

The Overton Oracle

Volume 23 Issue 1

January 2021

Overton's Free Newspaper - delivered to every household monthly for 22 years



Happy New Year to all our Oracle Readers & Distributors

Overton is subject to all Wales Covid-19 alert Level 4 (very high risk) restrictions from Dec. 20th. Levels will be reviewed on January 15th.

Thank you

A huge thanks to Nick and Josh from Bebbington and Wilson for putting up the village Christmas tree & lights and a big thank you to Eastwick Plants for supplying the Christmas tree.



Happy New Year from Overton Community Council

Thank you

Thank you to everyone who has dropped off crisp packets at the recycling point next to the Cheese Machine this year. With a shipment ready to go, we should easily have reached over £100 in January.

Covid card

In a statement Vaughan Gething said: "Those receiving a COVID-19 vaccination will be given a credit card-sized NHS Wales immunisation card which will have the vaccine name, date of immunisation and batch number of each of the doses given handwritten on them. "These will act as a reminder for a 2nd dose and for the type of vaccine, and it will also give information about how to report side effects."

The Covid Vaccination

British media is excitedly reporting the commencement of the Pfizer Covid (SARS-CoV-2) vaccination programme.

Unfortunately, much of the media coverage is about England and many people in Wales can be excused for believing that the Covid vaccine will be available through their GP. This is only happening in England and only through GP surgeries that have signed up to an NHS England Direct Enhanced Service.



In Wales, Welsh Government/NHS Wales, have decided not to offer the Covid vaccine through GPs. We understand that in North Wales there will be delivery at three hospital sites and eleven other vaccination centres.

Patients should expect to be contacted directly by NHS Wales and in accordance with their priority determined by age and vulnerability to Covid. Please do not contact Overton Medical Practice with any query concerning the Covid vaccination as our team are not informed and will not be able to assist you.

Meanwhile, we are very pleased to confirm that there has been a strong uptake of our flu vaccination programme and we are grateful to our patients for attending in good time for their appointment and cooperating with a Covid 19 procedures.

The staff at Overton Medical Practice send their Season's best wishes to all, and are looking forward to a happier 2021.

Coming together at Christmas

A big thank you to everyone who helped create the life-size Nativity scene in St Mary's Church, at such short notice, less than 3 weeks! It was wonderful example of everyone coming together to create something beautiful and meaningful in our parish church.

Thank you especially to Tracey Leech and Sam Bateman-Green for organising, to Catherine & John Eve, Roz Edwards, Janet Edwards, Amy Caswell, Jude Mouldsdale, Kay Lawrenson & St Mary's School, Rachel Harris & Overton Playgroup Alice Murray, June McLaughlin and the ladies of Overton-on-Dee WI.

Right: The angel watches over Mary, Joseph and the baby in the manger



Left: The shepherds follow the star



Right: the Magi arrive with their camel



Overton Playcentre News

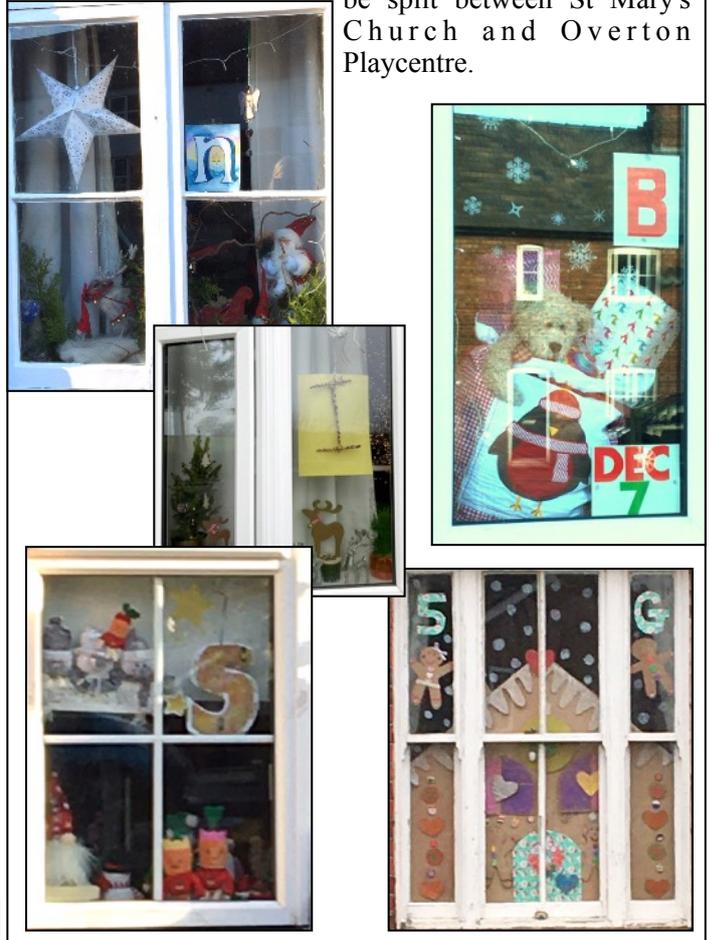
What an amazing team!! So proud of all our staff who gave up their Tuesday evenings for weeks before lockdown to complete their Entry and some their Foundation Level Learn Welsh Camau Course!!!

Congratulations all of you!
(photo right of certificates)



Did you find the Advent Windows?

Did you find the letters of Overton's Community Advent Calendar displayed in windows around the village in December? Funds raised from completing the trail will be split between St Mary's Church and Overton Playcentre.



St Mary's Before and After School Club have worked hard to produce the most beautiful decorations, (See photo left)



and with all the current restrictions, Father Christmas himself managed a socially distanced visit to the children at the Playcentre.

Christmas kindness

A week before Christmas I had a message telling me a surprise was coming my way, I would probably need a coat and a seat, My surprise appeared it was 3 young ladies and a very entertaining little one all dressed in Christmas hats and lights and a little elf also with lights. I had my own personal little carol show and the little elf sang 'Rudolph The Red Nose Reindeer' and jingled her jingle bells. They brought a hamper and a copy of Myra's Christmas Carol Service and read out a personal poem for me! Carol whose idea it was, could not come because she was not well and so Janene, her daughters George and Aniela and a friend of George came around and certainly made me feel very happy and made me feel humbled to think they had gone to all that effort to make a Christmas for me. This is my one big way of saying thank you. Overton is a wonderful place to live with lots of thoughtful kind people. Thank you so much.

Myra Worthington

A photo of Janene, George and Aniela before they arrived on my doorstep



SIMON BAYNES MP
Clwyd South



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

9th December 2020

Dear Poppy Knitting Army,

I am writing to congratulate you on your recent achievement of knitting and crocheting poppies to mark Remembrance Day, such an important time of year.

I was impressed to hear that members of the community had come together to create 3,000 red and purple poppies for display in St Mary the Virgin Church in Overton-on-Dee. This is a remarkable way to remember and honour the servicemen, servicewomen and animals who lost their lives for our freedom – so thank you.

Creating this display has not only been a way for you to commemorate our heroes, but also raise money for good causes – I know that the Royal British Legion, the War Horse charity and also the church will benefit from the money raised.

Once again, I would like to offer many thanks for your efforts. I hope you have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. In the meantime, if there is anything you need, or anything that I can help you with, please don't hesitate to get in touch – I would be happy to help in any way that I can.

Kind regards,

Simon

Musings from the Manse

by Rev'd Phillip Poole



Dear friends,

As I write Christmas is a week away, and the sense of anticipation is finally beginning to build. We haven't been able to enjoy nativities and carol services this year, but hopefully even so we have been reminded of the Christmas story and had an opportunity to reflect on the great love which led Jesus to come into our world and to offer himself as our Saviour.

We marvel at the faith of Mary and her willingness to serve God in whatever way he chose, and the faithfulness of Joseph as he stood by her. Like the shepherds on the Bethlehem hillside we are amazed to hear that God has sent his Son to open the doors of heaven to ordinary people, just like you and I. And like the Wise Men we want to bring our gifts, gifts of love and caring and time and talents, and offer them to the new-born King of Kings. I remember as a child being shocked by the idea that there was no room for Jesus and his family in Bethlehem. So I hope now that we are all able to make room for Jesus in our Christmas and in our lives this coming year.

This year the Methodist Church is proclaiming "God is with Us!" and sharing stories of how God has been with people from many different walks of life as they have endured all the difficulties that the pandemic has brought. You can hear these by visiting the Finding Our Hope website: <https://findingourhope.co.uk/> Hearing other people tell of their experiences reminds us that we are not alone. Rather, we are part of a great worldwide family, and all of us are held and loved by God our Father.

We might catch a glimpse of 'God with Us' in the kind things others do for us. Equally God is with us when we do kind and loving things for others, and the difficult months of lockdown and restrictions continue to present us with opportunities to show our concern for others in practical ways. The Finding Our Hope website offers visitors the chance to share their own stories - so how might you share how God has been with you this week and in the last year?

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year,
Phil Poole

Overton Methodist Church

New Year Resolution please

The Oracle has received more comments about the recent increase in dog fouling of the pavements in the village.

There is no excuse. There is a new Pop Bottle Dog Poo Bag Dispenser put up on a post at the Wrexham Road entrance to the Millennium Meadow. Thank you very much Kayleigh Cheshire for designing and making this new dispenser. Let us hope it will be as well used as all the other ones in the village. And that all dog owners will make a resolution to "pick it up" this New Year.



Overton-on-Dee W.I. News

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

When our W.I. was invited to help with a nativity scene at St. Mary's, little did we know what an adventure it would be! All the obvious difficulties, such as not being able to work closely together as a group, and having to plan most things via text and email, made it seem an almost impossible task.

Luckily a member just happened to have a statue in her garden which had been there since the 1992 flower festival for the visit of the Queen, and had lived there ever since surrounded by ducks and hens – and we were off! Our Virgin Mary was carefully transported to another member's garage where she was tidied up, painted, and fitted out with bespoke clothing made from sheets and duvet covers.

Another member created a kneeling shepherd with chicken wire and papier mache, showing pictures of the process on our WhatsApp Group. Part way through the making, he was photographed drying out on the Aga, looking more like a very strange alien-being at that particular stage.

(photo right: the shepherd gets a lift to church)



Another member loaned her 60 year old doll, which we dressed as a child shepherd. We carefully transported all our offerings to the church, wondering how everything was going to look and how it could possibly work as a Nativity Scene when so many other groups from the Village were working separately on their particular contribution. We needn't have worried. The organisers and their team had done the seemingly impossible – created a wonderful Nativity of which Overton can be proud. A true example of what our village community can do – thank you to all involved.

One thing this strange year has taught us is that there is always a way to make good things happen with a bit of ingenuity. Our Members have been able to keep in touch in ways we never thought necessary or even possible and Zoom has proved to be a great way of holding our monthly Meetings. We were entertained at our December Meeting by David Allen, a public speaker from London, who regaled us with the suitably festive history of Charles Dickens. A wonderful evening, enjoyed by all.

Our Meetings will continue each month as usual, our next being on Thursday January 21st. If you would like to experience the evening with us, please let me know, you are most welcome. Our Speaker will be David Drury talking about 'Food Glorious Food – A history of British Classics and Dining Habits'.

Thanks again to all our wonderful local businesses, and we would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy, healthier 2021.

Margaret O'Neill,
President Overton-on-Dee W.I.
Tel: 01978 710451



St Mary's School Nursery Sessions

2021

Nursery education is offered on the basis of two and a half hour sessions, five times per week, during the 2021/2022 school year.

When and how can I apply?

From January 4, 2021 you can apply for a nursery school place for your child. Places are open to children who will have reached the age of three by August 31st 2021.

Our prospectus can be viewed on:

<https://stmarys-overton-pri.wrexham.sch.uk/about-us/prospectus/>

You can apply online through the Wrexham County Borough Council website, search for Nursery Admissions - this is the quickest and easiest way to apply. You will also get an email letting you know your application has been received. Alternatively paper applications are available by emailing: admissions@wrexham.gov.uk. The closing date for applications is February 19th, 2021

Overton Cemetery

May we request that any relatives of John Scott (passed away 15th July 1919, Sarah Scott (who passed away 21st August 1934) and Elena Scott (who passed away 3rd July 1948) contact the Clerk to Overton Community Council to discuss the maintenance work which is required as the headstone appears to be unsafe.

If no relatives come forward it will be necessary for Overton Community Council to lay the headstones down. Thank you.

Katrina Chalk

Clerk to Overton Community Council

01978 710055 clerk@overton-on-dee.co.uk

Overton Community Council Update

We are pleased to announce that the new public toilet next to the Playing field is now open to members of the public. This new facility has a baby changing unit and is wheelchair accessible.



We hope the addition of this facility will be appreciated by all the families, carers and walkers who use the playground and millennium meadow.

The bench on the A528 Wrexham road on the approach to the village has been left



in a state of disrepair over a number of years.

After consultation your Community Council has adopted the ownership and future maintenance of the bench.

The bench will be removed shortly for renovation and then will reinstate once it has been restored.

Paul Ashton Vice Chairman
Overton-On-Dee Community Council.



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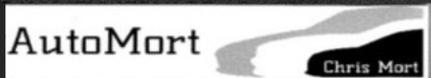
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Overton-On-Dee

Wrexham

The Bible Course – by the Bible Society

Whether you're well versed in Scripture or new to the Bible, *The Bible Course* offers a superb overview of the world's best-selling book. The course will equip you to read the Bible better and help you to see its relevance to daily life. Over eight interactive sessions, it combines video teaching, group discussion, personal reflection and daily readings. Meeting people in groups, where everyone shares their thoughts and experiences, lies at the heart of *The Bible Course* as everyone learns from each other. A typical session includes:

- Welcome from the Course host
- 15-minute teaching video
- 25-minute discussion time
- 15-minute teaching video
- 10-minute personal reflection to finish
- Daily readings between sessions

We're planning to run *The Bible Course* on Zoom in the new year – on either Wednesday or Thursday evenings. Would you like to get involved? Come and find out more about the Bible and see how it all fits together. Come and see the bigger picture!

Contact Revd Peter Mackriell revpeter@maelormissionarea.uk or 01978 710294

New Lights

As reported in last months Oracle by Cllr John McCusker, work has now been carried out to covert Overton's street lights to LED.



Community Chest Grant

Overton Community Council still has some money available from the Community Chest Grant. If your organisations would like to be considered for a grant, please contact the Clerk at the address below.

The closing date for applications is 31st January 2021.

Please note; any successful applicants from November 2020, will not be eligible to apply for the grant.

- Funds available for grants are limited and there can be no guarantee of a grant being offered in any particular case.
- Grants may be made towards the setting-up of a new local organisation, providing the Community Council is satisfied that a proper constitution exists and that the organisation has adopted a programme of fund-raising events for at least one year.
- Please note that grants will normally be capped at £500, however applications above this amount will be considered on an individual basis.

Should you have any questions or concerns please contact Mrs Katrina Chalk, Clerk to Overton Community Council Email: clerk@overton-on-dee.co.uk Tel: 01978



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New Patients Welcome

Register to Vote by Post

Councils throughout Wales are encouraging people who are eligible to vote to register for a postal vote. Anyone can apply to vote by post. You don't need to give a reason.

In 2021 there will be the Welsh Senedd elections on May 4th to elect 60 members to the Welsh Parliament. For many people, a postal vote is the most suitable alternative as it is an easy and convenient way of voting - especially if you don't want to visit a polling station or might struggle to get there on the day. You can apply to vote by post for a single election, for a specific period of time or permanently.

You can find out more and apply on line on website <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/apply-for-a-postal-vote>

or you can also contact the electoral services team at Wrexham CBC by calling 01978 292020

Thank you

Richard, Gareth Jones and family would like to sincerely thank all the friends, family and villagers who have shown their immense kindness and support during their recent sad times. All the true sincerity and thoughts really do help and means such a lot. Our parents were amazingly kind people and huge supporters of village life and we believe their contributions will be sorely missed throughout the community. God bless them. Many thanks to you all.

Thank you to everyone who visited the Poppy display in St Mary's Church. We are so grateful you all took the time to visit, especially with the Covid restrictions. Donations from the main bucket were £377.42, half to the Royal British Legion and half to St Mary's Church.. The War Horse Memorial bucket raised £113.45, all of which went to the charity. Fingers crossed next year we can do the same again.



Overton Royal British Legion 120 Club

Results of the "120 Club" Bonus Draw for December 2020. 120 members entered and the draw was made on December 9th 2020. Winning numbers were selected by the 'Random Number Generator'.

For the Bonus Draw there are 10 winners each receiving £60. Winners: -

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| No 15. Keith Fowles. | No 89. Heather Davies. |
| No 55. Tim Hill. | No 112. Rhys Vaughan. |
| No 58. Ron Upton. | No 50. Beverley Wood. |
| No 57. Les Thomas. | No 49. Yvonne Bamber. |
| No 9. Jason Bostock. | No 16. Gwynneth Austin |

CONGRATULATIONS

Next Draw will be January 13th 2020

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

Please Note: THE RBL "120 CLUB" DRAW WILL CONTINUE TO TAKE PLACE EACH MONTH DURING THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS.

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Christmas With a Difference at St Mary's School

Usually, at St Mary's, December would be a busy time for teachers and pupils, as we come together as a whole school to create a Christmas play to perform in front of proud families and friends at St Mary's Church. We knew that this year would be different due to the rules surrounding COVID but that didn't hold us back and we decided, instead, to film individual and unique Christmas performances in each Year-group 'bubble', so that we could still share the joy of Christmas with our families. Nursery and Reception children opted for a sing-along of some Christmas favourites, whilst Year 1 and 2 got busy painting their own backdrops for a retelling of the Nativity. Whilst the filming of the Nativity had to be postponed, with Year 1 and 2 moving to home learning in the last week of term, this didn't stop the festive fun. The children got together online instead and had a sing-along of the songs they'd been working so hard on in school. It included family favourites such as 'Little Donkey' and 'Away in a Manger' which was then topped off by a Makaton signed version of Louie Armstrong's 'Wonderful World'. Mrs Lawrenson said it was a heart-warming experience seeing the pupils faces as they sang along together on screen. Reuben told us about his experience in Year 2: "We had lots of fun. If you were Helper Heddiw you got to open the Advent calendar. This made me feel happy. My favourite part was doing the play."



Year 3 filmed a Christmas singing extravaganza for parents to watch, with classics 'Away in a Manger', 'This Little Light of Mine' and 'Merry Christmas Everyone' by Shakin' Stevens; there was a lot of dancing in that one!

For their Christmas concert, Year 4 wrote their own Christmas poem and prayer to perform. They also learnt two new songs, 'The Twelve Days of Christmas' and 'Silent Night'. Some fantastic news too that Year 4 pupils, Grace, Riley and Ffion, who entered Bishop Gregory's Christmas Card drawing competition, have all been awarded highly commended certificates for their designs! Well done!



Year 5 filmed a presentation for their parents and families on the subject of 'Christmas around the World'; it uncovered some fascinating and bizarre traditions, such as Sweden's festive obsession with Donald Duck and an Italian Christmas which represents Santa!



Year 6 created an extra special performance this year, departing from the usual Nativity and opting for a recreation of the Christmas Truce of 1914. They used green screen technology to bring to life the war-torn landscape of the trenches of World War 1 and the poignant events of Christmas that year. Year 6 parents were extremely impressed by the fantastic performances which included some impressive accents! The story also brought home the true meaning of Christmas and how it can unite people in even the hardest of times. Tigs told the audience: "It was a hopeful moment of recognition of common humanity... The Christmas truce of 1914 shows us that the Christmas story is so powerful that it can stop war in its tracks - even if only briefly - and that the things that unite us as human beings are stronger than the things which divide us." Take a look at our school website for the link to watch the film.



Pupils were also very grateful to members of St Mary's Church who provided all pupils with the items needed to make their own Christingles – keeping alive this wonderful tradition which reminds us that Jesus is the Light of the World. We hope everyone has a wonderful Christmas and a New Year of good fortune.



by Year 6 Reporters Jess, Tigs and Tom.

What's On**January Diary for St Mary's & St Hilary's Services**

Sunday Jan 3rd 10.00 Age Worship 11.00 Holy Communion
 Sunday Jan 10th 11.00 Holy Communion 9.45 Morning Prayer
 Sunday Jan 17th 11.00 Morning Prayer 9.45 Holy Communion
 Sunday Jan 24th 11.00 Holy Communion 9.45 Morning Prayer
 Sunday Jan 31st 11.00 Holy Communion 9.45 Holy Communion

January Diary for Overton Methodist Chapel

Sunday January 3rd 2.30pm Rev'd Neville Pugh
 Sunday January 10th 2.30pm Rev. Phillip Poole - Covenant Service

Sunday January 17th 2.30pm Mr Martin Woodhall
 Sunday January 24th 2.30pm Deacon Lisa Rathbone
 Sunday January 31st 2.30pm Rev'd Richard Parkes
 Anyone wanting confirmation that a particular service is going ahead should contact Rev Poole on 01978 860877

Tuesday January 12th 6.50pm Overton Community Council held remotely via 'GoToMeeting'. If members of the public would like to "attend" they should contact Katrina Chalk on clerk@overton-on-dee.co.uk for log in details. Members of the public wishing to speak 6.50pm-7.00pm.

Make a New Year resolution - support our local businesses!

Please contact the business or check their Facebook page or website for latest opening hours.

The White Horse Facebook: "The White Horse Inn Overton" or Tel: Kathy on 07833 461207

Overton Recreational Club has a Facebook page of the same name

Two Doves Coffee Shop Tel: 01978 710310 or website <https://www.2doves.co.uk>

Overton Fish & Chip Shop Open 12 - 8 Mon to Sat

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The Corner Shop Tel: 01978 710279 or Facebook page 'TheCornerShopOverton'

M.E. Evans Butchers Tel: 01978 710342 or website www.meevans.co.uk

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The Post Office Tel: 01978 594459

Overton Library Tel: Rebecca on 01978 710557

Rowlands Pharmacy Tel: 01978 710241

Home Farm Overton Tel: 01978 710141 or website <https://homefarmoverton.co.uk>

Ego Xcentric Tel: 01978 710100

Rainbow Meals on Wheels Two-course dinner and teatime pack. Tel: 01948 830730 to order.

Stans Superstore Mon - Saturday open from 7am. Sunday 10am-4pm. For delivery ring 01691 772348.

Family Announcements

Congratulations to Eileen and Wullie Drysdale on their 60th Wedding Anniversary on the 28th January. Love from all the family



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 Ron Towers who passed away in December.

Sincere condolences to the family and friends of Sally Malam who passed away in December.

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**Congratulations**

Congratulations to The Boat at Erbistock who have been voted **New Pub Of The Year** by the Good Pub Guide.

Dustbin Days

Thursday Jan 7th *Garden Waste & Recycling / food*
 Thursday Jan 14th *General Waste & Recycling / food*
 Thursday Jan 21st *Recycling / food waste only*
 Thursday Jan 28th *General Waste & Recycling / food*

PLEASE REMEMBER

Copy deadline is 20th of the previous month.

Get your events & news to us early to avoid disappointment

THIS INCLUDES ADVERTISEMENTS

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