

The Overton Oracle



Volume 19 Issue 1

January 2017

Overton's Free Newspaper - delivered to every household monthly

Post Office Consultation



The consultation on the moving of Overton Post Office to a new location will continue until January 16th 2017, see details in the Post Office and in the Cup 'n' Saucer cafe. Please complete the survey online on

<https://www.postofficeviews.co.uk/branchlocator.php?query=Overton%20LL13%20DT&frmnd=listofpostoffices>

as it needs as many responses as possible to ensure we keep a Post Office in the village.

If there are few responses we could lose our Post Office!

The Village Christmas Tree



This year the village Christmas Tree was paid for with money raised at the Village Hall Management Committee's

Christmas Craft and Seasonal Gift Fayre. Many thanks!



The Maelor Music Society

On February 1st the Maelor Music Society is pleased to present the highly-acclaimed English Piano Trio at 7.30pm in the Maelor School Hall.



Ho Ho Ho!

Another successful Father Christmas village event! Many thanks to Father Christmas who with Mrs Claus and Elf helpers arrived in a VW Camper van with motorbike outriders all dressed up. The event took over £1000 to support Sunflower's aims, to support families of children with additional

needs and build an inclusive community. Thanks go to our sponsors Knolton House Cheese Farm without whom we could not put this event on. Russ Latham handed out cheques to 3 schools who support children from the village, St Christopher's, The Maelor School, Penley and St Mary's School. Danielle Baker, Chair of St Mary's School PTA, received the cheque for St Mary's School towards IT equipment and ALN apps in the school. Thanks also to the Police, Eastwick Garden Centre, Overton Butchers, all our cake bakers, raffle prize donators, volunteers on the day and everyone else involved including everyone who came! The money from this year's event has already bought a gas BBQ that Sunflowers has donated to the village to be used by all community groups within Overton who wish to run a BBQ! Currently we are looking for a home to store it – all offers gladly received!!

Angels in St Mary's

'Angel Express' was the St Mary's School's Foundation Phase Department Nativity this year held at the Church. Our production followed the excitement of heaven's host of angels as they hurriedly practiced a new song for the birth of baby Jesus – an express production! Could the conductor prepare them in time with so many distracting headlines such as 'Mary and Joseph Leave for Bethlehem', 'Enormous Star Seen In the East' and 'Three Kings Sighted From Afar' being delivered from the Angel paper-boy and girl?



The production was a roaring success with the true meaning of Christmas being shared through the eyes of God's own angels in heaven. The children worked so hard and everyone was so proud of the efforts they each put in - learning new songs, remembering lines and also helping one another to find their right position. Our readers read from the pulpit in beautiful, clear voices, our actors from year 1 & 2 showed dramatic prowess and our Early Years Department sang their own song and lit the aisle with fabulous handmade lanterns to guide the star to its place above the stable in Bethlehem. We would like to thank your children for working hard this term and for the support we gratefully receive from parents, extended family and the community of Overton.

Nadolig Llawn pawb a diolch yn fawr.



Farewell to Kev and Olwen

As Kev and Olwen leave the White Horse in mid January we wish them well in their new home and jobs. They will be remembered for good food, especially the Sunday Carveries, and the Lunch Club, and good music with the Soul nights and great quiz nights. During the 17 months they have been landlords at the White Horse, many local charities and organisations have benefited from their generosity, by the use of meeting space within the pub and the proceeds of quiz nights to boost their fundraising. On behalf of everyone the Oracle says "Thank you and good luck for the future".

News Round-up from St. Mary's Primary

December has been a very busy month at St Mary's; there have been lots of shows, performances and sporting activities. Our roving reporters have been on the case squeezing every last drop of information to put into these following news articles.

Zoe Mitchell, Editor-in-Chief

A Busy Christmas at St. Mary's

St Mary's School Choir had the privilege of singing with the Rhos Orpheus Male Voice Choir in St Mary's Church on the 2nd December. The school and the male voice choir each sang a very lovely selection of Christmas songs and Welsh language songs. The bit I enjoyed the most, as a performer in the choir, was the finale at the end when our school choir and the Rhos Orpheus choir sang 'Mary's Boy Child' together; it was absolutely magnificent as the power of their voices behind us blew me away. At the end of the song the audience gave us a standing ovation, what an amazing feeling!

by Ella Williams



KS2 were invited to watch the dress rehearsal of our Foundation Phase play, Angel Express. We were on the edge of our seats and eager to see



if the Angels would get their act together and find their voices to perform a magnificent song for baby Jesus. The children and staff worked really hard to create a fantastic and delightful play, the children sang their hearts out and in the end, the Angels sang beautifully at the birth of baby Jesus!

by Rian Molyneux

On the 12th and 13th December KS2 took to the stage at Overton Village Hall to perform Baboushka, (left) a funny yet thoughtful take on the traditional Nativity story. We worked hard practising for the play but it was lots of fun. Every pupil played their part, either as an actor or in the choir, and gave their very best. It was great to experience a real stage with professional lighting and perform to a very appreciative audience. Who needs the West End?!

by Harry Green

St Mary's Sporting Success

Football	Pen y Gelli v St Mary's	2-2
Netball	St Mary's v Acrefair	8-8 and 10-7
	Marford v St Mary's	6-13 and 0-15

As you can see from the results above St Mary's have had a successful sporting term. We have faced some good teams, we have shown good teamwork and this helped us to be our best. We have scored some good goals, with Joshua Williams and Adam Radcliffe proving a formidable combination as goal shooters in netball. Here's hoping our sporting term is just as successful when we return after Christmas.

by Joshua Mellitzer

Please pick up after your dog

When walking your dogs in the dark mornings and dark evenings please take a torch with you to enable you to locate your dog's excrement. There is also a problem with dog poo being buried by leaves at this time of year. Children love to walk in the leaves but don't want to find their shoes covered in dog poo afterwards.



Overton Football Club Fixture List

7th January	1st Team - Away vs Brickfield	
	Reserves Team - Home vs Flint	
14th January	1st Team - Home vs Saltney	
	Reserves Team - Away vs Rhos Aelwyd	
21st January	1st Team - Away vs Llay	
	Reserves Team - Home vs Rhostyllen	
28th January	1st Team - Away vs Cefn Albion	
	Reserves Team - Home vs Ruthin	

Musings from the Manse

was not available this month

A Conundrum

When is a Senior Citizen not a Senior Citizen ?????

(Answers on a postcard please)

In my understanding, it is the age at which one is eligible to claim a State Pension from The Pension Service (Dept for Work and Pensions). It used to be age 60 for women if they had paid National Insurance Contributions and age 65 for men. Since June 2015 this has all changed and people are gradually being expected to work extra months/years with the long term view of both sexes eventually working until age 70. Of course, people can choose to retire from work earlier on a private pension but this does not mean they are a Senior Citizen.

So when the question was asked of the organisers of the Senior Citizens Festive Lunch 2016, their eligibility criteria appeared to be somewhat muddled.

- If married – the MAN has to be 65. (woman's age not counted - seems a bit sexist/ageist)
- If a single woman – spinster, divorcee or widow you may be invited from age 60.
- No proof of age required by organisers.
- No one has access to any details when a villager reaches State Pension age or when newcomers move into the village who may be eligible.
- You can inform if you want an invite (a bit like asking for an invitation to a neighbours' wedding)

The process left me puzzled after being invited for the past 2 years along with my husband then not receiving an invitation this year. I must admit that I wondered if the eligibility age had been raised to 70 years (not quite there yet).

Surprisingly, it wasn't just our names that were not included on the list this year. *Sue Glover*

Thank you

The fundraising Jewellery Sale was a great success, we raised over £200 for the Leonard Cheshire Residents Fund and, as I got a few commissions on the day, there will be still more to come! The Area Manager for Leonard Cheshire came to see us and was so impressed with the jewellery and the venue! I must particularly thank Karen & Mick Pinder for their wonderful hospitality, together with their fabulous staff they did a sterling job and impressed everyone with their lovely food and drinks. It was a very busy day, and I really enjoyed meeting the lovely people who came to have a look and support the event. *Margaret O'Neill*

Calling the Young People of Overton!

Are you between 13-18 and do you want to have your say about issues affecting young people? If so we would love to hear from you in order to help set up a Youth Council. Please e-mail the Clerk of the Community Council initially to register your interest on occ.clerk@btinternet.com

We look forward to hearing from you!

email: overtonoracle@gmail.com

Playcentre News

Happy New Year from everyone at the Playcentre, we hope you all had a happy and peaceful Christmas.

December as always was a busy but very lovely month for everyone at playgroup. The highlight was our Christmas play which as always was very special and the children and staff did an incredible job putting it all together.

Then came a flood, resulting from a burst pipe. On behalf of staff and committee I would like to pass on sincerest thanks to everyone who helped us during a tricky few days. Special thanks to Grace Haynes and Dianne Edwards who with staff and committee gave up their free time and volunteered over a weekend to help us clean and get the building back together ready to re-open the following Monday. Heartfelt thanks too to Mr Morris, Mrs Richards, Mrs Burton and all staff at St Mary's School who very kindly accommodated us for 2 days and allowed us to stay operational. Everyone was so kind and made our staff and children feel so welcome. It showed real community spirit and we will always be very grateful.

So moving onto 2017 - our 50th Anniversary year and what we hope will be a very exciting one for all involved at the Playcentre past and present.

We are planning a year of celebrations, culminating in a Summer Ball on 1st July! We would like to make these celebrations as inclusive as possible for the whole village and so we are holding 2 meetings,

- the 1st on Tuesday 17th January at 11am at Cup 'n' Saucer
- and the 2nd on Thursday 19th January at 7.30pm at the Playcentre.

We invite anyone who has been involved with the Playcentre, be it as committee, staff, parent or even attended as a child, to join us at these meetings as we begin to map out events and celebrations to mark what we feel is a momentous year, not just for the Playcentre but the community as a whole.

Maelor Belles WI

The Maelor Belles WI are changing their meeting day to Wednesdays. The first meeting of 2017 on January 11th will be a Health and Wellbeing start to the New Year. Linda Hallet will help everyone beat the January blues and cleanse mind and body with a holistic healing taster session of Taiji Qi gong. Please wear loose fitting clothes and footwear suitable for stretching and moving freely.

OVERTON RECREATIONAL CLUB

Sky Sports & BT Sport showing

all main events incl Boxing

Two Snooker & Pool Tables

Darts, Dominoes, Quizes

Bingo & much more

Warm Friendly Atmosphere

New members very welcome,

only £4 p.a. membership



The History of North East Wales in 100 Objects

The North East Wales Heritage Forum has successfully secured an HLF grant to work with communities across Denbighshire, Flintshire and Wrexham to celebrate the rich heritage of the North East Wales borderlands. The project aims to discover, celebrate and share the rich 'hidden' histories of the various communities through an exciting programme of exhibitions, digital and printed outputs and learning and engagement activities.

Outcomes will include:

- Touring exhibition entitled '**The History of North East Wales in 100 Objects**', accompanied by digital and printed materials
- Programme of educational and community engagement activities
- Regional heritage website, including links to local groups
- Digital heritage training for members and volunteers from local schools and colleges.

This is your chance to nominate and celebrate what is special about the heritage of Overton and the Maelor area. For more information contact Heather Williams, Community Heritage Consultant. Email: htnw@btinternet.com or phone 01824 704998 or 07979 677811.

Overton used as example in Parliamentary debate

Clwyd South MP Susan Elan Jones recently led a debate in Parliament in December on the subject of 'Road Safety and the Government's proposed sentencing review'. She delivered a passionate, heartfelt speech recalling the tragedy of Robert Gaunt's death in Overton in 2009, in a bid to secure tougher road safety laws.

The MP, who received road safety charity Brake's award of 2015 Parliamentarian of the Year for her campaigning work, previously introduced a Bill in Parliament calling for higher penalties for drivers who drive unlicensed or uninsured.

This year she has tabled a series of questions to the Government on the issue. Ms Jones said: "I recently met the Transport Minister and over the summer I tabled a number of questions to Government Ministers. I finally got a commitment that the Government would announce a proper consultation on sentencing for road traffic offences by the end of the year. I am not giving up because every delay to this campaign is a slight to justice and an insult to the families of those innocent victims who die on our roads. There is a lot of support for fairer laws that will help secure justice and make our roads safer." Justice Minister Sam Gyimah reaffirmed the Government's commitment to consult on the offences and penalties for driving offences resulting in death and serious injury. "It is very much the Government's intention that the consultation will be delivered, as promised in the previous debate, before the end of the year. I intend to honour that commitment."



Overton Community Council in 2016

Draft Local Development Plan (LDP) The Plan provoked a strong response from the residents of Overton with many attending a 'drop in' session arranged by the Community Council. Many of you responded to the consultation and from the concern and interest regarding the LDP the Society for the Protection of our Village was formed (see the Oracle for next meeting date).

Installation of Vehicle Activated Speed Signs on Wrexham Road and Station Road The installation of Vehicle Activated Speed Signs proved to be very popular with residents and drivers alike. And although a technical fault meant the Wrexham Road Sign stopped working for some time, it is now up and running, reminding drivers to slow down when coming into our village.

Overton Public Toilets Overton Community Council has now signed the lease for the public toilets and will take over the running of these facilities in January 2017. We will be consulting with residents throughout 2017 to see if you would like these facilities updated and improved during the next financial year (2018/2019). We will advertise the dates of the consultation in the Oracle, on noticeboards and on the Overton-on-Dee website and Facebook.

Overton Community Grants This year grants have been given to: 1) St Mary's School to contribute towards purchase of educational equipment and books for pupils. 2) Overton Playcentre to assist with improvements to be made to the outside area of the centre. 3) The Overton Oracle and Overton Twinning Association to assist with the running costs.

Overton Village Fete This was one of the best village fetes to date, with the dog show and amazing raffle prizes being the highlights of the afternoon, along with all the community and local business stalls. Arranging these types of events is very time consuming and the community council would not be able to run them without the hard work from all the volunteers involved.

Beer Festival This year's festival was held in the beer garden at the White Horse. It was the 3rd Overton Community Council Beer Festival held over three days. Those who attended said they enjoyed the event and the pub itself benefitted from an increase in customer numbers for the weekend. Thanks to Kevin and Olwen at the White Horse and all the people who worked hard to make this event a success.

Litter and dog fouling These 2 offences always bring out anger and frustration in residents, yet both of these transgressions are unnecessary. Overton Community Council is committed to encouraging and educating people not to continue these unsightly, unhygienic and costly actions. We installed an additional litter bin at the far end of the Millennium Meadow in order to encourage dog walkers to clear up after their pets and have volunteers who give their time freely to clear the pavements and hedgerow of litter. Anyone who wishes to volunteer please contact the Clerk.

Overton Community Council 2016 continued

Playingfield Overton Community Council has had to replace the zip wire in the Park. This was one of the original pieces of equipment and has served us well. The new zip wire will be able to be used by the end of December 2016. We took delivery of play park in 2016. Thanks to a few community Councillors who spread and levelled it in an afternoon.

Minibus to Stan's Supermarket in St Martins With support from Stans Supermarket in St Martins, a minibus service now picks up residents from Overton and takes them to do some shopping and have lunch every Thursday at Stan's. Pip the driver is a real gentleman, delivering people back to their homes and carrying their shopping to the front door.

Christmas Tree and Lights in Overton Overton Village Hall Management Committee raised £110 to go towards the purchase of a Christmas tree outside the Village Hall. Mike and Rob Lawrenson kindly 'planted' the tree and Overton Community Council arranged to have the lights added by Bebbington & Wilson, who also put up the Christmas trees on the High Street. Neil Archer kindly checked the electrical connections and the tree looked splendid and very magical.

Parking issues We are often made aware of parking issues within the village. Wrexham Council Enforcement Team visit the village regularly to monitor the situation, and the PCSOs carry out regular foot patrols. We ask that vehicle owners consider if where they are parking is considerate to other road users and that they are not causing any visual obstruction.

Thank you

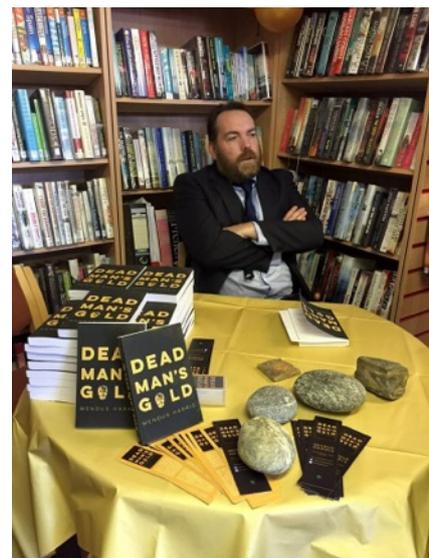
The Overton Branch of the Royal British Legion would like to thank all the collectors & contributors to last November's Poppy Appeal and everyone's participation in the Act of Remembrance. The total collected was £3084 to which the Branch added £1000 from their fund raising activities last year making a total of £4084.

On Remembrance Sunday the Explorer Scouts, Scouts, Cubs, Beavers and Brownies all paraded from the Scout Hut to the War Memorial where they joined the British Legion, Police, Community Council and members of the public for the 2 minute silence and the laying of wreaths, followed by the Church service in St Mary's. The Overton Branch of the British Legion provided a new pamphlet which contained the full service, hymns and list of the fallen.

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.

More photos from local author Book Launch - see page 6



Mendus Harris Book Launch in Overton Library

Overton Library recently opened its doors to an unusual event! Over 80 people came to celebrate the launch of local author Mendus Harris' first novel of the Lomax Gold Trilogy, 'Dead Man's Gold'. He read from the prologue as well as explaining a little of his gold mining experiences as a geologist in Africa where the inspiration to write his books came from. A trilobite (thanks George!) was used to explain a twist within the psychological crime thriller. Giant games, supplied by Giggles and Games (<http://www.gigglesandgames.co.uk/>) kept people entertained while tea and cakes were being consumed. Thanks to Rebecca, Overton Librarian for fantastic support and help putting on the event. Thanks also to Sue Miller, Mendus' Editor from Teamauthoruk, Shan Cooper, Wrexham Library Service, Susan Elen Jones MP and all of you who came and celebrated the event with him! Mendus can sign copies of his book if you missed the event and would like to buy – they make great Christmas presents! Please do get in touch with us via facebook (@authormendusarris) Or you can order them from Amazon via his Web page www.mendusarris.co.uk Mendus will be talking to WI Overton on January 19th 2017.



Top Blues Act plays Overton

Blues fans from all over the country have already booked tickets for the 1st ever gig in

Wales and England for one of America's top blues acts, Toronzo Cannon and his band from Chicago who will play at Overton Village Hall on Friday January 20th. Having headlined the Chicago Blues Festival in front of tens of thousands of fans, it is a major coup for the village to have them play in front of 200 fans.

Support will be provided by top local band Delta Radio (The Big Beat) who will play a short opening set before Toronzo takes the stage playing songs from his top selling new CD "The Chicago Way" which has won the award of best blues CD of the year in Mojo, the top music magazine.

Tickets at £17 are available in the Corner Shop

Home Improvements on Parkside



Council tenants on Parkside have welcomed improvement work which has been carried out on their properties. The sheltered housing scheme in Overton contains 18 bungalows and 4 flats as well as a communal lounge area. Tenants at Parkside were offered new kitchens and bathrooms as part of Wrexham Council's ongoing housing improvements programme to ensure all its housing achieves the Welsh Government's Welsh Housing Quality Standard by 2020.

The improvements will see every tenant in the County Borough offered a new kitchen and bathroom, if their property requires them to achieve the standard. The kitchens and bathrooms at Parkside were installed by contractors, Top Notch, who are carrying out the work in the Overton ward for Wrexham Council.

Young Footballers - We Need You!



We are a mixed team of young players from the

Overton area. After a few years of training together we are now playing fixtures in the Under 9s Wrexham Area League. We are affiliated with Acrefair FC and play our home games at their ground on Gate Rd in Trevor, directly under the aqueduct.

We are currently in need of more players. To play in the league you have to be in year 4 – both boys and girls are welcome. It doesn't matter how good you are, or if you've never played in a football team before, you are welcome to join the team.

Matches are on Sunday mornings. Training sessions take place on Friday evenings at the Maelor School in Penley. Older and younger siblings are welcome to join in with training sessions.

If you are interested or know someone who might be, then please contact Matt at mattyh1972@hotmail.co.uk or Paul at pdavies36@hotmail.com. Visit our Facebook page for more information: www.facebook.com/acrefairu9s

What's On

January Diary for St Mary's Services

Sunday January 1st 10.00am Family Village Praise
 Sunday January 8th 11.30am Holy Communion
 3.00pm Messy Church in the Scout Hut
 Sunday January 15th 10.00am Family Communion
 Sunday January 22nd 11.30am Holy Communion
 Sunday January 29th 10.00am Group Eucharist

January Diary for Overton Methodist Chapel

Sunday January 1st 6.30pm Mrs Naomi Squire
 Sunday January 8th 6.30pm Mr Phillip Oliver
 Sunday January 15th 6.30pm Rev P. Poole, Covenant Service
 Sunday January 22nd 11.30am United Service at St Mary's
 Sunday January 29th 6.30pm Mr David Young

Tuesday January 10th 7.30pm Overton Community Council meeting in the Parish Room. Members of the public wishing to speak 7.20pm-7.30pm.

Wednesday January 11th 10.30am Overton British Legion meeting at the Scout Hut. All welcome.

Wednesday January 11th 12.30pm Overton Lunch Club at the White Horse. Booking required

Wednesday January 11th 7.15pm for 7.30pm Maelor Belles WI at the Rainbow Centre. 'Health & Wellbeing Start to the New Year' with Linda Hallet

Thursday January 12th 7.30pm Erbistock WI at Erbistock Village Hall 'A Butchery Demo' by Kevin Battams - all welcome.

Tuesday January 17th 11.00am Meeting to discuss Playgroup 50th Anniversary at Cup'n'Saucer. Anyone with memories most welcome.

Thursday January 19th 7.30pm Overton WI meeting in the Methodist Chapel Schoolroom. Speaker: local author David Harris on "My life in Africa".

Friday January 20th 7.30pm Blues Night featuring Toronzo Cannon in Overton Village Hall.

Friday January 27th 10.00am - 3pm Bridge Tutorial Day in the Village Hall in aid of Friends of St Marys.

Wednesday February 1st 7.30pm Maelor Music Society in the Maelor School Hall with the English Piano Trio



Overton Lunch Club

Overton Lunch Club is on Wednesday 11th January at 12.30pm at the White Horse. The menu will be bangers and mash with onion gravy plus cheesecake for dessert - all for £6.25.

To book please ring Gwynneth Austin on 01978 710672

Family Announcements

Congratulations to Peter & Jackie Grindley on the birth of their first granddaughter Lauren Elizabeth.

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, Bob Thomson Lucy Edwards and Jim Eastop. Belated December birthday wishes to Sean Clarke.



Sincere condolences to the family and friends of Judy Parry who passed away in December.

Sincere condolences to the family and friends of Harry Evison who passed away peacefully on the 14th December at the Maelor Hospital.

Early bird catches the worm

The Oracle welcomes contributions from organisations and individuals. They can be emailed to overtonoracle@gmail.com or left in the Oracle folder at the Corner Shop. The deadline is the 20th of the preceding month but there is no guarantee that there is any room left by the 20th - if you send in early you have a better chance of being included.



Overton Royal British Legion 100 Club

Results of the "100 Club" draw for December.

84 members entered and the draw was made at the White Horse on the 14th December by Lynne Evans.

Winners -

1st Prize £210.00 No 86 Karen Jones Roberts
 2nd Prize £126.00 No 66 David L Harper
 3rd Prize £84.00 No 24 Sam Wynne
 Legion Fund: £0

Next Draw: Wed. January 11th

A few membership places still available, open to everyone, not just RBL members.

If you wish to join please ring Dave Austin

PLEASE REMEMBER

Copy deadline is 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 or email overtonoracle@gmail.com

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