

The Overton Oracle



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December 2011

Overton's Free Newspaper - issued monthly

'Winslow Boy' a triumph

Was it the comfortable new chairs or was it the quality of the play and acting that meant there was no wriggling during the 4 acts of Overton Am Drams production of the "Winslow Boy"? Terrance Rattigan's play, set just before the first World War, shows middle-class society on the eve of disintegration. The author asks two pointed questions, firstly when does the quest for justice turns into an exercise in pride and self-interest, and secondly how does what's right differ from what justice demands?



First impressions of a professional set led the audience to rightly expect that they were in for a good evening. Sheila Miller's skilful direction led a strong cast. Alan Farley's fine portrayal of Mr Winslow supported by his protective 'wife' masterfully played by Joanne Kember, and their eldest son (Stephen Deyes) led the audience through an evening of quality drama. The pivotal figure in the story, Ronnie's suffragette sister, Catherine, was competently played by Roxanne Haynes. She sacrifices her fiancé (a convincing upper class twit played by Mike Done) to the family cause, but was doted on by ex-cricketer and squashed solicitor (Mervyn Haynes).

Stephen Sorfleet played a not surprisingly most convincing portrayal of the star barrister, Sir Robert Morton. The cast was supported by superb cameo performances by Cynthia Davies, David Hughes and most importantly the family stalwart, Violet the maid (Ann Kynaston). But the focus of the play was 'the boy' himself and Luke Haynes' excellent debut with the society was hopefully the first of many.

Whatever justice was achieved for the Winslow Boy, justice was certainly done by Overton Amateur Dramatic Society for Rattigan's play in its centenary production.



Disappearing gates

December 2010

Many of you may have noticed that the Lytch gates to the Wrexham Rd cemetery have recently disappeared. Dave Austin writes

November 2011



"Is this how the history and beauty of our village is destroyed by modern day society and man's own greed. As far as I can remember those gates have been there all my 70 years of life and before, and the only damage we ever did at the Old Cemetery as kids was to pick the snowdrops.



Happy Christmas to all our Oracle Readers & Distributors

Please note that because of the Christmas and New Year holidays, contributions for the January edition should be left at the Corner Shop or sent to overtonoracle@gmail.com by December 16th at the latest.

Ramblings From the Reverend by David Child



Eleven years ago I was lucky enough to be invited to attend a Medical Congress in Jerusalem. On the last day at the end of the conference I hailed a taxi and asked to be taken back to my hotel. The taxi driver asks if I've been to Bethlehem and then suggests that he can take me there. I think to myself can I trust this man? But it's the only chance I'll ever get. 'Take me to Bethlehem.'

So he gets on his mobile. We drive out along a desert road and through an Israeli and a Palestinian checkpoint and we soon reach the outskirts of Bethlehem. But then something very unnerving happens. He turns off the road on to a dirt track; he drives into a car park outside a run down supermarket, parks and turns off the engine. 'What are we doing here?' 'We are waiting.' 'What are we waiting for?' 'We wait for Palestinian taxi.' A few minutes and there's a Palestinian taxi. And so I go with the Palestinian taxi. The driver gets on his mobile. And we drive into Bethlehem. He stops his taxi, turns off his engine, someone opens my door. 'I am your Bethlehem guide, come with me'.

And so we walk through the streets to the Church of the Holy Nativity. I'm introduced to a priest and I'm shown around. The Church of the Holy Nativity is built on top of the cave where tradition has it Jesus was born and there's a way down into this cave from inside the church, but there's a long queue and it's late. My guide reassures me and takes me down through the exit.

I stand and watch. It's a small cave. People are coming down one flight of steps and leaving via the other. In the centre of the floor there's a silver star marking the exact spot where it's believed Jesus was born. Some people are bowing, some are kneeling, some are kissing the star. But it doesn't mean a thing to me. May be I'm anxious about getting home, no-one knows where I am.

And then my guide taps me on the shoulder. He tells me to look where no-one else is looking – into the dark recesses of the cave. And when my eyes get accustomed to the darkness I see it, a feeding trough, a manger hewn out of the solid rock. And I want to stay. After a few minutes my guide taps me on the shoulder again. 'You go home now, doctor'. And so I'm passed down the line like a parcel; Palestinian taxi, Israeli taxi, my hotel and early the next morning I'm on my flight back home.

With every blessing for Christmas and the New Year.
David.

COUNTRY BEAT by PCSO Stephen O'Connell

Winter is truly upon us! It'll soon be dark at 4pm. Before the snow and ice start it's an ideal time to check that your car is in top condition. Please carry out checks on tyres, oil, lights, etc. Make sure that you have a spare tyre in the event of a break down and it's a good idea to keep a torch in the car. When going out to work, the shops or taking the kids to school, I recommend taking a fully charged mobile phone in case of an emergency.

With Christmas just around the corner, Nth Wales Police will be carrying out our annual drink driver checks. Officers from our Roads Policing Unit will be out on a daily basis around Wrexham County Borough stopping cars and carrying out breath tests. I can't emphasise enough NOT to drink and drive over the festive period. Even one drink is maybe enough to put you over the limit. Always have a designated driver or arrange for taxis and lifts home for after the 'work's Christmas do' or 'a quick one down the pub'.

I would like to pass advice to the elderly people in the village to be wary of strangers knocking on your door. With the cold weather, these people may call to offer cheap double glazing, cheaper gas and electric, thermal loft insulation, etc. Whilst the majority of these will be legitimate, there are rogue people out there who will use these types of reasons to carry out distraction burglaries and rogue trader offences. Always ask for identification, refuse entry or contact the company they claim to be from to confirm their identity.

We have received several calls reporting anti-social behaviour regarding kids playing 'knock and run' or 'jack knock' around the village. It is not fair to disturb elderly people. Friendly words of advice were given at first but this has been ignored. In future, we will not be giving out friendly warnings but issuing yellow cards to all involved. The children will also be escorted home by the Police. If you ever need to speak to any of us at Overton station please do so on the numbers below.

All the best,
Stephen O'Connell

Ffon / Phone: 01978 348 425
Symudol / Mobile: 07854 352 601

Rhos Orpheus Choir
Christmas Concert
Friday December 9th 7pm
in St. Mary's Church,
plus children from St. Mary's School
under the direction of Mr. Dylan Williams.

90th Anniversary

This year the numbers who gathered at the Overton cenotaph, both at 11am on 11th November and on Remembrance Sunday, were most impressive.

This year was the 90th anniversary of the unveiling of the Overton cenotaph. In 1921 after negotiations, conducted mainly by Major Hugh Peel on the community's behalf between the local Council and Flintshire County Council, permission was given to erect a Memorial on land opposite the Church with the proviso it be 8 ft from the highway. At the same time it was decided to provide, at a cost of £113, a footpath and kerbing from the corner of Overton Hall (Willow Street) to the Rectory. Public subscriptions raised £170, and Ernest Jones whose premises were at the rear of the Cocoa and Reading Rooms, was commissioned to construct the Memorial.

The Unveiling and Dedication of the War Memorial took place on Thursday 10th November 1921 at 2.30pm. The ceremony included the children and teachers of Overton School plus a muster of ex-Servicemen led by Major Hugh Peel and Col. Lord Southwell of Knolton Hall, the local Foresters (Friendly Society) the parishioners, Inspector Owen Jones and the Maelor Constabulary and the relatives of the fallen,

The Service was conducted by Rev F.J.Okell; Rev G. Osborne and the Rev Harrop Williams. The MP for Flintshire, Lt. Col. T.H. Parry, DSO then unveiled the Memorial saying at the start of his address that it was a great privilege to be allowed to unveil a Memorial which expressed in permanent form the high regard, affection, and esteem, in which the memory of the men of Overton inscribed upon it were held in the parish.

Though sadly more names were to be added after 1945 it is good to know that Col Parry's words still hold true 90 years later.

Sponsor a chair?

We have seen many improvements to the Village Hall during the past year. But after a recent break-in to the Hall and the Library we must now consider installing CCTV. This year, in response to the requests of several regular users, our focus is to replace the stock of 180 chairs with comfortable, yet storable ones. We have taken delivery of 70 new chairs so far at a price to be held for a few months.

Overton Am Drams have given a substantial donation towards the first order and we have been fortunate to be promised a grant from the Community Chest thanks to the Community Council. Playgroup has indicated its intention to sponsor a chair (or two) and this article is a plea to other organisations, clubs, businesses and individuals to help us to reach our target for the purchase of all new chairs during the coming months. The cost of each chair including VAT is £30 which makes it a huge financial project. We then plan to re-cycle our existing stock of chairs within the community. Contact us if you can help. 01978 710413

Kids Kolumn



by Lily Simon

Hi guys,
Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year
Hope you get what you
would like



Latest film review:

“Jonny English Reborn” P.G

Comedy lots of hilarious parts in it.

It's an MI7 team catching assassins, trying to kill the leader of China.

Not at all serious

If you want a laugh then this is the film for you, and all the family.

How many words can you make out of SANTAS SLEIGH ?

S	_____	_____
A	_____	_____
N	_____	_____
T	_____	_____
A	_____	_____
S	_____	_____
S	_____	_____
L	_____	_____
E	_____	_____
I	_____	_____
G	_____	_____
H	_____	_____

Answers next month
so have a jolly Merry Christmas!!!!

Many thanks to Alice, Lydia & Lottie who have compiled the Kids Kolumn since September 2008

Lunch Club



The Overton Lunch Club is on Wednesday 14th December at 12.30pm at the White Horse. The menu will be Roast Turkey with all the trimmings & festive vegetables followed by Christmas Pudding and Brandy Sauce. To book please ring Gwynneth Austin on 710672.

OVERTON CHRISTMAS OPENINGS

OVERTON SURGERY

Closed 24th, 25th, 26th and Tuesday 27th.

Closed Monday January 2nd.

On closed days and outside surgery opening hours ring

**Out of Hours provider
on 0300 123 55 66**

OVERTON CHEMIST

Open Xmas Eve 9am—1pm
Closed 27th & 28th.

Open New Years Eve 9am-1pm
Closed Mon 2nd. Emergency chemist at St Georges Crescent

LAST POSTING DATES

 1st Class within the UK
Tuesday December 20th
2nd Class within the UK
Sat. December 17th

THOROUGHGOODS

DEC 23rd 7am - 7pm
24th 8am - 6pm
25th CLOSED
26th 9am - 1pm
27th 9am - 1pm
28th - 30th 7am - 6pm
31st 8am - 6pm
JAN 1st 9am - 1pm
2nd 8am - 2pm

LIBRARY

Overton Library closes 6pm Friday 23rd December and re-opens 2pm 4th January 2012.

MAELOR VETERINARY CENTRE

Monday 19th to Friday 23rd December:

open as normal.

Mon-Fri 1-3pm, Tues & Thurs 5-6pm

Monday 26th - CLOSED

Tuesday 27th - CLOSED

Wednesday 28th to Friday 30th 1 - 3pm & 5 - 6pm

Monday 2nd January - CLOSED

From Tuesday 3rd January normal opening times.

In an Emergency please telephone
(01978) 711975

THE WHITE HORSE

Christmas Eve 12.00 to 11.30pm
(Food 12 - 3.00pm only)

Christmas Day 11.30 - 1.30 (No food)

Boxing Day 12- 6pm (Carvery 12-3pm)

Tues 27th 12-11pm
(Food 12-2.30 & 6-8.30)

Wed 28th 12-2.30pm, 5.30-midnight
(Food 12-2.30 & 6-9.00)

Thurs 29th 12-2.30 & 5.30-midnight
(Food 12-2.30 & 6-9.00)

Fri 30th 12-2.30, 5.30-midnight
(Food 12-2.30 & 6-9.00)

New Years Eve 12-2.30, 7-1.30am
(12-3.00, Free buffet in evening)

New Years Day 12 - 11pm
(Food 12 - 3.00, 6 - 8.30)

Mon Jan 2nd 12 - 9.00pm
(Food 12-2.30 & 6-8.30)

Tues Jan 3rd Closed all day

Wed Jan 4th 6pm - 12pm
(Food 6-8.30pm)

WOODLANDS DELI

Dec. 24th 9.00am - 3.00pm

Dec. 25th to 28th Closed

Dec. 29th 9.00am - 4.00pm

Dec. 30th 9.00am - 4.00pm

Dec. 31st 9.00am - 3.00pm

Jan 2nd Closed



CORNER SHOP

Xmas Eve 6am - 5pm
Xmas Day Closed
Boxing Day 8am -12pm
Tuesday 27th 8am -12pm
Wed. 28th 8am - 6pm
Thursday 29th 8am - 6pm
Friday 30th 8am - 6pm
Saturday 31th 6am - 4pm
New Yrs Day 8am -12pm
Monday 2nd 8am - 1pm
Tuesday Back to normal

DUSTBIN DAYS

Fri. Dec 23rd
Green Bin
Tues. Jan 3rd
General Waste
Mon. Jan 9th
Green Bin
Sat. Jan 14th
General Waste
Then back to Friday

OVERTON RECREATIONAL CLUB

Fri 23rd 7.30pm Big Money Bingo, Knockout Prize Presentations & Big Draw;
Sat 24th 3 -11pm; Sun 25th 12-2pm;
Mon 26th 1.30pm - midnight;
Wed 28th Music Quiz 9pm;
Sat 31st New Years Eve Disco & Buffet till 1pm
Sun Jan 1st 2-11pm

Medical Practice

When you have blood tests please retain the paperwork given to you after the test. This will itemise which tests you have had taken. The tests are processed by the pathology department at the Maelor, sent back to us and then reviewed and commented upon by a clinician. You will **NOT** be rung up with the result of any blood tests, so please remember to ring the surgery after 5 working days, from 11am onwards, armed with your paperwork, to request the results. If there is a cause for concern over a particular result the doctor may decide to ring and have a word, or raise a prescription to deal with a problem.

Public Consultation on Overton public toilets

Dear Residents,

Wrexham County Borough Council are currently reviewing their **2012/13 budget** and are considering the closure of the public toilets located in Overton. They have approached Overton Community Council and requested that we consider taking over the running and maintenance of the toilets. Overton Community Council need to know your views as there will be an increase in your council tax charges should we proceed:

Please circle either yes or no

- 1. Do you wish to keep the public toilets open? Yes / No**
2. Are you prepared to pay to keep the toilets open? Yes / No

Below is a chart showing the current community council precept charge for residents of Overton (**Row 1**) based on the current tax base. **Row 2** shows the additional charge of running and maintaining the public toilets at the higher tax base of 685 for 2012/13.

Council Tax Bands	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
Current community council charge – 2011/2012	£36.10	£42.12	£48.14	£54.15	£66.19	£78.22	£90.25	£108.31	£126.36
Additional charge should the community council take over the running and maintenance. This is based on the 2012/2013 tax base	£4.35	£5.08	£5.81	£6.53	£7.98	£9.43	£10.89	£13.06	£15.24
Total	£40.45	£47.20	£53.95	£60.68	£74.17	£87.65	£101.14	£121.37	£141.60

Below are points you may wish to consider prior to making your decision.

- This is much valued service for members of the public travelling through Overton.
- These members of the public may use local shops and facilities.
- Should the public toilets close, the building may become unsightly/vandalised.
- There may be issues with people urinating outside the closed building.

If residents were in favour of Overton Community Council running the public toilets it would on the understanding that regular reviews of the running/maintenance costs would be carried out and should it prove too costly, residents will be consulted again. It is hoped that our estimated running costs would be lower than we have stated.

Closing date for this consultation is Monday 12th December 2011.

Spare copies are available from the offices of Overton Community Council or at the Corner Shop and Thoroughgoods or you can reply via the Overton on Dee website, www.overton-on-dee.co.uk proceed to the Community Council page and look under 'More from the Community' – public consultation (located on the right handside of the page).

Replies can be posted or delivered to: Overton Community Council, Overton Village Hall, Penyllan Street, Overton. (There is a black post box on the wall to the right of the village hall doors). Your response and feedback to this consultation is needed and valued. Thank you for taking the time to respond.

Mrs Jacqueline Maskall



Cinderella drops into the Boat

The Boat Inn played host to the launch of this years pantomime. "Cinderella" will be performed at the William Aston Hall, Wrexham from December 8th to Jan 1st and is produced by local lad Tim Vincent.

At the launch Cinderella with her attendants arrived at the Boat in her carriage pulled by white horses and was received by Baron Hardup who will be played by comedian Sid Little.



'Our Beautiful Dee'

Roy Henry has just produced a DVD "Our beautiful Dee" which as well as including the title song is a short musical journey from Erbistock to Overton village. Roy is an ex Overton boy and author of "Two lives, two rivers". He has for a long time wanted to pay a tribute to the river that captivated his heart as a child. Copies of the DVD are available from Roy via email - r.williams654@btinternet.com or on 01948 830654. He hasn't put a price on it, and feels that folk can contribute what they feel appropriate.

SPARKS Info for parents

The Wrexham Family Information Service has identified there are great numbers of parents who are in work, but are experiencing difficulties in sustaining employment due to the demands of managing a family and the challenges of living in the current economic climate. The Sparks Project helps working parents and their employers to access information, services and entitlements available to them and to understand the benefits of effective 'Work Life Balance' arrangements.

The Sparks Project is delivered across 3 counties, Wrexham, Flintshire and Denbighshire, and is managed by Wrexham Family Information Service. For more information or to contact the North East Wales Information Outreach Officer - Sparks Project. Tel: 01978 292094 andrea.roberts@wrexham.gov.uk

St Mary's garden to tummy



Children in the Early Years department have been busy harvesting the vegetables that the foundation department had planted earlier in the year.

They have had help from a group of 'Hardy Annuals' (very helpful Mums!) who have cleared the raised

beds for winter and have helped the children make soup from the vegetables we collected.

The vegetable soup has been devoured by a hoard of hungry mouths and was best received with a chunk of homemade bread! Aren't we lucky?



Playgroup News

This years Christmas Market was a huge success. I would like to thank Danielle and the whole team who worked so hard to organise the event. The raffle prizes were fantastic and thanks to everyone who kindly donated such wonderful and generous prizes. Louisa's sparkle chestnuts and hot spiced apple drink were fabulous and her brightly lit stall outside gave the evening that extra special Christmassy feeling.

Playgroup will be open for holiday club once school closes for the Christmas holidays, so please call and speak to Margaret if you want to book your children in. I would just like to wish everyone a very merry Christmas from playgroup!!
Angie Atkins



WHAT'S ON

December Diary for St Mary's Services

- Sunday December 4th** 11:30am Holy Eucharist
Sunday December 11th 10.00am Christingle Service
Sunday December 18th 6.00pm Service of Nine Lessons & Carols
Saturday December 24th 3pm Christmas Eve Crib Service
Saturday December 24th 11pm Christmas Eve Midnight Communion
Sunday December 25th 9.00am Christmas Day Holy Communion
Sunday January 1st 10.30am New Year's Day Holy Communion

December Diary for Methodist Chapel Services

- Sunday December 4th** 6.30pm Anniversary Evening Service led by Rev Una Mclean
Sunday December 18th 2.30pm Service led by Mr Tim Guy
Wednesday December 21st 7.00pm Festival of Carols
Sunday December 25th 9.00am Communion Service led by the Rev Una McLean
Sunday January 1st 6.30pm Evening Service
Friday December 2nd 7.30pm Maelor Music Society Christmas Supper Evening
Saturday December 3rd 2pm Overton Methodist Chapel Christmas Fair
Monday December 5th 7.30pm Overton British Legion AGM in the Recreational Club
Tuesday December 6th 3.30pm Senior Citizens Christmas Party in the Village Hall (ring 710944 for invitation)
Thursday December 8th 7.30 pm Overton WI meeting at the Parish Room. Speaker, - Mrs Lynne Munden on "A Chinese Merry Christmas" Competition: A Pretty Scarf
Friday December 9th 7pm Rhos Orpheus Christmas Concert in St. Mary's Church, plus children from St. Mary's school under the direction of Mr. Dylan Williams.
Saturday December 11th 8pm Knockout Finals in Overton Recreational Club
Sunday December 11th 8pm Christmas Bingo in Overton Recreational Club
Monday December 12th 10.30am Overton British Legion will be meeting for coffee at Woodlands Deli
Monday December 12th 6.30pm Church's Together Carols around the village
Tuesday December 13th Overton Community Council meeting in the Parish Room. Members of the public wishing to speak can do so between 7.20 – 7.30pm.
Wednesday December 14th 12.30pm Overton Lunch Club at the White Horse. Booking required.
Friday December 16th The legendary **Blues Band**. Paul Jones (Manfred Mann etc), Tom McGuinness (Manfred Mann and McGuinness Flint), Dave Kelly Rob Townsend & Gary Fletcher at Overton Village Hall

FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy December Birthdays to Nick Russell, Joseph Thomas, Dani Jones, Iris Edwards, Howard Jones, Jenny Maskall, Walter Roberts, Carol Morrison, Lisa Edwards & Amelia Lloyd.

Belated happy 80th birthday to Margaret Mawdsley
Belated birthday wish for 2 year old Matthew, love from Mum & Dad and **Belated congratulations** to Lyn and Mark on the birth of their twins.

Sincere condolences to the friends & family of Edna Dickinson of Sundorne who passed away in November



Overton Methodist Chapel

Christmas Fair

Saturday December 3rd - 2pm

Do you have any comments or objections to a change in the Library opening times on one of the days. Pop into the Overton Library and fill in a survey. Rebecca would like your views.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Alice Murray on gaining her degree in Festival and Events Management from Glyndwr University.



Christmas Trees For Sale

Hill Farm, Station Road, Overton
01978 710616

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.

Your Oracle Team -

Chairman & Advertising David Burton; **Secretary** Nicole Netzband-Piggott; **Treasurer** Rob Piggott; **Distribution** Cynthia Davies; Sean Clarke, & Euan Stevenson.

Editor - Jill Burton.

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All articles and advertisements in the Overton Oracle are published in good faith and without prejudice.

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.

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