

The Overton Oracle



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Overton's Free Newspaper - issued monthly

Overton's winner

Congratulations to Nadine Leese of Overton who won the Wrexham edition of the Channel 4 programme "Come Dine With Me".

Nadine cooked a 3 course Moroccan menu, aubergine dip, jewelled lamb with preserved lemon cous cous, followed by figs with rosewater, almonds and honey.

For the full recipes see website

www.channel4.com/4food/recipes/tv-show-recipes/come-dine-with-me-recipes

But what is it really like to be in a TV programme. This is Nadine's account of

15 minutes of prime time fame.....



The letter came through the letterbox "we have been told that you love to cook and would be just right for our TV programme CDWM"... I love to cook for a noisy houseful, and was wondering just whom had recommended me, BUT I thought I was actually trying out for Masterchef! I had never watched either programme and had only heard the lunchtime chat at work about both shows, although I had thought it was one and the same i.e. Come Dine With Me (as I am THE Masterchef). Clearly I have never been so wrong.....

A LOT of psychological profiling goes on in the 4 - 5 months lead up to selection, hundreds of folk apply for each mini-series. Several hour long interviews by telephone from London, with the numbers gradually whittled down, until 20 applicants are filmed in their home from which the series commissioning editor selects that week's contestant. Interestingly, I was asked how I hoped people found me - I said warm, sincere and with a good sense of humour. So of course, because I wouldn't take my jacket off, which is designed to stay firmly on, voila, became the "ice maiden" "... And your dinner guest from hell? ... Well those who saw the programme can no doubt guess which guest was not exactly my first choice of company. Someone who is *opinionated* without fact or substance, as opposed to one who has opinions, won't let anyone else get word in and talks over people. Amazingly just who can be found to order by the research team...

Coupled with a busy working week, it was very hectic with filming on location for menu reveals and a week of being dressed for dinner and collected by cab at 5pm. Dinner was not usually eaten until 8pm at least. With breaks in between filming whilst the crew had their dinner at the pub plus filming comments on each course, it made for a very long night which ends at 2am with giving a score out of 10. I had really entered to see what went into making a television programme and how contrived or not such a programme is- my ITV contract prevents me from saying too much on that one, suffice it to say, most folk are aware of the potential for manipulation and editing across the media in general that can make even a genuine innocent comment seem like a dagger and portray folk as the antithesis of themselves in some instances.

It is a shame that the programme's original emphasis on cooking has lost its focus, as some of the dishes shared during the week were fabulous, along with one or three which were not special. By the end of the week, and on the Friday night having had the crew at my home for 16 hours, I was SO over a week of three course dinners.

I would like to thank the village businesses which were able to find fabulous local lamb for me, vegetables, champagne and as well as some perfect figs, we are lucky that don't need to go too far at all to come up with the goods with which to produce a winning meal. Would I do it again?.....hmmmmnnnn.....

I was glad to have won but my ITV contract prevents me from appearing on Masterchef for at least 6 months after the screening date, so my hopes of becoming the UK's oldest weather girl may not come off!

by Nadine Leese

The Overton Oracle is changing its email address.

Contact us on overtonoracle@gmail.com or leave items in the envelope at the Corner Shop

Ramblings From the Rectory

by David Lewis



Dear friends,

At this time of year it is traditional to make New Year resolutions. Being a dog lover, I was interested in the following list of resolutions:

New Year's Resolutions by Fido

I will not bark each time I see or hear a dog on TV.

I will not steal underwear belonging to my mistress and then dance all over the back yard with it.

I will not chew red crayons or pens, because my master will think that I am haemorrhaging.

I will not roll my toys behind the fridge.

I must shake the rainwater out of my coat BEFORE I enter the house

Well it made me smile!

The thing about New Year's resolutions is that they sound great until real life gets in the way.

The following prayer amused me:

New Year's Day Prayer for One and All

Dear Lord

So far this year I've done well. I haven't gossiped, I haven't lost my temper; I haven't been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish, or overindulgent. I'm very thankful for that. But in a few minutes, Lord, I'm going to get out of bed, and from then on I'm probably going to need a lot more help.

So here is a good question someone asked me before Christmas: **"What sort of New Year's Resolution should a Christian make?"**

The vast majority of New Year's resolutions, even among Christians, are in relation to physical things. What about making resolutions concerning our spiritual life. Some Christians do make New Year's resolutions to pray more, to read the Bible every day, and to attend church more regularly. These are fantastic goals. However, these New Year's resolutions fail just as often as the non-spiritual resolutions, because there is no power in a New Year's resolution on its own.

So, what sort of New Year's resolution should a Christian make? Here are some suggestions:

(1) Pray to the Lord for wisdom in regards to what resolutions, if any, He would have you make;

(2) Pray for wisdom as to how to fulfil the goals God gives you;

(3) Rely on God's strength to help you;

(4) Find an accountability partner who will help you and encourage you;

(5) Don't become discouraged with occasional failures; instead allow them to motivate you further;

Oprah Winfrey once said:

'Cheers to a New Year and another chance for us to get it right.'

May that be true for all of us in 2011.

Happy New Year,
David

COUNTRY BEAT

by Constable Stephen Evans



12 months have now passed since I took over from Luke Hughes. It's not an easy job, especially these days where everybody wants their pound of flesh. But hopefully along with the assistance of Beth and Jemma, I have managed to make a little difference.

During the past few months we have received reports of anti-social behaviour taking place around the village. These reports range from egg throwing to kids making ramps in the street for their bikes. More serious though is reports received from in and around the village hall especially the library.

Although noisy and cheeky behaviour can be dealt with without the need for police to get involved, there have been reports of youths using abusive language and generally being intimidating to not only staff but other users of the library. This will not be tolerated and anybody guilty of such offences will be arrested. Remember the criminal age is ten and over.

On a more positive note I am pleased to be able to tell you that crime recorded for Overton recently is low. Although this is good news please be aware that other surrounding areas are being targeted so please keep an eye out and let us know if you see anything suspicious.

On another note can I ask residents to be mindful of others when parking their vehicles outside homes. We get numerous complaints about inconsiderate parking on pavements etc. There is an offence of obstruction which can occur a £30 fine. We don't want to use this avenue so please can I ask you to be considerate of others who may find your parking to be a nuisance i.e. mums with prams and the elderly.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy new year and we look forward to working with you in the future.

Thank you

Steve, Beth and Jemma.

Overton Police Station Tel: 01978 348425.

E-Mail: Stephen.Evans@nthwales.pnn.police.uk

Lunch Club



The January Overton Lunch Club is on Wednesday January 12th at 12.30pm at the White Horse.

The menu will be Beef stew and dumplings followed by Orange and Coconut sponge and Custard.

To book please ring
Gwynneth Austin on 710672.

School News



A special seasonal visitor dropped in to see pupils at St Mary's school in Overton-On-Dee recently. The children and parents were enjoying an outdoor Carol session when Father Christmas and one of his helpers flew in to see them.

Instead of his conventional sleigh and reindeers, Santa was bang up to date and arrived by a helicopter supplied and piloted with crew from the Defence Helicopter Flying School based at RAF Shawbury. The helicopter was ably navigated to the ground by parent Evan Barker part of the ground crew at Shawbury.

Royal Wedding Street Party

On Friday the 29th of April the United Kingdom will be celebrating the marriage of Prince William and Kate Middleton. As Overton has been known in the past as a village that really knows how to party, we thought that it would be a great idea to bring the village together to celebrate their special day. The concept of a street party would enable and create a day of fun to remember for all ages.



The official engagement photograph of Prince William and Catherine Middleton. Copyright 2010 Mario Testino

However, we need **you**, your ideas and your support to make this day a real success! If you have any ideas, comments and suggestions or if you would like to be involved please contact Alice or Joanne on the contact details listed below. Contact Alice Murray and email alicecoramurray@btinternet.com or Joanne Hammond joannechammond@btinternet.com or phone 01978 711994

Kids Kolumn

by Alice Foster, Lydia Biggs and Lottie Blake



Did you have a Merry Christmas? And we hope you have a happy new year.

Invisi~spell

Unprepared for a lesson? Dreading being called upon to speak in class? Chant the following while staring directly at the teacher...

*"God and Goddess hear my need
and understand why I must plead
for magic shafts of astral light
to hide me from this teachers sight.
I haven't done the work, you see,
So please don't let them pick on me.
Guide them to a mind so bright
They'll surely find the answers right."*

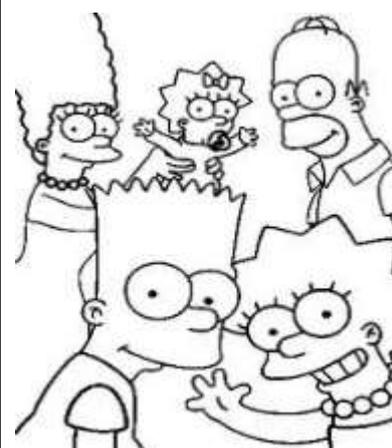
Matt Cardle - X factor winner

Age: 27.
Job: Painter.
From: Colchester, Essex.
Mentor: Dannii Minogue
Group: Boys.
1st audition song: "I'm no good" by Amy Winehouse.

QUIZ

- What month did we start writing the Kids Kolumn?
- What was our first film review?
- How many months have we been writing this Kolumn for?
- In our review of 'Mall Cop' what was the rating?
- When is Lady Gaga's Birthday?
- Where is Katy Perry from?
- In the January 2009 Kids Kolumn what was Lottie's pet of the month?
- What other name can Halloween be called?
- What is the August birth flower?
- What was Katy Perry's single called that she released in early January 2009?

Answers for quiz in next months Kids Kolumn



Colour us in!

Overton Medical Practice

Dr Amy Stevenson is now back with the Practice after her maternity leave. She will be with us until April and it is a pleasure to be working with her once more.

We are starting a new project to try and tackle the problem of patients not attending for their appointments. We will be writing to all patients who have missed 2 or more appointments in the past 12 months as some patients are not even aware of the fact. We are trying to develop new ways of allowing patients to contact the Practice to cancel appointments. If we continue at the present rate we could be heading towards a loss of 800 appointments for this year. Please take on board the caption – ‘Keep it or Cancel it’ – not a lot to ask but a great deal of benefit to everyone if carried out.

The surgery will be open on Thursday afternoons as from the week commencing 10th January. This will be a normal surgery afternoon with a doctor and nurse seeing patients up until 5.30pm. There is also a new appointment regime which will be instigated in the new year giving greater flexibility with dedicated timed telephone appointment slots for consultations over the phone with a preferred doctor.

Flu Injections are still available. Ring the surgery for an appointment – it only takes on average 3 minutes of your time and gives you a huge benefit.

Overton Twinning Association

May we wish all friends new and old a Happy New Year. Whilst most of us are still re-living the last few weeks of Christmas and New Year wondering where the time went, for us Francophiles - it is time to be looking ahead towards our summer hols.

As you are aware Overton Twinning is open to all residents and families whose children attend St, Marys school in Overton and every other year we are fortunate to be able to visit our twinning partners in La Murette, in the south of France. So 2011 sees us Welsh visiting the French.

The visit usually happens during the first week of August, we aim to book tickets en masse late January /early Feb. Last time we flew to Geneva where we were collected via mini buses by some of our French hosts. We were then taken on to start our very delightful week of sun, sightseeing, shopping and fantastic banquets.

If anyone is interested in joining us this year, you pay for the cost of your flight and the week is then catered for and paid for by the hosting village; and just because you have been hosted you are not expected to have to host the following year. We fund raise for the 18 months after and before the French return, which enables Overton to provide an equally delightful week. If you want to know more - please email starkeycatherine@aol.com or speak with Glynis in Woodlands Deli, Karen Harrison or Diane Bell. Merci !

‘On Monday Next’



The cast looks for Mervyn

the Drossmouth Repertory theatre company as they struggle to rehearse their latest production.

It is only the second rehearsal and we the audience were eavesdropping on the proceedings. Mervyn Haynes was excellent as the harassed producer whose comment to the visiting author “you could think of something more sparkling” was eerily prophetic. Michael Done, playing upper class twit Jerry Winterton, playing an upper class twit had the best line with



“what a wotter!” (a part played by his father in the original production). Alan Edwards played bumbling stage manager Jackson Hartley quite perfectly. David Bennett, Anne Kynaston, Clive Hellingman, Linda Done, Roxanne Haynes, Cynthia Davies, Joanne Kember, and David Hughes all played their parts in contributing to an enjoyable production.

But not forgetting to mention Jody the dog in her diamante collar who stole a couple of scenes whilst managing not to be typecast.

There were not many of the audience who could compare this year’s offering from Overton Amateur Dramatic Society “On Monday Next” with the same play when it was first produced by the society in 1968. For those who watched for the first time, Philip King’s play

follows the trials and tribulations of



He’s behind you!

Those were the days from Gordon Whitfield

About 50 former pupils of Overton School braved the sub zero temperatures to attend a reunion in the White Horse at the end of November. The event brought together children who had attended the school in the 1960s and 70s with a good representation across the two decades. For some it was the first time they'd met since leaving the village school all those years ago and for others it would be their first encounter as adults, as many had left the area while still in their teens and had returned with accents more associated with other parts of the UK.



*Greg & Pam Ogden, Steve Andrews,
Barbara & Rosemary Hales*

There were many recollections and exchanges piecing together how time had been spent since that final bell tolled to mark the end of term

and they'd all ventured off to the senior schools around the area. Everyone had a story to tell about their lives, families and the twists and turns that each other had taken since they had last met. Old school photographs were passed around the room resulting in lots of finger pointing and memory searching to put names to faces and recalling anecdotes of times past including many funny and sometimes embarrassing stories that were presumed forgotten.



Angela Williams, Jerry Thorpe & Iory Evans

Unfortunately the cold evening and a prospect of the white stuff had prevented a number of people including, some members of staff, from venturing out however Josie Ralphs was on hand to ensure there was no misbehaviour. The evening was a great success renewing old friendships or forging new ones and a chance to remember those who

were no longer with us but had made such a lasting impression on our lives. It was unanimously agreed to hold a similar evening next year but to avoid a repeat of the atrocious weather conditions to bring the date forward to September and hopefully encourage more people to attend. The exact date will be advertised in the Oracle early in the New Year.

We would all like to thank Steve Dodwell and his staff from the White Horse who must be applauded for providing a warm welcoming atmosphere, good food, excellent service and not to mention the odd drink or two. I would also like to thank Steve Andrews and Jeremy Thorpe who did so much to persuade so many to come along and make it all worthwhile.



Val Hughes and Margaret Leadsome

Oh yes, he was!



Tim Vincent reminds every one

that he was an Overton Cub!

Overton Beavers, Cubs and Scouts joined over 600 others from all over Wrexham to enjoy a special scouts performance of the panto 'Aladdin' starring TV presenter Tim Vincent. Tim starred as the evil Abanazer with the voice of Ricky Tomlinson as the Oracle.

Other cast members included Louis Emerick (from Brookside & Last of the Summer Wine) as Widow Twankey and Hayley Clarke (Grease is the Word). Wishy Washee wore a cub cap and Tim shouted out all the groups represented with a special mention of "my old Group -Overton" to loud applause.

Everyone from Overton enjoyed their day which was organised by Akela, Rachel Harris whilst the District event was organised by Peter Jones of 1st Esclusham - Thanks Peter!.

Tim with from the left, Scouts Luke Radcliffe, Antonia Harlow, Jonathan and Sophie Vibishinan; Cubs - Ifor Harris, Danny Barker, Chloe Malam & Beaver Jacob Jones.

Public consultation on additional licensing scheme for houses in multiple occupation.

The Housing Act 2004 overhauled the way local authorities regulate standards in private rented housing. Wrexham County Borough Council is committed to improving conditions in the private rented sector. A consultation is now underway and contributions from individuals and/or organisations with relevant interest are being sought.

To complete the questionnaire online, go to www.wrexham.gov.uk/hmo before 14th January 2011 or if you require a paper copy contact the Housing Standards team on **01978 315579**.

Overton Community Council

Overton Community Council would like to welcome and introduce two new co-opted members onto the council. Mr Edward Broad and Mr Clive Hellingman put their names forward and were unanimously voted on by the other members of the community council.

All full Council meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month (after from August) in the Parish Room and commence at 7.20pm – the first 10 minutes of the meeting allowing members of the public to speak. The Council meeting commences at 7.30pm. All members of the public are welcome. Please note that all the minutes from meetings are available in the library and on the village website www.overton-on-dee.co.uk

Congratulations

Congratulations to Overton Medical Practice. At the annual awards of the Royal College of General Practitioners Wales ceremony in The National Museum Cardiff on Friday 10th December, Overton Medical Practice was runner up in the 2010 "Practice Admin Team of the Year".

Overton were the only Practice amongst 121 practices in North Wales to be short listed for the final. Six representatives from the Practice attended the prestigious awards ceremony. The prize of a certificate and glass plaque was presented by Mr Paul Williams, Chief Executive of NHS Wales.



Photo from left: Jim Eastop, Sandra Griffiths, Pauline Taylor, Diane Jamieson & Liz Catherall

WHAT'S ON

January Diary for St Mary's Services

Sunday January 2nd 11:30am Holy Eucharist
Sunday January 9th 10.00am Sunday Praise and Coffee
Tuesday January 11th 2.30pm St Mary's School
 Service in Church. All welcome
Sunday January 16th 11:30am Holy Eucharist
Sunday January 23rd 10:30am Family Eucharist
 6:30pm Christian Unity Service in the Methodist
 Chapel
Sunday January 30th 10:30am Group Eucharist in
 Overton

Methodist Chapel Services, Sunday evenings 6.30pm

Tuesday January 11th Overton Community Council
 meeting in the Parish Room. Members of the
 public may speak between 7.20 – 7.30pm.
Wednesday January 12th 12.30pm Overton Lunch Club
 at the White Horse. Booking required.
Monday January 17th 7.30pm Annual General Meeting
 of the Bowling Club to be held in the Parish
 Room
Tuesday January 18th 7.30pm Overton History Group
 meeting upstairs at the White Horse.
Thursday January 20th 7.30 pm Overton WI meeting at
 Woodlands Delicatessen. Speaker: Richard
 Done. Competition: A Fridge Magnet
Friday January 21st 10.00am to 3.30pm A Day of
 Bridge with Andrew Robson, Britain's leading
 bridge teacher at Overton Village Hall, in aid of
 St Mary's Church, Overton.
Friday January 21st Deanery Social in the Hanmer
 Arms
Monday January 24th 6.00pm Overton Practice Patient
 Participation Group meeting at Overton Surgery.
 All welcome.
Wednesday February 2nd 7.30pm Maelor Music
 Society – "Cheethams School" in the Maelor
 School Hall, Penley. For membership or tickets
 contact Bob Evers 01948 770633

Do you remember?

The Oracle has received a request to try and trace a girl called Claire who lived temporarily in Overton around the 1970s. She came from Acrefair. She lived with Gerry and Betty Owen for a short time in approximately the years 1970-1972. The correspondent would like to find out more about her and how she is.
 Reply to overtonoracle@gmail.com or leave a note in the Oracle envelope in the Corner Shop.

FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy January Birthdays to

Dan Hunter, Sylvia Ogden, Micki Blair, Kyle Stubbert Pugh, Raymond Austin, Nathan Ryan Tombs, Poppy Bateman Green, Jack Pritchard, Karen Pritchard and Ronnie Foster.

For Sale

History Group

The next meeting of the History Group will be at 7.30pm Tuesday January 18th upstairs at the White Horse.

The group will be going over the notes and pictures they compiled at the last meeting about Wrexham Road, and will be starting to put together memories of Overton in the wartime years 1939 to 1945.

If you have memories, stories or photos of those days do come along, whether it is of rationing, childhood during the war, troops that were stationed here, the Land Army or so much more

**The Annual General Meeting of
 the Overton & District Bowling Club
 will be held in the Parish Room
 on
 Monday January 17th
 at 7.30pm**



The Oracle is looking for a volunteer distributor for the Oswestry Road area, Whooters Hall to Shellbrook. Contact 710658 if you can help.

PLEASE REMEMBER

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

Leave your contributions, & announcements at the Corner Shop.

Your Oracle Team -

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 David Burton; **Secretary**
 Nicole Netzband; **Treasurer**
 Rob Piggott; **Distribution**
 Cynthia Davies; **Sean**
 Clarke, & **Euan Steven-**
 son.

Editor - Jill Burton.

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Space constraints mean that submitted articles may be edited or not published.

The Oracle is available on the internet. Please be mindful that personal details submitted will be available to a wider audience.

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