

The Overton Oracle



Volume 25 Issue 10

October 2023

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

MS Surgery

Our member of the Senedd for Clwyd South, Ken Skates, will be holding a surgery at Overton Village Hall on Friday October 13th 1pm to 2pm. Drop in if you have wish to discuss an issue that your representative to the Welsh Government can help with.

You don't need to book an appointment – surgeries are run on a first-come, first-served basis. Police will also be in attendance to discuss any issues constituents would like to raise with officers.

Christmas Fair

After the success of last year's Overton Village Hall Christmas Fair we have decided to organise another with all local stall holders offering their wonderful handmade gifts, delicious food/cakes, jewellery, clothing and many fabulous Xmas gift ideas. **Thursday October 26th 2pm – 6pm.** Raffle tickets with fabulous prizes. Tea/coffee and cakes for sale. Save the date and see you there!

St Mary's Open Morning

Our next School Open Morning is on Friday 6th October. There will be a tour starting 9.30am and one at 10.30am. No need to book, just pop along! See page 4.

The Bin Strike

As we all know UNITE union have announced another three weeks of strike action from 25th September. This is a NATIONAL strike and has involved heavy picketing of the Council refuse vehicle depot for maximum impact. This has resulted in seriously reduced numbers of vehicles with unpredictability of the time leaving, combined with unfamiliarity with the rounds, leading to very difficult scenarios predicting how many collections if any, where and when on any particular day.

Priority is obviously black bins, food waste and recycling. In terms of green bins council will not be tackling them till mid October and will also be looking into the issues of payments having been made and the best way of resolving this.

If I know any more or anything different I will put comments on the Overton and Penley Facebook pages.

Cllr John McCusker



Keeping the village tidy

We haven't had a Community Litter Pick around Overton's village for a while so it's about time we had one.

We will go out to pick up litter on Wednesday October 11th. Anyone who would like to volunteer, please meet me outside the Village Hall at 10.00am. If more than one person turns up we should be finished in half an hour and then you could join me at my house for tea or coffee and biscuits at 10.30am.

Thank you to Pam Roberts who regularly goes out to pick up other people's litter in the village and thank you also to Wendy Lunt who regularly picks up litter in the wider community.

Best wishes to all who volunteer their time to do positive things in Overton.

Pene Coles



Did you see the Tour of Britain come through Overton?

Bike race photos are on the Oracle website www.overtonoracle.com

Dear Editor,

Overton Village Flower and Vegetable Show, a beloved annual tradition, once again demonstrated its significance in uniting the community, transcending generational boundaries. As Wrexham City and County Borough Mayor, I'm always delighted to attend these events, and this year's fruit, flower, and vegetable show was exceptionally impressive.

The Flower and Vegetable Show has long been a cherished occasion, bringing together young and old, as it celebrates the horticultural talents of Overton Village's residents. This year's edition left attendees in awe with its impressive array of fruits, flowers, and vegetables proudly displayed by local growers.

The show not only showcases the village's green-thumb enthusiasts but also acts as a catalyst for intergenerational interactions. Families, neighbours, and friends gather to admire the diverse exhibits and exchange gardening tips, fostering a strong sense of togetherness.

The Overton Village Flower and Vegetable Show serves as a testament to the power of community gatherings in strengthening bonds and creating lasting memories. It's clear that the heart of Overton Village continues to thrive in the unity of its people, young and old alike, and I'd encourage more residents to take part in this event next year.

Andy Williams

Wrexham City & County Borough Mayor

Harvest from the Earth – Harvesting of our Souls!

.....
with **Father Jeremy**

It was fantastic to be at the Overton Produce Show in September and see so much creativity and character in all the exhibits! From huge marrows to delicious cakes, it reminded me that there are so many creative talents in the village and as harvesters, we're called to celebrate the gifts of all of every human hand – regardless of being, shape, size, nationality and variety! At our harvest festivals, let's remember who has sown the seeds and born the fruit!

Sometimes some people's gifts and personal harvests are hidden. It's often at funerals that we discover that James "volunteered for Age Concern" or Mary's embroidery was exhibited at Liverpool Cathedral – 2 recent stories revealed at services. Our harvest festival takes place on 15th October and will be followed by the Season of Remembrance.

As October ends there will be an opportunity for people to come to remember God's harvesting of the souls of those who have died – both in the last year and throughout our lives. The commemoration is known as All Souls; by God's mercy we come to offer the names of our loved ones with thanks for what they have given both us and God.

The Christian Faith reminds us that every human being is made in God's image and at our death he gathers us into his heavenly harvest. Hearing and offering these names, is a powerful statement of our belief that God's grace and love extends to everyone far beyond our imagination. It also helps us to know that although we no longer physically see the person, the memory and spirit can go on in how they have shaped our lives.

We'd like to invite you to one of our services where names will be remembered and candles lit:

- Sunday 29 October at 3pm at Hanmer
- Wednesday 1 November at 6pm at Overton

Come and thank God for the souls of our loved ones that are gathered safely with him.

Father Jeremy



Overton's Community Growers

The Community Growers fall into two groups, members who are wildlife and re-wilding enthusiasts and those who take a more conventional approach to maintaining the beautiful planters and communal spaces in the village.



The Growers have worked with St. Mary's School, the Playgroup and Overton's Twinning Association. Next year Claire Latham is hoping to hold an Open Gardens Event in the village.

Over half a dozen volunteers who were passionate about Overton's wildlife have unfortunately been lost to the group through moving house or illness. This has left Claire working mostly on her own on the little woodland meadow on the village car park. Obviously there is too much work here for one person and so The Growers desperately need more volunteers.

Grateful thanks go to the few volunteers who are still around, to Barry and Melanie for maintaining the beautiful planters on High Street and also outside the Village Hall, also to Sue England for looking after the planters outside the Scout Hut.

The village plots behind the Bowling Green are productive again now the Leylandii has been cut back and 4 mini plots are available for anyone who would like a little extra space to grow fruit, vegetables and flowers.

The Growers are planning to hold 4 meetings a year, one in each season. The first one will be held on Wednesday October 4th in The White Horse at 7pm. Please come along if you would like to volunteer or have advice to offer. You will be very welcome. For further information please contact: overtongrowers@gmail.com

Did you know !!

With October being the month when poppies are on sale - did you know that the founder of the Royal British Legion Poppy Factory was born in Overton?



In 1879 Rev. George John Howson was installed as rector of St Mary's Church, Overton in the living of the Duke of Westminster. In 1883 he published a local history, "Overton – In Days Gone By". He was Rector until 1888 and started a Temperance Society in the village, which resulted in the opening of a Cocoa and Reading room in a cottage in Penyllan Street, which was later replaced by the present building.

Rev. Howson's youngest child was George Arthur Howson MC who was born in Overton Rectory in 1886. He was an officer in the British Army in the First World War, and later the founder and Chairman of the Royal British Legion Poppy Factory. He founded the Disabled Society in 1920 which in 1922 was commissioned by the British Legion to make poppies. The two organisations merged in 1925 with Howson being Chairman of the Poppy Factory, and in 1928 it was he who instigated the Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey.

Overton Beat the Best in Cheshire!

Overton ladies tennis team compete in the Chester and District summer tennis league in the 3rd division.

They have had a very successful season, gaining promotion after finishing top of the league, with 4 of the players placed in the top ten in the division.

After a generous donation from a village resident, we ran free coaching sessions which were well attended by both juniors and seniors.

We always welcome new members of any standard. For details please contact:-

Janet Edwards mobile 07812939068 or email jgedwards56@gmail.com



Congratulations

Congratulations to Vince and Myra Worthington on their Diamond Wedding Anniversary.

Vince and Myra were married 60 years ago on October 5th 1963 at Our Lady And The Welsh Martyrs Church, the service conducted by Monsignor Webb. It was the first all Catholic wedding at the church since it was built in 1958. The wedding was followed by a reception in Overton Village Hall, following which the happy couple left in Vince's Morris Oxford for a honeymoon in London.



Recycled bags in bottle dispensers

During the last 12 months some of the dog poo bag dispensers have been taken down by mystery people for unknown reasons. Some of these have been replaced with recycled bottles and are now being filled by volunteers. Sometimes it is difficult to get a supply of bags from OCC so volunteers are supplying the bags themselves.

The bags are there for people who have forgotten to take bags out with them or for people who cannot afford to buy their own bags.

The volunteers will try their best to keep the bottles full but if there are times when this is not possible please consider offering your help and adding a few bags but please don't remove the bottle in frustration due to lack of bags.

The supply of bags SHOULD mean that dog owners have no excuse for not picking up after their dogs.

Pene Coles

Open Church & Gift Day at St Mary's - Sunday 15th October as part of our Harvest Celebration

Do join us for any part of the day which will start at 9.30am with our Harvest Family Communion Service when we celebrate God's gifts by asking people to bring not only the usual offerings of produce but also their craft work for us to display in the church over the Harvest weekend. We would like to invite everyone from our community to visit the church sometime during the day. There will be talks on Sunday 15th, the organ will be played and there will be a presentation on the proposals for further work on our 3 M's Project – Maintenance, Modernisation & Mission. Refreshments will be served throughout the day and we will close with a short thanksgiving celebration just before 4pm. The programme is -

11:15 - Talk & Demonstration of the Organ

14:15 - Tour of the church with history talk

14:30 - Demonstration of Bell Ringing

15:15 - Presentation with questions on our planned improvement work

15:45 - Concluding celebration

We have already been promised crafts from our local flock of alpacas including a fleece, a spinning wheel and some alpaca based crafts, knitted crafts and stitched crafts and contributions from the children in the community. As we celebrate these gifts, we will also praise God for the fruits of the Spirit which we reap day by day to nourish our community.

Reaching the summit

Katherine, 25, of Eastwick Plant Centre recently climbed Snowdon raising almost £2,000 for The Smith-Magenis Syndrome (SMS) Foundation UK.

Youngest daughter of Rachel and Paul Scott-Davies, Katherine was diagnosed at 18 months with Smith-Magenis Syndrome - a rare genetic condition that causes global development delay, sleep problems, challenging behaviour and learning disabilities. The SMS Foundation, run entirely by volunteers, has been a vital lifeline and an ongoing source of help, support and information over the years. It continues to make a huge difference to so many SMS children and their families across the UK.

The climb was also in memory of her Grandpa, a keen walker, who sadly passed away last year. It had always been his wish to take Katherine to the top of Snowdon and he would have been very proud of her achievement!

We are very grateful for all the many donations, kind messages and our sincere thanks for all the support.



“We are the Champions!”

The bowling season is over, unfortunately for bowling enthusiasts. However, Overton Bowling Club can look back on the season with great satisfaction.

In the 2023 season, the two Overton teams finished top of their leagues. The first team won the second division convincingly by 12 points and are now promoted to the first division for 2024.

Out of over 160 players, Overton had 6 players in the top 20. Special congratulations to Chris Probert and Dan Williams who finished first and second top scorers.

The second team also won the fifth division equally convincingly by a margin of 11 points, with Duncan Rennie finishing second out of over 150 players. 4 other second team players finished in the top 25.

Overton also had a team in the "Vets" league. This division is more relaxed but still provides competitive fun. Wally Edwards did a great job as captain, ensuring that everyone had an opportunity to play. Top scorers were John Spicer and Jim Hill, who both finished in the top 20. In conclusion, a memorable season. Next season we hope to run three teams plus "the vets" and will be aiming for more success. We will therefore be needing more keen players.



St Mary's School News - A new year begins!

The beginning of Autumn term is always a special time as we welcome the newest additions to our school family. Our new Nursery children have been settling in brilliantly and exploring their new surroundings, including our fantastic outdoor learning areas.

Reception Class have settled well into full-time school and there's been lots of fun and many happy faces as you can see from the photos!

Our whole school topic this term is based on the beautiful book 'The Lost Words' - a poetry book of 'spells' to conjure back the magic of nature that surrounds us. So, it has been a perfect opportunity for the children to get outdoors and be inspired by nature to produce their own poetry and artwork with an environmental theme. Pupils in Year 1 & 2, for instance, bathed under the canopy of the trees to connect with nature and collect sounds to inspire their own poems linked to Harvest. With lots more exciting learning experiences planned across the school on this theme, it's going to be a great term.

We would love to welcome anyone from the community and any prospective parents to come along to St Mary's and see what we offer. Our next Open Morning is on Friday 6th October. Enjoy a tour of the school, see us in action and take a look around our extensive outdoor and Forest School areas. There will be a tour starting 9.30am and one at 10.30am. No need to book, just pop along!



Overton Royal British Legion 120 Club



Results of the '120 Club' for September 2023. 117 members entered and the draw was made on 14th September by David Edwards.

Winners: 1st Prize £234.00 No 39 Alan Mawdsley
2nd Prize £117.00 No 106 David Bellis
3rd Prize £ 58.50 No 95 Peter Furber
Legion Fund: £175.50

CONGRATULATIONS

Next Draw will be on Thursday 12th October 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

Correction to p3 in the September 2023 issue

In last month's Farmers Corner it mistakenly reported that mass market pork farmers added hormones to the feed to more quickly fatten the pigs. This is not correct! UK and European law specifically prohibits such practices. We apologise for such an error. The limited use of hormones in animal feed is only admittedly allowed in the USA and even then only for beef, lamb and poultry.

Maelor Music Society

Following a very successful 52nd season, we are delighted to announce the programme for 2023/24, which brings some of the U.K.'s best musicians to the Maelor School, with the season's closing event to be held in Hanmer church.

We have kept our membership subscription once more to £40 for the 5 concerts, which represents extraordinary value to see such talented musicians at close quarters. There is no charge for children under sixteen and full-time students can attend for just £3 per concert.

On Wednesday 18th. October we present "Flutes and Frets", an award winning duo of flute and lute/guitar. They play the instruments that were used during the time the music was composed - early wooden flutes to modern metal and the 1600 invented theorbo (a lute with an extended neck and a second set of strings) to traditional lute and modern guitar. Whichever genre and instruments are played you can expect some sublime music making from these young masters of their art.



Congratulations to all who entered the 2023 Produce Show

CUP/TROPHY	AWARDED TO	CATEGORY
British Legion Cup	Margaret O’Neill	Exhibitor with Most Points
Tradesmen's Cup	Jack Platt	Runner-up
Lowther Cup	Margaret O’Neill	Overton WI Member with most points
Farmers Cup	Jenny Copley	Best in Vegetable classes 1 - 20
Trotting Mare Garage Shield	Olive Morris	Best in Class 1 – 3 onions from sets
Fitzhugh Goblet	Ted Lunt	Best in Class 6 - 5 Runner beans
Trotting Mare Inn Cup	Sue Foulkes	Best in Class 10 - 3 Tomatoes
W I Cup	Peter Rosselli	Best in Fruit classes 21-28
Healey Salver	D Wyn Rowlands	Best in Blooms classes 31 - 40
September Plate	Shirley Willis	Best in Class 36 - 3 stems, any variety
Mrs Wright’s Cup	Amanda Padley	Best in Egg classes 41 - 44
Eastwick PC Trophy	Carolyn Bellingham	Best in Pot Plant classes 45 - 49
Pam Upton Memorial Bowl	Olive Morris	Best in Floral Art classes 51 - 56
Mrs Bransby’s Cup	Olive Morris	Best in Class 51 - “Respect our rivers”
Mrs Woodhouse’s Bowl	Amanda Padley	Best in Class 56 Comical container/Novice
Mrs Sumpsions Tray	Liz Coward	Best in Cookery classes 61-70
M E Evans Trophy	Jon Moore	Best in Class 68 - 5 Sausage rolls
Twinning Assoc Trophy	Margaret O’Neill	Best in Class 69 - 3 Welsh cakes
Bryn y Pys Cup	Margaret O’Neill	Best in Preserves Classes 71 - 78
Kath Hamlington Trophy	Margaret O’Neill	Best in Beverages Class 81 - 86
Mary Huxley Autumn Trophy	Sue Foulkes	Best in Photography Classes 91 - 92
Mrs Price Jones Shield	Jack Platt	Best in Class 95 - Vegetable Jewellery
Mrs Watts Shield	Overton Playcentre HC	Best in Class 96 - Bug House/Bee Hotel
Mrs Wason’s Shield	Elen Banwell	Best in Class 97 - 3 Rice crispy cakes
21st Anniversary Shield	Overton Playcentre HC	Best in Classes 95 - 97



This year’s Village Produce Show on September 2nd, was a record one, with 87 people entering with 489 entries, ranging from giant marrows to tiny tomatoes, beautiful blooms to tasty tarts.



The judges were once again impressed by the standard of entries, and it was gratifying to see the number of people who packed the hall in the afternoon to admire the wonderful exhibits and enjoy the refreshments.

Huge thanks must go to the judges, the stewards and organisers, the refreshments providers and all those people who brought their wonderful entries to the hall. Thanks also to the Mayor of Wrexham Cllr Andy Williams and his Consort, his son Luke Williams, who presented the trophies.

Do put the first Saturday of September in your 2024 diaries!
Colour photos on Oracle website




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Whats's On

October Diary for St Mary's

Sunday Oct 1st 9.30am All Age Worship
 Sunday Oct 8th 9.30am Holy Communion
 Sunday Oct 15th 9.30am Harvest Festival
 Sunday Oct 22nd 9.30am Holy Communion
 Sunday Oct 29th 11.00am Joint Mission Area Holy Communion,
 guest preacher Dr Hayley Mathews Archdeacon of Wrexham



October Diary for Overton Methodist Chapel

Sunday Oct 1st 2.30pm Harvest Festival Rev. Neville Pugh
 Sunday Oct 8th 2.30pm Ms Sian Edwards
 Sunday Oct 15th 2.30pm Mr Tim Guy
 Sunday Oct 22nd 2.30pm Rev John Wiggall
 Sunday Oct 29th 2.30pm Rev James Eaton Challinor

Services at Our Lady And The Welsh Martyrs

Every Saturday 5.00pm Mass

The Community Hub, Mondays in October from 2.00 - 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

Wednesday October 4th 1.00pm-4.00pm Spinning Wheel
 Craft Group meeting at the Catholic Hall.

Wednesday October 4th 7.00pm Overton Growers meeting in
 The White Horse

Monday October 9th 6.30pm Overton Community Council
 meeting in the Parish Room. Members of the public
 wishing to speak can do so 6.20pm - 6.30pm

Wednesday October 11th 10.00am Community Litter Pick.
 Meet at the Village Hall

Thursday October 12th 7.00pm Overton Branch Royal British
 Legion meeting in the Parish Room

Friday October 13th 1pm- 2pm Ken Skates MS Surgery at the
 Village Hall

Sunday October 15th St Mary's Open Church & Gift Day

Wednesday October 18th 7.30pm Maelor Music Society
 presents "Flutes & Frets" in the Maelor School

Thursday October 19th 7.00pm Overton on Dee WI Meeting
 in the Village Hall. Floral Demonstration by 'Vivid
 Floral Design'.

Monday October 23rd 7.00pm Oracle Editorial Meeting in the
 Recreational Club

Tuesday October 24th 6.30pm Friends of St Marys Thank You
 evening in St Marys Church

Wednesday October 25th 7.00pm Overton History Group
 meeting in St Marys Church

Friday October 26th 2pm-6pm Overton Village Hall Christmas
 Fair in the Village Hall

Saturday October 28th 10am-12pm Methodist Church Coffee
 Morning

Saturday October 28th - Halloween Family Event & Treasure
 Hunt at Overton Recreational Club, look for posters!

Family Announcements

Congratulations to Vince and Myra
 Worthington for their Diamond Wedding
 Anniversary on October 5th.



Happy 50th Birthday to Mark Whittall
Happy 60th Birthday to Kathleen Dorey
Happy October Birthdays to Seren



Manley, Mary Perrin, Thomas Dorey,
 Charlotte Clarke, Rebecca Overthrow, Jean Edwards,
 Stephen Sorfleet, James Wright, Martha Roberts,
 Lesley Davies, Tomos Williams, Sophie Blythen,
 Beverley Thelwell, Vi Taylor, Sally Green, Cath
 Roberts and Brenda Farrell

Sincere condolences to the family & friends
 of Edith Hodgson who sadly passed away on 3rd
 September. Her husband Geoff and all her family
 would like to thank everyone for their cards, flowers
 and kind words.

For Sale

Zanussi Dishwasher, 60cms wide.

Good condition, has hardly been used.

£60

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Dustbin Days

Thurs Oct. 5th General Waste & Recycling/food

Thurs Oct. 12th *Garden Waste & Recycling/food*

Thurs Oct. 19th General Waste & Recycling/food

Thurs Oct. 26th *Garden Waste & Recycling/food*

146 Bus Timetable

	*	#			
Wrexham K St	8.25	8.25	11.25	14.00	17.00
Overton	8.45	8.53	11.53	14.28	17.28
Whitchurch	9.15	9.30	12.30	15.00	18.00
Whitchurch	7.20	9.20	9.40	12.40	15.05
Overton	7.51	9.51	10.11	13.11	15.45
Wrexham K St	8.25	10.25	10.40	13.45	16.20

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Saturday & School holidays

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