

# The Overton Oracle



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Overton's Free Newspaper - issued monthly

## Strange sightings on village streets



It's not every day you meet Inspector Clouseau, Rene from Allo,Allo, an outsized slightly sinister-looking croissant, Frere Jacques, a Tour de France cyclist, Humpty-Dumpty with a string of onions around his neck and sundry other characters lounging around the streets of Overton. What was it all about? Had there been an invasion from some very strange planet, had it been an especially heavy night at the pub or was it just Overton's very first Scarecrow Competition?

The idea came from the Twinning Association so naturally we had to have a French theme, not that the characters represented our La Murette friends or anything like that of course! There has been lots of positive feedback from locals and visitors alike. It gave a bit of colour to the streets and added to the festive atmosphere around the time of the



Village Fete. A huge thank you to everyone who took part. Without your enthusiastic participation there would have been no event. A special mention to the Butchers who led the way for the local businesses. Thanks, too, to the Overton Oracle who took photographs of our celebrities.

We hope this can be become an annual event. We know that Scarecrow Festivals are becoming very popular around the country. Wrenbury near Crewe has been running one for years and is now host to around 60 shady characters every July. Apparently, people come from far and wide to visit the display. Maybe next year, the coach loads of scarecrow fanciers will also be heading for Overton?



So if you are part of a village organisation, a business or just someone who likes to have a bit of fun, it's never to soon to start planning your scarecrow creation for 2012.

by Georgina Mason



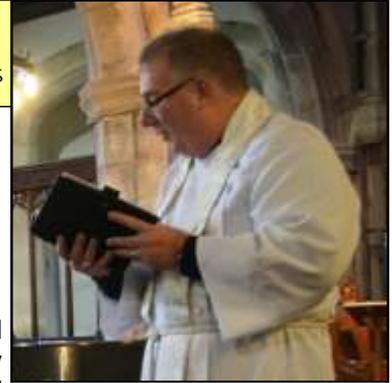
## Year 6 Hollywood Prom Night

The Class of Year 6 at St Mary's School, Overton celebrated the end of their primary school days in style at a Hollywood themed dinner on 16th of June. It was a beautiful day, which set the scene perfectly for what turned out to be a fantastic evening. The whole class were chauffeur driven in balloon laden cars from St Mary's, ending up back in the village to the White Horse, where they were met on the red carpet in style. A fruit punch and canapé reception followed, then dinner, and an awards ceremony led by their teacher Mr Morris, and head teacher Mrs Clarke. The evening ended with a disco, and a great time was had by all. This Year 6 have been a lovely class throughout their time at St Mary's, and we wish them the very best for their transition to high school. Thanks to everyone who helped make this a very special occasion; Yvonne Vibhishanan for organising the event, Steve and Jane Dodwell at the White Horse for hosting the dinner, Alice Murray for bringing the Hollywood theme to life, Mr Morris and Mrs Clarke for entertaining the children all evening, Tim Rouse for doing a fantastic turn as bouncer, DJ and compere, and all the mums who helped on the night.



## The Very Last Ramblings From the Rectory

by David Lewis



Dear Friends,

A young boy sat on the front porch of a farmhouse with his grandfather. They heard a car coming down the seldom travelled dirt road that passed close to the farmhouse. When the driver of the car, bearing out-of-state plates, saw them on the front porch, he stopped to ask directions to a nearby town.

After receiving directions from the old-timer, the driver walked back toward his car. He had walked only a few steps when he hesitated, and awkwardly inquired of the old man, "Say, mister, what are the folks like around here?"

"Why do you ask?" the grandfather responded. Taking a few steps closer, the stranger said, "I just left a town where the people were a bunch of snobs. I've never been around people who were less friendly in my life." The stranger went on, "Why, I lived in that town for over a year, and never once did I feel a part of the community."

"I guess that's about the way you'll find folks around here to be also," the old man replied. The stranger said his goodbyes and drove away. The grandson looked puzzled, but said nothing.

A few hours later, another car stopped in front of the farmhouse where the two of them still sat on the porch. The driver, with a big smile on her face, strolled briskly up the front walk and asked directions to the same town. After carefully writing down the directions, she, too, inquired, "Tell me, what are the folks around here like?" Once again the old farmer questioned, "Why do you ask?" "You see, I'm moving here from one of the nicest little towns you could ask for," the woman answered with a smile. "The people made me feel so much at home there. The neighbours were so friendly. I felt I had lived there all my life." "Well," said the old man, "you'll find the people around here pretty much the same."

The woman got into her car and drove off. The boy turned to his grandfather with a puzzled expression and asked, "Grandpa, why did you give those two strangers opposite answers to the same question?" The grandfather put his hand on the boy's shoulder and answered, "Because, laddie, it's a person's attitude toward a community that determines how the people will respond to them. People all across the country are pretty much the same."

Last year I went to South Tanganyika in Tanzania. Seeing the incredible poverty and disease was truly eye opening. But seeing the incredible hope and faith that existed amidst the hardships was truly inspiring and made you thankful for the privileges and advantages that we have in the west. We were also made to feel so welcome and a part of the churches we visited.

For the last seven years it has been my privilege to be Rector of Overton. And I am certainly thankful for all the friendships I have made in the village. Thank you all for your kindness during these past years. On October 13<sup>th</sup> I will be inducted into my new parishes. I have been appointed Team Rector of Hawarden which comprises six churches and three clergy. I take up this challenge with some trepidation and a lot of excitement. There is sadness at leaving this beautiful village and the friends we have made. And I guess I feel a bit like the travellers in the above story. What will the people be like in Hawarden and will they like me?

The moral to the story above is one I am trying to remember. People are basically the same where ever you go, with the same fears and hopes. It is how you respond and treat them that matters. If you are able to be warm and loving, often that is what you yourself get back. So I do wish you all every blessing for the future.

I am going to end with one final anecdote

Two men were walking through a field one day when they spotted an enraged bull. Instantly they darted toward the nearest fence. The storming bull followed in hot pursuit, and it was soon apparent they wouldn't make it. Terrified, the one shouted to the other, "Put up a prayer, John. We're in for it!" John answered, "I can't. I've never made a public prayer in my life." "But you must!" implored his companion. "The bull is catching up to us." "All right," panted John, "I'll say the only prayer I know, the one my father used to repeat at the table: 'O Lord, for what we are about to receive, make us truly thankful.'"

Thank you for the love we have received in Overton.

David

On behalf of the Overton Oracle editorial committee and all the Oracle readers, we send many thanks to David for his monthly Ramblings which we have so much enjoyed over the years, and wish him every good wish for his new job in Hawarden.

## Thank you for the fete

*from Joanne Kember*

I would like once again to say THANK YOU to all of those who put such effort and time into making this communal celebration such a success.

Thanks to the sponsors: The White Horse, the Trotting Mare Garage, Cross Lanes Hotel, Mike Evans Butchers, Stans Superstore, Bangor On Dee Race Course, and special thanks to Prontaprint who kindly donated our lucky programmes.

Thanks also to my team of helpers: Mike Done and family for the ferrying back and forth of the tables and chairs, and to the Bowling Club, the Catholic Church and the Village Hall for providing them.

Thanks to Pat Loughlin for preparing the field, to Mervyn and Claire for the fete signs, and Claire Latham for the loan of the 2 large gazebos, plus her team who helped dismantle them, and to the 'un-named' gent who helped us load up.

Thanks to Youth Voice for their help selling programmes and to David Hughes for organising the tug of war and being chief litter collector and to Neil Archer for loan of extension cables.

Thanks to the team of Police Specials, to the Football Club for giving us permission to use the pitch area, and to Overton Scout Group for allowing us the use of their loos.

And a special thanks to Katrina Chalk and Steven Dodwell who have put in a lot of hard work and time to plan and run the day and to all the stall holders, and especially to all of you for coming.



**Overton Play Centre and Toddlers**  
 School Lane, Overton.  
 01978 710688

We are open throughout the summer holidays for holiday club. Children from the age of 2 to 8 years  
 £1.50 per half hour, 8am till 6pm  
 (We can be quite flexible throughout the summer so it's always worth a last minute call if you need us!)

We are also running our parents and toddlers club on Tuesdays 10-12pm £2.00 per child (extra 50p for accompanying siblings) Weekly raffles for the kids, 20p per ticket. Healthy snacks are provided

# Kids Kolumn

by Alice Foster, Lydia Biggs and Lottie Blake and help from Lois



Hey everyone, schools finished and summer's started!

Woop Woop

Why did the hen cross the road?  
 To prove she wasn't chicken!

Why shouldn't you try to swim on a full stomach?  
 Because it's easier to swim on a full swimming pool!

Teacher: You aren't paying attention to me. Are you having trouble hearing?  
 Pupil: No, teacher I'm having trouble listening!

Son: I can't go to school today.  
 Father: Why not?

Son: I don't feel well  
 Father: Where don't you feel well?  
 Son: In school!

## Summer Fun



Y	Y	Z	P	S	K	A	T	E
G	X	Y	U	L	V	B	A	K
D	M	S	W	I	N	G	A	G
O	U	D	A	D	I	P	Z	S
H	B	I	K	E	F	I	S	H
I	O	V	V	R	S	C	C	B
K	A	E	C	W	H	N	A	A
E	T	M	N	C	L	I	M	B
R	X	S	W	I	M	C	P	R



BIKE  
BOAT  
CAMP  
CLIPS  
DIVE  
FISH

HIKE  
PICNIC  
SKATE  
SLIDE  
SWIM  
SWING



## Lunch Club



The Overton Lunch Club is on Wednesday 10th August at 12.30pm at the White Horse. The menu will be grilled gammon & pineapple, chips and peas followed by fruit crumble and custard

To book please ring Gwynneth Austin on 710672.

## St Mary's trip back in time

Year 3 and 4 pupils from St Mary's School gained a fantastic experience from their trip to the Grosvenor Museum in Chester. Year 3 Pupils explored the secrets of Roman life through handling real and replica artefacts. They marched with the Roman Soldier as he showed them round his fortress home, the amphitheatre, walls, Roman gardens and discovered the stories of Roman people in the galleries.

Year 4 turned detectives for the morning, trying to solve the mystery of a stolen painting from one of the museums galleries. They took part in 'Hot Seating', where they had to use all their acting skills to ask and answer questions regarding what they thought had happened to the stolen painting - excellent performances all round! During the afternoon they explored 20 Castle Street, a town house that took them back to home life from the 17th century to the 1920s.



This included Mary in her Victorian kitchen, a Georgian drawing room, a nursery and a fully fitted Edwardian bathroom!



## Beer Tasting

After the roaring success of last years Wine Tasting, hosted by the Overton Amateur Dramatic Society and Overton Cricket Club, it has been decided to host a Beer Festival / Beer Tasting provided by Joules and Stonehouse Breweries. (6 beers in total plus a cider).

So put the date in you diary, Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September at the White Horse Inn at 7:30pm till late. Tickets are £10 to include a hot supper (curry or hot pot) beers, cider or soft drinks.. It will be a jolly good, joint social evening with fun games and a super raffle.



Tickets will be limited to 60 and will be on sale mid-August from Woodlands Delicatessen or 780232

## Silver Jubilee Bonanza

The children, Staff and PTA of St Mary's School, Overton welcome their families, friends and community to the Annual Bonanza to be held at school on Saturday 17th September 2011.

Following the great success of the 3 previous years the event will start at 2pm with stalls and activities for everyone including pony rides, bouncy castles, craft stalls, and lots of games. There will be entertainment from all the children who will present a show celebrating 25 years of St Mary's School. Teas and coffees will be available all afternoon together with a BBQ and snacks. This year will see the first "Bush Tucker Trial" where children can nominate their Dads (or others!) to eat amazing gooey yucky stuff - or the Dad can pay double not to! There will be a final of the Trial at 4pm followed by the now legendary Tug of War competition. And for ex-pupils there will be an opportunity to see some old photos and reminisce with staff about what the school was like way back in the 80s!

Everyone is then invited back to School for 7pm to hear the children perform in the choir. Food and a bar will run all night and the evening will culminate with a firework display.

## Playgroup News

As we have come to the end of another year at playgroup, we would like to say a big thank you to everyone for all the help and support given. Overton has fantastic community spirit and with the generosity of our local community (too many individuals and businesses to mention) we have had another successful year.

As the new Chair of playgroup I would like to take this opportunity to say a heartfelt thank you to Rachel and Andrea who have worked tirelessly with playgroup staff over the years to make playgroup as successful as it is today. They have left some big shoes to fill and I can only hope that with their continued support and that of the rest of our committee I will be able to carry on with all the good work. I would also like to say a big thank you to Margaret and her staff who do a fantastic job, providing us with a safe and happy environment for our children to thrive in.

We will be running holiday club throughout the holidays so for children 2-8yrs, see details on page 3, but we can be quite flexible through the holidays, so it is always worth a last minute call if you need us! Toddlers will also continue through the holidays on Tuesday's 10-12pm. Anyone wanting to use playgroup from this coming September, please give Margaret a call. Book early to avoid disappointment.

*from Angie Barr*

## Medical News

If you are being prescribed a 'repeat medicine,' the quantity you are prescribed will be changed so that each medicine will last for 28 days. This has been initiated by the Welsh Government and supported by the local health board to reduce the level of waste on unused medication. All patients will be switched by the end of this year. During this transition, if you are running out of some items early, or have too much of some medication, please tell the practice.

## Steve organises an 'education trip' to the Brewery

The regulars at the White Horse were pleasantly surprised when Steve and Jane Dodwell organised a trip to the brand new Joules brewery in Market Drayton and 35 of us piled into a coach at 5.30 pm on Monday 18th July for a tour, free beer and the most glorious pork baps you could wish to eat.

Established by Francis Joule in 1758 the brewery uses the Red Cross trademark which is the 6th oldest beer mark in the world. The recipe originated with Augustinian Monks in the C12th, who brewed, blessed and marked each barrel with a cross to identify its superior quality. Then as now the quality starts with the water and the original brewery in Stone, Staffordshire was sited over an aquifer. By the 1970's Joules had been absorbed into Bass Charrington and the beer and brand was dropped. Former Bass Charrington employees Steve and Chrissie Nuttall



purchased the name, brewing notes, methods and the yeast to create the original Joules taste. They then searched for an equivalent aquifer water supply which they found in Market Drayton and the new brewery is sited directly above it. The

brewery owns 18 pubs and supplies a further 42 pubs all within a 30 mile radius of Market Drayton. The brewery welcomes about 3 visits a week from pubs to see the new brewery which has been in operation for 10 months. We all got to pull our own pints and enjoyed the tour from the top of the brewing shed all the way down to the warehouse. Once all the liquid has been extracted from the mash it is sold to Fordhall Organic Farm where it is fed to the pigs. The pork then returns to the brewery to fill the pork baps fed to us, forming a virtuous circle. A great time was enjoyed by all those who took part and by the end of the evening several of us could pull the perfect pint - it took a lot of practice!! Many thanks to Steve and Jane who organised such an entertaining evening.

Oh, and the beer tastes good too!

*David Burton.*



## COUNTRY BEAT

Hello Everyone,

Firstly I would like to introduce PCSO Lynne Maurice who covers Marchwiel, and she is based here with us at Overton Police Station. Lynne attended the Overton Fete along with members from the Special Constabulary, Dean, Maria and Keifer. It was a great day and a huge success.

There have recently been a couple of thefts of oil from a farm in Overton. The offenders have targeted the same farm twice in the space of a week with both offences happening during the day. Whilst on patrol around the area, we notice a lot of people with oil tanks in their gardens that can be seen from the road. With these recent thefts it is possible that the same offenders may come back to the village. I certainly hope this isn't the case and all 3 of us here at Overton Police Station will be carrying out extra patrols along the back lanes of the village hoping to catch the offenders. With the thefts taking place during the day, please can I ask you all to make sure that you keep your gates closed and locked, bolted, chained, etc at all times. I know this may sound like a bit of a pain but it will certainly deter the offenders from getting into your yard or garden.

On a serious note, there has been a number of distraction burglaries in the Wrexham area where the majority of them are men posing as Waterboard officials. Please be aware of this and always ask for identification even for Police Officers. If you are not sure or 100% happy then let North Wales Police know on 101 or 999 for emergencies. Also beware of bogus phone calls; there have been a couple of incidents where residents have received a phone call where the caller has said they are from the police and offering to come and fit security in their homes. Please be aware it is NOT the police, these are Bogus calls.

If anyone would like any advice or information regarding these issues, don't hesitate to contact us at Overton Police Station.

*Beth, Lynne and Steve.*

[bethan.large@nthwales.pnn.police.uk](mailto:bethan.large@nthwales.pnn.police.uk)

[lynne.maurice@nthwales.pnn.police.uk](mailto:lynne.maurice@nthwales.pnn.police.uk)

[stephen.o'connell@nthwales.pnn.police.uk](mailto:stephen.o'connell@nthwales.pnn.police.uk)

Or telephone 01978 348 425.

### Overton Cricket Club news

This year the club has been looking to raise funds towards purchasing match balls. A new ball is required for every game, which is a significant cost.



We would like to take this opportunity to thank those who have given towards the cricket balls and to those whose continued support is crucial. They are Mr Keith Fowles, Mr Martin Lewis, Mr N.W.V. Scott, Mr Peter Rosselli and Mr James Wright

### Treasurer Wanted

Overton Scout Group's Administrator Jacky Maskall has retired from her duties within the Scout Group. Jacky was our Akela running the Cub Pack from 1988 to 1992 and has been Group Administrator since 2001 a total of 14 years service for which the Group is extremely grateful - thank you Jacky.

The Group now needs a new Treasurer with immediate effect. If you would like to help us or know of someone who would, please contact David Burton (Group Scout Leader) on 710631

### Thespians required

Overton Am Dram Society are looking for new blood to join them. Anyone who would like to have a go at treading the boards, backstage, scenery setting or just helping out would be most welcome.

Any age accepted but particularly for the next play between the ages of 20 to 30. Anyone who is interested, please get in touch with Sheila Miller or Stephen Sorfleet on 710823 or 710484.

### Thank you

Debbie, Eleanor & Cerys Morris would like to thank everyone for their kind wishes for our big move to Surrey.

The girls would also like to thank their friends from St Mary's School for coming to their leaving party and for all of the lovely gifts. Special thanks go to the Mcdonald-Browns for letting us use their beautiful home for the party. We hope many of you will keep in touch and maybe even come to visit.

### Overton School Reunion

If you attended the old Overton School in the 60's, 70's or 80's then dig out those old school photographs and memorabilia and come along to the White Horse on **Saturday 1st October** for our 2nd reunion.

The evening starts from 7 pm onwards and food will be available by pre booking with the White Horse.

Our first reunion was a great success so come along meet and exchange stories with your old school friends and see which path life has taken them down.

Please pre book your food orders with the White Horse on 01978710111 by Sunday 25th September

For more information then please contact Gordon Whitfield on 07971805066 or [whitfieldgh@yahoo.com](mailto:whitfieldgh@yahoo.com)

## WHAT'S ON

### August Diary for St Mary's Services

**Sunday August 7th** 11:30am Holy Eucharist  
**Sunday August 14th** 10:00am Sunday Praise & coffee  
**Sunday August 21st** 11:30am Holy Eucharist  
**Sunday August 28th** 10:00am Family Eucharist

**Coffee Mornings** every Wednesday at 10am in St Mary's in aid of Nightingale House.

**Methodist Chapel Services, Sunday evenings** 6.30pm  
**Saturday** coffee mornings at the Methodist Chapel 10.30am till 12.00pm

**Monday August 1<sup>st</sup> – Friday 5<sup>th</sup> August** Dance  
 Addiction presents a thrilling week of music and dance at Overton Village Hall. Ages 2-3yrs old 9.00 - 10.30am or 4-15yrs old 10.30am–2.30pm. Boys & girls welcome.

**Wednesday August 10th** 12.30pm Overton Lunch Club at the White Horse. Booking required.

**Friday September 2nd** The Michael Burk aka The Iron Man and his full American Band at Overton Village Hall

**Saturday September 3rd** The Village Produce Show & Handicraft Show. Exhibits need to be brought to the Village Hall before 11.00am on the morning of the Show. Doors open at 2.30 pm for viewing. Presentation of Prizes at 4.00pm

**Saturday September 10th** 7.30p, Beer Tasting Evening organised by the Overton Amateur Dramatic Society and Overton Cricket Club in the White Horse. Tickets £10

**Saturday September 17th** 2pm St Mary's School Silver Jubilee Bonanza, stalls, pony rides, bouncy castles, craft stalls, and lots of games. Teas and coffees, BBQ and snacks. Plus the first Overton "Bush Tucker Trial".  
 7pm School choir, food, bar and a firework display.

## Congratulations

Congratulations to Dan Brown of School Lane on passing your exams, and all the best for the future when you go to Japan. Well done. From Stephen and Janet

Congratulations to Lewis Evison for winning the Victor Ludorum for Year 8, Maelor School Penley Sports Day 2011. He was 1st in the 300m, 800m & 1500m and also 2nd in the 300m & 1500m at the Wrexham Schools athletics championships.

Congratulations from all the family.

## FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Happy August Birthdays** to Alan Stubbert, Tara Stubbert, Francis Glynne Jones, Belinda Matthews, Seanie Clarke, Jackie Grindley, Gemma Purcell, Doreen Hamlington, Gladys Evans, Gill Rogers, Carol Dykes, Lewis Evison, Jackie Tombs, Brian Williams, Gill Evans, Chloe Malam, Charlotte Scott-Davies, Dave Bellis and Trena Haynes.

Happy Birthday wishes to Tom McCusker from all his family, for his 21st birthday on August 3rd

Mum & Tim would like to wish Matt Worsdell a very Happy 40th Birthday for the 8th August

Happy 50th Birthday to Alex Natrass.

## Heartfelt Thanks

The families of Joyce Williams wish to thank all her friends for their tremendous support and kindness to Joyce during her illness. It is greatly appreciated. Sincere thanks also to Dr McNeil, Zoe, June and Anne from Overton Surgery, the Hospice at Home team, the Marie Curie nurses, Macmillan nurses and the Ladybird Care Team

## 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.**

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**Editor - Jill Burton.**

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