

The Overton Oracle



Volume 11. Issue 1

January 2009

Overton's Free Newspaper - issued monthly

Happy New Year to all Oracle Readers

The Oracle is 10 years old



Ten years ago this month the first edition of the Oracle appeared, although it wasn't called the Oracle at that point. A request for suggestions for a name appeared in that first issue and from those the name "Oracle" was selected. On the first editorial committee were Ken Farrell, Glynis Farley, Maureen Evans, Jane Rate, Alan Edwards (editor) and me! Other members of the team over the years have been Lesley Pugh, Christine Stead, Jackie Evans, Euan Stevenson, Wally Wilton, Maxine Palmer, Sean Clarke, Cynthia Davies, Jacky Maskall and Jill Burton. There have been four editors, Alan, Maxine, myself and our current editor Jill.

Eighteen distributors deliver 570 free copies to most of the houses in the parish. If yours isn't delivered please let us know and we will try to ensure that you get a copy. Many of our distributors have been delivering the Oracle since its first issue and when they have left the village or just faded away, someone else has always stepped forward. The job of organising the deliveries has fallen to Alan Edwards, Euan Stevenson and our current distribution manager, Cynthia Davies. Our current distributors are Sandy Foster, Joy Davies, Josie Ralphs, Dave Austin, Jean Hughes, Myra Worthington, Davina Pritchard, Anne Butt, Barbara

James, Jenny Bellis, Euan Stevenson, Glenys Roberts, Linda Hughes, Catherine Starkey, Linda Done, Janet Edwards, Sheelagh Kovic, oh, and me. Our thanks to all these people who deliver in all weathers.

Overton Community Council have always paid the printing costs, now as a grant, for which we are very grateful. The printers since 2006 have been Prontaprint, whose owners Steve and Sandra Whitley also live in the village.

So as you can see there is a veritable army of volunteers behind the production and distribution of the Oracle and my thanks to all. Also thanks must go to you, our readers and contributors and advertisers—your contributions and pieces of news, letters etc, make the Oracle what it is today. So please keep your contributions coming.

The longest running regular columns are What's On and For Sale and Letters to the Editor (or Postbag)—very much your columns! The first contribution from our Police Community Beat Manager, Paul Wycherley was in May 2001 eventually becoming aptly known as 'Country Beat' with Pat Burns, Darren King and Luke Hughes as its authors. The Kids Column started in September 2004 and thanks to all of our younger contributors who have made this possible. December 2004 saw the start of the Medical Practice News and David Lewis started Ramblings from the Rectory in June 2005.

We have had many battles over the Oracle's independence and now it truly is. It's your newspaper and may it continue and prosper for many years to come.

David Burton, Chairman of the Editorial Committee.

Ramblings From the Rectory

by David Lewis

Dear Friends,

As I write this, some two weeks before Christmas, the news is full of items about the credit crunch and terrorist attacks in India and the Shannon Matthews Abduction case. You would be forgiven for feeling very bleak about the state of our world.

And yet the Epiphany story of the wise men being led by a star to the manger in Bethlehem is one of hope. The magi were of a different culture, faith and background to Mary, Joseph and Jesus and yet the light of God touched their hearts and they responded by journeying in peace to meet this special baby who would bring hope and life to all people, regardless of who they were.

For me, that is the marvellous message of Epiphany, which we celebrate on January 6th, that Jesus still brings light and hope to people's lives and hearts.

There is a lovely Epiphany prayer which goes like this

‘Radiant God, light for all people and all places,
By the guidance of a star you led the Magi
To worship the Christ Child.
By the light of faith
Lead us to worship you in peace and love
And guide us in your way.
We pray in the name of Jesus,
Light of the World.

Amen.’

It is my hope that the light of Jesus will touch your hearts this Epiphany, filling you with new hope and new life.

Your Friend and rector
David.



Fair-trade Products Sold by
St Mary's School Eco-Council
Pupils buy in fair-trade products to
sell at school and at their farmers'
markets. Their own design re-usable
shopping bags and tote bags are
now available from the school,
the Corner Shop and Select & Save.

Overton Scouts are 100 Years Old

This year, Overton Scouts, one of the oldest groups in Wales and the oldest continually established group in Wrexham District, will be celebrating in style

100 years of scouting in Overton.



Scouting began in 1907 when Robert Baden Powell organised an experimental camp for 20 boys on Brownsea Island near Poole, Dorset, in August 1907. The camp was a great success and in January 1908 he published "Scouting for boys". By 1909 a group had been set up in Overton.

Plans for the celebration year include

- In February the 100 year commemorative badge will be available at £2 each.
- It might be winter but February is also when the Scouts take part in the annual Frost Camp – only for the hardy!
- On 25th/26th April we are holding an exhibition of Scout memorabilia.
- On 16th May there will a re-union of as many ex Overton scouts as we can locate and can make it.
- In July there will be a centenary camp at Conwy's District Campsite at the foot of the Carneddau Mountains of Snowdonia, and will include a thanksgiving service.
- On 18th September we hope to hold a gala firework display coinciding with the 100th anniversary of Overton Scouts first public display at Overton Flower Show in 1909.

We are asking all ex scouts of what ever age to send us their memories of scouting and hope to publish a memories book in November. Please send all contributions to David Burton at [edi-tor@overton-on-dee.co.uk](mailto:editor@overton-on-dee.co.uk) .

If you have anything you could lend from your days in Scouting, badges, items from Jamborees, old scout shirts, certificates etc. please bring them to the Scout Hut between 7 and 9 pm on any Friday evening. We will take your details and give you a receipt and promise to look after any item. We would love to see any photographs that you have and can scan these and return them to you quickly.

Please help to put together the big picture of each generation of scouting in Overton since that day in July 1909 when it all began.

GALA FILM NIGHT

Cancel all engagements - on Friday 30th January, the Village Hall will become **Overton's own cinema!**



Come along at 8 pm to a special Gala Screening of the British film comedy, **'Saving Grace'** (starring Brenda Blethyn, Craig Ferguson and Martin Clunes).

The screening is to promote the much-anticipated Overton Film Club - and will be FREE (although the voluntary contribution of a gold coin to cover the **evening's costs will be encouraged!**).

Delicious drinks and snacks will also be on sale.

In the future, Overton Film Club would hope to put on a monthly screening for members and guests in the function room above the White Horse: the idea is to show classic films, British films, foreign films - **anything that's not showing in Wrexham!** Also planned are occasional Saturday morning screenings for children.

But we need your support!

Interested? Then be there at the Village Hall at 8 pm on Friday 30th for **'Saving Grace'**.

If you can't come - but would still be interested in joining the Film Club in due course, please contact Wilf Macdonald-Brown on 01978 710329 or wilfmb@yahoo.co.uk

Kids Kolumn

By Alice Foster, Lydia Biggs and Lottie Blake



Hi, It's January which means a whole year has past

ASK ALICE

Q. I'm really upset because my Granddad has died and I was quite close to him. My Mum and Dad are too busy planning the funeral to talk to me about it and I'm too scared to talk to anybody at my school.

James.

A. Try talking to your Grandma she is probably feeling the same way, she might want somebody to talk to as well and you might make each other feel comforted. If you were to talk to your Mum and Dad about your problem they would also understand and help you cope. We hope we have helped you James.

LAUGH WITH LYDIA

He has married many women, but has never been married. Who is he?

A priest.

How are a jeweller and a jailer alike?

The jeweller sells watches & the jailer watches cells.

If two's company and three's a crowd, what are four and five?

Nine.

If you have it, you want to share it. If you share it, you don't have it. What is it?

A secret.

Lottie's Pet of the Month

Animal: Hamster

Did you know the word hamster comes from the German word, hamstern, which means to hoard.



Music Review

Single One of the Boys
Artist Katy Perry

One of the boys is Katy Perry's second album. It's full of loads of fun songs and she sounds great on every single track. Katy Perry grew up listening to gospel music and singing in church; her original name was Katy Hudson.

It's one of the best albums of the year and has been rated 5 stars.

SCHOOL NEWS

Pets at Home in Wrexham has been helping Overton St Mary's primary school get in touch with its wild side and team members from the store have helped the pupils set up a wildlife garden within the school grounds. The store, on Wrexham Retail Park, has donated a number of wildlife products to the school including bird tables, feeders, bird seed and even festive treats such as a cranberry flavoured suet feeding block for birds and a bird seed wreath.

Store manager, Tom Bawden, said: "This is a great way to start teaching children from a young age about wildlife. This winter, we want the people of Wrexham to embrace the area's wildlife and setting up a simple bird table with feed is the easiest way to do that. From starlings to blue tits and greenfinches to collared doves, the pupils at St Mary's will be able to see just how many different types of garden birds their own wildlife garden attracts."

Mrs Clarke, head teacher, added: "The children were really excited about the visit from Pets at Home and we're all looking forward to seeing what birds our very own wildlife garden attracts. Our very own Eco Council will be eagerly monitoring bird activity in the area."



Tom Bawden presenting the wildlife products

Pupils from Year 6 of St Mary's have had a go at being disc-jockeys! They were invited by Lesley Evans - a Glyndwr University language graduate - to compose poems on the theme of Christmas. The children read out their poems on a pre-recorded programme which was broadcast on Calon FM on Christmas Day.

This is the second time Lesley has linked up with the school. Last year she was part of a creative writing group involving students from the university and pupils from the school, which worked together on a number of writing projects including poems and short stories.



Left to Right - Jonathan Vibhishanan, Lesley Evans, Abi Barton, Katy McCulloch, Chloe Hewitt.

St. Mary's Church Aided School Overton on Dee

www.stmarysoverton.co.uk



OPEN MORNING

Is your child due to start school? Are you a prospective parent/grandparent or would you just like to visit us on?...

SATURDAY 7TH FEBRUARY 2009

10.00 - 12.00

Come and see...	
An outstanding Inspection Report July 2008	ICT suite
"Behaviour is outstanding and creates a very good environment for learning"	Forest School
"Relationships between teachers and pupils are outstanding"	Outdoor Learning Areas
"Planning of learning opportunities is outstanding"	Sports Activities
	Musical Recitation
	Excellent facilities and resources
	We can offer a Before & After School club

Early Years Outdoor Setting of the Year Award 2008
Wales Quality Award for Innovation 2008

OVERTON CARNIVAL by Ken Farrell



Here is another glimpse of Overton's colourful past this time showing one of the decorated floats that took part in the village Carnival during the early 1900's. Very appropriately it depicts life in the farming community of those far-off days.

The milk-maid on the left of the photo holding out her jug and wearing her yoke for carrying the two milk-churns by her feet is Mrs Nell Bussey who lives at 'Ivanhoe' in Willow Street and the man peeping out from behind the lady on the right is Mr Philip Woolley who was a groom at Bryn-y-Pys Hall and was the father of Jim and Ernie Woolley.

The identities of the other ladies and the children in the photo are still a mystery. Can any reader help? Let the Oracle know any names.

This old tin probably dates from the period when Overton was raising funds for its Village Hall, some time around 1926 and it tells us that the Carnival was combined with a Fair. Over the years I have heard many people speak nostalgically of the Carnival. We still have a Fair in the form of our annual fete and I cannot help wondering if it would be possible or even desirable to have restored Carnival procession as part of the festivities, as in the old days.



Christmas Cheer



Thanks to the Overton Community Council and to all those householders who decorated the streets and their houses with Christmas lights and filled the dark cold evenings of December with Christmas cheer.



MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE

Police in the village of Overton are supporting a scheme which encourages the public to complete a form listing essential information that would be needed in an medical emergency. This is to be kept either in a wallet or in a bottle in the fridge.

The message in a bottle includes a short form that needs to be completed with personal details such as name, next of kin contact details together with any information about any illnesses, allergies and any medication that is being taken. This form is then placed inside the bottle which is to be kept in the fridge. Green stickers with a white emergency cross is provided with the bottle which needs to be placed on house doors and one on the fridge so that in the event of an emergency the relevant services will know about any important information..

The message in a wallet is very similar but the information is kept in a small plastic folder that fits in your wallet like a credit card. If someone falls, collapses or is involved in an emergency of any kind, the majority of people will look in the wallet or a purse to seek a name and any information about that person. Please do **NOT** fill in your address on the form.

Where to get them from?

These will be available from:

- Overton Surgery, Bangor on Dee Surgery & from Overton Chemist



COUNTRY BEAT by Constable Luke Hughes

I have recently received information from West Mercia Police that they are currently experiencing a new trend in theft from motor vehicles.

It would appear that the offender/s are targeting **Childs Car Seats** which are left in vehicles overnight, I understand that these are quite expensive items and I would suggest that they are being stolen and then subsequently sold on.

Could I ask everyone to forward this e-mail to anyone who may benefit from this advice, also if you know any neighbour / local residents that leave car seats in their vehicles overnight I'm sure they would appreciate the warning.

To date we have not had any similar thefts, and with your help we won't have any in the near future.

Clearly I would suggest that no items of value are left in any vehicle and all vehicles are locked when unattended.

OVERTON MEDICAL PRACTICE

Do you have some time to spare? The Practice Patient Participation Groups were first established in the UK in

1972 and the National Association for Patient Participation (N.A.P.P.) (www.napp.org.uk) was founded as an umbrella organisation in 1978. Overton's group was formed in 2005.

Our plan is to develop a larger, more structured, self managing group in line with N.A.P.P. guidelines. The voluntary group shall be non-party in politics and non-sectarian in religion. We are seeking involvement from patients of all ages, members of associated local organisations and volunteer groups who are also patients of the Practice.

The Group's aims are to

- **Identify** areas of general patient/service issues,
- **Improve** communication between patients and Practice,
- **Promote** positive input from patients
- **Support** and organise health promotion events,
- **Assure** the best service for the community.

This is an exciting opportunity to become a member of the Group and help to shape the local healthcare provision.

If you would like to join, write to the Practice Manager, Overton Medical Practice, marking your envelope PPPG, giving brief details about yourself. The next meeting will take place on Monday 16th February 2009 in the Overton Surgery at 6pm.

Overton Play Group News

On the first Thursday of each month Clare has agreed to cut children's hair for £5 (£1 of which she is donating to the Play Centre). Book your children in on the form on the Play Centre message board and we will offer tea & coffee for 50p. While one child is being seen the others can play, a relaxed time had by all!

From this term we are opening EVERY Thursday from 3.30 to 5.30pm for Playgroup Friends. Everyone is welcome to come for a chat and a drink while their children play with others. At the end of January / beginning of February we are combining with the Twinning Committee to put on a Bingo evening at the Play Centre. Come along for a fabulously fun evening with refreshments. Look out for posters in the village for the date when confirmed. Proceeds will be split between both organisations.

Please do remember that you can hire the Play Centre out for parties, village societies events and family gatherings at very competitive rates. For further information please contact me on or pop into the Centre.

Andrea Buttress Tel: 710246

**Commercial adverts are removed from the
online edition**

WHAT'S ON

January Diary for St Mary's Services

Sunday January 4th 11:30am Holy Eucharist
Sunday January 11th 11.00am Sunday Praise & coffee
Sunday January 18th 11.30am Holy Eucharist
Sunday January 25th 11.30am Family Eucharist and Baptism. We welcome

Daniel Robert Williams into the Christian Family

Every Sunday from January 4th 7.30pm Weekly Salsa Classes with Gaynor Jones at the Hanmer Arms Only £4

Saturday January 10th 10.00am - noon, Camels and Kings in the Methodist Schoolroom. The chance to be part of 'Messy Church' – cutting, sticking, colouring, stories, songs and refreshments and all of them shared through all generations and abilities. ALL WELCOME

Thursday January 15th Overton WI Meeting in the Parish Room. "DVD Presentation" by Welsh Air Ambulance. Competition: Souvenir of Wales

Friday January 30th 8pm Overton Film Club at the Village Hall presents "Saving Grace"

Friday January 30th Quiz Night at the Hanmer Arms in aid of Hanmer Village School, Hot Pot Supper £5 per person, hosted by Nigel Griffiths

Saturday February 7th St Mary's School Open Morning 10.00am to 12 noon. ALL WELCOME

Yoga Classes

Yoga classes have moved to Overton Scout Hut.

From 12th January, we will be there every Monday evening 7.30pm – 9.00pm.

It costs £5.00 a session or £25.00 for 6 weeks (one week free).

If anyone would like more information, telephone 01691 622915.

Piano Lessons

Piano Lessons for beginners/intermediates
 Experienced primary school teacher and musician

Call Helen on 01978 711970

e-mail: piano.lessons@live.co.uk

DUSTBIN DAYS

TUESDAY Jan 6th,

MONDAY Jan 12th

SATURDAY Jan 17th

Then back to normal for Friday collections

FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy January Birthdays to Dan Hunter, Sylvia Ogden, Micki Blair, Raymond Austin, Poppy Bateman Green, Jack Pritchard, Karen Loriman and Ronnie Foster.



Happy 21st birthday to Lauren Pinder.

Happy belated birthday on Dec 31st to St Mary's School's Mrs Sandra Jones.

Condolences to Margaret Myers on the loss of her husband Henry.

Condolences to the family and friends of Phyllis Cox.

THANK YOU

We are pleased to announce that the Corner Shop Summer Raffle raised a total of £274. This has been presented to Matt Hayward to be donated to the Special Care Baby Unit at the Maelor Hospital. Matt and Sarah Hayward had a premature baby in the summer, and asked if we would keep a charity collection tin on the counter at the Corner Shop. We were delighted to do so, as all of our children had been born prematurely, and we recognised the very important work that SCBU carries out. We have added the Summer Raffle money, as we had not decided at that stage which charity we would be raising money for, so when Matt asked, we were only too pleased to help.

Thanks, Mick

Patients at the Overton Medical Practice have been more than generous and the collection raised to be passed to Nurse Eirlys Williams on her retirement amounted to £134.30

Thank you to everyone.

Thank you to everyone that gave me Christmas tips, it was really kind of you. Thanks again.

Heather, the Saturday & Sunday paper-girl

PLEASE REMEMBER
Copy Deadline 20th of
month. Get your events &
news to us early to avoid
disappointment
THIS INCLUDES
ADVERTISEMENTS

Leave your contributions,
 & announcements at the
 Corner Shop.

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David Burton; Secretary
Euan Stevenson; Treasurer
Jacky Maskall, Distribution
Cynthia Davies; Sean Clarke.
Editor - Jill Burton.
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