

The Overton Oracle

Volume 25 Issue 9

September 2023

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



Village Produce Show Sat Sept 2

Bring entries to the Village Hall between 8.30am and 10.30am. Open to the public from 2.30pm, raffle & refreshments. Trophies presented at 4.00pm by the Mayor of Wrexham, Cllr Andy Williams. Details of classes are available on www.overtonoracle.com



Hooray, Tim's Family Disco Night is back!

Saturday 2nd September from 7pm at the Recreational Club. Early fun and games for the kids, late night knees up for the adults, everyone welcome.

Renew your garden waste bin

The charge for 2023/24 is £35 per green bin per year, from September 4th, 2023. Renew wrexham.gov.uk/gardenwaste

Date for the Diary

St Mary's Church Harvest Festival and Gift Day will be on Sunday October 15th.



Overton slows down!

From September 17th, everywhere that you see street lights you should assume that the speed limit is 20mph unless otherwise signed. This is a Welsh government national change that all local

authorities in Wales MUST comply with to reduce accidents by 40%, saving 6-10 lives, and avoiding between 1,200 and 2,000 people being injured every year.

Not all will change to 20mph but the vast majority will. There are currently about 10 exemptions in the whole of Wrexham which didn't meet the relevant criteria set by Welsh government, and they tend to be small sections, "buffer" zones where currently there is a drop in speed between the national speed limit and the 20mph zone. There are **none** locally. The nearest is a small section on the outskirts of Marchwiell.

The Police and GoSafe will continue to enforce 20mph like any other speed limit. Speed limits in the Road Traffic Regulations apply to motor vehicles, so don't be surprised if you are overtaken by a pushbike.

As I mentioned last month ALL 30mph roads in Wales will be defaulted down to 20mph and any exceptions will be signed - so if it was 30mph it is now 20mph - as simple as that! YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED.

Cllr John McCusker



World's Biggest Coffee Morning

Macmillan Cancer Support is just one of the many wonderful organisations that rely heavily on charity to offer the great service they provide. So make sure you have this date in your diary, and that you come along and join us in raising as much as possible for this worthy cause.

Overton's Macmillan Coffee Morning will be in the Catholic Church Hall (easy parking round the back) on Friday 29th September from 10.30am till 12.30pm. Please contact Sheila Miller milleroverton22@yahoo.co.uk if you can help with baking and / or raffle prizes. Please just come along and join in.



Tour of Britain Cycle Race comes through Overton

The Tour of Britain cycle race 2023 is from September 3rd to 10th. Stage two of the event will take place in Wrexham, starting and finishing there on Monday September 4th. The 'tour village' will be based at Llwyn Isaf (by the Wrexham Library). This will include cycling themed activities and stalls. The route in Wrexham comprises a clockwise loop. Leaving Chester Street at 11.45am, the riders will pass through Llay, Gresford, Rossett, Holt, into England, via Churton, Alford, Bruera, Gatesheath, Beeston, Peckforton, Bickerton, Ebnal to Malpas, Worthenbury, Bangor on Dee at 1.30pm, Penley at 1.52pm, **OVERTON at 2.00pm**, Eyton, Johnstown, Ruabon, Rhos and back to Wrexham for approx 2.37pm. Some roads will be temporarily closed using rolling closures. Spectators will be able to see some of the biggest names in cycling passing - very quickly - along Overton High Street!



Calling all budding filmmakers!

The Overton Amateur Dramatics Society will be holding its first film festival on the 14th of October 2023. We are delighted to invite members of the wider community to join in with their creative talents! Each film will be a maximum of 10 minutes long, and the genre requirement is comedy-horror. If you would like to take part by submitting a short film, please contact through the Overton Amateur Dramatics Society Facebook page for information about submissions. The deadline to send us your completed film for review is the 23rd of September 2023. Tickets to attend the evening will be released in September. We look forward to another fun-filled evening in the Village Hall!

What a week!

What a wonderful, joyous, jam-packed week! This year we welcomed 16 French "Twins" from La Murette, including 10 very hungry, active teens. We had an absolutely fabulous, busy week filled with plenty of activities and "down-time". Even the extremely changeable Welsh weather didn't dampen the belly-laughs, smiles and fun. We need to thank so many of our wonderful local businesses and villagers – we could not have done this without their good-natured, selfless help. For many of us, it was our 1st time organising this Twinning Week and are all humbled by the generosity and geniality of our fellow Overtonians. We also couldn't have done it without the help, advice and expertise of those Twinners who have done all this before – their guidance, warm assurances and general unflappability were invaluable.

We would like you to see the sheer numbers of people working behind the scenes to make it all happen:

Overton Scouts - For the use of the Scout Hut and kitchen as a "base" for the week.

Overton Community Council - For the grant, and for continuing to support the Twinning Association.

Bowling Club - For hosting us and teaching us the basics of how to play the (very difficult) crown green bowling.

Tennis Club - For hosting us at the tennis courts and showing us the basics of tennis for those who have never tried.

Recreational Club – For hosting us on the Friday night and allowing us the use of all the fabulous snooker, pool and darts equipment, while allowing us to eat our "own" pizzas.

Village Hall - For allowing us to use the ovens to cook pizzas for the games evening in the Recreational Club.

The Boathouse, Ellesmere – For putting on a magnificent meal "out of hours".

Practical Minibus Hire - (Marchwiel) – For supplying the minibuses and being flexible when plans changed.

Trotting Mare Campsite – For giving me a free pitch for the week so that I could stay there in my camper van while giving a family of 4 the use of my house in Overton.

The Cross Foxes Pub - For giving Johan Ancel, one of the La Murette lads, paid work experience prior to the week.

Barry and Melanie Metcalfe – For planting and maintaining the Twinning stone, Cenotaph and Village Hall frontage; the flowers seemed to be at their most magnificent for the twinning week – the village looked so vibrant and beautiful.

Barbara and Stu Wilson – for the use of their stunning garden to host a twinning BBQ. Almost 50 of us descended on their garden and partied into the night.

Mike Evans Butcher - For supplying meats for the twinning week & supporting twinning events throughout the year.

The Hosts – For putting up the 6 French families – opening their houses to total strangers; feeding them every morning, lunchtime and some evenings for an entire week, driving them and generally looking after them.

The Cooks – For contributing to the catering of meals, picnics, cakes, soup, teas, coffees, etc etc

The Drivers – Thank you in particular to Clive Hellingman, who drove the 16 seater almost every day – he gave up his time and effort and coped with all the last minute changes of plan (due to the weather / football) with humour and good grace.

The "Behind-the Scenes" Crew – Washer uppers, cleaners, drivers, gophers (particularly Niamh and Eleora), gazebo-putter-uppers, (and gazebo-taker-downers), ad hoc (and ad lib) tour guides, recyclers, flower arrangers, organisers, printers.

The Translators – Particular thanks to Georgina Mason, who translated many of the activities' pamphlets.

All the Overtonians! Without YOU, supporting all our fund-raising events throughout the year, we could not do any of this – ALL the money raised goes ONLY to our French guests, so that once every 2 years, when they come here to visit our beautiful village and country, they can sample a little of our way of life.

Next year, 2024, will be the 30th Anniversary of the Overton / La Murette Twinning Association. A contingent of Overtonians will be travelling over there, so if you're interested in joining us, please just get in touch! If you live in or around Overton, you are automatically part of it, so please email me at the following address: kathy.crockford@btinternet.com **Vive le Jumelage!**

Lots and lots of beautiful photos of the week are available on the Oracle website overtonoracle.com

Bellringing update

The St Mary's bell ringers are all members of the North Wales Association of Church Bell Ringers (www.nwacbr.wales), and this year we celebrate the 120th anniversary of the Association. 120 is a significant number in bell ringing (with 5 bells there are 120 possible ways in which to sequence the bells) and so in June we celebrated with a gala dinner. Father Jeremy Dussek (*photo right*) was our guest speaker because of his connection to bell ringing in the past.

The wooden frame that holds the bells in place in St Mary's tower was built by James Jacques in 1826. When the weather is warm, as it was in early July, wood shrinks, and so we take the opportunity to tighten the large bolts holding the frame together to prevent movement. We also give the tower and bells a general check over. Here's Pauline (*photo left*), who thought it would be a good idea to wear white shorts for the job, in action.

The bells of St Chad's Church, Hanmer went away to be refurbished in February this year and returned in June. On July 15th, three St Mary's ringers rang a full peal immediately following the wedding of the daughter of Lady Hanmer. It was the first peal at first attempt for Pauline and Sam and the first on the refurbished bells. If you ever want to come and watch us ringing St Mary's church bells, just call in on a Tuesday, anytime between 6.00pm-7.30pm.



Farmer's Corner - part 2

Pen-y-Lan Pork, now based just outside Overton, has been established for nearly 20 years. Mike Ford is the proprietor of the business and has always had a passion for pigs. This month Mike continues the story of Pen-y-Lan Pork.

"Last month I talked about my love of pigs and what was involved in pig farming, however you may remember that I ended up talking about sausage production.

The sheer economics of pig farming drove me away from my love of pigs and pig farming to a realisation that I had to make money to survive. Pig farming has become a mass market, streamlined production, a one size fits all process and

within that process the small pig farmer and the small family abattoir was squeezed to almost the point of non-existence. A good example of this is the price the farmer gets for his pigs. The wholesalers have set a specific range of weight that each pig must be within, under or over weight is penalised by a reduction in price paid / Kg. Pigs reared outdoors by small family farmers develop slower than the mass market pigs because they are not fed the growth hormones fed to the mass market herds. In addition, the healthier lifestyle with much more exercise results in richer, heavier meat and thus, size for size, pigs reared on the smaller farms are heavier, but the small scale farmer is paid less for better quality meat. Does this make any sense?

I was fortunate that I had already started a successful line in sausages, deservedly recognised as Wales Finest Sausage Producer, so I reluctantly decided to cede my pig farming to a colleague who had the same ethos as I did, **QUALITY COMES FIRST!**

The same biased one-size fits all, mass market approach applies to the whole process of Farm to Fork pork products. The number of abattoirs has reduced by 40% over the last 15 years. Now, due to the pride in butchery skills being lost in order to meet the high throughput requirements, there is a lack of qualified butchers which poses a serious bottleneck to the whole industry. I was fortunate to have one of the few, and probably the best small family run abattoir, very local. There I could confidently identify my pig through the abattoir process, so that at the end I could take home the quality of pork that was necessary to meet my required standards for the pork products that I sell. Otherwise, your pig just ends up as just another pig, any previous additional quality due to the care in rearing, being lost.

Although every part of a pig is used, making pig meat products such very good value, in order to keep prices down, the British Pork Industry has become a producer of a mass market product where taste and quality have been relegated to last place in the dialogue. The overall British Pork market, domestic and exports, has declined over the last 5 years, with domestic pork consumption down, due to consumers eating less meat, and exports down, noticeably to China where their domestic market has not recovered from a significant dip during Covid.

There have also been major changes on the production side, with the number of pig farmers with herd sizes above 750 decreasing by 40% over the last 10 years. Although originally the size of the herd then increased to compensate, this was insufficient to stop a steady and significant decline. The numbers of small farmer (>750/ herd) has also declined with now less than 10,000 farms, however this may be good news for the small farmers who are generally focussed on the domestic market with quality pork products, such as Pen-y-Lan Pork, where demand has been maintained and actually marginally increased. A big Thank You therefore, to all our customers.

The range of Pork products that I sell has increased steadily until now, in both variety and quantity, we are at full capacity and I have been asked several times whether I would take on an additional worker. Although the volume of business is certainly there, I worry that however good that worker may be, quality might suffer. So we stay as we are, just Wendy and me! We make our sausages using only the finest cuts of outdoor reared pigs, using cuts such as the loin and leg then finished off with natural skins. This is very unlike the mass market specimens that comprise a large mass of back fat and filler, and are finished using the much cheaper option of synthetic skins.

Try our products for yourselves via The Overton Corner Shop, who will be pleased to discuss the complete range of Pen-y-Lan Pork products and will also order in anything they do not currently have. Don't be surprised if you

have to wait a few days as everything is made fresh and delivered, personally, to the shop each week.."



Gin, Ice Cream and Bread

Book a ticket for an evening of gin, ice cream & bread at Ma Bakers, Friday 15th September. 6.30- 8.30pm. For tickets email Liz mabakerbakes@gmail.com

Erbistock Harvest Supper will be on Friday, 6th October at 7.00pm in Overton Village Hall. Hotpot & homemade crumbles. Bar & raffle. Tickets £15 from Chris Thomas chris.yewtree@outlook.com All proceeds will go to support St Hilary's church.

Library story time

Join PC Hulley, School Police Officer, who will be at Overton Library for "Sarah's Holiday" - a story about our fantastic Emergency Services, on Friday 1st September 2023 at 2.30pm.

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.



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

OVERTON - ON - 1939 -

OUR HISTORY

The British Legion was founded in London in 1921, the purpose being to support service men and women, veterans, and their families. The "Royal" appellation was granted on 29th May 1971.

Today there are approximately 2,500 branches across the United Kingdom and overseas. These branches are instrumental in raising funds for the Poppy Appeal, which helps the RBL to provide support to more than 90,000 people who turn to them for help every year.



Peter Rosselli
President

OVERTON BRANCH

There has been a branch in Overton since 21st March 1939.

So for 84 years members of the "Legion" have been present in the community to act as a link to a national network of support available to serving and ex-serving personnel.

They have also been active in fundraising for the Poppy Appeal, which continues year round, and not just in October and November.

IN 2023

There is still a branch in Overton on Dee, and we are still supporting the aims of the organisation. Many of you are members of our highly successful RBL 120 Club, which enables us to send an average of £1,500 to the Poppy Appeal every year. We also attend other events such as the recent Street Market, when they occur.

WHO ARE WE?

Our loyal members are all either residents or have connections to Overton.

Here on these pages, you will see images of the Overton Branch members who are part of the committee or have a role in other branch activities.



Dave Austin
Chairman

Standard Bearers



Martin
Hughes



Richard
Jones



Like our Facebook page - Look for
'Overton-on-Dee Royal British Legion'

DEE BRANCH

2023



REMEMBRANCE

On Remembrance Sunday in November the RBL together with Overton Community Council and St. Mary's Church are central in organising Overton's tribute to the fallen of two world wars and of other conflicts.

This is an occasion when representatives of all sections of the community come together to remember those who fell, from the local area.

A NEED FOR NEW MEMBERS !

We are a small group, and sadly our numbers are diminishing!! To enable the Overton branch to continue, we desperately need new members to continue the good work that has been done over the last 84 years – it would be wonderful to see the RBL Overton celebrate its centenary!!

As a forward looking organisation the Royal British Legion of today is always looking for fresh ideas in achieving its aims even more effectively.

If you would like to join us, or would just like to attend one of our meetings to see " what it is all about" - here are the details :-

Meetings are at 7pm on the second Thursday of each month at the Parish Room, Overton.

See also "What's On" in the Overton Oracle.

Contact Numbers: Dave Austin 01978 710678
Jean Williams 01978 710423



Alan Maudsley
Vice Chairman



Jean Williams
Secretary

Poppy Appeal



Tracey
Leech



Julie
Birrell



Pages 4 and 5, featuring the Overton Branch of the Royal British Legion, have been sponsored by Cable Services Group

What's On

September Diary for St Mary's

Sunday Sept. 3rd 9.30am All Age Worship
 Sunday Sept. 10th 9.30am Holy Communion and
 Celebration of patronal day led by Father Jeremy Dussek
 Sunday Sept. 17th 9.30am Family Communion led by
 Rev Harry Edwards
 Sunday Sept. 24th 9.30am Holy Communion led by
 Rev Michael Winwood

September Diary for Overton Methodist Chapel

Sunday Sept. 3rd 6.00pm Welcome Service for
 Revd James Eaton Challinor at
 Wrexham Methodist Church
 Sunday Sept. 10th 2.30pm Revd James Eaton Challinor
 Sunday Sept. 17th 2.30pm Revd. Neville Pugh
 Sunday Sept. 24th 2.30pm Worship led by members

Services at Our Lady And The Welsh Martyrs

Every Saturday 5.00pm Mass

The Community Hub, Mondays in September

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

Saturday September 2nd Overton Village Open Produce
 Show. Open to the public 2.30pm- 4.30pm

Saturday September 2nd 7.00pm Tim's Family Disco
 Night + children's games at the Recreational Club

Monday September 4th 2.00pm Tour of Britain Cycle
 Race comes through Overton

Wednesday September 6th 1.00pm-4.00pm Spinning
 Wheel Craft Group meeting at the Catholic
 Church Hall.

Thursday September 14th 7.00pm Overton Branch Royal
 British Legion meeting in the Parish Room

Friday September 15th 6.30pm-8.30pm Gin, Ice Cream
 and Bread at Ma Bakers. Tickets from Liz at
mabakerbakes@gmail.com

Wednesday September 20th 7.00pm Overton History
 Group meeting in the Parish Room

Thursday September 21st 7.00pm Overton on Dee WI
 Meeting in the Village Hall. Speaker: "Malpas
 Cheese" with Hugo Bourne

Tuesday September 26th 7.00pm Oracle Editorial
 Meeting in the Recreational Club

Friday September 29th 10.30am-12.30pm Macmillan
 Nurses Coffee Morning at Catholic Church Hall

Saturday September 30th 10am - 12pm Methodist
 Church Coffee Morning

Family Announcements



Congratulations to Charlotte and Alex
 in Toronto on the birth of Isla Seren Evie, a sister for
 Alfie. Love from John and Catherine Eve.

Happy September Birthdays to Bev Manley,
 Hannah Roberts, Lucas Pimparel, Melissa
 Haynes, Euan Stevenson, Val Stevenson, Ross
 Morrison, David (Wavy) Williams, Charlotte Eve,
 Pauline Lynch, Kayleigh Cheshire, Haf and Aoife
 Edwards, Laura Marks, Holly Lynch, Myra
 Worthington, Pauline Edwards, Marion Sinclair, Amy
 Leech, Simon Edwards, Rob Lawrenson, Stephen
 Evison, Sarah Fell-Groom, Ian Roberts, Vince
 Worthington, Jean Hughes & Dave Austin.



Sincere condolences to the family and friends of
 Robin Smith of Salop Road, who passed away on
 20th August.

Dustbin Days

Thurs Sept. 7th General Waste & Recycling/food
 Thurs Sept. 14th Garden Waste & Recycling/food
 Thurs Sept. 21st General Waste & Recycling/food
 Thurs Sept. 28th Garden Waste & Recycling/food



Overton Royal British Legion 120 Club

Results of the '120 Club' for August 2023. 116
 members entered and the draw was made on 10th
 August by Steve Whitley.

Winners: 1st Prize £232.00 No 106 David Bellis
 2nd Prize £116.00 No 119 Richard Jones
 3rd Prize £ 58.00 No 25 Josie Ralphs
 Legion Fund: £174.00

CONGRATULATIONS

Next Draw will be on Thursday 14th September 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

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

Your Oracle Team -
Chairman John Herbert,
Treasurer & Advertising
Barry Metcalfe,
Distribution Cynthia
Davies, Euan Stevenson,
Jenny Bellis, Pene Coles,
Gwynneth Austin &
Claire Williams
Editor - Jill Burton.
Tel 710631 or e-mail
overtonoracle@gmail.com

All articles & advertisements in the Overton Oracle are published in good faith & without prejudice. Space constraints mean that submitted articles may be edited or not published. Please be mindful that personal details submitted will be available on the internet.

The Overton Oracle is printed by <http://wtefans-printers.co.uk>, Wrexham. Tel. No. 01978 821292
 e-mail: sales@wtefans-printers.co.uk

The Oracle is delivered FREE to more than 650 homes in the Overton Area. Our thanks go the volunteer distributors who make sure you receive your copy each month. We operate a postal service for our long distance readers, and we are also on the Web.
www.overtonoracle.com You can e-mail us at overtonoracle@gmail.com

Useful telephone numbers; POLICE: non emergency calls -101 LITTER CLEARANCE: 01978 298989

email: overtonoracle@gmail.com