

The Overton Oracle



Volume 24 Issue 1

January 2022

Overton's Free Newspaper - delivered to every household monthly for 23 years

Happy New Year to all our Oracle Readers & Distributors



Happy New Year

To mark the occasion of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, it has been decided to move the fete (usually the last Saturday in June) so it will take place on that weekend also. So, for 2022 the date of the Overton Village Fete will be **Saturday 4th June**. There will be lots of other activities during the period of the Jubilee holiday weekend, and to help with the planning of these activities, we'll set up a Jubilee working party. These are going to be fabulous community events and so it would be fantastic to have as many members of the community involved to help with their organisation. Please let Charlotte Copeman know if you can help ccopeman@overton-on-dee.co.uk and she'll be in touch. Here's to 2022 being a fantastic year for us all. *Overton Community Council*



Congratulations

Congratulations to Overton business

'Giggles & Games' who have won the Best Wedding Entertainment in the North Wales 2021 Wedding Awards. Well done!



Thank you to the OCC and all those who decorated their houses with Christmas lights, and brought fun and joy to the village.

Photos on the Oracle website
www.overtonoracle.com

Bread for the Prime Minister

The founder of Overton's award winning bakery and bread school had the opportunity in December to showcase her products to the Prime Minister.

Liz Wilson, of Ma Baker, was one of 12 businesses invited to attend the Downing Street Festive Food and Drink market in December. Her products were declared "marvellous" by Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who had the opportunity to taste Ma Baker's award winning porridge bread. Other cabinet ministers attending included Kwasi Kwarteng, George Eustace, Jacob Rees Mogg and Anne-Marie Trevelyan.



Congratulations to Ben

Congratulations to Overton butcher Ben Roberts from M. E. Evans Traditional Butchers, Overton, who was awarded the bronze medal in a tense Butchery WorldSkills UK final.

Just one point separated the top four butchers following two days of competition at Reaseheath College, Nantwich. The competition focused on the essential skills required for a successful career as a multi-skilled butcher within the food manufacturing industry. They were tested for overall skill, innovation, creativity, presentation, work ethic, method and approach to tasks, carcass and primal utilisation, waste and safe and hygienic working practice.



Ben is a member of the Craft Butchery Team Wales squad who will be competing at the World Butchers Challenge in Sacramento, USA in September 2022.

Coming Soon - - -

Penyllan House and the adjoining shop premises had been vacant and in a state of disrepair for a number of years. The shop has been many businesses, a malt kiln, a Post Office, a Grocers & Corn merchants, a fish & chip shop and most recently a hairdressers. Having purchased this beautiful house and shop in April 2018, we always planned to bring the shop back into use, once the major works to this house were completed.

I'm pleased to say that the net curtains will finally be taken down and Willow & Wren will be opening at the end of January 2022. I will be selling homeware, garden and handmade items. An additional retail space will hopefully be opening in the coming months.

Details of the opening date, website and opening times to follow.

I look forward to seeing you in the New Year and hope that you will love it as much as I do.

Ruth Hamer Willow & Wren



Overton Wildlife Pond

We'd like to say a big thank you to Wildbanks Conservation for creating the lovely new pond on the edge of the village, and to the private landowner who gave us permission to create the pond. It's estimated we have lost around 70%



of ponds in the last 100 years, making it vital we create new ponds to replace them. The pond has been created with deeper areas to provide winter hibernation spots for wildlife away from ice and frost, and shallow banks to encourage growth of aquatic plants. The pond hasn't been lined as liners are made of plastic and need replacing periodically. Instead, the pond level will naturally fluctuate between summer and winter, which can create interesting niches for many plants and insects. At their last volunteer day, our volunteer group helped plant over 700 marginal plants, including water mint, yellow flag



iris and water forget-me-not. Aquatic plants will soon be added to help oxygenate the water. We are not adding fish as these predate smaller wildlife such as dragonflies and newts, making the pond less suitable for these species.

A Big Thank You

We would like to thank the many people who helped make the Overton Wildlife Project a success. Thank you to the Overton Community Growers, the Overton Community Council, the Overton Bowls Club, the Wrexham Refugee Council, the International Drop in, Unicorn Travel, Wildbanks Conservation, Talon Nest Boxes, Tim Rosselli, St Mary's School, St Mary's Church, Overton Playcentre, the Overton Oracle and the many volunteers that took part in the project.

Katie Piercy

Overton Playcentre News

We had a lovely Saturday morning in St Mary's Church when families came to take part with their children. Many of the children came to the front of the Church and sang to all their parents, others stayed snuggled into their families and joined in singing there! It was such a very special time for all of us even more so than in past times. I certainly had to dry an eye or two at times especially when one little girl cuddled baby Jesus when we were singing Away in a Manger and I wasn't the only one!



We all enjoyed mince pies, drinks and biscuits afterwards with a lucky dip for the children too! Huge thanks to Nicky and all the staff for making this event happen but also for the fantastic staff turn out on the day!

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Next Year 2022 Activities Grants

We have been successful in getting 2 activities grants

St Mary's Clwb SK Cobras will be coming every Monday for an hour to do Mixed Martial Arts with Clwb children. We also have booked sessions with Fiona Collins' Storyteller and Ceri Wright, Ceramic Artist to look forward to.



Overton Playcentre Baby and Toddler Group at the Village Hall

We are so glad to be back with our toddler group in the village hall on Tuesday mornings. Huge thanks to Raschelle for her amazing voluntary work in keeping this group together and getting it set up in the village hall! We have such fun singing with messy play too! To come along please book via Facebook group.

Early Education (EE) for all our 3 yr olds starts in January 2022

Many of you will be aware of the huge changes in the Welsh curriculum. These are coming in for Non-Maintained settings like us in January 2023. So this year we are working hard to prepare for these changes. Loose parts play is a key part of these changes and we are looking to introduce this into the setting outside and inside, using lots more sustainable natural materials and colours and less plastic 'one use only' toys. We are very excited about the direction that the new curriculum is taking and as we continue on our journey, we look forward to exploring it together with parents and children and working together on this! However the curriculum remains the same in 2022 for all our rising 3 yr olds and we look forward to running our EE sessions with our children next term!



Musings from the Manse

by Rev'd. Phillip Poole

The story is sometimes told of a young boy, back in the 1970s, who longed to see the circus. The admission price was £1 – a lot of money in those days, but the boy's parents could see how excited he had become reading the posters that had gone up around the town, so they decided to treat him.

On the day the circus was due to arrive in town they gave their son a brand new, crisp pound note, and told him, "Now you will be able to see the circus." The boy was more excited than ever.

In the early afternoon the distant sound of music alerted them to the fact that the circus had arrived. The performers were parading into town past the end of the road, and the boy ran out of the house, clutching his pound, to join the crowds which had gathered. First came dancing elephants, and fierce lions and tigers, glowering through the bars of their cages. Then came the clowns driving their rickety-ramshackle old car. Then came jugglers with dangerous looking knives and lighted firebrands. These were followed by gymnasts spinning and tumbling along the road, and a lion tamer, dressed like Tarzan and cracking a whip. Then came the circus band, playing on trumpets and trombones, horns and clarinets, with the big bass drum keeping time.

The boy's eyes shone as he gazed at the gripping spectacle. He had never seen anything like this before, and grandest of all was the circus ringmaster, who proudly followed the parade, doffing his big top hat to the crowds. As the ringmaster came within reach the boy ran forward and pressed his £1 note into the ringmaster's hand. "Thanks mister, what a great circus!" he said, and turned for home, happy as he could be to have seen the circus at last. But of course he had only seen the parade. He didn't know it, but the main event was still to come. He had seen the parade, but he missed the circus...

As I write Christmas is just over a week away, and I know that right now everyone is looking forward excitedly to its arrival. Most of us will enjoy some holiday time, presents will be exchanged, family visits will be made, and there will be lots of good food to be eaten. I am absolutely all for people enjoying Christmas – especially now, after another year of Covid disruptions, and after last Christmas got more or less cancelled at the last moment. You deserve a really great Christmas – but please don't miss the main event! Santa, and reindeer, and snowy Christmas card scenes are just part of the preamble. And so are the special meals, the presents, the parties, the family visits – as welcome and as important as they all are. What the season is really all about is the coming of Christ into the world; God sending his Son to be our Saviour.

I really hope your Christmas is all you want it to be, and that the Omicron strain and new restrictions won't prevent any of us from sharing precious time with family and friends. I just want to encourage you to make Christ part of your Christmas, by being in church over the Christmas period, or perhaps by singing a carol together before Christmas dinner at home. Perhaps you could pause for a few moments to remember the Christmas story, and to thank God for the precious gift at the heart of Christmas. Because unless you do, you'll be missing the real point of Christmas entirely - seeing the parade but, sadly, missing the circus.

May God's blessing be with you and those you love this Christmas and in the New Year.

Best wishes,
Phil Poole.



Country Beat

by PCSO Dean Sawyer

Covid Scam advice from N W Police.

We have become aware of the following scam and phishing emails that are currently circulating and linked to the latest Covid variant, Omicron. The scam email begins

"Get Your Free Omicron PCR today to avoid restrictions" and then asks you to click on a link.

- Stop and think before clicking on any link, as this may install malware, such as viruses, spyware or ransomware on your device, and data or sensitive information could be stolen.
- Delete any phishing email immediately.
- Never give out personal or financial information about yourself unless you are absolutely sure the source is genuine.

SCCH/PCSO 2961 Dean Sawyer

Swyddog Cefnogi Cymuned Heddlu/Police Community Support Officer

Email: dean.sawyer@nthwales.pnn.police.uk



Tesco's Community Fund

From January to March you'll be able to vote for Overton Wildlife's next project at the Ellesmere Tesco, as part of their Community Grant scheme. We have been successful in asking for funding to making some more wildlife improvements to St Mary's Church grounds. This will include planting spring bulbs and installing bat boxes. Depending on whether we are voted into first, second or third place we will receive between £500 and £1,500 towards this project. So make sure when you shop at the Ellesmere Tesco and are given some community charity tokens, that you have a look for the Overton Wildlife Group box.



Royal British Legion - News!

We would like to extend our thanks to two of our members who have both stepped down from the roles they have held for the last seven years.

Mr Dave Austin – Standard Bearer, and Mr Colin Bamber- Poppy Appeal Organiser.

Their contribution has been very much appreciated by all branch members and by the Overton community.

Our new Standard Bearer will be Mr Mervyn Rodenhurst, and the Poppy Appeal Organisers will now be Mrs Julie Birrell and Miss Jean Williams.

We are looking forward to our next meeting on 13th January 2022 at 7pm in the Village Hall, when we will discuss our plans for the year ahead.

We would love to see some new faces at our meetings- you don't have to be a member – and we would welcome any fresh ideas that would contribute to our ongoing support for members of the Armed Forces past and present and their families.

On behalf of the members of The Royal British Legion - Overton Branch

Jean Williams Secretary. Contact: 01978 710423

Email jean.larkrise.2@gmail.com

What's on at The White Horse Inn?

Well, 2021 really has been a roller coaster year! After nearly six months of not being able to welcome customers through our door it was amazing to finally get back to seeing you all! We can't thank everyone enough for all the laughs and support you have given us and we're looking forward to more of the same in 2022.

We have lots lined up already including lots of favourite bands and new music, monthly themed nights in our restaurant and much more.

In January we have lots of jobs to do as well so we'll be changing our opening hours for a month or so to give us time to get everything done. We will be closed for the first week of January, after which we plan to open Thursdays to Sundays for a few weeks while the weather is miserable. We will, however, open during the week for pre-planned events such as dinner parties, quiz leagues and events such as christenings, weddings and funerals so please do give us a ring if you'd like to visit us during the week. Wishing all our customers a happy and healthy 2022, we look forward to seeing you soon,

Kathy, Jim, Tom, Jack and Seren.

The White Horse Inn

Pop in for real ales, home cooked food and a warm welcome

Four meat roasts served 12-3pm every Sunday
Quiz Night every Thursday - come along & join the fun

Function Room available for weddings, funerals, christenings and other events

Overton on Dee W.I. News

Overton-on-Dee W.I. enjoyed a great December. On December 4th we began the Christmas season with a



Festive Afternoon Tea from Two Doves, and enjoyed the lovely singing of Victoria.

This was followed for the December 16th meeting with a riotously funny Bonkers Bingo session. Thank you to the Village Hall Committee who decorated the Village Hall beautifully and set the perfect Christmas scene.

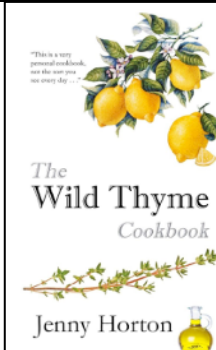
Thank you also to the WI members who created figures for the nativity tableau in St Mary's Church. They have been much appreciated by Overton Playcentre and St Mary's School in their Christmas visits to church as can be seen in their photos.

Despite the difficulties of the last months our W.I. has continued to grow and we have some wonderful new members - proof that laughter, friendship and support are so important. Plans for 2022 will be every bit as good and new members are always very welcome. Dates to look out for are Saturday March 5th, our Annual Coffee morning, and the welcome return of our Annual Village Handicraft Show on Saturday 21st May. Schedules will be available in early February. We wish everyone a Happy New Year.

Short list for cook book of the year

In a recent edition of Radio 4's "The Food Programme", the presenter Sheila Dillon and guests discussed their favourite food and drink cook books of the past year. There was no time on the programme to get round to all their choices but on Sheila's list was local author, Jenny Horton's book, "The Wild Thyme Cookbook".

Nature-loving home economist, Jenny believes enjoying good food is part of having a wild time, and her recipes reflect her travels especially in north Wales and Greece. The 300 plus recipes in this collection are all economical with time and money, rooted in the great outdoors, and are enlivened by family photos and anecdotes, seasoned with humour and served up in style. You'll find old favourites and be inspired try something new. "The Wild Thyme Cookbook" is available from the Corner Shop and Two Doves.



South Maelor Pickers is a new group starting in 2022. Are you passionate about keeping our villages clean and tidy and interested in volunteering in our new litter picking group? We are looking for anyone living in local villages including Overton. All age groups and families welcome. Litter picking sessions will be organized and all equipment provided. Contact Jackie at jackie.tomkinson@therainbowfoundation.org.uk to keep updated as to when the project will be starting.

Recycle your Real Christmas Tree and help Nightingale House Hospice. For a donation it will be collected on Sat. 15th January. Register for your tree to be collected by contacting 01978 314292 or visit the Hospice website. Remove all decorations and bases (unless wooden). Leave the tree outside your house in a visible location BEFORE 7.00am on Saturday 15th January 2022.



Overton Royal British Legion 120 Club

Results of the "120 Club" were drawn on Thursday 9th December 2021. 120 members entered and the winning numbers were selected by Roy Walker.

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

Winners: -

No 7. Francis Jones.	No 41. Gavin Li.
No 6. Peter Rosselli.	No 14. Miranda Austin.
No 27. Jenny Knight.	No 85. Kevin Bamber.
No 28. Janet Davies.	No 70. Duncan Rennie.
No 45. Keith Overthrow.	No 2. Leo, Molly & Sophie Picken

CONGRATULATIONS

Next Draw will be January 13th 2022

A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL MEMBERS & BEST WISHES FOR 2022

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

ALL NEW MEMBERS MUST PAY BY STANDING ORDER.

"IF YOU DON'T PAY - - - YOU DON'T PLAY"

Goin' up The Country Blues Club presents

THE MIKE ZITO BAND FROM TEXAS

at Overton Village Hall on Friday February 18th. Doors open 7.15pm for an 8.00pm start.

Hailing from Texas, The Mike Zito Band is one of the hottest acts on the American blues and Southern rock circuit and has included Overton on a 10 date tour of the UK. Whilst the band derives its roots from the blues, they have moved into the rockier scene of the Southern Rock circuit showcasing Mike's superb guitar playing in a style reminiscent of The Allman Brothers Band and The Eagles.

This is a major coup for the blues club that continues to punch above its weight presenting some of the biggest names in American blues and blues/rock and the event has already started to attract attention from outside the area and will undoubtedly sell out.

But with that in mind and to comply with the current guidelines, the organisers have a Covid safety policy in place and have restricted the gig to 90 tickets only. They cost £17 and are available at The Corner Shop or by mailing petevans@btinternet.com.

Mike and his band can be heard on the following YouTube links. <https://youtu.be/yDrb-nBP1Pw>



Christmas Time at St Mary's School



Yrs 1 & 2

This Christmas, we have again scaled back our whole school Christmas show and filmed scenes in our class bubbles on the theme 'Christmas Traditions Across the World' to share with parents, family and friends to watch from the safety and comfort of home. With each class presenting songs and traditions from a range of countries including Mexico and Africa, and ending back here in Britain, it's an informative and fascinating tour of how Christmas is celebrated across the globe.

Classes have still enjoyed the opportunity to visit St Mary's Church and meet with Reverend Peter to learn about Advent and also film some of our scenes there to capture a true festive feeling. Year 1

and 2 have even had a musical trail through St Mary's churchyard as part of their learning about Christmas traditions in Spain and made a splendid King's Cake to share with each other at snack time.

Our festive celebrations were added to with the fantastic news that a number of our pupils have been awarded certificates for their artwork in the

Bishop of St Asaph's Annual Christmas Card Competition. Each year, the

Bishop sets a challenge for all primary pupils across the region to design a card which he will send to family, friends and colleagues across the world. Despite lots of competition from many schools across the Diocese, with more than 1,300 entries, St Mary's pupils have had remarkable success!

Chosen by the Bishop himself, Highly Commended certificates have been awarded to: Aneira Barlow, Grace Davies, Rose Hanky, Emilia Reikikoski, James Roberts, Aria Suckley, Emily Suckley and Oliver Williams. Very Highly Commended certificates have been awarded to Ellie Morris and Annie Williams. 2nd Place runner up, receiving the second prize of a £15 book token, was awarded to Maisey Edwards in Year 6. Well done to you all!



Yrs 1 & 2



Year 5



Year 6



Xmas Card Competition winners

Mrs Williams (Year 6 Teacher)

What's On

January Diary for St Mary's & St Hilary's

Jan 2nd 10am All Age Worship 11.00am Holy Communion
 Jan 2nd 11am Holy Communion 9.45am Morning Prayer
 Jan 16th 11am Morning Prayer 9.45am Holy Communion
 Jan 23rd 11am Holy Communion 9.45am Morning Prayer
 Jan 30th 10am Group Eucharist

For all service details see

<https://www.stmarysoverton-on-dee.org/worship>

January Diary for Overton Methodist Chapel

Sunday Jan 2nd 2.30pm Rev Neville Pugh
 Sunday Jan 9th 2.30pm Mrs Sheila Rudden
 Sunday Jan 16th 2.30pm Rev Phillip Poole
 Holy Communion & Covenant Service
 Saturday Jan 23rd 2.30pm Mr David Young
 Sunday Jan 30th 2.30pm Rev Robert Gee

Services at Our Lady And The Welsh Martyrs

New Year Mass 5.00 pm
 Every Saturday 5.00pm Mass

Thursday January 6th 12.00pm-2.00pm Rainbow Lunch Club. Meet - Eat - Socialise - Enjoy. £7.50 for a freshly cooked 2 course meal. To book Tel: 01948 830730

Monday January 10th 9.30am-1.00pm Craft & Create with a light lunch at Penley Rainbow Centre. Booking essential 01948 830730

Tuesday January 11th 6.50pm Overton Community Council meeting held remotely via 'GoToMeeting'. If members of the public would like to "attend" they should contact David Williams on clerk@overt-on-dee.co.uk for log in details. Members of the public wishing to speak can do so 6.50pm-7.00pm.

Thursday January 13th 7.00pm Royal British Legion Meeting at the Village Hall.

Monday January 17th 10.00am-12.30pm Overton Art Group reopens in the Catholic Hall.

Thursday January 20th 10.00am-4.00pm Friends of St Mary's Bridge Training Day with Andrew Robson, in the Village Hall.

Thursday January 20th 7.00pm Overton on Dee WI Meeting in the Village Hall with Zumba for all!

Saturday January 22nd 10.00am-12.00 noon Come and explore how we can grow our churches younger in St. Marys Church, Overton

Monday January 24th 10.00am-12.30pm Overton Art Group in the Catholic Hall.

Monday January 31st 10.00am-12.30pm Overton Art Group in the Catholic Hall.

SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday May 21st 2022

Village Handicraft Show at the Village Hall.

Schedules available February.

Enquiries: Margaret O'Neill 01978 710451

Family Announcements



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

Wishing Raymond Austin a very happy 60th birthday. With love from Mum. xx

The Overton Art Group



will reopen after the Christmas break on Monday 17th January 10.00am to 12.30pm at the Catholic Hall. We meet every Monday, new members welcome. Contact Ann Williams 01978 710327 or beawilliams52@btinternet.com

Thank you

Overton Community Council made a presentation to Katrina Chalk to mark their appreciation of the 14 years she has served as Clerk to OCC and looked after the smooth running of the village, especially its Fete.



Dustbin Days

Thursday Jan 6th General Waste & Recycling/food
 Thursday Jan 13th **Recycling & food waste only**
 Thursday Jan 20th General Waste & Recycling/food
 Thursday Jan 27th **Garden Waste & Recycling/food**

Could those who have **trophies** from the two **2019 village shows** - Handicraft and Produce - please look them out and return to Margaret 01978 710451

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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 Treasurer Barry Metcalfe,
 Distribution Cynthia Davies; Euan Stevenson,
 Sean Clarke, Jenny Bellis,
 Gwynneth Austin, & Claire Williams

Advertising & Editor - Jill Burton.

Tel 710631 or e-mail overtonoracle@gmail.com

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