

The Overton Oracle

Volume 17 Issue 4

Overton's Free Newspaper - delivered to every household monthly

April 2015



Opening Ceremony

Opening ceremony of new play equipment at the playing field, 3.30pm on Sunday 26th April

Real Ale Trail

The White Horse is part of the Wrexham Real Ale Trail on Saturday April 18th. Bus runs every 30 mins 11am - 11pm. Tickets available from the White Horse.

OCC Drop-in

The next Overton Community Council drop-in will be at the Village Hall Nearly New Sale 1-3pm Sunday 26th April.

Nearly New Sale

Overton Playcentre are holding the next baby & children Nearly New sale on Sunday April 26th 1-3pm at the Village Hall. Admission £1, children free.

For more details or to sell goods contact 01978 710688 or OvertonNNS@hotmail.co.uk

Come grab a bargain, baby, children and maternity clothes, bursary equipment, pushchairs, toys and puzzles, all at great prices.

10th Welshampton Plant Sale Monday 4th May 12 -3pm at Welshampton Parish Hall. Special Plant Auction and Top Tips from Head Gardener at Eaton Hall

Overton WI celebrates 90th birthday

Overton On Dee WI held their 90th Birthday Celebration Dinner in the Village Hall on the 19th March. 53 members and friends from other local WI's (Erbistock, Ellesmere, Criftins, Lyneal and Worthenbury) had a very enjoyable evening. After the excellent 3 course meal provided by Harvey's of Tarporley, Heather Dulson, WI Federation Trustee presented a certificate to our president to mark our 90 years as a WI and Glenys Wheeler proposed the toast. The birthday cake was cut by Mrs Betty Williams, our oldest member who joined our WI 67 years ago.

We were then entertained with original monologues and poems from 'wordybirdies' supported by The Arts Council of Wales scheme 'Night Out/Noson Allan'. They started with a skit on call centres and finished with a very funny song on the wonders to be bought from the middle aisle of Lidl.



Photos of the party are available to download on the Overton Oracle website www.overtonoracle.com

Overton Outdoors

Overton Community Council are holding an opening ceremony on Sunday 26th April, 3.30pm, to say a 'big thank you' to everyone involved with the fundraising and installation of three new additional pieces of play equipment at Overton Playingfields (4M High Activity Net, Nesting Swing and Wooden Train comprising of an engine and two carriages). This equipment was purchased and installed following a successful grant application with WREN and many hours of fundraising carried out by volunteers and residents.

Dates for Drama

Overton Amateur Dramatic Society have announced their next production "See How They Run", a farce by Philip King, on Friday 1st May & Saturday 2nd May in the Village Hall. Curtain up at 7.30pm. Tickets £5 available on the door.



The Rev. Lionel Toop's wife, Penelope, is an ex-actress. While Lionel is away Clive, a actor friend, calls and invites Penelope to dine in town which is out of bound's to servicemen so dresses in Lionel's blacks. Miss Skillon, a parishioner, sees the couple repeating one of their theatrical scenes and draws the wrong conclusion. Matters become highly complicated when Lionel arrives, followed by the Bishop of Lax and a German POW disguised as a vicar!

Ramblings from the Reverend

by Rev'd Canon David Child



There's this story of a rector who was asked to take the funeral of one of his parishioners, someone who he'd never seen in church. He phoned the wife and arranged to visit her. Now when I go on such a visit I try first to get all the important details of time, place, readings, poems, hymns, tribute, CDs, donations in memory, etc. and then when I'm sure I've got all the info I need and also a feel of the situation, it's then that I have a general chit-chat with the family.

But that's not what this rector did. When he saw the grieving widow, he immediately tried to console her and asked, 'Did your husband believe in life after death?' 'Oh no' she replied, 'He thought that religion was all stuff and nonsense'. 'Oh dear' said the rector and then not sure what to say next went on, 'You see it's such a comfort to believe that death is not the end.' He then went on to tell the Easter story and how the resurrection of Jesus, brings us the promise that we shall all rise to a better life in heaven, where we shall meet again all those from whom we've been parted and spend eternity with them.' At that moment the widow, to the astonishment of the rector burst into tears. When eventually she could speak the old lady explained 'He was a real rotter He was a beep, bleep, bleep, bleep. I was so glad to get rid of him and now you tell me we've got to spend all eternity together!'

The rector left the house, silently praying for forgiveness because he'd made a complete and utter hash of his visit. But then when he thought some more about it he realised that what he should have done was to tell the story that Jesus told about a king throwing a party, and then when there weren't enough guests to fill the palace, sending his servants out to find homeless people and tramps, good and bad and 'compel them to come in.' No one after all is beyond the reach of God's love and forgiveness.

Now I can think of several people who wouldn't want to spend eternity with me, as I am now. But the 'me' that you meet when in God's love we meet again will be the 'me' I always had the potential to be but never quite made it. Then we shall look at each other and say, 'Oh it's you – I always knew you had it in you to be like that.'

Please do join us in St Mary's for our Easter Communion Service with Blessing of Easter Eggs at 10 am on Easter Sunday – you're all welcome!

With every blessing
David

Remembering Barbara

Barbara Watkin, who died on 8th March, was a well known and much loved resident of Overton since she moved here in 1976.



Born in Rainhill, Liverpool, in 1932, she had early memories of American GIs passing her parents house on their way to the airfield in Warrington, chucking chewing gum and chocolate to the local children.

After school at Wade Deacon Grammar, Widnes, she trained as a PE teacher in Liverpool, and taught at several grammars before moving to Roughwood Comprehensive in Kirkby. This was her most challenging post, but her favourite, especially when the netball team honoured her by turning up in strips printed "Watkins' Wonders".

She moved to Overton in 1976, by which time she was lecturing at Cartrefle. John and Catherine Eve were among her students and remained good friends ever since. She became involved in local clubs, playing tennis, darts, captaining the ladies' cricket team and latterly playing bowls. Off the sportsfields, she was an excellent Bridge player, a committed member of the Liberal Party and of Overton Royal British Legion.

Following her retirement in 1988, she devoted much time to fund raising and after two rejections, was instrumental in obtaining a substantial Millennium Lottery Grant to renovate the Village Hall. Those of us privileged to be at her 60th birthday bash there remember her exuberance on the dance floor.

She and her partner, Den Owen, shared 18 happy years together, and shared proud interest in their extended families. She was a loving and generous aunt and great aunt. She and Den spent many winters in Malta where they continued to make friends. At home, their garden was a birds' paradise and a bird watchers' delight and was filled with flowers that gave her great pleasure.

Wanted Explorer Scout Leader

Bryn-y-Pys Explorer Scout Unit are seeking a man/woman 18+ to lead the unit into the future. An interest in outdoor activities would be an advantage. Please contact David Burton on 01978 710631 or come and see us at the Scout Hut on a Monday evening between 7.30 & 9.30pm.

'Let Your Voice Be Heard'

Wanted: Singers/Dancers, all ages, for forthcoming production. More details in next months Oracle or contact Mervyn Haynes 710740

Kids Kolumn



This month's contributions are from Bryn Harris, Caitlin Baker, and Olivia Rebel.



Happy Easter! In this country, the easter bunny plays a big part in our celebrations, by handing out eggs to good boys and girls. But what happens in other countries?

In **Sweden** children dress up as the Easter wizard and deliver decorated Easter eggs to their neighbours in the hope of getting money or sweets.

In **Poland** Easter is known as smigus-dyngus or Wet Monday. Traditionally boys drench friends and neighbours with buckets of water.

In **Greece** they paint eggs in the colour to represent the blood of christ.

In **Finland** children disguise themselves as witches and hand out willow twigs decorated with feathers and crepe paper in return for chocolate eggs to drive the evil spirits away and they chant a traditional rhyme which translates as 'a twig for you, a treat for me!'

Crack a code !

Caesar communicated with his generals using a simple encoding scheme. He would offset every letter by 3, so an A would become D. In other words, he would turn A into the number 1, then add 3 to make 4 and D is the 4th letter of the alphabet. Using an offset of 3 B becomes E and C becomes F etc.



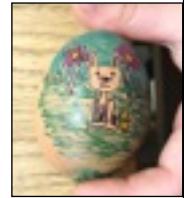
In the code below I have used an offset of 4 instead of 3. Try and work out the Easter message that has been encoded. Remember that you need to convert the letter to its position in the alphabet, take away 4 and then convert back to a letter

Good luck

LEZIWSQIGLGSPEXICIKKW

Decorate your eggs

1. Get some eggs. The more the better!
2. Next, get a fork and poke two holes in the egg, one in the top and one in the bottom. Be careful not to crack the shell!
3. Blow hard into a hole and the yolk should come out. This is quite hard, so ask an adult to help.
4. Do this to all the eggs and now you are ready to decorate them however you want. Use felt tips so it's nice and colourful! Here are some I've done to give you ideas!
5. You can put them on the window sill or anywhere. But remember eggs are very breakable. So I wouldn't put them somewhere they can get stepped on or squished!!



90 Years Ago !

Overton Women's Institute was established in 1925, with the first monthly meeting taking place at the Parish Room (in those days upstairs) in February of that year. Until December the new Institute was naturally linked with Flintshire, when it was decided it would be more convenient to become affiliated to Shropshire Federation.



Mrs Tucker of The Lodge, Wrexham Rd, was the first President and Mrs Lindsay of the High Street was the first Secretary with the membership increasing rapidly from twenty-five to sixty-eight by the end of the year. The members soon became involved in the life of the village, providing all the schoolchildren with a Christmas tea, working to raise money for the building of the Village Hall, taking care of the War Memorial and providing teas at the cricket matches (the profit being divided between the Cricket Club and the Institute).

In 1927 the meetings were moved to the newly opened Village Hall (on Mondays) with Lady Southwell of Knolton Hall as President and Mrs Lloyd of Queensbridge as Secretary. By now there were one hundred and forty-three members. During the early years garden meetings were held at The Lodge, at Knolton Hall and at Gwernhaylod, including a picnic by the river. A choir was formed with Mr Ed Haynes as conductor, and also a Drama Group. The first Whist Drive and Dance was held in October 1929, becoming an annual event until the 1950s. In the summer of 1930 members enjoyed an outing to Liverpool to look over a liner and later in the year provided Christmas tea for 179 village children. In February 1931 meetings were changed to the third Thursday of the month, which has remained the same to this day.

Bullseye Quiz Final

Overton Recreational Club recently held its 2015 Bullseye Quiz Final. The winning pair were Cynthia Davies and Thomas Dorey, and the runners up were Brian Malam and Dave Edwards.

(see photo from left to right).

Dilys and Joan were thanked and each presented with a bouquet of flowers from the committee and members for all their hard work in putting on the Bullseye Quiz.



Dear Editor,

It would appear that the Oracle reaches the offices of Wrexham County Council...

Just a few days after my letter appeared in the Oracle about the condition of the road in Bangor Road and Turning Street, the heavy machinery moved in!

Never underestimate the power of the press.....

Ken Roberts

Dear Editor,

Further to Jim & Val Hill's letter last month I would also like to say how much I have enjoyed being part of the Overton Bowling Club. I moved here from Oswestry 4 years ago and for the last 3 years have played in the Veterans B Team where we have great fun. Come and have a go. The Club has bowls you can use and you will be made very welcome.

Babs Bone

It has always been the policy of the Overton Oracle not to publish anonymous letters. Writers must supply a name and address to the editorial committee, but can request that when published, a letter ends with "name and address supplied". Editor

Twinnings go bowling in red noses

Overton on Dee Twinning Association killed two birds with one stone on Saturday 14 March when they helped the local Bowling Club tidy up their garden ready for the new season (which begins on Saturday 29 March - new members welcome!) and raised cash for Comic Relief by sporting silly hats and serving tea and cakes in the pavilion. The weather was kind for the time of year and the job was done in two hours, confirming the adage "Many hands make light work". £220 was raised for Comic Relief, so a grand 'Merci' to all who participated. The Twinning Association is open to everyone in the Village, young and old, and holds various events to help cover the costs of entertaining visitors from La Murette in August. What an opportunity for students to improve their French!



St Mary's Messy Church News

Our Messy Church meeting in March was all about Lent. We had several messy crafts including shaving foam marbling, making towers from spaghetti and bluetack, cooking pancakes on tin cans with tealights for heat, having fun with gloo and sand, and cooking marshmallows over an open fire. We also made cards with our Lent promises and hung them on a tree and made Mothers Day gifts in decorated bowls. Photographs of our messy fun will feature in next month's copy of Teulu Asaph.



We learnt some new songs (with actions) and listened to Reverend David's short service where he was daubed with a cross of ash and told us about Lent. Reverend David encouraged us to use the period of Lent to examine our behaviour and change it so that we stop doing negative things that upset others and try to do more positive things such as being kind and listening to our parents, teachers and each other.

The afternoon was finished with a communal meal of pizza, salad and garlic bread with custard and pie to follow, delicious! Thanks to all who attended and everyone for taking part in the crafts and the making of the food, we hope to see you all next time on April 12th.

Angharad Veneklaas

Overton's 1st Blues Roots and Real Ale Festival

Preparations for the 1st Blues, Roots and Real Ale Festival in Overton on **Friday 8th May & Saturday 9th May** are well under way. Tickets are now in the Corner Shop and are selling well. They can also be obtained by sending a SAE to Overton Blues Festival, 16 High St. Overton, Wrexham LL13 0DT. Ticket prices are, Friday night £10.00 Saturday £25.00 or a weekend ticket £30.00 saving £5.00



There will be a good selection of local real ales as well as the normal bar. Teas, coffee and cake will be provided by the Twinning Association. Also the school committee have agreed to do a BBQ on the Friday night and the cricket club a hog roast on Saturday evening, so a good time should be had by all. Put the date in your diary and get your tickets soon. See you there.

St Mary's School News

An absolutely massive thank you to pupils and staff at St. Mary's school, Overton for their efforts for Red Nose Day 2015 - we had funny faces, wild wigs, commendable cakes and fantastic fancy dress with the day culminating in a Great Welsh Bake Off Challenge. Three members of staff were chosen at random to decorate three beautiful homemade cakes in front of an excited audience of over 200 children. Easy you think? NO! They were blindfolded and only had the capable hands of one trusted volunteer each and five minutes to complete their challenge. Congratulations to Mrs Williams and her cool, calm, collected helper who were crowned as winners by our very own Mary Berry - Mrs Carol Dykes. It was a close contest and commiserations to Mrs. Owens and Mrs Burton too, thank you for being great sports!



Children at St Mary's recently celebrated the rich cultural history of Wales by taking part in poetry and art competitions for the annual St David's Day Eisteddfod. Traditional costumes were donned by many pupils and the colour red and daffodils also featured heavily in the fashion stakes! The overall poetry chair was awarded to Year 6 pupil Beth Edwards for her poem about a trip to London, written entirely in Welsh.



Left - Beth Edwards winning the poetry chair.

Right - Year 6 art award winners



La Murette teens spend time in Overton

This summer, The Twinning Association is welcoming four teenagers from La Murette who want to come to Overton to practise their English and learn a bit about life in a Welsh village.

Two 16 year olds, who have already visited Overton in the past with their families, will spend a week with us in July, then here's Meije, also 16, who will spend a fortnight with us and hopes to help care for horses during her stay. Then in August, Leonard, an 18 year engineering student, is coming for three weeks' work experience with a local firm.

This is a wonderful opportunity for these young people to see what life is like in an ordinary Welsh household and to share their thoughts and interests with us all. The present generation of French people is very keen to improve their proficiency in English and we look forward to welcoming them here.

If there are any young people in Overton who would like to spend some time in La Murette either to improve their French or just to experience life over there, there are families in La Murette ready to welcome you. Work experience may be a possibility. Ideally, candidates should be aged between 16 and 24. As so many of the French now speak English, it would not be necessary to speak French, just to have an interest in the French way of life or at least to be open to learning about it.

If you would like to know more, please get in touch with the Secretary, Georgina Mason at gmemcloy@yahoo.co.uk or telephone 01978 710486

April News

It has come to the Oracle's attention that a group of protesters have set up camp in Overton [see picture].



The group, who call themselves the Freedom Of Oppression League, have established a 'base camp' on the High Street. This is one of the many new encampments popping up across North

Wales. The group are currently campaigning against fracking, hunting and development across the countryside and the numbers appear to be swelling. The tents these campaigners are currently residing in are spread throughout the area, keep your eyes open for them. Campaigners are said to have planned marches later in the month, taking place in Overton and Llangollen. Any complaints about the Freedom Of Oppression League are to be reported to the Community Council by April 1st.

But seriously, if anyone has lost this tent, which appears to have been blown in to the High Street in the March winds, please ring 710598 to get it back.

Playgroup News

Playgroup is busy with lots of children, thank-you goes to all the hard working staff. We are also hoping to have some new babies soon, as we have eggs hatching after Easter! We are open all over the Easter School holidays, running our holiday club, 8am- 6pm so your little ones can see the baby chicks as they hatch!

Don't forget our Toddler group is on every Tuesday during school term time, everyone welcome. 9.30 to 11am - 0-4 year olds. We always have tea and cake. The children are always busy playing, doing crafts or singing etc.

Our NNS sale is on the Sunday 26th April, 1-3pm at the Village Hall. There are always amazing nearly new items on sale, pushchairs, nursery equipment, toys, books, games and more. It is easy shopping with tea and cake at the end. Plus if you are having a clear out its easy to sell and make some money.

Our Annual General Meeting is taking place on the 30th April at the Play Centre, 8pm. The playgroup is a charitable organisation and therefore we are non-profitable. As such we can keep our fees to a minimum. We need parents of children attending the play-centre to come along to the AGM in order for us to meet the criteria of the charity commission. So please try you best to come along.

The only thing left to say is have a Happy Easter!

Claire Morris

Overton Cricket Club News

The 2015 season starts on Saturday April 25th with a home game against St. George's Telford, so work will be starting on our ground as soon as possible.

We also have net sessions at Ellesmere College on Wednesday evenings where budding cricketers are most welcome and will be continuing our junior club nights as the season begins. For more information contact Rob Lawrenson on 01978 710537.

It is also with great sadness that our season begins with the loss of Barbara Watkin, Cliff Cave, Ron Davies and John Gillison who each supported our club as past players, umpires, vice-presidents or just by being interested in the village cricket game; their support in many different facets will be missed by all at Overton Cricket Club.



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

What's On

April Diary for St Mary's Services

Maundy Thursday April 2nd 7.30pm Holy Communion & Vigil
 Good Friday April 3rd 2-3pm Stations of the Cross
 Easter Sunday April 5th 10am Holy Communion with Blessing of Easter Eggs
 Sunday April 12th 11.30am Holy Communion
 3-5pm Messy Church in the Scout Hut
 Sunday April 19th 10am Family Communion
 Sunday April 26th 11.30am Holy Communion

April Diary for Overton Methodist Chapel

Good Friday April 3rd 7.00pm Rev P Poole
 Easter Sun April 5th 9am Rev Poole Holy Communion 6.30pm Mr K Drury
 Sunday April 12th 6.30pm Rev Richard Sharples
 Sunday April 19th 6pm at Wrexham Methodist Church
 Sunday April 26th 11am All Age Worship Mr N Burns
Every Saturday 10.30am-12 noon Weekly Coffee Mornings at the Methodist Chapel

Thursday April 2nd 10.30-2.30 Rainbow Centre
 Lunch & Learn - Wet Felt Making and Soap with Coral Devlin

Friday April 10th 7.30pm Maelor Belles WI upstairs in the White Horse. 'Holistic Therapy' with Linda Hallett

Tuesday April 14th 7.30pm Overton Community Council meeting in the Parish Room.
 Members of the public wishing to speak can do so 7.20-7.30pm

Wednesday April 15th 10.30am Overton British Legion meeting for coffee in the Scout Hut

Wednesday April 15th 12.30pm Overton Lunch Club at the White Horse. Booking required

Thursday April 16th 7.30pm Overton WI meeting in the Parish Room. Speaker: Keith Cotton on 'The Making of Joyce's Clocks'. Competition A timepiece

Saturday April 18th 11am-11pm Real Ale Trail from White Horse

Tuesday April 21st 7.30pm Twinning Association AGM in the White Horse. All welcome

Sunday April 26th 1.00-3.00pm Spring Nearly New Sale at the Village Hall.

Sunday April 26th 3.30pm Opening Ceremony of new play equipment at the playing field

Friday May 1st & Saturday May 2nd 7.30pm Overton Amateur Dramatic Society present "See how they run" in the Village Hall

Family Announcements

A very special Happy Birthday to Gertie Osbourne who is 103 on April 24th.



Happy April Birthdays to Gerry Owen, Grace Johnson, Courtney Pugh, Iory Evans, Sarah Smith, Hayden Austin, Derek Edwards, Lucy Chalk, Geoff Hodgson, Mervyn Haynes, Mike Dorey, David Harris, Eileen Palmer, Lily and Rose Elise Wyn Jones, Dexter Dodwell, Bill Grindley, Tim Hall, and Kelly Taylor.

Congratulations to Kelly Rogers on the birth of Laila, a 1st granddaughter for Angela Rogers, a 1st great granddaughter for Avril & Brian Williams and another great great granddaughter for Jack Edwards.

Sincere condolences to the family and friends of Barbara Watkin who passed away recently.

Sincere condolences to the family and friends of Pam Jones who passed away recently.



The La Murette & Overton-on-Dee Twinning Association is holding its AGM in the White Horse on 7.30pm Tues 21st April.

Everyone from the Overton parish is welcome to attend. Refreshments will be served.



Overton Lunch Club

is on Wednesday April 15th at 12.30pm at the White Horse. The menu will be Beef Casserole and Dumplings followed by Fruit Crumble and Custard. All for £6.25. To book please ring Gwynneth Austin on 710672

PLEASE REMEMBER
 Copy deadline 20th of the previous month. Get your events & news to us early to avoid disappointment
THIS INCLUDES ADVERTISEMENTS
 Leave your contributions, & announcements at the

Your Oracle Team - Chairman & Advertising David Burton; Treasurer Rob Netzband-Piggott; Distribution Cynthia Davies; Sean Clarke, Charlotte Clarke, Euan Stevenson & Gwynneth Austin
 Editor - Jill Burton. Tel 710631 or e-mail

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Useful telephone numbers;

POLICE: 0845 6071002

LITTER CLEARANCE: 01978 298989

email: overtonoracle@gmail.com