

# The Overton Oracle



Volume 17 Issue 8

August 2015

Overton's Free Newspaper - delivered to every household monthly

## Wednesday morning is Coffee Morning!

Every Wednesday in August St. Mary's Church will welcome everyone for coffee or tea, 10.30 am to 12noon. Homemade cakes to treat yourself to with coffee or to buy to take home, plus a book stall. See you there.

*"My name is Oriane and I am 17 years old. I live in La Murette. This week I visit Overton to practise English. During my week, I discovered many things. I visited the Chirk Castle with Pam, Peter and Abee. It's a beautiful castle and the garden is beautiful too. Then I visited two towns, Chester and Liverpool. It was very great. I ate there and I went shopping. I loved the Maelor School because I talked to lots of young people. I listened to a variety of different accents. And we played table tennis and made a barbecue. Finally, during my week, I loved meeting new people who were all very nice. I spend a great week in Overton."*

## 43rd Produce Show

Overton Village Produce Show to be held at the Village Hall on Saturday 5th September. Entries 9.00 am to 11.00 am. Viewing from 2.30 pm. Presentation of prizes at 4.00 pm

## Coffee Morning

in aid of Overton Bowling Club in the Village Hall on Saturday 12 September at 10.30 am. All welcome

## Welcome to Overton's Twinning guests

Our French twinning partners from La Murette will be here in the village from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> of August, staying with local families. There is a full programme of outings, activities and events throughout the week, as detailed in the July Oracle. Do join us and meet our French visitors.



But in July French teenager Oriane was staying in Overton, for a 2<sup>nd</sup> time, the first when she visited with her family. This time she bravely stayed with 4 different families and spoke English all week but by the end of the week the improvement in her fluency and confidence was tangible.



*Photo: Oriane on the right and her account on the left of this page.*

More than 20 people helped to look after Oriane during her stay. A huge thanks to everyone from Oriane and her parents and from the Twinning Association. If you are a young person who would like to go to La Murette next year, to improve your French language skills or to experience a taste of life in a French family, contact the secretary Georgina Mason on 710486 or email [gmemcloy@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:gmemcloy@yahoo.co.uk)

## Fabulous Flower Festival



The Flower Festival held at Overton Methodist Church in July was a feast of glorious arrangements, each created by a different organisation in the village. Twelve organisations in all took part, basing their arrangements on their favourite hymn. To the left is a photo of the Overton Bowling Club's arrangement.

Photos of all the arrangements are

available to view on the Oracle website [www.overtonoracle.com](http://www.overtonoracle.com)

Children from each class of St Mary's School created wooden doves to depict words from the school hymn "Make me a channel of your peace". The words were light, love, hope, joy, pardon, understanding, faith and peace which were displayed in pride of place beside the altar. Children from Year 5 and 6 sang the school hymn and the Foundation Department sang 'Think of a world' with Makaton signing.



## Fun at the Fete

The 2015 Overton Village Fete was vibrant and buzzing. On a lovely sunny afternoon the villagers were entertained by some new attractions and all the old favourites.



Three Newfoundland Dogs proudly pulled small children in little carts around the top end of the field, while under a gazebo kindly supplied and erected by Coverall Marquees, Steve Dodwell from the White Horse served beer from the Joules Brewery Green Monkey Van and everyone enjoyed delicious



pork baps cooked by Mike the Village Butcher. Sian and Ed serenaded the diners with their cello and violin while in the Arena Russ Latham entertained us with jazz. Also in the Arena the children from the Karate Club proudly demonstrated their skills, Ukanuni showed the children how to perform circus tricks and a children's fancy dress competition charmed the onlookers while Ken Skates our local AM kindly presented the prizes. (see photo) 1st prize Bella Alexander Appleton (Princess), 2nd Prize Evie Bottomley Dunn (Policewoman), 3rd prize Bronnwen Rose Alexander-Appleton (Rabbit), 4th prize Henry Ellis (Super Mario) and 5th prize William Ellis (Wallee).

While we examined some very interesting Reptiles, had a go at Crazy Golf, tried to Beat The Goalie and had a go on the Coconut Shy, various organisations in Overton invited us to play tombola, skittles, throw wellies, ping pong balls, build Jenga towers and chase plastic ducks down pipes.

Many thanks to Pat Loughlin and his team for ensuring that the whole area looked great for setting up a fantastic fete on a lovely day. Thanks also to Jude Mouldsdale for supplying us with bunting and an extra gazebo and to Charlotte Copeman who had some good ideas for community games.

*Pene Coles*

*More photos of the fete are on page 5 and on the Oracle website "Gallery"*

## Playcentre News

We have now begun our holiday club which has come after a busy few weeks of fundraising and social activities. We would like to thank all who supported us with our Teddy Bear Tombola stall at the Fete. Credit goes to Claire Jowett who managed to collect, and wrap up all 288 teddy bears and then sold them all! Also thanks to Margaret Davies, Zoe Ankers-Phillips and Louise Skillicorn for their hard work face painting at the fete, we all raised £320.

The next day saw us joining forces with the School PTA and having a football match between School Dads and Playgroup Dads! Unfortunately for us the score was 6-2 to the School Dads, however much fun was had by all and we managed to raise another £150 split between for the Playcentre and PTA. Thank you to the School PTA, Paul Edwards, the Social Club and everybody else who either played, or supported us in some way, it's always very much appreciated. *More photos on Oracle website*



Our sunny Teddy Bears' Picnic was a wonderful success. It marked the end of another academic year and therefore the staff, Margaret Davies, Nicola Langley, Angela Hughes, Charlotte Brookfield and Angela Atkins all deserve a huge congratulations for all their hard work. They are a fantastic team working together and meeting all the needs of the children; they put in 110% all the time making the Playcentre a wonderful place for children to go to.

Our holiday club is running until Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September, open from 8am until 6pm Monday until Friday. It's for children aged between 2yrs and 8yrs old and its £1.50 per half hour so very flexible as no restrictions for certain sessions.

*Sarah Evans*

Anyone interested in playing for a darts team, men or womens, snooker, pool or dominoes, please call into Overton Recreational Club (above the Library) and put your name down. Please call in or ring 01978 710644 and speak to Kath or Mike Dorey.



The newly formed group of Overton Musicians will be meeting in the upstairs room in The White Horse on Sunday August 9th at 6.30pm. If you can play a musical instrument please come along and join in the fun. For more information ring 710598.

## Ramblings from the Reverend

by Rev'd Canon David Child

Last year I sold the house where we'd lived for 24 years and moved in to live with my son in his small cottage. Now at the end of August I shall move once more, to live with Diane in 11 Maelor Court. That will be my 15<sup>th</sup> house move and every time it's always the same decision I have to make. What 'stuff' do I keep and what do I get rid of.

Why is it that we find it so very difficult get rid of stuff? Why do we hoard so much stuff? Stuff that we use so very infrequently or even keep in the same unopened packing cases. Our closest living relatives make do with none of this. Chimpanzees use crude tools but after they use them once they throw them away. So how did we evolve from our common ancestor to become hoarding humans? Some years ago we found in our garden a Stone Age axe head which was authenticated by the Wrexham Museum. Stone Age axes were designed to do a job and must have been used by individuals over and over again. But this Stone Age axe was different - it was smooth and had hardly been used. The archaeologist suggested that this was no simple tool but perhaps a status symbol owned by a chief or priest

So here we have it. Even thousands of years ago possessions had already evolved beyond utility and survival value and had become part of our sense of 'self'. Around that time the switch to living in communities drove materialism also in another direction. When people settled down they became more susceptible to environmental disaster. The way to insure against this was not only to store surplus food but also to develop good relationships with other people and tribes so that one could exchange non - necessary goods for food.

So what are the chances of us breaking the human habit of owning too much? When you consider the reliance of human beings on 'stuff' to survive and social status that doesn't seem very likely. Don't get me wrong there's nothing wrong with having possessions. But we do have to be careful not to rely on our possessions and to put them ahead of our relationship with God, with others or even with both. That's why Jesus tells us that those who store up possessions for themselves are not 'rich towards God'. 'Not rich towards God' means not using our riches, our possessions as God desires for the good of others and not hoarding them for our benefit alone. Moving house is a good time to decide on our priorities, on what's really important in our lives, but it's not the only time and perhaps we should reflect on what our priorities are a lot more often.

With every blessing,  
David



## Kids Kolumn

This month's contributions are from Caitlin Baker & Olivia Rebel.



Where has the time gone? It's already that time of the year where all the year 6's have to move onto their new high schools. We all left on a high, having enjoyed Conover Hall, going to the movies and bowling during our last week at school and then to end a fantastic party in the Scout Hut after school finished on Friday. A fabulous week and we had lots of fun together. Some of us are moving to different schools but we are hoping to make new friends just as good as our old ones!! Of course we will stay in touch! Now I am embarking on a big summer holiday where I am hoping to meet some of my new friends so that when I start high school in September it won't be so scary. I am currently in Holland having a lovely time with my grandma and grandpa, aunty and cousin! It is lovely and warm here, and spending lots of time in the garden. My grandparents live in Almere, which is a part of Holland which has been reclaimed from the sea! I can't believe how flat it is here, not a mountain or hill anywhere to be seen. Tuesday we are heading off to Rotterdam for the day, that sounds quite exciting. They have double decker trains here! I am sad to leave St Mary's, as I have been there a long time, but I guess a new adventure awaits me! Have a good summer everyone.

from Caitlin

And Olivia has ideas for the summer -

*Hooray!!!!!!! Summer is here and the holidays have started and there is so much fun and games to be had with your family and friends!!! If you're not going on holiday and you're staying at home then don't worry there are still so much fun and games to be had!!! for example:*

*you could go to a really beautiful house and gardens at Erddig where till the end of August they're having a toy takeover with lots of interesting old toys on display, Chester Cathedral Falconry and Nature Gardens is a new family attraction in the city centre. Prepare to be amazed! falconers put their magnificent birds of prey through their paces in the spectacular surroundings of the cathedral gardens. They have falcons, kestrels, eagles, owls and a huge vulture.*

*In the Cathedral they also have a Alice in Wonderland exhibition which I want to go to because it will be magical!!! You can also walk up the cathedral tower which is 400 steps up and down!!!!*

*I went to sector 7 on the weekends and it was soooooo much fun I suggest playing it with lots of people it's more fun that way (you have to shoot each other with laser guns!) It is at Cheshire Oaks at Tenpin 10. They also have bowling which is very fun as well!!!! Have a good holiday.*

## Dates for the diary

The Friends of St Marys are hosting "Phantom on the Opera" in St Mary's Church on Saturday October 3rd at 8pm. This will be a showing of the original 1925 silent black & white movie with accompaniment on the St Mary's organ by Dr Anthony Hammond, internationally renowned concert organist. More details in the September Oracle.

Preparations are well under way for the next Overton Beer Festival which will be taking place on Friday October 16th in the Village Hall. Money raised from the beer festival will be put towards a VAS (Vehicle Activated Sign) on Salop Road. The beers will all be from local breweries and tickets will soon be on sale in The Corner Shop.

## Centenary of two Overton deaths in WWI

### Thomas Henderson 1894 – 1915



It was one hundred years ago this month Thomas Henderson died, and he is commemorated on Overton's War Memorial. But Thomas is a bit of a mystery as he was from Scotland so why is he remembered here in Wales. He was the son of James and Jane Henderson who in 1901 lived at in a traditional tenement in south west Edinburgh. James was a tinsmith. There were 9 children and Thomas was the 6<sup>th</sup>. The photo shows the Henderson family. It

could be that he came to Overton for a job in service, perhaps as a footman. At Bryn y Pys Major Peel had a Butler and 2 footmen, one of whom was local lad John Haynes. When war broke out and many of Thomas's work mates joined up, he would have gone along with them to enlist in Wrexham, and hence a Scot found himself a Private in the Royal Welch Fusiliers, Service Number 13764.

The 8th Battalion were formed in Wrexham in August 1914 and came under orders of 40th Brigade, 13th (Western) Division. They moved immediately on mobilisation to Salisbury Plain and then to Blackdown. They sailed for Mudros in the Aegean Sea arriving 4th July 1915 to prepare for the landing at Gallipoli. The infantry landed at ANZAC Cove on 3rd-5th August and then to Suvla. Despite facing light opposition, the landing at Suvla was mismanaged from the outset and quickly reached the same stalemate conditions as on the Anzac and Helles fronts. On 15th August, the British commander at Suvla, Lieutenant General Stopford was dismissed. His performance in command was said to be one of the most incompetent feats of generalship of the first World War.

At about this time Private Thomas Henderson was wounded and evacuated to a hospital ship which then sailed, probably taking its wounded to Alexandria in Egypt. But on the 18<sup>th</sup> August he died of his wounds on board the ship and was buried at sea. He was aged 21.

This is an extract from the diary of Kathleen Mann, of the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service on Board HMS Ulysses, just a week later on 23 August 1915 *"We lost a patient this morning, after he had had two operations, poor boy, it was sad, only 24hrs, and he had been through so much (gas gangrene); it was horribly sudden. I witnessed a burial at sea for the first time that day. It was held on the end deck after lunch, the body being placed on a slanting board, covered with a union jack. The burial service was read by the Captain, there being no Padre; others attending were the OC Troops and some of the medical staff. It was most impressive and quite reverently done."*

Thomas Henderson is remembered on the Helles Memorial at Gallipoli, Turkey on panel 78-81, on the Scottish National War Memorial in Edinburgh Castle and on Overton War Memorial.

### Arthur Studley 1887 - 1915

August 2015 is the centenary of the death of Arthur Studley, commemorated on Overton War Memorial. Arthur was born in 1887, the son of Edward and Mary Studley. His father was a farmer in Cae Dyah, Overton. Arthur was their eldest child, then there was Lilian b1889 and Thomas Edward b1891. In the 1890s there was a grocers shop and corn merchants in Penyllan Street, on the corner of High Street, run by the Studley family but they had no direct relationship with Arthur's family although they may have been distant cousins.

Arthur's mother died in 1896 and the children were split up to live with different family members, Thomas with an uncle & aunt in Bangor on Dee and Arthur with his grandfather, Thomas Studley farmer at Little Overton Farm. In 1911 Edward was a coal agent living at Little Overton now farmed by his brother in law Joseph Owen, but Arthur had decided to try his luck abroad.

In 1910 Arthur took a passage to Australia, probably an assisted passage, sailing from London on 18<sup>th</sup> March 1910 on the RMS Orvieto of the Orient Line via the Suez Canal to Sydney. He was listed on the passenger list as single and a clerk. But he didn't stay there long and moved again to New Zealand. In 1914 at the outbreak of war he joined the Wellington Regiment of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force, Private 10/168. The Regiment was first sent to Egypt for the defence of the Suez Canal and then in April 1915 to Gallipoli to join the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.

Chunuk Bair was one of the main objectives in the Battle of Sari Bair, fought 6th-10th August 1915. The attack was carried out by 2 columns of the New Zealand Infantry Brigade, starting from the outposts on the shore and proceeding up the Sazli Belt Dere and the Chailak Dere. They were supported by the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion Welsh Regiment so Arthur was once again amongst his countrymen. On the 8<sup>th</sup> August 1915 age 27 he was killed. Arthur has no known grave and his name is commemorated on panel 23 on the Chunuk Bair (New Zealand) Memorial in Turkey, and at the National War Memorial, Wellington, New Zealand and on Overton War Memorial.

His younger brother Thomas was killed in Palestine on 30th November 1917. He is remembered on the Jerusalem Memorial Panel 41 and on Bangor on Dee War Memorial.

### Dear Editor

Hi, Overton Football Club here,  
Having a quiet Sunday morning then a knock on the door. A resident of Overton out walking his dog has just been past the Football Hut at the playing fields. Two windows have been smashed on the front of the hut. This is not the first time and we as a club have to replace them at our own expense. This is putting a great strain on our club financially as we have replaced them 3 times already. As a village club we will have to think hard if we can survive as we cannot afford to keep replacing the glass every time someone mindlessly damages it.  
If anyone has any information regarding the above please can you inform the Police (*see back page for contact details*). It would be such a shame for the whole community if Overton could no longer afford to be part of the Welsh National Football League.

Dave Edwards

### VJ Day Commemoration

The Overton Branch of the Royal British Legion will be holding a commemoration event at the War Memorial at 11.00 am on VJ Day, Saturday August 15<sup>th</sup>. The Legion will assemble at 10.45am outside the door of St Mary's Church and march to the War Memorial at 10.55am.

A two minute silence will be observed at 11.00am followed by the reciting of the words on the Kohima memorial. Everyone in the village is invited to attend and standards should be carried by any of the uniformed youth groups who choose to attend.

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



More photos  
from the fete



## Celebrating 5 Generations

The Owen family have been celebrating the arrival of the latest addition, meaning that there are now five generations in the male line of the family, and making Den Owen a great great grandfather!

From the left in the photo,  
Baby Kieran James Owen with his  
Father - Tim Owen,  
Grandfather - Neil Owen and Great Uncle - Paul Owen,  
Great Grandfather Keith Owen and last but not least  
Great Great Grandfather Dennis Owen



## Farewell from the Lunch Club



As Members of the White Horse Lunch Club we would like to express sincere thanks to Steve and Jane Dodwell for allowing us a meeting place for members to put the world to right over good 'value for money' lunches for the past 5 years. Steve and Jane ensured members were well catered for, as well as enjoying themselves with after lunch entertainment in the shape of a draw, quizzes, bingo, occasional speakers and music. We take this opportunity of wishing them both every success in their future ventures and hopefully that whenever possible they will pop back and maybe join us for a meal.

At an emotional farewell lunch on 8<sup>th</sup> June, Gwynneth Austin organiser of the Lunch Club thanked Steve and Jane and presented them with a gift of a pair of inscribed Bohemian Cut Glasses, and in return The White Horse presented Gwynneth with an arrangement of flowers and paid tribute by saying that without her efforts the Lunch Club would not have taken off.

The incoming new Landlord, Kevin was there to meet everyone and gave assurance that the Club would continue as normal and he looked forward to meeting everyone again at the next lunch on 12<sup>th</sup> August.

## Help yourself

The wicking planters outside the Scout Hut are now full of healthy looking vegetables. The planters sponsored by Claire from Knolton Market garden, are tended by Overton Cubs and Beavers and St Mary's Toddler Group. There is a reservoir of water in the gravel bed at the bottom of the planter that is kept topped up by the down pipe. The gravel and soil are separated by a permeable membrane, so the water can pass through and up into the dryer soil to keep the plants watered. It only needs topping up once a week, as opposed to normal planters which need watering every day. All materials used were recycled.

Look out for other projects in the future around the village. If you would like to join the community gardening club come along to the White Horse on the first Thursday of the month beginning Sept. at 7.30pm or ring 710598. You don't need to be an expert gardener. In the meantime do help yourself to the produce outside the Scout Hut, they have been grown for you.



## Messy Church

July's service followed the theme 'The lost son and the forgiving father'. Deacon Lisa relayed the tale of the prodigal son and we discussed our feelings of sorrow, loss and frustration when we lose something and the feelings of happiness and joy when we find them again. We thought about how God would feel when a person came to him who had not done so before. We made lost sheep by painting over fruit netting to give a fluffy effect. Deacon Lisa brought gloop for us to make shapes with and we made pastry and cherry jam from cherries that we picked ourselves.



We will not be having a service in August but look forward to seeing you all again on the second Sunday of September which is September 13<sup>th</sup>.

*Angharad Veneklaas Slots*

## What's On

### August Diary for St Mary's Services

Sunday August 2<sup>nd</sup> 10.00am Family Village Praise  
 Sunday August 9<sup>th</sup> 11.30am Holy Communion  
 Sunday August 16<sup>th</sup> 10.00am Family Communion  
 Sunday August 23<sup>rd</sup> 11.30am Holy Communion  
 Sunday August 30<sup>th</sup> 10.00am Group Family Holy Communion

### August Diary for Overton Methodist Chapel

Sunday August 2<sup>nd</sup> 6.30pm Mrs Sheila Rudden  
 Sunday August 9<sup>th</sup> 6.30pm Mr Martin Woodhall  
 Sunday August 16<sup>th</sup> 6.30pm Rev P. Poole, Holy Communion  
 Sunday August 23<sup>rd</sup> 6.30pm Deacon Lisa Rathbone  
 Sunday August 30<sup>th</sup> 6.30pm Local Arrangement  
**Every Saturday** 10.30am-12 noon Weekly Coffee Mornings at the Methodist Chapel

**Every Wednesday** 10.30am-12 noon Weekly Coffee Mornings at St Marys Church

**Thursday August 6th** 10.30-2.30 Rainbow Centre Lunch & Learn - All about wool, needle felting & exploring different wools with Coral Devlin

**Sunday August 9th** 6.30pm Overton Musicians Group in the White Horse. All welcome.

**Tuesday August 11th** 7 for 7.30pm Bingo at the Rainbow Centre, Penley

**Wednesday August 12th** 10.30am Overton British Legion meeting for coffee in the Scout Hut

**Wednesday August 12th** 12.30pm Overton Lunch Club at the White Horse. Booking required

**Friday August 14th** 7.15pm Maelor Belles WI at the Rainbow Centre "The Great Maelor Bake-off" on the theme of the WI Centenary. Cakes, cupcakes, bread, biscuits, anything goes!

**Saturday August 15th** 11am VJ commemoration at Overton War Memorial



Spotted on BBC1 afternoon quiz show "Pointless" hosted by Alexander Armstrong was no less than Overton Councillor Sue England with her son in law, Fergus.

## To Let

## Family Announcements

**Congratulations** to David Child and Diane Jones on their wedding on August 22<sup>nd</sup>  
**Congratulations** to Gayle Green and Neil Whittaker on their wedding on 31<sup>st</sup> August.

**Congratulations** to Sheila & Keith Miller on their Golden Wedding Anniversary.



**Happy August Birthdays** to Daniel Brown. Alan Stubbert, Tara Stubbert, Francis Glynne Jones, Belinda Matthews, Seanie Clarke, Jackie Grindley, 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, Reg Jones, Jackie Tombs and Gill Evans.



Happy birthday to Ellen Hoare, 81 years young.  
 Happy birthday to Cindy Myers love from Andy, Rosie and Joseph.

Belated birthday wishes to Tracey & Kayle Leech

## Thank you

Please say a big thank you to neighbours, friends and family for their kindness and sympathy and donations totalling £901.21p in memory of Dad, Jack Edwards. From the Edwards family.

We would like to thank all those who attended and helped the RNLI coffee morning in memory of Arthur Hellingman. It was very successful and we raised £410 towards the work of the Lifeboat Association.  
 Philippa and Sheila.



## Overton Lunch Club

is on Wednesday August 12<sup>th</sup> at 12.30pm at the White Horse. The menu will be brunch followed by a pudding. All for £6.25. To book please ring Gwynneth Austin on 710672

## PLEASE REMEMBER

Copy deadline **20<sup>th</sup>** 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.

**Your Oracle Team - Chairman & Advertising David Burton; Treasurer Rob Netzband-Piggott; Distribution Cynthia Davies; Charlotte Clarke, Euan Stevenson, Sean Clarke, Catherine Starkey & Gwynneth Austin**

Editor - Jill Burton.  
 Tel 710631 or e-mail [overtonoracle@gmail.com](mailto:overtonoracle@gmail.com)

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