

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

Moving On

'A Green Fairy Panto' will be on at the Village Hall on Friday 8th at 7.00pm and Saturday 9th December at 2.30pm and 7.00pm. Tickets are still available in the Corner Shop.

St Mary's Christmas Bingo returns after a break on Thursday

21st December in the Village Hall. Doors open 6.15pm with eyes down at 7.00pm

.....

Tractor Run Returns!

Don't forget on Saturday 23rd **December** Brian Jones' Charity Christmas Tractor Run will be returning its illuminated procession to the Maelor District villages from 6pm. More information on Facebook.



The Oracle will be 25 years old in January and over that time it has had 3 volunteer editors. First, when the Oracle began as a newsletter for the Overton Community Council, the clerk, Alan Edwards was editor, supported by an OCC subcommittee. When he left in June 2004, Maxine Palmer took over, and she was replaced by me in June 2006. In November 2008 the OCC realised that their village newspaper didn't comply with new codes within the Local Government Act on Council Publications, so the Oracle became an independent organisation with an editorial committee, but supported annually by the OCC with a

grant, and by advertisers. Over the last 17 years the Oracle has followed me wherever I have been. As more and more contributions arrived by emails, and laptops became more portable, it was possible to compile it anywhere in the world - beside the pool in Napa Valley California, in the Scottish Highlands, stuck in JFK airport...to name but a few.

What editions were most memorable? The year we won Calor Village of the Year, 2011 Party in the Park? The village celebrations for the Jubilees in 2012 and 2022, the Coronation edition? But I think what I am most proud of are the Oracles during the national pandemic, how it kept everyone in touch and provided information on the changing situation.

None of this would have been accomplished without volunteers, the many different members of the editorial committee over the years, and all the distributors who go out, whatever the weather, to bring the Oracle to your doorstep.

Time to move on, but I am sure the Oracle will thrive and develop with its new editor, Sarah-Jane Hellingman, and I wish her well.

Jill Burton

Congratulations to Two Doves

Two Doves, Overton's café, was chosen and has received the MP Hero's Award at the Houses of

Parliament, with a trip to London in November. It was awarded for providing a Community Hub, hosting groups such as Knit and Knatter, Toddlers Mornings, Book Club, Welsh Group, Police Community Hub and so many more over the last 4 years. We are so proud!

Thank you to all Two Doves customers who just keep returning and returning, and thank you to all our staff for all your continued hard work and support. So proud to put Wrexham and Overton on the map! Thank you to Simon Baynes MP for Clwyd South, and also lovely to meet Seema Malhotra MP of the Women & Enterprise All-Party Parliamentary Group. Such an incredible opportunity and the recognition is just amazing.



Happy Christmas to all Oracle Readers, Contributors & Distributors

Please note that because of the Christmas and New Year holidays at the printers, contributions for 5 the January edition should be left at the corner shop or emailed to overtonoracle@gmail.com by December 16th at the latest

News from the Pews

with Father Jeremy

I don't know how long you've been making preparations for Christmas! As it's my first one living in Overton, I've been thinking about where the Christmas tree might go up in the Rectory, (there are some great holly

bushes in the garden which will help!). One can find great inspiration from interior design magazines with beautiful baubles and lovely lights; no matter how decorative the scenes are, I wonder how practical it is to live in such a wonderland - after all, none of the pictures have any people in them! I'm also choosing cards to send to family, friends and former parishioners - how difficult it is to find ones that have any people, let alone religious figures that draw us to the message and meaning of the Christmas story.

Fewer cards are sadly now being sent - partly because of the cost of postage, but also through the way many people now communicate (though digital means which can be very impersonal). Whether you're sending cards or not - our broken world still needs the personal message of Christmas - the time when God comes to humanly interact and touch us with the presence of his love through the birth of Jesus. We can send that message by giving to charity - remembering people like Jesus, born into poverty who need our response of love to give them joy and peace. We can also do that in person; like the Shepherds or Kings who brought gifts to the Holy Family, what can we bring to decorate the life of a neighbour, relative or someone we don't know?

Christmas is a time to both celebrate and commiserate with those whose experiences today resonate with what happened in Bethlehem two thousand years ago. Come and connect with this timeless story with the Services listed in this edition and others taking place for schools, play groups, charities and other organisations across the 5 churches from Overton to Bronington. There will be decorations and lights in this special festive atmosphere, but it's the thoughts and actions that we give and share that will make Christmas come for you and for all whom Christ comes to bring hope and love for.

Father Jeremy





Sandra Whitley.

Winners:1st Prize £234.00 No 79 David Edwards 2nd Prize £117.00 No 55 John Nicholas 3rd Prize £ 58.50 No 90 Rachel Walker Legion Fund: £175.50

CONGRATULATIONS

Next Draw will be on Thursday 14th December 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



Overton School memories

Just a few weeks before he passed away, Pip Haynes was sorting through his old photos and sent the Oracle these photos of happy memories of his time at Overton School in the 1950s. These were taken in the playground where Old School Mews is now and the end of Deva Terrace can be seen to the right of the climbing frame.

From L to R on the balance beam:- Philip Evans: Ruth Woolley: Pip Haynes, Sandra Haynes: not



sure about the girl hanging upside down but maybe Barbara Edwards: Teacher (kneeling)

is Joey Miles. In the skipping picture L – R Marilyn Butland: Pip Haynes ?: Philip Evans & Joan Rostron. The school canteen in the background (now the Overton Playcentre) was built in 1947.



Overton /La Murette Twinning News Gift idea

Do you have that someone in your life who is impossible to buy a Christmas present for? Why not gift them a ticket to the extremely popular Wine tasting event organised by the Twinning Association. As usual the ticket holder will taste a selection of wine and must then decide which fits the descriptions given; this is accompanied by a delicious buffet and merriment with other members of the village and surrounding areas, all this for £20.00...great value! Save the date—February 24th 2024.

If this sounds like the perfect evening for that special person in your life (or even yourself) then contact the Twinners either by email at

overtontwinning@gmail.com or by phoning 01978 710891.

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St Mary's - Supporting the Salvation Army Present Appeal & Christmas Nativity Display

During December, St Mary's will collect gifts to be distributed through the Salvation Army Present Appeal. Donated gifts should be marked as suitable for Baby or Boy/Girl with appropriate age shown. Gifts may be left in the Lady Chapel from 1st December and will be delivered to the Salvation Army on 12th December. Thank you for anything you are able to donate.

From 10th December a Nativity Scene will be on display in our Lady Chapel. The church is open daily for visitors, do pop in to see it.



Hope House Fundraising continues..... Thanks to our amazing customers who have helped us raise yet more money for Hope House. They have been donating their spare change to our big whiskey bottle, Playing Your Cards right for entering various raffles and we are proud to announce that in the last 6

months, we have raised an incredible £785!! This will be match funded by the government so £1570 will be donated to Hope House Childrens Hospice to help support local, seriously ill children and their families. Photo is of our bar staff and Paul who was the winner of "Guess how much is in the bottle?".





Christmas Opening Times



The Recreational Club

1st - 24th Normal opening hours Christmas Day 12 - 2pm Boxing Day 12pm - 12am 27th - 30th Normal opening hours New Years Eve 7pm - 1am

Overton Library

Monday 18th 10am - 2pm Wednesday 20th 2pm - 6pm Friday 22nd 2pm - 6pm Reopening Wednesday 3rd January 2024

Ma Baker

Open Thursday and Friday 3-6. Preorders plus extras on the door. Last day open will be Friday 22/12 and then closed all of January. Reopening Thursday 1st February 2024.

Ferdi's Local

Christmas & New Year Opening hours Christmas Eve : 10am - 8pm Christmas Day : CLOSED Boxing day : 2pm-8pm New Year's Eve : 10am-8pm New Year's day : 2pm-8pm (Open as usual on all other days)

-Merry Christmas and a Happy New year -

Rowlands Pharmacy

Saturday 23rd 9am - 1pm Sunday 24th - Tuesday 26th CLOSED Wednesday 27th 9am - 1pm & 2 - 6pm Thursday 28th 9am - 1pm & 2 - 6pm Friday 29th 9am - 1pm & 2 - 6pm Saturday 30th 9am - 1pm Sunday 31st - Monday 1st CLOSED Reopening Tuesday 2nd January 2024





The Corner Shop

Christmas Eve 9am - 1pm

Wednesday 27th 8am - 6pm

Thursday 28th 8am - 6pm

Christmas Day CLOSED

Boxing Day 9am - 1pm

Friday 29th 8am - 6pm Saturday 30th 8am - 6pm Sunday 31st 9am - 1pm New Years Day 9am - 1pm

ME Evans Butchers

Monday 18th 7.30 - 5.00 Tuesday 19th 7.30 - 5.00 Wednesday 20th 7.30 - 5.00 Thursday 21st 7.30 - 5.00 Friday 22nd 7.30 - 6.00 Saturday 23rd 7.30 - 6.00 Sunday 24th - Wednesday 27th CLOSED Thursday 28th 7.30 - 5.00 Friday 29th 7.30 - 5.00 Saturday 30th 7.30 - 2.00 Sunday 31st - Tuesday 2nd CLOSED Wednesday 3rd 7.30 - 5.00

From 1st January we will be closed on Monday every week.

Two Doves

Late night opening Friday 1st December 9am - 7pm We will close on Saturday 23rd at 4pm reopening Tuesday 2nd January at 9am



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Bellringing update

Two St. Mary's bell ringers travelled to St. Margaret's Church Bodelwyddan (Marble Church) recently to ring in a historic peal. It was rung to celebrate the anniversary of the consecration of the church in 1860, the coronation of King Charles III, and is believed to be the first peal on the bells for 70 years. It was a gruelling three hour ring, but all went smoothly.



In the last 3 months St. Mary's has welcomed three groups of visiting bell ringers from North West Wales, Mold, and the Welsh Colleges Society. They all enjoyed ringing the bells and were very complimentary about the village, shops and facilities.

Several ringers helped out at the Harvest and gift day celebrations and enjoyed ringing for St. Mary's School children's Harvest Festival service (see image).

Our new bell muffles, bought by a generous donation from Friend's of St. Mary's, were used again for the Remembrance Day service on November 12th. Muffles are leather pads fitted to a bell's clapper. They attenuate the bell's strike note whilst retaining the hum. By only muffling the clapper on one side, you get a mournful effect as blows are alternately loud and soft. Bells fitted with muffles in this way are said to be half-muffled.

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

Clare Morris, Tower Captain.

Speeding Update

There have been no fines yet after 30mph was reduced to 20mph on 17th September in Wales, but the grace period whilst drivers got used to the new LEGAL speed limit is now over. Latest figures indicate that over 40% of drivers are ignoring the new limit, so agree with it or not for whatever reason, many motorists are risking fines and points. As an example, if you are caught doing 40mph+ in a 20mph zone, the case is likely to be passed to a magistrate's court where you could face a heavy fine and a driving ban. This could cause serious ramifications in everyday life and increased insurance premiums. YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED.

St Mary's School News - Taking time to Remember and Sporting Achievements

It was a beautiful morning of reflection on Wednesday 8th November as Year 6 led our School Remembrance Service in St Mary's Church. We were honoured that members of the Overton Branch of the Royal British Legion could join us in our Act of Remembrance. Family, friends and community, were in attendance as pupils shared a thoughtful reflection on the importance of Remembrance, recognising the service and sacrifice of the fallen service people of Overton, and countless others from Britain and the Commonwealth, who fought and gave their lives during times of conflict, and those who continue to do so. Year 6 pupil Esther Theunissen, performed a moving solo piece on her violin setting the tone for the poignant roll-call of the fallen, read by Logan Netzband-Piggot. Not a sound could be heard as the two-minute silence fell at 11am and we united in Remembrance. Thank you to everyone who came and shared in our special service.

Pupils have been busy participating in a number of sporting events this month. Our netball and football teams enjoyed friendly matches against Hanmer and kept their spirits high despite the very soggy weather! Key Stage 2 pupils also took part in a Cross-Country event at Ty Mawr run by Active Wrexham. Well done to Harriet Evans who achieved 3rd place in the competition.

And finally, we would like to add that all of us here at St Mary's



are very sad to be saying goodbye to Jill Burton as Editor of this newspaper. Jill has been very supportive of our school; taking great interest in what we do, working with pupils and sharing her local history expertise. We wish you a very well-deserved rest, Jill!





Christmas (in October!) Fair

The Overton Village Hall Management Committee would like to thank everyone who attended and were part of the Christmas Fair, held in October, at the Village Hall.

As a charity, we make the space as affordable as possible - a local place to have your children's party, a family get together, a wedding, maybe a 50th....

Over the last 3 years we have spent over £50,000 to keep the doors open. It is an old building and every penny raised goes straight to heating and maintenance.

HUGE, HUGE thanks to all the local businesses and stallholders who donated to the raffle and congratulations to those that won...great photos on the Facebook page if you want to see!

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St Mary the Virgin Church Christmas Bingo

After a break of several years, due to Covid, St Mary's Church is running its very popular Christmas Bingo again.

The date for your diaries is Thursday 21st December and Overton Village Hall is the venue. There's money prizes for the Bingo and an interval prize draw.

It's always a fun evening, so bring along your friends, family (and dabbers), for a great social night out.

Doors open 6.15pm and it's eyes down at 7.00pm.

Everyone is welcome!

If you would like to donate a prize for the interval draw, there is a box at the back of St Mary's Church where they can be left, or contact 07753 463125 and we will collect any donation.



If you are in need of a lift, it can be arranged by calling the above number.

Dear Editor

In your November issue our local County Councillor, John McCusker, wrote about the 20mph speed limits recently imposed on many of our roads.

This is a contentious issue; at time of writing 465,844 people have signed the Senedd petition calling for it to be abolished with 5,281 calling for it to be retained. Some may argue, based on those numbers, that it is not contentious at all, that it should never have been introduced.

If new laws are not understood and accepted as reasonable by a significant majority of the population, they create division between citizens and mistrust of the state, including its law enforcement agencies. This law, judging by the Senedd petition numbers (the only objective measure we have), does not meet the 'significant majority' threshold.

In his article Cllr McCusker refers to driving at 20mph through the village before the "lunatic" screeches past at horrendous speed'. It is incumbent upon those in authority, and I include Cllr McCusker in that category, to treat contentious issues in a balanced, judicious manner. His description of being overtaken creates a barrier for anyone who wishes to question the new limit, implying that those who disagree with it must therefore sympathise with the "lunatic".

Where was/is the consultation on this matter? Does Cllr McCusker know what the majority opinion is in his constituency? If so, publish it. If not, he should refrain from referring to "lunatics"

The actions of the driver 'screeching past' and the words of Cllr McCusker are consequences of a law which does not carry with it the consent of a large enough majority of the population (if indeed any majority). Driver frustration leading to inappropriate overtaking, and politicians using exaggerated, belittling language to describe it, are clear evidence of the division and mistrust this law is creating. *Name supplied*

Thank you...

I wanted to thank the people that helped me on October 25th when I was unfortunately locked in the disabled public toilet in the car park in Overton. In particular I want to thank the 2 ladies who stayed with my husband throughout my ordeal, and also contacted the council who sent someone to rescue me. I don't know the ladies names but I was touched by their kindness and I wanted to acknowledge them and to say thank you for helping us. *Pat and Roye Fitzgerald*

In Times Past

From the Overton Parish News in 1883

"The date of the sale of work or 'German Fair' is now fixed for the 14th and 15th December. The Duke & Duchess of Westminster have most kindly consented to open it at 2pm on the 14th. A warm welcome it is hoped will be given by all the inhabitants to them on this first united visit to Overton. Happily a fine afternoon and the bells in the Church will ring.

The Coffee House and Reading Room managed by Mr. James Barnett, has entered on it's 4th year. It is hoped it may be a useful year. The bottom room is free to all who may enter for refreshments. The two rooms have been done up and are very comfortable with their fires in winter. A good selection of newspapers are available. Subscription to the Reading Room is a penny a week or a shilling per quarter. A skittle alley has

been added.

A new gift to the church should be mentioned, a new lectern in oak, an eagle with outspread wings standing on a rock in act to fly, has been given by Mrs. Mackenzie in memory of late rector Rev Henry Mackenzie, for 11 years rector of Overton."



And it's still there!



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Overton-On-Dee Wrexham

RBL Thanks you for your support

The Chairman and members of the Royal British Legion, Overton on Dee Branch would like to thank the local community, including all those who participated in the village tribute to the fallen on Remembrance Sunday 12th November.

It was wonderful to see so many people attending, and braving the wet and chilly weather.

This was Father Jeremy's first Remembrance Service at St Mary's, and special thanks to him, he did us proud. On behalf of the Chairman and Members of the Royal British Legion - Overton on Dee

Jean Williams - Secretary

Community Carol Singing with the Jubilee Community Choir and Festival Brass Quartet We will start off the Christmas Weekend with the

Community Carol singing on Saturday 23rd December at 3pm in St Mary's - do join us to sing your favourite carols and enjoy mince pies and mulled wine with the Jubilee Choir and Festival Brass Quartet. A brass fanfare will start us off and there will be well-known carols for you all to sing with Christmas music played by the quartet. Everyone is welcome. If you enjoyed singing with us previously, please join us again to lead the singing—if you would like to join us for the first time, you will be very welcome. There will be one practise - Thursday 21st at 6.30pm. Last years event was a great success so we are hoping for even more to come along and raise the roof!

Drawing exhibition by local artist Alan Palmer RCA (Royal Cambrian Academy)

January 13th until March 2nd 2024 Willow Gallery, 56 Willow Street, Oswestry Open Tuesday-Saturday 10am– 4pm

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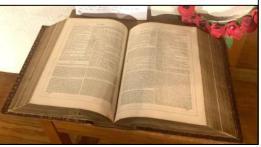
Donation to St Mary's

A large bible has been given to St Mary's Church by Mr Gerry Owen.

Gerry lived in the village for 90 years. He carried the standard for the British Legion for many years, in the village and at the Royal Albert Hall. He was also a bellringer at St Mary's.

A character of the village, he embraced all aspects of village life.

Gerry left Overton during Covid to live in the Isle of Man with his family.





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Overton Recreational FC

Once again I'd like to record our gratitude to local company, Matthews Electrical, for sponsoring (and providing) our new kit for 2023/24.

Without their support, and the help from our other sponsors, it would be difficult to sustain a village football team.

The team has had a very successful start to the season, securing at the half way point stage, nearly as many



points as the whole of last season, huge progress for which the players and management team should be very proud.

Andrew Jamieson, Chairman

Whats's On December Diary for St Mary's

Sunday Dec 3rd 9.30am All Age Worship, Advent Light Making 4.00pm Joint Advent Carol Service with Mission Area Choir at St Dunawd's, Bangor on Dee

Sunday Dec 10th 9.30am Holy Communion with Father Jeremy Sunday Dec 17th No morning Service

5.30pm Carols by Candlelight

Saturday Dec 23rd 3.00pm Community Carols with the Overton Jubilee Singers & Festival Brass Quartet followed by mincepies & mulled wine

Sunday Dec 24th No morning service.

4.00pm Christingle & Crib Service for families, with Father Jeremy

11.00pm First Communion of Christmas with Father Jeremy Monday Dec 25th 11.00am Joint Communion Service at St.

Dunawds, Bangor on Dee Sunday Dec 31st Joint Mission Area Service, venue tbc

December Diary for Overton Methodist Chapel

Sunday Dec 3rd 2.30pm Mr Tim Guy, Church Anniversary

Sunday Dec 10th 2.30pm Rev. Neville Pugh Sunday Dec 17th 2.30pm Rev. James Eaton-Challinor

Sunday Dec 24th 2.30pm Lessons & carols led by members

Sunday Dec 31st 2.30pm Mr Carl Squires Services at Our Lady And The Welsh Martyrs

Sunday Dec 25th 9.00am Christmas Mass Wednesday Dec 27th 9.00am Mass

Saturday Dec30th 5.00pm Mass **The Community Hub,** Mondays 4th, 11th & 18th December 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 Thursday 11.30am-1.30pm Knit and Natter group at The Two Doves Cafe, Overton

Wednesday 6th December 1.00pm-4.00pm Spinning Wheel Craft Group meeting at the Catholic Hall.

Friday 8th & Saturday 9th December 7.00pm Panto "A Green Fairy Tale" Saturday 2.30pm & 7pm at the Village Hall

Saturday 9th December 10.00am Sesiwn Sgwrs. Practise your Welsh at the Two Doves

Saturday 9th December 8.30pm Kayleigh's Pop Master Quiz Overton Recreational club

Monday 11th December 6.50pm Overton Community Council meeting in the Parish Rooms

Wednesday 13th December 7.00pm Village Hall AGM

Thursday 14th December 7.00pm Overton Branch Royal British Legion meeting in the Parish Room

Thursday 14th December 7.00pm Overton on Dee WI Meeting in the Village Hall. Christmas Social Evening.

Thursday 14th December 8.00pm eyes down for SUPER CASH bingo Overton Recreational club

Saturday 16th December 8.00pm 80s and Oldies Disco with DJ Tim Overton Recreational club

Tuesday 19th December 7.00pm AGM of the Overton Oracle in the Recreational Club. All welcome

Thursday 21st December 7.00pm Christmas Bingo in the Village Hall in aid of St Mary's Church

Saturday 23rd December Brian Jones' Charity Christmas Tractor Run. Times travelling through Overton will be on Facebook

Saturday 23rd December 8.03pm Pete's Family Christmas Quiz Overton Recreational club

Dates for the New Year Saturday 13th January Christmas

Saturday 13th January Christmas Tree Collection in aid of Nightingale House Hospice Wednesday 15th January Chetham's School of Music in the Maelor School - back

by popular demand. Friday 26th January Magic Evening in the Village Hall in aid of the Friends of St Mary's. Family Announcements

Congratulations to Kevin and Joy on the birth of their grandson Joseph Ian, born on October 25th a son for Jason and Heather.



Happy 90th Birthday to Ann Jones, of Maelor Court who will be celebrating her 90th birthday on 8th December 2023. With lots of love from her children Alun, Sian and Vivien, as well as Walter, Debbie, Jeremy and grandchildren Lloyd, Cassandra, Harry, Mathias, Isabel and Sasha.

Happy December Birthdays to George Clarke, John Eve, Paul Whittaker, Gwyn Owen, Joseph Thomas, Iris Edwards, Carol Morrison, Howard Jones, Walter Roberts, Daniella Jones, Gareth Evans, Aled Owen, Lisa Edwards, Helen Roberts, Brian Williams, Amelia



Lloyd, Aneira and Osian Barlow, Pene Coles, Aeddan Farley-Morris, Lauren Elizabeth Cheshire, Sean Clarke, Sarah Jane Hellingman, Glenys Roberts, Dilys Parkinson, Catherine Starkey, George Smith, John Herbert and Mark Blythen.

Sincere condolences to the family and friends of 'Pip Haynes who sadly passed away following a short illness on 24th October 2023. He will be missed by all, especially his wife Lorraine, daughters April and Rhianna and his beloved Grandsons Jack and Tom.

Sincere condolences to the family and friends of Paul Stant who passed away 31st October 2023.

Thank you

Charlotte Copeman wanted to say a special thanks to everyone for their cards and messages of support following the death of her father, Robin, in October. Thank you very much.

Support your Village Hall

You are invited to join the Overton Village Hall Trustees at their Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 13th December. The business will take place in the Parish Room at 7.00pm. For and on behalf of

the Overton Village Hall Management Committee

Dustbin Days

Thursday December 7th *Garden Waste & Recycling/food* Thursday December 14th General Waste & Recycling/food Thursday December 21st General Waste & Recycling/food Thursday December 28th Recycling/food waste only Friday January 5th General Waste & Recycling/food

PLEASE REMEMBER Copy deadline is 16th of December for the January edition. Get your events & news to us early to avoid disappointment THIS INCLUDES ADVERTISEMENTS Leave your contributions & announcements at the Corner Shop or email	Your Oracle Team - Chairman John Herbert, Treasurer & Advertising Barry Metcalfe, Distribution Cynthia Davies; Euan Stevenson, Jenny Bellis, Jill Burton, Pene Coles, Vi Taylor, Claire Williams, & Gwynneth Austin Editor: Sarah-Jane Hellingman overtonoracle@gmail.com
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