

# The Overton Oracle



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*Overton's Free Newspaper - issued monthly*

## Playgroup conquers Snowdon



Over £1,300 was raised on 4th September by 17 intrepid walkers aged 2 to 45 who made it to the summit of Mount Snowdon. Taking the less well known (so empty) Rangers Track (thoroughly recommended), the walkers set off at 8.20 from the car park and with only a few chocolate stops made it up by 11.15. The party was led by Andrew Baker, a consultant doctor, and apart from the amazing effort of the children, one of the first up and down was five-month pregnant Heather Pritchard. Frank Macdonald-Brown said "for a minute I was the highest person in Wales!".

About £800 will go towards the Overton Playgroup, with the remainder going to the selected charities of the walkers including Trust for African Schools and the Rainforest Trust.

## St Mary's bonanza - the last sun of summer

Organiser's no doubt had their fingers and toes crossed on the morning of Sat 11<sup>th</sup> September that the day would dawn brightly as St Mary's PTA, teachers and helpers had swapped their role of looking after our children for the day, to feeding and generally entertaining families and visitors who attended the bonanza.

Birds of Prey, bouncy castles, craft, hook a duck, penalty shoot out and skittles all helped to keep everyone entertained as did the Police car and climbing wall. Eco-centric, Village bakery and Woodlands all provided sponsorship in different forms and local businesses contributed the hamper which was the main raffle prize. George Done had the unfortunate task of running the raffle and announcing his own prize win of a chicken. Good job it wasn't the Hamper or the International Cricket Board may have had something to say. This year featured a quiz which was nothing that couldn't be described as diverse. To be honest, if I could recall every prime minister since 1952, all eleven Doctor Who actors and the succession line to the throne I'd either be



running the country or getting myself checked for Asperger's. Nevertheless, it kept me occupied for a couple of hours and was a very welcome addition.



The evening session was joined by Mr Williams band who were brilliant. It's a bit weird seeing people you know out of context and Bass playing caretakers coupled with soulful teachers added to the surreal atmosphere of eating your tea in the middle of a playground. The night climaxed in a firework display, the weather held and everyone thoroughly enjoyed it, once again a credit to the school and the people who put loads of hours and effort into executing an excellent day and evening. I'll be crossing my arms and legs for them next year.

## Ramblings From the Rectory by David Lewis



Dear friends,

Summer has been quite eventful for me and our family. The birth of a grandchild, a little girl called Ashanti Jasmine, weighing 7lbs, brought great joy to us all and touched our hearts in August. The hope and joy of new life was really brought home to me as I cradled this few hours old little baby. Of course for 2 weeks in August I was also part of a group sent out to help establish a link with South West Tanganyika in Tanzania. The experiences we all shared touch all of our hearts and I would like to share some of them with you.

It was quite an experience! From the moment we stepped off our small plane in the Cathedral City of Njombe to be greeted by several hundred singing Mothers Union members and children to the time we said our farewells with the dawn chorus at Dar-es-Salaam airport our senses were assaulted in so many ways. It was a demanding journey, physically, emotionally and spiritually as none of us were unaffected by the deep faith in the harshest conditions of those we met. We were inspired by the hope and joy of the whole Christian community and in particular the dedication of the clergy whose self-sacrifice for their ministry humbled us. Where the land was not good enough to sustain the subsistence agriculture then the poverty means that the clergy do not even receive their salaries of £60 a month. School fees and medical fees cannot be paid and life may depend on a cow and a few chickens.

One of the places we visited was called Manda on the shores of Lake Nyasa. The drive from Njombe had been long, very bumpy and extremely tiring. As we arrived at our accommodation in the dark on the shores of Lake Nyasa, all we wanted to do was to find a bed to crawl into. However as we drove through the village and onto the shore, about 100 children and adults welcomed the two jeeps onto the beach. Our spirits couldn't help but be raised and our senses overwhelmed by the crowds of children cheering and waving palms. Camera flashes went off in the dark and the whole scene started to take on a very surreal aspect. The next morning we awoke to a magnificent landscape. The veranda of our cottage looked onto the shoreline of Lake Nyasa and we could see canoes, bird life, and people bathing in the water. The astounding scenery contrasted sharply with the difficult living conditions of the people living in Manda. Malaria was rife; mosquito nets were few and far between. HIV had taken its toll as had diarrhoea. Of those children who greeted us so enthusiastically the night before, you could not help but wonder what percentage would be dead in 10 years.

The infrastructure around Manda was almost nonexistent. You could see the potential for tourism, yet the reality was with no infrastructure or money that potential was just a dream. Fishing for the men had become increasingly difficult. The edges of the lake were over fished and no one had the boats to reach the fish that had migrated to the middle of the lake. For the clergy life was tough. Travelling to outstations meant miles and hours of walking. Often stipends were unpaid because of the poverty of the parishes. They worried for their children and asked for help with school fees. Living conditions were basic. Yet the comment from one cleric that he would still minister despite the hardships because his people needed him was truly inspiring. During our stay we experienced baptism and confirmation services involving around 80 and the faithfulness and joy and hope expressed in the worship touched all of our hearts.

As I settle back into parish ministry I think of Ashanti and the promise and hope her life holds, compared to those 100 children who met us on the shore of Lake Nyasa. That dreadful statistic which proclaims that a third will be dead in 10 years, strikes my heart. And yet the life of faith expressed in Christian lives and churches was so vibrant and giving, that it really does lift your spirits and give hope to your hearts. I wish that some of our churches had that same hope and joy and sense of giving and outreach that was so evident in the African church. It is an experience I will never forget.

David

## COUNTRY BEAT by Constable Stephen Evans

Although in general Overton enjoyed a trouble free summer, we did have one incident of note at the

end of July. As a result of enquiries carried out, I am able to tell you that a young man from out of the village as been charged to court on 5 counts of criminal damage.

On a more pleasant note, we have enjoyed attending a number of fetes and carnivals over the summer and we hope you have enjoyed meeting us and having the chance to have a quick word. With the nights already drawing in, Halloween will soon be here. With this in mind PCSO Jemma White has obtained some funding from the Police & Community Trust to provide activities at Halloween. Jemma is arranging a Halloween Party to be held at the village hall on Sunday the 31st of October between 7pm and 10pm. The funding will allow for the hiring of the hall, hire of disco and hopefully some refreshments. Posters will go up nearer the time. The idea behind this is to provide a safe environment for youngsters to enjoy on what is supposed to be a fun night. It is also used in an attempt to deter anti-social behaviour which unfortunately is often associated to Halloween night. Although funding has been obtained, this is limited so if anybody would like to contribute then please get in touch with Jemma and she would appreciate any assistance offered and volunteers to help out. Thank you for your ongoing support

Steve, Jemma and Beth.

Your Letters...

*Dear Editor,*

Last month I met Year 12 students from the Maelor School, Penley. The meeting was part of an educational visit organised by the school's sixth form during which the students were given a tour of Parliament and questioned me on a range of issues.

As well as discussing the political process and life as an MP, I mentioned that Maelor School Headteacher Mr Eiddwyn Hall was in fact my old form tutor at Ysgol Y Grango!

Any other community groups or individuals are of course welcome to arrange a visit to Westminster or are equally welcome to invite me to give a talk or have a visit to see their work. I can be contacted on 01978 82428 or email

[susan.jones.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:susan.jones.mp@parliament.uk) or by letter at House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

We are greatly enjoying reading the Oracle.

Susan Elan Jones MP



*Maelor School students with MP Susan Elan Jones*

## THANK YOU

Keith Overthrow, on behalf of St Mary's church, would like to thank all the good folk who supported the coffee mornings held on Wednesday mornings during the summer.

As a result of your support, £450 has been raised, and a cheque for that amount has been sent as a donation to Nightingale House.

## Playgroup News

There will be a new baby group starting up again on Monday 4th October. This will be every Monday from 1.30 - 3pm. Lots of baby toys and activities, including singing. There will be tea and cake available for Mums, Dads and Carers.

A Halloween party will be held at Overton Playgroup on Sunday 31st October from 3 - 5pm. Plenty of family fun and activities for all, plus food. Do come in fancy dress if you wish.

Gobble! Gobble! Fancy winning a Turkey? All you will need to do is buy a quiz, fill it in, and a fabulous Turkey may be yours. Watch this space for your chance to win.

# Kids Kolumn

by Alice Foster, Lydia Biggs  
and Lottie Blake



Hi everybody,  
Happy Halloween !

Pumpkins & poison & witches & wizards  
Frog legs & bats wings & bird beaks & lizards  
Mix them with cat blood and boil in a pot  
HOBBLE and BOBBLE and SIZZLE and POP!

**Everyone knows  
its.....HALLOWEEN!!!!**

Pump-

kin De-



signs

Scary

Funny

Cute

Bonkers

## Halloween Facts

1. Halloween is also know by other names:

All Hallows Eve

Samhain

All Hallowtide

The Feast of the Dead

The Day of the Dead

2. Halloween is one of the oldest celebrations in the world, dating back over 2000 years to the time of the Celts who lived in Britain

3. It is thought that the colours orange and black became Halloween colours because orange is associated with harvests (Halloween marks the end of harvest) and black is associated with death.

**Pick your own Pumpkin** at Ivy House Farm, Malpas  
Open 10.00 - 4.00pm

Will you find your way out of the monstrous maze?  
Bring your wellingtons & search the field for your

## Lunch Club

The next Overton Lunch Club is on Wednesday  
October May 13th at 12.30pm at the White Horse.

The menu will be Beef, Mushroom & Ale Pie followed  
by Bread & Butter Pudding.

To book a seat please ring Gwynneth Austin  
on 01978 710672.

## My trip to Uganda Pt 1 by Carol Dykes

Firstly I would like to say a big thank you from myself and Groundlevel

Foundation Trust to everyone who sponsored me and gave donations; your support and generosity really helped – every penny counts.

I started my journey 2am Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> August from home and arrived at Kampala Airport Friday 18<sup>th</sup> 3am. We stayed one night in a hotel and then started our journey at 6am to Kumi in an old minibus. Thankfully we had a good driver who stayed with us! It took 12 hours to get to Kumi. We were all very tired, thirsty and hungry. On Saturday morning we sat down for a meeting with the pastor to sort out the agenda. We had gone over to complete the school which had been started at the end of last year. The schools name is Mercy School in the district of Pallisa about 50 mins drive from Kumi – not on a proper road – more like a goat path!

We were pleased we managed to complete the building but unfortunately not the painting. We laid out a football pitch and posts plus a netball court but we were gutted that we ran out of time to complete the playground. However we did manage to buy lots of equipment which they began to put up as we were leaving. We also left them bats and balls and skipping ropes etc. Prior to the charity building the school, the lessons were held under a mango tree! We have got a big piece of land and as the project is ongoing, we plan to build 6 more blocks of toilets and accommodation so that some of the orphans will have some education too. We aim to build an office, shop and dispensary which will help to run the school. They will be able to sell the crops they don't use and can become self sufficient. *Further details of Carol's visit in next months Oracle* - - - -

If anyone would like to know more or see some photographs please contact me on 710794. And thank you all again and if you would like to sponsor me or donate any money every penny counts. I will carry on fundraising and we still have a lot of work to do. If anyone would like to be involved please let me know.

## Rail card offer

Senior Railcards for the over 60s are available at the moment at a discounted rate for residents of Wrexham County Borough.

Senior Railcards can be purchased for £22.50, instead of the normal price of £26.00. The pass is valid for 12 months from the date of issue and allows the holder third off most standard and first class fares.

Senior Railcards can be purchased from CONTACT WREXHAM, 16 Lord Street, Wrexham, (near the Bus Station) or ring 01978 266166 for further details.

## Avenue Tree

Several members of the community have asked whether it was necessary to fell the beech tree in the Avenue. When branches fell off the tree advice was sought from the arboriculturalist at Wrexham Borough Council. The tree was inspected and found to be in a dangerous state.

Although covered by a tree preservation order, the Community Council was advised that planning consent was not required and that the tree must be felled immediately. When the tree came down the extent of rot in the trunk was evident and dangerous. The Community Council is committed to replacing the beech in the very near future, with an oak tree, which is far less prone to the sort of rot that beech is subject to.

## The Great North Run by Andy Dodwell

Well I did it and I have to say that I enjoyed the experience...!!

The atmosphere was amazing with almost 54,000 runners on the starting line. Ant & Dec kicked things off and I managed to give them a slap as I went passed. It was very crowded and took me 25 minutes to get to the start line - by this time Haile Gebrselassie was half way round! Anyway, I finished in 2 hrs 35 mins & 22 seconds finishing in 30,641 position - not bad for a fat bloke. Regrettably, I was overtaken by a giant sunflower and the Stig with 800 metres to go but I was not having any of it when Bananaman tried to slip passed me as well...!

The most amazing thing was the amount that has been raised for the British Heart Foundation. My fund raising page has tipped over £900 and I have over £300 from the customers of the White Horse. When all this is added together and the 28% gift aid put on top I should have topped £1,600 which is simply fantastic. Even better than this was to be greeted by a beautiful smile from my gorgeous daughter who 9 years ago was having open heart surgery so as you can imagine quite an emotional finish and I know my dad would have been proud of me as well...!

Thank you to everyone who has supported me and especially Jane & Steve from the White Horse. There is still time if you have not had chance to spare a few quid as the website <http://originaljustgiving.com/andrewdodwell> will be live for a while yet.

Thanks once again - you are true stars.

## OVERTON 2010 PRODUCE SHOW



It was very rewarding to see new names appearing on the entry sheet and an increase in the number of children showing interest in the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Overton Village Open Produce Show. It was held in the Village Hall on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> September, 42 adults and 13 children competed. The adult entries were 280 across the various classes & the children had 15 entries in their section. Congratulations to all prize winners which were well deserved. The judges continue to compliment competitors on the high standard of the exhibits entered. The Show Committee members are very grateful for the interest shown in the Show, to the Judges for their continued support and to all who donated prizes for the raffle.

CUP/TROPHY	AWARDED TO	CATEGORY
British Legion Cup	Victor Roberts	Exhibitor with Most Points
Tradesmen's Cup	Mary Lewis	Runner-up
Lowther Cup	Mary Lewis	Overton WI Member with most points
Trotting Mare Cup	Den Owen	Best in Class 2 – 3 onions from seeds
September Plate	Rona Williams	Best in Class 12 – Pair of marrows
Farmer's Cup	Victor Roberts	Best in Veg Section – Classes 1 to 17
W I Cup	Francis Glynn Jones	Best in Fruit section 18 - 23
Healey Salver	D Harrison	Best in Blooms Section 24 - 35
Pam Upton Memorial Bowl	Phil Edwards	Best in Class 33 - Specimen Rose
Rosselli Cup	Peter Ralphes	Best in Pot Plant Section 36 - 38
Kath Hamlington Memorial	Ann Edwards	Best in Flower Arranging 39 - 44
Mrs Wrights Cup	Josie Ralphs	Best in class 45 Flower Arrangement
Mrs Bransbys Cup	E Humphrey	Best in Class 46 - Flowers (Novice)
Mrs Sumsions' Tray	Rona Williams	Best in Cookery Section 47 - 54
Mrs Woodhouse's Bowl	Victor Roberts	Best in Preserves Section 55 - 61
Haynes Wine Cooler	Phil Edwards	Best in Wine Section 62 - 68
Mrs Robert's Shield	Lydia Evison	Best in Class 69 (5yrs & under)
Mrs Watt's Shield	Harriet Evison	Best in Class 70 - 76 (6-9yrs)
Mrs Price Jones's Shield	Heath Rosselli	Best in Class 71 - 76 (6-9yrs)
Mrs Wason's Shield	Susan Thomas	Best in Class 72 - 79 (9 - 12 yrs)
21st Anniversary Shield	Luke Williams	Best in Class 73 (13 to 16 yrs)



### Overton computer course for beginners

A short 3 session course for beginners hoping to find out more about the internet will be running at Overton Library on Friday October 15th, 22nd & 29th

Session 1 "Get to grips with the basics" (using a mouse & keyboard)

Session 2 "Exploring the internet"

Session 3 "Using a search engine"

To book a place contact the library on 710557

### Overton History Group

The next meeting of the history group will be 7.30pm on Tuesday October 19th upstairs at the White Horse.

We will be looking at the large amount of information collected at the last meeting about Salop Road, and collecting information about Willow Street.

This advert was brought to the meeting. Does anyone know any more about this business, "Harold Jones Grocer of Salop Rd."



### Notice of vacancy in the office of Councillor

Notice is hereby given that 1 vacancy exists in the Office of Councillor for the Community of **Overton**.

If you are interested in applying for this voluntary position, please send a short CV (½ a page long) and a brief covering letter outlining your interests, hobbies and qualities that you feel would be suited to this role.

**All correspondence regarding the vacancy send to:**

Katrina Chalk, Clerk to Overton Community Council  
Overton Village Hall, 5 Penyllan Street, Overton, Wrexham, LL13 0EE or 01978 710055

**The closing date for applications is 1<sup>st</sup> Nov. 2010**

### Overton Website

The Overton website has been up and running for most of 2010. If you haven't seen it yet log on to [www.overton-on-dee.co.uk](http://www.overton-on-dee.co.uk) and have a look. If your organisation is not mentioned contact website chairman Jacky Maskall on [info@overton-on-dee.co.uk](mailto:info@overton-on-dee.co.uk) or 710328 with details. If you are a business interested in advertising on the website contact [ads@overton-on-dee.co.uk](mailto:ads@overton-on-dee.co.uk). You don't have to be familiar with website design, just tell us what you want to say, provide us with a photos and we can do the rest. Remember that although the website is run by Overton Community Council, it is your website and you determine what goes on it. The website will have a new look in January 2011.

### Dates for your diary

Overton Amateur Dramatics next production will be "On Monday Next", a comedy by Phillip King produced by Stephen Sorfleet. The proposed dates are November 25th 26th and 27th.

Do you need to make an appointment for a flu injection? Vaccinations begin early October and Overton surgery will be publishing the clinic dates soon. Vaccination is for those over 65 years of age, or in the 'at risk' categories. The process this year is likely to be similar to the clinics run for the Swine Flu vaccinations (i.e. a mass vaccination involving all clinicians with at least 3 or possibly 4 separate sessions).

## WHAT'S ON

### October Diary for St Mary's Services

- Sunday October 3rd** 11:30am Holy Eucharist  
**Sunday October 10th** 10.00am Village Praise & coffee  
**Sunday October 17th** 11.30am Holy Eucharist  
**Sunday October 24th** 10.00am Family Eucharist & coffee  
**Sunday October 31st** 10.30am Group Eucharist in Penley
- Methodist Chapel Services Sunday evenings** 6.30pm
- Friday October 1st 7pm** Harvest Festival at Chapel  
 Conducted by Mr Tim Guy
- Sunday October 3rd** 6.30pm Chapel Service conducted  
 by Paul Braidell
- Monday October 4th** 6.30pm Harvest Supper at Chapel.
- Tuesday October 12th** Overton Community Council  
 meeting in the Parish Room. Members of the  
 public may speak between 7.20 – 7.30pm.
- Wednesday October 13th** 12.30pm Lunch Club at the  
 White Horse. Booking required
- Friday October 15th** 10.30 - 11.30am "First Click"  
 computer classes for beginners start at Overton  
 Library. Please book a place at the Library
- Friday October 15th** Doors open 7pm Film for 8pm  
 Overton Film Club in Village Hall "Four Lions" the  
 hilarious black comedy hit about some hapless  
 English jihadists.
- Tuesday October 19th** 7.30pm Overton History Group  
 meeting upstairs at the White Horse.
- Wednesday October 20th 7.30pm** Maelor Music  
 Society – Much Wenlock Choir in the Maelor  
 School Hall, Penley. For membership or tickets  
 contact Bob Evers 01948 770633
- Thursday October 21st** 7.30pm WI meeting in the  
 Parish Room. Speaker: Mrs L Munden on  
 "Chinese Brush Painting". Competition 'A Fan'.
- Friday October 29th** 1.30 - 3.30pm Autumn Fayre at  
 Penley Rainbow Centre
- Sunday October 31st** 3 - 5pm Halloween Party at  
 Overton Playgroup
- Sunday October 31st** 7 - 10pm Halloween Party at  
 the Village Hall organised by Overton's PCSOs

## THANK YOU

Bridget, Erika, Josef and families would like to thank everyone for their kindness and support after the loss of Peter so suddenly in July.  
 A fitting tribute to Peter was the fact that the donations in his memory to Marie Curie Cancer Care amounted to an amazing £1,000. Thank you.

## FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Congratulations** to Paul Edwards & partner Nicky on the birth of their baby daughter Maisey, giving Derek and Pearl Edwards their first grandchild, and another great grandchild for Jack Edwards.

**Happy 21st Birthday** to Lucy England. Lots of love from Mum, Dad & Jen.

**Happy October Birthdays** to Flora Williams, Kathleen Dorey, Thomas Dorey, Charlotte Clarke and Barbara Watkin, Clare Edwards, Stephen Sorfleet, Mary Perrin, Mark Whittall, Rebecca Overthrow, and Jean Edwards. And belated 50th birthday wishes to Tony Leech.

**Congratulations** to Noreen Haynes on her 90th birthday.

**Good luck** and best wishes to Claire Hellingham who is starting 7 years studying Architecture at the University of Kent. Love from Mum, Dad and Sarah.

**Congratulations** to Mark Whittall & Paul Edwards winning The Overton Open Bowling Competition beating Derek Edwards and John Edwards 21 - 15 in the final.

**Congratulations** to Jonnie Bell and Janine Davies on their engagement. Love from Dad & Cynthia

**Congratulations** to Russell Jones and Vicky Rogers on their recent wedding in September.

## FOR SALE

### 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 -

**Chairman & Advertising** David Burton; **Secretary** Nicole Netzband; **Treasurer** Rob Piggott; **Distribution** Cynthia Davies; **Sean Clarke, & Euan Stevenson.**

**Editor - Jill Burton.**

**Tel 710631 or e-mail**  
**editor@overton-on-dee.co.uk**

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