

The Overton Oracle

Volume 15. Issue 1

January 2013

Overton's Free Newspaper - issued monthly



Happy New Year to all our Oracle Readers & Distributors

Change your wardrobe



Finding that all that Christmas food means your clothes are a bit tight?
Or do you fancy something new for your New Year wardrobe?

Then come to the Charity Clothes Swap at the White Horse, Overton at 7pm on Friday 18th January. Bring along those clothes that you just don't wear anymore and replace them with something different to freshen up your wardrobe. Thousands of people have already benefitted from clothes swaps. It's a really cost effective way of adding to your collection.

We will welcome all ladies wear, shoes and accessories along with any unwanted Christmas gifts. In addition if people are having a clear out and also want to bring other items like bric a brac, menswear and other items we would love to gather donations for the charity shop on the night as well. Donation sacks will be left in the White Horse Inn and the local shop in Overton if people want to pick some up.

There is a £2 entry and all proceeds are going to Tenovus, Wales' leading cancer charity. The Tenovus specialist Cancer Support Team provide help, advice and support to cancer patients and their families and carers, from first diagnosis, right through treatment and beyond. The Tenovus Cancer Support team is unique in the way that it provides help, guidance and support through its multi-disciplinary service, allowing patients and their families to access care and support directly through the charity.

In 2009 Tenovus launched its first Mobile Cancer Support Unit in Wales which is the first of its kind and provides vital treatment, support and care in the heart of communities. With money raised from fundraisers such as these we are helping towards getting more mobile units launched, we are also helping to expand and develop our additional services and also helping to launch and support our Choirs in North Wales. Next year, Tenovus will celebrate its 70th birthday. Tenovus will be encouraging the whole of Wales to feel good, do good and sing against cancer so that in their 70th year, and beyond, everyone in Wales can celebrate more birthdays, just like them.



For more information, please contact Molly Whelan on 07800 790353 or email molly.whelan@tenovus.org.uk

Overton Community Council 'Drop in'



**Overton Community Council invites you to 'drop in'
on Wednesday 16th January, 10.00am to 11.00am
in the Parish Room for coffee/tea and chat**

- an opportunity for Overton residents to come along and speak directly to Community Councillors about any issues or concerns you may have about your village, or to discuss an idea or project you would like to suggest.

Lloyd Kenyon your County Councillor, your local PCSOs as well as 2 Community Councillors will be available for you to meet and discuss any local matters.

There will also be 'drop-ins' in February, April, May & July

Come in and meet the people who are your voice

Ramblings From the Reverend **by Rev'd David Child**



So Christmas is over for another year. Or maybe it isn't because there are twelve days of Christmas and Christmas doesn't end officially until January 5th. And the story doesn't end there because January 6th is Epiphany when the Church celebrates the arrival of the 'wise men'.

But was there really a Star of Bethlehem? Well it certainly doesn't sound like a meteor or comet. But a star – a star doesn't suddenly appear, track across the night sky and stand above a cattle stable or does it? Well the Astronomer Mark Kidger in his book 'The Star of Bethlehem' has come up with an explanation. To begin with we now know from studying the New Testament and other writings of that period that Jesus was born not around what we call 1AD but around 5-4 BC.

Kidger tells us in his book that there was a triple planetary conjunction in 7BC when the planets Jupiter representing the king of the gods, and Saturn representing the father of the gods, appeared to come very close to each other on three separate occasions. This happened each time in the constellation of Pisces which in astrological terms had a special significance for the Jews. Kidger also tells us that we now know from the records of Chinese and Korean astronomers that in 4BC a Nova – a star burst, a massive nuclear reaction in a distant star, occurred in the Eastern sky.

The Magi – 'the wise men - sorcerers, magicians and stargazers' - from present day Iran or Iraq would have noticed all these things and would have taken them very seriously. They would have interpreted the occultations as a sign of a new God-King, a Jewish Messiah. And the star burst would have told them that the royal birth had finally happened. Their logical destination would be Jerusalem but the position of the star burst would shift as the earth moved round the sun and they would find themselves being drawn away from Jerusalem south towards Bethlehem. But getting back to the Magi. They weren't just foreigners which for some people would be bad enough. They were also people whose religious practices were far removed from those of Israel. So their pilgrimage to Bethlehem, their pilgrimage to Jesus, shows us that God's blessings are for even the most unlikely of people. And that Jesus has come to demonstrate God's love for us all.

Is there anything else can we learn from these Magi? They were searchers. They didn't claim to know it all. They saw their lives as a journey of discovery. And in that they are an example to us all. Like them we don't know it all. We have to admit we don't even know half of it. But if we like them, are prepared to dare like them, to take the risk of looking for God, then God may then well bless us with our own Epiphanies and change us, just as those Magi must have been changed by that totally unexpected experience when they found themselves kneeling before the infant Jesus. That's something for us to think about as we begin our journey into 2013.

With every blessing for 2013,
David

COUNTRY BEAT **by PCSO Stephen O'Connell**



This past month has seen flooding across North Wales. St Asaph and Rhuthin saw the worst of the flooding, but we were also affected in Wrexham with the river Dee flooding at Bangor on Dee causing the closure of the A525 and the straight mile. It was a somewhat surreal sight to see the surrounding fields flooded and to have a strangely eerie quietness in Bangor on Dee due to the lack of traffic. The road closures and diversions were in place swiftly and effectively by Wrexham council and I'd like to thank those who abided by the temporary arrangements. However, many drivers thought they knew better and ignored the signs. Not only does this cause significant risk to themselves but also to others.

On the night of the floods the fire brigade received a report of a car stuck in the water on the A525. An elderly lady had become stuck in the water up to her waist and was stranded there for 45 minutes before being rescued. During this time, I had to turn round several drivers coming from the Wrexham direction who stupidly thought they knew better and were going to risk driving through the floods. If we are unfortunate to experience flooding again this winter, DO NOT ignore the closed roads signs! If you do drive past a road closure sign and get stuck in the water, not only will you be damaging your vehicle (possibly beyond repair) but you also may be committing a road traffic offence with the possibility of going to court. Please do not ignore the road signs.

During the floods, traffic through Overton was increased as it was the only route to Whitchurch. Unfortunately, the morning after the flooding a crash occurred on the Wrexham road causing traffic to back up into the village. The catalyst for the accident was a cyclist who was not wearing any high-visibility clothing or lights at a time in the morning when it was still dark. Wearing hi-vis clothing on a bicycle isn't enforceable, however, by not using lights during hours of darkness or when visibility is seriously reduced you will be committing an offence. Since the accident last month I have received several reports of cyclists not having lights on their bikes or wearing hi-vis clothing when visibility is poor. If you are a cyclist, please invest in some lights and hi-vis clothing, it will save you life.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all of us here at Overton Police Station.

Many thanks,
Stephen O'Connell
Tel: 01978 348 425
Mobile: 07854 352 601
stephen.o'connell@nthwales.pnn.police.uk

Striding out



Do you think that after all that Christmas food it is time to get some exercise? Well this could be for you.

Nordic walking was originally a summer training regime for cross-country skiers. It's based on using specially designed walking poles in a way that harnesses the power of the upper body in order to propel you forward as you walk. Now it's a recognised way to turn a walk into whole body exercise that's easy on the joints and suitable for all ages and fitness levels.

The local Nordic walking group normally meets at the Penley Rainbow Centre from where they go on various walks with an option to finish with a coffee and a chat.

If you would like to join the group please contact Rebecca or Jane on **01948 830730**

30 year award



Celebrating with the Beavers is David Burton who recently received his 30 year long service award with the Scouts at an award ceremony at St Giles Church. David has spent all his time as a leader with Overton Scout Group holding the positions of Group Chairman, Group Scout Leader, Venture Scout Leader and Explorer Scout Leader. In recent years he has been involved with Wrexham District Scouts, sitting on the District Appointments Committee and taking on the role of Training Adviser. He is also a climbing instructor for the Coxwood Climbing Tower.

Lunch Club



The Overton Lunch Club is on Wednesday 9th January at 12.30pm at the White Horse.

The menu will be a Brunch Breakfast Grill followed by Apple Crumble and Custard.

To book please ring Gwynneth Austin on 710672.

Kids Kolumn

by Kate Jenkinson,
Robyn Rehbock and
Charley Middleton



Hey guys!!! Hope you all had a very happy new year!

Have you all made your New Year resolutions?

Hooray! Hooray! It's New Year's Day!

The day we start anew.
So this year I've decided
to become a kangaroo.

Or maybe I will learn to fly,
or how to walk through walls,
or how to turn invisible,
or surf on waterfalls.

I'll make myself elastic
and I'll teach myself to shrink.
I'll turn into a liquid
and I'll pour me down the sink.

I'll visit other planets
and meet aliens galore.
I'll travel to the distant past
and ride a dinosaur.

I've got so many wondrous plans.
I'm starting right away.
Yes, this will be the best year yet.
Hooray! It's New Year's Day!

by Kenn Nesbitt

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Who has seen 'Nativity 2' ???

*Well if you haven't here is brief explanation
about it!!!!-its worth it-trust us!!!!!!!*

David Tennant plays Mr. Peterson, the nice new supply teacher at a chaotic school whose kids are keen to enter the Song for Christmas competition, encouraged by their crazy teaching assistant, Mr Poppy (Marc Wootton). But they're up against some nasty poshies from the nearby independent school, led by uptight Mr Shakespeare (Jason Watkins).

The pupils are given loads of kids-say-the-funniest-things dialogue, there's the traditional "audition montage" and the whole thing is like a particularly unsubtle panto.

It's really funny-and well worth a visit to the cinema !



Can you help?

Can you help Karl Koschorke? He has contacted the Overton Oracle from his home in Canada. His father, Franz or Frank Koschorke was a POW who came to work at a farm in the Overton area in the 1940s, farmed by Hector Darlington. He remembers that Mr. Darlington's children's names were Brian, Phil, Jill and Rachel.

Frank is now 92 and living in a care home. He talks to his son about his memories and is wondering if any of these people are still alive as he would just like to phone them and chat. Frank's son has tried to look on line for phone numbers but with no success. If you have any idea where the Hector Darlington's farm was or where the family is now, please contact the Overton Oracle on 710631, email overtonoracle@gmail.com or leave a note in the Oracle envelope in the Corner Shop.

Overton Playgroup

Happy New Year to all from everyone at the Playcentre!

I would just like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved with the playcentre for a successful year! Without the help and support of our local community we would struggle to continue. We have had some great fundraising events last year and we are busy planning even more for this year.

We will keep you posted with dates and events as they come up, but just to give you an idea of what's coming up, We will run our Nearly New Sale early in the Spring, so hang on to all those excess toys after Christmas, this will be an ideal opportunity to sell them through us.

Our Summer and Christmas craft fairs will be back. And amongst other great events we will host a Fashion Show at the Village Hall, Pub Quiz in the White Horse (hopefully Steve and Jane will let us have another Skittles night too!!!). The recycle initiative will be back too, this year coupled with a recycle day at playgroup where you will have an opportunity to bring unwanted items to us for 'recycle' or 'up-cycle' All this and seasonal kids parties too!!!
BUSY BUSY!!!

Our AGM will be in April, we will be on the lookout for new committee members to join in and help out. If anyone is interested in joining the committee please come and have a chat with me, likewise we are looking for an upstanding member of the community to become one of our Trustee's. For more information with regards to this please contact me via the Playcentre.

*Angie Atkins
Chair of Committee*

Look out for a new section on the Overton website called '**Children & Young People**' which incorporates all former pages relating to services for the young in the Village. Check out www.overton-on-dee.co.uk

Film Club



The Overton Film Club's recent screening – 'The Imposter' on Tuesday 4th December – was sadly cancelled. An hour and half before the screening, I received a phone call from Reels on Wheels to tell me that the film had been delivered to the wrong address in Stoke that morning – and now could not be found. Anyway, apologies to everyone – especially the dozen or so who didn't pick up my last minute email, and turned up expectantly at the Village Hall.

I have re-arranged with Reels on Wheels to show 'The Imposter' on **Wednesday 16th January**. A much-acclaimed documentary about a case of stolen identity, it promises to be a superb film.

That will leave three more films to be screened in February, March and April to complete the season. I am hoping to get three from The Master, The Hunt, Rust and Bone and Argo: their availability slightly depends on Oscar nominations, so watch this space!

The recent cancellation aside, Overton Film Club is in good health. Our policy of showing the best-reviewed films on the highest quality projectors has proved popular, with audiences averaging around 60 people for each film. The very reasonable price of tickets – free to members; £5 for non-members (£4 for OAPs) – no doubt helps!

So if you haven't come along to the Overton Film Club yet, why not treat yourself to The Imposter at the Village Hall at 7.30 on 16th January? It could be, in the words of Humphrey Bogart, 'the beginning of a beautiful friendship!'

Medical Practice

Congratulations to our admin staff members, Rachael Brookes and Sandra Griffiths, who have just passed their Dispensing Assistant Level 2 course. Two other members of staff are also completing this valuable qualification.

The Flu Campaign 2012 has been a great success and we have vaccinated 1100 patients so far. We still have some vaccines left, so just ask at reception for details. As mentioned before we are able to give the 'Whooping Cough' vaccine to pregnant ladies who are over 28 weeks, again, just ask at reception to make an appointment.

The next Practice Patient Participation Group is due to be held on Monday 11th February at 6pm. New members always welcome. All that remains to say is to wish all our patients a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas and New Year. We look forward to being here to help those who need us in 2013.

News from La Murette

A report from Georgina and Geoff Mason on their recent visit to La Murette.

On our recent flying visit to La Murette the stunning sight of early snow on the mountains of the Vercors, just across the valley from the village was a big surprise. Apparently, only the week before, an unexpected cold snap had left the whole region floundering in feet of deep powder. Now though, Autumn had returned allowing us to walk unhindered around the local lanes. Maryse's itinerary took in some traditional farms with their galleries high up on the outside walls specially constructed for drying walnuts. Walnuts (noix de Grenoble) are the traditional crop locally and walnut orchards dominate the region. Maryse told us that once the crop has been harvested the locals are allowed to scavenge for what's left. So, of course, we filled our pockets with the delicious bounty!



Georgina on right holding champagne, Maryse 4th from right

Maryse Calame-Schmidt, the President of the La Murette and Overton Twinning, gave us the usual generous and warm welcome. It was so good to see all the old friends again and everyone wanted to hear the latest news from North Wales. Cedric and Geoff gave an impromptu rendition of 'Land of my Fathers' and glasses were raised to absent friends! We left next day staggering under the weight of a huge box of goodies presented to us "for the next Twinning raffle", including a bottle of champagne, a generous gesture so typical of our La Murette friends.

The Twinning Association is open to all in Overton. Dates of events are printed in the Oracle. So come and join us. It's great fun and very sociable.

Our next event is a Quiz (to include a round on France) on Tuesday 29th January 2013 upstairs in the White Horse. The cost is £8.50pp including a meal. See you there!

Memories of Lightwood Green

Many people all over the country and abroad read the Overton Oracle via the website and it is great to hear from them. Recently Keith Thomson Murray who lives in Scotland has been in touch. He was delighted to see pictures on the village website of Frank and Amy Thompson and has sent memories and lots more photos. The family lived at Lightwood, in a small 2 up 2 down cottage in need of repair, originally owned by Bryn Y Pys estate, and later bought by Frank. He was born in 1898, the son of Eli born 1866, who was the son of Richard born 1823. Richard was a farmer at Lightwood and died of a heart attack in the harvest field in 1882. On Eli's 21st birthday, his mother Mary walked from Lightwood Green to Chester and back to purchase a pocket watch as a 21st birthday gift. Today this watch sits on a display shelf in Keith's home in Scotland, a remarkable feat from a remarkable lady.



Lightwood Green Harvest Field in 1915, Frank Thompson aged 17 is on the load, Amy Thompson aged 11 in the foreground, Jesse Peak in the centre, Louie Luxton aged 19 with her hair down and with her hair up is Florrie Luxton age 23.



Frank Thompson in 1920 with "Rex" at Lightwood Green. The Indian motor cycle had a fair turn of speed but on one excursion Rex jumped out of the side car to chase a rabbit, but to Frank's relief returned unharmed.

Early Entitlement Scheme

OVERTON PLAYGROUP CAN OFFER FREE FUNDED PLACES TO 3 & 4 YEAR OLDS. YOUR CHILD COULD BE ENTITLED TO 4 FREE SESSIONS PER WEEK WITH THE EARLY ENTITLEMENT SCHEME. IF YOUR CHILD HAS THEIR 3RD BIRTHDAY ON OR BEFORE THE 8TH JAN 2013 THEY WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR A PLACE WITH US AS OF THE JANUARY INTAKE. YOU COULD ALSO QUALIFY FOR ASSISTED PLACES FOR YOUR CHILDREN. PLEASE SPEAK TO MARGARET FOR MORE DETAILS OR FOR INFORMATION ON HOW TO APPLY. CONTACT US ON 01978 710688 OR JUST CALL IN AND SPEAK TO A MEMBER OF STAFF

Giving at Xmas



The children from the Foundation Department at St. Mary's School, Overton collected Christmas gifts on behalf of the 'Save the Family' Charity. Karen Fisher from the organisation (*pictured centre above*), held an assembly with the children to explain the amazing work the charity undertakes and how we should each spare a thought for those less fortunate than ourselves at this special time of year. Parents were also asked to donate one small gift in lieu of paying for tickets for the schools Nativity Concert held at St. Mary's Church in December.

Commercial adverts are not included in the on-line version of the Oracle. Business adverts can be viewed in the Business section of the website.

Candid Camera



Spotted in the High Street!
Were Steve's Christmas presents SO big that they got stuck in the chimney?
Send us your quirky village pics.

Council Changes

At the Community Council elections last May, there were not enough nominations for an election and 9 councillors were returned unopposed. It has taken some time to fill the two remaining positions and to find an extra two councillors to replace the two resignations. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Jacky Maskall and David Hughes for all their hard work in recent years and to welcome the 4 new co-opted councillors, Sue England from the High Street, Richard Hewitt from Argoed Lane, Alice Murray from Maelor Court and after the last Council Meeting, Caroline Rogers from Lightwood Green.

Sunflowers

Sunflowers would like to thank all those who helped to make "Afternoon Tea with Father Christmas" in the Scout Hut such a fantastic success. We raised over £150 to help support families with children with additional needs in the area. Sunflowers is a parent support group for families of children with additional needs.

We meet every third Thursday evening in the month and our next meeting is on January 17th when Lynne Mort the new Childcare Brokerage Officer will be coming to explain her role and looking at how she can support our parents and families. If you would like to join us then please do contact us by email 123Sunflowers@gmail.com or phone 01978 710041/710087.

Join a Writers Group?

Anybody interested in being part of a writers group? We are looking to create a group of like-minded people who wish to gain helpful and constructive feedback on their work, and are also willing to provide helpful and constructive feedback on the work of others. To register interest, please can you send a note to writersofoverton@gmail.com and we will then look to arrange a time and place for an initial meeting, which would probably be on a weekday evening about 8pm probably once a month. If you could tell us in your email which evening(s) would work best for you that would be a great help. We look forward to hearing from you!

Winter move for group

St Mary's Church Baby and Toddlers Group is moving temporarily!!

In January we are relocating for warmth to the Scout Hut. We are really grateful to the Scout Group who have very kindly offered to house us for the interim period January through to about March. The Church are working hard to provide us with a better heating system which should be in place by March if not before. So please do come along every Monday 10 am till 12pm from January 14th. You will find us in the Scout Hut which is opposite the park.

Look forward to seeing you there!

WHAT'S ON

January Diary for St Mary's Services

Sunday Jan 6th 10:00am Epiphany Family Village Praise
Sunday Jan 13th 11.30am Holy Communion
Sunday Jan 20th 10:00am Family Communion
Sunday Jan 27th 11.30am Holy Communion

Methodist Chapel Services, Sunday evenings 6.30pm

Monday December 31st "Limited Series" in Village Hall
 Tickets £5.00

Sunday January 6th 9.00pm Overton Recreational
 Club New Year Quiz

Tuesday January 8th Overton Community Council
 meeting in the Parish Room. Members of the
 public wishing to speak can do so between
 7.20 – 7.30pm.

Wednesday January 9th 12.30pm Overton Lunch Club
 at the White Horse. Booking required.

Monday January 14th 10.30am Overton British Legion
 meeting for coffee at Woodlands Deli

Wednesday January 16th 10.00 - 11.00am Overton
 Community Council Drop in in the Parish Room

Wednesday January 16th 7.30pm Overton Film Club at
 the Village Hall (re)presents "The Imposter".
 Bar from 7pm.

Thursday January 17th 7.30pm Overton WI meeting in
 the Parish Room. Speaker: Barry Cornes on
 "Abbeyfield Goes Cruising"
 Competition: A Nautical item

Friday January 18th 7.00pm Charity Clothes Swap at
 the White Horse in aid of Tenovus

Tuesday January 29th 7.30pm Twinning Association
 Quiz evening - upstairs in the White Horse.

Wednesday February 6th 7.30pm Maelor Music Society
 at the Maelor School Hall features "Chetham's
 School of Music"

Thursday February 7th 7.30 pm Overton Bowling Club
 AGM in the Parish Room

**The Annual General Meeting of
 the Overton & District Bowling Club
 will be held in the Parish Room
 on
 Thursday February 7th at 7.30pm**



FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy January Birthdays to Dan Hunter, Sylvia Ogden, Micki Blair, Kyle Stubbert Pugh, Raymond Austin, Nathan Ryan Tombs, Amy Perrin, Poppy Bateman Green, Jack Pritchard, Karen Pritchard, and Ronnie Foster.



Belated Birthday greetings to Jill Jones.

Sincere condolences to wife Barbara and children Mary, Mark and Richard on the sad loss of John Southgate who passed away recently, aged 82.

Gwladys Hodgson (nee Edge) sister to Gwynneth Austin and George Edge, was born in Tilstock nr. Whitchurch on May 7th 1925. The family moved for a while to Wrexham before moving to Lightwood Green. Gwladys attended Overton School leaving to go to work at Plas-yn-Coed Farm. Later she joined the W.A.A.F.S, where she met her husband Ron and went to live in County Durham. They had 2 children. Later she went to work in a doctor's surgery, retiring in her late 70s due to ill health. But despite ill health she still managed to find time for her 2 grandchildren, who she loved very much. Gwladys passed away on the 24th November and will be sadly missed by family and friends.

Congratulations



Congratulations to Ian Roberts, son of Walter and Olive Roberts, who recently received his degree from Glyndwr University in 'Executive Coaching and Mentoring'. The Graduation Ceremony was held at The Gladstone Library, Hawarden on the 4th December.

Dustbin Days in January

Monday January 7th	Green Bin
Saturday January 12th	General Waste
Then back to Fridays	

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-Piggott;
 Treasurer Rob Netzband-Piggott; Distribution Cynthia Davies; Sean Clarke, & Euan Stevenson.
 Editor - Jill Burton.
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All articles and advertisements in the Overton Oracle are published in good faith and without prejudice.

Space constraints mean that submitted articles may be edited or not published.

The Oracle is available on the internet. Please be mindful that personal details submitted will be available to a wider audience.

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