

The Overton Oracle

Volume 17. Issue 1

January 2015

Overton's Free Newspaper - delivered to every household monthly



Happy New Year to all our Oracle Readers & Distributors

Were the reindeers on strike?



A large crowd was waiting for the surprise arrival of Father Christmas at Sunflowers Christmas Fair in December. Perfect weather meant that he was able to make a spectacular sweep over the playing fields to wave to everyone, before landing on the football pitch. Accompanied by his elf he greeted the waiting children before entering his grotto in the Scout Hut to collect children's letters and requests.

Many thanks to the Defence Helicopter Flying School from RAF Shawbury and John Dar-

lon, Pilot and Rick Cooke, Crewman who volunteered their time to provide such a lot of pleasure to so many children (and adults). Thanks also to sponsors Knolton Farmhouse Cheese, and all those others who made it possible.

Proceeds from the Christmas Fair go to Sunflowers which was set up by parents in the local community who have children with additional learning needs. They meet in an evening to listen, share, support and empathize as well as providing practical resources and information. For more information email 123sunflowers@gmail.com.

More photos in the Gallery on the Oracle website www.overtonoracle.com



Campaign success

Susan Elan Jones MP has praised local 'Justice for Robert' road safety campaigners for helping change the Government's mind on a major injustice for crimes relating to driving offences. The local MP introduced a bill to Parliament earlier this year calling for tougher sentences for motorists convicted of driving offences causing death or serious injury. Her campaign was in response to the tragic death of 9 yr old Robert Gaunt, who was killed by a hit and run driver in Overton in 2009.

Susan Elan Jones MP said: "One thing that local campaigners and I pushed the Government very hard on was the need to end the injustice whereby someone in jail for a serious driving offence who also has a driving ban effectively gets the time they're in prison taken off the length of the ban. The case of the driver who killed Robert Gaunt shows how ridiculous this situation is. He got a 4 yr driving ban and served 10 months in jail. When he came out of jail, his driving ban had been reduced to 3 years 2 months. Now for the first time ever, a Government Minister (Mike Penning MP) has said the Government will scrap this ridiculous and unjust practice. This is a major step in the right direction - and it really is thanks to our local campaign and other road safety campaigns across the country that we have secured this change.

"However, we are certainly not finished with our campaign yet, which is why I spoke up in a recent Parliamentary debate on driving offences to ask the Government for clarity about when its review of sentencing for all driving offences would be undertaken. It is because of our campaigning that the Government has promised a review of sentences, but we do need proper action now so that tougher and fairer laws on driving offences are introduced in this country".



Christmas at school



Well done to all the children in Foundation Phase and Key Stage Two who recently performed their Christmas Nativity to their families.

This year our Foundation Phase pupils held their concert in the village hall. They were truly wonderful, remembered all their lines, sang beautifully and looked fantastic in their wonderful costumes! *Picture left*

Our Key Stage Two pupils held their concert in St Mary's Church and a fantastic evening of festive entertainment was had by all. Clear voices, lovely singing and lots of smiles.

All of the children did a super job and we are all very proud of their achievements. Boys and girls you should feel very proud. Well done! *Picture right*

With just over 200 pupils at St Mary's School, organising such a large cast is certainly no easy achievement. A huge thank you to all of the staff who worked very hard to ensure such fantastic performances were enjoyed by all.

Mr G Wyn-Jones (Headteacher)



Messy Church & Toddlers

sheep and a pig to go in the fabulous stable (thanks Amy from Made and Found!).



Christmas Messy Church saw children and adults creating large scale cardboard cows, baubles, making angels, sourdough tree hangings, and creating cards, a short service with tree prayers followed by a fabulous pot luck supper! Join us next year every 2nd Sunday of the month 3-5pm. Our Sunday 11th January theme is Thanksgiving in the Scout hut!

On Monday 15th December 31 Toddlers with their parents and carers had a lovely Christmas service in St Mary's Church followed by cakes, mincepies. then singing songs and carols around the Church Christmas tree. We start back 12th January in the Scout Hut 10am-12pm.

More photos in the online edition

Nursery places at St. Mary's

Would your family like to become part of our school community at St. Mary's School, Overton?

Does your child have their 3rd birthday before 31st August 2015? If so, nursery provision is offered on the basis of five 2 ½ hour sessions per week during the school year 2015/2016. The sessions which your child will be able to attend will be made known to you by the headteacher as soon as possible after you have been notified about a nursery school place for your child.

Copies of the County Borough's "Parents' Guide to Education Services in Wrexham" are available for reference purposes at the Authority's offices, schools and at public libraries or click on the link to view this document. If you wish to visit our school prior to expressing your preference, you should arrange an appointment with our headteacher, Gary Wyn-Jones. You will then be able to express your preference on the basis of the information contained in these documents and on the basis of any visit(s) you have made to the school.

From **5th January 2015** you can apply on-line 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 home computer but should you encounter any problems, please contact us at St. Mary's School on 01978 710370.

By producing a library card you can also use the facilities at Overton or and Wrexham Librarys to make your on-line application, or if you prefer to they can download a paper application form for you. The closing date for applications is **February 20th 2015**



Musings from the Manse

by Rev'd Phillip Poole



Dear friends,
There is much power in the simple greeting, "Happy New Year!" because for Christians the word "happy" has hidden depths.

This can be seen most clearly in the Beatitudes where Jesus presents an alternative definition of happiness, equating it not with wealth, power and security – all the things we might consider essential to our happiness - but with openness to God and right relationships with Him and with others:

Happy are those who know they are spiritually poor; the Kingdom of heaven belongs to them!

Happy are those who mourn; God will comfort them!

Happy are those who are humble; they will receive what God has promised!

Happy are those whose greatest desire is to do what God requires; God will satisfy them fully!

Happy are those who are merciful to others; God will be merciful to them!

Happy are the pure in heart; they will see God!

Happy are those who work for peace; God will call them his children!

Happy are those who are persecuted because they do what God requires; the Kingdom of heaven belongs to them! Matthew 5: 3 – 10 (Good News Bible)

Mother Theresa was once tending to a man in the streets of Calcutta who was lying in the gutter covered in sores. An American tourist who was in the crowd watching her said "I wouldn't do that for a million dollars!" Mother Teresa replied, "Neither would I." Through humbly serving others in Christ's name she had found something infinitely more worthwhile and fulfilling than money or power. To live this way is to be truly rich, and happy in a way that transcends all our human circumstances.

So may I wish you a very happy New Year, which is not to say that I hope you will get everything you want, or that your life this year will be entirely free of problems – that's simply not realistic. Instead I wish you the love and support of family and friends, the ability to recognise your blessings and to feel true thankfulness, and the joy of giving something back to people who have given you so much. If there are sad times ahead then may there also be times when you know the sheer joy of living, and through it all may there be a sense of God's nearness that lifts you and carries you through all that comes your way this year.

God bless you in 2015,
Rev'd. Phil Poole

Country Beat

by PCSO Phil Jones



Hello and Welcome to the January Country Beat report. We at Overton Station hope you had a lovely Christmas and are looking forward to the New Year.

It has been a quiet Christmas in Overton, no anti-social behaviour. It was nice to attend the Sunflowers Charity Xmas Fayre bringing along with me some PCSO's from other areas.

We have been doing our usual patrols of all areas, there has been a few reports of suspicious persons knocking at doors saying they are from charities. The majority of charities will contact the police to say they will be in the area, however some do not so please use the following information to help your personal security.

What is doorstep crime?

The majority of people who knock on your door ARE likely to be genuine. However, it is important to know that some are rogue traders, doorstep criminals and uninvited sales people who turn up unannounced, with the intention of tricking their way into your home. Unscrupulous traders will prey on the elderly and vulnerable members of society, carry out unnecessary, substandard and sometimes even dangerous work and then use strong arm tactics to persuade consumers to part with large sums of money for poor workmanship. In addition, burglars may use cold calling as a pretext to engage in distraction burglary or sneak in thefts.

If someone arrives at your home, make sure your door chain is on, ask who's there, if they are legitimate they will show you their ID card. Ask to look at the card, and ring the contact number on the card to confirm if they are actually in the area.

Don't be worried about not answering the door, or even closing it in their face, they are probably used to it. It's your home, don't be intimidated.

If you have a handle on the outside of the front door, always make sure that you lock it from inside as persons can try the handle and walk into your home.

Security items on the market can alert you that there is someone approaching your home, Driveway alarms are inexpensive and are very good, it will alert you that there is someone approaching your home, might be just the postie but it could be a burglar.

Another idea is a GuardCam, which look like an ordinary halogen light, but with a camera built in and can record a message saying "Warning. You are being monitored". Footage can be viewed on a personal computer, or handed over to the Police as evidence. If you need more advice please contact me on the below details. Phil

PCSO 2858 Phil Jones

Police Community Support Officer

Tel: 01978 348425 or 07854 389056

Email: philip.w.jones@nthwales.pnn.police.uk

Remembering Michael

Michael Stant was born in Overton during WW2 and his mother Jean emigrated to the States when Mike was just a small child leaving him behind to be brought up by his grandparents Mr & Mrs Herbie Stant who lived in what is now 28 Bangor Rd. He attended Overton V.P. school and progressed very well, later becoming a pupil at Wrexham's Grove Park High School.

In early 1960 he joined the RAF as a boy entrant and trained as an Air Traffic Control Signals Operator, then serving at RAF Prestwick in Scotland and later did overseas tours of duty in Singapore and Malaya. On repatriation he was posted to RAF Shawbury followed by RAF Hack Green Nuclear Underground Radar Station which during WW2 and the Cold War was one of Britain's most top secret assignments, now open to the public as a Museum, and visitors see Mike's name on the duty Roster Sheet.

On leaving the Royal Air Force Mike moved to different parts of the country in the entertainment field as an organiser and often as an MC. On his return to the local area he became Manager of a News Paper Shop in Ruabon, a keen sportsman and always ready for a game of football whenever the opportunity arose. Whilst he was there he signed to play football for Overton Athletic and was part of the record breaking side of 1973-74. Of the 245 goals scored that season Mike scored 49 in 34 league matches and a further 9 in cup competitions, figures which any professional footballer in the world would be proud to have. He could strike a ball with more power than any man I ever knew. On one occasion at Castell Alun we were awarded a free kick near the bye line and about 10 yards inside our own half. On a slight uphill gradient Mike took the kick, how the ball never exploded I will never know, it didn't leave the ground more than 2 feet and entered the net like an Exocet Missile, probably the greatest goal I ever saw, only for the Referee to disallow it claiming it was an indirect free kick. At Gresford in the same season he tried to score straight from the kick-off with the ball grazing the top of the bar, 3 inches lower and it would have been the quickest goal ever scored.

10 maybe 12 years ago Mike moved back into the village to live in Clerc Y Mendy but years had taken their toll and Mike became quite severely disabled and sadly passed away on Friday 28th November.

R.I.P. Mike Stant.

Dave Austin

Kids Kolumn

by Kate Jenkinson,
Robyn Rehbock and
Charley Middleton



Hey everyone, it's 2015 now !!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Hope you all had a lovely Christmas and we wish you all a happy new year!



Facts about January

- * *January* starts on the same day of the week as October in common years, and starts on the same day of the week as April and July in leap years.
- * *January* is named after Janus, the God of beginnings and transitions.
- * *January's* birthstone is the garnet which represents constancy.
- * The Japanese floral emblem of *January* is the camellia.
- * The zodiac signs for the month of *January* are Capricorn (until January 19) and Aquarius (January 20 onwards).

Contact The Oracle if you too would like to write for the Kids Kolumn

New films to look out for



Paddington



Cinderella



The Spongebob Movie

Lunch Club



The Overton Lunch Club is on **Wednesday January 14th** at 12.30pm at the White Horse. The menu will be Grilled Gammon Steak with New Potatoes and Garden Peas followed by Apple Pie and Custard. All for £6.25. To book please ring Gwynneth Austin on 710672.

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A New Year Suduko for you to try



Playcentre News

We wish you a Happy New Year and hope the festive season went well for you all.

I would like to start the New Year with a list of thank yous!! In the run up to Christmas, playgroup received an enormous amount of support from the local community with our Christmas Fair and the Christmas Play, "When Santa lost his letter". Both were a great success, and at the fair we managed to raise £740.

We would like to thank the following for their contributions, Elliot from the Post Office, Woodlands Deli, The Plassey Hair Studio, Plassey Beauty Studio, Kerry Dodd at the Plassey Jewellers, Eyton Framers, Lewis Farm Shop and the many others who supported us. We also thank all the stall holders and of course the shoppers, without whom it could not succeed. A special thank you also goes to the Overton Butchers, M.E. Evans for also offering the Christmas Quiz prize of a £20 meat voucher. Furthermore we thank Derwen Computers, at the Plassey for all his support, as thanks to him the children now have a working computer and speakers once again!

We are very proud to announce that after another recent inspection by CSSIW, our report was glowing, so once again credit goes to the very hard-working and dedicated staff team at Playgroup. Congratulations to you all. It was thanks to the staff and Kate, our regular volunteer, and Rachel Harris that the play was also such a success.

This month, on the 27th, we are doing a 'Bags for School' collection, so please in your post-Christmas clear out, bag up your things and take them to Playgroup where we can send it all away for you. For more details please contact Playgroup. Playgroup opens as usual on Monday 5th January. Our next big fundraiser is the Valentines Overton Disco Throw back! We are currently busy planning it all, look out for posters!

Have you spotted it?

A new blue plaque has been put up in the village

to mark the Queen's visit to Overton on 10th July 1992. The plaque was ordered and paid for by Overton Community Council to celebrate Her Majesty's visit to the village. For those who have difficulty reading it, all it says "**Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II visited Overton 10th July 1992**", and in Welsh as well.

The question is:- Have you spotted where it is? See page 8 for the answer.



Legion update

The 2nd Royal British Legion Overton Branch Christmas Draw took place at Woodlands Cafe in December. The total net amount raised is £249. This will be donated to the Poppy Appeal. The members would like to thank all those who donated prizes, including, Cable Services Group, Gerrards' Bakery, Lewis' Farm Shop, the Trotting Mare Garage, and Beverley Wood. Thank you also to all those who gave their support by buying the tickets. This year the Poppy Appeal raised a total of £4576.46. This record amount was made up of over £3000 from the collecting tins, a £1000 donation from branch funds and the balance from the sale of wreaths and the collection in Church. *Jean Williams - Branch Secretary*

New road sign

Overton Community Council wishes to install a Vehicle Activated sign on the Wrexham Road prior to the turning for the Park. The sign will flash up and remind drivers that they are within a 30mph area.

The cost of the sign and installation will be £4,000. We have budgeted for this over the years as part of our ongoing traffic calming campaign. If you have any comments you wish to be noted by the council please either write to Katrina Chalk, Clerk to Overton Community Council, Overton Village Hall, Penyllan Street, Overton or email occ.clerk@btinternet.com

Maelor Music

The next meeting of the Maelor Music Society is on Wednesday 4th February 2015 7.30pm at the Maelor School Hall featuring 'Piantel' a harp and piano duo. Back by popular demand - Dylan Cernyw on harp and Annette Bryn Parri on piano are well-known from BBC radio and television programmes. They have performed with artists such as Bryn Terfel, Hayley Westenra and Katherine Jenkins. They last played in Penley in 2005 when they got a standing ovation. Their repertoire is wide-ranging, from classical to Scott Joplin. Non-members £10, students £2, Under 16s Free.

*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*

Overton's Entrepreneur of the Year



Congratulations to Alice Murray who was won the award “**Entrepreneur of the Year**” partnered by Federation of Small Business at a glittering black tie event at the St George’s Hotel, Llandudno.

This year’s Free2Network Business Awards Judge & Host was TV Personality and Entrepreneur, Saira Khan. Saira Khan rose to fame as runner up in the BBC TV series, The Apprentice. She went on to present a number of TV programmes including the BBC’s “The Money Show” & “Beat the Boss” and “The Martin Lewis Money Show” on ITV. Saira choose Alice - “For demonstrating that you can really have it all by running a successful business as well as being a mum.”

Coming from an Accounting and Finance background, Alice developed a deep passion for learning and business. Having brought up her children as a ‘Stay at Home Mum’ she once again returned to education gaining a Fda in Festival and Events Management, a BA (Hons) in Business Management and is currently studying ILM Coaching and Mentoring, all at Glyndwr University. She established her company “Giggles and Games ~ The Giant Game People” in 2012 and “Giggles and Games ~ The Toy Shop” in 2014. the company hires out giant games, traditional games and an array of space hoppers for weddings, parties and corporate events.

Alice is thrilled to win the award and told the Oracle “I am over the moon to have won this award. Giggles has been challenging at times but most of all it has been great fun and a huge learning curve. At the moment we cater primarily for weddings and parties but during 2015 Giggles goes Corporate! We will be launching ice breaker and Reward packages for the work place.

Giggles continually changes but I absolutely love my work!”



Changes at Church?



I wrote in last month’s Oracle about our plans for St. Mary’s which include a disabled toilet housed not in the church but in a timber built extension to the North door entrance which will also provide a disabled access to the church. We now have the architects drawing which we have superimposed on photographs of St Mary’s to give you an idea as to what the project will look like when completed.

The project will also include new Catering facilities in the form of a ‘Kitchen in a Cupboard’ which will be situated in the rear of the church between the West wall and the adjacent North West pillar. This ‘Kitchen in a Cupboard’ will provide all the catering facilities we need and when closed will look like closed book case.

As many of you know we are already seeking signatures from individuals and letters of support from parish organizations in order to help us in our application for grant aid. We would be most grateful for the support of the whole village with as many signatures as possible – do please help us in this way – your support and signatures will make all the difference. Forms will be available at all church events and most village events.

Thank you, *Canon David*



WHAT'S ON**January Diary for St Mary's Services****Sunday January 4th** 10.00am Family Village Praise**Sunday January 11th** 11.30am Holy Communion

3.00pm Messy Church in the Scout Hut

Sunday January 18th 10.00am Family Communion**Sunday January 25th** 11.30am Christian Unity Service**January Diary for Overton Methodist Chapel****Sunday January 4th** 6.30pm Mr Tim Guy**Sunday January 11th** 6.30pm Deacon Lisa Rathbone**Sunday January 18th** 6.30pm Rev Phil Poole

Covenant Service

Sunday January 25th 11.30am Christian Unity Service
at St Mary's Church**Saturday January 3rd** 8.00pm Overton Recreational
Club Bingo Night**Sunday January 4th** 8.30pm Overton Recreational
Club New Year Quiz**Tuesday January 13th** 7.30pm Overton Community
Council meeting in Parish Room. Members of the
public wishing to speak can do so 7.20–7.30pm.**Wednesday January 14th** 10.30am Overton British
Legion meeting for coffee at the Scout Hut**Wednesday January 14th** 12.30pm Overton Lunch Club
at The White Horse. Booking required.**Thursday January 15th** 7.30pm Overton WI meeting in
the Parish Room. Speaker: Dr Geraint Owens,
Retired Consultant Paediatrician. Competition -
A London souvenir**Friday January 16th** 7.15pm Maelor Belles WI 'Swishing
Event' upstairs at the White Horse**Tuesday February 3rd** 7.30pm Overton Bowling Club
Annual Meeting in the Parish Room**Wednesday February 4th** 7.30pm Maelor Music Society
features 'Piantel' a harp and piano duo in the
Maelor School Hall**FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS****Congratulations** on the birth of new
baby Hannah Louise, a new daughter for
Mick and Clare Smith of Wildbanks
Conservation at the Old Smithy, Wrexham Road.**Congratulations** to Mary Jones on becoming a Great
Grandmother to Molly Rose.**Congratulations** to Geoff and Marlene Williams who
celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary in
December.**Happy January Birthdays** to Dan Hunter,
Sylvia Ogden, Micki Blair, Kyle Stubbert
Pugh, Raymond Austin, Nathan Ryan
Tombs, Poppy Bateman Green, Jack Pritchard, Karen
Pritchard, Jim Eastop and Ronnie Foster.**Sincere condolences** to the family & friends of
Joan Wingett who passed away recently.**Sincere condolences** to the family & friends of
Michael Stant who passed away recently.**Spot the plaque**For those who are still puzzling
over where in the village is the
new blue plaque commemorating
the Queen's visit (see page 4) it
is in the High Street on the wall
above Overton Antiques, just
behind where Her Majesty sat.
Thanks to Elliot Williams at Over-
ton Post Office for permission to
fix the plaque to the wall.**For sale****The Annual General Meeting of
the Overton & District Bowling Club
will be held in the Parish Room
on Tuesday February 3rd at 7.30pm****Dustbin Days in January****Monday** January 5th Green Bin
Saturday January 10th General Waste
Then back to Fridays**PLEASE REMEMBER**Copy deadline 20th of the
previous month. Get your
events & news to us early
to avoid disappointment**THIS INCLUDES
ADVERTISEMENTS**Leave your contribu-
tions, & announcements
at the Corner Shop.**Your Oracle Team -
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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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