

The Overton Oracle



Volume 26 Issue 2

February 2024

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



**Ma Baker Valentine's
Pop up
Tuesday 13th and
Wednesday
14th February
3.00pm-6.00pm
(more details on page 2)**

**Community Litter Pick
Saturday 17th February
10.00am outside the Village Hall**

**Overton Twinning Association
Wine Tasting Evening
Saturday 24th February
Doors open 7.00pm for 7.30pm start
(more details on page 5)**



Congratulations 'Wooly and Friends'!

Big congratulations are due to Lorraine of Wooly and Friends Dog Grooming in Overton, who has been nominated for not one but two awards at the Best of Welsh Business Awards, which will be taking place in Cardiff in March.

She will be in the running for the 'Best Pet Service 2024' and the 'Best Business Professional 2024' awards and we at the Oracle hope you will join us in wishing her the best of luck.



**CONGRATULATIONS
FINALIST!
LORRAINE OF WOOLY & FRIENDS DOG GROOMING**

Don't forget!

Every Monday the Overton Community Council hold the Community Hub at the Parish Room.

This is your chance to have a chat with members of the Community Council, air any concerns that you may have, or just to have a chat and meet other people in the village.

There is no charge to attend but there is always tea, coffee and cake!

Overton Community Council Report

Dog Fouling

Please keep your dogs on a lead in Overton Cemetery and ensure any dog fouling is cleaned up and disposed of. Dogs are allowed in the cemetery and it is the responsibility of their owners to ensure the dog's behaviour is kept under control. There have been complaints on Facebook about individuals allowing their dog to foul in the cemetery. If anyone has proof of this you may wish to raise it with the person concerned or failing that to report it to the PCSO.

D-Day

On 6th June 2024, the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings will be commemorated. Please send Overton Community Council your comments and ideas on how you feel our community should acknowledge this significant event (clerk@overton-on-dee.co.uk) See www.d-day80beacons.co.uk for more information.



Overton Community Council's

Community Hub

OCC would like to invite any Overton resident to come to the Parish Room every Monday between 2.00pm & 4.00pm for a spot of afternoon tea. There is no charge; all we ask is that you come and have fun!

tea, coffee & cake!

A member of the Community Council will be there each week as well - so if there is anything you'd like to ask us, please come along



Knit, Natter and Bargains...

The Overton Knit and Natter group will be holding craft sales in the parish rooms on a Saturday morning between 10 and 12.

There will be opportunities to buy homemade knitted, crochet and other crafts which make excellent gifts for all sorts of occasions, keep an eye out for dates around the village.

Learning to knit or crochet is good for your mental health, and has a pleasing sense of achievement. So come chat and buy, you may learn a new craft, or dust off your crafting skills. We meet on a Thursday at the Two Doves café at from 11 until 1, we enjoy a chat whilst crafting with a cup of tea/coffee and a piece of cake, everyone is welcome

Overton Knit and Natter

Community Litter Picking

The next Community Litter Pick will take place on Saturday 17th February. Anyone who would like to join in should meet outside the Village Hall at 10am. Litter picking tools and bags will be provided and refreshments will be served at 4, The Stableyard afterwards.



Pene Coles

Overton Village News from February 1884

"The December bazaar was an unqualified success. It was not possible to say anything last month, as the printers require their materials early [nothing has changed in 140 years!]

Happily we had a fine afternoon on Friday, which brought many people to welcome the Duke and Duchess of Westminster, who came at two, and opened the bazaar with some very kindly words, and also bought a number of things from the stalls. In the two days' sale between £150 was realised. The money will first be spent in paying off the debt on the organ, then on the churchyard; and then whatever is over will be expended on the restoration of part of the old oak screen which had been long absent from the church.

The Christmas Midnight Service was the first that has been held in the church.

On Monday, the 14th January, a miscellaneous entertainment was given in the school to provide a new banner for the Temperance Society, the chief attraction being a representation of the story of Whittington and his Cat. The performance was well done by a number of young people from Overton Hall and the Rectory. Afterwards those who had been for three years members, received a medal."

Travels with my music case

I became a music examiner for Trinity and Guildhall colleges around 20 years ago, grading all instruments, from church organ, to piccolo, to drum kit, to guitar, to Scottish fiddle and everything in between. In that time, I have examined across the UK and have also been asked to travel to various parts of the world, such as Japan, Malaysia, Thailand, Istanbul, Borneo, and Singapore to name but a few.

A memorable tour was two weeks examining in various parts of Italy, such as Rome and Siena. However, part of the examination consists of asking the candidates questions about some musical terms within the piece. The only issue was that most musical terms are written in Italian, so there I was asking Italian students what Italian words meant; needless to say, they all got full marks for that section! Another favourite was a tour to Cape Town, wonderful climate, food and with even a Welsh connection. In the past, so many Welsh people emigrated to South Africa that on the outskirts of Cape Town is a village called...Llandudno.

I do though have a massive soft spot for India where I have been lucky enough to travel to 9 times. As I am sure you are aware, there is shocking poverty there and it can be incredibly noisy and smelly, but the people are perhaps the warmest and friendliest in the world and I just love the fact that the place is barking mad. To give just a few examples: I have been driven around Lucknow at break-neck speed, dodging tuk-tuks, cows and startled looking pedestrians in a retired Indian General's car whilst stopping off to sample wonderful street food, invited to the rooftop of an apartment block for the kite festival, where families and neighbours all crammed together having the time of their lives and I have been brought along to various weddings, one of which had 21 very enthusiastic drummers (yes, I think my hearing has just about recovered!).

My last trip did though make for one of the best stories. I had just survived a 4-hour car journey through the usually mad Indian traffic and so, upon arriving at the hotel, I headed straight for the bar for a well-earned glass of wine. Indian hotels usually have a '2 for 1' drinks system where you pay for one drink and get the second one free.

Therefore I called the waiter over and said, "2 for 1?". "Yes of course, sir", came the reply and sure enough a brimming glass of red wine was soon placed in front of me. However, soon I was also being supplied with delicious

hot snacks, which seemed strange at first as everyone else in the bar just had the usual boring peanuts. After finishing my first glass it was immediately replenished and when I finished that one the waiter went to top it up yet again. At this point I stopped him and asked for the bill, "Oh no sir, there is no bill" came the reply. An alarm bell started to sound in my head, so I went to the reception to find out what was going on. Upon explaining what had just happened she burst out laughing. She then explained that the waiter had obviously thought I was in 'room' 241 which was one of their Master Suites where everything is inclusive in the room rate! Luckily, she and the manager saw the funny side of the mix up and didn't charge me.

Hey, that gives me a thought.

I might try that the next time I am in the Recreation Club or The White Horse!



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Or you can always contact me direct for more information. Thank you

John McCusker
01978 710875



WI News

In January Overton on Dee WI members enjoyed a fascinating talk, "Eglantyne & Ellesmere", about the amazing Jebb family. Eglantyne Jebb grew up in this area, and was arrested in Trafalgar Square in 1919 for handing out leaflets about the children starving in Europe after WWI, she then went on to found the Save the Children charity, leaving an amazing legacy and changing billions of lives.

At the February meeting on **Thursday 15th** (7pm), we will welcome the Shropshire Distillery to the Village Hall, when distiller, Emma Glynn, will talk us through the process of skilfully blending botanicals, carefully and slowly distilling in Copper Pot stills, and ensuring the production of gins of the finest quality, plus giving us the opportunity to sample! Why not come along and join us and find out what a fun and friendly group we are.

And don't forget to put **Saturday March 2nd** in the diary for the annual WI Coffee Morning. Stalls, cakes and the famous bacon baps!

theWI
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Full House at the Bingo


In mid-December, Overton Village Hall was bulging with excited patrons delighted to welcome back the renowned St Mary's Christmas Bingo. And a great time was had by all (even those of us who didn't manage a winning line). A huge thank you to everyone who attended and gave so generously; £1100 was taken at the door! And thanks to Pete Grindley from the Recreation Club, who was our caller, and did a terrific job keeping us all on the edge of our seats, waiting for that last winning number to be called.

At the end of the evening a tremendous £749 had been raised to go towards the upkeep of our beautiful St Mary's Church.


Thanks must also go to the social committee, and especially Tracey Leech, for organising the event and obtaining the wonderful array of raffle prizes on offer at the interval draw. As well as 2 magnificent hampers, there were innumerable other fantastic prizes and we are very grateful to the local people, businesses and organisations who donated to the event including; Evans Butchers, Overton Recreational Club, St Mary's Bell Ringers and Stans Supermarket. And from further afield; The Fat Boar, The Yew Tree Chippy Gresford and Arla Staff Charity.

The great news is...there are plenty of bingo books left, so put a ring around 19th December on your 2024 calendar and keep the date for the next St Mary's Christmas Bingo.


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Attention All Responsible Dog Owners

Please pick up after your dogs. Despite many reminders, dog excrement is still to be found on our pavements and footpaths. It can be accidentally stepped in and can stick to pram wheels and then can be transferred into houses, causing upset and dismay.

The Community Council provides poo bags which are put into bottles situated on posts around the village by willing volunteers and there is also no shortage of litter bins. If you take your dog out in the dark please take a torch so that you can see where your dog has done its business and never think that because the poo is hiding under leaves that it cannot still be accidentally stepped on! For the sake of all our residents, please take heed

Pene Coles

Get Crafting!

Time to start crafting, painting, photographing or wood carving. Start getting ready for the 2024 Overton Handicraft Show, which this year will be on **Saturday May 18th 2024** in the Village Hall. Whether you are a beginner, a hobbyist or an expert, child or adult, there are classes for everyone - sewing, knitting, felting, drawing, painting, woodcraft, floristry and floral art, photography as well as Junior classes. There is a lot of artistic and crafting talent in and around our village and it is always a pleasure to admire every entry to this show, so start crafting now. The schedules with all the details are now available in the village shops and the library, and can be downloaded from the Overton Oracle website - so get making. For more details ring Margaret O'Neill 01978 710451.

Overton/La Murette Twinning Association

The month has arrived for the long-awaited wine tasting evening so hurry and buy your tickets.

This year we will be holding the event in the Village Hall but tickets will still be limited and on a first come, first served basis.

You can buy your tickets (£20 each) by contacting 01978 710891, emailing overtonwinning@gmail.com or by heading to the Corner Shop from 27th January (cash only).

The evening will provide the opportunity to sample a variety of wines with our blind tasting competition and delicious food from our hearty buffet, with quizzes and games to keep you entertained and on your toes throughout the evening.

Doors will open at 7.00pm with the event starting at 7.30pm.

We hope that you will join us, those who have attended before as well as those who have yet to experience this enjoyable evening, we know you won't be disappointed.



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St Mary's School News - Children take a trip through the ages

Children in our Foundation Department are taking a step back in time this term with their topic of 'Through the Ages'. Their learning has taken them back in history to look at toys from our past - toys from when they were much younger, toys that their parents and grandparents would have enjoyed and heard a story about toys that were lost in a real life museum in London. Mrs Burton organised a visit from The Victorian School; a very friendly chap called Alan travelled all the way from Kent to share a whole day of games, toys and pastimes from the Victorian Era with all our younger children. Children in Year 1 and 2 were horrified to learn of some punishments that could have been inflicted on children s young as them but were equally delighted to learn of treats including a 'penny lick'. Meanwhile, pupils in Year's 3 and 4 are learning about the Tudors, Year 5 are studying the Victorian Era, and Year 6 have immersed themselves in World War II - complete with air raid practice!



We are going to be busy historians this term!

Photo of our 'Helpwrs Heddiw' who helped us step back in time in their Victorian outfits

Easter Eggstravaganza Returns!

The popular Easter Eggstravaganza is back for another year thanks to the hard work of the Overton Playcentre, Overton Growers and Overton Twinning Association. This year come and join us on Sunday 17th March 2.00pm - 4.00pm. at the Scout Hut for an Easter Bonnet competition, crafts, seed planting, the Easter Trail and more!

All money raised will go to the Overton Playcentre, The Overton Growers and the Overton Twinning Association.



Tickets are available from the Playcentre and on the day. £3 per child

Inconsiderate parking in front of Bus Stops

There are six bus stops in Overton and each one has a raised curb in front of it. This is to help people getting onto the bus and should also deter drivers of other vehicles from parking there.

Unfortunately people continue to park in front of these raised curbs without a single thought for the bus passengers who then have to step out into the road to get on the bus.

This should not be happening. People should not park their vehicles in front of the raised curbs. Please think about buses and their passengers.



Wigs, Witches and Once Upon a Time...

When you think of pantomime you would naturally come up with Cinderella, Dick Whittington, Jack and the Beanstalk, to name a few. But what happens when your traditional panto gets flipped on its head? Overton-on-Dee was transformed into 'Pantoland' when the shows you know and love combined to bring 'A Green Fairy Tale' to life, the heavily anticipated delayed show by the Overton Amateur Dramatic Society. We followed the story of Princess Fiona on her mission to change her green appearance back to normal after a 100 year sleep brought on by the evil step-witches after they were excluded from her Christening. She was joined on her journey to the Emerald City to find the Wizard and the magic waterfall by her faithful friend Toady, the brother of Jack, along with Dick Whittington's cat.

Whilst the original story presented an appeal to the audience it was the actors who truly brought the story to life and were able to engage the crowd across the three performances. The addition of the 'Ealth and Safety Elf' provided comical levity with his timing at the most crucial points in the story, especially when he reprimanded Prince Charming for not abiding by the speed limits in Wales.



There were jokes aplenty for both adults and children alike, in true winning pantomime style, with the addition of some comical adverts after the interval (just like watching your favourite programmes on the television).

Praise must be given to the writer, this was after all an original story that was entertaining and especially lots of fun for all the cast involved, it is not easy to write a full script and for that well done. The variety of characters and their equally flamboyant costumes screamed of the traditional pantos we know and love and we thank you for that!

The best part of the performances, in my opinion, was the audience. Shouts of "behind you" and "oh no it isn't" rounded out the atmosphere and truly finished off the ultimate pantomime experience, it was so lovely to hear all the children in attendance fully getting involved in the show, and being rewarded with their treats (but only after signing the Ealth and safety waiver to ensure the blame would not lie with that pesky elf!). I think I speak for everyone who watched the show, bring on the next one!

Whats's On

February Diary for St Mary's

Sunday Feb 4th 9.30am Service of the Word
 Sunday Feb 11th 9.30am Holy Communion
 Sunday Feb 18th 9.30am Morning Prayer
 Sunday Feb 25th 9.30am Holy Communion

February Diary for Overton Methodist Chapel

Sunday Feb 4th 2.30pm Rev. Neville Pugh Holy Communion
 Sunday Feb 11th 2.30pm Mr Martin Woodhall
 Sunday Feb 18th 2.30pm Rev. James Eaton-Challinor
 Sunday Feb 25th 2.30pm Local Arrangement

Services at Our Lady And The Welsh Martyrs

Every Saturday 5.00pm Mass

The Community Hub, Mondays 5th, 12th, 19th & 26th February 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

Every Saturday 10.00am-12.00pm Knit and Natter Craft Sales at the Parish Rooms

Wednesday February 7th 1.00pm-4.00pm Spinning Wheel Craft Group meeting at the Catholic Church Hall

Monday February 12th 6.50pm Overton Community Council meeting in the Parish Room. Members of the public wishing to speak can do so 6.50pm-7.00pm

Tuesday February 13th & Wednesday February 14th 3.00-6.00pm Valentine's pop up at Ma Bakers

Thursday February 15th 7.00pm Overton on Dee WI Meeting in the Village Hall. Speaker: Emma Glynn from the Shropshire Distillery

Saturday February 17th 10.00am Community Litter Pick. Meet outside the Village Hall

Wednesday February 21st 7.00pm Overton History Group meeting in the Parish Room

Saturday February 24th 7.00pm Twinning Association Wine Tasting in the Village Hall

Saturday March 2nd 2.00pm WI Coffee Morning

Sunday March 17th 2.00pm-4.00pm Easter Eggstravaganza in Scout Hut

Family Announcements



Happy February Birthdays to... Philippa Hellingman, Alex Lambert, Georgie Davies-Hunter, and Margaret Evison.

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 Roger Glover and Kait Hughes on their marriage at Wroxeter Hall on 24th January 2024. Love and best wishes from Sue and James Glover,

Condolences to the families of...

Hazel Thomas, Elwyn Gwyn Austen, and Fiona Williams.

Dustbin Days

Thurs February 1st *General Waste & Recycling/food*
 Thurs February 8th *Recycling & food waste only*
 Thurs February 15th *General Waste & Recycling/food*
 Thurs February 22nd *Garden Waste & Recycling/food*
 Thurs February 29th *General Waste & Recycling/food*

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