

The Overton Oracle

Volume 25 Issue 8

August 2023

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



Not long till the Village Produce Show!

Are you growing, arranging, planning, photographing, ready for the Overton Produce Show on Saturday September 2nd? Pick up a schedule from village shops, the library or download from the Oracle website. More details on page 3.

And do you have a trophy?

For all those who won a trophy or silverware at last year's show, it's time to hand it back - and try and win it again! Please ring 01978 710451 to arrange.

Overton Playcentre

Holiday Club This Summer Holiday Club will be running again 7.30am-6.00pm every week day except B/H. Lots of fun including archery, water fun, baking, camping, woodwork, arts, crafts, parachute games as well as playing in our beach style sandpit and much more.



Bienvenue to our Twinning Friends from La Murette



It's finally here! The twinning week starts on Sunday 30th July, and 19 French visitors will be coming over and staying with various people in the village. The Scouts have kindly let us use the Scout Hut for the whole week, and this will be used as the main hub / meeting place for meeting each morning and some meals etc. We have 11 teenagers coming over this year, 12 years and older, and so we have a fun-packed, active week organised. Each day we will muster at the Scout Hut, and then go on to the planned activities via minibus / cars. Picnic lunches will be provided by the hosts for each day.

The week's activities are as follows:

Sunday 30th July – Meet and Greet Brunch at the Scout Hut at about 11am, followed a few hours later with Afternoon tea. Evening meals will be at the Hosts' houses.

Monday 31st July – Liverpool trip followed by a tour of Anfield Stadium.

Tuesday 1st August – Trip to Jodrell Bank, and a communal meal at Scout Hut

Wednesday 2nd August – relaxed "Overton Home Day" – Games (Bowling, tennis, football etc.), and a murder mystery around the village, followed in the evening with a restaurant meal at the Boathouse in Ellesmere.

Thursday 3rd August – Llangollen white water rafting, with shopping / walking up to Dinas Bran afterwards (if anyone has any energy left)! Evening BBQ.

Friday 4th August – Chester shopping followed by Bangor on Dee races, with pizzas up at the Recreational Club in the evening.

Saturday 5th August – A trip to the seaside, Llandudno and Conwy.

Sunday 6th August – a farewell brunch at the Scout Hut, and a 14:30 departure to Manchester Airport.

It's a really full week, and we are very much looking forward to hosting our French visitors. Please come and say hello / join in if you see us out and about; the Twinning is open to ALL Overton residents.

Thank you in advance to all the helpers for the week – hosts, cooks, picnic and meal makers, washer-uppers, organisers, gophers, drivers, translators and anyone else lending a hand to make sure that our visitors have a wonderful week.

20mph speed limit through Overton

Legislation was approved on July 22 2022 by the Senedd, who gave these reasons why they wanted to introduce a 20mph speed limit on residential roads and busy streets in Wales.

Introducing a 20mph default speed limit on residential roads and busy pedestrian streets across Wales will:

- Save lives and reduce the risk and severity of injuries from collisions between vehicles & vulnerable road users.
- Make streets safer for playing, walking and cycling
- Encourage more people to make more sustainable travel choices
- Make Wales more attractive to our communities
- Bring physical and mental health benefits
- Reduce noise pollution, promote cleaner air and be better for the environment

Welsh government public health study estimates that the 20mph default speed limit could result in: 40% fewer collisions saving 6-10 lives and avoiding between 1200 and 2000 people being injured every year. This would save about £92m prevention in the first year alone.

Special exemptions can apply and Wrexham CBC are starting to publish details on DataMapWales, with more roads to possibly follow and I will keep you informed if any are in this ward.

Very basically - **from September 17th ALL 30 mph roads in Wales** will be defaulted automatically to 20mph and be signed accordingly. If there are exceptions being left at 30mph, they will likewise be signed. My general advice from September 17th is, if it was 30 mph it is now 20mph, unless signs tell you otherwise.

I will update again in the next Oracle.

Cllr. John McCusker



Seeds from St Mary's

.....
with Father Jeremy



Having moved to Overton in February - it's been a joy to have the White Horse Open again! Pubs along with Churches have long been the main stay of village life as a place for people to gather and natter. The Pandemic saw many people rediscovering their neighbourhood as a place where we could not only work from home but also help and support each other; that trend seems to be reversing as digital communication and AI continue to undermine the 'real'/in person' relationships that are so vital for our own health and well being.

As we face the reality of physical climate change across the world, the digital revolution is having a massive impact on how we live. How good it is to be able to communicate with friends and family, contacts and on line communities across the globe! Yet we also need real, tangible spaces to meet people who we know and those we don't! 2000 churches in England have closed in the last decade with an even larger percentage shutting their doors here in Wales. 50 pubs are closing a month – many due to spiralling energy costs, a third of YHA (Youth Hostels Association) are up for sale and Cineworld has gone into administration. Where shall we go to find company – for all we need, often in times of crisis.

At St Mary's we have a huge space that's open each day. At the moment it feels rather dark and tired; our plans are to reinvigorate this historic and spiritual place to be more welcoming and flexible to provide physical and spiritual space for people to come together for fellowship and faith. Church means both people and place; the congregation is currently small and we therefore need everyone's help to both save and secure the building's future to be of service for Overton. Please let me know if you can help us work in partnership for the benefit of the whole community!

We're here to serve you whether it's through the School, being here to mark important occasions in life such as Weddings or Funerals or simply to be alongside each other through good times and bad. As Mick and Gemma serve us behind the bar along the High Street – our future is in our community's hands – Use us or Lose Us! Don't wait for the latter to happen.

Report ASB

Overton village has had recent issues with Anti-Social Behaviour, especially in the area of the Cricket Club. To help reduce and prevent ASB, PCSO Dean Sawyer has been working with Community Safety Officers Steve Bellis and Jon Davies to keep an eye on the area.

If you are aware of any Anti-Social Behaviour or suspect someone in the local area, then call CRIMESTOPPERS, anonymously if you wish, on 0800555111, or contact on line -

<https://www.northwales.police.uk/ro/report/asb/asb-v3/report-antisocial-behaviour/>

PCSO 2961 Dean Sawyer
North Wales Police, PCSO, Wrexham Rural

email: overtonoracle@gmail.com

Many thank yous

Overton Community Council would like to say a massive thank you to everyone involved in the Village Fete on 28th June to make it such a fantastic success.



Thank you to the stallholders for taking stalls in the Street Market, and to everyone who came to spend their pennies at those stalls.

Thank you to Fun Dog Show judge Liz Wilson, aka "Ma Barker" for the day, Kate Jones for organising said Fun Dog Show and for Mark Padley for MC'ing so expertly!

Thanks to Woodlands Icecream, Premium Bar Hire, Giggles & Games and Vicky Sugar for bringing her exotic animals for everyone to enjoy at the picnic.

Thanks also to the raffle sponsors for so generously donating prizes - many of them for the second or third year in a row!

And thank you, the lovely people of Overton for coming out in such numbers to picnic, enter the Fun Dog Show and generally make the Picnic on the Pitch such fun.

And last, and in not in any way least, massive thanks to the Fete Working Party who worked so unbelievably hard in the lead up to and on the day.

Thank you from Tracy

Can I say thank you for those who supported the stall I had, to raise money for our Church Bingo on December 21st. We raised almost £60.

1st prize 847 S.Williams of St Martins

2nd prize 833 Linda Done

3rd prize 838. A mobile number

4th prize 867 Sam

5th prize 853 Beatie Williams

The cheese hamper weighed in at 3.37kg (7.42lbs) and the closest answer was 3.5kg won by Linda Done.

My thanks to Tim Vincent who did the draw.

Thanks so much to all,

Tracey Leech

Congratulations

Congratulations to Liam Grindley, from very proud Pete and Jackie Grindley. Liam has been awarded his Master of Arts in Digital Management at a ceremony at Teeside University, having studied for his masters at London university. Well done!



Free Holiday Activities

Wrexham Museum are organising Free activities for children every Tuesday in August 12.30pm to 2.30pm. Painting tiles, making peg footballers & dolls, football armbands and magic wands, and more.

Wrexham Libraries, including Overton, have their Summer Reading Challenge. The theme this summer is "Sports and Games". Pop in to Overton Library to sign up or look at <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>

The Village Show

Village Shows have a long and varied history; our own Overton Produce Show will be 51 years old this year!

The Shows are where bakers, makers of preserves and wines, growers of all kinds of vegetables, fruits and flowers display the results of their efforts on the show tables in Village Halls and marquees all around the country. It matters not if you are professional or amateur, child or adult, talented or not at all – everyone can have a go and everyone will be welcome.

Advice is freely given, (i.e. remove excess soil from vegetable exhibits) and despite any friendly rivalries, hints and tips are always shared. Of course it is nice to win a prize, but really, the most important thing about the Village Show is the taking part – giving immeasurable pleasure to everyone who comes through the doors to marvel at the beautiful displays, knowing that even if they themselves could not produce a perfect pie, a tasty tippie, a floral fantasy or a mammoth marrow, they can share and enjoy the excitement and admiration for those who can.

Pick up a Schedule for this year's Produce Show and see if there is anything you can do. There are new classes this year - the biggest marrow! The most humorous misshapen fruit or vegetable! The largest sunflower head! Plus new Photography classes and classes for children.

The trophies will be presented at 4pm by the Mayor of Wrexham, come along and meet him. Be a part of this community event on Saturday September 2nd at the Village Hall and share the fun.

As Alan Titchmarsh says, "Taking part in a Village Show is the best demonstration that we care about our gardens, our countryside and our rural communities."



Art Exhibition, Bangor on Dee, 26th August – 3rd September

Following last year's tremendously successful art exhibition, Wrexham Art Group together with Malpas Fabric Art Group are holding their annual Art Exhibition once again at the beautiful and historic location of St. Dunawd's Church in Bangor on Dee.

Founded in the late 1940s by the students of Wrexham Art School, Wrexham Art Group continues to flourish and encourages amateur artists of all abilities to develop their artistic skills and to exhibit their work at local art exhibitions. Tutorials are held monthly during the Winter, followed by outdoor painting days during the Summer. Meeting at Bethel Chapel Hall in Garden Village, Wrexham, the artists enjoy their painting in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere.

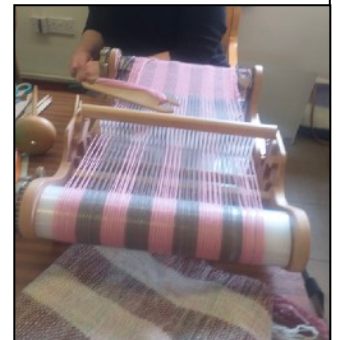
Malpas Fabric Arts Group has been meeting on alternate Monday evenings for over 25 years. Techniques include patchwork and quilting, together with a wide variety of textile art such as machine embroidery and mixed media textile collage. Presentations by guest speakers relating their own artistic journeys are often given and very much enjoyed. The majority of members prefer to concentrate on patchwork and quilting but there are several who do like to experiment with various textile arts. Many examples of their beautiful and stunning work will be on display.

This year's joint art exhibition will be held from the 26th August through until the 3rd September, admission is free of charge and the exhibition is open from 10.00am until 4.00pm daily with the exception of Sunday mornings. Much of the work on display will be for sale and stewards will be in attendance throughout the exhibition to help and advise visitors.

Spinning some yarn

What a 'Wonderful Woolley' afternoon we had for our first meeting in Overton in June, spinning some yarns and sharing ideas. It was lovely to see so many smiling faces and welcome new members.

Look forward to seeing you all again this month on Wednesday August 2nd, 1.00pm-4.00pm for some more woolley fun. Further details 01978 711941.



Being editor

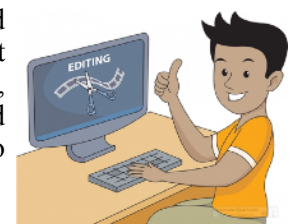
Do you have a few hours a month, can use a computer or laptop, enjoy writing and are interested in village news?

Would you like to help edit the Overton Oracle, our village newspaper?

Much of it writes itself, as our village's many organisations and clubs send in their news and reports. So it is mostly a matter of arranging and fitting items together - like a big jigsaw, but new creative ideas, new looks, features and ways of setting out would be appreciated.

There is a strong editorial team to support, provide ideas, proof read, and look after the advertising and the business side.

If you are interested or would like to find out more about keeping our village in touch, please do get in contact and have a chat. Send an email to overtonoracle@gmail.com - we'd love to hear from you.



Date for the Diary

**Leonard Cheshire Dolywern
Summer Fete and Dog Show**

(dog show entries must be in by 1pm 01691 718303)

Saturday August 12th from 2pm

**Stalls, Cakes, Tombola, Ice cream, Raffle, Games,
Dancers, Face Painting, Lemonade.**



Farmer's Corner

Pen-y-Lan Pork, now based just outside Overton, has been established for nearly 20 years. Mike Ford is the proprietor of the business and has always had a passion for animals and especially pigs. We asked him to describe his farm and his personal involvement.

"I started off with just a couple of pigs and fed them on the waste from the cereal production plant where I was working as an engineer; however it wasn't long before I realised this wasn't as easy as I thought it might be. We quickly built up a herd of up to 120 pigs, some of which would often be seen making great escapes and subsequently found heading towards Overton school. Luckily we have some good friends who would rally them back in.

Once I realised that I had a real passion for pigs we decided to concentrate on quality and specialise in the production of sausage, bacon etc. using old breeds such as Saddlebacks and Gloucester Old Spots, to name just a couple. However, in 2008 I suffered a serious accident resulting in initial paralysis from the waist down, scary times! This put a hold on everything for approx 12 months, but then thanks to the Orthopaedic and Wendy, I was soon chomping at the bit, ready for pigs again !! I left the well-paid factory life and made the precarious decision to concentrate on the development of "Pen-y-Lan Pork"!!!

Once again we started from scratch and built up the herd with 5 breeding sows and 1 boar (name of Barry, pure Saddleback) and it wasn't long before we were back to 150 pigs. The sows have 2 litters per year and the average litter of piglets varies between 12 – 17, with a gestation period of exactly 3 months, 3 weeks and 3 days. If they don't give birth by then that usually means there's a real problem.

All our pigs are outdoor reared but do have the option to go inside as needed, then 3 days before they are due to give birth we separate the sows from all the other pigs until they have farrowed, then we leave the piglets with the sow for 8-9 weeks. We let nature wean them from the sow, and what we have found is usually the sows have had enough of them anyway and the piglets are wanting something more substantial. From birth to time for market they are all one big happy family, kept outdoor in all weathers!

Unlike other animals in the farming sector that can just be put out to graze, pigs are extremely intelligent, affectionate animals who need a lot of attention and I soon realised there was a real skill and art to the breeding, rearing and farming of pigs.

Their diet is consistent throughout their lives, they just eat more as they get older and although it is commonly thought that pigs will eat anything, this is incorrect! Among other things they won't touch citrus, onions or garlic and they will rout through the feed and leave it. Pigs need to be fed directly from a mixed bag of pellets and cereal based product with added soya to aid growth (and quite a lot of it) but, since Covid this has all become extremely costly. We also supplement with spent grain from a brewery and waste veg etc.

Pigs were, and still are, associated with a pungent smell but you soon get used to it. However, the assumption based upon the smell, that pigs are dirty animals is completely untrue. They are extremely clean and keep their bedding area clean and dry.

The timescale from birth to when they join the sausage production is 17 months if they are female and 9 months if they are male. Any longer and the meat can end up with Boar Taint, which won't make you ill but does not have a nice taste! Obviously something that we need to avoid to maintain our rating as Wales Finest Sausage Producer!

Unlike other farmed animals, pigs are not subject to mandatory inspection, but we do need to maintain high hygienic standards and we are regularly inspected for Health and Safety etc.

More next month. Part 2, The Economics of Pig Farming - continuing the story of Pen-y-Lan Pigs - from pig to the delicious products we enjoy.



Mike Ford



Adverts are not included in the on-line archived edition of the Oracle.

This is because the archive of the Oracle is available on-line going back many years and the adverts and contact details would be out of date.

A Busy End of Year at St Mary's School

It has been a very busy last few weeks here at St Mary's. Children from Years 1 to 6 had a fantastic time visiting the Llangollen International Eisteddfod on Children's Day, where they enjoyed watching performances in the Pavilion and on the outside stages, joining in workshops in craft and circus skills, and just taking in the buzz of the atmosphere and culture on the field.



Pupils have been busy with their own performances too. Key Stage 2 pupils put on a fantastic end of year history show for a full village hall, spanning the Celts and Romans, Victorians and WW2, to showcase their learning this year. Year 1 and 2 worked in collaboration to produce a show based on Peer Gynt, creating their own dances and making their own props. It was a delightful performance watched by parents, friends and family on the school yard. Children also had an opportunity to showcase their artistic and creative skills to parents, family and friends with a successful Gallery event - a display of our whole school Sky Arts photography project and our Foundation Department's Expressive Arts work.



It has also been time to say goodbye to our wonderful Year 6s. To mark the occasion and give the children the send-off they deserve, we held a 'Leavers Fest' and school sleepover. With the help of dedicated parents and local sponsors, our Year 6 pupils walked the red carpet into the village hall which had been transformed into a 'festival', complete with Disco Dome, hay bales, mocktails, face glitter station and BBQ. Afterwards, the fun continued back at school with hide and seek, a film,



and a sleepover in the classrooms. There were some tired faces in the morning (mainly the teachers!) but memories to treasure for all. Huge thanks to Woodlands Ice Cream, AJW Beauty, Rhosddu Carpets, Paul Williams, Kelloggs and Jo Holland for their donations and contributions to help make this event a great success.



Our final Year 6 Leavers' assembly was an emotional affair as we said our goodbyes but also a time for celebration to mark all the pupils have achieved, and each pupil was presented with their own Leavers' Book of memories. Our annual Global Citizenship



Award, sponsored by Overton Twinning Association, was handed to a very deserving Charlie Allwood-Reid by Sheila Miller. Our Daisy Art Award, in memory of Daisy Haynes, was awarded to Millie-Jane Whittingham for her outstanding creativity and flair. The Sportsperson Award went to Grace Hughes, who, as well as being a fantastic all-round athlete, displays great teamwork and sportsmanship. We wish all our fantastic Year 6s well on the next stage of their journey to secondary school.

OVERTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011, Section 116

Notice of Co-Option

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Overton Community Council intends to Co-opt 1 member to fill the vacancy that exists in the office of Councillor for the Overton Community (Ward). Expressions of interest are being sought from members of the public who meet the following qualifications and are interested in representing their community on the aforementioned Community Council.

You must be a British, Commonwealth, Irish or a European Union citizen and be 18 years of age or over; and meet at least one of the following criteria:

- registered as a local government elector for the area named above; or
- during the whole of the last 12 months occupied as owner or tenant land or other premises in the community named above; or
- your principal or only place of work during the last 12 months has been in the community named above; or
- you have during the whole of the last 12 months resided in the Community or within 4.8 kilometres of it.

If you wish to be considered for co-option for the vacant seat or want more information regarding the role of a Community Councillor please contact the Proper Officer, Clerk to the Overton Council Community

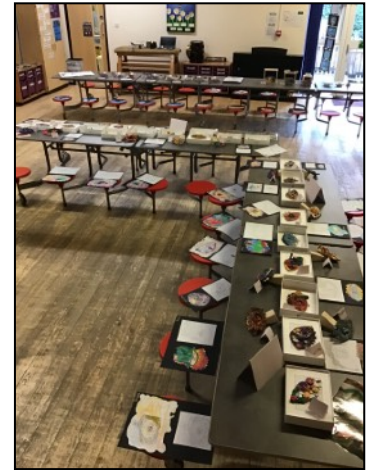
Phone: 01978 710055

Email: Clerk@overton-on-dee.co.uk

by 17:00 on Friday 18th August 2023

More photos from St Mary's School

Children showcased their artistic and creative skills to parents, family and friends with a successful Gallery event - a display of the Foundation Department's Expressive Arts work.



Getting crafty

Overton on Dee WI members got crafty at their July meeting with 4 different activities to try out. There were lavender bottles to weave, decorative boxes to fold, pretty origami birds to fold, plus a sewing make. Great fun was had by all, and spectacular and yummy cakes were enjoyed.

Why not have a go yourself - see www.homemade-gifts-made-easy.com/how-to-make-lavender-wands and <https://origami.me/crane/> See what our WI is up to by following their Facebook page "Overton on Dee WI"



What's On

August Diary for St Mary's

Sunday August 6th 9.30am All Age Worship
 Sunday August 13th 9.30am Holy Communion
 Sunday August 20th 9.30am Morning Prayer
 Sunday August 27th 9.30am Holy Communion

August Diary for Overton Methodist Chapel

Sunday August 6th 2.30pm Rev Neville Pugh HC
 Sunday August 13th 6.00pm Circuit Service & farewell to Rev Parkes at Gresford
 Sunday August 20th 2.30pm Mr Martin Woodhall
 Sunday August 27th 2.30pm Trish Earlam

Services at Our Lady And The Welsh Martyrs

Every Saturday 5.00pm Mass

The Community Hub, Mondays in August (except Bank Holiday Monday)

from 2.00 - 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 2.00pm-4.00pm Craft Group at the Methodist Church, Overton

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

July 30th - August 6th Twinning visit from La Murette

Wednesday August 2nd 1.00pm-4.00pm Spinning Wheel Craft Group meeting at the Catholic Church Hall.

Thursday August 10th 7.00pm Overton on Dee Branch Royal British Legion meeting in the Parish Room

Thursday August 17th 3.00pm Overton on Dee WI Summer Picnic at the Village Hall.

Tuesday August 22nd 7.00pm Oracle Editorial Meeting in the Recreational Club

26th August to 3rd Sept 10.00am-4.00pm Wrexham Art Group & Malpas Fabric Arts Group Exhibition at St. Dunawd's Church, Bangor on Dee

Saturday August 26th 10am - 12pm Methodist Church Coffee Morning

Tuesday August 29th 6.50pm Overton Community meeting in the Parish Room. Members of the public wishing to speak can do so 6.50pm-7.00pm

Saturday September 2nd Overton Village Open Produce Show. Open to the public 2.30pm- 4.30pm

Dustbin Days

Thurs August 3rd *Garden Waste & Recycling/food*
 Thurs August 10th *General Waste & Recycling/food*
 Thurs August 17th *Garden Waste & Recycling/food*
 Thurs August 24th *General Waste & Recycling/food*
 Thurs August 31st *Garden Waste & Recycling/food*

Family Announcements



Congratulations to Sam Rodgers and Rachel Quayle on their marriage on July 15th.

Congratulations to Alice and Luke Baxendale who are to be married at St Mary's, Overton on 12th August. Love from all the family.

Happy August Birthdays to Harriet Clarke, Tara Stubbart, Francis Glynne Jones, Belinda Matthews, Seanie Clarke, Jackie Grindley, Gladys Evans, Carol Dykes, Lewis Evison, Chloe Malam, Brian Williams, Dave Bellis, Matt Worsdell, Trena Haynes, Alex Natrass, Charlotte Scott-Davies, Ethan Saunders, Jackie Tombs, Gill Evans. Cindy Myers, Kacey and Kevin Owens, Katherine Scott-Davies, Matthew Lawrenson, Derek Kellet and Liesel Netzband-Piggott.



Happy 18th Birthday to Joseph Myers; with best wishes from all the family.

Overton Royal British Legion 120 Club



Results of the '120 Club' for July 2023. 114 members entered and the draw was made on Thursday 13th July. Winning numbers were selected by Peter Furber.

Winners: 1st Prize £228.00 No 57 Les Thomas
 2nd Prize £114.00 No 48 Helen Bailey
 3rd Prize £ 57.00 No 42 Gladys Evans
 Legion Fund: £171.00

CONGRATULATIONS

Next Draw will be on Thursday 10th August 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

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

Your Oracle Team - Chairman John Herbert, Treasurer Barry Metcalfe, Distribution Cynthia Davies, Euan Stevenson, Jenny Bellis, Pene Coles, Gwynneth Austin & Claire Williams

Advertising & Editor - Jill Burton.

Tel 710631 or e-mail overtonoracle@gmail.com

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**The Overton Oracle is printed by <http://wtefans-printers.co.uk>, Wrexham. Tel. No. 01978 821292
 e-mail: sales@wtefans-printers.co.uk**

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