

# The Overton Oracle



Volume 17 Issue 2

February 2015

Overton's Free Newspaper - delivered to very household monthly

## OCC Drop-in



Overton Community Council invites you to 'drop in' on Wednesday 18th February, 10.00am to 11.00am in the Parish Room for coffee/tea and chat - an opportunity to come along and speak directly to Councillors and PCSOs about any issues or concerns you may have about your village, or to discuss an idea or project you would like to suggest. Come in and meet the people who are your voice.

## Valentine Disco

Overton Playcentre invite you to their Valentine '80s/90s' Disco at the Village Hall on Saturday February 14th 8pm, tickets £5.

## Bowling AGM

Overton Bowling Club will be holding their AGM in the Parish Room on Tuesday February 3rd at 7.30pm

## Maelor Music Society

features 'Piantel' a harp and piano duo in the Maelor School Hall on Wed. February 4th

## New look

The Oracle this month may have a slightly different look. This is because it was prepared on a different commuter system, (Apple Mac rather than Microsoft for those who want to know) and has been put together in computer-land itself - Silicon Valley - where the Editor was staying with the part of the family who live in California.

## Thanks to our distributors

The Oracle has paid tribute to its volunteer distributors, with out whom, none of us would receive our copies. At a presentation evening at the White Horse, Nonna Woodward, past deputy chairman of North Wales Newspapers paid tribute to their commitment to ensure local news reaches every household in the parish and presented certificates for 5, 10 & 15 yrs of distributing.



Nonna said "What a extraordinary opportunity to congratulate you all and celebrate the longevity and success of the Oracle. January 2015 is the start of the Overton Oracle's 17th year of continuous production. Started by Overton Community Council in 1999 to keep the residents of Overton informed about the work of the Council, but soon it grew into a journal for the whole village as contributions poured in from far and wide and continue to come in

I believe the strength of the Oracle is that it is so local that every page is relevant to its reader. It is written by the locals entirely about local news stories, it is delivered by a loyal team, it is read by everyone in the village and valued by the whole of Overton. This is its special recipe for success. However, in spite of all the hard work from all of these people, the Oracle would not exist without the help, dedication and hard work of our volunteer distributors - who brave all weathers, dogs and potholes to ensure we all receive our copy. Month in, month out, you toil round the village, without you the Oracle is nothing. So our thanks go to each and everyone of you."

## Je suis Charlie

As everyone will know by now, the new year started tragically in Paris with the murder of the cartoonists of the magazine Charlie Hebdo. The Twinning Association sent a letter of support and condolence to our friends in La Murette. On the eve of the Sunday solidarity event in Paris, the Mayor, Madame Bernadette Bourgeat, presided over a very moving event on the steps of the Mairie (Town Hall) The children laid flowers on the steps and candles were lit in commemoration. The words of solidarity from Overton were read out. At times like this, the ethos of the twinning movement is brought into sharp focus. The Mayor and the citizens of La Murette send their grateful thanks.

## Ramblings from the Reverend



by Rev'd Canon David Child

Monica Grady, one of our leading space scientists spoke on the BBC News towards the end of last year about the aims and the significance of the Rosetta Spacecraft Mission to comet. 67P. She said 'The biggest question that we are trying to get an answer to is, 'Where did life on Earth come from, were organic molecules – the building blocks of life brought to this planet by comets bombarding it early on in its existence?' In a subsequent interview she explained that many scientists believe that most of the water on our planet could also have come from comets but that preliminary results from the spacecraft suggested that this was unlikely as the subatomic structure of the frozen water on the comet was different to that on our planet. Suddenly the interviewer changed the topic and asked her whether she believed in God. She paused and said that she believed in a 'Guiding Deity'. A 'Guiding Deity' she said who guides the formation and evolution of the universe and a 'Guiding Deity' who is present in each one of us, against whom we often struggle, but who nevertheless tries to guide us to love and care for our neighbour. She explained that she was a practicing Roman Catholic and that she found no conflict between her religious belief and her scientific work. It was she said as if they gave binocular vision to her understanding of the universe - not interfering with but complimenting each other.

So why am I wittering on about this? Well February 8<sup>th</sup> is Creation Sunday. Most people think that the Church was dead against Darwin's Theory of Evolution when he first proposed it but this was not the case. Many clergy welcomed it and wrote 'God could have snapped his fingers and brought into being a ready made world but chose to do something cleverer than that. For in bringing into being an evolving world he made a creation in which creatures could make and remake themselves.' A creation that remakes itself and human beings which remake themselves will unfortunately result in many ragged edges and lead us up many blind alleys but is nevertheless a greater good than a ready-made world could ever be.

When I was a teenager, I remember asking my father, a vicar, 'what is the soul?' and I remember his reply, 'It's the little bit of God that's in everyone.' Monica Grady was thinking along the same lines. We all of us have that 'still small voice of calm' within us trying to urge us on to be better than we are.

So why not join us on February 8<sup>th</sup> Creation Sunday 11.30 am in St Mary's or for young families St Mary's Messy Church in the Scout Hut 3 pm. In the meantime ponder on the beauty of this earth, the wonders of the universe and the mystery of its creation.

With every blessing  
David

**David has moved house and has a new telephone number 01978 820790**

## Country Beat



From our PCSO team

At the December Overton Community Council meeting, our PCSO's agreed to focus on the school buses passing through the village which many members of our community have reported to be travelling at inappropriate speeds.

In the January Overton Community Council meeting PCSO Lynne Maurice reported that a letter sent by her to the Wrexham County Borough Council Transport Managers had been responded to very quickly. The bus companies have undertaken to alert all drivers to the concerns raised, and that immediate action would be taken if further reports were received that this problem was continuing.

Can anyone who sees a bus speeding through the village please take note of the date, time, name of the bus company, and if possible the vehicle registration number, and report these to the PCSO's using the 111 number, or by dropping a note into the Overton police station.

PCSO Lynne Maurice

e-mail: [Lynne.Maurice@nthwales.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Lynne.Maurice@nthwales.pnn.police.uk)

Non urgent calls 101 or in emergency call 999  
Overton Police Station covering areas - Overton,  
Penley, Hanmer, Bettisfield & Horseman's Green

## Are you registered

Locally, Wrexham County Council has revealed that its number of registered voters has fallen by 2,769 in the last 12 months, from 104,532 to 101,763. Clwyd South AM Ken Skates said: "Every vote and every voter counts, so it's crucial that as many people as possible who are eligible are on the electoral register."

To register to vote for the coming general election go to website [gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://gov.uk/register-to-vote) It only takes 5 minutes.

**Girls of Overton aged 7-10 years old come and join us on our Brownie adventure!**

**We meet every Monday at the Scout Hut**

**5.45pm to 7pm**

**Contact: Melissa Haynes on**

**[melissahaynes1991@outlook.com](mailto:melissahaynes1991@outlook.com)**



## Overton Lunch Club

is on **Wednesday February 11th** at 12.30pm at the White Horse.

The menu will be turkey, ham & leek pie with rosemary potatoes & peas followed by strawberry cheesecake & cream. All for £6.25

To book please ring Gwynneth Austin on 710672

## Playgroup News

It's been a busy start to the year with everyone settling back into routine after Christmas and the Playcentre benefitting with more people than ever wanting to use us. Over the past few months the Playcentre team have worked hard to improve the facilities outside and they now have a wonderful learning experience outside, as well as in. This includes a painted Overton Street scene upon a wall, a new climbing frame and other outdoor equipment. We still have a little way to go, so our fundraising is as always vitally important.

Therefore this month sees our "Back to School" Disco, at the Overton Village Hall on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> February. For those of you who want to have a fun night out to celebrate Valentine's Day with friends and loved ones, you can party all night to 80s and 90s music, enjoy a tuck shop to re-live those younger days, and to add to the nostalgia it's bring your own drink. (Do you remember sneaking in bottles of Hooch??!!) "Back to School" fancy dress is optional with "school" starting at 8pm!

Tickets are £5 with all the profit going to Playgroup. All welcome and please come along to party! It's going to be a night not to miss! Tickets are available at Playgroup or on the door.

We are also doing our Nearly New Sale on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April so spread the word please!

## The Wales Air Ambulance

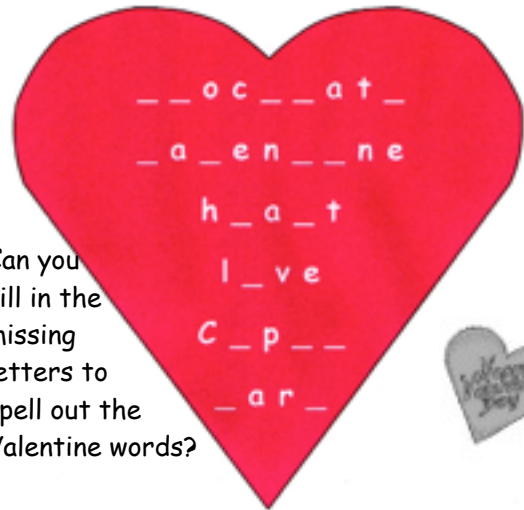
The Wales Air Ambulance provides emergency air cover for anyone who faces life threatening illnesses or injuries. We rely entirely on the generosity of public donations to raise the £6 million needed annually to operate our service and keep our 3 helicopters flying. However, each mission costs £1500 and fundraising is the key to keeping the service flying. As community fundraiser I am happy to visit groups in your area to give a presentation with DVD about the Service and real life stories from people whose lives have been saved. You may be interested in finding out about volunteering opportunities and fundraising activities or need support for your own ideas to raise money for Air Ambulance. Perhaps you have a special birthday or anniversary coming up – consider asking family and friends to donate to the Air Ambulance in lieu of gifts. Please contact me if you are interested in booking a talk or want to find out more about Wales Air Ambulance

Alyson Winn  
Tel: 07836 795799 or email  
[AlysonWinn@walesairambulance.com](mailto:AlysonWinn@walesairambulance.com)

Lots of exciting monthly outings planned for the Rainbow Befriending Project; ring 01948830730

## Kids Kolumn

It's February, and that means Valentines!



Can you fill in the missing letters to spell out the Valentine words?

### Make a pop-up Valentine card

Materials: Paper, Scissors, Paint, markers, or crayons

Directions: Fold the piece of paper in half lengthwise. Cut out the top open-fold side see picture. Fold the remaining portion of the paper that is sticking up (on the closed-fold side) down inside the card at an angle. This will be the piece that pops up when you open the card.



Decorate the front cover of the card with "Happy Valentine's Day" and add your own message inside.

### Why not make some Queen of Heart biscuits

Sift 100g icing sugar, 200g plain flour and 50g cornflour together in to a bowl. Stir in 50g ground almonds and 250g butter cut into cubes, then rub in butter until smooth. Stir in 50g chopped glace cherries and make into a dough.

Roll out then cut out heart shaped biscuits. Put on a lined baking tray for 8-10 mins till pale golden brown. Gently press a bottle top in centre to make a hollow and fill with some red jam. Return to the oven for 2 mins. Remove and cool then dust with icing sugar.



**Huge thanks to the Kids Kolumn team** - Kate

Jenkinson, Robyn Rehbock and Charlotte Middleton who

have compiled the Kids Kolumn for the last 3 years and 37 copies of the Oracle.

*Dear Editor*

Every year with the onset of the dark nights, there comes a change in Turning Street / Bangor Road. With the poor lighting and dark alleys it attracts a certain type of person. Like the cuckoo comes in April the phantom dog walkers come in October, they wait till it gets dark, then they bring out pooch for its evening constitutional. Because of inclement weather, or something they want to watch on TV, Turning Street / Bangor Road is pooch's final destination - this is borne out by the number of calling cards it leaves. I notice our dog walkers have extended their walks to include High Street and Pen-y-llan Street now as well.

Then there are the people who have great difficulty in finding a litter bin. This is more noticeable in school term time. Hardly a day goes by when I don't pick up a crisp packet (breakfast for some). I have actually seen a child throw one on the floor in full view of its mother without it being corrected; and when I asked her about it she said everybody does it these days!

I have been in this village for over 40 years and to win the best kept village was an ongoing event but in the last few years the village has come to resemble a tip. To bear this out take a walk down High Street ...

Last but not least the state of the road surface; you would not see anything this bad in some banana states.

But there's light at the end of the tunnel. Wrexham County Council have said it may be done this year (that was 2014) but its not advisable to hold your breath.

*Ken Roberts*

*Dear Editor*

Hats off to Darren Warren for adding his name to his story of Heavy Goods Vehicles using Salop Road.

But why do people move into Overton because they like what they see and then want to change it? I can only imagine that he has never had anything to do with the Haulage industry either now or in the past, the constant efforts of Operators to negotiate favourable rates with suppliers is a never ending battle, and coupled with the extremely high running costs it makes it essential that drivers are instructed to use the shortest route possible. We cannot survive without the Haulage industry, take HGV's off the road for just 2 days and this country would come to a complete standstill.

Speeding of course is a different matter, but trying to curb the problem with speed ramps or lane restrictions would only add to the issue, unladen vehicles passing over ramps would create much greater noise problems, and the power that is required to set a standing 44ton vehicle in motion again if lane restrictions were to be installed would increase the likely-hood of property damage quite considerably. Apart from my service days I have lived in Overton for over 70 years and I do not recall Salop Road being constructed during the past two years, which makes it quite obvious that Mr Warren did not do his homework prior to moving into his present accommodation. I fully sympathise with the gentleman and understand his concern but I would like to point out that Heavy Haulage Vehicles have been using Salop Road for many, many years and will continue to do so in the future. If the said speed restriction indicator was to be installed in front of his house would that add to further unrest.

*Dave Austin*

**Aladdin at Penley**

The Sixth Form at The Maelor School, Penley, put on an excellent show the week before Christmas. Their all-singing, all-dancing production of Aladdin was



enjoyed by parents, family and friends, an excellent way to encourage students to work together and have the opportunity to learn new skills such as lighting & sound, prop making and front of house. It was produced and directed by Mrs Sue England (Head of Sixth Form) and Mr Paul Drake (English Teacher). Both were extremely proud of the students performances. Well done to everyone involved.

**Recreational Club Results Night**

The results are -

**Darts:**

Ladies Singles Winner Laura Edwards Runner Up Kath Dorey.

Mens Singles Winner Derek Edwards Runner Up Pete Grindley.

Doubles Winners Kath Dorey & Paul Edwards. Runners Up Daniel Williams & Laura Edwards.

**Snooker**

Winner Matt Grindley Runner Up John Williams. Pool

Winner John Williams Runner Up Daniel Williams

**Billiards**

Winner Mike Dorey Runner Up Paul Edwards

**Dominoes**

Singles Winner Pat Loughlin Runner Up Kath Dorey.

Doubles Winners Cynthia Davies & Pete Grindley. Runners Up Dave Bellis & Brian Hamlington.

Well done to all that entered and won. Hard Luck to those that entered but didn't win. Here's hoping for more entrants next year.



## In memory of Joan

Joan was born the daughter of market gardeners in Rhualt, St Asaph, and inevitably a love of gardens and cooking played a major part in her early life. At secondary school she was noted as a good member of the community and excelled particularly in the domestic science (cooking), art and needlecraft subjects. This took her to Atholl Crescent College in Edinburgh where she studied domestic science. She completed her studies and spent a short time teaching before marrying Frank in 1952.

The couple then moved to Wrexham and set up home in Erbistock where Joan contributed to communal activities and supported Frank as a cashier on auction days with Wingetts. With Christopher and Simon having left home Frank and Joan moved to Overton. Joan developed her garden and was a keen member of Wrexham Flower Club. She also actively supported community events in both Overton and

Erbistock.

Following Frank's death in 1988 she designed the gardens at the Garden House in Erbistock and was of course a major contributor to Overton's 700 year Charter Celebrations in 1992 and organised the Flower Festival. As chairperson she had the role of welcoming the Queen to Overton which was a great highlight of her life.

Sadly in the last 8 years of her life her mobility was compromised until she was virtually housebound for the last two years and unable to make her daily foray to the Corner Shop.

She very much appreciated all the support from members of the village over the years and will be sadly missed. (Wrexham Museum have accepted Joan's records of the Charter Celebrations for their archives)

*The story is told that the Queen entered St Marys' Church to sign a photo of herself which was on a small table at the back of the central aisle. But after signing she noticed the flower arrangements and asked if she had time to look at the flowers and moved the table herself to one side and set off down the aisle to have a closer look. Ed.*

## In memory of Norman

Norman Roberts of Penley, who sadly passed away on Boxing Day, was well known in Overton. He was Scout Leader at Overton Scouts from 1967 to 1974 and Group Scout Leader from 1969 to 1974. His achievements include the overseeing of the fundraising and building of the Scout Hut on the playing fields on Wrexham Road which has been the Groups HQ since it was completed in 1972. He also re-started Cub Scouts in 1970 with Ola Gunn as Akela, followed soon after by Gwen Griffiths assisted by June Jones and Blodwen Williams. Norman also took on the role of District Cub Scout Leader, was Acting District Commissioner in 1968 to 1969 and Honorary District Commissioner in 1998. He was also involved in Esclusham, Rhosnesni and 6<sup>th</sup> Wrexham Scout Groups in a variety of roles.

In 1992 after Jacky Maskall retired as Akela, Norman stepped into the breach, ably assisted by Jim Glover, running the Cub Pack for 3 further years. It was during this period that the photo outside No 10 Downing Street was taken on a pack holiday to London. Norman always insisted that his Cubs were properly turned out and when he asked the policeman outside Downing Street if they could have their picture taken outside the Prime Minister's residence, it was their smart appearance that convinced the police to let them through! He was a quiet and humble man who served others, but he had a good sense of humour. His service to Scouting in Wrexham was recognised with two awards, the Award for Merit and the Silver Acorn. In 2000 he was given his certificate for 40 years' service to Scouting. Around 15 members of Wrexham Scout District attended his funeral.

He was more than a competent organist at Penley and Ellesmere Parish Churches and was also choirmaster at Penley. His working life was mainly in the clerical field with Fullwood Bland Ltd in Ellesmere and Allington, Hughes and Bate Solicitors in Wrexham. One of his more interesting roles was that of signalman at Bangor-on-Dee on the now defunct Wrexham to Ellesmere line.

Norman never married and lived at home with his parents, eventually becoming their carer. After their deaths he lived in Pendas Park in Penley. In September 2014 he was diagnosed with Motor Neurones Disease and spent his final few months in Emral House care home in Wrexham. He was 79 and has been buried next to his parents in Penley churchyard.



*Picture: Norman is front row right*

## Viva Espana!

On Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February the Maelor Music Society present 'Trio Classico'. Come and enjoy an evening of warm and thrilling Spanish repertoire with Trio Classico.

Concerts are open to all and take place at 7.30pm in the Maelor School Hall. Refreshments are served. Tickets £10 are available on the door. Students £3. Accompanied children are free.

Check the Maelor School website and follow links via the Community page or email Georgina Mason at [gmemcloy@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:gmemcloy@yahoo.co.uk) or phone 01978 710486.

## Congratulations

Mrs Smith, known as Isabella, was recently granted by Pope Francis, the Benemerenti Medal, for over 60 years of lay service to the Church of Our Lady and the Welsh Martyrs, Overton.

The medal was presented to her by the Roman Catholic Bishop of Wrexham, the Right Reverend Peter Brignall.

Next Ellesmere Probus meeting is February 5th - Christopher Jobson on 'Old Ellesmere'

## From our youth correspondent

These days the common belief of older generations is that the new young generation is antisocial and addicted to technology. In some way, it's true. People my age aren't ones to leave the house without their phone or device of some sort, and I wouldn't disagree that we're too technology dependant. However as I'm aiming to explain in this article, there's more to it than that.

Antisocial, lazy and unhelpful are a few of the words used to describe myself and others. I openly admit that I can be lazy, and could probably help out more around the house but I'm far from antisocial. If anything by spending so much time on my phone I'm actually quite sociable. To outsiders it appears that all young people do these days is stare at screens and while that may be true, what we're really focused on is what's on the screen.

Through social media (clue in the name!) we can communicate with our friends much faster than knocking on their doors or writing letters. Not only that but we can also play games together on line while talking, so even though everyones's not sat around a table playing 'Operation', we can still get to enjoy things together. Of course sitting at home all day even if being sociable and enjoying ourselves isn't the healthiest thing to do, yet adults seem to forget that most young people have a hobby which requires creativity or at least venturing in to the outside world. My friends and other people in my year have many extra curricular activities like dancing, horse riding or even skating. For those of us (including me) whose hobbies don't require being outside like writing or drawing we still get exercise. Whether it's through PE in school or taking the time to run 2 miles each morning (something I don't understand how my friend does) we still do get out.

So to summarise, the younger generation may be technology dependant but that doesn't mean we're having any less of a good time than adults did. While we may not be as active as people older than us we still manage to get outside and have fun. Or at least get some exercise done .....

*Sent by iPhone*

**Calling all knitters of all ages and abilities.** Whether you are an expert knitter or just keen to learn come along to the "Rainbow Knit & Natter" Group, 1st & 3rd Wednesday of every month 10am – 12pm at The Penley Rainbow Centre, Penley £1.50 for Tea/Coffee and biscuits. Knit something for our various chosen charities and as well as knitting for yourself (Supported charities changed every three months and themed knitting for special occasions). We also welcome donations of wool. Call Jane on 01948 830 730 for more information or just come along.



Adverts are not included  
in the on-line archived edition of the Oracle.

This is because the archive of the Oracle is available on-line going back many years and the adverts and contact details would be out of date

## What's On

### February Diary for St Mary's Services

Sunday February 1st 10.00am Family Village Praise  
 Sunday February 8th 11.30am Holy Communion  
 . 3-5pm Messy Church in the Scout Hut  
 Sunday February 15th 10.00am Family Communion  
 Ash Wednesday February 18th 7.30pm Ecumenical  
 Service  
 Sunday February 22nd 11.30am Holy Communion

### February Diary for Overton Methodist Chapel

Sunday February 1st 6.30pm Mr Ebenezer Sam  
 Sunday February 8th 6.30pm Members Service  
 Sunday February 15th 6.30pm Rev Philip Poole  
 Holy Communion  
 Sunday February 22nd 6.30pm Rev Richard Sharples

Tuesday February 3rd 7.30pm Overton Bowling  
 Club AGM at the Parish Room

Wednesday February 4th 7.30pm Maelor Music  
 Society features 'Piantel' a harp and piano  
 duo in the Maelor School Hall

Thursday February 5th 10.30-2.30 Rainbow Centre  
 Lunch & learn Print making with Alex McIntosh

Tuesday February 10th 7.30pm Overton Community  
 Council meeting in the Parish Room.  
 Members of the public wishing to speak can  
 do so 7.20-7.30pm

Wednesday February 11th 10.30am Overton British  
 Legion meeting for coffee in the Scout Hut

Wednesday February 11th 12.30pm Overton Lunch  
 Club at the White Horse. Booking required

Friday February 13th 7.30pm Maelor Belles WI  
 upstairs in the White Horse. Make-Up  
 Masterclass with Nicola Cox. Competition  
 – The funniest Valentine poem.

Saturday February 14th 8.00pm Valentine '80s / 90s'  
 Disco at the Village Hall. Tickets £5

Wednesday February 18th 10.00-11.00am Overton  
 Community Council Drop-in in the Parish  
 Room

Thursday February 19th 7.30pm Overton WI meeting  
 in the Parish Room. Speaker: Mrs Sue de  
 Barro on 'My Quilting Journey - Patchwork &  
 Quilting'. Competition - A pincushion

Wednesday February 25th 7.30pm Maelor Music  
 Society presents 'Trio Classico' in the Maelor  
 School Hall

## Family Announcements

**Congratulations** to Jackie & Dan Dodwell on the  
 birth of their 2nd son Zachary Stephen, a brother for  
 Dexter and new grandson for Steve & Jane Dodwell.

**Belated 100th Happy Birthday** to Olive Whalley  
 who celebrated her 100 birthday recently  
 - a day of fun and laughter



**Happy February Birthdays** to Neville  
 Wynne, Harry Whittall, Lewis Jones,  
 Chilley Grindley, Lyn Evans, Nicola Archer, Doreen  
 Howells, Olive Roberts, Dereck Bell, Georgie  
 Hunter Davies, Lily & Davina Simon, Miss Owen,  
 Fred Cooper, and Roy Hoare.

Happy 50th birthday to Sandy Foster.

**Belated happy birthday** to Jim Eastop  
 and to Bob Thomson of Parkside who celebrated his  
 84th birthday on New Years Eve.

**Sincere condolences** to the family and friends of  
 Norman Roberts who passed away recently.

**Sincere condolences** to the family and friends of  
 Kath Loughlin who passed away recently.

**Sincere condolences** to the family and friends of  
 Dot Rodenhurst (from Penley) , Pat Lynch (from  
 Penley), Les Jennison (from Knolton) and Madge  
 Stokes (ex Lightwood Green)

## OVERTON ON DEE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE



### Coffee Morning

at Overton Village Hall

on Saturday March 7th 2015 at 10.30am

Bric a brac, cakes & produce and book stalls .

Draw Tickets 50p to include tea & biscuit

**PLEASE REMEMBER**  
 Copy deadline 20th of  
 the previous month. Get  
 your events & news to us  
 early to avoid  
 disappointment  
**THIS INCLUDES**  
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Leave your  
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**Editor - Jill Burton.**  
**Tel 710631 or e-mail**  
**overtonoracle@gmail.com**

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