

# The Overton Oracle

Volume 16. Issue 8

August 2014

Overton's Free Newspaper - issued monthly



Everyone in the UK is asked to turn off their lights from 10pm to 11pm on Monday 4th August 2014, leaving on a single light or candle for this shared moment of reflection and hope at the anniversary of the start of World War 1. Overton British Legion will take part in this national moment of reflection by holding a candle-lit vigil at Overton War Memorial 10pm to 11pm. Everyone is welcome to join them.



## Overton's towering inferno

The hot weather got hotter in Overton when an electricity pole burst into flames on the corner of Salop Road and Penyllan Street. Flames and thick black smoke could be seen rising into the sky and power was cut to parts of the village. Firefighters from Wrexham and Ellesmere attended and Salop Road was closed all morning. Scottish Power said 'An overhead line is affected. Our engineers isolated the power supply and have carried out repairs'.

## R ededication of S cout H ut

A ceremony took place to officially reopen Overton Scout Hut and to rededicate it to the memory of former Overton Scout James Elson. James was a member of 1st Overton Scouts in the 1980s, and became Patrol leader of Cobra Patrol. Sadly James died in 2012 aged 37 after a long and courageous battle with cancer. His family have very kindly donated a considerable sum of money in his memory to Overton Scouts which has been used for a major refurbishment of the building. A project team led by Scouts Committee Chairman, Peter Matthews, have created two new toilet cubicles, with disabled and baby changing facilities, a new kitchen, rewiring, improved drainage, lighting and redecoration.

At a ceremony in front of a good crowd of Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and their parents, James's mother, Mrs Mary Elson unveiled a plaque made of local oak in memory of James. The inscription includes a quotation that is part of the Scout Promise "to help other people", which this donation surely does. The new facilities will be of benefit not only to Overton Scout Group but to those many other organisations that use the Scout Hut, including Brownies, Youth Club, Baby & Toddler group and all those other village groups who hire the building.



David Burton Group Scout leader with Mary Elson after she unveiled the plaque

## Our Polish visitors

Overton's guests for the Llangollen International Eisteddfod not only entertained the crowds in Llangollen, but performed for St Mary's School and at the White Horse pub in the village.

Led by their conductor Wioletta Miłkowsk they reached 7th position in the Adult mixed choir competition.



## E n d o f s c h o o l y e a r

Staff at St Mary's would like to send their best wishes to the 20 pupils in Year 6 that are moving on to a variety of High Schools in September. As always the majority are going to the Maelor School, however, we also have a few going further afield including 4 to Lakelands, 2 to Bishop Heber and 1 each to The Kings and Queens Schools in Chester. They all leave with the best wishes of everyone at the school.



Mr Morris would also like to thank Teaching Assistant Miss Rebecca Gardner who is leaving us to take up a post at The Maelor School, she will be missed greatly but it's great that her new job will keep her in touch with past pupils.

Budding Olympians showcased their talents at the recent school sports day at St Mary's. The weather gods were with us as the day started with the multi disciplined Foundation Phase sports, as the four classes took part in a number of sports on a rotational basis. The afternoon saw the Juniors strut their stuff with sprints, skipping races, long distance races and of course the obstacle race finale designed by Year 6 pupils. The overall house competition was won by Clwyd, with other awards won by Emma Gittins who won the Victrix Ludorum for the best female athlete, with Nathan Tombs winning the Victor Ludorum for best male athlete and Harri Evans winning the coveted sportsmanship award.



Picture: Emma, Mr Morris & Nathan

## L u n c h C l u b



The Overton Lunch Club is on **Wednesday August 13th** at 12.30pm at the White Horse. The menu will be grilled gammon steak with pineapple, new potatoes & peas followed by vanilla cheesecake and cream. To book please ring Gwynneth Austin on 710672.

# Kids Kolumn

by **Kate Jenkinson, Robyn Rehbock and Charley Middleton**



Hey guys.

**IT'S THE  
HOLI DAYS !!!!!!!!**

Can you solve the summer Sudoku???


**Colour in these flags**



France ←

Germany ↓

USA ↑

**Name these flags**

Can you solve these riddles?

1. What gets wetter the more it dries?
2. What has a face, 2 hands, but no arms or legs?
3. If I have it, I don't share it. If I share it, I don't have it. What is it?
4. What can you catch but not throw?
5. What goes up but never comes down?

*1. A towel, 2. A clock, 3. A secret, 4. A cold, 5. Age*

**Ramblings From the Reverend**  
**by Rev'd Canon David Child**



On Sunday August 3rd we will in Overton, as in small parish churches and great Cathedrals throughout our country, gather to commemorate the First World War. In St. Mary's, as in many churches, warfare forms a low-level but constant background to our worship. The plaques, the roll of honour, all call us back to the days of the great wars of the 20th Century. Try and imagine if you can what it must have been like in this village just before the outbreak of the First World War, and then try to imagine again what it was like at the end – thirty young men from Overton did not return.

Those first Remembrance Sundays must have been intensely personal. Then as the years passed Remembrance Day acquired a multiple message: still sorrow for the loss of loved ones, but also a belief that such violence should never happen again, together also with an undercurrent of pride in those wonderful young people who so bravely went off to fight for their country.

Churches are comfortable with the first two messages: sorrow for the loss of the fallen, and resolve that such carnage should never happen again. It is this third element of pride which brings unease to Christians. Violence in the pursuit of any objective does not square well with the fundamental Christian ethic of love.

But we live in an imperfect world and while the Christian may very well be called to accept ill treatment in their own life rather than reacting against it, this is not a moral option in relation to the ill treatment of others. And so as years pass, this sense of pride has been replaced by a sense of thanksgiving.

Events in our present world remind us that it will always remain a painful and difficult decision to determine whether any emergence of human brutality requires a forcible and violent response, and we will never forget those who gave up their hopes and dreams in order to oppose naked aggression – even if the only means they had to hand were dreadful and the source of a lifetime of nightmares.

So do join us on Sunday August 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10.00 am when we will in sorrow remember all those lives lost in the violence of war. And let us then hang on to the truth that ultimately it is the peacemaker who is blessed, and that love is always better than hate, forgiveness is always better than revenge. And let us pray for the day when this carnage will end, when war shall be no more, and the kingdoms of this world become the kingdom of our loving God and Father.

With every blessing,  
 David

**Country Beat**  
**by PCSO Phil Jones**



Hello again,  
 It has been a lovely few weeks weather wise and we have done some increased patrols in the area. But recently there have been 2 thefts of Catalytic Converters in Overton. If you see anyone suspicious in the area please report it immediately to 101.

Again I have had reports of vehicles parking too close to the junction from School Lane to Turning Street. This is very dangerous, officers will issue a ticket if they see this happening.

Do you own a horse or know someone that keeps horses? 'Horsewatch North Wales' are currently doing Free Tack Marking. Let me know and I will contact Helen Lacey who is the Horsewatch coordinator. We are also looking for FREE venues where Tack Marking events can be held. This will reduce thefts as if they are marked up they will be very hard to sell on.

Thank you,  
 PCSO Phil Jones 2858  
 Tel: 01978 348425 or 07854 389056  
[philip.w.jones@nthwales.pnn.police.uk](mailto:philip.w.jones@nthwales.pnn.police.uk)

**War Diary**

At this 100th anniversary of the commencement of the World War I, it is an opportunity to dip into the diary of Ken Farrell's father who joined up at Wrexham Barracks and was a Sapper in the Royal Engineers. He wrote this aged 19 in France, in 1917

Aug 1st *Fritz's usual shots twice a day. Very heavy rain all day.*

Aug 2nd *Fritz shells the neighbourhood again today Very heavy bombardment on our right all night. Still raining.*

Aug 3rd *Very heavy rain again, up to our knees in mud. Fritz shells us at 5pm. One shell dropped in New Zealand camp opposite us and blew one man in the air wounding him in head and foot*

Aug 4th *Anniversary of the 3rd year of the Great war. Raining heavy all morning. Shelling in the vicinity of Canteen Corner (8 shells) Concert held at the Church Army tent in evening - - - - -*

Aug 11th *Early this morning 2am big raid by Fritz. Thought my number was up as his bombs dropped very near our Camp but among transport lines. At 9am all went to see damage and found 80 horses killed. Most awful sight to witness.*

**Overton Library** will be appearing on ITV Wales on **7th August** at 8.30pm on the programme **'Wales on a Bus Pass'**.

The presenter, Chris Segar particularly wanted to stop at Overton library as it is in the Cocoa Reading Rooms He also spoke to Betty Williams who talked to him about local history.

Your Letters...

*Dear Editor,*

I'm writing in response to the letter dated 19th June 2014, which promoted opposition to the proposed developments at Knolton Farmhouse Cheese. As a villager, I'd like to respond to this letter adding my views and concerns to this debate which has clearly got residents of Overton talking!

I think it fair to suggest that there may be benefits of the proposed development to our community. Knolton Farmhouse Cheese is a local employer. The expansion of the factory will create up to 12 new jobs in addition to the existing workforce of 40 already employed. In this tough economic climate, businesses need to adapt and diversify in order to survive. It's clear that Knolton Farmhouse Cheese are doing just that by their proposed plans, therefore it's arguable that they're trying to protect and create jobs, people's livelihoods. A change in landscape and view may be difficult to palate by a small minority. But how important is this issue, when measured against a backdrop of unemployment and poverty for the local children and families of the factory workforce, should Knolton Farmhouse Cheese fail and be forced into making job cuts? This possibility is a greater, more serious threat to our community than marginal concerns about 'the view'.

In response to the '*inevitable increase in heavy goods vehicles*', there is actually no evidence that the expansion at the factory will cause this. On the contrary, when I rang the factory to gather information, the facts indicate that over 80% of the heavy goods traffic in and out of the factory traverses via Ellesmere, not Overton, as the writer suggests. Is it really appropriate to blame all the HGV traffic in the village on Knolton Farmhouse Cheese? In my opinion, it isn't realistic to suggest that the development is moved to Wrexham Industrial Estate when it appears that all aspects of production take place on one site. This is like asking teachers and pupils to conduct one aspect of their school day 6 miles away from their school. The expense and logistics of connecting up operations over 2 locations would be prohibitive and wasteful. It is doubtful that the development will create the impending ecological disaster that the writer suggests. The factory, as a legitimate business, is obviously subject to environmental legislation, local authority policy and monitoring by the authorities. The reality is that the factory is bound to processing their waste in safe and lawful ways and to suggest otherwise is unfair. There's no evidence of this development producing potential smells either. But hey, this is an agricultural area, it smells!

What does or does not constitute a threat to the architectural appearance and character of our '*conservation village*' appears to be historically inconsistent and difficult to define in Overton. For example, architecturally important institutional buildings have been demolished in the very heart of the village in favour of arguably less interesting, purpose-built buildings, wildly incongruent with the historical character of our village. With that in mind, should a similar purpose-built piece of industrial architecture in Knolton be criticised? This an interesting and thought-provoking local issue and it is clear that we all have a different view.

Yours sincerely, Dave, Overton.

*Dear Editor,*

With reference to the "Is this what we want" letter in the July edition, I would like to make the following comments. It is hard for me to understand the logic of a person that wants to deprive a community of the investment, employment and money into the local economy. I would imagine that the writer has not lived in the village many years, has no interest in employment or the need for it or the wages it provides, a 'not in my backyard' attitude. The person probably wants the village to "die a death" with only houses that working people can't afford, being built.

I have lived in the village all my life 60+yrs and have seen surrounding villages expand and prosper while Overton hardly moved, because very little affordable has been built and the village is becoming a retirement zone. The village needs investment and entrepreneurial vision to create jobs in and around it and not the attitude of the writer. A good clean and relatively obscure plant such as the one in question wants to expand. That's good isn't it? What harm is it doing. The processing plant has been there for many years and expansion comes with the territory. It is a Cheese and Butter Plant processing country products in the country, there can't be much wrong with that can there? The Latham's have been making both on the site for many years.

You don't hear people complain when farmers put grain silo's up, spread muck or cover unsightly silage pits with old tyres and plastic, because it's the country and that's what happens in the country. If the movement of waste from the plant is a problem I've been told this will decrease when the new drying plant is in operation. As for the narrow High Street of Overton, as described by the writer, it's the widest street of any village I know, and as for Salop Road, its had more tankers

*Commercial adverts are not included in the on-line version of the Oracle.*

*Business adverts can be viewed in the Business section of the Overton-on-Dee website page*

*To advertise on the website please click on link on Business page*

#### **Overton August Cricket Fixtures**

2nd - Hinstock - Away

9th - Trysull & Seisdon - Home

16th - Whittington - Away

23rd - Quayside - Home

30th - Bridgnorth - Away

*Aug 2<sup>nd</sup> game starts 1.30pm, all others at 1.00pm*

*Dear Editor, (continued)*



.... down it servicing Ellesmere Dairy than this development will ever send down it. If noise is a problem, and I fail to see how size is related to noise output as suggested in the letter, (I have never heard any noise from it and I walk past it often) then, with the management team at the Plant, sort it out with the Environmental Agency. There are laws and limits that have to be adhered to. If people feel so strongly about visual impact it will have on the countryside, or more to the point, their view, some innovate landscaping should be put in place to minimise this, but to scupper a project on these ground is not on. There are always answers to these kind of problems, they occur all the time in industry. That's if you want an answer!

The Latham's have been an integral part of the Overton community for more than 50 years. They have during that time directly or indirectly put many millions of pounds into the local economy through direct wages to their many employees, whole families and generations of families. At one time I used to think half the village worked there one way or another. Money to local contractors, (they always used local labour) or direct purchases from local businesses. They always paid good wages and looked after their employees, that's more than can be said for a lot of other local employers.

It's my opinion that the planning permission should be granted and the letter writer should get a life and move into the 21st century.

*Name and address supplied*

**What do we do?**

As we bid farewell to David Burton we welcome Keith Miller onto the Community Council (OCC).

There should be 11 Council members, currently we only have 9. We are hoping new members will soon be forthcoming. A question we are often asked is what does Overton Community Council do for us?

- \*Road safety has for many years been a priority issue and constant lobbying has at last resulted in speed limit reductions and safety measures.
- \*We were asked for additional equipment in the playground to accommodate users of all abilities. OCC applied for a grant to cover the cost. As part of this a public consultation was carried out to gather opinions from residents as to what they wanted in their playground. During one of our regular public drop ins, we heard that members of the public were concerned about the lack of fencing around the playground so we immediately installed a fence and gate. In September we find out if we have been successful with our grant application. A Playing Field committee regularly inspects the area, organises any remedial work in accordance with the RoSPA accreditation. We also maintain the Millennium Meadow with its protected trees.
- \*Wrexham Council decided to close public conveniences and OCC have taken over the responsibility for our toilets rather than lose them. We are concerned that these should be run as economically and safely as possible and have applied for a grant to help us improve the lighting and install water saving taps.
- \*OCC maintains the Cemetery and has planted a small wildflower area there. The War Memorial was in need of repair and after obtaining grants the work has been completed.
- \*The Community Council meet once a month but the Planning Committee meet whenever required; applications often need much research of regulations as Overton is a conservation village.
- \*The Overton web site is currently being updated and we hope to have this completed very soon. We are grateful for the time and input freely given by James Allwood.
- \*We undertake to organise the annual village fete, the sole purpose of which is to bring the community together. We have representatives on St. Mary's School Governing Board, Overton Twinning Association, One Voice Wales, Town and Community Council Forum, Community Safety Police Forum and Overton United Charities.

Extra work is being placed upon Community Councils as Borough Councils cut costs by passing responsibility for services to them, and OCC is becoming more involved in consultation papers, forums, legal and health and safety issues. Wherever possible grants are accessed to fund activities undertaken on the communities' behalf.

**P o e m s f r o m t h e R i v e r b a n k**

As 2014 is the centenary of Dylan Thomas' birth it is suggested Overton should mark this huge event that is being celebrated all over Wales! You are asked to send in your poems c/o the Oracle and each month a poem will be published. (Please include your name and contact details and whether you wish to have them included at the end of the poem) At the end of the year it is aimed to produce a booklet with as many of the poems sent in as possible.

**A d v a n c e N o t i c e**

As part of Helfa Gelf /Art Trail, North Wales' biggest Open Studio Event, the Overton Crafters will be running their studios in the Scout Hut 11am – 5pm September - 27th & 28th. More details in the September Oracle

## Overton Fete



Showers did not put off the visitors to this year's village fete. Opened by actor and TV presenter Tim Vincent, the crowds were entertained by the Wrexham Community Choir, a Martial Arts display, a police car and fire engine, plus many stalls and attractions provided by local businesses and organisations -

and lots of cakes!



## Brownies in Cardiff



As the Centenary celebrations continue, 6 Brownies & 2 leaders from 1<sup>st</sup> Overton-on-Dee Brownies set off, as part of 2 coach loads of Brownies from the Wrexham area, for the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff. They were heading there for a sleepover with Brownies from across Wales. On arrival, they were entertained by a group of Disney Princesses singing Disney songs. They later had a performance by a One Direction tribute band. When the time came for lights out, the midnight feasts began, along with the giggles. The following morning, the girls had some time in Cardiff before they headed home. The group from Overton along with some of

the other Wrexham Brownies spent time at Techniquet.

Then a very tired but excited group of Brownies set off for home, after another brilliant adventure.



## Thank you

David Burton has retired from the OCC after 16 years of service to the community as a councillor. During that time he served 2 terms as Chairman and 1 as Vice-Chairman. His long service has involved David in many aspects of village life; in 1999 he joined the Oracle team which was then a part of the OCC. Although the Oracle has been independent from the Overton Community Council for some years, David is still very much a part of this publication and looks forward to continued involvement. He joined with fellow councillors over the years in campaigning for road safety in the village, efforts which are now reaching fruition. Another responsibility was for the footpaths. and David represented Overton on the Wrexham Rural Community Safety Group. Over the years he has donated an enormous amount of time to the community. We know David will continue to be

involved with many other aspects of village life. Thank you David for your contribution to Overton and the community council.



**WHAT'S ON****August Diary for St Mary's Services**

**Sunday August 3rd** 10.00 Commemoration of World War 1 Service

**Sunday August 10th** 11:30am Holy Communion

**Sunday August 17th** 10.00am Family Communion

**Sunday August 24th** 11.30am Holy Communion

**Sunday August 31st** 10.00am Group Holy Communion

**August Diary for Overton Methodist Chapel Services**

**Sunday August 3rd** 6.30pm Rev Dr Stephen Wigley,  
Church of Wales Synod

**Sunday August 10th** 6.30pm Mr Ken Drury

**Sunday August 17th** 6.30pm Rev Richard Sharples

**Sunday August 24th** 6.30pm Rev John Wiggall

**Sunday August 31st** 6.30pm Mr Nigel Burns

**Every Saturday** 10.30am -12 noon Weekly Coffee  
Mornings at the Methodist Chapel

**Every Wednesday** 10.30 - 12 noon Weekly Coffee  
Morning in St Mary's Church in aid of charity

**Monday August 4th** 10.00pm -11.00pm Candlelit Vigil at  
Overton War Memorial

**Thursday August 7th** 10.30 - 2.30pm Penley Rainbow  
Lunch & Learn - Activity: Origami

**Monday August 11th** 10.30am Overton British Legion  
meeting for coffee at Woodlands Deli

**Wednesday August 13th** 12.30pm Overton Lunch Club  
at The White Horse. Booking required.

**Saturday August 16th** 9.00am Garage Sale at 5, The  
Mill, Station Road. Furniture, Odds & Ends etc

**FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Congratulations** to Clare Edwards (soon to be Fenton) and her fiancé Paul on their engagement. Very best wishes for your new life together in Cumbria. Much love from Carol, Davina and Sue.

**Belated congratulations** to Donna and James on the birth of Rueben James, a brother for Dexter and a new grandson for Pat Bush.

**Happy August Birthdays** to Daniel Brown. Alan Stubbert, Tara Stubbert, Francis Glynne

Jones, Belinda Matthews, Seanie Clarke, Jackie Grindley, Gemma Purcell, Gladys Evans, Gill Rogers, Carol Dykes, Lewis Evison, Brian Williams, Chloe Malam, Matt

Worsdell, Trena Haynes, Alex Natrass, Charlotte Scott-Davies, Dave Bellis, Ethan Saunders, Jackie Tombs and Gill Evans

Belated 1st birthday wishes to Logan Netzband-Piggott.

**Happy 80th Birthday** to Ellen Hoare.

**Sincere condolences** to Clive and to the family and friends of Arthur Hellingman of Salop Road who has passed away aged 87.

**Sincere condolences** to family and friends of Barry Barlow, the Bingo Caller, greatly missed by many.



**Overton Bowling Club  
Annual Coffee Morning**

at Overton Village Hall on

**Saturday 13th September at 10.30am to 12 noon**



Overton Community Council will be holding a Beer Festival in the Village Hall on Friday 3rd October from 7.30pm until midnight. Tickets at £6 each are on sale at the Corner Shop, Woodlands Café, from Pene Coles 710598 or Peter Lynch 710556. The price of the ticket will include the first ½ pint of beer and a locally produced sausage in a roll. Local band 'Limited Company' will be playing live on the night. The beers will be from local breweries, 'Big Hand', 'Axion Brewery', 'McGivern's Brewery', 'Stonehouse Brewery' and 'Llangollen Brewery'. All the money raised will be used for new equipment on the playground.



**OVERTON VILLAGE PRODUCE SHOW  
Saturday 6th September 2014**

Exhibits need to be brought to the Village Hall  
9.00 to 11.00am

on the morning of the Show.

Show opens at 2.30 pm.

Presentation of Prizes at 4pm

**Job Vacancy**

Reliable adults required for exam invigilation for the 2014-15 Academic year at The Maelor School, Penley.

£8 per hour. Full training given.

Please ring Andy Heron on 01948 830291 for details.

**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 Corner Shop.**

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Sean Clarke, Euan Stevenson & Gwynneth Austin**

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Space constraints mean that submitted articles may be edited or not published.

The Oracle is available on the internet. Please be mindful that personal details submitted will be available to a wider audience.

**The Overton Oracle is printed and supported by "Business Print & Design", Wrexham. Tel. No. 01978 664726  
e-mail: [info@bpandd.co.uk](mailto:info@bpandd.co.uk)**

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