

The Overton Oracle



Volume 26 Issue 1

January 2024

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

Pete's New Year Quiz!

**Saturday 6th January, Overton
Recreational Club 8.30pm.**

**Teams x 4 £1 per person. Winning
team takes all!**

.....

'A Green Fairy Tale'

**Rescheduled dates Friday 12th at
7.00pm & Saturday 13th January at
2.30pm and 7.00pm**

More information inside.

.....

Sports Quiz - Looking back at 2023!

**Saturday 20th January, Overton
Recreational Club 8.30pm**

Teams x 4 £1 per person

**Everyone welcome, all proceeds to
Overton Rec Football Club.**

Letter from the Editor...

Happy New Year to all Overton Oracle Readers from everyone on the Oracle Committee we wish you all a happy and healthy year to come.

Firstly I would like to thank Jill for her unwavering commitment to the Oracle during her time as Editor, I only hope that I will have the same success. It was lovely to be able to thank Jill in person for all the hard work she has contributed over the years when we met for our AGM in December, and we are so pleased that she has agreed to continue on as a member of the committee.

A thank you to Jill cannot be complete without acknowledging the hard work and fierce effort that her late husband David also contributed to the Oracle. As a team they were unstoppable, attending every event in order to review and report on everything that happened in the village over the years, always with accompanying photos. There were very few events in the village that were not attended by David, Jill or their trusty camera.

With new 'leadership' there will always be changes, and, whilst our mission is still to provide an informative newsletter for Overton and the surrounding area, you may notice a few things are different over the coming months.

In respect to these changes, one of our priorities is to make sure that what we are producing is relevant to the community in our area and as such we want your input. Do you think there is anything missing from the Oracle that should be included? Is there something included which you think has no place here? Let us know!

Please do bear in mind that this is a village publication designed to keep everyone informed of anything of interest that is happening in Overton and the surrounding areas.

And finally, I am very much looking forward to this challenge and hope that I can bring the enthusiasm and enjoyment that the Oracle has provided for the last 25 years!

Sarah-Jane

New Year Magic

When all the festivities are over, and the decorations are taken down, cheer up dreary January by enjoying an evening of Magic. On Friday 26th January at 7pm, Overton Village Hall will play host to Magic Circle Magician, Simon Rosselli. For over 25 years Simon has established himself as one of the leading London Magicians, wowing audiences - young and old alike. It will be an evening of magic, mind-reading and comedy, family entertainment and lots of audience participation. All proceeds go to the Friends of St Mary's to help maintain the oldest historic building in our village. Tickets purchased in advance are: Adults £10, Children £7, Family (4) £30, Family (5) £35. To purchase phone

Peter 01978 710626, Jill 01978 710631, Mike 01978

710219, or
Claire 01978
710568.



Gratitude from St Mary's

Once again your kindness and generosity has brought much joy. Thank you to everyone who donated a child's gift to St Mary's Church.

Mary from the Salvation Army came to pick up the ever growing collection of presents you donated. This was also Father Jeremy's first Christmas with us at Overton and your generosity was incredibly heartwarming.

Thank you for helping spread love and happiness to the local children of Wrexham by supporting this very special event.

Sam and Tracey



Another year ended and a new one just begun with Revd James Challinor-Eaton

At the start of the year we might be wondering what lies ahead. Perhaps we're looking forward with anticipation to plans already made, perhaps we're looking forward with a sense of fear and dread to things we



know must happen but wish they didn't have to. Or perhaps we look ahead with no idea about what the months ahead will bring. We might have made a New Year's resolution, hoping to start 2024 as we mean to go on. We might have decided that the resolutions are only there to be broken so we haven't bothered. Methodist congregations hold their annual Covenant Service at the beginning of the year. This uses prayer written by John Wesley which affirms the corporate relationship between God and the congregation. It isn't about asking God to make the year ahead as easy as possible, nor is it a form of New Year's resolution. It is about seeking to maintain that relationship with God in whatever circumstances the months ahead have to offer. It is about knowing that God is present in all circumstances of life and that our response to that should be seeking to live a justice-filled life, loving our neighbours as ourselves and seeking to include those who are on the margins of society. Whether we believe in God or not, whether we attend church or not, my hope for the coming year is that we act with decency, kindness, and care to the people in our communities and beyond. If we can do that then we are already one step ahead of the circumstances that will

Tractor run lights up Overton

Once again the village was out in full force for the Brian Jones Charity Tractor run on 23rd December. Another amazing turn out of Tractors all getting us into the festive spirit with hopefully plenty of money raised for the Penley Rainbow Foundation and the Welsh Air Ambulance.



Dear Editor...

Thank you Jill for all your support of the Oracle and indeed Overton. It hasn't just been the last 17 years as editor because in the days when the Oracle was part of the OCC, editorial meetings were held in the homes of the members. This meant that we sometimes had to visit Chirk Castle if David was on duty as well as the home in Overton. In 2004 following the departure of Alan Edwards, the Oracle was in crisis and about to fold as nobody on the team was able to take over the role of editor. Maxine stepped in thankfully to keep the Oracle alive, she and Vicky lived in Dispensary Row until their careers meant they had to move to the south. And small world - 'Gardener's World' on BBC 8/12/2023 in a special feature were Maxine and Vicky in their hillside garden they called Lotty as it was an old allotment, in the Cornish village of Polperro. Both were still full of fun and giggling and seemed very happy.

Lesley Pugh

(For anyone interested, the episode is still available to view on BBC iPlayer, if nothing else than for some beautiful Cornish coastal views.)

Happily Ever After...Happening After All!!

A Green Fairy Tale, Overton Amateur Dramatic Society's Christmas Pantomime has been rescheduled. Due to illness amongst the cast in December the performance was unable to go ahead...but the show will go on (oh yes it will!) Friday 12th January at 7pm (doors open at 6.30pm) and Saturday 13th January at 2.30pm (doors open at 2pm) and 7pm (door open at 6.30pm). If you have purchased tickets, they are still valid for the new dates. If you are unable to attend please contact the Amateur Dramatic Society via their Facebook page or email oads.overton@gmail.com and they will organise how you will get your refund. If you would like to buy tickets for what promises to be a truly entertaining evening, they can still be purchased from the Corner Shop as well as on the door before the performances. Please note that these tickets can only be purchased with cash. Adult £8, Children £5, Family ticket £20 (for 2 adults and 3 children) Raffle, ice cream and refreshments will be available in the interval.

THE ROYAL BRITISH
LEGION

Overton Royal British Legion 120 Club



Results of the '120 Club' bonus draw for December 2023 120 members entered and the draw was made on Thursday 14th December by Colin Davies.

10 winners each receive £60

No 63	Hilary O'Shaughnessy
No 101	Pat Edwards
No 103	Nicola Rouse
No 10	Ian Firth
No 108	David Samuels
No 48	Helen Bailey
No 90	Rachel Walker
No 19	Sue Glover
No 61	Geoff Hodgson
No 85	Kevin Bamber
RBL	£NIL

CONGRATULATIONS

Next Draw will be on a bonus draw on Thursday 11th January 2024. 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

New Year...New wines to taste!

Tickets are now available to buy for the highly anticipated Overton Twinning Association Wine Tasting evening on 24th February 2024.

The evening will involve plenty of delicious wines, even more delicious food and more fun than you can shake a cork at!

If you would like to attend please email the Twinning Association on overtontwinning@gmail.com or ring 01978 710891 to reserve your tickets.

Tickets will be £20 per person and as always are sold on a first come, first served basis.



The Overton Oracle is 25!

This January the Overton Oracle turns 25 years old! We have included a picture of the front cover, it looks a bit different now...

There was a village-wide competition to name the new 'Overton Newspaper' which was won by Pat Marks and the name was subsequently changed in February 1999.

We should maybe renew the motto..."Remember, if it's news, we'll print it!"



Overton's Newspaper

January 1999

Overton's Own Newspaper - issued monthly

OVERTON LAUNCHES ITS OWN NEWSPAPER

Spearheaded and funded by the Community Council, this is Overton's own newspaper, and it's FREE

Now you will be able to keep up to date with news on a variety of interesting topics that will be of interest to everyone. It will be available each month from local shops and the Library.

If you represent a group or other organisation in the community would you like to advertise your events more widely?

Would you like to know you are reaching a lot more people with your advert?

Would you like a review of forthcoming events you are organising so that people are talking about them well in advance - and make a point of attending! Well this is your chance. And if you are in business and have a success story - tell us about it.

The newspaper is a real first for Overton and we know you will like it.

As Colin Davies of the Corner Shop said: "It's a great idea and one which will draw the community together"

**REMEMBER, IF IT'S NEWS,
WE'LL PRINT IT.**

MORE NEWS INSIDE...

- Village Hall cash boost - page 2**
- Village Plan for Overton page 2**
- Gerry raises £1575 - page 2**



**IT'S
PANTO
TIME
AGAIN**

It's Panto season again and the Overton Amateur Dramatics Society is continuing the annual tradition with an unusual offering - Cinderella with Soul, a rock and roll Panto. The same traditional story but with a twist - literally. This year sees some new faces. Mike Done makes his first appearance in Panto. Alan Farley joins the cast as one half of the Ugly Sisters, Kay Lawrenson takes the lead as Cinderella and Alison Grant Ryder, Head of Drama at Penley GM School treads the boards. Ruth Overthrow will be putting in a guest appearance as the Panto's medic.

Produced by Glynis Farley, the Panto this year will take place from Thursday 28 January until Saturday 30 January.

The Panto's Director, Sue England said: " We hope to see our audiences bopping in the aisles and singing along to our live rock band".

Tickets will be available from the Parish Room on Saturday 9th January between 10.00am and 12.00 noon, and thereafter from Glynis Farley, 13 Bangor Road.

IT'S COMPETITION TIME

We need an eye catching title for our newspaper. If you think you can come up with a suitable title, send your entry to the newsdesk. - 5 The Mill, Station Road. There is a book token prize for the best entry.

Dee Valley Medical updates...

We would like to wish all of our patients a Happy New Year and take this opportunity to thank everyone who contributed donations for tea, coffee and cake at our Flu and Covid Clinics, as well as our 'Guess the Bear' competition. The monies raised are being used by our nursing team to purchase much needed new and replacement clinical equipment.

We would also like to thank our patients for their understanding and support through what has been a challenging year for our practice. As the end of the year now approaches, we are pleased to reassure the community that we have benefitted from successful recruitment and internal advancements. Following the departure of Dr Andrew Doyle at the end of March, Dr Rosemary Fallows and Dr Gareth Bowdler have agreed equal share partnership with both doctors now committed to eight sessions per week each, since 1st October 2023. Dr Karen Gait is congratulated on completion of her GP training and we were delighted that she has chosen to join our team as a salaried GP for four sessions per week since mid October. ANP Liz Davison returned in July and Julie Williams qualified as a Registered Nurse in November. Liv Williams has transferred from reception to the Nurse Team to train as an HCA and Lynn Carr was welcomed to the team on 6th November as a full-time receptionist.

Our planned branch surgery relocation to Station Road in Bangor-on-Dee received Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board authority in July. Unfortunately, a hiatus concerning Highways concerns for traffic exiting the 'established' Station Road car park has delayed confirmation of Planning Permission. Despite challenging the Highways position through our own experts we cannot commit to confirming a move date until the Planning Permission is confirmed. You will appreciate that we are just as frustrated about this as our Bangor-on-Dee patients and community must feel.

The NHS Wales App is now live and NHS Wales is preparing to terminate 'My Health Online' (MHOL), which will be decommissioned on 31st December 2023. Please download the NHS Wales App without delay which will enable you to access patient services such as appointment booking and repeat prescription requests. More facilities, such as access to your clinical history, should be available in the near future.


Maelor Music Society News

The Maelor Music Society presents an evening of classical music performed by the latest crop of brilliant young musicians from Chetham's Music School at the Maelor School, Penley on Wednesday January 17th 2024 at 7.30pm.

Tickets £10 on the door, £3 to students, and schoolchildren admitted at no cost.

Expect a varied programme featuring soloists or small ensembles on string, wind and brass instruments and a piano recital or two!

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Overton Playcentre celebrates Christmas!

Happy New Year!!

Overton Playcentre children, family and friends had a very busy Christmas! Highlights included Father Christmas visiting our Toddler group, our wonderful sing along in St Mary's Church, based on 'We Are Going on a Present Hunt', put together by our own Nicky Spurdle. The children looked fantastic and we loved singing Christmas songs all together. We also had Christmas parties, dinners, and the elf visited every day with either snow angels in flour, stars on the windows or rice crispies all over the place, to name some of the antics he got up to.

We also had a successful fundraising time so huge thanks to everyone for all your efforts, whether Bags2School or buying raffle tickets, having a table at our tabletop sale or making cakes...wow you have all been so busy! Thank you!

Huge thanks to our many wonderful businesses who have supported us with raffle prizes and more - ME Evans, 2Doves, Ego Xcentric, Crabtree Candles, Grazed, Cross Foxes, The White Horse, The Cock O'Barton, David Williams photos, Mini Children's Salon, Watery Lane Veg, Lewis' Farm Shop and more donated by parents as well. Real tears were shed by the parent of the family who won our Christmas Hamper and it has been so lovely handing over these lovely prizes to faces wreathed in smiles - so again, a huge thanks to all you wonderful supporters and donators. Behind the scenes we have parents who quietly gave their time in many different ways, so it has been lovely to thank our Trustees for their time during Trustee Week this year. Also our wonderful maintenance crew who have been solving tap issues for all of us. A special thanks goes to our Patron Margaret Evison for her generous donation.

And finally we look forward to welcoming our children into the New Year with Early Education and another year of joy and excitement - there is never a dull moment with all of you at Overton Playcentre. Can't wait to see what fun we will have in 2024!



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Not sure what to do with all your leftover food from Christmas? Why not try....**Christmas Leftovers Pizza***Ingredients:*

- 145g pizza base mix
- 6tbsp tomato pasta sauce
- Large handful (about 100g) leftover stuffing
- Large handful (about 100g) leftover cooked turkey, shredded.
- 100g mozzarella, sliced
- 1tbsp olive oil.

Method:

1. Heat the oven to 220c/200c fan/gas 7. Prepare the pizza base mix following pack instructions. Once rolled out, leave to rest for 10 mins, then top with the pasta sauce.
2. Scatter over the stuffing and turkey, then top with the mozzarella. Drizzle a little olive oil over the pizza then bake for 10-12 mins until the crust is crisp and the cheese has melted.

Turkey and Pesto Croissants*Ingredients:*

- 6 butter croissants
- 4tbsp green pesto
- 300g leftover cooked turkey, shredded or sliced
- 100g mozzarella or cheddar cheese, shredded

Method:

1. Heat the oven to 200c/180c fan. Slice the croissants in half lengthways and spread the pesto on to both sides. Lay your turkey on top of the pesto and then sprinkle with cheese.
2. Place the croissants onto a baking tray, open so that the cheese will melt, and bake until the turkey is warm and the cheese is melted.
3. Fold the croissant closed and enjoy.

N.B. these can also be made in a panini press or toastie maker, or can be eaten cold.



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Monday - Friday 7am - 6pm

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St Mary's School News

On December 13th, we had the honour of welcoming the Bishop of St Asaph, the Rt Revd Gregory Cameron, to St Mary's for a very special award ceremony. Each year, Bishop Gregory runs a Christmas Card design competition which attracts submissions from schools all across the Diocese. This year's competition received 1,400 entries, so we were thrilled that one of our pupils was chosen as the overall winner. Year 6 pupil, Grace Horrocks, impressed the judges with her colourful depiction of Mary and Baby Jesus, based on this year's theme of 'Jesus is Born'.

Grace's winning design has been turned into the cover of a Christmas card which the Bishop sends to family, friends and colleagues all over the world. (picture above) She also received a framed, enlarged print of her stunning design. Grace told us: 'I was really shocked to have won but so happy!' A special prize was also given to Year 4

pupil, Emily Hughes, for her design which has been printed as a Christmas card for members of the clergy to give to their loved ones. In addition, 13 St Mary's pupils were also recognised for their designs and received highly commended certificates. Pupils sang songs chosen from our Christmas Carol concert for Bishop Gregory, his wife Clare (who helped judge the competition), and other VIP's, including the Diocesan Director of Education and Archdeacon of Wrexham. It was a memorable occasion, and we are so proud of everyone's success.



from the judges, Mair in Year 6 was declared the winner with her moving rendition of Dylan Thomas' 'Do not go gentle into that good night' and received the prize of a book token.

To round off our busy and successful term, pupils from Nursery through to



Year 6 put on a wonderful Christmas Carol Concert in St Mary's Church and the church was packed for both our afternoon and evening performances. Each class took us through the Nativity story with songs and readings, including a sweet performance of 'Away in a Manger' from our youngest pupils and the atmospheric song 'He Has Come' from Year 6, performed in the darkened church illuminated by torchlight. One of our grandparents declared the service 'wonderful and heartwarming; and it certainly got us in all in the spirit of Christmas!

by Poppy and Megan (Year 6 Reporters)
and Mrs Williams (Year 6 Teacher)



Grace also received a framed, enlarged print of her stunning design.



It was a memorable occasion, and we are so proud of everyone's success.

Pupils in Years 3-6 have taken part in a Performance Poetry Competition this term, displaying their oracy skills and talents in captivating an audience. Two winners from each class performed in our Grand Finale in the hall. The finalists were all fantastic and it was a hard decision, but after much deliberation

Whats's On

January Diary for St Mary's

Sunday Jan 7th 9.30am Epiphany Celebration with readings and music with Father Jeremy,
 Sunday Jan 14th 9.30am Sung Eucharist with Father Jeremy
 Sunday Jan 21st 9.30am Sung Eucharist with Father Harry Edwards
 Sunday Jan 28th 9.30am Sung Eucharist with Father Jeremy

January Diary for Overton Methodist Chapel

Sunday Jan 7th 2.30pm Rev. James Eaton-Challinor
 Covenant service
 Sunday Jan 14th 2.30pm Rev. Neville Pugh
 Sunday Jan 21st 2.30pm Rev. James Eaton-Challinor
 Sunday Jan 28th 2.30pm Rev. Robert Gee

Services at Our Lady And The Welsh Martyrs

Every Saturday 5.00pm Mass

The Community Hub, Mondays 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th
 January 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

Wednesday 3rd January 1.00pm-4.00pm Spinning Wheel Craft Group meeting in the Catholic Hall. Further details 01978 711941

Saturday 6th January New Year Quiz, Overton Recreational Club 8.30pm

Monday 8th January 6.50pm Overton Community Council meeting in the Parish Room. Members of the public wishing to speak can do so 6.50pm-7.00pm

Thursday 11th January 7.00pm Overton on Dee Branch Royal British Legion meeting in the Parish Room

Friday 12th January 7.00pm 'A Green Fairy Tale' &
Saturday 13th January 2.30pm and 7.00pm

Saturday 13th January Christmas Tree Collection in aid of Nightingale House Hospice

Wednesday 17th January 7.30pm Chetham's School of Music in the Maelor School - back by popular demand.

Thursday 18th January 7.00pm Overton On Dee WI Meeting in the Village Hall. Speaker: Alison Utting on "Eglantyne and Ellesmere"

Saturday 20th January 8.30pm Sports Quiz - Looking back at 2023, Overton Recreational Club

Friday 26th January 7.00pm Magic Evening in the Village Hall in aid of the Friends of St Mary's.

Saturday 27th January 10am-12pm Methodist Church Coffee Morning.

Family Announcements



Happy 60th Birthday to Neil McIntyre

Happy January Birthdays to Kirsten Kanaar-Brown, Mary Jones, Alice & Victoria O'Brien, Micki Blair, Jim Eastop, Kyle Stubbert Pugh, Nathan Ryan Tombs, Poppy Bateman Green, Jack Pritchard, Karen Pritchard, Lucy Edwards, Karen Jones Roberts, Caroline Wason, Russell Jones, Raymond Austin, Graeme Clarke

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.

Huge thanks...

I would like to thank Annette and the girls for their kind donations of wonderful prizes for our little bingo group, it is greatly appreciated.

Jean

Dustbin Days (note change of day!)

FRIDAY January 5th *General Waste & Recycling/food*
 Thurs January 11th *Recycling & food waste only*
 Thurs January 18th *General Waste & Recycling/food*
 Thurs January 25th *Garden Waste & Recycling/food*

Don't Forget Your Trees!

Saturday 13th January Nightingale House Hospice will be collecting and recycling real Christmas trees in return for a donation towards patient care at the hospice. The collections will start from 7am so make sure your tree is out nice and early.

There may be time to book if you haven't already by going to www.just-helping.org.uk/register-tree

PLEASE REMEMBER
Copy deadline is 19th
January for the February
edition.

Get your events & news to us early to avoid disappointment

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Leave your contributions & announcements at the Corner Shop or email overtonoracle@gmail.com

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 Distribution Cynthia Davies; Euan Stevenson,
 Jenny Bellis, Jill Burton, Pene Coles, Vi Taylor, Claire Williams, & Gwynneth Austin

Editor:
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