

The Overton Oracle

Volume 20 Issue 1

January 2018

Overton's Free Newspaper - delivered to every household monthly



Happy New Year to all our Oracle Readers & Distributors



Thanks to OCC for organising Overton's Christmas Tree and street decorations.

Welcome

Welcome to the new landlords of the White Horse, Andy, Donna and family who will be taking over in early January. And farewell and thanks to caretaker manager Stuart.

Date for the Diary

The next Maelor Music Society evening will be on Wednesday

February 7th in the Maelor School hall when a large contingent of students from Chethams' School of Music Big



Band will perform great standards, including from the Age of Swing.

Sunflowers welcomed Father Christmas to Overton



This year Father Christmas arrived by tractor and trailer at his Overton Winter Wonderland, all organised by Sunflowers. Sunflowers is a support group for local families who have children with additional needs. Each year at Christmas the group like to encourage the

community to come together to raise funds for local groups and schools. The Winter Wonderland which included face painting, tea and cakes, a BBQ, and most importantly Santa himself, raised money this year for St. Christopher's School which is desperately trying to raise money for their sensory room. They also managed to donate money to the Haynes family who sadly lost their 9 year old daughter to Leukaemia. If you would like to contact the Sunflowers group you can text Clare on 07894 247069, Kate on 07895 176348, or email 123sunflowers@gmail.com More photos on page 5



It's the wedding of the year!

No, not Harry and Meghan – it's Princess Susie and Simon Steadfast. O.A.D.S present **SLEEPING BEAUTY** at the Village Hall, a rock and roll panto by kind permission of Peter Rowe, on Friday, January 26th at 7pm and Saturday January 27th at 2pm and 7pm. Tickets prices - £8 for adults, £6 for children. Tickets will be available from The Corner Shop and on the door - but get them early!

Will Simon save Beauty from the clutches of Morgana and her evil son, Mordred? Will the Fairies work their magic and can Frederica win the day? With a wise old King, crazy Nurse, a loyal Herald and a band of

persistent Musketeers - we can only hope!



Look forward to seeing you in the New Year, lots of audience participation guaranteed!

Thank you

I would just like to say a huge thank you to the volunteers of Overton's St Mary's Church, who every year arrange a Christmas party for the recycled teenagers of this village. This December we were wine, dined and entertained.

A lot of effort and time must go into organising this every year and I am sure that everyone who attended this year's event thoroughly enjoyed it.

Well done to all the volunteers who so willingly give up their time to do this every year. It is much appreciated,
Myra Worthington



Gallery of Poppys

This half term Year 1 and 2 at St Mary's School have been using poppies as inspiration for their art work. The work of artist Georgia O'Keeffe inspired individual poppy paintings, poppies were made from newspaper and from clay, and everyone contributed to a large painting in the style of impressionist painter Claude Monet. A successful Gallery Evening was held for families to appreciate the pupil's art work.



Can you help?

The Oracle is looking for a new volunteer distributor to deliver the Oracle to the homes in Argoed Lane. If you can help please email overtonoracle@gmail.com or ring 710631.

email: overtonoracle@gmail.com

Well done Overton Scouts

Selection has recently taken place for the Wales contingent to the next World Scout Jamboree. The 24th World Scout Jamboree will be held on 22nd July – 2nd August 2019 in West Virginia, USA, and is to be hosted jointly between Boy Scouts of America, Scouts Canada and the Scout Association of Mexico.



In Wales the selection weekend was at the end of November and 30 Scouts and Explorers from Wrexham District attended, including 4 Explorers from Bryn-Y-Pys Explorer Unit and a Scout from 1st Overton. Only 14 of the Wrexham applicants' were successful in being chosen, but that included all 5 from Overton! Overton has a tradition of sending local teenagers to World Jamborees, to Norway, New Mexico, Canada, Australia, South Korea, the Netherlands, Chile, Sweden and Japan, each a life changing experience where they meet and mix with young people from all over the world.

So huge congratulations to Ifor Harris, Megan Sayer, Katherine Stanley and Rio Smith from Bryn-y-Pys Explorers and Katrina Leader from 1st Overton Scout Troop!

Now the real work starts as they have to raise with the Scout Group's help, £3000 each to pay for the trip!



New Year walking

The Overton Amblers enjoyed a 5 mile walk in December. By walking on Overton's footpaths the Amblers are helping to keep the rights-of-way used. They look out for broken stiles like this one on Cae Dyah Lane, they try to keep stiles accessible and replace waymarkers where necessary. Problems like broken stiles are reported to the Access Ranger at WCBC. They also enjoy the walk and the beautiful Overton scenery and anyone who wants to join them will be made very welcome.



Wishing you all a Happy New Year from the Playcentre



Before we begin our new year we wish to thank everybody who helped support our December activities, Firstly our Nativity show! Thank you to St Mary's Church for letting us rehearse and conduct the nativity there and to all who came along. It was great to see so many there to watch the true magical chaos which is young children at Christmas time!

Secondly thank you to those who came to our Christmas Pyjama Story Night, we raised £140 from all enjoying stories over cookies & milk, and the adults enjoying a festive drink and mince pies.

Also thank you to all who helped in some way for our Christmas raffle. People collected some fab prizes and thank you to those who bought tickets.

It is a new year and I would like to announce some new members of staff who are joining the wonderful Playcentre's team.

- We welcome Sarah Carpenter, many will know Sarah from being a very active amazing committee member and mum of Thomas and Josh. From being at the Playcentre Sarah has discovered her passion for the place and the children. She already has much to offer the Playcentre but she is also going to complete a NVQ so we wish her good luck with that too.
- Sharron Marriott is a mum of Thomos and has been volunteering at the Playcentre and has thrived in our environment. She decided to apply for a few hours a week and we are very lucky to have her.
- Claire Pearson is a lovely lady and mother who is going to work Mon-Wed term time and holiday club. She also works in Chirk Primary school and has loads of experience.
- Finally we also welcome Emily Dimelow, Emily is a lovely young lady who is very near completion of her NVQ Level 5. She has experience from Hanmer School and loves working with children; she is very passionate and ambitious.

As you can see these new recruits complete our team. At the Playcentre we now have a wonderful team of mixed ages and experience, but all of whom are talented, caring and extremely capable of continuing our high quality care for young children.

Our AGM is on the Tuesday 30th January at the Playcentre 7.30pm.

Sarah Evans



Musings from the Manse by Rev'd Phillip Poole

Dear friends,

I hope Christmas isn't so far in the past by now that its message of love and goodwill to all has been forgotten. In Christ, God has given us the greatest Christmas gift of all, and our own giving and receiving of presents at Christmas is meant to remind us of his all-surpassing gift.

What about those Christmas gifts? It gets harder and harder to decide what to give to people who seem to have everything they need and want. As a dad I have grown used to receiving mostly socks and ties, but sometimes a gift displays rare imagination and we know as we open it that the one who chose it for us has somehow really understood us. I remember gifts like this - the book I'd said months ago I would like to read and then forgot all about until Christmas morning, and the piece of sheet music that encouraged me to start playing the piano again. Gifts like these are a joy to give and receive and they show real care on the part of the giver who has listened to us carefully, thought hard and found just the right thing.

A gift needn't be expensive to be special in this way. In fact best of all is something we've made ourselves, however simple. The gift serves as a lasting reminder of the one who gave it and the memory of giving it warms the heart of the giver for months to come.

This is how God gives. His gift shows real care and understanding. It is given thoughtfully and it reflects his love for us and his longing to know us better - and God's perfect gift to all of us is Jesus. God understands the turmoil of our lives and in Jesus gives us peace. He knows our hurts and in Jesus offers us understanding and compassion. He knows we sometimes lose our way, and in Jesus gives us forgiveness and guidance. God knows how easily we lose heart and in Christ he offers us hope. He knows we are lonely and in Jesus he offers us a lifetime's friendship.

In Christ God has given us a gift we hardly knew we needed, yet which we find we cannot do without - a gift which is for all of life, and not just for Christmas. "Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!"

Wishing you God's blessings in 2018,
Phil Poole



Difficult Decisions

Almost 4000 people took part either online or via post on Wrexham Council's proposals to make £13 million of further cuts for the two year period 2018 / 20. This is in addition to £18 million already saved over the last three years and overall cuts of £52 million since 2008.

This year's current budget is £169 million from Welsh Government and £56 million raised through Council Tax. There will be "special" scrutiny meetings scheduled over the next month to examine all proposals put forward before finalizing the budget details and setting the Council Tax in February. Nobody wants to hear of anything being cut but we have to be realistic when you consider the savings that have been and have to be made.

Thank you for the emails and post I have received with suggestions and they have all been forwarded on.

Councillor John McCusker. Email: john.mccusker@wrexham.gov.uk Tel: 01978 710875

Remembrance Sunday

Overton Branch of the Royal British Legion would like to thank everyone who turned out on Saturday November 11th to observe the National 2 minute silence and also for the Remembrance Sunday Parade on the 12th. We are grateful for the Scout Group and Brownies, the Police and Community Council and pupils from St Mary's School who supported us and laid wreaths in honour of the Fallen of two World Wars. A special thanks must go to Isla Hawkins from Penley Madras School who made a brilliant job of the Last Post in very cold conditions! We look forward to hearing her next year and for many years to come. We are grateful for the attendance of the Police, who managed the traffic for us and also to the ladies in the church for the flower displays. Thank you also, every member of the Community who also turned out and filled the church for the service.

In addition, thank you to everyone who collected for the Poppy Appeal, we couldn't do it without you! We raised £2756 this year to which Overton Branch has added £1000 making the overall total £3756!

ALL proceeds from the collection go exclusively to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal for help towards the care and support of Ex-Servicemen and their dependents. If you know of anyone in the village who requires support please contact a Legion Member or the Royal British Legion Welfare Department on 0808 802 8080.

The 146 Bus Service

The bus company D Jones & Son who operated the 146 bus service Wrexham to Whitchurch via Overton ceased trading on 16th December 2017.

Officers at Wrexham Council worked quickly to secure temporary provision, and after discussion with providers, they announced on the 19th December that the new providers for the 146 bus route will be Pat's Coaches. Although the new service will require the approval of the office of the Traffic Commissioner, Wrexham Council is confident these new services can be back on the road as soon as possible.

Susan Elan Jones MP has expressed her concern following the decision by D Jones & Sons to cease trading. She said: "This is of significant concern following the cessation of GHA coach services last year. How can it be that another bus company which must have been in financial trouble was awarded a Council contract?"

email: overtonoracle@gmail.com

The expanding W.I.

Overton W.I. has grown bigger...and it's not because we ate too much over Christmas!

It's just that more ladies have joined, so we have moved to larger premises !! We now have our monthly meetings at the Catholic Church Hall, Overton.

Our January meeting will take place on Thursday, 18th January at 7.30pm when Ann Moreton from Erlas Victorian Garden, near Wrexham will be our guest.

Visitors are £4 including refreshments.

Make it your New Year Resolution.... join the W.I.

You won't regret it.

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Overton Community Chest

There is a significant amount still to be allocated of the Overton Community Chest Grant.

Grants may be made by Overton Community Council towards capital expenditure by local organizations within the area administered by the Community Council. Grants will not be made towards general maintenance or running costs.

If your club, or organisation would like to be considered for a Community Grant, please contact the Clerk on 01978 710055 or occ.clerk@btinternet.com for an application form. The new closing date for applications will be 31st January 2018. The grant will be awarded on 13th February and will need to be spent before the end of March 2018, to coincide with the end of our financial year.

OVERTON RECREATIONAL CLUB

Sky Sports & BT Sport showing

all main events including

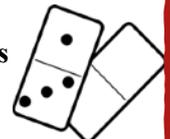
Boxing



Two Snooker & Pool Tables

Darts, Dominoes, Quizes

Bingo & much more



Warm Friendly Atmosphere

New members very welcome,

only £4 p.a. membership

Many of Overton Recreational Club's Christmas Knock-out games were delayed by the recent snow so the results will be in next months issue.

Calling all keen photographers!



The Overton Community Growers are busy planning the production of an Overton-on-Dee Calendar for 2019.

We are looking for photography enthusiasts of all ages, including the youngest members of our Community, to get snapping in and around the Village. Individuals, businesses and groups may enter. All entries will be judged by a professional photographer and will be on exhibition in the Village Hall before the Calendar's publication.

We are looking for entries that show our village throughout the Seasons and which depict various aspects of village life, capture local beauty spots, flora and fauna, local landmarks etc. We are also looking for sponsorship through advertising. More details coming soon, but if you are interested in taking part, or taking advertising space, then please register your interest with the Growers Secretary by email cathroberts100@aol.com or by telephoning 01978 710328.

Overton Community Council

Tender for the Cemetery Upgrade Project in Overton Cemetery, Overton-on-Dee

Applications are invited from suitably experienced and qualified individuals, companies or organisations wishing to tender for the Upgrade of the Cemetery within the community of Overton-on-Dee.

Applicants expressing an interest will be sent a Scope of Work, which must be completed and returned with any appropriate supporting information no later than **Friday 10th February 2018**

Copies of the Scope of Work can be requested from the Clerk, please ring/write to

Clerk to the Council: Mrs Katrina Chalk, Overton Village Hall, Penyllan Street, Overton-on-Dee Wrexham, LL13 0EE, Telephone: 01978 710055, e-mail occ.clerk@btinternet.com

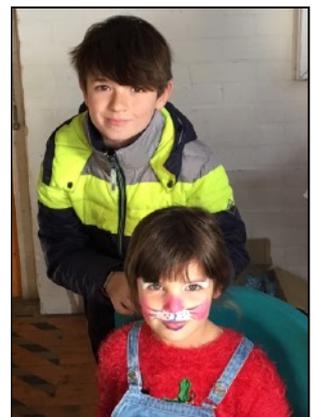
More Helpers Needed

Overton Scout Group are desperately in need of more helpers for cubs (age 8 to 10½ years) and especially Beavers (age 6-8 years). If you can spare an hour or two each week on a Wednesday (6-7pm) or a Thursday (6-7.30pm) or have skills which would be useful, we need you! You can be

an Occasional Helper (which as the name implies, you help occasionally), a Colony Assistant with a limited amount of training or an Assistant Leader with a commitment to the full training programme.

We have had to cancel a few meetings recently as Leaders have been busy elsewhere, they are all volunteers. So more helpers would ensure that we have to cancel on fewer occasions. We are not quite so desperate for extra help at Scouts (10 ½ - 14 years) and Explorers (14-18 years), but if you would prefer to work with older children, we would also be delighted to welcome you.

More photos from Winter Wonderland



St Mary's Primary School 'Magical' Christmas Performance

Despite the heavy snow, which had forced our school to close the day before, we were pleased that the Junior Christmas production could still go ahead at St Mary's Church on the 12th and 13th of December. In fact, the snow only enhanced our festive feelings, as parents, family and friends came to support our Nativity play: 'The Magical Christmas Jigsaw.' Niamh Jones from Year 6 confidently took on the lead role and wowed us all with



her angelic voice. All the other children were involved as well and they played roles such as Romans, shepherds, and angels, as you would expect from a traditional Nativity.

The play had that bit extra though, and was full of fun-packed songs and dances. Our finale received a massive round of applause. Following the performance, Staff and children were met with lovely comments like: "absolutely wonderful"; "what an amazing production – I'm still humming the tunes and it still brings a tear!" and "just when you thought they couldn't get any better!" Most of all, we had great fun performing on stage and are grateful to everyone who came along to support us.

from Verity E, Roving Reporter with Clarrie McB and Caitlin R, Editor and Deputy Editors.

St. Mary's School Christmas Trip

On the 5th of December Years 1 to 6 went on an exciting trip to the newly renovated Storyhouse theatre in Chester. We went to watch a world first - the first ever live stage play of Enid Blyton's Secret Seven. Set in 1951, it centres around revenge, as driven Joko returns from prison and tries to ruin Christmas for the villagers of



Cherrydale; but the Secret Seven have other plans! There is mystery and clues aplenty as the audience really feel part of this nostalgic, post-war setting. "The set and costumes were amazing and it felt like we had been taken back to 1951," Lotte told us. Sam W added, "The actors were fantastic."

It was a fantastic way to get into the festive spirit. We are lucky to have such a great new theatre nearby and we strongly recommend you take a trip there, if you haven't already. **from Dyfrig W, Roving Reporter with Clarrie McB & Caitlin R, Editor and Deputy Editors.**

A Garland of Wreaths

The Overton Community Growers Christmas wreath making event was a resounding success! Thanks to everyone who supported the evening, florist Alice Tattum for teaching us and Overton WI for supplying and selling refreshments on the night.



Overton & District Bowling Club

The Annual General Meeting of the Overton & District Bowling Club will be held in the Parish Room on Monday February 5th 2018 at 7.30pm



Next Rainbow Bingo

The next Bingo evening at the Rainbow Centre, Penley will be on Tuesday February 13th. Doors open at 7pm, eyes down by 7.30pm.

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.

ELM (elderly lives matter) COFFEE MORNING & ACTIVITY GROUP

Please come and join us, relax in good company, chat and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and a home-made cake or a sandwich. We are qualified Carers or Nurses and we are here to help look after you.

Look out for posters in the doctors surgery or village shop and more details in the next Oracle. Please call Nicola 07764 855353 to register your interest and for more details.

What's On

January Diary for St Mary's Services

Sunday January 7th 10.00am Family Village Praise
 Sunday January 14th 11.30am Holy Communion
 Sunday January 21st 10.00am Family Communion
 Sunday January 28th 11.30am Holy Communion

January Diary for Overton Methodist Chapel

Sunday January 7th 6.30pm Mr Martin Woodhall
 Sunday January 14th 6.30pm Rev John Wiggall
 Sunday January 21st 6.30pm Rev Neville Pugh.
 Covenant Services & Holy Communion
 Sunday January 28th 11.00am Mr Nigel Burns
 All Age Worship

Tuesday January 9th 6.50pm Overton Community Council meeting in the Parish Room. Members of the public wishing to speak - 6.50pm-7.00pm.

Wednesday January 10th 10.30am Overton British Legion meeting at the Scout Hut. All welcome.

Thursday January 18th 7.30pm Overton WI meeting in the Catholic Church Hall. Speaker: Ann Moreton from Erlas Victorian Garden in Wrexham

Friday January 26th 7.00pm "Rock'n Roll Sleeping Beauty" at the Village Hall

Saturday January 27th 2.00pm & 7.00pm "Rock'n Roll Sleeping Beauty" at the Village Hall

Tuesday January 30th 7.30pm Playcentre AGM at the Playcentre

Thursday February 1st 10.30am - 2.30pm Rainbow Centre Lunch & Learn - 'Driftwood Mosaic Sconces' with Coral Delvin

Family Announcements



Happy January Birthdays to Dan Hunter, Micki Blair, Kyle Stubbert Pugh, Raymond Austin, Nathan Ryan Tombs, Poppy Bateman Green, Jack Pritchard, Karen Pritchard, Lucy Edwards, Jim Eastop, Karen Jones Roberts and Russell Jones. Belated December birthday wishes to Lauren Elizabeth Cheshire and Sean Clarke.

Sincere condolences to the family and friends of Mary Manley who passed away in November.

Make-over for Local Landmark

Four years ago we took advantage of a grant from 'Grow Wild' to plant wildflowers in various sites in Overton. The Victorian Pump was one of those sites because it looked sad and neglected and with the help of the Scouts we planted flowers in the trough at the base of the pump. The ground surrounding the pump had a much needed tidy up because weeds were growing profusely through the tarmac. However keeping the weeds down was a losing battle due to the many cracks in the uneven surface. We consulted Lorna Goring, Conservation Officer from WCBC to ask what we were allowed to do with a 'listed' pump and the result is that now the pump stands proudly on a beautiful new surface. Rob Lawrenson put the final touch to the project by replacing the old woodwork behind the pump with a lovely new oak casing.



Councillor Pene Coles

Overton Royal British Legion 100 Club

Results of the "100 Club" draw for December 2017 which was the biannual Bonus Draw where the British Legion takes nothing and all the money is passed to the winners.

95 members entered and the draw was made at the British Legion meeting on the 13th December by Mrs Jan Davies.

Winners -

1st Prize £237.50 No 12 Mr David Austin

2nd Prize £142.50 No 03 Hazel Blackwell

3rd Prize £95.00 No 50 Beverley Wood

Next Draw: Wed. January 10th

If you wish to join please ring

DAVE AUSTIN: TEL- 01978 710678.

The Overton branch of the Royal British Legion would like to thank all members of the 100 Club, the proceeds of which are enabling us to send 2 representatives of the village to the Parade at the Menin Gate next August and to contribute to the Poppy Appeal for the welfare of ex servicemen and their dependents.

Overton Lunch Club

For details of the next Overton Lunch Club please contact Gwynneth Austin on 01978 710672



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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Editor - Jill Burton.

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