

The Overton Oracle

Volume 16. Issue 1

January 2014

Overton's Free Newspaper - issued monthly



Happy New Year to all our Oracle Readers & Distributors

New bus shelter for the New Year ?

Overton Community Council has received a request for a bus shelter to be installed **opposite** the Fish and Chip shop on Bangor Road (close to the junction of Parkside). The shelter would be 2 metres long with a quarter end panel and bench seat. The colour would be black. We wish to consult with residents regarding the installation. The closing date for this consultation is 14th January 2014.

You are invited to 'drop in' on Saturday January 11th 10.00 - 11.00am in the Parish Room for tea and chat - an opportunity for Overton residents to come along and speak directly to Wrexham and Overton Councillors

about this or any issues or concerns you may have about your village, or to discuss an idea or project you would like to suggest. Members of the public who wish to discuss the proposed installation of a bus shelter on the Bangor Road are also welcome to speak to the Community Council between 7.20 - 7.30pm on Tuesday 14th January in the Parish Rooms. Or you can put a note in the Community Council post box located outside the Village Hall. (labelled Overton Community Council letter-box) before the 14th.



Record breaking Poppy Appeal



Thank you to all members of the public who supported the Overton British Legion, the Scout Group, Brownies and St Mary's School on Remembrance Sunday, your turn-out was much appreciated. This year's Poppy Appeal raised a record £2,640 through the collection tins, wreaths and church collection. We are grateful for the hard work of Appeal Organiser Frank Lloyd and all his collectors. And also to Mike and Karen at the Corner Shop for their assistance with the counting of the proceeds (see picture left)

The British Legion Grand Christmas Draw raised £247, again for the Poppy Appeal. The winning tickets were drawn at the Legion's coffee morning at the Woodlands Deli, by Mrs Betty Williams who has been collecting for the Poppy Appeal for over 50 years.

(see picture right)



Winners of the Golden Ticket



Two Explorer Scouts from Bryn-y-Pys Explorer Unit have secured their places on the trip of a lifetime to the Scouts World Jamboree in Japan in 2015.

Charlie Matthews, from Argoed Lane, and Antonia Harlow, from Cross Lanes were chosen from 225 scouts and explorer scouts from all over Wales, for one of the 72 places. The successful 72 learned of their selection when a bar of chocolate dropped through their letterboxes, but this was no ordinary chocolate bar! Each bar was wrapped with a golden ticket (reminiscent of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory) inviting the recipient to take part in the Jamboree! The job for Charlie and Antonia is to now raise the £3,000 cost to get them there. Watch this space!

‘The Happiest Evening’ with the Am Drams

Those who were fortunate to catch the latest offering of the Overton Amateur Dramatic Society, enjoyed an evening of laughter and fun. “The Happiest Days of Your Life” a 3 act farce by John Dighton was a challenging production with a large cast of 13. The plot set in 1948 focused on the situation created when a boys public school has 50 girls and their teachers who have had their school buildings bombed, billeted with them by mistake. The staff of both schools try to keep the parents of their pupils in the dark that their children are now living with pupils of the opposite sex, with inevitable farcical consequences.

The set - the Masters Common Room - would have done justice to a professional production. The usual well seasoned cast members were competently joined by 3 new members of the society.



Left
Miss Gossage
(Cynthia
Davies) has
designs on Mr
Billings (Bob
Sturman)



Right - Miss
Whitchurch
(Joanne Kem-
ber) plots with
Hopcroft Minor
(Luke Haynes)



Left -
Chaos breaks out in the final scene

The profit from the raffles and teas was donated to help sponsor Luke Haynes for “Lesotho Link”

More colour photos on Page 5 of the online version of the Overton Oracle.

Kids Kolumn

Hi guys! It's 2014!
Have you made a new year's resolution?

2014



Ideas for New Year's

Resolutions you could make:

- Be nice to everyone I see.
- Tidy my room when I am told to.
- Do my homework, and hand it in on time.
- Forgive and forget.
- Try hard with all my work.
- Try new things, it could be a once in a life time opportunity.
- Share things with my friends.
- Respect people around me.
- Be active.

Can you find these words in the Word Search?

NEW YEAR	FRIENDS
RESOLUTION	SNOW
CELEBRATION	PARTY
FIREWORKS	FOOD

Guess the celebrity.....

1. She is the queen of bakes.....
She presents the G ____ B

_____ B ____ O ____

2. Came third in the X-Factor in 2009

O ____ M ____

N	E	W	Y	E	A	R	U	U	F
A	K	M	E	T	J	E	T	J	O
C	T	N	T	H	O	S	F	I	O
E	L	P	A	S	N	O	W	F	D
L	T	U	V	X	W	L	T	R	H
E	M	C	Q	F	L	U	V	I	Y
B	P	S	F	B	K	T	C	E	T
R	O	A	T	H	U	I	Z	N	R
A	A	D	R	K	Y	O	A	D	D
T	B	L	U	T	F	N	Y	S	D
I	C	S	R	Y	Y	Q	U	E	S
O	M	N	J	L	J	G	G	A	B
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Y	D	G	T	G	H	A	B	A	U

Ramblings From the Reverend by Rev'd Canon David Child



Nowadays as I approach a New Year I cannot help but remember a drive I made across London in the early 70's, so bear with me as I tell you this anecdote. I was Senior Resident at Hammersmith Hospital in London with a flat in the hospital and a parking space near the front entrance. My Professor had invited 'his team' to a dinner party at his home. The problem was that on that particular afternoon we were very busy and it was nearly 7 pm before we finished. Fair play the Prof stayed behind to help. Then when all was sorted he told us 'don't worry, I've rung my wife, she knows we'll all be late - don't bother to get changed - just come as you are.'

The others had used public transport to get to work – so how were they going to get there now? I said 'don't worry you can squeeze into my car'. But I didn't know the way so I ran after the Prof and asked for directions. In one short sentence he told me all I needed to know. So we got in the car and off I drove. 'Have you been there before Dave?', 'No!'. 'Do you have his address?' 'No!' Do you know the way? 'No!' Well how the *bleep, bleep*, are we going to get there?' 'Well he did say to cross the river and that his house was number 17. Don't worry we'll find it'

Lot's of unfavourable comments came from the back seat but I decided to keep up the suspense a bit longer. 'Just trust me, it'll be OK, we'll get there!' They obviously weren't convinced. I only hoped that I'd got all the direction we needed but I trusted the Prof. So we crossed the River Thames, came to some traffic lights and I turned right. 'Where are you going' – 'I'm following the sign!' What sign?' – 'The sign to Twickenham Rugby Ground – his house is number 17 just opposite to the main entrance. Oh, hadn't I told you? – Prof. told me that's the only direction we need to follow.' We got there – no problem!!

It's a cliché to say that this life is a journey but it's particularly true at the beginning of a year for none of us knows what challenges 2014 will bring. And at this time more than any other we need a direction to follow.

For the Christian that direction is 'to follow Jesus', to follow his teaching of loving God and loving neighbour and for Christians and non-Christians alike that means following his teaching, that whatever happens, that we should try to love, care and respect all our fellow human beings and our environment.

With every blessing for the New Year
David

Country Beat by PCSO Phil Jones



Hi and welcome to the first beat story of 2014. I hope you all had a very enjoyable and safe Christmas and New Year.

Unfortunately in December there was another burglary in Overton which is currently being investigated. Support has been placed with the resident and will be monitored closely. Please make sure you lock your doors and lock windows. Make sure your curtains are drawn when its dark as criminals will see what you have in your home.

With the winter weather approaching I would like to give some advice. Every winter cars are stolen from driveways across North Wales because owners have gone outside, started their car to defrost and then leave the car unattended. In the meantime a criminal can come across it and drive it off. Please make sure you are with your vehicle at all times. Also please make sure when your shopping online that you use reputable websites. There are websites out there that look professional but could be run by criminals to harvest your credit card details. Make sure when on online auctions that you understand the process, the site rules and the company's own safety rules. Get to know the buyer or seller, ask questions, check their feedback from previous buyers from that seller. Learn to pick good sellers. Their items have clear descriptions and they will answer your questions. Do not give away your password or card/personal details. Always use a secure method of payment e.g. PayPal or credit / debit card.

I was privileged to play my flute at a few Christmas functions in the area, including at the Overton luncheon club. They enjoyed the music and asked for me to play again in the future, I will dream up some new tunes. Do please stop me whilst I'm out and about in the village or pop to the station for a cuppa and a chat. I will be at the Drop In surgery on Saturday 11th January, I look forward to meeting you.

Thanks, *Phil Jones* 2858

Tel: 01978 348425 or 07854 389056

e-mail: philip.w.jones@nthwales.pnn.police.uk

Non urgent calls 101 or in emergency call 999

Overton Police Station covering area's Overton, Penley, Hanmer, Bettisfield & Horseman's Green.

Lunch Club



The Overton Lunch Club is on **Wednesday 15th January** at 12.30pm at the White Horse.

Note change of date.

The menu will be a Beef Stew and Dumplings followed by Apple Crumble and Custard.

To book please ring Gwynneth Austin on 710672.

Start the New Year with a quiz

Start the New Year with a fun quiz to find out whether you are a NIMBY person

You hear that a Super Prison is going to be built on the edge of Wrexham. Do you:

- A. Complain to your friends and everyone you meet in the village? Still, there's no point protesting as it will go ahead anyway.
- B. Protest? Start or join an 'Overton against the Prison' campaign group – you're not going to stand by and watch the area get swamped by Group 4 vans, dangerous people and their families.
- C. Rejoice? 1,000 jobs are just what Wrexham needs – and the whole area will benefit. And the Prison Service are pretty good at not letting people escape.
- D. Shrug: so what...?

Plans have just been approved to build a power station on the Wrexham Industrial Estate. Do you:

- A. Complain to your friends and everyone you meet in the village? Still, there's no point protesting as it will go ahead anyway.
- B. Protest? Start or join an 'Overton against the Power Station' campaign group – the power station and pylons will ruin the countryside.
- C. Rejoice? This too brings more employment to Wrexham, even if it's mostly specialized jobs so will not necessarily go to local people.
- D. Shrug: so what?

You discover there is an investigation to start 'fracking' on the Penley Road a mile outside Overton.

Do you:

- A. Complain to your friends and everyone you meet in the village. Still, there's no point protesting as it will go ahead anyway.
- B. Protest? Start or join an 'Overton doesn't Frack' campaign group or join a similar local group – fracking could cause local earthquakes, contaminate the water and be rather ugly.
- C. Rejoice? Fracking is exactly what the country needs to get out of recession. All the negativity about fracking must be exaggerated: if it was that bad, it wouldn't be allowed.
- D. Shrug: so what?

You find out that we are sitting on a massive shale gas reserve and as compensation for extracting it, the government offer Overton village £200,000. Do you:

- A. Complain to your friends and everyone you meet in the village? £250 per household is frankly an insult.
- B. Get involved? Start or join an 'Overton's got Cash' group: this is a great opportunity to make improvements to the village.
- C. Leave it to the Community Council: it's their job to improve the village and you trust them to spend the money wisely.
- D. Shrug: so what?

SCORING Now find out how you have done

If you scored mostly **A's**, you have passion and interest. If you could only find a platform, your voice would be heard. At least contact your local councillor, MP, WAG, or MEP. You may not win the argument but if you don't buy a ticket.....

If you scored mostly **B's**, you have passion and energy. But is the cup always half empty?

If you scored mostly **C's**, your cup is half full. Let's hope you're right and we can trust the authorities. Why not ask some questions of them though?

If you scored mostly **D's**....Come on in. Make some New Year Resolutions - your community needs you!



Playgroup News

Happy New Year! We hope everyone has a fantastic Christmas and New Year. We have many reasons to be grateful for all the

support we have received from our community on the run up to Christmas, with the generous donation of drinks and mince pies from Mick & Karen at the Corner Shop, a turkey from Home Farm, prizes from Elliot at the Post Office and Woodlands Deli. Along with all the raffle and tombola prizes given us by the parents, we managed to raise £600+ for the Playcentre at our Christmas Fair. Fundraising is the main job of the committee and I am constantly overwhelmed by the support we receive from everyone in our community. If you would like to become involved in the committee at Playgroup please contact me via Playgroup.

Coming up on 1st March, Playgroup will be jointly hosting a 'St. Davids Day Musical and Entertainment Extravaganza' with Wales' leading cancer charity, Tenovus - a unique opportunity to help raise awareness and funds for both groups. Tenovus provides support, counselling and services to people across Wales and are currently expanding these services with a spotlight on rural communities. The night will be held in the Town Hall in Llangollen which where your local Tenovus shop is. Ticket price is £10 which includes RETURN coach transport to Llangollen and your first drink!

Angie Atkins

Do you have a septic tank?



If your house is in Wales and has got a septic tank or treatment plant, did you know that it should be registered with Natural Resources Wales (formerly the Environment Agency Wales).

Since January 2012, all discharges from septic tanks or treatment plants should be registered to help NRW monitor and improve our local watercourses and wildlife. Under the Environmental Permitting regulations, all tanks should have been registered by the 1st January 2012 however there is no penalty for registering late and the advice is now to register them as soon as possible. For most people, it is a one-off, free registration (subject to certain conditions) that can be completed via the Natural Resources Wales website. To find the online form, simply search the web for 'Natural Resources Wales Septic Tank' and you should find the right page. Alternatively, contact NRW on 0300 065 3000 to register over the phone or for advice.

For anyone who lives in England and you meet a few basic requirements, there is no need to register your domestic septic tank or treatment plant due to a planned government consultation – details can be found on the Environment Agency website. You can also find out if your tank is already registered by searching the public registers on the EA website.

What Have the Council Ever Done For Us?

Like the quote 'What Have the Romans Ever Done for Us' (the answer to which is a long list!) it's just the same with Overton Community Council; we do a lot. We don't just turn up on the 2nd Tuesday of the month; everyone takes part in one of the various Council Committees - Playingfield, Planning, Cemetery, Website and Fete Committees. Each of these meets at least 4 times a year and looks after their area of responsibility, which is why areas of the village look so good. The Planning Committee try their best to ensure that the conservation area is maintained but Wrexham Council have the final say.

In addition the Council looks after land along the High Street where the War Memorial stands and has just had the Grade 2 listed telephone kiosk repainted. Councillors also take part in a myriad of forums, including the Town & Community Forum, Wrexham Rural Community Safety Group, the Police and Community Council Chairmen and Clerks Meeting, plus carry out consultations on behalf of the Council, such as the Rural Speed Review, the children's park, the public toilets and the bus stop review.

If you feel that you could help and would like to take part in looking after our village by being a Councillor do get in touch with the Clerk, Katrina on 710055 .

Thank you

Luke Haynes would like to thank the Overton Amateur Dramatic Society and all those who have supported his fundraising to go to Lesotho. He raised £251.

More Am_Dram Photos



Friends of St. Marys

The Friends of St Marys will be holding a fundraising day in aid of the village church, on January 31st at the Village Hall. It is a Bridge Tuition Day. Tickets have been quickly snapped up as the tutor for the Day is Andrew Robson, Britain's leading Bridge teacher.



Rave Reviews!



We did it again! "The best ever!" said one rave review! "How do you do it?" said another. The very 1st week in December saw the highlight of the Foundation Phase calendar, played to two packed

audiences at Overton Village Hall. Our story, 'A Little Bird Told Me', is the Christmas Story from a bird's eye view. A flock of unlikely companions flew south to see the special Baby in Bethlehem. The 100+ cast were absolutely amazing; they sang, danced, flapped about and grinned from ear to ear to sell out audiences.

Thanks must go to all the children for being their wonderful selves but also to their families for their continued support this year. Thanks also to the Village Hall Management Committee for the excellent venue, the helpers & back stage team, our dedicated Tea Ladies, Carol Morrison & Clare Cusworth for homemade mince pies, our team of seamstresses and to the indoor bowls club who were left with no space to bowl at short notice. West End and Broadway dates to be announced in the New Year!

Nursery entry for Sept 2014



Does your child have their 3rd birthday before August 2014? If they do they will be entitled to Nursery provision on the basis of five 2½ hour sessions per week during the school year 2014/2015 at your

local school. From 6 January 2014 you can apply online for a nursery school place for your child, using the On-line Admissions Service at www.wrexham.gov.uk. All you need is your email address in order to make an on-line application from your computer; forms are no longer available from school unfortunately. The closing date for applications is 21 February 2014. Any questions or queries that you may have can be answered by our Early Years staff at St. Mary's School or by contacting the head teacher on 01978 710370.

We will be holding 'Seeing is believing' tours and welcome you to visit our school and see the wonderful provision we offer, dates available on enquiry. Check out our school website on <http://stmarys-overton-pri.wrexham.sch.uk> for a glimpse into our activities including our forest school site and we look forward to welcoming you and your family to our school.

School News



On December 13th many of our pupils came to school dressed in Christmas jumpers for 'Christmas Jumper Day 2013' in support of save the Children UK. At school, we are fortunate to have very generous pupils and parents who regularly support us in fundraising for various charities. The idea for supporting this day came from some of our older pupils and we are all very proud that they are thinking about others that may not be as fortunate as themselves. Da iawn plant!

Well done to all of our pupils at both Foundation Phase and Key Stage Two for treating everyone to fantastic Christmas productions which were enjoyed by proud parents, grandparents and friends. After many weeks of hard work and rehearsals, the village hall and



St Mary's church were both full and the Christmas spirit was truly evident. As a church school, it is wonderful that all of our pupils are reminded about the true meaning of Christmas and it was such a lovely way to start the festive season.

Sadly, the large tree at the front of the school was damaged during the recent strong winds which resulted in a split near the base and a large section falling. Fortunately all of our pupils were safely inside the school at the time and nobody was injured as a result. Although we were hoping to keep the section of the tree that was still left remaining, the split near the base was compromising the safety of this section so it had to be cut down. With so many happy memories of playing around the tree, it was certainly a sad morning as parents and pupils arrived for the start of the school day to see the tree being removed. Fortunately, we were able to keep the base of the tree and there have been many lovely suggestions about the possibility of creating a carving from this in the New Year.

As a festive treat for all our pupils, we arranged for



'Keystings' to visit us. The performance was a musical extravaganza with a Christmas theme and thoroughly enjoyed by all. It was wonderful

that so many pupils had the opportunity to be 'hands on' and participate in front of their peers. There was certainly much singing, laughter and foot tapping. Pupils were entertained but also learnt about a variety of instruments in an exciting and memorable way. Gary Wyn Jones Headteacher

WHAT'S ON

January Diary for St Mary's Services

Sunday January 5th 10.00am Epiphany Family Village Praise
Sunday January 12th 11:30am Holy Communion
Sunday January 19th 10.00am Family Communion
Sunday January 26th 11.30am Holy Communion

January Diary for Methodist Chapel Services

Sunday evenings 6.30pm

Tuesday December 31st 8pm New Years Eve Disco Party at Overton Village Hall. Tickets £5

Sunday January 5th 9.00pm Overton Recreational Club New Year Quiz

Saturday January 11th 10.00 - 11.00pm Overton Community Council Drop-In in the Parish Room

Monday January 13th 10.30am Overton British Legion meeting for coffee at Woodlands Deli

Tuesday January 14th 7.30pm 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 15th 12.30pm Overton Lunch Club at the White Horse. Booking required.

Thursday January 16th 7.30pm Overton WI Meeting in the Parish Room. Speaker: Eileen Thornton on 'Vintage Teddies'. Competition: A Teddy Bear

Monday February 3rd 7.30pm Overton & District Bowling Club Annual General Meeting in the Parish Room

Thursday February 6th 10.30 - 2.30pm Penley Rainbow Lunch & Learn - Recycling Workshop

Help Make Our Garden a Reality

Where: The Rainbow Centre, Penley

What: Volunteer Recruitment Event

When: 3rd February

Share your time & knowledge. Grow fruit & vegetables to help support food for community events. Plant flowers for members of the community to enjoy. And learn new skills. 01948 830730



The Annual General Meeting of the Overton & District Bowling Club will be held in the Parish Room on Monday February 3rd at 7.30pm



Dustbin Days in January

Monday January 6th Green Bin
Saturday January 11th General Waste
 Then back to Fridays

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.



Special Birthday wishes for Mrs Sandra Jones on New Years Eve.

Santa at Sunflowers



On December 15th at 2pm Father Christmas came to Overton! Children visited him all afternoon in his Winter Wonderland Grotto with magic reindeer lighting the way. There were craft activities to keep the children entertained while parents, aunts, uncles and grandpar-

ents enjoyed cups of tea, cake and mince pies. The event raised £175 for Sunflowers, the Support group for Parents/Carers of Children with Additional Needs. A Huge Thank you to all those who made the event possible, from those who donated raffle prizes including The Corner Shop and Woodlands Deli and many others, to those who donated time, cakes, everybody that came and supported us and of course the special guest himself - Father Christmas!



PLEASE REMEMBER

Copy deadline 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.

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

Editor - Jill Burton. Tel 710631 or e-mail overtonoracle@gmail.com

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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