman to provide monthly accounts and to attend bi-monthly Management Committee evening meetings (generally of 1 hour duration).

Training can be given.

The Village Hall relies upon Volunteer Trustees to administer and manage the Village Hall Charity.

Apply in the first instance to:

Bill Grindley tel: 07312 125987 or email info@overtonvillagehall.co.uk



Supper club news

The wait is over! Overton's first 'Supper Club', organised by the Overton Twinning Association, will take place on Saturday 18th May, at 7.00pm (arrival from 6.30pm) at Llangoed, Wrexham Road, Overton, LL13 0HF. The 3 French-themed courses will have a choice to suit everyone (we hope!). Please reserve your place (30 available) by emailing

overtontwinning@gmail.com and letting us know numbers and any allergy issues. The menu will be available as soon as we know dietary requirements. Cost is £25 per head with tickets sold on a first come first served basis, you will need to bring your own liquid refreshments.



Lent Lunch at St Mary's

Thank you to everyone who attended the Lent Lunch in March; this was the first one held at the Church and well attended. We raised £100 for Nightingales House Hospice in Wrexham.

Father Jeremy

Eggstreme thanks

On behalf of ourselves, the Overton Playcentre and the Overton Growers, we would like to thank everyone who took the time to come out and support the Eggstravaganza on Sunday 17th March, it was another fantastic event and we hope fun was had by all.

Overton Twinners

Dog Lovers Plea

Care for people's lawns and meadows - take a little bag, Scoop and bin your doggy's mess, so people cannot nag, Be alert, and watch your dog. Excrement should be contained, An owner's reputation can be lost - and not regained.

Why don't all canine lovers simply do the same as me?

Not do what I could **never** do - just fling it in a tree,
Or sneak a glance, and leave it there to fester on the ground
And just ignore that yucky mess 'cos nobody's around!

Boots and shoes and prams can spread this foul stuff **anywhere**,
Into the shop, the garden, house - to someone's favourite chair.
It stinks, it stains the carpets, and on toddlers' hands it might
Be carried to young mouths or eyes—some kids have lost their sight.

Doggy poo is dangerous to human eyes and tums
So please just bin the contents of your little pooches' bums.

MG

(Thank you to those who take the time to collect their dog poo, it is appreciated.)

Red Nose day success

Thank you to everyone who supported Red Nose Day, either on Friday 15th March at the Village Hall or at the Easter Eggstravaganza on Sunday 17th March. We raised a total of £375 to add to their impressive total.

Sheila Miller

Oracle Online

If you feel like you have ever missed anything that has happened in the Village don't forget you can find old copies of the Overton Oracle on our website, along with extra photos and information, or links to videos mentioned in any of our recent articles (there is one to look out for this month that could be very interesting to many people so keep your eyes peeled)

www.overtonoracle.com

Musings from the Manse by Father Jeremy

One of the things I enjoy listening to is the Daily Service on Radio 4 at 9.45am; it gives me the opportunity to be inspired by faith stories as well as reflections on both current affairs and the liturgical seasons. I first discovered the broadcast when I was ordained in 1997; as the programme has been on Long Wave, a parishioner in Newcastle kindly lent me her battery powered Roberts Radio when I had flu—I still listen on the same machine today! Long Wave is disappearing and over the last two months, there's been a recorded message at the end of the programme saying *from April 2024, the Daily Service will be available on Radio 4 Extra—a digital station which can be accessed online*. All good things come to an end and I've just hooked it up on my BBC Sounds app. Saying farewell to a long-established habit or routine can throw up challenges. The switching off of Enid's gift will mean I no longer remember her in the way I've done. The need to dispose of a still working radio is a reminder of our throw away consumer culture. Most importantly there are times when we have to listen to the forthcoming message of change and either adapt for the future or be left behind and lose out.

The Easter Season runs through April into May—when the world hears the triumphant trumpet of resurrection which creates a new future both making heaven on earth and calling us to that destination of eternal life with the risen Christ when we die. Jesus' Disciples could not initially comprehend what this meant and locked themselves away in fear of the future; they didn't believe that there could be a future without Jesus. When faced with change and loss, we can feel the same, when our rhythm or routine in life is altered or threatened by change. Like Mary Magdalene, we can often want to cling on to what we know and are used to. Jesus says to her *"do not hold onto me"* and calls us to look to the future to receive a new and better life (at Pentecost), that enables God to speak to us in our own language, time and place. It does mean we have to adapt and go forward in a new way; the Easter Season helps us to do that as we hear stories in the Acts of Apostles of how the first Christians developed and changed lives by tuning into a new 'frequency' or 'wave' that brought them to see the resurrection as the new way to lead them to eternal life. As someone who likes familiarity and stability, I wasn't initially taken with the idea of having to change how I will listen to God's word in the future. I'm not however going to get left behind though and have already seen the advantage of being able to listen to the Daily Service when I'm in my car, for example. May the Easter Season be a time when we *can* look forward and move forward, and rise up to the challenges which will bring us new life whether it's with the radio or our relationship with God. How we need that in our broken world today!



Coffee Morning thanks

Overton on Dee W.I. would like to thank wholeheartedly all those who supported our annual coffee morning on March 2nd. It is always heartening to see our wonderful Village Hall full of laughter and chatter, and the smell of frying bacon enhanced the ambience even more! Special thanks must go to all the local businesses who donated raffle prizes, and who presented such magnificent stalls displaying such high quality goods and produce. We are already looking forward to the next one!

Margaret O'Neill

National Holidays in April

Whilst we are all aware of the traditional holidays that occur in April, such as April Fools Day, there are a few more unusual ones that we perhaps should observe this year.

National Draw a Bird Day on April 8th has its origins in quite a wholesome event. In 1943 a seven year old British girl went to the hospital to visit her uncle who had lost a leg in the war. At his bedside she asked him to draw her a bird. Even though she found amusement in his limited drawing skills, she hung the picture in her bedroom. From then on, all the other soldiers in the hospital started drawing birds for her, hanging them all around the hospital. 3 years later she was tragically killed by a car and her coffin was filled with the soldiers' bird pictures. Ever since, her birthday on April 8th has been marked as National Draw a Bird Day where people are encouraged to draw a bird as a way of finding the joy in life's simple pleasures.

National Tea Day on April 21st, where we can all sit down with our favourite cuppa and take a minute to enjoy a traditional English (or Welsh) beverage. Or possibly we should celebrate **International Girls in ICT Day** on April 25th (this day will always fall on the 4th Thursday of April). This day is a global initiative to encourage girls to pursue careers in technology, aiming to bridge the gender gap in this field. It highlights the importance of providing girls with the opportunities and skills necessary for a future in ICT. The significance of this observance extends beyond encouraging participation in ICT, it addresses broader issues such as access and safety in the digital world, advocates for equal digital learning opportunities, and challenges the negative stereotypes that deter girls from engaging in tech-related fields. Unfortunately none of these come with an extra bank holiday!

Club news...

We are sad to announce that Jackie and Kayleigh have now left the club for pastures new. For over 6 years they have both been ably assisted by Pete, and despite facing many challenges, including keeping the club going through a pandemic, they have left the club in a very good position. From the committee we thank them for all their hard work and loyalty to the club and we wish them well in the future.

Looking forward, we are now pleased to welcome Daniel and Abi as our new bar staff. Both have a great deal of experience of bar work and all that is involved in running a pub.

So come on up and meet them - a friendly welcome is guaranteed and we look forward to seeing what exciting offers that can bring to the club in the future.

Highways Hell

As we all know, the state of the roads locally and, in fact, nationally are a major disgrace. I had Council approval for sections of road to be totally resurfaced being the A528 section out of the village to the turning for Stan's and also the section past Queensbridge and over the small bridge, where the surface is now nearly non-existent. I also had approval for sections of Bangor Road near the bends, a short distance out of the village. After the first section from the village to the Stan's turning was completed, a hold was placed on further works as the Council had to find savings of £23m, resulting from a lack of overall Government funding. Believe me, these sections are still a priority when funds allow. The road from Queensbridge to Knolton is another major concern with constant flooding caused by water run-off from the fields. This is being investigated currently as a lack of attention to ditches seems to be the probable cause. It is worth noting that the Council do not own the ditches, they are the responsibility of the landowners.

As for the potholes....Over the winter it has just been a matter of filling as many as possible knowing that unfortunately many fills might not last long with the weather and they are likely to need redoing again.

This is just a general overview and if and when I hear further I will let you know, when hopefully this horrendous situation is likely to be rectified.

Cllr John McCusker

Overton on Dee Scout Group

Overton on Dee Scout Group are fundraising to take 14 cub scouts to Gilwell Park, Epping Forest, for the nationwide 'Cubs Takeover Gilwell Park'. In order to help get them there, we are running heavy horse experiences. Come and meet some of these majestic and magnificent creatures. If you wanted to watch us wash, and dress, them, or just spend some time around them this is your chance.

Listen to how they have helped Britain stay great, and learn about their endangered status.

All sessions are £30 per person. For bookings and further information please send a direct message to Jennie Lloyd on Facebook. Sessions can be arranged to your convenience, including at weekends. A great Father's Day Gift!

All money raised from these sessions will be donated straight to Overton on Dee Scout Group, so these Cubs can experience nothing like they have ever experienced before.

Overton Tennis Club

Tennis2You will be starting tennis coaching again this year at Overton Tennis Club. We will be starting on the 8th April 2024, 5-6pm for junior and 6-7pm for adults. The first session on 8th April will be **completely free**.

After the 8th April we will be starting a block of 4 weeks coaching until May half term. Dates and details of the 4 weeks of coaching will be sent out after the session on the 8th April.

Please confirm if you or your child would like to attend the free session on 8th April by emailing us tennis2you.ltd@gmail.com before 4th April 2024.



Police & Crime Commissioner Elections

Don't forget the deadline for registering to vote for the new Police and Crime Commissioner on 2nd May. If you have not registered before Tuesday 16th April you will not be able to vote. Every vote counts, you can still register online on the Wrexham council website.

Can you give blood?

The Welsh Blood Service are in need of more people to sign up as blood donors to help patients across Wales. Anyone is eligible so long as they are between the ages of 17 and 66 (when they make their first donation) and weigh over 7 stone 12 pounds (50kg).

There are donation clinics all around Wrexham, and all it takes is 30 minutes (and don't forget the tea and biscuits afterwards!).

One donation will potentially save the lives of three patients or six babies.

Booking a session can be done online at <https://wbs.wales/stiwt>



OVERTON KNIT & NATTER GROUP Spring Craft Stall



Saturday 6th April
At Overton Parish Rooms

10 -12

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For more information contact: Ruth 07719 677199

THE ROYAL BRITISH
LEGION

Overton Royal British Legion 120 Club

Results of the '120 Club' draw for March 2024. 119 members entered and the draw was made on Thursday 14th March by Colin Davies.

Winners: 1st Prize £238 No 39 Alan Mawdsley
2nd Prize £119 No 27 Jenny Knight
3rd Prize £59.50 No 76 Raymond Austin
RBL £178.50

CONGRATULATIONS

Next Draw will be on Thursday 11th April 2024. 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

Back to Bowls

Now that we are into April, we look forward to summer pastimes. The bowlers of the village are now getting ready to start practising on our wonderful green. Following last year's successful season in which our two teams won their leagues and are now promoted to the first and fourth division, we are now able to start a third team in the fifth division.

New members are very welcome to join us. To encourage people we are opening the green every Saturday in April between 10.00am and 12.00pm for people who are interested to come and sample the sport. Hopefully, people will enjoy the sport and join us as members.



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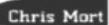
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Bell ringing update

Have you ever wondered what we actually ring on a Sunday morning? It may sound like random bells but we mostly ring call changes (someone calls out the bells that are changing places) until we reach a combination such as 'Queens'. We start by ringing 'rounds', that's bells 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 in order. Bells 2 and 3 swap over, followed by bells 4 and 5 giving an order of 132546; then we swap bells 2 and 5 over giving 135246, the 'Queens' combination. We then reverse it all until we are back in rounds. Listen out next time and see if you can hear the 'Queens' combination.

We are delighted to report that on 2nd March the bellringers from St Mary's Overton, St Dunawad's Bangor on Dee and St Mary's Chirk won a national award! We were awarded ART (Association of Ringing Teachers) Band of Cluster of the year 2024 for the way the three towers work together and support each other. The award is open to any tower or cluster of towers that is focussed on improving ringing standards and developing sustainability of ringing.

They were looking for the band or cluster's commitment, drive and delivery over a period of years. Three ringers attended the award ceremony to accept the award for the cluster (see image).

Most of you will not have the opportunity to climb to the top of the church tower and see the bells in action. It is for that reason a video was made to enable everyone who has access to a computer or smart phone to take a look. Here is the link to our YouTube video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CVunboOC1sg>

If you ever want to come and watch us ringing St Mary's church bells, just call in on a Tuesday, any time between 6-7.30pm.

Clare Morris, Tower Captain



Tapeworm and Tapestry

So what do a tapeworm tablet, a tapestry and a VW Transporter have to do with D-Day 80?

Eighteen months ago my wife and I retired and dreamt of life on the road in our van, exploring the lesser known parts of this country and sunnier parts of Europe. To cut a long story short, as yet we haven't actually spent a night in the van. In reality this is largely due to the fact that we couldn't face the prospect of sharing a very confined space with the world's loudest snoring dog (probably a slight exaggeration but unfortunately this is no longer an issue, RIP Alfie).

Now that our final excuse has been removed we decided that plans had to be made.

Last year I wrote an article for the Oracle about a motorcycle trip to France which included a visit to Omaha Beach and the American Cemetery in Normandy. Time was very limited on that journey and I've always felt guilty that I didn't visit the British cemetery in Bayeux. So, with the anniversary of D-Day 80 being only a few months away, we decided that this was a good reason to embark on our first European trip in the Transporter. In May we will be visiting the British Cemetery and laying a wreath on behalf of the Overton RBL group but it did occur to us that if

anyone in the village has a relative buried at Bayeux, and particularly anyone who has never had the chance to make the journey themselves, we would be more than happy to try to locate the individual's grave to lay a small tribute on your behalf. Please contact me if you do have a connection with the Normandy operation, it would add an extra dimension to our visit.

While we're in the area we do intend to visit other sites on the Normandy coast including the famous tapestry.

And the tapeworm tablet? We suspect this is due to Brexit but 24 hours before we catch the ferry back we have to get our other dog treated for tapeworm! Can anyone recommend a good vet in Dieppe?

Steve Whitley

syd1150@hotmail.com





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St Mary's Pupils Out and About: Learning Beyond the Classroom

This term has seen all classes embark on a range of exciting adventures to bring our learning to life. Reception, Year 1, and Year 2 took a step back in time to the olden days as part of their topic based on a fantastic book called 'Lost in the Toy Museum'. Our time travellers arrived in Blist's Hill Victorian Town and had a fantastic day experiencing life long ago. Children took part in a range of workshops, including candle making, and even braved the Victorian schoolroom! They exchanged money at the bank and were thrilled to learn there was a real-life sweet shop to spend their Victorian pennies. They had an amazing day.



Pupils in Years 3 and 4 had an exciting visit to the Nantclwyd Y Dre Historic House in Ruthin. They delved into Tudor history foraging and making Tudor herbal medicines, and explored Tudor food, laying the table for a Tudor feast. Children also learnt about Tudor gardens and had a go at making their own mini garden using flowers and herbs from the area. Finally, children were taught about Tudor pilgrimages and the essentials needed to walk and journey such a long way. A very interesting and exciting day was had by all!



Year 5 were thrilled to be invited to Bangor-on-Dee Racecourse supported by the Racing to School charity. Even though rainy weather sadly stopped the racing on the day of the trip it didn't stop our wannabe jockeys from spending a day immersed in everything maths and horse-racing related!



It was access all areas; from seeing where the horses are kept, to the weigh-in room and changing room; there was plenty to keep the children busy. The class even got to wear their own silks for the day.

Meanwhile, Year 6 pupils were transported back in time to 1941, as they travelled to Stockport Air Raid Shelters dressed in role as WW2 evacuees. They explored the network of underground tunnels, which are the largest purpose-built civilian air raid shelters in the country, excavated into the sandstone beneath Stockport. Children were taught how to be 'good evacuees' and practised household chores, including using the dolly tub and mangle, and how to 'make do and mend'. They learnt about air raid precautions, practised putting on their gas masks and tried a Morrison Shelter out for size. Pupils even brought WW2-style packed lunches for a truly authentic touch—with

Spam, corned beef and sardines on the menu! To keep up the wartime spirit, children had a go at the Lambeth Walk and sang the old classic 'Run Rabbit Run'. It really brought our classroom learning to life.



All our classes had fantastic trips and we would like to say a really big thank you to those grown ups who join us as volunteer helpers; our trips couldn't carry on without you and we at St Mary's are incredibly grateful.

Finally, our Year 5 and 6 Football Team represented St Mary's in the Wrexham Schools earlier this term. The children showed such great determination in all of their matches and did our school proud!



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Whats' On

April Diary for St Mary's

Sunday Apr 7th 9.30am All Age Worship
 Sunday Apr 14th 9.30am Holy Communion
 Sunday Apr 21st 9.30am Holy Communion
 Sunday Apr 28th 9.30am Holy Communion

April Diary for Overton Methodist Chapel

Sunday Apr 7th 2.30pm Rev. Neville Pugh
 Sunday Apr 14th 2.30pm Local Arrangement
 Sunday Apr 21st 2.30pm Mr Tim Guy
 Sunday Apr 28th 2.30pm Mr Nigel Burns

Services at Our Lady And The Welsh Martyrs

Every Saturday 5.00pm Mass

The Community Hub, Mondays 1st, 8th, 15th & 29th
 April from 2.00pm - 4.00pm, tea and cake in the Parish Room

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

Every Tuesday (during term time) 9.00am -11.00am
 Overton Playcentre Baby & Toddler Group at Overton Playcentre

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

Wednesday April 3rd 1.00pm-4.00pm Spinning Wheel Craft Group meeting at Catholic Church Hall

Saturday April 6th 10am-12pm Knit & Natter Spring Craft Fair at the Parish Room

Monday April 8th 6.50pm Overton Community Council meeting in the Parish Room. Members of the public wishing to speak can do so 6.50pm-7.00pm

Monday April 8th National Draw a Bird Day

Thursday April 11th 7.00pm Royal British Legion meeting in the Parish Room

Wednesday April 17th 7.00pm History Group meeting in the Parish Room

Thursday April 18th 7.00pm Overton on Dee WI Annual Meeting in the Village Hall. Speaker: Dr Rachel Swallow on "Royalty Unveiled: The Queen of Caernarfon Castle and the Overton Connection".

Sunday April 21st National Tea Day

Thursday April 25th International Girls in ICT Day

Saturday April 27th 10.00am-12.00pm Methodist Church Coffee Morning.

Dustbin Days

Thurs April 4th	Garden Waste & Recycling/food
Thurs April 11th	General Waste & Recycling/food
Thurs April 18th	Garden Waste & Recycling/food
Thurs April 25th	General Waste & Recycling/food

Family Announcements

Happy April Birthdays to...

Kaspar Hellingman-Bryning, Cetti Catalano, Mandy Millington, Amanda Padley, Enid Thompson, Karen Whittaker, Anne Williams, Claire Williams, Aniela Bell, Haydon Austin, Bill Grindley, Mervyn Haynes, David Harris, and Derek Edwards



Note from the Editor...

We are updating a few aspects of the Oracle to keep it more up to date with our readers, as such from February 2024 we will only be including birthdays and family announcements that are sent to the Oracle email address or relayed to the committee in person or via phone. If you would like to keep your family announcements included, please let us know before the submission date. We will happily accept announcements a few months in advance if you would rather send them all at once.

Congratulations to Neil Evison and Lesley Shone on their recent marriage on 24th February.

Sincere condolences to the family and friends of Doreen Walker who passed away in March

Sincere condolences to the family and friends of Lisa Owens

Sincere condolences to the family and friends of Geoff Williams

Sincere condolences to the family and friends of Tony Rogers

146 Bus Timetable

	*	#			
Wrexham K St	8.25	8.25	11.25	14.00	17.00
Overton	8.45	8.53	11.53	14.28	17.28
Whitchurch	9.15	9.30	12.30	15.00	18.00
Whitchurch	7.20	9.20	9.40	12.40	15.05
Overton	7.51	9.51	10.11	13.11	15.45
Wrexham K St	8.25	10.25	10.40	13.45	16.20

* School days only

Saturday & School holidays

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Copy deadline is 19th
April for the May edition.

Get your events & news to us early to avoid disappointment

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