

The Overton Oracle

Volume 22 Issue 1

January 2020

Overton's Free Newspaper - delivered to every household monthly for 21 years



Happy New Year



to all our Oracle
Readers & Distributors

Maelor Music Society



Come and hear the award-winning Lithuanian pianist (the prestigious Gold Medal Royal Northern College of Music amongst other awards) Ignius Polinkonis on Wednesday 29th January at 7.30pm In the Maelor School Hall, Penley. The programme will include works by Chopin in this the composer's 200th anniversary year. Tickets on the door adult £10; £2 students; under 16s free

Wine Tasting



The now famous Twinning Wine Tasting and Buffet evening is on Saturday 8th February, at the Scout Hut starting at 7.30pm. Tickets, costing £12.50 per person, are available from the Corner Shop from January 2nd.

Father Christmas stopped in Overton

Santa spread his magic and delighted lots of children, and those young at heart, by visiting in his twinkling sleigh (with a rainproof roof!). All money raised goes to Hope House Childrens Hospice.



Overton Playcentre and St Marys Church Christmas Tree Festival

The creativity and imagination on display at the Christmas Tree Festival in St Mary's Church was amazing. Congratulations to St Mary's School Eco Council who won the prestigious 'People's Choice Award' (photo left) and to the Playcentre who came 2nd with the Pom Pom tree!



The challenge of making a tree out of recycled, reused items was taken up enthusiastically and they were all so amazingly different! The Overton Twinning Association made theirs out of old copper piping welded together and decorated with items that had been found on beaches around the UK! The Am Drams star stacked tree was made out of



clothing that had been worn at various shows. (photo right) Most poignant was the star made from a sparkly dress worn by Jane Sorfleet. The WI had a white tree made from packaging Polystyrene glued together! ArtVS made one totally from paper and Wildbanks had one totally from wood!

More photos on page 5

Parade 2020 Launch Party!

Sunday February 9th 2020
in Overton Village Hall
from 2.00 pm - 4.30 pm

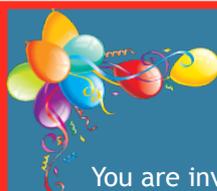
You are invited to join the party and contribute your ideas to ensure that the 2020 Parade is another successful event for the whole community

We are encouraging individuals, clubs, organisations and societies to take a starring role in the parade itself.

Escape the winter cold and come along and help us plan for summer fun!!

Drinks and nibbles will be provided

See you there!



St Mary's School News

Thinking of Others this Festive Season – the T4U Appeal

This festive season, children at St. Mary's School, Overton have been busy collecting shoeboxes for the local T4U appeal that saw over 50,000 boxes sent to Eastern Europe from our area last year.

Children have embraced this initiative wholeheartedly particularly with our current Christian value of compassion. We are thrilled to have collected in excess of 50 boxes from our



s c h o o l

community and couldn't be prouder!

Pictured above are children from every class in school who had donated towards the appeal.

by Mrs Lawrenson

Inside View of T4U Shoebox appeal

On the morning of Friday 6th December, I went as a volunteer to the T4U Shoebox appeal factory in Wrexham. (see photo left) After seeing my mum take part through her work, I was eager to help and play my role too. Especially when she told me that, last year, T4U received 51,315 shoeboxes which needed sorting and distributing!

In the warehouse, T4U separates the boxes into ages 3-5, 6-11 and 12+. Packed into crates, these then go to different places: many going to cold places and some to warmer, so when making up a shoebox you have to make sure you add a variety of items!

My job was to assist with packing and adding fillers to the boxes. Staff at the warehouse were friendly and hardworking and it was a privilege to be part of such a worthwhile organisation for the day.

by Eliza Dodd, Year 6 Oracle Editor-in-Chief

More St Mary's School news on page 7



Happy New Year from the Playcentre!

Funded Early Education starts this term with our 3 year olds and we are looking forward to an exciting term on our theme this year of Jobs!

Last term we had a firefighter come out to talk to us. Nicky dressed up in all the Firefighter clothing and the children tried on the helmet! This term our visitors will include a nurse, a vet and visits out and about.



We had a very busy December which started with our Christmas Mash Up Play, where all the children joined in enthusiastically with singing, narrating and joining in with the actions andddd.... Whoosh it was gone!

And we were full on with the Christmas Tree Festival in St Mary's Church, see all the details on page 1.

We had a lovely Christmas Elevenses on December 11th with our Grandparents and older friends where the children sang Christmas songs, pulled crackers and had stories read to them by our visitors! (photos left & right) What with our Christmas Dinner with St Mary's School, the Toddler Christmas Service and our Evening of Christmas Stories where we were joined by a special friend, we had a very busy December!



Our new Maintenance Team have made a great start with doing the big shed roof as well as the kitchen work tops and we look forward to running several days in 2020 to carry on their amazing work!

January will be a quieter month from a fundraising perspective but our amazing group were hard at it with the table top sale and raffle in November raising nearly £700 for the Playcentre. Added to that were the baubles made up by the children, the reindeer food and the tombolas too!! The group came together to celebrate (as well as plan the next fundraising year!) with a Christmas get-together as well! As a charity we are always looking for help with running costs for many aspects of the Playcentre. All donations of craft, paper, cleaning materials gratefully received! If you have a few hours to spare do think about helping out we always have plenty of different things for volunteers to help with!

Musings from the Manse

by Rev'd Phillip Poole



I wonder if you saw in the news recently the story of how a gold hunter working in a Scottish river had discovered the UK's largest ever gold nugget. The exact location of the find has not been disclosed, but the nugget weighs about 4.2oz (or 121g) and is worth possibly as much as £80,000. To find a nugget like this one is very rare indeed, but sometimes valuable treasure can be discovered in an unexpected place.

For example, in the news even more recently has been the story of a safe left for scrap at a scrapyard in Suffolk. When the staff started cutting up the safe using hydraulic snippers, notes and coins began falling out of it. So they stopped and had a closer look and inside they found £20,000. They took it to the police but no one came forward to make a credible claim for it and now the scrapyard workers have been given the money back. They have very kindly donated it to 2 local hospices, just in time for Christmas, but what a surprise it must have been to find a treasure-trove like that in an old discarded safe.

In the early chapters of Luke's Gospel we read the story of a group of shepherds who found the King of Kings lying asleep in a manger. He had been born that evening in the less than comfortable setting of a stable in Bethlehem. Another priceless treasure discovered in an unusual and totally unexpected place.

Let me challenge you to begin properly looking into Jesus this Christmas, or in the New Year, because discovering him and experiencing the difference he can make in our lives is worth more than all the undiscovered treasure in the world. Through Jesus we can find forgiveness and peace of mind, we can know ourselves to be loved and accepted by God and we can find a meaning and a others. All of these things are worth much purpose for our lives in serving God and helping more than silver and gold. We might look at church and think that things there are too dull or old-fashioned for us to ever take an interest in them, but remember - sometimes there is real treasure just waiting to be found in the most unexpected of places.

Wish you all the best for Christmas and the New Year.
Phil Poole

Royal British Legion – Poppy Appeal

The RBL would like to thank all the Poppy Appeal collectors for their hard work and the community for your generosity in giving. The amount raised in the year up to November 11th 2019 was £3316.12 compared with £3315.17 for 2018. Given the special commemoration in 2018, 100 years after the end of WW1, the fact that the 2019 total was actually up by 95p was an amazing result.

Thanks also to everyone who turned out on Remembrance Sunday and participated in the service. More wreaths were laid than in recent memory; in addition to the Legion, Scout Group and Brownies, there were also wreaths from the Police, the Community Council and St Mary's School as well as the Community Growers, the WI and the Masonic Lodge. The Legion were also pleased to support the School at their service on Monday November 11th and lay a wreath for all those lost after 1945 to date.

Poppy ideas?



Ever since the memorable poppy installation in 2014 that surrounded the Tower of London, many communities have celebrated Remembrance Sunday by creating beautiful poppy craft ideas for their local church. St Mary's Church would like to invite you to a meeting in the Parish Room at 6.30pm on **Wednesday 15th January** to talk about ideas on how we can create a poppy tribute in aid of the British Legion in our lovely Parish Church, possibly by knitting, for the 2020 Remembrance Sunday.

We are looking for ideas and examples of other tributes, and more important, we are looking for volunteers and hope to see many many volunteers - young as well as not so young! Join us and, fingers crossed, for a successful venture.

Thank you very much, *Tracey Leech*

Distributor wanted

The Oracle is seeking a volunteer distributor for delivering Oracles to homes on Turning Street & Bangor Road. If you can help please contact Cynthia on 710658 or Jill on 710631 or email overtonoracle@gmail.com

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 on Dee W.I.



A big Thank You for the support of all those who came to our events this year; Coffee Morning, the Village Handicraft Show, The Produce Show and our Exhibition.

It is very much appreciated and we are looking forward to seeing everyone again in 2020.

Our first meeting of the New Year will be held on Thursday 16th January, at the Catholic Church Hall, 7.30pm.

Our Speaker will be Peter Dunhill with a humorous pictorial journal of walks and finds in Britain.

Guests and visitors are very welcome, at a cost of £4. including refreshments.

Another Banner

Last month's Oracle featured the work to create new village banners, now on display in the Parish Room. But Overton once had a much larger banner. Where is it now?

It is the banner of the Overton Branch of the Ancient Order of Foresters Friendly Society. In the days before the Welfare State, illness or injury at work could plunge a family into poverty and starvation. Life with no regular income meant having to beg in the streets or live in the workhouse. There was no state provision for the poor, so mutual aid organisations known as friendly societies were created in the 19th century to help families during difficult times. Members would contribute a small payment each month so that they could receive a lump sum payment in times of need.



The Overton Branch had a large banner and it can be seen in the background at the dedication of the War Memorial in 1921. The legend reads "HELP IN TIME OF NEED". It can also be seen in the background of the second photo taken in the Cocoa Rooms in the late 1950s where Brother William Haynes is installed as Chief Ranger by his father Edward Haynes.



So where is this magnificent banner now? It was last seen rolled up under the Village Hall stage. Is this piece of Overton history still there?

Winter update from Overton Community Council

Potholes and traffic calming are continuing issues for the village. Whilst some roads have received a complete overhaul (St Martins Road), others continue to be an issue (Wrexham Road potholes).

The consultation on libraries in the County of Wrexham has closed now, however a working party concentrating on Overton Library has been set up. The next meeting date will be advertised in the Oracle and Facebook. Please come along and join the working party to work together to ensure this valued facility remains open and thriving.

Each month we advise the local PCSO of any priorities which we like addressing. Let us know if you have any 'issues' you would like the PCSO to address, such as parking, dog fouling or speeding.

The members of Overton Community Council represent YOU. If you want to talk about any issue, please come along at 6.50pm, every second Tuesday of the month in the Parish Room (no meeting in August). We want to hear what you have to say.

Since the public toilets have been given a new lease of life we have received many positive comments about this amenity. Thanks must go to Sandy for her hard work and commitment. Thank you also to Tony for covering when Sandy is not available.

Twinning News

Our wheelbarrow of booze raffle was won by David & Rachel Harris. Because of its success, we are able to sponsor up to 4 French learners to join us on our trip to La Murette from 2 to 9 August this year. We have a party of 10 signed up at the moment, including children aged from 7 to 16. Our French twinningers are able to accommodate 22 to 24 visitors altogether, so please contact Sheila Miller on 710823 or Pam Roberts on 710094 for further information if you fancy joining us.

There will be a meeting at 22 High Street on Tuesday 14 January at 7.30pm for anyone interested.

Thank you

Many thanks to Overton Community Growers and the Overton Wildlife Group for all their hard work and time ensuring that all the beds and planters are cared for, producing an array of colour throughout the year and overseeing the wildflower areas and the bug hotel in and around the village.

Thank you to Eastwick Plant Centre and Knolton Nursery for their continued support and supply of plants for the village.

from *Overton Community Council*

The Village Hall

A public meeting on the future of Overton Village Hall was held on Tuesday 26th November. The meeting was well attended and there was a good response to the needs of the village hall going forward.

The Overton Recreational Club has formed the nucleus of a management committee and there have been volunteers to join them.

Mr Bill Grindley has joined the trustees and will be the next Chair. Anyone who left their details at the meeting will be contacted in the near future.

A big thank you to all who attended and took the time to show a desire for the village hall to continue and thrive into the future. If you couldn't attend and would like to be involved please contact Mr John McCusker who will be happy to hear from you.



Overton on Dee Community Growers

Well, a Happy New Year one and all from the Growers! A new year of growing and gardening for the Growers also begins! We would like to invite you to come and join us on our next Growers' **"Growing Together Community Gardening Day"** which will take place on **SUNDAY JANUARY 19th**. We are looking for volunteers to help us as we continue the next part of Phase 2 at the Car Park. No gardening experience needed. We can supply tools. Come and join us as we plant some soft fruit trees, lay more bark for the paths and continue generally preparing the area for the coming year. We have already planted some bulbs there so they should be making an appearance before too long! It isn't all heavy work. There are plenty of lighter gardening and tidying jobs available. Why not come along and join us and see what we are planning to do? **Meet at the Car Park at 2pm.**

Additionally, we have a couple of Mini Plots available which are adjacent to the Bowls Club. If the only thing holding you back is that you aren't sure about what or when to plant, we have our own experienced Plot Managers who can give plenty of advice and help on site. Please contact us if you are interested via Facebook or by e mail as below.

We have been hearing from many of you how much you like our Calendars. We know too that many of them have been wending their way to family and friends, some of them abroad. We thought it would be fun to find out how far our Calendars have travelled! Send any photographs of our Calendars 'in situ,' whether this be at Land's End, John O' Groats or even the Statue of Liberty or Uluru to us at the email address below and we'll let you know in next month's Oracle which ones went the furthest, (as the crow flies!)

Our Calendars are still on sale at the Corner Shop, M.E Evans Butcher, Home Farm, Lewis' Farm Shop and Two Doves Gift Shop. Price £6. Profits from them will help us to carry out more planting this coming year.

Send your Calendar photos to daveroberts100@aol.com

General enquiries and Plots to cathroberts100@aol.com

Please like and share our Facebook page, 'The Overton on Dee Community Growers', where you can also find updates on our work. We currently have 182 Followers but would like even more!

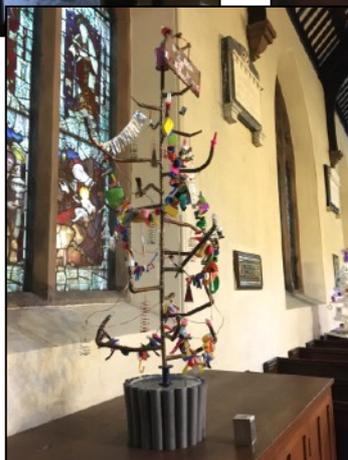


More news about 'Overton In Bloom 2020' coming soon!

Art/Craft Exhibition

Hi all you lovely Art and Craft folk of Overton. I know there are lots of talented people out there. It would be great to hear from you if you are interested in taking part in an Exhibition at St. Mary's Church on May 8th to 12th 2020. Items can be any medium of Art or Craft, painting, sculpture, textiles, wood, glass, photography, poetry etc. If you are interested to know more please give me a ring on 01978 711941 or 077800206. *June McLaughlin*

More photos from Overton Playcentre and St Marys Church Christmas Tree Festival



email: overtonoracle@gmail.com

Medals with a story

Over the last 5 years we have published stories of those Overton men who lost their lives during and after the first World War. But there were others whose lives were irrevocably affected. Some months ago Adrian Williams who lives in Northamptonshire, purchased some First World War medals and as a militaria enthusiast, began researching whose medals they were. He contacted the Oracle when he discovered an Overton connection.

The medals belonged to William Martindale whose last home was in Salop Road, Overton. His father was Tobias Martindale, headmaster of Penley Madras School, and his mother Catherine was senior schoolmistress. They lived in the school house there and Adrian was delighted when the Oracle was able to supply him with a photo of the family when they were guests at the opening of Overton on Dee station at Lightwood Green in the 1890s. (photo right) On retirement from the school the Martindales came to live in Salop Road, Overton.



In 1904 William joined the navy as an Engine Room Artificer and Adrian researched his service records. Most notable was William's time on HMS Grafton



which served in the Gallipoli Campaign from July 1915. *Grafton* carried out shore bombardment during the landing at Suvla Bay and the Battle of Sari Bair in August 1915. She was struck by Turkish shells off Suvla on 12 August, killing nine of her crew. *Grafton* helped to cover the evacuations from Anzac Cove on 20 December 1915 and from Cape Helles in January 1916 and was later awarded the battle honour "DARDANELLES, Feb 1915 - Jan 1916" for her service off Gallipoli. From 1916 to 1918 William was part of the Dover Patrol on Patrol Boat 021 hunting U boats in the Channel.

William left the navy in 1926, coming to live with his widowed mother and wife Edith, in Salop Road. But all those years working in coal fired engine rooms on so many ships had had an affect on his health. Just 2 years later aged 48, he died of "carcinoma of the lungs". He is buried with his parents in Overton Cemetery. It is amazing how the purchase of such a small item on ebay can tell a story of our village in the past.

St Mary's School Christmas Nativity

On the 11th and 12th December, St Mary's School put on a classic Christmas carol concert in St Mary's Church. Lots of favourite traditional Christmas songs were included, such as: 'Ding Dong Merrily on High', 'Little Donkey', and 'We Three Kings'.



With a full church, many parents came to support the wonderful

concert, and watch their children shine. Each class had a story to tell, from there being no room at the inn to the birth of baby Jesus.

Thanks to the wonderful staff members for their dedication in putting the show together and to our musical maestro, Mrs Joyce Davies, who accompanied us so beautifully on the piano. Thank you everyone who participated and attended the concert; it was a brilliant show which we really enjoyed performing in!

by Year 6 Editor in Chief, Eliza Dodd and Roving Reporter, Sophie Hughes.

Nursery and Reception preparing for their Christmas show



What's On

January Diary for St Mary's Services

Sunday January 5th 10.00am All Age Worship
 Sunday January 12th 11.00am Holy Communion
 Sunday January 19th 11.00am Family Communion
 Sunday January 26th 11.00am Holy Communion

January Diary for Overton Methodist Chapel

Sunday January 5th 6.30pm Rev Neville Pugh,
 Holy Communion & Covenant Service
 Sunday January 12th 6.30pm Mrs Naomi Squire
 Sunday January 19th 6.30pm Mr Nigel Burns
 Sunday January 26th 6.30pm Mr Tim Guy
 Craft Class 1.30pm each Tuesday
 Mothers & Toddlers 9.30-11.30am each Friday
 Bible Study 7pm each Friday

Tuesday January 7th 10am-12pm Post Office Parish Room

Wednesday January 8th 10.30am Overton British Legion meeting at the Scout Hut. All welcome.

Wednesday January 8th 12.30pm Overton Lunch Club at the White Horse. To book please ring 01978 710672.

Tuesday January 14th 10am-12pm Post Office Parish Room

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

Wednesday January 15th 6.30pm Poppy ideas meeting in the Parish Room

Thursday January 16th 7.30pm Overton WI meeting at the Catholic Church Hall. Our Speaker will be Peter Dunhill on walks and finds in Britain

Sunday January 19th 2pm 'Growing Together' Community Gardening Day. Meet at the Car Park.

Tuesday January 21st 10am-12pm Post Office Parish Room

Tuesday January 28th 10am-12pm Post Office Parish Room

Wednesday January 29th 7.30pm The Maelor Music Society present pianist Ignius Polinkonis in Maelor School Hall

Thursday January 30th 7pm-9pm Psychic medium Lesley Davies at the Rainbow Centre. Tickets £15

Saturday February 8th 7.00 for 7.30pm The Twinning Association Wine Tasting and Buffet in the Scout Hut

Sunday February 9th 2.00pm-4.30pm Parade 2020 Launch Party in Overton Village Hall

OVERTON'S DUSTBIN DAYS

Garden waste collections are **monthly** during January and February.

Reducing garden waste collections in these months was brought in last year as the demand then drops sharply. It also allows WCBC to free up staff to help deal with any issues caused by the winter, such as gritting.

Friday Jan 3rd General Waste & Recycling / food

Thursday Jan 9th General Waste & Recycling / food

Thursday Jan 16th Garden Waste & Recycling / food

Thursday Jan 23rd General Waste & Recycling / food

Thursday Jan 30th Recycling / food only

All articles & advertisements in the Overton Oracle are published in good faith & without prejudice. Space constraints mean that submitted articles may be edited or not published. Please be mindful that personal details submitted will be available on the internet.

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Family Announcements



Belated congratulations to Jazz Grindley and Luke Mannion on their wedding on November 2nd.

Happy January Birthdays to Mary Jones, Alice and Victoria O'Brien, Micki Blair, Jim Eastop, Kyle Stubbert Pugh, Raymond Austin, Nathan Ryan Tombs, Poppy Bateman Green, Jack Pritchard, Karen Pritchard, Lucy Edwards, Karen Jones Roberts and Russell Jones.



Sincere condolences to the family and friends of Jayne Sorfleet who passed away in December.
 Sincere condolences to the family and friends of John Austin who passed away in December.

Overton Royal British Legion 120 Club

Results of the "120 Club" Bonus Draw for December. 112 members entered and the draw was made at the White Horse Lunch Club on 11th Dec. by Joan Brown.

Winners each receive £56 -

No 98 Steve Roberts	No 13 Walter Roberts
No 46 Eleanor Gooding	No 22 Howard Jones
No 87 Sara Jane Bangay	No 82 Terry Ellis
No 109 Lilian Edge	No 3 Hazel Blackwell
No 49 Vonnice Bamber	No 80 Julie Birrel

Legion Fund: £0

CONGRATULATIONS

Next Draw: Wednesday January 8th 2019

A number of places are now available. If you wish to join please ring DAVE AUSTIN on 01978 710678.

Overton Lunch Club



is on **Wednesday January 8th** at 12.30pm at the White Horse.

A choice of a two-course menu all for £8.95.

To book ring 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

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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, Jenny Bellis, Gwynneth Austin & John Herbert.

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