

The Overton Oracle

Volume 19 Issue 2

February 2017

Overton's Free Newspaper - delivered to every household monthly



Overton Twinning Wine Tasting

Saturday 11th March from 7.30pm in the Scout Hut. Tickets £10 from Sheila Miller 07881 426849 or Catherine Starkey 07925 772024

Post Office Consultation



Thanks to all those who took part in the consultation on moving Overton Post Office to the Cup'n'Saucer. This is now complete but the results will not be made public till the end of February.

Overton & District Bowling Club



The Annual General Meeting of the Overton & District Bowling Club will be held in the Parish Room on Monday February 27th at 7.30pm

OVERTON ON DEE WI

Coffee Morning

at Overton Village Hall
on Saturday March 11th 2017
at 10.30am

Various stalls
Draw

Entrance
£1

Cheers!



Welcome to Mike and Zena, the new landlords of The White Horse.

Both with many years experience in pub management in the West Midlands they have ventured over the border to run their first Welsh pub.

They will be soon launching their menu including a variety of specials on the board and are investigating using local ingredients and suppliers - so watch this space. Mike was Chairman of the Wolverhampton Branch of CAMRA so look out for guest real ales. They will also be opening the pub 7 days a week.

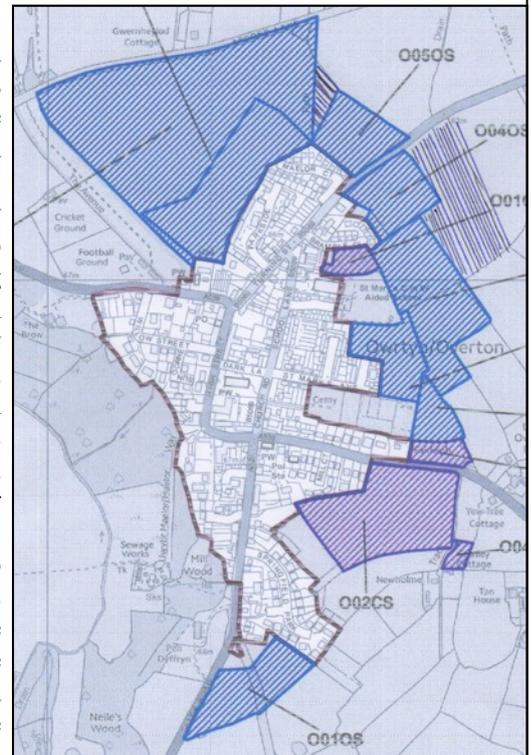
Mike and Zena would like to thank everyone for the great welcome they have had in the village.

Petition

The Overton Protection and Preservation Society has placed a petition in the Corner Shop, the library and the chemists.

This petition was begun by the many villagers who attended the Public Meeting last September. The petition opposes Wrexham County Borough Council's Local Development Plan 2 which shows all of Overton's outlying fields as potential development sites for building. (See picture right.)

This is your opportunity to sign if you agree that this would be detrimental to the character of this village. The society meets regularly and if you wish to help please ring Stuart Horton - 710646.



Running in France?

Fancy running a 14, 29, or 50 km trail round a beautiful lake in France, with free accommodation and transport? Vincent, one of our Twinning friends in La Murette is a keen runner and has sent details of these running trails around Lac Paladru, close to his home. It is a big event, on Sunday 23 April. You need to register as soon as possible and book your flight to and from Lyon (Flybe from Birmingham?). Vincent, a keen runner, is offering to put you up in his lovely old converted farmhouse and drive you to and from the airport and the race. Have a look at the website <http://traildulacdepaladru.fr> or get more information from Sheila Miller on 710823.

Ramblings from the Reverend



Rev'd Canon David Child writes

One of my daily Bible readings last month included this verse 'Whoever forces you to go one mile, go with them a second also' *Matthew 5:-41*.

That made me think of our journey home from a short holiday break in York last year. We decided to take a detour to Harrogate and stop over for lunch there. That's what we did and we had a pleasant time. To get home we crossed over to the M6 but as we approached Manchester we found ourselves in very long slow moving queue. And then the notices – 'accident ahead-diversion next road junction'. We couldn't help but think of the poor people involved but the next 40 miles or so were a bit of a nightmare for us. I'm afraid I still don't have a Sat-Nav and rely on maps and road signs and for a while we wandered aimlessly around St. Helens and Warrington until we eventually found a friendly sign directing us to the M56

To go further than one expects is never easy, even if it's only a car journey, but when Jesus spoke to the crowd on the Sermon on the Mount, he had in mind something far more demanding than that. A Roman soldier had the right in law, too compel any subject to carry his armour and accessories for one mile – no more, no less. It was a heavy load to bear but worse than that it was the way it brought home to Jewish eyes their status as an occupied nation.

But here Jesus was telling them don't just do what is required but go far beyond it, to fall over themselves to help. He tells us don't just do what you have to do, do a little bit extra. Put yourself out for the sake of others whoever they are. Most of us prefer to serve ourselves before thinking of someone else. But the way of Jesus is the way of sacrifice, of always going the extra mile.

Recently a senior cleric was asked how he would respond in that case of a Christian couple who refused to bake a cake for a gay couple. He thought long and hard and then replied – 'I'd make the best possible cake I could.'

What do you think? What would you do?

With every blessing
David

Overton Football Club Fixture List

- 4th Feb: 1st Team - Llanuwchllyn away.
Reserves Team - Lex Glyndwr home
- 11th Feb: 1st Team - Hawarden home.
Reserve Team - No fixture
- 18th Feb: 1st Team - Queens Park away.
Reserves Team - Buckley Town away
- 25th Feb: 1st Team - Saltney Town home.
Reserves Team - Rhostyllen away



email: overtonoracle@gmail.com

Country Beat

by PCSO Lynne Maurice



Happy New Year and I hope you had a lovely Christmas.

Starting on a good note that there has been no major crime in Overton and surrounding areas but having said this we still need to be vigilant and make sure we keep ourselves and our family safe and look out for our elderly residents in the area.

We have had a report recently of a couple of sheep that have been killed over the last couple of months in the Higher Penley area. This could have been caused by a dog accessing the fields, so we would just like to make everyone aware. If you do have dogs either as pets or working dogs, please can you make sure they cannot get out into the fields to worry or kill livestock which is of great cost to the farmer concerned.

THE DOGS (PROTECTION OF LIVESTOCK) ACT 1953

1(2) For the purposes of this Act **worrying livestock** means -

- (a) attacking livestock, or
- (b) chasing livestock in such a way as may reasonably be expected to cause injury or suffering to the livestock or, in the case of females, abortion, or loss of or diminution in their produce, or
- (c) being at large (that is to say not on a lead or otherwise under close control) in a field or enclosure in which there are sheep.

1(2A) Subsection (2)(c) of this section shall not apply in relation to -

- (a) a dog owned by, or in the charge of, the occupier of the field or enclosure or the owner of the sheep or a person authorised by either of those persons; or
- (b) a police dog, a guide dog, a trained sheep dog, a working gun dog or a pack of hounds.

On a different note there have been report of registration plates stolen in the North Wales area recently. The plates are then usually used to conceal the identity of a vehicle to commit crime. Vehicle registration plates are at risk of being stolen, and to assist, we now have 'Number Plate security kits' (Tamperproof kits available at £1.50 each (plus postage where applicable). Contact the OWL team for more information at watch@owlcymru.org or telephone 01352 708118.

Also to make you aware Wrexham Council Housing office have alerted us that persons have tried to gain access into properties in the Wrexham area saying they were working for the council and are there to check the water supply. We would urge residents to check their ID before letting anyone into their homes. Council employees will always carry ID. If you are unsure please call Wrexham Council on 01978 298993 before letting anyone in.

Regards
Lynne

Lynne Maurice PCSO 0151 / SCCH 0151

North Wales Police / Heddlu Gogledd Cymru

Overton Police Station / Gorsaf Heddlu Owrtyn

Phone / Ffon: dd. 01978 348425 / extrn. 48425

Mobile / Symudol: 07854 352 815

E.mail / E.bost: lynne.maurice@nthwales.pnn.police.uk

Cricket

With the season approaching, the cricket team have organised net/practise sessions at Ellesmere College Sports Centre. They are starting on Wednesday 22nd February from 8-9pm for 6 weeks. If you are interested in a game, a bit of training or perhaps feeling rusty, why not come along or contact us for further information about the club on 01978 710537.

We would like to say thank you to our kind, generous and supportive President and Vice Presidents and we look forward to a presentation night and various fund raising ventures in the coming season. *Rob Lawrenson*



Leaders wanted

Overton Scout Group is thriving. This January there are over 80 children in 4 sections, Scouts, Explorer Scouts, Cubs in Overton and a 2nd pack in Bangor-on-Dee, and Beavers. But for all our success we are struggling for leaders. We need more Assistant Leaders (or Section Assistants) for our Scout Troop where our 2 leaders are struggling to provide an effective programme for 25 Scouts. In addition our Beaver Scout Leader, Jo, will be giving up after half term due to work commitments and her Assistant Beccy is unable to commit to taking on the Leadership role because of work. If we cannot replace Jo, the Beaver colony will have to close after 8 years and the 21 young Beavers will miss out on a wonderful experience. If you feel you can help out, come to Beavers on a Wednesday evening 6 to 7 pm or contact Group Scout Leader David Burton on 710631.

Local history by a local author

Martin Thomas (Lord Thomas of Gresford) has launched his recently published book "My Dear Hamy.." at a launch party in the House of Lords. This is a true story set in the period of the Napoleonic wars with France and the commencement of the Regency.

Anne Hayman, a Welsh speaking lady from Wrexham, was in 1797 appointed sub-governess to Princess Charlotte of Wales, the only child of George Prince of Wales and his estranged wife Princess Caroline of Brunswick. This is the story of 3 feisty women – Caroline and Charlotte, the Royal Princesses, and the commoner, Anne. Miss Hayman built the house Lord Thomas now lives in at Gresford and is buried in the nearby churchyard.

Dear Editor

The bus to Stans was organised by OCC when there was no bus.

The bus to Wrexham is subsidised by WCBC.

The bus to Wrexham is under threat if the bus company is running an underused service.

The people who use the bus to Stans are taking money away from the businesses in Overton and Wrexham.

Why does OCC still organise a bus to Stans?

Name and address supplied

Wanted Relief cleaner at St Mary's School.

For more information please ring the school on 01978 710370 and ask for Darren Morris.

email: overtonoracle@gmail.com

Playcentre News

We have been very busy at the Playcentre, we can not believe that February has already arrived! The children have been very interested by and loved participating in the new bird hide which has been created at the Playcentre. They have been patiently and carefully watching to see if any birds have visited the food sources and learning about different kinds of birds.

We continue with our on-going theme "celebrations" to which the children have indulged in Martin Luther King, Dydd Santes Dwynwen (Welsh St Valentines Day) and Burns to name a few.

On the note of Celebrations we would like to thank those who attended our first meetings to discuss the Playcentre's 50th anniversary. It was wonderful to hear of the history of the Playcentre and how it has touched so many lives. Our next meetings are scheduled for February Tuesday 7th, 11am at the "Cup n Saucer" and Thursday 9th at 7.30pm at the Playcentre. We hope that as many can attend to ensure that the 50th celebration is all that it deserves to be. Don't forget this date for your diaries; Saturday July 1st for our Anniversary Ball, (tickets soon to be launched).



Meeting to discuss Playcentre's 50th anniversary with those involved in the 1960s, 70s and 80s as well as today.

We would like to say a huge thank you to Katrina Chalk and the Community Council for their extreme generosity towards us, in offering us an annual donation for us to invest in much needed resources for the Playcentre. Their on-going support of the Playcentre is very much appreciated by everyone involved with it.

Our toddler season is thriving so if you're a new mum/dad or grandparent and would like to get out and meet people, please come along on a Tuesday morning 9 till 11am. Or if you have an older child, 2 years plus, then we operate a very flexible system to accommodate your childcare needs, please pop in or call the Playcentre for more information on 01978 710688.

Thomas Edward Davies 1897-1917

This month is the centenary of the death of Thomas Davies who died on 25th February 1917 and is remembered on the Overton War Memorial.

In 1901 Thomas was 5 years old and was living with his family, father John, a general labourer, and mother Mary Ellen, in Bangor on Dee, at the first cottage on Whitchurch Road from High Street, in other words one of the cottages which made up the old doctors' surgery. The census lists the cottage as having 4 rooms, 2 up 2 down. Their children were Thomas b1897, Ann b1899 and John b1901.

By 1911 the family have moved to Overton and were living in a cottage in Turning Street, one of the cottages now demolished that were replaced by Radcliffe flats. There was by now another child, Margaret b1906 and a 5th baby had died. John was working in Overton as a farm labourer, but Thomas as eldest child age 15 had already left home to make room for more children and to find work.

By 1917 the family had moved to Canaster Cottage on Station Road, presumably to be closer to the farm where John was working.

Thomas was 17 when war was declared and he joined the Royal Welsh Fusiliers as Private 25970. One may speculate that Thomas's employment before the war was as a miner as he was then seconded to The Royal Engineers to help dig tunnels. He was killed on 25th February 1917 at Railway Wood, east of the town of Ypres; he was 20 years old.

The R.E. Grave Railway Wood marks the spot where eight Royal Engineers of the 177th Tunnelling Company and four attached infantrymen (one of whom was Thomas) were killed in action underground during the defense of Ypres. The men were buried underground and their bodies not recovered, so there are no headstones, but there is a Cross of Sacrifice bearing a dedicatory inscription and the names of those buried there, surrounded by a small enclosure. Outside the enclosure is a large pond, in fact it is the crater of the huge mortar that hit the hill. Thomas Edward Davies' name is on the Cross of Sacrifice and he is also remembered on the Overton War Memorial.



Photo: The crater next to Railway Wood, Ypres.

The shadow of the memorial cross can be seen in the foreground pointing towards the crater.

St Mary's School News

We have just arrived back at school after Christmas and are already back to working hard.



On Thursday 19th January, Year 6 took a class trip to Techniquet Glyndwr where we had a fun day of workshops and learned lab skills that will be essential in secondary school. We learned about

u n i v e r s a l indicators, how to spot hazards and fire safety in the lab e.g. lighting matches, Bunsen burners and splints. It was

fascinating to make a fire extinguisher using vinegar and bicarbonate of soda which created carbon dioxide to extinguish our flame. Year 6 are also taking part in the BBC Terrific Scientific programme, so we have lots of science going on! First up, we are investigating whether we are 'supertasters'.

Year 5 will be leading a Valentine theme worship at St. Mary's Church on Tuesday 14th February. All are welcome, please check our website for the start time.

Zoe Mitchell, Year 6 Editor-in-Chief



Poetry Corner

We thought we'd share another poem this month, written by Joshua Mellitzer in Year 6. Inspired by Kit Wright's Magic Box poem we chose to write our own:

The Magic Box

I will put in the box

the whoosh of the wind on a stormy night,
magic from a wizard's forceful wand,
the everlasting path of the elegant rainbow.

I will put in the box

the kiss of death from a devil's mouth,
a leap of faith from a desperate evacuee,
the sorrow of a child's mournful soul.

I will put in the box

the heat from a loving mother's soul,
a touch of hope from a helpless orphan,
the feel of the elegant sky's hand.

I will put in the box

the rhythm of the devil's evilness,
a spark of anger from the dark lord's eyes,
the darkness of an unlit dungeon.

My box is made from burnished blue diamonds and
resplendent fluttering flowers,
with zig zags on the lid and the inside,
flooding with magic.

I will travel to every inch of the universe in my box,
my mind full of delight,
as I seek new horizons.



Another Conundrum

As one of the organising team of volunteers for the St Mary's Senior Citizens' Christmas Party, I would like to reply to your correspondent's letter criticising the issuing of invitations to this event.

I agree that the criteria that has been used as to who is eligible to attend harks back to the time when women received a pension at 60 and men at 65. The present team has inherited this system and know that it does need to change.

We do deliberate long and hard over who is eligible but we are just working from our own local knowledge and again, I would agree that it is not perfect. However, I do not believe the notice put in the Oracle is 'like asking for an invitation to a neighbour's wedding.' In fact, I was informed of several eligible people whom we did not know about and who had, therefore, not received invitations. An invite was immediately sent to them. I am sorry that your correspondent was overlooked, but, IF WE ARE NOT INFORMED OF OMISSIONS WE CANNOT RECTIFY THEM.

Since your correspondent is implying we have upset a number of people who did not get an invite, the conundrum is:

- do we continue to 'try to do our best' to include everyone, and send out personal invitations.
- do we ONLY issue an open invitation in the Oracle next autumn asking that all eligible Overtonians who would like to attend, contact us. (This would also save us a lot of time and effort writing and delivering personal invitations.)
- or do we just abandon the Party altogether so that we do not risk offending anybody.

Answers on a postcard, please.

Val Stevenson

The Oracle is always willing to publish letters of thanks and appreciation. Unfortunately it has not received any in appreciation of the hard working local volunteers from St Mary's Parochial Church Council who have organized the village's Senior Citizens' Christmas party for many years.

Thank you

The response to the item in the November 2016 Overton Oracle about the Village history book "Overton in Times Past. A brief history" written by Betty Williams and Brian Done, was excellent.

The resulting sales have raised £113 which will go towards Village Hall funds.

Thank you to all those who have responded.

Thank you

Thank you to everybody who donated clothes and toys for asylum seekers following my article in the October Oracle. We had stockings for 50 children of different ages and I now know how Santa Claus feels after a busy session in his grotto. Everything was so much appreciated.

Sheila Miller

The Dog Poo issue

The majority of dog owners in Overton always clear up after their dogs, but there is a minority who do not. This attitude is exasperating for those walking along the pavements and footpaths of Overton.



This topic has been raised on a regular basis in the Oracle but the behaviour continues. There are full 'poo bags' hanging in the trees on the footpath at the back of the school and residents using the pavements and footpaths throughout Overton continually have to negotiate the dog poo.

Enforcement Officers from Wrexham Council have been asked to visit the area and any owners still failing to pick up after their dogs will receive a fixed penalty fine.

Pene Coles

Thank you

Thank you to everyone who bought and subsequently enjoyed the range of puddings sold as St Mary's School's Christmas fundraising this festive season.



We were overwhelmed by everyone's generosity and would like to say a particular thank you to M. E. Evans Family Butchers in the High Street for being our local outlet for our puddings - a truly heartfelt thank you from us all at St. Mary's School.



Overton Royal British Legion 100 Club

Results of the "100 Club" draw for January.

85 members entered and the draw was made

at the White Horse on the 11th January by Walter Roberts.

Winners -

1st Prize £170.00 No 74 Alan Edwards

2nd Prize £85.00 No 86 Karen Jones Roberts

3rd Prize £42.50 No 29 Colin Davies

Legion Fund: £127.50

Next Draw: Wed. February 8th

A few membership places still available, open to everyone, not just RBL members.

If you wish to join please ring Dave Austin

Overton Community Council Projects for 2017

Hedgerow on the Wrexham Road

Over the years the hedgerow which runs parallel with the Playingfield has become very thick and top heavy. It is our intention to have this vigorously cut back in the early part of 2017 prior to the nesting period. This will encourage stronger growth and allow pedestrians to use the whole width of this pavement on a very busy section of the road. We will also be planting 'whips' behind the hedge in order to thicken and improve the quality of the existing hedge. We have received advice from the Ecology and Conservation Officers at Wrexham Council as this is part of the Conservation Area of Overton.

Overton Cemetery

We will be improving the paths in Overton Cemetery, relocating the shed and moving/improving the storage units for the top soil, spoil and turf to the field behind the current cemetery. This is to tidy up the current cemetery and allow us to prepare the next piece of land for burials in years to come.

Flower Planters

The Community Council is looking into installing flower planters on each entrance road into Overton. These planters will be wooden and the Community Gardening Group has volunteered to maintain them throughout the year.

Other news

Overton Community Council Community Chest Applications. Every year Overton Community Council considers grant applications received from organisations towards capital expenditures by local organisations within the area administered by the Community Council. Grants cannot be made towards the general maintenance or running costs of any organisation.

This year the money allocated to this fund has significantly increased as we have used the income received from Solar Light Renewable Energy - £2,534.92 (this may vary year on year or cease altogether if they decommission the area).

All applications that meet the criteria will be considered. The closing date for applications is October 2017 - plenty of time to compile your application. Please contact: Katrina Chalk, Clerk to the Council, at Overton Village Hall. 01978 710055 or occ.clerk@btinternet.com for further information or the necessary forms.

Drop in sessions

2017 will see a new format for the Overton Community Council drop ins. If there is a particular project, consultation or issue within the village we will organise a drop in so residents can attend to find out what is happening and have their say. Members of the Council will also attend the lunch club, bowling club, brownies, scouts etc. If you would like to invite a Community Councillor/s to an event which you are holding, please contact: Katrina Chalk, Clerk to the Council, Overton Village Hall, Penyllan Street, Overton, LL13 0EE, 01978 710055 or occ.clerk@btinternet.com

Get involved

We would also like to hear from you if you are interested in becoming involved with the Community Council, (we currently have 2 Community Councillor vacancies), or you wish to volunteer as a litter picker or to help at the village fete. Please contact the Clerk as above, for further details.

*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

Wednesday February 1st 7.00pm Wednesday Evening Prayer
 Sunday February 5th 10.00am Family Village Praise
 Sunday February 12th 11.30am Holy Communion
 3.00pm Messy Church in the Scout Hut
 Sunday February 19th 10.00am Family Communion
 Sunday February 26th 11.30am Holy Communion

February Diary for Overton Methodist Chapel

Sunday February 5th 6.30pm Rev Richard Sharples
 Sunday February 12th 6.30pm Mr Martin Woodhall
 Sunday February 19th 6.30pm Holy Communion Rev P Poole
 Sunday February 26th 11.00am All Age Worship Mr C Squires

Wednesday February 1st 7.30pm Maelor Music Society in the Maelor School Hall with the English Piano Trio

Wednesday February 8th 10.30am Overton British Legion meeting at the Scout Hut. All welcome.

Wednesday February 8th 12.30pm Overton Lunch Club at the White Horse. To book please ring Gwynneth Austin on 01978 710672

Wednesday February 8th 7.15pm for 7.30pm Maelor Belles WI at the Rainbow Centre. 'A Singing Workshop' with Alison Jarvis

Thursday February 9th 7.30pm Erbistock WI at Erbistock Village Hall. Speaker: Mr Andy Jones on "The Royal Yacht Britannia".

Tuesday February 14th 7.30pm Overton Community Council meeting in the Parish Room. Members of the public wishing to speak 7.20pm-7.30pm.

Thursday February 16th 7.30pm Overton WI meeting in the Chapel Schoolroom. Speaker: Mr Brian Jones on "The History of English Furniture from 1485" Competition: a Wooden Item

Monday February 27th 7.30pm Overton Bowling Club 2017 Annual Meeting in the Parish Room.

The Bucket List Club.

How about a bucket list club? The idea is to travel to the long wished for holiday destinations.

Perhaps like me you have friends who would like to travel but feel it would be much more fun with a companion or in a group open to all.

We could get together and find some common ground, beaches, cities, railways you name it. Anybody interested then email vitaylor1@live.co.uk or phone 07468 681956. We can meet regularly for a chat and exchange ideas at home or abroad.



Vi Taylor

Family Announcements

Congratulations to Jackie and Dan Dodwell on the birth of Emilia Florence.

Happy February Birthdays to William Wright, Neville Wynne, Harry Whittall, Lewis Jones, Lyn Evans, Chilly Grindley, Nicola Archer, Doreen Howells, Olive Roberts, Dereck Bell, Lily & Davina Simon, Sandy Foster and Georgie Hunter Davies.

Happy Birthday to Adam Karlakki for his 10th birthday.

Belated January birthday wishes to Karen Jones Roberts and Russell Jones

Sincere condolences to the family and friends of Bob Thomson of 1 Parkside who has passed away.

Sincere condolences to the family and friends of Den Metcalfe (of Metcalfe's shop which was once on the High Street) who has passed away.

For Sale

Thank you

Margaret Evison and family would like to thank everyone for the cards, generous donations and attendance at Harry's funeral.

Your support at this difficult time is much appreciated.

Thank you

Nancy, daughter of Bob Thomson of 1 Parkside who has recently passed away, wishes to thank Pat Edwards and the residents of Parkside for their help, support and friendship during his long illness.

PLEASE REMEMBER

Copy deadline is 20th of the previous month.

Get your events & news to us early to avoid disappointment

THIS INCLUDES ADVERTISEMENTS

Leave your contributions & announcements at the Corner Shop or email overtonoracle@gmail.com

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

Editor - Jill Burton.

Tel 710631 or e-mail overtonoracle@gmail.com

All articles & advertisements in the Overton Oracle are published in good faith & without prejudice. Space constraints mean that submitted articles may be edited or not published. Please be mindful that personal details submitted will be available on the internet.

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

The Oracle is delivered FREE to more than 650 homes in the Overton Area. Our thanks go to the volunteer distributors who make sure you receive your copy each month. We operate a postal service for our long distance readers, and we are also on the Web. www.overtonoracle.com You can also e-mail us at overtonoracle@gmail.com

Useful telephone numbers; POLICE: non emergency calls -101 or 0300 330 0101 LITTER CLEARANCE: 01978 298989

email: overtonoracle@gmail.com