

The Overton Oracle

Volume 25 Issue 11

November 2023

Overton's Free Newspaper - delivered to every household monthly for 24 years



Baby & Childrens Table Top

Sale on Saturday 18th November in the Village Hall 10am-12pm. Contact Playcentre to book a table.

Defibrillator replaced

The Overton Community Council have now taken over responsibility, and installed a new defibrillator, positioned outside the Village Hall, to the left of the front door.

Overton Art Group

2 hours with Lynn Tedford on 'Which Media to Work In' - 27th November 2023 from 10am at the Catholic Hall, Overton, parking behind the Church. Booking essential. Ring Ann 01978 710327 to book and for further details.

A Green Fairy Tale

It's that time of year again! Oh no it isn't, Oh yes it is! It's Panto time, and the Overton Amateur Dramatics Society is putting on a show. A Green Fairy Tale is a fairy tale story mix up. Try and spot how many well known characters you recognise. The beautiful sleeping Princess Fiona has woken up with a problem and goes on a quest meeting all sorts of characters on the way. Will she succeed with the good Green Fairy Godmother's help? Or will our pantomime be shut down by the Evil Ealth and Safety Elf.



Come and join in the fun on Friday 8th & Saturday 9th of December. Performances start at 7pm with the doors open from 6:30pm Saturday Matinee performance, doors open at 2pm to start at 2:30pm. Venue, the Village Hall. Tickets £8 for adults, £5 for children. Family ticket £20 for 2 adults and up to 3 children. Tickets are available from the Corner Shop from November 1st.

Raffle, refreshments and ice cream available in the interval.

Green bins - message from WCBC

As you'll be aware, we've been facing significant disruption during the period of industrial action from Unite. During this time, we've been focusing the resources we have available on collecting black bin waste and recycling (including food waste). We simply haven't had enough resources to allow us to collect garden bins as well. We know this is causing concern and frustration for people who have signed up for this service prior to, or during the strike. Therefore, we've taken the decision to extend the green-bin collection period until the end of February 2025.

We'll resume collections from February 2024, and your subscription period will run until February 2025. So, if you've already subscribed, your subscription will continue until February 2025 (you will not be required to renew in September 2024 as your sticker will remain valid until February 2025). Depending on resources, we may also be able to do a green bin collection sooner than February (which will be included in your current subscription), but as resources are changing daily and we approach winter weather challenges, we can't be sure this will be the case, and so we'll communicate with you nearer the time about whether this is possible.

And from Cllr. John McCusker

I will put a notice on Facebook if things are likely to alter with refuse collections (see dates back page). I have managed to get Council bins emptied recently in my Ward.

Feedback on the 20mph which affected 35% of all Welsh Roads: Welsh Government have stated they did not anticipate everyone to instantly obey the new law and drop from 30mph to 20mph overnight on the 17th September and have announced people will only get prosecuted for going 26mph (FOR NOW) while the public get used to it. GoSafe apply the NPCC guidelines which outline the enforcement thresholds of an extra 10% + 2mph so will reduce to 24mph. A random sample of 10,000 vehicles in the first week showed average speeds on affected roads had only resulted in a speed drop of 3.1mph and that is now higher at only a 2.3mph reduction. I must admit I am more wary now as I have been tooted and given hand gestures driving at 20mph through the village before the "lunatic" screeches past at horrendous speed so very much look both ways if crossing the road.



Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day 2023

As the days get shorter and colder, we come around to that time of year again when we remember those who were lost in World Wars 1 and 2, and other conflicts.

Remembrance Sunday this year falls on 12th November. Members of the Overton Branch of the Royal British Legion, together with representatives of other local organisations and the general public, will gather at the Village War Memorial to pay tribute to the fallen and observe 2 minutes silence at 11am.

This will be followed by a Service of Remembrance in St. Mary's Church led by Father Jeremy Dussek. All are welcome to attend this service.

On Armistice Day Saturday 11th November, members of the Royal British Legion will be at the War Memorial to observe 2 minutes silence at 11am.

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM



Events in the Catholic Church Hall

Festive Coffee Morning & Christmas Draw. Stalls, including Cakes, Christmas Gifts, Seasonal 'Goodies' and some Craft items for Sale/or to order in time for Christmas. **Saturday, 18th November** 10.30am-12.00 noon. Entry £2.00 (to include Tea/Coffee and a Mince Pie). Also one Ticket will have a Lucky Number for a prize. Tickets on the door.



Craft Class in the Church Hall on the last Monday of each month, from 5.00pmish and Class starting at 5.30pm till about 8.00pm. Cost for each session (to include all the materials needed for the monthly project) together with Tea/Coffee and Cake at half time is £15.00. Our tutor/demonstrator is Debbie Thomas of St. Martins. If you would like to join our 'happy bunch' please contact Debbie directly on athomas61@btinternet.com or mobile 07746189980 (in order for her to have enough materials available for each person attending). Next session Monday 27th November.

Bowling Awards

In October Oswestry & District Bowling League held their presentation evening at Bersham Social Club.

Overton Bowling Club and players received 5 awards!

Chris Probert accepted the trophy for Overton winning the 2nd division, on behalf of Mark Whittall, captain, who couldn't attend. (above) Euan Stevenson, B team captain received the trophy for winning the 5th division. Chris Probert was winner of the 2nd Division individual Aggregates, and Dan Williams was runner-up to Chris. Duncan Rennie was runner-up in the 5th division individual aggregates. Congratulations to all.



More photos are on the Oracle website.



Playcentre outings

Overton Playcentre have been out and about in November, visiting Rebecca in Overton Library, and celebrating Harvest with Father Jeremy in St Mary's Church. *More photos on the Oracle website.*

Overton Twinning Association News

Following a most successful visit from our friends from La Murette, Overton Twinning Association has begun plans for fundraising for the next visit in two years time. We hope to have a presence at the Christmas Fayre, maybe another Games Night, and an Easter Eggstravaganza, all to be discussed further.



However one event is already fixed in our diaries and that is the renowned French Buffet and Wine Tasting Evening. Please make sure it's among the first events to go into your 2024 calendar. It will definitely be held on Saturday 24th February, 7 for 7.30 pm start. More details of this, and other events, in future Oracles.

Way back when

A photo teaser of a PE lesson at Overton School in the 1950s. More details next month.



RBL NEWS !!

The Annual General Meeting of the Royal British Legion, Overton Branch, took place on 12th October 2023. During this meeting Mr Richard Jones was elected as the new branch Chairman. We congratulate Richard Jones on this new role and wish him every success. We would also like to thank Mr Dave Austin for being our Chairman for the past 12 months.

The RBL in Overton has had a good year, we have recently welcomed some new members and feel optimistic that this is a trend that will see numbers increase further before long.

*Jean Williams Secretary.
on behalf of the Members of the Royal British Legion –*

Overton Community Growers

At the October meeting of the Growers we had a good turnout.

The High Street is looking beautiful thanks to Barry and Melanie. Meanwhile extra work is currently being done on the wildlife garden on the car park. Volunteers have been busy weeding the garden on Monday evenings. After October it will be too dark and wet so there will be a big Sunday daytime session at 2pm on November 12th to finish off any work left to do like planting more shrubs and bulbs for Spring and redoing some of the overgrown woodchip paths. Cake and Growers cider will be provided.

Bee keeping was discussed. We have an opportunity and funding to train someone from the community alongside one of our members; so if you are interested in learning the fascinating art of bee keeping please get in touch.

There are still some available mini plots behind the Bowling Green for people to use to grow their own produce or flowers if their gardens are too small. The plots aren't big but having 2 or 3 together would result in quite a sizeable area.

Wherever your interest lies, be it in conventional flower gardening or re-wilding and conservation there is plenty of opportunity for you to volunteer and help to make the village both beautiful and sustainable.

For further information and updates about bees, plots, or volunteering look on Facebook (Overton Growers) or email:- overtongrowers@gmail.com

The 26th anniversary gig of the Goin' Up The Country Blues Club

The Goin' Up The Country Blues Club. is celebrating its 26th anniversary on Friday November 24th at Overton Village Hall, by booking top British band The Achievers, supported by talented young acoustic guitarist Greg Brice.

The Achievers are an award winning, international touring band from Stroud in Gloucestershire They play Americana, Gospel-Blues & Roots-Rock.

Over their 10 years together they have gone from casual, improvised gigs in rural pub corners to being one of the most respected and in-demand bands on the UK and European Blues & Roots scene culminating in winning the UK Blues Challenge in 2019 and competing in the International Blues Challenge in Memphis in 2020 where the band was a semi finalist. The band also competed in the European Blues Challenge that year and was a finalist.

With a reputation for innovation and originality they have been headlining stages internationally, performing their unique, artfully crafted, concise Roots-Rock. Embracing the sounds and styles found on the fringes of blues traditions, they have been surprising audiences and critics alike with their infectious rhythms, joyful melodies and lush four-part harmonies.

The Achievers stand proudly as British Blues & Roots outliers, never quite fitting into one box or another – but always offering a truly professional, unique, and highly entertaining night of original music.

A fun-loving, good time rhythm and blues and roots six piece band who love to engage with the audience Tickets are £17 and can be obtained by contacting Pete Evans on petevans@btinternet.com. Doors open 7.15pm for a 8.00pm start.



The Royal British Legion has a new recruit!

So why would a lifelong motorcyclist, with no military background, want to join the local Royal British Legion group? The story starts back in late 2016 when I decided to try and purchase a rare motorbike from France (a 1988 Honda Africa Twin 650, if anyone's interested). Briefly, I located a suitable bike near Paris, did a deal with the owner, Bernard, and my brother and I hired a van and drove over to collect it. Bernard and his family made us so welcome that I kept in touch with him, regularly sending him pictures of his old bike enjoying life in North Wales. I promised that one day I would return to France and visit Bernard on his old bike.

Fast forward over six years and in early 2023 the planets aligned – Covid was no longer an issue, Bernard retired and moved to Dieppe with his wife, I retired and had the time to tour. Plans were made, tickets booked on the Newhaven-Dieppe ferry and myself and two friends set off to visit Bernard in his new home.

Again he and his family could not have made us more welcome and after spending two thoroughly enjoyable days with them, we took the opportunity to head along the coast and visit the Normandy landing beaches.

Time was limited but we headed for Omaha Beach then spent the rest of the day at the nearby American Cemetery which proved to be one of the most moving experiences of my life. Knowing that we were going to visit the Beaches I had read extensively about Operation Overlord before the trip so I had an understanding of the campaign but when we arrived, nothing could have prepared me for the scale of loss; there are 9,387 graves and 1,557 names of the missing who are known to have been lost but have never been identified. The most sobering fact is that the average age of those who died was just 23. The physical and mental suffering of those who survived is beyond comprehension.

When I arrived home I felt compelled to join the RBL and assist, even in a small way, to raise funds for the invaluable work that goes into supporting those who have fought in conflicts all over the world.

Please support the forthcoming Poppy Appeal and if you can spare an hour a month why not come along to the local RBL meeting and see how you can help?

Steve



St Mary's School News - Exciting Eco Adventures & Spanish Fever!

As part of our topic on Biodiversity, Year 6 went on a trip to Talacre Beach to explore this unique habitat. In class we had learnt about the history of Talacre (we were fascinated that the sand dunes had once been home to Liverpoolian evacuees during WW2) and that it is now a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest, being home to several protected species such as the natterjack toad, sand lizard and little tern. Our visit was led by Kim Norman, ENI Land Management Officer, who is one of the many people who are working hard to manage this conservation area and help protect the ecosystem. We learnt about the impact of coastal erosion and explored the sand dunes and strandline to identify some of the species that live there and learn more about Talacre's endangered species. As the sun shone, we connected with nature in this beautiful place and Year 6 pupil Annie summed up what we all felt about the day: "It was amazing, and Talacre is a very special place!"



For our 2nd eco-adventure, Year 6 visited Xplore in Wrexham to participate in their 'Wild Watch' Day. We took part in a workshop to learn about habitats, food webs and the importance of biodiversity in ecosystems. Pupils then engaged in the 'Citizen Science' scheme to survey biodiversity around Wrexham town centre. We then had plenty of time to play with the interactive science exhibits in Xplore's spacious Discovery Centre. Amy said her favourite exhibit was an interactive computer game where the competitors had to learn about ways to reduce our carbon footprint to save the world. We are grateful to Natural Resources Wales, whose funding helped make both of these trips possible.

In the second week of October, we held a 'Spanish Week' to celebrate Spanish as our chosen international language for the new Curriculum for Wales. We participated in all things Spanish to immerse in the culture and language of the country, including learning Spanish songs, flamenco dancing, creating art in the style of Pablo Picasso and participating in an interactive quiz on Spain. Pupils enjoyed tasting some typical Spanish tapas and pinchos such as olives, tortilla, chorizo, Manchego cheese, and sweet delights such as palmeritas and churros. Across the school, pupils have learnt various Spanish greetings and phrases, counting and colours. Year 1 and 2 learnt a song called 'Los Colores' to recognise the colours in Spanish, which they shared in our final celebration assembly. Mrs Lawrenson told us the children loved the tongue twister of anaranjado - the adjective for the colour orange that has a shortened version for the name of an orange fruit: Naranja [nah-RAHN-hah], Anaranjado [ah-NAH-rah-HAH-doh] - why not have a go!



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

Last month's community litter pick

was on Wednesday October 11th. Two of us walked round a few streets in the pouring rain picking up litter and getting soaked into the bargain. The rain probably put other would be volunteers off but thank you Barry Metcalfe for braving the weather. Barry and his wife Melanie have been helping to keep our streets litter free for years.

I wish people would not drop litter carelessly. I also wish we had a pub in the village serving an ever changing range of well kept real ales; but that's probably not going to happen either.

Pene Coles

Thank you

We would like to say a big thank you for all the cards, good wishes and gifts we have received on the occasion of our Diamond Wedding. We were so pleased to receive a special card from Buckingham Palace with congratulations from the King and Queen.



Myra & Vince Worthington

Thank you

Can we say a huge thank you to Overton on Dee W.I. for their very generous donation to the upkeep of the Village Hall. It was donated after the tremendous success of this year's Village Produce Show. Our thanks again from
The Village Hall Trustees & Management Committee.

Overton Royal British Legion 120 Club



Results of the '120 Club' for October 2023. 116 members entered and the draw was made on 12th October by Julie Birrell.

Winners: 1st Prize £232.00 No 31 Jill Burton
2nd Prize £116.00 No 74 Alan Edwards
3rd Prize £ 58.00 No 16 Gwynneth Austin
Legion Fund: £174.00 **CONGRATULATIONS**

Next Draw will be on Thursday 9th November 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

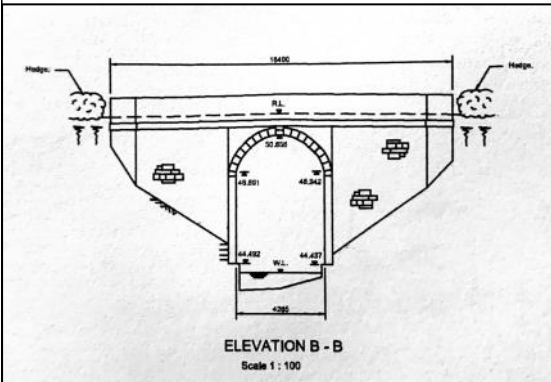


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Barton's Bridge



To answer some questions regarding the importance and history of Barton's Bridge which is Cadw listed, 'A good example of a small stone arched bridge'. I don't suppose any of us really gave a thought to it being particularly important.

Barton's Bridge is said to have been built in 1819 by Thomas Telford when he was County Surveyor for Shropshire. It carries the B5069 carriageway over Shell Brook which forms the border between Wales and England in the counties of Wrexham and Shropshire. Located approximately 4km south west of Overton, it provides a vital link for local communities. The masonry parapet constructed from large red sandstone is an integral part of the structure providing strength to the deck; it provides vehicle containment to help prevent vehicles from leaving the carriageway, as proven by the road traffic accident which damaged the bridge.

Once repaired the parapet performance will have improved.

A combination of original masonry and new masonry was required to reconstruct the parapet so that it best matches the existing bridge. This minimises the visual impact on the structures character while still providing minimum vehicle containment so that the carriageway can be safely reopened to two way traffic for years to come..

They knew how to build them in those days, it stood for 204 years, let's hope the rebuild will do as well.

It is named for the Barton family who lived at Knolton Hall in the 18th century

Lesley Pugh

Why doesn't the Council - - -

You may have noticed in the Oracle and on the village notice board that there is a vacancy for a Councillor on the Overton Community Council (OCC).

Councillors are volunteers and the OCC is non-political and non-secular, concentrating on helping to keep our lovely village ticking along.

There are certain things that the OCC have no control over, for example, I would be a very rich man if I had a pound for each time I have been asked "when is the Community Council going to sort out the potholes, the hedges as you come into the village, the road signs, the speed of traffic going through, the volume of the traffic" etc. These are the responsibility of the Welsh Government, Wrexham Council or the Police.

However, the OCC does take care of, amongst others, the cemetery, the public toilets, the playing field, having the grass areas in the village cut, the June Fete / Street Market, Christmas lights and trees etc.

It also gives financial support to many of the organisations in the village, such as the Twinning Association, the Playcentre and St. Mary's School as well as giving of their time to help at such events as the upcoming Remembrance Sunday service.

I have only been on the council for just over 2 years but in in that time, to name just a few -

- more benches have been placed around the village,
- the council have been involved in keeping the village informed and involved in the proposed housing development,
- the Trim Trail has been installed, along with further play equipment,
- the Community Hub on Monday afternoons, has been set up,
- and of course who could forget the fantastic Jubilee weekend!



Meetings are just once a month, although there is the opportunity to be on other OCC committees as well, such as planning, general amenities and finance. So, do please put your name forward and help to shape the future of this beautiful part of the country

John Herbert

Maelor Music Society

The next evening is Wednesday 15th November, when we welcome Piantel - the nationally acclaimed North Wales based piano and harp duo to the Maelor School Hall. Formed back in 2005, Piantel is a combination of two of Wales' most outstanding musicians. Dylan Cernyw is one of Wales' finest harpists and accompanists, and is known for his new arrangements of traditional pieces. Likewise, Annette Bryn Parri has accompanied and performed alongside some of the world's finest singers and musicians, and her contribution to Welsh entertainment is immeasurable. When performing together, they display a rich orchestration unique to this combination of instruments.

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Whats's On

November Diary for St Mary's

Wednesday Nov 1st 6.00pm All Souls Service
 Sunday Nov 5th 9.30am All Age Worship
 Sunday Nov 12th 11.00am Remembrance Service
 Sunday Nov 19th 9.30am Morning Prayer
 Sunday Nov 26th 9.30am Holy Communion



November Diary for Overton Methodist Chapel

Sunday Nov 5th 2.30pm Rev. Neville Pugh Holy Communion
 Sunday Nov 12th 2.30pm Mr Nigel Burns
 Sunday Nov 19th 2.30pm Rev James Eaton-Challinor
 Sunday Nov 26th 2.30pm Local Arrangements

Services at Our Lady And The Welsh Martyrs

Every Saturday 5.00pm Mass

.....
The Community Hub, Mondays in November 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 Thursday 11.30am-1.30pm Knit and Natter group at The Two Doves Cafe, Overton

.....
Sunday 5th November 4.00pm Wrexham Bonfire & Fireworks display Penyllan Farm, Marchwiel

Wednesday 8th November 10.35am St Mary's School Service of Remembrance in St Mary's church. All welcome to attend.

Thursday 9th November 7.00pm Overton Branch Royal British Legion meeting in the Parish Room

Saturday 11th November 11.00am Overton Royal British Legion observe Armistice Day 2 min silence at War Memorial

Sunday 12th November 2.00pm Overton Community Growers tidy up & planting in the car park wildlife garden

Monday 13th November 6.50pm Overton Community Council meeting in the Parish Rooms

Wednesday 15th November 7.30pm Maelor Music Society presents 'Piantel' in the Maelor School

Thursday 16th November 7.00pm Overton on Dee WI Meeting in the Village Hall. "Blind" Xmas food tasting

Saturday 18th November 10.00am-12.00pm Baby & Childrens Table Top Sale at the Village Hall

Saturday 18th November 10.30am-12.00pm Our Lady and the Welsh Martyrs Festive Coffee Morning and Christmas Draw at the Catholic Church Hall

Wednesday 22nd November 7.00pm Overton History Group meeting in the Parish Room

Friday 24th November 7.15pm for 8.00pm start Goin' Up The Country Blues Club present 'The Achievers' in the Village Hall

Saturday 25th November 10.00am-12.00pm Methodist Church Coffee Morning

Saturday 25th November 10am-3.30pm The Spinning Wheel Craft Group "Felted Seasonal Wreaths" Catholic Church Hall

Monday 27th November 10am-12pm Art Class with Lynn Tedford "Which media to work with" at the Catholic Hall

Monday 27th November 5.30pm-8pm Craft Class making Xmas crackers in the Catholic Church Hall

Family Announcements

Happy November Birthdays to...

Peter Rosselli, Lydia Evison, Pearl Edwards, Hugo Hunter, Dave Smith, Mike Done, Heather Davies, Lucy Roberts, Rob Netzband-Piggott, Gerald Williams, Belinda Sampson, Laura Edwards, Honor Grigg, Ruth Hamer, Nigel Williams and Evelyn Williamson.



Sincere condolences to the family and friends of Francis Glynn-Jones who passed away on September 22nd.

Sincere condolences to the family and friends of Doreen Howell who passed away on 26th September.

Sincere condolences to the family and friends of Phil Edwards who passed away on 15th October

Thank you

The Edward's family would like to thank everyone for their kindness, thoughtful words and sympathy on the loss of their lovely daughter and sister, Jane Sankey nee Edwards. It is much appreciated.

Thank you

A coffee morning held at the Catholic Church Hall on 29th September 2023 raised £480 in aid of MacMillan Cancer Support. Thanks to all who attended and ate cake (and spent money!) in aid of this good cause and thanks to the Catholic Church Hall for the use of the facilities.

Dustbin Days (Subject to change)

Thurs Nov 2nd	No Collection
Thurs Nov 9th	Recycling & food waste
Thurs Nov 16th	General Waste & food waste
Thurs Nov 23rd	No collection
Thurs Nov 30th	Recycling & food waste

Sesiwn Sgwrs

Eisiau ymarfer dy Gymraeg?
 Want to practise your Welsh?

Croeso cynnes i bawb.
 A warm welcome to everyone.

Every 2nd Saturday of the month
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PLEASE REMEMBER Copy deadline is 20th of the previous month.

Get your events & news to us early to avoid disappointment

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