

The Overton Oracle

Volume 25. Issue 2

February 2023

Overton's Free Newspaper - issued monthly



Just a reminder from your Community Council

Any Overton resident is welcome to join us for Afternoon Tea in the Parish Room each Monday from 2.00pm to 4.30pm.



Come for tea or coffee, cake and a chat - just the thing when the Two Doves is closed!

Do tell your neighbours and village friends about it in case they don't know.

**OVERTON ON DEE
WOMEN'S INSTITUTE
Coffee Morning
at Overton Village Hall
on 10.30am**

**Saturday
4th March**

Bacon baps,
Cakes,
Plants, Stalls,



Oracle Distributors needed!

Could you help us deliver Overton Oracles once a month?

- * Station Road or
- * Wrexham Road

If you can help please contact Cynthia on 01978 710658

Welcome to Father Jeremy

St Mary's church is preparing to offer a warm welcome to its new priest, the Revd Jeremy Dussek, following the departure of Revd Peter Mackriell at the end of December.

Father Jeremy will begin his ministry this month after his formal licensing on Thursday, February 9th. The day will begin with a special service of Holy Communion at St Mary's at 1pm followed by a short collective worship at 2.30pm in Penley Madras Primary School.

Father Jeremy, previously Canon Precentor at Chester Cathedral, will then be taken to the pilgrimage church at Bettisfield for quiet prayer and reflection at 4pm followed by a sunset walk to Bettisfield Park. At 5.20pm, he will attend Evening Prayer at Holy Trinity Church, Bronington, and finally, his formal licensing at St Chad's Church, Hanmer, at 7pm led by the Bishop of St Asaph, the Rt Revd Gregory Cameron.



This important ceremony will bring together friends, family, clergy and community representatives from across the area, to witness Father Jeremy pledge his faith in Christ, allegiance to the King and loyalty to Bishop Gregory and to promise to lead our communities in worship and prayer.

Father Jeremy will be a full-time priest living in the rectory in Overton, serving our village and also the communities of Hanmer, Bronington and Penley. He brings with him a great love of music which was central to his role of Canon Precentor at the cathedral where it was his task to organise liturgy and worship.

Jeremy studied music at Durham University before going on to work for St Christopher's Hospice in Zimbabwe. He then trained for ordination in Cambridge – enriching his faith with a passion for architecture, music and opera.

Revd Peter Mackriell's last service at St Mary's was Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve. He left after four years to accompany his wife Jo to Mid Wales, where she has now begun her own journey as a priest. All at St Mary's wish Peter and Jo well as they embark on this exciting new chapter in their lives.

Congratulations on a full peal

Well done to the bellringers who rang a full peal at St Mary's Overton at the end of December. This is the first full peal to be rung in Overton since 1976, 46 years ago, when it was rung by the Chester Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers. So this was only the 2nd peal to be recorded as rung in the village.

It took 2 hours 56 minutes and has been reported in "The Ringing World".

The peal was rung in thanksgiving for the life and service of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The ringers were Stuart Holroyd, Clare Morris, Nicola J Galton, Steve Broughton, Paul B Hunter and Peter L Furniss, bellringers from Chester, Oswestry, Chirk and Halkyn.

Clare Morris, Captain of Overton bellringers, is thought to be the first member of the St Mary's bellringers, to ring a peal on its bells.



From St Mary's



The start of a New Year is often the time when people choose to reflect on where they are in life and assess what they're doing right and also what they could do better. That's why many of us will make New Year's resolutions, vowing to put bad habits behind us and turn over a new leaf, and possibly before the end of January, to have already failed in that endeavour!

But it's never a bad thing to take stock and ask what the future holds and how we can make it a brighter one. Nothing ever stays the same and sometimes it's important to accept and embrace change. For us at St Mary's, we are facing a big change this month: we have said farewell to our previous priest, Reverend Peter Mackriell, and are preparing for the arrival of his successor, Reverend Jeremy Dussek.

Father Jeremy, as he wishes to be known, will bring his own style and personality, and will approach the role in his own way. And although we're sad to have lost Revd Peter after four years, it's exciting and invigorating to anticipate a fresh approach and fresh ideas.

The challenge that awaits Father Jeremy will be a familiar one: to lead worship at four churches in the Maellor Mission Area with small congregations, limited funds and often insufficient numbers of volunteers to keep everything ticking over. And of course, Covid made a difficult situation a great deal worse.

Thanks to the efforts of Revd Peter, St Mary's emerged in reasonable shape from the Covid era: with Sunday attendances holding up and good turnouts for a succession of events that we have put on. The people of Overton clearly enjoy our carol concerts, fun days, bouncy castles and barbecues, and special services for Midnight Mass, Remembrance and Easter, amongst others. We know also, that our beautiful church is itself greatly cherished and when we appeal for more funds to help towards essential repairs, local people give generously.

And we have an exciting project afoot at St Mary's to make the building more hospitable, welcoming and warmer! This will feature numerous improvements including the provision of discreet kitchen and toilet facilities and an updated heating system, making the building more versatile and capable of hosting a wider range of events.

We pray that our efforts will bear fruit in helping to place our church firmly at the heart of the community and encouraging more people to come along and be part of our Christian family – taking part in services and also enjoying visiting at quieter times for spiritual reflection and prayer.

It's disappointing that, according to the latest Census data, fewer people than ever before in Britain see themselves as Christian. Yet arguably, in the bustling, fast-paced, hi-tech era of today, in a world still torn apart by war and suffering, there has never been a greater need for a spiritual dimension to life. And while change is inevitable and should be embraced, our values remain reassuringly timeless: faith in Christ and a determination to live by his example and put others before ourselves as we seek to make this a better world.

We invite the local community to join us in offering Father Jeremy a very warm welcome and to help him in his task of leading us in worship and prayer – something which is as important now as it's ever been.

Country Beat



If you've got extra storage in the form of a garden shed or outhouse please ensure you take the usual security measures to keep the contents out of sight of opportunist thieves who are out for an easy ride. The most common things stolen from sheds are bikes, lawnmowers, sports equipment, power tools and garden tools.

Here's a few handy tips to help keep your property safe.

- * Think like a thief! Have a look at your shed and consider how you would break in. If you think you could break in, a burglar will think the same
- * Ensure the shed is in good condition; replace any damaged or rotten areas with new wood.
- * Always keep it locked! Make sure you get a good padlock with no exposed screws. Pay attention to hinges as these can sometimes easily be removed.
- * Use threaded coach-bolts with large washers or ideally backing plates to prevent the bolts being pulled through the wood; screws can easily be pulled out of the thin doors. Use large quality padlocks with hardened steel shackles
- * If you have windows, keep them secured with wire mesh or grills.
- * Consider a battery-operated shed alarm. They look low key, but they respond to movement or door contact with an extremely loud siren.

SCCH/PCSO 2961 Dean Sawyer

Email: dean.sawyer@nthwales.pnn.police.uk

Playcentre News

At Overton Playcentre we are really excited to introduce our new rabbit friend 'Toothless' (after the dragon) who we hope will become our Millie rabbit's best friend. We are introducing them slowly to ensure they will be happy together. Huge thanks to Aria, Poppy and Grace who have donated him to us.

We want to thank Watery Lane Produce for their wonderful Christmas Vegetable hamper prize for the Christmas raffle. We are sorry we missed you off the thanks in the last edition. If anyone is looking for a weekly box of veg delivered to your doorstep quite a few of us at Overton Playcentre can definitely recommend Watery Lane Produce.

Our weekly Tuesday Toddler Group has moved to Overton Village Hall for the winter months as it gives more space for the toddlers to run around inside. We are a warm friendly group where we aim to do play, craft, singing and snack within the session. We will move back to the Playcentre when the weather is kinder for playing outside as well! We welcome all bumps, babies and toddlers 9.00am-11.30am every Tuesday.

On Monday afternoons we have started our baby group up again from 1pm - 2.30pm in the Playcentre, which is a lovely session for babies and mums/carers to gather. We aim to read a story and sing songs, as well as have lots of time to enjoy each others company. So, do join us.

Also advance notice that we are going to be setting up our warm spaces intergenerational project on Wednesday afternoons - we are just waiting for some comfortable chairs to arrive - watch this space for more details.

We are recruiting! Childcare is an extremely rewarding career and here at Overton Playcentre we pride ourselves on supporting our staff (like our children) to reach their full potential while with us and when they leave us. Staff have left us to go on to work at a higher level in other nurseries, as TAs and teachers in schools, amongst others. We are looking for enthusiastic people to join our happy fun dedicated staff for flexible hours between the hours of 7.30am-6pm Monday-Friday, term time and holiday club too! Please do ring us to have a chat on 01978 710688.

Overton Snippets from the Past - 1872

“A daring robbery was committed on Tuesday evening Feb 13th, at the Overton police station. It appears PC Edge was on duty at Erbistock, and the house was consequently left in charge of his wife. About 8 o'clock Mrs Edge went out for a short time, leaving the front door ajar. On her return she was surprised to find that the house had been entered. A bundle of clothes was left on the stairs and a light was burning in the bedroom. She immediately ran out to fetch some neighbours, but in her absence enabled the thief to decamp with the bundle and £5 in gold. A portion of the clothes was discovered the following morning but of the thief not the slightest clue has been obtained.” *(The 1872 Police station was to the left of where Ego Xcentric hairdressers is now)*

Memories of eels

The Eirian the Eel exhibition at Overton Library has encouraged visitors to record their memories. Generational amnesia is a huge problem for species care and survival as, if we don't know, we don't care. Sparrows for instance used to be so common that you didn't look at them playing in the dirt but now you wonder what that beautiful bird is and It's a sparrow!



Eels are the same. They can live with us for 20-80 years before migrating back 5,000 miles back to the "wide.wide.Sargasso sea" but nobody cares because people have no memories !!

Memories collected during the exhibition include -

“I was about 8yrs old at the time and we were on holiday in Norfolk when we had to stop the car as a lot of eels were crossing the road. They weren't small either, they were big enough to be seen from the back of the car where I was sitting!! What is a lot of eels called? A swarm of eels!!”

“I don't have an eel story! But I liked smoked eels.

Haven't eaten them for ages, they're a London thing I think? I used to go to a restaurant in London, Blooms it was called and I would eat them there. Lovely.”

European Eels are now a critically endangered species. Once so common we would pay our rent in eels, wars were fought over eels on River Severn. But in the last 30-40 years the eel population has declined by 95%.

Have you got an eel story to tell? By recording memories we are keeping alive our traditions and culture surrounding this enigmatic fish.

If we can keep these stories alive we can ensure, by passing on our memories, that this migratory incredible fish continues to survive and be cared for by future generations. So please do share your eel stories.

By telling your stories you are helping to keep a species alive.

Rachel Harris



Try finding 10 Valentine's day related words!

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

* Love

* Flowers

* Chocolates

* Date

* Romance

* Card

* Valentine

* Admirer

* Presents

* Heart



Maelor Music Society February dates

On Wednesday February 15th the Maelor Music Society present the Northop Silver Band at 7.30pm at the Maelor School Hall, Penley.

The Northop Silver Band, first formed 130 years ago, is the Championship Brass Band of North Wales. In 2022 the band qualified for the National Championship finals at the Albert Hall, London. Another excellent performance at Blackpool's Winter Gardens in the Grand Shield saw the band qualify for the British Open Championship held in Birmingham. It promises to be an evening of excellent music.

Tickets at £10 are available for non members on the door.



On Saturday February 25th. the Maelor Music Society is organising an Afternoon Tea, 3.00pm-5.00pm in Overton Village Hall. Following the success of last summer's highly sociable and gastronomically satisfying gathering in the excellent setting of the village hall, we hope the daylight schedule and the outstanding reputation of the MMS bakers will encourage many to join us!

Further details can be obtained from Geoff Mason Tel:01978 710486 or email: gcmason47@yahoo.co.uk

Knit & Natter

Appropriate for February, the Knit and Natter Group's next project is making heart badges for Valentine's Day. We will be selling hearts, knitted and crochet, in the Two Doves cafe and money raised will go to the British Heart Foundation.



Thank you to everyone who bought our hand made poppies at the Two Doves Café, £95 was raised for our local branch of the Royal British Legion.

We now have our new member Daffydd the sheep who was on show at Christmas, in the church. He will be on tour around the village in the coming year so watch out for him.



The Knit and Natter group also worked on the yarn bomb on the



post box on the corner of Willow Street to brighten up Christmas; hope you all liked it.

So if you fancy joining our group to learn a skill or just come along for a chat, we meet on Thursdays at the Two Doves café, Overton from 11.00am.

Overton Knit and Natter

Date for the diary!

Mark the date in your diaries - Friday 24th March. Overton Amateur Dramatic Society are hosting "**From Here to Absurdity**", a touring comedy sketch company.

More details in the March edition.

Overton Community Council



Funding is available from OCC to help individuals and organisations based in Overton

The **Community Chest** is open to organisations while individuals should apply to the **Jubilee Community Fund**



For further details along with eligibility and application forms please contact David Williams on clerk@overton-on-dee.co.uk, or 01978 710055 or visit our website www.overton-on-dee/grants & funding

Wine Tasting Evening

The Overton / La Murette Twinning Association's famous Wine Tasting evening is back after an enforced 3 year break.



Come and join in the competition by 'blind' tasting and identifying a selection of wines and / or merely enjoy a superb buffet and social evening.

The date is Saturday 4th March and the venue is the Catholic church hall, Wrexham Road.



Tickets for this all inclusive event are £20 available from the 6th February by emailing overtonwinning@gmail.com or calling 01978 710891.

OVERTON VILLAGE HALL NEEDS YOU



We are in desperate need of part time volunteers to assist in promoting our presence on social media and to help with bookings.

For more information, please contact:

Bill Grindley

info@overtonvillagehall.co.uk

07563 826 271

Overton on Dee WI



January's WI Meeting was a perfect start to the New Year, despite the testing weather conditions. It was an evening of laughter and friendship which included a debate and voting on which National campaign the W.I. Members throughout the country would like to support this year. These include supporting further regulation of online gambling and support for those affected, addressing the conserving of water, both with preventing leakage from pipes and protecting our rivers from pollution. It was interesting to hear the proposals and debate the issues.

We are also looking forward to our Annual Coffee Morning on Saturday March 4th at the Village Hall from 10am. There will be some wonderful stalls for you to browse and of course great refreshments including our Bacon Baps – the aroma of these wafting down the High Street will hopefully tempt you in!

St Mary's School News

Our school community was sad to say goodbye to Reverend Peter Mackriell at the end of December. For four years, Reverend Peter has been our guide, our light and our role model and we have enjoyed his teachings and assemblies to help us learn and grow in faith. Reverend Peter has given us the gift of learning sign language, including be able to sign the Lord's Prayer; something we hope to continue.

So we wanted to give Reverend Peter the send-off he deserves with a whole



school service in St Mary's Church, led by the children. Reverend Peter sat on a 'Throne of Honour' as children took turns in saying their thank yous and sharing favourite memories of his time with us. Children sang and signed a version of 'He's got the whole word in his hands' and included a verse 'He's got Reverend Peter in his hands' to wish Peter well for the next stage of his journey. We presented Reverend Peter with a book of thanks and memories, created by the children, and a wood



carving taken from a fallen yew in the churchyard which was crafted by Rob Lawrenson. We will welcome our new priest, Father Jeremy Dussek, in a service of Holy Communion in Church on Thursday 9th February at 1pm. All members of the school and wider community are welcome.

Pupils are learning about the ancient Welsh tales of the Mabinogion this term, as part of our whole school focus on Welsh culture and 'Cynefin'. Children in Years 1 to 6 were thrilled to join an online workshop with Eloise Williams, former Children's Laureate Wales, and writer and editor of our focus book 'The Mab', to find out more about these updated retellings of The Mabinogion and learn about the magic and wisdom of the 'other world' which forms their backdrop.



Eloise answered lots of questions from pupils, including what inspired her to be a writer, the process of how she crafts her stories and we even discovered she'd just completed her latest novel that very morning. We learnt Eloise's favourite book, and one that has hugely inspired her, is 'The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe'. It was a session to remember and one that will inspire us as we write our own versions of magical Welsh tales this term.

by Josh Carpenter and Caitlin Rooney, Year 6 Reporters.

What's on at the Club?

We have enjoyed another busy month at Overton Recreational Club, despite the winter weather, and as always, it is great to welcome new faces.

February 4th sees the return of the Guinness Six Nations Rugby with Wales playing Ireland - KO 2:15pm. The club will open at 2pm this day. We will be showing most of the fixtures throughout the tournament with free chip butties at half time of the Wales games! Feb 11th is Scotland v Wales KO 4.45pm. Feb 25th will be Wales v England - KO 4.45pm.

On Sat 18th Feb. we are hosting a Eddie's Sports Quiz in aid of Overton Recreational Football Club. It starts at 8.30pm, its £1 entry with 4 to a team. There will also be a fabulous raffle so come on up and support the club!

SIX DART DEGSY. In a recent Weston Rhyn Darts League match, Derek Edwards achieved the perfect 6 dart leg. Games are 301 - double to start. Derek scored 160 to start followed by a 141 checkout. This is, we think, the first time it's ever been done at the Overton Rec Club so well done Degsy.



Fancy trying darts or improving your skills? Then pop up; we have 3 darts boards with surround lighting. Plus we have regular darts knockouts. See our Facebook page for more info.

Overton Royal British Legion 120 Club



Results of the "120 Club" for January 2023. 120 members entered. The draw was made on Tuesday 10th January. Winning numbers were selected by Jean Edwards.

Winners:

1st Prize £240.00 No 46 Eleanor Gooding
2nd Prize £120.00 No 33 Daniel Meredith
3rd Prize £ 60.00 No 34 Cynthia Davies

Legion Fund: £180.00

CONGRATULATIONS

Next Draw will be on Tuesday 14th February 2023. If you wish to join please ring Dave Austin Tel: 01978 710678 or contact him by Facebook Messenger.

"IF YOU DON'T PAY --- YOU DON'T PLAY"

Thank you for your Loyal Support
Very best wishes and Good Luck for 2023

Overton Branch RBL Lottery Facts

The "100 Club" was started in December 2015.

Changed to "120 Club" in September 2019.

There have been 84 draws.

Different winning numbers 110.

Unfortunately non winning numbers 10.

Some numbers have been drawn 4 or 5 times, others not at all.

Total funds collected £43,390.

Total prize winnings paid out £32,503.

RBL Running Total £10,887.

Grateful thanks to all members who generously contribute to support the work of the Royal British Legion

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

St Mary's School to join an online workshop with Eloise Williams, former Children's Laureate Wales, and writer and editor of our focus book 'The Mab',.



More photos from the Eirian the Eel exhibition at exhibition at Overton Library.



What's On

February Diary for St Mary's

Sunday February 5th 9.30am All Age Worship
 Sunday February 12th 9.30am Holy Communion
 Sunday February 19th 9.30am Morning Prayer
 Sunday February 26th 9.30am Holy Communion
 For all service details see

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

February Diary for Overton Methodist Church

Sunday February 5th 2.30pm Mr Martin Woodhall
 Sunday February 12th 2.30pm Rev Neville Pugh
 Holy Communion
 Sunday February 19th 2.30pm Mr David Young
 Sunday February 26th 2.30pm Rev Richard Parkes

Services at Our Lady And The Welsh Martyrs

Every Saturday 5.00pm Mass

Every Monday 10.00am-12.30pm from January 16th
 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

Thursday February 9th 7.00pm Licensing of Revd
 Jeremy Dussek at St Chad's, Hanmer

Tuesday February 14th 6.50pm Overton Community
 Council meeting in the Parish Room. Members of
 the public wishing to speak can do so 6.50pm-
 7.00pm.

Wednesday February 15th 7.30pm The Maelor Music
 Society presents 'The Northop Silver Band' in the
 Maelor School Hall, Penley.

Thursday February 16th 7.00pm Overton WI Meeting in
 the Village Hall.

Saturday February 18th 8.30pm Eddie's Sports Quiz in
 at Overton Recreational Club in aid of the
 Football Club.

Wednesday February 22nd 7.00pm AGM Overton
 Village Hall Management Committee in the
 Village Hall

Thursday February 23th 7.00pm Overton Branch Royal
 British Legion meeting in the Parish Room

Saturday February 25th 3.00-5.00pm The Maelor Music
 Society Afternoon Tea in the Village Hall.

Saturday March 4th 10.30am Overton WI Coffee
 Morning in the Village Hall. Bacon baps, Stalls.

Saturday March 4th 7.30pm Twinning Association Wine
 Tasting Evening in the Catholic Church Hall

Because of computer problems, the Oracle may look a
 little different this month. Back to normal next month.

Family Announcements

Happy February Birthdays to Margaret
 Evison, William Wright, Neville Wynne, Harry
 Whittall, Lewis Jones, Chilley Grindley,
 Nicola Archer, Doreen Howells, Davina & Lily
 Simon, Olive Roberts, Isabella Grace Pritchard,
 Dereck Bell, Sandy Foster, Georgie Davies Hunter,
 Adam Karlakki, Cliff Green, and Anne Billington.



Sincere condolences to the family and friends of
 Wullie Drysdale who passed away in December.

Sincere condolences to the family and friends of
 Anne Brereton who passed away in January.

Support your Village Hall

You are invited to join Overton Village Hall Trustees
 at their AGM on Wednesday 22nd February. The
 business will take place in the main hall at 7.00pm.

For and on behalf of Overton Village Hall
 Management Committee.

Thank you

To Annette and Staff, thank you for your kind donation
 of toiletries etc for our Christmas draw at Tuesday's
 Bingo. They were much appreciated.

From Jean and all involved.

Thank you

Eleanor Gooding would like to thank all those who
 have kindly sent her cards and good wishes during
 her stay in hospital.

Dustbin days

Thurs Feb 2nd Recycling and food waste only
 Thurs Feb 9th General Waste & Recycling/food
 Thurs Feb 16th *Garden Waste & Recycling/food*
 Thurs Feb 23rd General Waste & Recycling/food

PLEASE REMEMBER

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

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

**Your Oracle Team -
 Chairman John Herbert,
 Treasurer Barry Metcalfe,
 Distribution Cynthia
 Davies, Euan Stevenson,
 Jenny Bellis, Gwynneth
 Austin & Claire Williams
 Advertising & Editor -
 Jill Burton. Tel 710631
 or e-mail
 overtonoracle@gmail.com**

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.

**The Overton Oracle is printed and supported by Minuteman Press, Wrexham. Tel. No. 01978 664726
 e-mail: Bpd.uk201@minutemanpress.com**

The Oracle is delivered FREE to more than 650 homes in the Overton Area. Our thanks go the volunteer distributors who make sure
 you receive your copy each month. We operate a postal service for our long distance readers, and we are also on the Web.
www.overtonoracle.com You can also e-mail us at overtonoracle@gmail.com

Useful telephone numbers; POLICE: non emergency calls -101 LITTER CLEARANCE: 01978 298989