

# The Overton Oracle

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Overton's Free Newspaper - issued monthly



## Mystery of the Disappearing Play

Like the plot from an Agatha Christie novel, the January performances of the play went missing! The Overton Amateur Dramatic Society production of "Agatha Crispie" has had to be rearranged because of January's bad weather. The new dates for the performances are  
Thursday February 4th, 7.30pm start  
and Saturday February 6th, matinee 2.30pm and evening performance 7.30pm start.  
NO FRIDAY EVENING performance because of the Film Club.  
Tickets for the play are £5, pay on the door.  
Mystery solved and sorry for the inconvenience

## Lunch Club

Another casualty of the snow was the launch of the new Lunch Club. The first **Lunch Club** will now take place at the **White Horse** on **Wednesday 10th February** between 12.30 and 1.30. If you are interested in joining in, please ring Gwynneth Austin to reserve a place on 01978 710672. Price of the 2 course lunch will be £6.00.

## Winter Woes

by David Burton

So the recent snow in January was the worst for 30 years! It was the winter of 1980/81 when the temperature went down to minus 25° C at RAF Shawbury. The Overton High Street was thick with ice, and the old school's outside toilets were frozen and closed the school for many weeks. I on the other hand was away on business, unable to get back home as airports were closed, so sitting in a swimming pool in Salalah, on the southern coast of the Arabian Gulf, where the temperature was a sultry + 39° C. No such luck this time round, but at least the temperature only went down to -13° C!

This winter having retired, I didn't worry about struggling to work, I could sit in my cocoon of warmth and watch the weather go by. It got me thinking however, about those who couldn't get out for whatever reason and wondered who would help them out. I'm talking here about those souls not in the Social Services loop, who are reasonably fit, but in recent weather conditions, just couldn't get out. Who was looking after them? It reminded me that we should all have an eye out for our neighbours – has anyone seen or heard from them lately?



Willow Street & High Street in January



School Lane in January

Some people might not want anyone poking their nose in or there's the risk of having it bitten off! - "We are Ok, thank you very much!"  
If on the other hand you are someone who is stuck indoors and cannot get out, please ring someone. A friend or relative, the surgery or chemist may find someone to drop off your prescription, the local shop can deliver groceries. Come to that ring the Editor – I'm sure she won't mind – and if she's not in you will probably get me and I can pass on a message to someone who can help you.



## Ramblings From the Rectory by David Lewis

Dear Friends,  
John the Curate announced that he was moving on from the church and a few days later the Vicar was stopped in the public library by a worried looking parishioner.

*"Is it true that John is leaving?"* She asked.  
*"I'm afraid so"* replied the Vicar.  
*"Oh I am sorry. 'E does a lovely funeral and I want him to do mine. 'E gets 'em all crying and I want 'em all to cry at my funeral!"*

We live in a very self centred world, where so often people put their own wants and desires first. That lady may have a dream of the world bemoaning her passing. But the real way to live a fulfilled and useful life is in having an honest opinion of ourselves, warts and all. If we are aware of our own strengths and failings, then that awareness will help us to reach out in love and compassion and service to those around us.

I always feel a bit depressed when I see all these insurance firms offering to help people to sue when they have had an accident. It all seems to add to a culture which says I am never wrong and someone must pay if I am in any way put out.

The Season of Lent stands as an antidote to this way of thinking. Lent of course is identified with the forty days when Jesus was tested in the wilderness. It is an opportunity for us to re-examine our lives honestly and then renew our love for God and for each other.

Socrates once said

*"The unexamined life is not worth living."*

May that not be true of us.

Your Friend and Rector

David



## COUNTRY BEAT by Constable Stephen Evans

Hello,

I'm Stephen Evans PC 1885 and I am your new community beat manager for Overton and the surrounding area. I have been a police officer for 10 years of which the past 8 of have been spent at Rhos police station as an area response officer. My immediate priority is to continue the good work my predecessor Luke Hughes has set out. I'm sure with the continuing support of community officers Bethan Large and Jemma White that I will achieve this.



The recent cold snap has brought to our attention two different sides of snowy conditions.

Although we don't want to spoil anyone's enjoyment of playing in the snow and throwing snowballs unfortunately we have received a number of calls from residents whereby a large number of snowballs have been thrown at their property. During one incident a window was actually smashed. Can I please ask that if these conditions return that those responsible do not cause the obvious annoyance to residents. Remember causing damage is an offence whether it is reckless or intentional.

The other issue that snow on the ground brings is the fact how quickly this leaves us immobile. Most of us do manage to get out and about however there are a number of persons in our neighbourhood who are left vulnerable to the conditions. Can I just ask that we take a minute and think about who you may know who perhaps may need some help. They may just be grateful of a knock on the door or may need help with shopping or posting letters etc.

Before I go can I remind you that although Overton police station is not operated 24hours, most days you will find one of us on duty. If we're here the door will always be open. Please visit and let us try and help.

Regards,

PC 1885 STEPHEN EVANS

Bronington & Overton Community Beat Manager

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E-Mail : [Stephen.Evans@nthwales.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Stephen.Evans@nthwales.pnn.police.uk)

### Churches Together Lent Bible Studies

The title for the Churches Together Lent Bible Study evenings are "God has a dream"

Tea & coffee from 7.00pm. Study 7.30 - 8.30pm

The dates are:

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February in the Catholic Hall

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March in the Methodist School  
Room

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March in the Parish Room

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March in the Catholic Hall

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March in the Parish Room

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> March in the Methodist School  
Room

All are very welcome.

### Overton on Dee Cricket Club AGM

Overton on Dee Cricket Club AGM is to be held on Tuesday 9th February from 7.30pm at The White Horse Inn in Overton on Dee. Members and non-members most welcome, come and find out a bit more about us....fancy an afternoon in the sunshine? A couple of sandwiches and a cuppa? Some great fundraising events? Or an afternoon to spare helping out with running repairs? Oh and maybe a game of cricket or two in the Shropshire League? We don't mind how you'd like to get involved....we'd really like you to, though!

Join us at our informal AGM

or contact Rob Lawrenson on 710537

## How big is your footprint?

Whether you believe in global warming or not, reducing your carbon footprint has benefits at the individual level. **It can save you money!**

Here are some tips that can help you achieve this:-

- When you are at Home  
Install energy saving light bulbs; cost more but last 6 times longer & reduce electricity use.  
Turn off appliances at the power switch, don't leave on standby.

- Turn your heating thermostat down by 1°C.  
Insulate wall and loft insulation; grants may be available to reduce the cost.

- In the Kitchen

Boil only as much water as you need  
Wash your laundry at 30°C instead of 40°C  
Recycle as much of your waste as possible

- In the Bathroom

Take a shower instead of a bath  
Try not to run the tap the whole time when you clean your teeth  
Fit a water saving device in your toilet  
Fix leaking taps  
Make sure your water cylinder is well insulated

- In the Garden

Water your garden early morning/evening reducing water loss through evaporation  
Use a watering can rather than a hose when watering the garden  
Get a water butt to collect rainwater  
Sweep paths & patios rather than hosing down  
Use a bucket & sponge rather than a hose when washing the car

- When you are Shopping

Choose energy A rated white goods  
Buy products made from re-cycled materials  
Reuse carrier bags  
Buy products with the least amount of packaging  
Reduce food miles – buy locally produced food  
Walk to your local corner shop if you can

- When you are Travelling

Take local holidays instead of flying abroad or use the train to Europe  
Share lifts with friends, neighbours and colleagues  
Choose a fuel efficient car  
Save money and emissions by turning off your engine when waiting  
Walk or cycle, both are great exercise  
Use public transport whenever you can

- When you are at Work

Turn lights, computers etc off at the end of the day  
Use a mug instead of disposable cups for drinks  
Take the stairs instead of the lift.  
Use recycled printing paper & print on both sides  
Collect office paper for recycling

To find out more visit these websites

[www.walescarbonfootprint.gov.uk](http://www.walescarbonfootprint.gov.uk)  
[www.energysavingtrust.org.uk](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk)  
[www.energysavingwales.org.uk](http://www.energysavingwales.org.uk)  
[www.carbontrust.co.uk](http://www.carbontrust.co.uk)

# Kids Kolumn

by Alice Foster, Lydia Biggs

and Lottie Blake



LOVE IS IN THE AIR!



Hi all you lovers out there,  
it's nearly Valentines Day!

So get them letters to your lovers!

## Comedy Cupids Crazy Crackers!!!



1.What did the boy sheep say to the girl sheep on Valentine's Day?

**I Love Ewe!**

2.Knock knock!

Who's there?

Howard

Howard who?

**Howard you like a big kiss?**

3.What do you call a very small Valentine?

**A Valentiny!**

4.What did the boy squirrel say to the girl squirrel on Valentine's Day?

**I'm nuts about you!**

5.What did the girl squirrel say to the boy squirrel on Valentine's Day?

**You're nuts so bad yourself!**



Can you name  
and match up  
these celebrity  
lovebirds?



Last months Trivia Answer:

Amathophobia is a fear of dust.



## The Cocoa & Reading Rooms by Betty Williams

In the 1800s where the Cocoa Rooms now stands, was a cottage and adjoining it was the one that is there now. Both were owned by J. Bennion together with 2 acres of land. The present cottage which was known as "Overton Academy", was occupied by Mrs Eliza Wigger. When the cottage next to it became empty this became the "Coffee House and Reading Rooms" with Mr & Mrs William & Jane Jones as caretakers. In the 1881 census they were called "Coffee House Keepers" and it was open from 10 o'clock in the morning until 10 o'clock at night.

In 1890 Mr Edmund Peel who was now the landlord, had this cottage demolished and the Cocoa & Reading Rooms built. Coffee or Cocoa and Reading Rooms were opened in many areas in response to the Temperance Movement and to encourage the drinking of less alcohol. The foundation stones were laid by his daughters, the Misses M.A. and E.M. Peel on May 9<sup>th</sup> and the rooms opened on October 27<sup>th</sup>. The room on the left of the front door was the Cocoa Room with access to the cottage where James & Mary Barnett lived; he was a decorator and she was manageress of the rooms. By 1901 Mr Northover, an Assurance Agent lived in this cottage with his wife who was the manageress (plus 4 children). Over the years this room with its roaring fire became a popular meeting place for all ages. It is still fondly remembered by army personnel, and the members of the Women's Land Army who were stationed in the area during the Second World War

The room above this was the Reading, Library and Parish Room and also used for small whist drives. Miss Chevasse had this and the staircase panelled in wood in memory of her aunt, Miss Maude. The room opposite was the games room. In 1908 a three quarter size billiard table was purchased from Ellesmere Men's Club for £15. In the late 1960s both of these rooms were incorporated into the Sports and Social Club. The Cocoa Room was closed, separated from the cottage and became the Library.

The bigger room opposite was a large kitchen with a black leaded range, sink and draining board. After the Village Hall was built in 1926 it was used a great deal as a refreshment room, when various functions were held in the Hall. On Wednesdays twelve school girls age 11 to 14 from Overton and Penley attended cookery classes, starting with basics like bread and rice pudding, every Xmas making a cake, Xmas pudding and mincemeat, and also doing laundry, ironing and household cleaning. Happy days! In the 1970s it became the Parish Room and provided a home for the new Overton Playgroup and a branch of Lloyds Bank. In the 1990s the two rooms swapped over, the Library moving to the larger room. And in 2009 the library has been completely refurbished with new computers and is now open 15 hours a week with a very helpful librarian in attendance.

*Note from Ed:* At a recent meeting of the Overton History Group Marjorie Moraghan remembered a song that was on a plaque of the wall of the Cocoa Rooms café during WWII and that customers used to sing, including the American soldiers. Mrs Florence Burgess was the Cook referred to.

Sing to the tune from the "Snow White & the 7 Dwarfs" movie

*Hi Ho, Hi Ho, To the Cocoa Rooms we go*

*For the Cook there bakes all homemade cakes*

*Hi Ho, Hi Ho, Hi Ho. We feed, we feed, to satisfy our greed*

*It ain't no bluff, its home made stuff Hi Ho, Hi Ho, Hi Ho, Hi Ho*



### Overton Community Council

Overton Community Council would like to welcome and introduce three new co-opted members onto the council.

Mrs Catherine Starkey, Mr David Hughes and Mr Harold (Dusty) Toone put their names forward and were unanimously voted on by the other members of the community council. Their knowledge and experience of living in Overton will be invaluable.

All full Council meetings are held on a Tuesday in the Parish Room and commence at 7.20pm – the first 10 minutes are available for members of the public to speak. The Council meeting commences at 7.30pm.

Dates of meetings are published in the "What's On" column on the back page of the Oracle each month. All members of the public are welcome

### Your Letters...

*Dear Editor,*

What a surprise. In January on my way to the doctors surgery and crossing the carpark I thought I was seeing things. There was something like two feet hanging out of the paper bank!

On a closer look I saw it was an ironing board! How can someone be so stupid as to put a thing like this in the paper bank? This has not been done by children so the one responsible for this should be made to remove it, this is a paper bank not a steel bank.

The paper bank is put here to help keep the village Tidy not Untidy. Children get the blame for too many wrong doings in this village.

*Mr R Hoare*



## OVERTON FILM CLUB LATEST



The last two films in the Film Club's first season will be:

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> Feb, **'The Lives Of Others'** 'Winner of the 2006 Oscar for Best Foreign Film, one of the most moving and thought-provoking films ever made: a tale of betrayal and courage in Cold War Berlin.

Tues. 2<sup>nd</sup> March, **'An Education'** This hit British comedy (scripted by Nick Hornby) tells the 'hilarious', 'poignant' story of a teenage girl growing up in mid-sixties London. It has received 8 nominations for BAFTA Awards .

Both screenings will be at 8pm in the Village Hall (doors & bar open at 7.15). Entrance is FREE to members - plus a guest for £2.50. £4.50 non-members. £3.50 OAPs. £2.50 for under-18s.

As our first season nears its end, we hope that there will be a second one. We'd certainly like to continue to show an amazing variety of quality films in our own village hall. However, we have depended this season on subsidies from the Community Council and from Wrexham Borough Council (for which we are grateful!) - and on the 70 Film Club members. For the next season (Sept to March '11) we need more people in Overton to take advantage of this brilliant amenity - a cheap cinema on the doorstep - or it just won't be able to happen again. So disconnect the DVD player; come to the Village Hall on the 5<sup>th</sup> Feb or 2<sup>nd</sup> March; and treat yourself to the Big Screen experience!

## OVERTON MEDICAL PRACTICE

We have been in the new surgery for 5 years and it really feels like home! We wish all our patients a Happy and Prosperous and Peaceful 2010, and for the best reasons we hope not to see too much of you but we are here ready, willing and able, should you need us. Thank you for the Christmas gifts, the gesture is much appreciated.

We welcome Timothy Kelly who is spending 6 weeks with us engaging in practical work to complete his training as a medical student from Cardiff University Hospital. Tim is the first male student we have had for a while but feel sure he will be made just as welcome as his female colleagues.

Sessions for Swine Flu vaccinations are still ongoing, at the moment still by invitation to those in designated health brackets. Patients are still asking about the possibility of seeing Dr Myers in surgery. At the moment Dr Myers is still working for the Local Health Board and we have no time scale to work on as to what his future movements are to be.

We are now an official centre for the Yellow Fever Vaccinations, it will probably be around 1<sup>st</sup> February before we get fully into the swing and there will of course be a charge for this service but at least you will be able to 'be done locally' if you are travelling off to 'far away places'.

If there are any worries or issues that you want to discuss, the box is still on the wall in reception and there is a book in reception which you can write in, or you can just talk to one of us!

## NEW WI LOGO - EMBRACING CHANGE AND KEEPING TRADITIONS ALIVE



We moved to Overton from South Yorkshire in 2007 and I was keen to join in village life, so in November 2008 I joined the WI for the first time. I knew nothing about it, only hearsay of course, usual stuff – Jam and Jerusalem. I have heard many women say “I have not reached that age yet!” and I was no exception. How wrong I was! Over the months that followed I have found a fantastic group of friends and much needed support. My first thoughts really were ‘they are a group of inspiring women’. They made me very welcome with their warmth and generosity.

Many of the women are older than me but I have learnt that the WI is all about having a variety of ages and learning from each other. A year on I have just taken on the job of Secretary, as Jean Hughes retired from the post after 12 years of excellent service.

On my first night, the President Doreen Walker stepped down after 21 years of providing a brilliant service to the group and we thank her very much for all the innovative and efficient planning she has passed on to us. Let's hope we can follow on with that now and continue to introduce fresh ideas and gradual change without doing away with long-standing traditions. Of course, we do need new faces to help us achieve this – let age be no barrier to you –do come and help us make a difference to our community in today's world. Help us live up to the new logo -come and be inspired by the largest organisation of inspirational women in the UK. Visitors and new members are very welcome.

On a different note we are deeply saddened by the sudden death of Helen Rennie, a long-standing member of our group. She had just taken over as treasurer from Iris Edwards, who also has done a sterling job, and I was looking forward to working with her. Her WI friends will miss her very much and we offer our deepest sympathies to Duncan and the family.

*P.S Don't forget the coffee morning on 6<sup>th</sup> March from 10.30 a.m. in the village hall. All Welcome*

Contact Chris Nunns 710908 [chrisnunns@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:chrisnunns@hotmail.co.uk) or Rona Williams 710361.

For Information about the WI [www.thewi.co.uk](http://www.thewi.co.uk)

## View From the Village Vets.

A recent survey by the Dogs Trust (formerly known as The National Canine Defence League) revealed that whilst 95% of dog owners stated that they would never buy a puppy from a puppy farm, up to 900,000 could have bought their puppy from such a farm without knowing. Over 15% of owners buy puppies from newspaper or internet adverts, pet shops, pet stores or garden centres. Many are supplied by puppy farms.



When you are considering buying a puppy:

- Be wary of buying a dog from internet or newspaper adverts, pet shops or garden centres.
- Always ask to see the puppy interact with it's mother and be concerned if excuse are made as to why you can't.
- Check paperwork and be suspicious if previous owners details have been removed or changed.
- If you suspect that a puppy comes from a puppy farm, don't buy it. You may be saving the puppy, but you will be helping to continue to fuel the puppy farming trade.

So What's wrong with puppy farms?

- Breeding dogs are kept in small pens with no natural light or contact with other dogs.
  - They have little contact with humans or opportunities to play.
  - They are kept in these conditions until they are too old to breed and are then discarded.
- Diseases and inherited conditions are common in farmed puppies. These include Parvovirus, worms, hip dysplasia, luxating patellas (dislocating kneecaps) and congenital heart problems.

So if you are considering buying a puppy this spring, try to make sure you buy one from someone you know or who you have heard good reports about and always insist on seeing the puppy with it's litter mates and mother before you agree to buy it.

**Mark Spurdens, Maelor Vet Centre.**

The Oracle has received several comments about the amount of dog poo on the village pavements at the moment. Perhaps dog owners have not been pooper scooping during the snow and ice. The snow has melted but its left the evidence behind! Walking to school or the shops it is necessary to watch where you are putting your feet at all times. Please remember to pooper scoop after your pet.

## WHAT'S ON

### February Diary for St Mary's Services

<b>Sunday February 7th</b>	11.30am Holy Eucharist
<b>Tuesday February 2nd</b>	2.30pm St Mary's School Service in Church. All welcome
<b>Sunday February 14th</b>	11.00am Sunday Praise & Coffee
<b>Ash Wednesday February 17th</b>	7pm Holy Eucharist
<b>Sunday February 21st</b>	11.30am Holy Eucharist
<b>Sunday February 28th</b>	11.30 Family Eucharist
<b>Sunday March 7th</b>	11.30am Holy Eucharist

### February Diary for Methodist Church Services

Sunday Evening Services 6.30pm

**Wednesday February 3rd** 7.30pm Maelor Music Society Concert in Maelor School Hall. "Robert Chesters – Piano". Tickets £10 on door; Annual Membership £33

**Thursday February 4th** 7.30pm Overton History Group "Memories of the High Street" in upstairs room at the White Horse.

**Thursday February 4th** 7.30pm Overton Amateur Dramatic Society production "Agatha Christie", a comedy mystery by Cenarth Fox

**Friday February 5th** Overton Film Club in Village Hall. Doors open 7.15pm, Film 8pm "The Lives of Others"

**Saturday February 6th** 2.30pm & 7.30pm Overton Amateur Dramatic Society production "Agatha Christie" a comedy mystery by Cenarth Fox

**Tuesday February 9th** 7.30pm Overton Cricket Club AGM at the White Horse. All welcome

**Tuesday February 9th** Overton Community Council meeting in the Parish Room. Members of the public wishing to speak can do so between 7.20 – 7.30pm.

**Wednesday February 10th** 12.30pm Lunch Club at the White Horse

**Saturday February 13th** 8.30pm Hanmer Arms Valentine Disco. Tickets £5. Food on sale

**Monday February 15th** 7.00pm Traffic Calming Meeting in the Parish Room. Anyone is welcome to attend.

**Thursday February 18th** Overton WI Meeting in the Parish Room. Speaker: Malcolm Booth on "Ten years in Borstal". Competition: 'A letter opener'.

**Saturday February 20th 9.00pm** The Overtonians playing at the White Horse

**Wednesday February 24th** 7.30pm Maelor Music Society Concert in Maelor School Hall. "Cantorian Sirenian Singers". Tickets £10 on door; Annual Membership £33

**Tuesday March 2nd** Overton Film Club in Village Hall. Doors open 7.15pm, Film 8pm "An Education"

**Saturday March 6th** 10.30am Overton WI Coffee Morning in the Village Hall. Various stalls. Tickets 50p each.

## FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Happy February Birthdays** to Sandy Foster, Chillely Grindley, Mrs Lyn (Welsh) Evans, Brian Manley, Stella Austin, Miss Owen, Doreen Howells, Olive Roberts, Dereck Bell and Amy Perrin and Georgie Davies.

Happy birthday to Nicola Archer, love from Mum & Dad, Nan & Grandad.

Belated birthday wishes to grandson Nathan Ryan Tombs, age 7 on the 30th January.

Congratulations to Pam & Eric Jones on their Golden Wedding on February 6th. Love always from all the family

**Sincere condolences** to the family and friends on the sudden death of Mr Jonathon who passed away at the beginning of January.

## THANK YOU

Duncan Rennie and family would like to thank all neighbours & friends for the many kind expressions of sympathy and support received after the sudden death of Helen.

## THANK YOU

David Lewis says thank you to everyone who worked so hard for Christmas at St Mary's, providing wine and mince pies, cleaning the church, changing altar frontals, arranging the flowers, singing in the choir and playing the organ. Thank you to June who provided our Christmas crib this year.

All your hard work is much appreciated and valued.



OVERTON WI  
COFFEE MORNING  
**Saturday March 6th**

**10.30am**  
in the Village Hall  
Various stalls  
**Tickets 50p each**



### 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; **Treasurer** Rob Piggott; **Distribution** Cynthia Davies; **Sean Clarke, & Euan Stevenson.**

**Editor - Jill Burton.**  
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