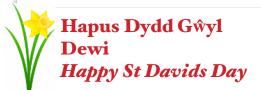
The Overton Oracle

Volume 25 Issue 3 March 2023 Overton's Free Newspaper - delivered to every household monthly for 24 years



OVERTON ON DEE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Coffee Morning

at Overton Village Hall 10.30am -12 noon Saturday 4th March

Bacon baps, Cakes, Plants, Stalls, Draw.



Don't forget

The Overton / La Murette Twinning Buffet and Wine Tasting Evening is organised for Saturday 4th March in



the Catholic Church Hall, Wrexham Road. Doors open 7 for 7.30 pm. The tickets cost £20 each and include wine and buffet supper.

Bag 2 School

Please bring all your bagged unwanted clothes, shoes, bags, linen, curtains to the Overton Playcentre by 9am on 17th March at the latest! We get money for the weight of your unwanted items so everyone wins!

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Red Nose Day

is back on Friday 17th March 2023. Look out for local fundraising events.

The Village Handicraft Show

is May 20th. Schedules are now available around the village - so get crafting!

Community Hub with Cake

Overton Community Council has been really thrilled with the response to their Afternoon Teas on Mondays from 2pm-4pm in the Parish Room. Thank you to all who have come over the past few weeks to share stories over tea, coffee and cake. It has been brilliant to see you.

We are going to continue with this through March, into April and beyond, but we would like to increase the scope a bit, and turn this into more of a Community Hub. It will still be Afternoon Tea and there will always be cake, chat and companionship on offer, of that you can be sure.

We'd also like to make it an opportunity for you to ask your Community

Council for help with things, for example, things you'd like to start in the village, or to ask our help with something which is worrying you. Or, we could have invited guests - from the Rainbow Foundation, or perhaps the police, our Member of Parliament or Wales Assembly Member ...

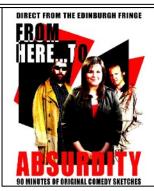


there are lots of opportunities for this Community Hub to be a really useful part of community life.

An Evening of Comedy

As part of its current "post-pandemic, preapocalypse" tour, the quick-fire satirical sketch show '*From Here to Absurdity*' is heading to Overton to perform at the Village Hall on Friday 24th March.

Written and performed by Richard Kelly (freelance contributor to *Private Eye*) and Ashley Hern (formerly of the Oxford University revue), *From Here to Absurdity* comprises 90 minutes of original



comedy sketches, performed in a style that recalls the hey-day of Peter Cook, Paul Whitehouse and Stephen Fry. It has already performed at many venues across the country and has headlined at the Edinburgh Fringe and Chicago Sketch Festivals. But it is no stranger to these parts either and has been been well received at the Llandudno Pavilion and Theatr Clwyd, as well Rossett and Doddleston village halls. It is a show that is not especially suitable for those under the age of 18, yet eminently suitable for those over the age of 40.

So if you fancy live comedy that's a bit different to stand-up, Overton Village Hall is the place to be on 24th March. Doors open at 7pm, the show starts at 8pm, and tickets, costing £15 inclusive of a light supper, can be bought at the Corner Shop from March 1st. Further details of the show can be found on www.2absurdity.co.uk

Musings from the Manse by Rev'd. Richard Parkes



Dear friends.

Is there a difference between generosity and waste? Between extravagance and excess?

I was thinking about this in the aftermath of Christmas. On the one hand you have Christmas parties, too much food (if we can afford to cook it) and children especially are showered with presents. Then suddenly we're into Dry January, Veganuary and the most depressing day of the year (that's Blue Monday, usually the third Monday of January – but we've already passed it so the only way is up, baby!). And we tighten our belts to pay for Christmas.

Christmas is a time for excess. As the poet W H Auden put it -

"There are enough

*Left-overs to do, warmed-up, for the rest of the week --*Not that we have much appetite, having drunk such a lot, Stayed up so late, attempted -- quite unsuccessfully --To love all of our relatives, and in general Grossly overestimated our powers.

We need feasts and extravagant gestures. In the Bible there is the story of a woman who brought some expensive oil and slathered it over Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. When I say the oil was expensive, it was almost a years wages for a labourer. Generous or wasteful? Extravagant or excessive? The disciples complain about how much good could be done with such a vast amount of money used so wastefully. But Jesus accepts the generosity of the gift, sees the spirit behind it.

We need a rhythm to the year, times of self-restraint, and times of celebration – plus the boring bits in between. And because we're not good at fasting, I think we don't appreciate feasting. Besides, our times of self-restraint would seem like unimaginable luxury to previous generations. In Lent, we give up chocolate, or alcohol if we're really serious!

But our whole lifestyle is far too extravagant for the planet to sustain. Our biggest wastefulness is that we don't live sustainably. So, this Lent, take time to look at your lifestyle. How sustainable is it? How can we have sustainable high days?

Peace to you all,

(Rev) Richard Parkes

Superintendent Minister, Wrexham Methodist Circuit

Donate an Easter Egg

At St Mary's Church this Easter we are putting together an Easter display in the Lady Chapel. We are asking if anyone would like to donate an Easter egg. We hope to donate them to the Salvation Army and/or Wrexham hospital children's ward, if permission is granted. We are asking Businesses and local people for their support and kindness in making this happen. We will leave a large plastic container in the church marked up "Chocolate

Easter Eggs" (Businesses, please mark with your name) We have no preference on what type of Easter egg or size, we are just grateful for all donations. We would also appreciate any help with putting the display together. For more information ring 07753 463125.

Maelor Music Society Season's Grand Finale

On Friday March 31st at 7.30pm at St. Chad's church, Hanmer, the Maelor Music Society will welcome "John's Boys", winners of 'Choir of the World' at the Llangollen



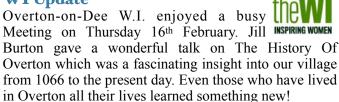
International Eisteddfod. We are thrilled to have persuaded the full choir to perform in this very special venue where a small ensemble sang last year during Covid restrictions.

Be prepared for the magnificent sound of a male voice choir in full sail, and with the finesse that an adjudicator at the Llangollen Eisteddfod described as "incredible singing, you sound like professional opera singers!"

Tickets are £10 on the door (free to MMS members and all school children)

For more information please contact Geoff Mason 01978 710486 gcmason47@yahoo.co.uk

WI Update



We are looking forward to our Annual Coffee Morning on Saturday March 4th, to which all villagers and friends are invited. We have some fabulous stalls again this year, including Italian leather handbags, purses and accessories, local organic veg, honey & eggs, home baking and various crafts. Please do come along and support us; everyone is very welcome and we will be serving refreshments, including Bacon Baps.

Our March Meeting will be held on Thursday 16th March, and our Speaker will be Liz Wilson, of Ma Baker fame. The Meeting is open to all and if you like bread, you will love this talk!

The Village Handicraft Show takes place on Saturday May 20th. We know there are many very talented people in Overton and surrounding areas – please support the Show by either entering or coming along to see the beautiful items on display. Don't be put off by thinking your work isn't good enough – the judges are very kind and even if you don't get a prize, people will appreciate just seeing your work and admiring the effort put into it. Schedules are now available in the Corner Shop, M.E.Evans Butchers, the Library, Two Doves and Willow & Wren. If you want further information please ring me on 710451 Margaret O'Neill

Memories of Overton sledging days

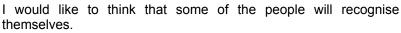


My name is Phil Andrews and I was born in Overton in 1947 and was known as Pip Haynes. I joined the Royal Navy in 1965 and although never really moved back to live, I still remember many

happy times growing up there.

I have attached 2 photos which were taken circa 1953 of the lads sledging down the banks.

I am the small one on the end in the photo on the left.



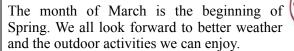
In the one picture I think is Les Stant, Den Metcalfe and Fred

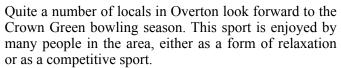
Murray. The other Barry Haynes, (much missed brother), Howard Jones and Brian Hamlington. The other names are lost in my memory, Thank you for printing the Oracle it brings back many memories.

Do let the Oracle know if you can put more names to faces.

Pip Haynes

Bowls Season Rolls Back In





The Overton Bowling Club has around 40 members and would welcome newcomers.

To encourage new players to join, the club will provide free opportunities to sample the sport, with advice from experienced players, every Monday evening at 6.30 from the 27th March to the end of April.

Everyone is welcome, whether you wish to play competitive sport in the local leagues, or if you just wish to have a little exercise while playing a sporting game in the fresh air.

Please come along and sample the sport, if you are interested and enjoy sporting activities.

Country Beat

We have opened the recruitment window for our brand new **North Wales Young Ambassadors** Programme.

We are looking to recruit 20-30 members aged between 16-24 years from across North Wales to form a Young Persons Advisory Group where they will be addressing issues affecting young people across all communities within region. The Young Ambassadors will work in partnership with North Wales Police to prioritise areas of concern and help shape the future of policing. See https://policejobswales.tal.net/vx/appcentre-NorthWales/

https://policejobswales.tal.net/vx/appcentre-NorthWalesbrand-0/candidate/so/pm/6/pl/18/opp/4694-North-

Wales-Young-Ambassadors/en-GB
Closing date for applications 12pm Friday 31st March
Our local contact is

SCCH/PCSO 2961 Dean Sawyer

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

Spring blooms

This is the time of year when we start to see spring blooms emerging from the ground. From golden lesser celandines, to purple dog violets, to papery wood anemones.

Over the last few years the Overton Wildlife Group has been trying to encourage more spring flowers throughout the village, from native bluebells in the car park garden, to snake's head fritillaries in St Mary's churchyard.

Our mini meadows have also been planted with lots of spring flowers. These provide an important nectar source for insects awakening from their hibernation, such as butterflies and bumblebees.

To help let people know what our mini meadows are for we've also put up a few signs, to tell visitors why we leave the grass long. Last year we spotted plenty of wildlife feeding on the meadows, including swifts, green veined butterflies and house sparrows, all species that are nationally declining.

We're looking forward to seeing what turns up this year.

Katie Piercy



St Mary's School Pupil's Fundraising

On Saturday 18th February, Evelyn Everett, 9yr old, (nearly 10) lost her locks in a sponsored shave for Hope House Children's Hospice. Evelyn is a pupil in Year 5 at St Mary's School Overton. As well as fundraising for the hospice, her hair has been donated to the Little Princess Trust who provide real hair wigs, free of charge, to children and young people who have lost their own hair through cancer treatment and other conditions.



The Everett family chose to raise money for Hope House and Tŷ Gobaith as they have seen the impact of their care on close friends whose children access care and support at the hospices. Her Mum, Aimee continued: "Evelyn had the idea last November and knows her hair will soon enough grow back. She cares more about helping others than she does her hair. As parents, my husband Simon and I were really nervous for her - Simon even offered to match fund any money she raised if she didn't do it. But she was so determined to see it through. We're so proud of her, it really sums up who she is."

The head shave took place at the family home by a professional hairdresser.

You can still donate to Evelyn's fundraising by going to https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/aimee-everett

Before After



A warm welcome for St Mary's new priest

We were very pleased to welcome our new priest, Revd Jeremy Dussek, at a special afternoon service at St Mary's on the day of his formal licensing ceremony in Hanmer. There was a good turnout to greet Father Jeremy at the

service last month with many of the pupils from Overton's primary school also there to meet him and take part.

Fr Jeremy is clearly a natural with youngsters and it was great for them to be able to get to know him on his first day with us – they seemed to very much enjoy talking to him.

The service was followed by refreshments, with some excellent home-made cakes and sandwiches provided by



volunteers. Fr Jeremy, who is moving into the vicarage in Overton, spoke of his wish to get the church out into the community and play an active part in it.

Later that day, Fr Jeremy was formally licensed to be a priest in the Church in Wales by the Bishop of St Asaph, the Rt Revd Gregory Cameron. This took place at St Chad's Church, Hanmer, which was packed

with local

worshippers and many family and friends. Numerous clergy from the Diocese of Chester attended, who knew Jeremy in his previous role as Canon Precentor at Chester Cathedral.

All of us at St Mary's wish Fr Jeremy well in his new role as our priest, and pray that, together, we can strengthen

the Christian community in the area and encourage more people to enjoy the peaceful beauty of our historic church.

Exciting News - Overton Recreational Club has taken on the Hope House Childrens Hospice £50 Challenge!

The basic concept is very simple. Hope House are giving 50 businesses £50 and they each commit to grow it as much as they possibly can in 50 days between 6th March and 24th April 2023.

So far, we are organising a family fun evening with a disco & games on Sat 22nd April which will be followed on the night by the drawing of the MEGA raffle and hopefully even some auction lots. We need your help with this and would welcome donations of prizes or lots - the bigger the better as we really want to make as much as we can! Either drop them off at the club or contact us so we can arrange collection.

We are also organising a cake night, let's call it The Great Overton Bake Off! Bring along your cake creation which could win you a prize and all cakes will be sold on the night - this will be on Sunday 23rd April. Three local lads will also be doing a sponsored bike ride so look out for that as well. Although we have entered in the Clubs name, we trust it really will be a Village affair and EVERY PENNY raised will go to this amazing charity that have to raise millions every year (in fact we are giving them the £50 back as well). Let's all get behind this and further details of events will be in next month's Oracle.

Don't forget The Recreational Club has been serving this Village continuously for over 50 years and no membership is required....all welcome.



Bell ringing update

I am delighted to report that we now have six regular Sunday morning ringers at St Mary's, with another new ringer progressing well and one more having some time out. You may also have noticed that we are ringing slightly earlier this year, between 9 and 9.30am, as Sunday service has a new regular time of 9.30am.

During November and December the bell ringers all worked closely together to design and build a Christmas tree for the St Mary's Christmas Tree Festival. We were delighted to be voted best Christmas tree and it even featured in the Christmas edition of 'Ringing World'. On the final practice night of the year we enjoyed mulled wine and mince pies. *Picture right*

Listen out for the bells ringing on St David's Day morning. Two of the Overton band, along with four other fellow ringers, will be attempting to ring a Quarter Peal to celebrate the day.

Clare Morning Control of the David's Day morning. Two of the Overton band, along with four other fellow ringers, will be attempting to ring a Quarter Peal to celebrate the day.

Clare Morris Tower Captain

A Psychotherapy Service offering hope and new beginnings

Hello, I'm Emma, a Psychotherapist accredited with the BABCP.

I live in Overton with my partner, 2 children and 2 cats.

I have developed my interest and career in mental health for over 15 years, working in local authority settings, community mental health teams, child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS), and most recently in the NHS as a Psychotherapist.

I work with individuals (18 years and over) who are experiencing psychological distress as a result of PTSD, trauma and adversity, I also treat anxiety, overthinking and worry, low mood and depression.

MindKey Therapy is a Psychotherapy service utilising a range of NICE recommended, evidence-based psychological interventions including CBT (Cognitive Behavioural Therapy), Trauma-Focussed CBT, Narrative Exposure Therapy and EMDR (Eye Movement Desensitisation and Reprocessing Therapy).

For more details contact Emma on: Tel: 07487 373628

Email: emma@mindkeytherapy.co.uk Either face to face or online sessions are available, and evening or weekend bookings are accepted. If you feel ready to take the first step, let me help you to take the next.

Overton Play Centre News

Overton Playcentre are having a busy fundraising time in March which you can all get involved with! So dates for your diary include:

Wednesday 15th March: Overton Playcentre and St Mary's School are running an Easter Bingo 6pm-8pm in the Village Hall! Tickets will be on sale at the Playcentre. All Welcome!

Friday 17th March: Bags4School - Please bring all your bagged unwanted clothes, shoes, bags, linen, curtains to the Playcentre by 9am on 17th March! We get money for the weight of your unwanted items so everyone wins!

Sunday 26th March: Eggstravaganza, Overton Playcentre are teaming up with Overton Twinners again for our annual Easter Egg Hunt in the Village Park!! So join us for an afternoon of egg fun!

Also starting in March we will be running our intergenerational warm spaces project for our older friends every Wednesday afternoon during term time, from 1.30pm - 3.00pm. So please come and join us on Wednesday 1st March for a cuppa and a biscuit!

In March we look forward to welcoming DiddiDance to work with the Early Education children once a week and Afterschool will be practicing their moves in a mixed martial arts way with Sven from SKCobras on Friday afternoons!

Also our **Baby Group** runs on Mondays during term time 1.30pm-3.00pm in the Playcentre for our under ones and

non walkers with songs, stories and cake and cuppa for parents!

Baby & Toddlers runs every Tuesday 9-11am out of the Village Hall with craft, songs & rhymes, snack as well as cake and cuppa for the adults!

On a separate note - Love has most definitely been in the air during February - as you know we were donated another rabbit, Toothless as a friend for our sadly singled Millie. And we are very happy to report that on St Valentines Day the two rabbits were finally put together in one big hutch and have been happily snuggled up together ever since!





The Maelor Mission Area wishes to appoint an Administrator

To undertake administrative duties across the Maelor Mission Area including all the churches, providing administrative support to the Mission Area Executive, Trustees and Clergy. To work approximately 15 hrs per week which could be home based with some flexibility, initial contract to be for 12 mths. Administrative, minute taking, computing, internet and desk top publishing skills necessary with some requirement to visit churches, churchyards and attend meetings.

Though not a requirement, but being a communicant member of the Church in Wales and having a good understanding of the church and it's structures, would be desirable.

Applicants will be required to provide a full CV, evidence of the required skills and 2 referees. Closing Date: 27th March 2023. For further details please contact:

Canon Sue Huyton, Bangor Rectory, Ludlow Close, Bangor on Dee, Wrexham LL13 OBU

Tel: 01978 780608

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.

Snippets from the Past - March 1873

"An Extraordinary Meeting was held on March 29th when a large meeting of ratepayers met at the White Horse Inn, to hear Mr John Richards, nominated as a guardian for this parish, [guardians were appointed to administer the Poor Law in the area and the local Workhouse, and were subject to annual elections] advocating sending a petition to parliament, for all public-houses to be kept open from one o'clock in the morning until twelve at night. He did not see why poor people should not have drink as well as the gentlefolks. The meeting was of a lively character, hisses, cries of "turn him out" and cheers, being mingled." He was not elected!

Overton Royal British Legion 120 Club

Results of the "120 Club" for February 2023 119 members entered.

The draw was made on 14th Feb. Winning numbers were selected by Enid Rolfe.

Winners: 1st Prize £238.00 No 75 Jeff Hunt 2nd Prize £119.00 No120 Emma Birrell 3rd Prize £59.50 No 33 Daniel Meredith Legion Fund: £178.50

CONGRATULATIONS

Next Draw will be on Tuesday 14th March 2023 If you wish to join please ring Dave Austin Tel: 01978 710678 or contact him by Facebook Messenger. All new members must play by Standing Order

"IF YOU DON"T PAY - - - YOU DON"T PLAY"
Thank you for your Loyal Support

Overton Recreational Club



What's On

March Diary for St Mary's

Wednesday March 1st 7.00pm St David's Day Service Sunday March 5th 9.30am All Age Worship March 12th 9.30am Holy Communion Sunday Sunday March 19th 9.30am Mothering Sunday Morning

Prayer

March 26th 9.30am Holy Communion Sunday For all service details see

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

March Diary for Overton Methodist Chapel Sunday March 5th 2.30pm Rev Richard Parkes Sunday March 12th 2.30pm Rev Neville Pugh Sunday March 19th 2.30pm Mr David Young Sunday March 26th 6.30pm Rev John Wiggall

Services at Our Lady And The Welsh Martyrs

Every Saturday 5.00pm Mass

Every Monday 10.00am-12.30pm Overton Art Group in the Catholic Hall, Wrexham Road.

Every Monday from 2.00pm Community Hub, tea and cake in the Parish Room

Every Thursday 11.30am - 1.30pm Knit and Natter group at The Two Doves Cafe, Overton

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

Tuesday March 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 March 15th 6pm-8pm Overton Playcentre & St Mary's School Easter Bingo in the Village Hall

Thursday March 16th 7.00pm Overton on Dee WI Meeting in the Village Hall.

Friday March 17th Get your Bags 2 School donations to the Playcentre by 9am or the days before.

Thursday March 23rd 7.00pm Overton on Dee Branch Royal British Legion meeting in the Parish Room

Friday March 24th 8.00pm Doors open 7pm. Overton Am Drams are hosting "From Here to Absurdity" in the Village Hall

Saturday March 25th 10am - 12pm Methodist Church Coffee Morning.

Sunday March 26th British Summer Time begins

Sunday March 26th Eggstravaganza. Overton Playcentre & Overton Twinners Easter Egg Hunt in the Park

Friday March 31st 7.30pm Maelor Music Society present 'John's Boys" winners of Choir of the World, at St Chad's, Hanmer.

Family Announcements

Happy 80th Birthday to Sheila Miller. Happy March Birthdays to Gwynneth Austin., Alan Mawdsley, Joanne Kember, Cynthia Davies, Osian Manley, Anne Clarke, Grace Haynes, Finlay Clarke, Janet Reid, Janene Bell, Imogen Jones, Kate Jenkinson, Liam and Matt Grindley, Roxanne Haynes, James Morrison, Mikey Jones, Russell Simon, Toby Edwards, Chris Probert, John Littleton, Thelma Bamford, Sue Foulkes, Margaret O'Neill, Rona Williams and Jan Davies.

Sincere condolences to the family and friends of Malcolm Grant Langley, partner of John Littleton of 10 St Marys Avenue, who died on Friday 20th January after a long illness, bravely born. Will be sadly missed by his many friends and the staff at the

Sincere condolences to the family and friends of Evelyn Roberts nee Downey who passed away in February.

Sincere condolences to family and friends of Graham Edwards who passed away in February.

Dustbin Days

Thurs March 2nd Garden Waste & Recycling/food Thurs March 9th General Waste & Recycling/food Thurs March 16th Garden Waste & Recycling/food Thurs March 23rd General Waste & Recycling/food Thurs March 30th Garden Waste & Recycling/food

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

PLEASE REMEMBER Copy deadline is 20th of the previous month.

Get your events & news to us early to avoid disappointment THIS INCLUDES **ADVERTISEMENTS**

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

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Advertising & Editor -Jill Burton. Tel 710631 or e-mail overtonoracle@gmail.com

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