The Overton Oracle

Volume 21 Issue 1 **January 2019**
Overton's Free Newspaper - delivered to every household monthly for 20 years

Happy New Year to all our Oracle Readers & Distributors

All Lit up

Well done to the Overton Community Council and all the houses with Christmas lights for making the village so pretty and Christmassy.

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Maelor Music Society

present 'Cuillin Sound' a wind quartet with a Scottish theme and also with a stunning visual presentation of Scottish Highlands and Islands, on Wed. January 30th at 7.30pm in the Maelor School Hall.

.....

Overton WI

in the Catholic Church Hall on Thursday 17th January 7.30pm
An evening of Spanish flavours.
All welcome.

.....

Beer & Wine Festival

at the Trotting Mare Inn, Thursday 24th until Sunday 27th January.
If you like Real Ales & Quality Wines this is the event for you.
Food also available.

HAPPY 20th BIRTHDAY OVERTON ORACLE

The Overton Oracle has reached 20 years of publishing the village's FREE newspaper; that is 240 editions, never missing a month!
The Newspaper was launched by Overton Community Council in January 1999. A request was made for suggestions for a name and from those submitted the 'Overton Oracle' was selected, and has remained the same ever since
It was in November 2008 that the Oracle separated itself from the Community Council because of issues to comply with Codes of Conduct, although the OCC has continued to support the Oracle with grant aid ever since.
The first colour edition was August 2009 and in November 2014 the Oracle launched its own website with editions always available in colour, an archive of old editions, and a month by month Gallery of village photos. And from feedback we know the Oracle is now read all over the world.
The Oracle is very grateful to Sandra and Steve at Business Print & Design who have supported the printing for many years. The Oracle is written and distributed by volunteers and it would not be possible without their generous commitment of time. And thank you to YOU, our readers and contributors, who send in the letters, the birthdays, the reports, the photos, the news - that for 20 years has made the Oracle OUR village newspaper.

Overton's Newspaper

OVERTON LAUNCHES ITS OWN NEWSPAPER

IT'S PANTO TIME AGAIN

REMEMBER, IF IT'S NEWS, WE'LL PRINT IT.

MORE NEWS INSIDE...

IT'S COMPETITION TIME

Father Christmas arrives in Overton

A huge thanks to Mr & Mrs Latham from Knolton Farmhouse Cheese for their generous sponsorship and support of Fun Day in aid of Sunflowers. Also to John Brookshaw and the Shippon Restaurant at the Plassey for sponsoring the Magic Show.

We had a great day. We took £986 so a great success! We gave £500 to St Christopher's School and £250 to 'Dynamic'. We appreciate all who came on the day to help especially Gareth Stokes from Stokes Funfair for his generosity. And Keith and his delicious fish and chips.
Clare and Kate who run Sunflowers are keen to raise awareness and support for children living with disabilities. We are looking for new members to join Sunflowers and help organise this fantastic event. Please get in touch if you would like to join us, we will be meeting in the New Year. We can be contacted on 07895 176348.

St Mary's School Christmas News

A Delightful Nativity Performance

Nursery and Reception pupils at St Mary's performed their Christmas show, 'The Greatest Journey', to a packed Hall over a number of showings, including for the rest of the School.

The children had worked hard to learn their lines, songs and dances and one of the funniest parts

was when a big camel wandered across the stage! The large, eye-catching backdrop of Nazareth really set the scene and the set gave the hall a magical feel. The songs children performed included classics such as Little Donkey, We Three Kings and Away in a Manger. They also performed 'We Wish You a Merry Christmas' in Makaton, which was delightful. All the songs were accompanied by Joyce, our trusty piano player, who spends a lot of her time volunteering to help with concerts and weekly singing assemblies.

Nursery and Reception teachers, Mrs Burton and Mrs Neal worked hard to put the show together and told us afterwards: "We are incredibly proud of the children as they have worked so hard learning the lines and the songs for their performance. They were all absolute superstars!"

by James Wright (Year 6) & Olivia Busby (Year 6 Joint Editor-in Chief)

Health School Success

In November, the school was thrilled to be invited to the Healthy School Awards in Wrexham at the Guild Hall. The Year 5 and 6 Student Councillors were very excited to be invited to the ceremony to represent St Mary's, along with Mrs Lawrenson, our Healthy School Leader, and Mrs Williams, our Head Teacher. Year 6 Student Councillors, Tirion and Miranda, told reporters, "It was thrilling to go on the stage to receive the award from Lady Hanmer and the Mayor and Mayoress of Wrexham". As part of a range of stalls and activities they even got to use a smoothie machine – creating your own healthy smoothie using pedal-power! The award is prestigious as not many schools achieve this accolade and this was our 3rd successive annual award.

by Olivia Busby (Year 6 Joint Editor-in Chief), assisted by Tirion Owen and Miranda Winkel

The Wonderful Wizard of Oz

On December 12th, Yrs 1-6 went to the Story House, Chester to watch the show 'The Wizard of Oz'. Staying true to the original story, we met the familiar characters of Dorothy, Toto, Tin Man, Scarecrow, Lion, the Munchkins, Wicked Witches and, last but not least, the Wizard himself: Oz. The set was fantastic and ever-changing as we were taken into the Land of Oz. Dorothy had some amazing adventures as she followed the yellow brick road; she ran into some living trees, travelled through a poison poppy field and through a deep, dark forest where they met the evil Jitter-Bug who made Dorothy and her friends dance until they dropped. The fabulous dancers added a modern take to this classic tale, with some brilliant street-dance moves. We interviewed Thomas from Year 6 who said, "I loved it. The acting really brought to life how good the story was". Also, we interviewed Jake from Year 6 who though it was 'funny and amazing'. It was a great outing for all ages – children from every year group were captivated by the show and it felt like a real Christmas treat.

by Kyara Heward (Year 6) and Max Evans (Year 6 Joint Editor-in Chief) *More photos on the Oracle website*

Welcome to Peter

The service for the Licensing of Rev Peter Mackriell as Priest in Charge of Overton and Erbistock was well attended the service was led by Bishop Gregory and clergy from the Mission Area and included congregations from Overton, Erbistock and Peter's old parish of Kelsall, plus the Headteacher of St Mary's School Mrs Williams, the local MP, representatives of local Community Councils and Overton Methodist Church.

We wish Peter and his wife Jo much happiness in Overton.

From left: Jo, Peter, Bishop Gregory & Susan Elan Jones MP

'Musings from the Manse' was unavailable this month.

Memories of Queensbridge

I am now 65 years old, soon to be retiring from social work. In the summer of 1963 when I was 8yrs old my mother Emily May and my 3 siblings Susan, Peter and baby David moved to Queensbridge Villa, rented from farmer Mr Evans who lived in the adjoining farm house. There was also Queensbridge Manor that was home to an elderly lady who liked gin and little dogs.

My childhood memories of living at Queensbridge Villa and attending Overton Primary school, albeit just for a couple of years, are happy ones. Mr Evans was a kind man, helping my mother furnish the house from a local auction rooms. I remember he had very rosy cheeks and smelt of cows. We liked him.

My mother was a widow. There was no support for single parents in those days, her income was made up of War Widows pension, Child Allowance and our pocket money sent weekly from grandparents. It was mainly my older sister Susan (12 yrs old) who would go on the bus once a week to Overton Post Office and collect weekly grocery essentials. We had lovely days playing inside and outside of the house. We picked apples from the orchard and had a den in the old dairy building. We enjoyed the company of Mr Evens son who was of similar age to my sister. I recall lots of snow and a cold winter. Coal and logs were delivered to the cellar underneath our house and it was the children's job to fill up the coal scuttle. I remember me and my brother Peter using the farm hand cart to collect logs from down the lane when the lorry could not drive up to the house due to ice and snow.

The sitting room seemed enormous to me with a beautiful fire place and big windows. Fire lit and Christmas tree lights on, the room was transformed. We made gifts out of felt as opposed to buying Christmas presents to post to my grandparents. My mother sold her fur collar coat for £5 and that bought the tree and food for Christmas.

Times were hard however my mother was a good cook and we had a weekly staple diet. One day lentil soup made with bacon bones from an Overton butcher (we had to ask for bones for the dog) another day baked potatoes or beans on toast, not forgetting boiled farm eggs and lots of hot buttered toast or crumpets, never margarine. I recall walking down a pathway, sitting on the bench where milk churns were picked up, waiting for the old school bus to take me and Peter to Overton Primary school - now demolished. My teacher was very proud of a miniature model of the school in our classroom. On Wednesdays a lady turned up in a bubble car and took me and Susan to the Girls Guildry in Overton.

The Beatles featured in the news and I remember a Beatles night in Overton where we all dressed up as the Beatles. Our unpractised miming and tennis racket 'guitars' gained us last place. One morning in the summer of 1964 out of the blue my mother asked us if we would you like to go to school that day or go back to Plymouth. Needless to say we were back in Plymouth that very night but that is another story. I have happy memories of our short time at Queensbridge Villa. We were real 'Railway Children' without the railway of course. The experience of living at Queensbridge Villa and living next door to a farm was incredible. My mother taught me to embrace change and enjoy adventures on the way.

by Kathryn May (now Jackson)

Country Beat

by PCSO Lynne Maurice

As we are well aware a New Year is upon us and we must not forget our home and vehicle security.

Can I ask you to take a few simple steps that can avoid you becoming prey to crime this New Year.

Home Security

- Make sure all windows and doors are locked when you are not home, this also includes garages and sheds.
- Use timer switches to turn your lights on when you are not at home especially during these dark nights.
- Never leave valuable items on show, such as laptops, presents etc where people can see through your windows.
- Never open the door to Cold Callers, put the chain on the door if you have one, and always ask for ID.

Vehicle Security

- Always make sure your vehicle is locked and secure.
- Never leave valuables on show, mobile phones, handbags, purses etc.
- Take all your belongings with you when you leave the car.
- If you have a garage, use it.
- Always park your car in well-lit areas.

On behalf of myself and Mike we would like to wish you all a safe and a Happy New Year.

Regards

Lynne

PCSO 151 Lynne Maurice,
Nth Wales Police/Heddlu Goggledd Cymru,
Mobile/Symudol: 07854 352 815

Olé!

Our Overton W.I. enjoyed a night of Festive Fun on December 13th. Some foolhardy members presented a rather unique production of Dickens' Christmas Carol, which, while not perhaps an accurate portrayal of this well known and well loved piece of Literature, nevertheless provided much hilarity. Some of it even intended! There were also various group workshops, everything from making sock snowmen to yoga, and of course there were plenty of homemade goodies for a Festive Feast.

Looking ahead, we have a varied programme of Speakers and Events organised for 2019, starting on January 17th, with a visit from Beatriz Albo of Sabor de Amor. Beatriz creates beautiful cooking sauces to bring an authentic Spanish flavour for those who appreciate flavour and high quality.

Our Meetings are held in the Catholic Church Hall, on the third Thursday of the month. Please do come and join us – there really is something for everyone!

For further details contact Margaret O'Neill, President, on 01978 710451.

Frank Howard 1900 – 1919

Although World War I finished in November 1918, soldiers continued to die. 100 years ago this month Frank Howard, age 18, died in Overton.

He was born Francis Arthur C Howard, the son of Arthur and Annie Howard. They had 2 children, Frank b1900 and Mabel b1906. Frank was born in Newmarket where his father worked in the racing stables. By 1901 the family were living at Adderbury near Banbury where Arthur was a groom to noted racehorse breeder Major James Larnach whose horse Jeddah won the Derby at 100-1 in 1898, and also won at Ascot. But soon after the Howard family moved to Overton, living in Penyllan Street in the cottage immediately to the left of Gwydir House, with father Arthur working as Stud Groom for Major Hugh Peel at Bryn y Pys. When a lodge came available the family moved to Argoed Lane to be closer to the stables.

Major Hugh Peel was also a racehorse breeder and in 1910 gave his Stud Groom Howard one of his young horses which one presumes he saw no hope for. The horse was called Poethlyn. Arthur Howard then sold the horse to Reg Parry of the Black Lion Hotel, Ellesmere for £5. Mr Parry then sold him to Mr Davenport of Whitchurch Farm, Alkington for £7 where he stayed for 4 years, and so the story goes, was used as a milk horse. In about 1915 Major Peel's wife Gwladys, bought Poethlyn back to the Bryn y Pys stables for £50.

On leaving Overton School it is likely Frank worked for his father at the stables but on reaching his 18th birthday in the spring of 1918 he was conscripted, Private/Trumpeter 20823/10823 a Bugler in the Welsh Horse 9th Lancers 1st Reserve Regiment. This was just as Poethlyn won the 1918 Grand National held, because it was war time, at Gatwick airport.

But before the war ended in the following November Frank became ill and he died on 24th January 1919 from Cerebral Spinal Meningitis having had 3 previous attacks. He was only 18 years old.

It was just 9 weeks later that Poethlyn won the 1919 Grand National. at Aintree. Major Peel invited the artist Alfred Munnings to Bryn y Pys to paint Poethlyn with, on the left of the painting, the groom, probably Arthur Howard. A time that should have been celebration but Arthur had just buried his only son.

Frank is buried in Overton Cemetery; his grave says 'GOD TAKES OUR LOVED ONES FROM OUR HOMES, BUT NEVER FROM OUR HEARTS!'. Frank is also remembered on Overton War Memorial.

Overton Supermarket

Overton has a new supermarket on Salop Road, you've probably seen the signs, but who's behind it? That's Sarath Lanka, a business consultant who moved to Wales from Sri Lanka 11 years ago. Sarath, who has an MBA from the University of Wales, is married with two daughters, who are hoping to become doctors. Sarath also owns Town Hill Supermarket in Wrexham town centre, which has been operating for the last two years.

So what does he plan for Overton? In addition to grocery, greengrocery, fuel and an off-licence he hopes in the medium term to start selling take-away foods. (fish & chips; chinese; pizza). He also intends to work on low margins to ensure that he offers customers the lowest prices in the area, including the lowest fuel prices in our rural area.

With 35 years management experience don't expect him to fail. He has spent December stocking up and organising the business so that from January he will be operating his normal hours, 5.30am to 11pm seven days a week.

Thank you

Many thanks to Andy and Donna and the staff at the White Horse for the excellent Christmas meal at the December Lunch Club, and for all the lunches over the past year.

Thanks also to Father Christmas and his elf, and a big thanks to Gwynneth Austin for all her hard work in making the lunch club such a success.

Remembrance Day

On November 11th, 100 years after the end of World War I, Overton remembered all those who gave their lives in that conflict. The turnout included the Royal British Legion supported by Overton Scout Group, Brownies, St Mary's School, The Community Council and Police. Wreaths for the Royal British Legion were laid by Major Ivan Osborne and his daughter, Private Danielle Osborne and by Mark Kelly, veteran of The Household Division of the Guards and John Wall, a serving MOD Fireman, who laid a wreath in memory of those who died in Iraq & Afghanistan. The number of villagers was the largest for some years and the Church was packed for the Service of Remembrance. In Church the Act of Remembrance was highlighted by members of the Scout Group planting named crosses, for everyone who died in both World Wars as their names were read out by the Legion. The crosses have now been placed behind the stones at the Cenotaph, placed there by the children of the village. The Legion thanks everyone who took part and attended. The Poppy Appeal raised a total of £3247 including a £500 donation from Branch funds.

Overton Twinning Association's Wine Tasting and Buffet Supper will be held in the Scout Hut on Saturday 16 February. 7.00 for 7.30 pm. Tickets £12.50 pp available from Twinning members.
Phone 710823 for further information.

Looking for something new in the New Year?

Do you enjoy singing? Would you like to join a small but enthusiastic choir? Then your parish church of St Mary is looking for you to join our church choir! We are keen to recruit extra singers of all voices and you will be very welcome. You do not have to be an expert singer or be able to read music – just enjoy singing. There is generally one evening rehearsal a month and you will not be expected to attend every Sunday service. For more information see Jo or Paul after service on a Sunday or call 07971 916365. We look forward to seeing you.

A change to the New Year Openings

M.E. Evans Traditional Butchers will now be closed on New Years Eve, Monday 31st December and will reopen on Wednesday January 2nd.

Overton Royal British Legion 100 Club

Results of the "100 Club" draw for December 2018.

98 members entered and the draw was made at the White Horse Lunch Club on Wednesday 12th December by Father Christmas.

The winners are -

1st Prize £245.00 No 92 Claire Williams
2nd Prize £147.00 No 80 Julie Birrell
3rd Prize £ 98.00 No 13 Walter Roberts
Legion Fund: £0

CONGRATULATIONS

Next Draw: Wednesday January 9th 2019

If you wish to join please ring DAVE AUSTIN on Tel: 01978 710678.

More photos of the Christmas Tree festival

From left below; Overton Rec Club; Twinning Assoc; Overton Am Drams;

Wildbanks Conservation

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.

Fall In !

Pat Burns would like to thank everyone for taking part and the audience for their loyal support in the successful commemorative production of "Fall In", a tribute to those that gave their lives in the great war. which took place at The Rainbow Centre. The scenario was the audience were all pupils back in 1914 and their Victorian headmaster was the bumbling Prof. Horatio Mason aka Community Agent Pat Burns. Sgt.George Riley, alias Historian and Author Tony Davies arrived to begin his recruiting campaign for King & Country. Sgt Riley gave true testament of life in the trenches and had many exhibits for the audience to view and handle themselves.

Other members of the cast were Rainbow Centre staff, Mark Griffiths from the Maelor School who played the last post, members of the Overton Royal British Legion, and The Rainbow Singers. A total of £100 was raised for The R.B.L. Poppy Appeal.

Playgroup News

What a busy month! Elf Hunts round the village, Christmas Tree Festival in Church, raffles, colouring competitions, not to mention our Non-traditional Nativity as well as our Toddler Christmas Service (with a real donkey!) in the Church, Story night and of course Christmas Parties - we have had a real Christmas packed time! And as if this wasn't enough Wildbanks has started work on our soon-to-be amazing Outdoor Learning Area that the Awards for All National Lottery grant is being spent on!

Susan Elen Jones MP came to visit us amidst all this excitement and so could review the progress we have made with the grant! *(photo right)* Susan said "What a wonderful facility you have for parents in the village!" She also added "I am looking forward to coming back to visit when all the work is finished". Susan was very interested to hear of the generous grant that Overton Community Council had given the Children from Konekt Holiday Club for doing up their den as the Playcentre now runs from 2years old to 12years old, making full use of the CIW registration.

Our Christmas Tree Festival went so well we were asked to leave the trees in the Church for longer! Kindly hosted by St Mary's Church with trees donated by Derwen College @ Ashdale House from their Living Trees Scheme, village organisations and businesses got to work with a gusto on Friday 7th Dec to decorate their tree. Wow what a fabulous effort they all made! Eastwick Nursery helped out at the last minute too! The Playcentre served Afternoon Teas on Saturday afternoon with stalls from local author and crafts people. A fun competition was judged by our stall holders and there are lots of photos on the Oracle website! Huge thanks to all who made it such a special event and we are really looking forward to next year's Christmas Tree Festival!

Photo left - the overall winner - THE OVERTON ORACLE 20th Birthday Christmas Tree !!

'Happy New Year One and All'
from Overton on Dee Community Growers!

Thank you to everyone so far who has supported us by buying and selling the Overton on Dee Calendar on our behalf. We have been overwhelmed by how much everyone seems to love it! So far, we have sold in excess of 200 copies which has exceeded even our own expectations! We know they have been sent far and wide. We have even had a request for one from Australia and we managed to give one to the Rickshaw Challenge when it passed through Overton!

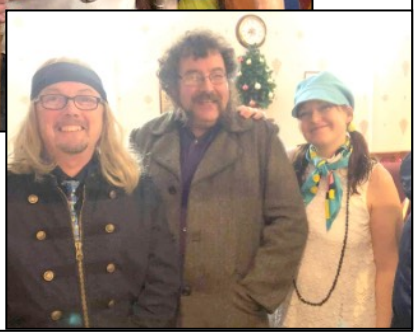
A massive thanks to our very generous sponsors, without whom the Calendar would not have been possible. Copies are still on sale at The Corner Shop, Overton Library and at Home Farm and Lewis' Farm Shop. Many thanks to these businesses for offering to sell them.

We will be producing another Calendar this year, which we hope will be even better than last year, but again we would like your help! If you would like to submit a photograph for selection then please start taking your digital photographs **NOW** and saving them as we need photos that depict each Season as well as local events and landmarks. Please save them in the largest format if you are taking them on your phone. Digital photographs give the best results when reproduced.

Last month, we presented a cheque to Overton Royal British Legion for £74 which represented half of the money received from sponsorship of our upcycled plastic poppies and gave a donation too to St Mary's Church for allowing us to put them up on the Church railings. Thank you to everyone who sponsored a poppy.

All of our Overton In Bloom Competitions will be going ahead again too, with another NEW category added this year, so if you have been thinking about entering, particularly your front garden, then it's time to start planning! **NEW for this year too - each category Winner will be presented with a trophy to keep for one year. More details to follow in next month's Oracle!**

The Recreational Club celebrated 50 years!



What's On

January Diary for St Mary's Services

Sunday Jan 6th 10.00am Village Praise
Sunday Jan 13th 11.30am Holy Communion
Sunday Jan 20th 10.00am Family Communion
Sunday Jan 27th 11.30am Holy Communion

January Diary for Overton Methodist Chapel

Sunday Jan 6th 6.30pm Rev Neville Pugh, Covenant Service & Holy Communion
Sunday Jan 13th 6.30pm Mrs Sheila Rudden
Sunday Jan 20th 6.30pm Mr Ebenezer Sam
Sunday Jan 27th 11.00am All Age Worship
Craft Class 1.30pm each Tuesday
Bible Study 7.00pm each Wednesday

Wednesday January 9th 10.30am Overton British Legion meeting at the Scout Hut. All welcome

Wednesday January 9th 12.30pm Overton Lunch Club at the White Horse. Please book.

Thursday January 10th Lunch Club at Enfy's Cafe in the Rainbow Centre. Freshly cooked 2 course meal for £7.50. To book Tel: 01498 830730. Transport available

Tuesday January 14th 6.50pm Overton Community Council meeting in the Parish Room. Members of the public wishing to speak 6.50pm-7.00pm.

Thursday January 17th 7.30pm Overton WI Meeting. An evening of Spanish Flavours at Catholic Church Hall

Saturday January 19th 8pm-11pm Blues Band Paul Jones & Dave Kelly at the Village Hall

Thursday to Sunday January 24th-27th Beer & Wine Festival at the Trotting Mare Inn

Wednesday January 30th 7.30pm Maelor Music Society present 'Cuillin Sound' in the Maelor School Hall

Paul Jones & Dave Kelly at the Village Hall!

These 2 legends of British blues are appearing at Overton Village Hall on January 19th 8 -11pm.
Paul was a member of 60s band Manfred Mann and until recently, presenter of the long running BBC Radio 2 Rhythm and Blues Show. Dave is arguably the UK's finest blues guitarist and has played with Muddy Waters and Howlin' Wolf.
Tickets are available from the Corner Shop or email peteevans@btinternet.com

Family Announcements

Happy 90th Birthday to Mary Jones
Happy January Birthdays to Alice and Victoria O'Brien, 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 Happy Birthday to Sarah Jane Hellingman. Love from Mum, Dad, Claire and Dan.

Sincere condolences to the family and friends of Tom Reeves from Parkside.
Sincere condolences to the family and friends of Blodwyn Williams, past Assistant Overton Cub Scout Leader.

Thank you Santa

Many thanks to Santa for touring the village with his helpers from the Overton Recreational Club. I am very pleased to tell everyone he thought Overton was a brilliant village and the children gave him a great big Christmas welcome. The money raised will be distributed to local charities including Hope House and Nightingale House. More details in the February issue. Special mention and a big thank you to Santa's helpers and he looks forward to visiting again next year.

Overton Lunch Club

is on Wednesday January 9th at 12.30pm at the White Horse. There will be a choice of a 2-course menu all for £8.95. To book tel: 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

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

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