

The Overton Oracle

Volume 22 Issue 2

February 2020

Overton's Free Newspaper - delivered to every household monthly for 21 years



Congratulations to The White Horse Lunch Club on it's **10th anniversary** in February,

A massive thank you to Gwynneth for her dedicated work in organising this monthly event, and also to all Patrons and various Landlords who have given their support over the past decade. Many Thanks.

Wine Tasting



Last chance to get tickets for the Twinning Wine Tasting and Buffet evening on Saturday 8th February, at the Scout

Hut starting at 7.30pm. Tickets, costing £12.50 per person, are available from the Corner Shop.

Parade 2020 Launch Party!

You are invited to join the party on Sunday February 9th 2020 in Overton Village Hall from 2.00pm – 4.00pm and contribute your ideas to ensure that the 2020 Parade is another successful event for the whole community.



We are encouraging individuals, clubs, organisations and societies to take a starring role in the parade itself.

Escape the winter cold and come along and help us plan for summer fun!! Drinks and nibbles will be provided See you there!

Maelor Music Society

Come and hear the famous Chetham's School of Music on Wednesday 26th February at 7.30pm at the Maelor School Hall - the musical stars of the future who will delight us with a classical repertoire with solo and ensemble players. Tickets on the door - Adults £10; students £2; under 16s free. All welcome, refreshments served.



A Much-Travelled Overton Calendar!

We asked you last month about how far the Overton Growers calendar has travelled. We received the following from Melanie and Barry Metcalfe.

"We took the beautiful Overton Calendar with us when we went on an adventure tour of Chile and Argentina last November. We visited a remote school high up in the Andes at 15,000 feet. It seemed to be in the middle of nowhere with no other buildings in sight. All around were the most beautiful mountains, but no vegetation as it is so dry. Some of the 30 children walk for an hour a day to reach the school each morning, but some live so far away that they have to live there during the week. There was a very happy family-like atmosphere in the school with children from 5-14 years old mixing naturally together. Our tour group was encouraged to bring a gift from home so we gave the School an Overton Calendar. It is now hanging in the School Assembly Hall where the children have their meals and get together to play music on their Andean pipes. The photograph shows the head teacher with the calendar and some of the children. The flight distance between this school and Overton is at least 11,000km and the height difference about 15,000 feet. We definitely felt the effect of much less oxygen up there!"



Thank you Melanie and Barry for such a lovely story! The calendars will still be on sale until the end of February.

Overton Post Office

The Partners of Overton Medical Practice applied for the Post Office franchise when we started to appreciate the impact of the previous post office closure. We believe that we are an important community hub and in this capacity the Partners thought that it would be a good thing to do for the Overton community to re-establish a permanent post office for the village in the practice. Having secured the franchise we have restructured our Reception Team so that we can ensure that the Post Office counter will be available throughout our core practice opening times. Residents and patients may care to note that only Post Office cleared and trained staff can serve Post Office customers and not all of our Reception Team will be able to assist at the Post Office counter.

Our intent had been to open on Monday 3rd February but this has had to be put back because we are still waiting to receive confirmation that necessary planning application for additional Class of Use will be approved by WCBC. At this time the Post Office is provisionally planning to open at the end of March or beginning of April. although if the necessary WCBC permissions are received in good time this opening date may be brought forward.

In the meantime the Tuesday morning 10am - 12noon Post Office service in the Parish Room will continue until further notice.

Seeds from St Mary's

by Rev'd. Peter Mackriell

Christmas festivities are becoming a distant memory. Some people will have had that happy Christmas that we all long for; for others, it will have been a painful time, for all kinds of reasons. At St Mary's, we have been particularly busy with funeral services – with that inevitable mix of sadness and celebration, as we remember the lives of loved ones.

At the beginning of February, we remember a particularly poignant story that reminds me of Christmas. There's a baby, just 40 days old, and proud parents. And then there are two elderly people who, like many great-grandparents at family gatherings, just want to have a look at the baby. This reminds me of Christmas not just because the parents are Mary and Joseph, and the child is Jesus, but because here, in this story, all ages are represented – every generation gathers together.

Family gatherings and community gatherings are at their best when old and young come together – some to learn, some to lead, all to listen to one another and to have fun. Grandparents have a lot to learn about technology from their grandchildren; the youngsters show interest in the stories of 'long ago' (it may be only a few years, but it's before they were born!) Everyone benefits from doing things together – whether that's playing games, washing up or going for a walk.

When Joseph and Mary took Jesus to the temple to present him to God, just like a young family coming to church for a christening, they met the old priest, Simeon, and the prophetess, Anna. Once Simeon had seen Jesus, he knew that this was the fulfilment of his life's work – and so his prayer has become one that we use to say goodbye to people at funerals, "Lord, now you let your servant depart in peace..."

The old makes way for the young, the generations move on. But we need each other, and we celebrate the love that unites healthy families. At our All Age Worship at 10.00 a.m. on Sunday 2nd February, we will give thanks for the generations and for our families.

Why not come and join us for half an hour? We'd love to see people of all ages in church.



Overton Playcentre News



We hope you will hear much more Welsh around the Playcentre from now on as many of our staff are doing a 20 hour free Welsh course for Early Years Practitioners so we can all use more Welsh with our children! This is part of the Welsh Government initiative 'Active Offer' and to have a million Welsh speakers! So we are excited to be doing our part in that!

Thanks to the Booktrust our children have gone home with Pori Drwy Stori bags with lots of lovely rhymes and resources to support us

all singing together at home and in the Playcentre! Each week our children get a new song to take home



and sing with their family and we use the same song as our song for the week in the Playcentre!

Early Education has started so our 3 year olds are busy playing in the 15 different areas we have

set up around the building and our Childcare Offer children are starting to create with wood and tools in our Outdoor Learning sessions!

Last month we had a four legged visitor Zane who taught our children all about being a Guide Dog in a fun and interactive way! and we have been busy celebrating Burns Night, St Dwynwen's Day and the Chinese New Year!

Now we are looking forward to February with events such as St Valentine's! Heads up for March too as we will be working with the Twinning again to do our fab Easter party again so look out for those dates!!



Let us pray for you

If you are in any kind of need and would like us to pray for you publicly* at St Mary's, please phone Revd Peter on 01978 710294 or email revpeter@maelormissionarea.uk

We will be remembering in our prayers those who are sick, those in other kinds of need and those who have died. Please specify in which list you would like to be included.

*private prayers can also be said, for those who don't want their names read out in church.

Save the Date

Following last year's success, the 2nd Overton Village Handicraft Show will take place in the Village Hall on **Saturday May 16th 2020**. This will again be an Open Show, with Classes including Needlecrafts, Ceramics, Woodwork and Artworks for adults and children.

We are proud to announce that the Mayor and Mayoress of Wrexham will be presenting the awards. Schedules are available in February, and for further details please contact Margaret O'Neill 01978 710451.

St Mary's School news

Terrific Technocamps

On 16th January, Year 6 were excited to take part in a Technocamps Workshop here at St Mary's. Technocamps is a project led by Swansea University with university hubs across Wales; so our workshop was led by Terri, a Computer Scientist from Glyndwr University. The aim of the project is to engage young people in learning about Computer Science and programming with a variety of fun and innovative activities.



The first part of our workshop was 'unplugged', focusing on computational thinking; this included many partner activities such as how computers work, translating Binary code and creating instructions. We interviewed Milliebeth Hughes, age 11, about the sessions:

"My favourite part of the morning with Terri was when my partner built a Lego model I couldn't see and then I had to copy what he was doing with just verbal instructions. I enjoyed the Binary translating too." In the afternoon, Year 6 chose a workshop to



design a Mars Rover. Everyone got to design the outside of their vehicle and build it. We then used a Crumble kit with Crumble software to use coding skills to programme the Crumble controller to drive the wheels of the vehicle so our Rover would move.

We interviewed Isabel Baker, age 11, who told us: "My favourite part was when we were designing the Rover. I really enjoyed racing my Rover Bot (which I called Tom!) with all my friends." Year 6 are now looking forward to more coding activities as part of their Digital Competency curriculum this year.



by **Eliza Dodd, Ethan Evans, Jess Rowley (Year 6 Reporting Team) and Mrs Williams, Year 6 Teacher.**

75th Anniversary of VE Day

This year the May bank holiday usually on the first Monday of May, has been changed to the following Friday which will be part of the 3 day celebration of the 75th anniversary of VE Day (8th-10th May).

For this year's VE Day celebrations we will be having an open day at St Mary's Church. which will include a 1945 celebrations exhibit.

We need people of the village and surrounding area to come forward with anything that relates to that time, clothes, uniforms, pictures, medals or pictures of medals, pictures of vehicles, rations of that time. We also hope to have the tower open to the public.

Due to the V.E. day celebrations taking place in St. Marys Church we are postponing the Church Art/Craft exhibition to another date.

Also I need an appeal to a lovely gentleman who on the evening of our Bingo Night, offered us the use of an outdoor heating plate to do food on. I have lost his details. Could he contact me please?

Thank you.

Tracey Leech 07753 463125
June McLaughlin 01978 711941



Overton on Dee Community Growers – February Update

VOLUNTEERS WANTED:

We are looking for more volunteers to help us with our work. Would you like to join us? We have a few projects on the go that we need more help with. If you just want to drop in and volunteer on an informal basis, such as weeding and watering, then look out for our posts on Facebook, in the Oracle or on posters around the village or get in touch with us via our Facebook page. If you'd like to become a Member and get involved with our future plans, we meet on the last Wednesday of every month at the White Horse at 7.30 pm. You would be made very welcome.



MINI PLOTS: UPDATE

We have a few Mini Plots available for any villager who would like one. These are adjacent to the Bowls Club. Every month at the Plots we hold a "Dig In" for Plot Members, where our experienced Plot Managers offer advice and practical help on planting and sowing. These take place on the first Sunday of every month, 2pm-4pm. February's tutorial (2nd Feb) will be all about pruning fruit trees and taking hardwood cuttings. If you fancy coming along to listen and take part, just drop in at the Plots on 'Dig In' day. To contact email cathroberts100@aol.com, tel: 01978 710328 (leave a message) or message via our Facebook page, 'The Overton-on-Dee Community Growers'.

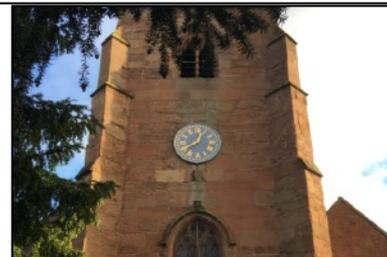


"Clock on" for the Village

Jim Eastop has been winding up the church clock for 10 years and we are all very indebted to him. He has now given us notice that he will be terminating his valuable service as of the end of March in 2020.

Jim tell us that "There are 3 separate winds needed for the clock which is only a third of the way up the tower. The person needs to be physically fit to climb the spiral staircase and do the winding." The task takes about 10 to 15 minutes, every 4 or 5 days.

If there is anyone in the village who would be willing to take on this valuable service, all of us in the community would be very grateful. If you would like to volunteer for this service to the church and the village, please contact Euan Stevenson on 710618.



Thank you to everyone

What a turn out for the Big Christmas Bingo in aid of our beautiful church to meet the ever-increasing costs of running St Marys. Fabulous prizes were donated by local businesses, families and friends and we all raised a great sum of over £1,200.

Thank you to everyone involved, we had a packed hall and great fun, let's hope Christmas 2020 brings a similar result.

Thank you to all the sponsors,-

- Arla foods Oswestry, Lewis's Farm Shop Eyton
- Home Farm Overton, Overton Chip shop.
- White Horse Overton, Overton Rec Club,
- Buck House Bangor on dee, Boat Inn Erbistock,
- Mary Perrin - hampers, Trena Haynes,
- Stans Superstore, Pouts by Pixie

and all who donated public prizes.

And many thanks to the lady helpers and last but not least, Ron our bingo caller.

Overton 'CIDERFEST'

Following the Overton on Dee Community Growers very successful first apple pressing event last year, 'Applefest', our cider is almost ready for drinking!



We are launching it on **SATURDAY 29th FEBRUARY** at the Scout Hut, 4.30pm to 7.30pm. **FREE ENTRY.**

The 'Dough Nation Station', courtesy of locals Jude and Les, will also be there. They will donate profits from Pizzas to the Growers' Association.

However, pizzas **MUST** be ordered in advance. To place your order please email cathroberts100@aol.com, tel. 01978 710328 (leave a message) or order via 'The Overton-on-Dee Community Growers' Facebook page.



Tea, coffee and other hot and cold light refreshments will also be available inside the Scout Hut. Don't leave it too late to pop in as **WHEN IT'S GONE, IT'S GONE!**

Thank you

I would like to say a huge thank you to all our wonderful friends and neighbours who rallied round so brilliantly since I broke my leg before Christmas. Thanks for all the uplifting visits, the phone calls, the delicious cakes and meals. What a marvelously supportive community we live in! Thank you all so much.

Georgina Mason

School Days:

Appeal for School Photographs

Wrexham Museum is planning an exhibition on our local schools, opening in February 2020.

If you, your parents or your grandparents went to school locally and have photographs from your or their time at school, please bring them along to Overton Library on **Saturday, 8th February** between 10.30 a.m. and 12.30 p.m. You don't have to part with your photos as we will scan them on the day.

Jonathan Gammond, Exhibitions Officer at Wrexham County Borough Museum said: "We are very keen to include photographs and memorabilia from schools in the Maelor. I understand that on your side of the Dee, you might not often come into Wrexham, but we do like to include the Maelor in the museum's displays. It is a special area with a unique history.

We plan to digitally display a selection of school photographs from 1900s to the 1990s in the exhibition and that this is why we need your help! If you would like to know more, please contact me or Karen Murdoch at the museum on 01978 297 460 or email: museumcollections@wrexham.gov.uk We shall be bringing a flask of cocoa to sustain us during our visit to Overton."

The oldest Overton school photo we have shown in the Oracle is below. Sent to us by Wendy Wellsted in 2013 it shows the Headmaster and the schoolchildren in about 1890. They are sitting outside the Headmasters house which stood behind the old school where Old School Mews is now. It was originally built in 1852 with money donated by Mary Ann Bennion but with a single storey. An upstairs was added in about 1900. The school master and school mistress sitting in the centre were William and Elizabeth Falkner.



A Greener 2020

Did you know the majority of people have given up on their new years resolutions by February? Well why not try a different kind of new start by aiming to have a greener 2020. Why not give a few of these a go;

- Swap your vacation for a staycation: cutting down on the amount you fly can be one of the biggest ways to reduce your environmental footprint, so why not swap your wings for wheels and opt for a train, bus or car to visit one of the UK's many fabulous destinations.
- Reduce your plastic waste: whilst getting rid of plastic entirely is nearly impossible, you can make a big difference by swapping out a disposable plastic item for something reusable or recyclable. Some easy swaps could be a bamboo toothbrush for a plastic one, beeswax wraps for cling film, loose fruit and veg for wrapped equivalents, or solid deodorant bars instead of roll ons.
- Say goodbye to peat: Did you know the peat many of us use in our gardens is dug out of wildlife-rich peat bogs? Not only does it destroy a habitat as rare and valuable as a rainforest, it releases huge amounts of carbon into the atmosphere, adding to global warming.
- Waste not want not: did you know brown bananas make excellent banana bread, or that stale bread can be frozen and used as breadcrumbs? Many of the things we automatically chuck in our bins can still be made use of. If you've got something leftover and you've no idea what to do with it, have a quick Google and it's amazing what the internet will tell you you can make out of avocado stones and potato peelings.
- Plan your journey: it's something many of us automatically do, planning our routes and trying to tick off two jobs in one go. Not only does this save time but it also saves a whole lot of car and diesel fumes.
- Go natural: many of the products we use every day, from moisturiser to washing up liquid, are incredibly harmful to wildlife both in the chemicals they contain and the processes that make them. Try to swap to planet friendly brands; look for key words like 'biodegradable' and 'made with natural ingredients'. A double benefit is many of these products will come with less packaging.
- Go veggy: now I'm not saying there's no more Sunday roasts to be enjoyed, but why not aim to have one or even two nights a week with no meat? Not only is it better for the planet it's also better for our health if we can cut back on the legs, joints and steaks a bit and pile on a few more veggies.
- Give a little hand: we all need a little help every now and then and so does the planet. Whether you join a charity, go volunteer for a day or even just pick up the litter you find when you're out on your daily dog walk, every little helps.
- Be a colourful mess: whether you have a lot of lawn, a lot of slabs or a tiny balcony, everyone can offer nature a place to eat, rest and play by planting up their own little paradise. It could be a few pots or a second Versailles, but it all plays a part. Aim to have something flowering in every season and look out for plants which are labelled good for pollinators. Thick cover like bushes and ivy are also great for birds if you have space. And remember to leave a bit of mess if you can; for example thick leaf piles in winter are great for hedgehogs and dead plant stems are the perfect place for hibernating ladybugs.
- Remember second-hand isn't second best: whether it's surfing the internet for a bargain or wandering through charity shops between coffee stops, there are many great ways to shop second-hand now a days. The environmental benefits are clear; less waste and a lower carbon footprint. With many items from cds to flower pots you'll probably find the difference between old and new is barely noticeable, but the pricetag has definitely improved.

The key to being greener is remembering not to take on too much at once, maybe aim to take on a new challenge every month, such as swap one plastic item out or try to see how many gifts and presents you can get second-hand. No one can do everything but everyone can do something.

Katie Piercy

Overton on Dee W.I.

Overton-on-Dee W.I. will meet on Thursday 20th February 2020 at 7.30pm in the Catholic Hall. Our Speaker will be Jill Burton with her talk on "Overton not on Dee - a history of the village". Guests and visitors are very welcome to this interesting evening, guests £4 including refreshments.



Litter pick

New Years Resolution to be a little greener, get a bit more exercise or volunteer? Tick off all three by joining the monthly Overton Litterpick, first Saturday of every month meeting outside the Corner Shop at 10am. Litter pickers and bags supplied. Children and dogs welcome. If you are unable to join the litterpicks but would still like to help out please get in touch as we can loan you litter picking equipment for use in your own time. For more information contact Katie Piercy on 07725224151 or Katharine.piercy@googlemail.com

Changes to 146 bus timetable

From 13th January 2020 a new timetable for the 146 came into operation. Since the timetable change occurred, some unforeseen circumstances arose and Pats Coaches are trying to resolve these issues. The full timetable can always be checked on the Pats Coaches website -

<http://www.patscoaches.co.uk/services.html>

Buses from Overton from to Wrexham	Buses from Overton to Whitchurch
7.51	
(9.00 during term time)	8.53 Saturday & school holidays
9.51 School days only	
10.11 Saturday & school holidays	
13.11	11.53
	14.28
18.35	17.28

Overton's Dustbin Days

Garden waste collections are **monthly** during January and February.

Reducing garden waste collections in these months was brought in last year as the demand then drops sharply. It also allows WCBC to free up staff to help deal with any issues caused by the winter, such as gritting.

- Thursday Feb 6th General Waste & Recycling / food
- Thursday Feb 13th **Garden Waste & Recycling / food**
- Thursday Feb 20th General Waste & Recycling / food
- Thursday Feb 27th **Recycling / food only**

Poppy Tribute

The Poppy army began with our meeting on the 15th Jan. We have decided patterns and hope many many people will get their needles out, buy some red and black wool and join our army! The patterns are also available on the Oracle website www.overtonoracle.com



We are aiming for 3,000 poppies and there will be a box at the back of the church to place them in. Our target will be late August / early Sept for completing the poppies, because we will then need to bring them all together and create the waterfall. The next progress meeting is on the 27th Feb at 6:30pm in the White Horse and everyone welcome.

Tracey Leech 07753 463125



Overton Royal British Legion 120 Club

Results of the "120 Club" Bonus Draw for January. 115 members entered and the draw was made at the White Horse Lunch Club on 8th Jan. by Mrs Gwynneth Austin.

Winners -

- 1st Prize £230.00 No 35 Bob Davies
- 2nd Prize £115.00 No 19 Irene Lewis
- 3rd Prize £ 57.50 No 45 Keith Overthrow
- Legion Fund: £172.50

CONGRATULATIONS

Next Draw: Wednesday February 12th 2019

A waiting list is available. If you wish to join please ring DAVE AUSTIN on 01978 710678.

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.

Extra village event photos



St Marys Church Bingo evening

Overton Growers work on the car park garden



St Marys School Technocamp workshop



What's On

February Diary for St Mary's Services

Sunday February 2nd 10.00am All Age Worship
Sunday February 9th 11.00am Holy Communion
Sunday February 16th 11.00am Family Communion
Sunday February 23rd 11.00am Holy Communion
Ash Wednesday February 26th 7.00pm Holy Communion with the imposition of ashes

February Diary for Overton Methodist Chapel

Sunday February 2nd 6.30pm Rev Neville Pugh
Sunday February 9th 6.30pm Mr Carl Squire
Sunday February 16th 6.30pm Rev P. Poole Holy Communion
Sunday February 23rd 6.30pm Rev Patrick Rudden
Craft Class 1.30pm each Tuesday
Mothers & Toddlers 9.30-11.30am each Friday
Bible Study 7pm each Friday

Saturday February 1st 10am Village Litterpick. Meet outside the Corner Shop

Thursday February 7th 10.30am - 2.30pm Rainbow Centre Paint, Craft & Create. Applique Peacock Pillows with Jackie Tomlinson

Saturday February 8th 7.00 for 7.30pm The Twinning Assoc Wine Tasting and Buffet in the Scout Hut

Sunday February 9th 2.00pm-4.30pm Parade 2020 Launch Party in Overton Village Hall

Sunday February 9th 3.00-5.00pm Messy Church, fun for children with parents in the Methodist Chapel

Tuesday February 11th 6.50pm Overton Community Council meeting in the Parish Room. Members of the public wishing to speak 6.50pm-7.00pm.

Tuesday February 11th 7pm for 7.30pm Bingo Night at the Rainbow Centre. Tea & coffee available

Wednesday February 12th 10.30am Overton British Legion meeting at the Scout Hut. All welcome.

Wednesday February 12th 12.30pm Overton Lunch Club at the White Horse. To book please ring 01978 710672.

Thursday February 20th Maelor South Adventures Group - Lunch at Sweeney Hall

Thursday February 20th 7.30pm Overton WI meeting at the Catholic Church Hall. Speaker: Jill Burton on "Overton not on Dee, a history of our village"

Wednesday February 26th 7.30pm The Maelor Music Society present Chetham's School of Music with a classical repertoire, solo & ensemble players

Wednesday February 26th 7.30pm Overton Community Growers meeting in the White Horse

Thursday February 27th 6.30pm St Mary's Poppy Tribute progress meeting in the White Horse

Saturday February 29th 4.30-7.30pm Community Growers CiderFest at the Scout Hut. Free Entry

Saturday February 29th 7pm Overton Rec Club Leap Year Disco & Karaoke, 70s, 80s & Motown. Free Entry. Non-members welcome.

Saturday March 7th 10am-12.30pm Overton WI Coffee Mornina in the Village Hall.

Family Announcements



Congratulations to Claire Hellingman and Daniel Warman on their engagement. Love from Mum, Dad & Sarah Jane

Happy February Birthdays to William Wright, Lyn Evans, Neville Wynne, Harry Whittall, Lewis Jones, Chilley Grindley, Nicola Archer, Doreen Howells, Lily & Davina Simon, Olive Roberts, Dereck Bell, Sandy Foster, Georgie Hunter Davies, Adam Karlakki, Margaret Evison and Cliff Green



Sincere condolences to the family and friends of Audrey Marshall

Sincere condolences to the family and friends of Margaret Austin

Sincere condolences to the family and friends of John Brian Dodd

Thank you

This is a big thank you from Father Christmas who asked me to pass on his message. He really enjoyed his flying visit on 8th December and whilst it was a very cold evening he loved seeing so many children. He was extremely impressed that every single one had been good last year and he looks forward to visiting next year. Your generous donations mean £125 was raised for Hope House Childrens Hospice.

For Sale



Overton Lunch Club

is on Wednesday February 12th at 12.30pm at the White Horse.

A choice of a two-course menu all for £8.95. To book ring Gwynneth Austin on 01978 710672.

PLEASE REMEMBER
Copy deadline is 20th of the previous month.
Get your events & news to us early to avoid disappointment
THIS INCLUDES
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Leave your contributions & announcements at the Corner Shop or email overtonoracle@gmail.com

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