

The Overton Oracle



Volume 11. Issue 7

July 2009

Overton's Free Newspaper - issued monthly

The Fete - 70 years ago !

The July edition of the Oracle has to go to the printers before the day of the Overton Fete, so the report and photos of what we are sure will have been a splendid afternoon, will be in the August edition of the Oracle. However to make up for the disappointment we are featuring (only 70 years late) the 1939 Overton Chapel Fête and the crowning of the Rose Queen. From the left:

Les Stant, Iris Phillips, Margaret Thompson, Irene Evans, The Rose Queen Sylvia Tudor (now While), Cynthia Evans, Godfrey Lewis, Eleanor Lewis, Josie Phillips, (lady from Ash Grove), Den Owen, Peter Edwards.



Your opinion on speeding in the village

Of the 600 questionnaires that were included in the May edition of the Oracle, 90 responses were received (nearly a 20% reply). The figures are listed below. Should anyone wish to see the individual comments made by members of the public contact the Clerk (710055) and arrange a time to visit the office.

- Reinforce speed limit entering the village with rumble strips **Yes: 47**, No: 26, Unsure: 12
- Countdown markers giving advance warning of 30mph speed limit **Yes: 62**, No: 14, Unsure: 7
- Introduction of 40mph limit on Wrexham Road near Argoed Lane **Yes: 69**, No: 12, Unsure: 4
- Vehicle activated signs – showing the vehicle speed on entry roads **Yes: 72**, No: 9, Unsure: 4
- Lane narrowing/chicanes on approach to village Yes: 12, **No: 62**, Unsure: 7
- Speed bumps through the village Yes: 18, **No: 57**, Unsure: 5

After consultation with a representative from Wrexham County Borough Council's Traffic Department and North Wales Police it was decided that a public meeting should be held on **Tuesday October 6th** at 7pm in the Village Hall. At the public meeting we will be discussing how to pursue the 3 most popular suggestions from the questionnaire and how residents would like to pursue these options. Local Councillors, MPs, AMs and Press will be invited to attend this meeting as Overton Community Council realise how important it will be to get these people involved with this project.

Ramblings From the Rectory by David Lewis



Dear Friends,

Can you imagine yourself sitting at a desk, grading RE Exam papers, all the while trying to keep a straight face and maintain your composure as you read some of the answers. Rev Una Mclean, our Methodist Minister sent me some of these answers actually written by students from a Catholic Elementary School, and I share some of them with you.

Pay special attention to the wording and spelling and remember these statements come from actual children. Our first exam statement declares that:

'Lots wife was a pillar of salt during the day, but a ball of fire during the night' I'm sure she was!

Did you know that? *'The Jews were a proud people and throughout history they had trouble with unsympathetic gentils.'* Very painful, I'm sure, though I can't help but think he meant Gentiles!

Samson is a famous biblical figure, but I certainly didn't know this fact: *'Samson slayed the Philistines with the axe of the Apostles.'*

One student was evidently an expert on the Ten Commandments: *'The seventh commandment is thou shalt not admit adultery'*, Never a truer word!

Finally I bet you didn't know this interesting fact: *'Solomon, one of David's sons, had 300 wives and 700 porcupines'*. Those statements made me smile and I bet made GOD SMILE TOO!

As we enter what I hope will be a lovely warm summer for all of us, it is good to remember that we believe in a God who wants to share in our good times and our sad times. He accepts us for who we are as people, with all our strengths and all of our human weaknesses, even when we mess up our RE Papers! We just have to make space for him in our lives, and he will share his joy, his light, his love with us. And do you know that if we are truly a joyous people, then others will be attracted to our churches and fellowship.

I end with one final statement from our students on Mary's joyous response to God in her own life:

'When Mary heard she was the Mother of Jesus, she sang the Magna Carta.' What else can I say!

Your friend and Rector,

David.

COUNTRY BEAT by Ian Shannon, Assistant Chief Constable

THE POLICE SERVICE IN ENGLAND AND WALES WILL SUPPORT LAW

ABIDING CITIZENS AND PURSUE CRIMINALS RELENTLESSLY TO KEEP YOU AND YOUR NEIGHBOURHOODS SAFE FROM HARM. WE WILL:

1. Always treat you fairly with dignity and respect ensuring you have fair access to our services at a time that is reasonable and suitable for you.
2. Provide you with information so you know who your dedicated Neighbourhood Policing Team is, where they are based, how to contact them and how to work with them
3. Ensure your Neighbourhood Policing Team and other police patrols are visible and on your patch at times when they will be most effective and when you tell us you most need them. We will ensure your team are not taken away from neighbourhood business more than is absolutely necessary. They will spend at least 80% of their time visibly working in your neighbourhood, tackling your priorities. Staff turnover will be minimised
4. Respond to every message directed to your Neighbourhood Policing Team within 24 hours and, where necessary, provide a more detailed response as soon as we can.
5. Aim to answer 999 calls within 10 seconds, deploying to emergencies immediately, giving an estimated time of arrival, getting to you safely and as quickly as possible. In urban areas, we will aim to get to you within 15 minutes and in rural areas within 20 mins.
6. Answer all non-emergency calls promptly. If attendance is needed, send a patrol giving you an estimated time of arrival, and if you are vulnerable or upset aim to be with you within 60 minutes. If you are calling about an issue that we have agreed with your community will be a neighbourhood priority and attendance is required, we will aim to be with you within 60 minutes. Current priorities are listed on your local page of our website or by speaking to a member of your local neighbourhood policing team. Alternatively, if appropriate, we will make an appointment to see you at a time that fits in with your life and within 48 hours unless you agree to extend that timescale. If agreed that attendance is not necessary we will give you advice, answer your questions and / or put you in touch with someone who can help.
7. Arrange regular public meetings to agree your priorities, at least once a month, giving you a chance to meet your local team with other members of your community. These will include opportunities such as surgeries, street briefings and mobile police station visits which will be arranged to meet local needs and requirements. Details of future meetings can be found on your local page of our website or by contacting any member of your local neighbourhood policing team
8. Provide monthly updates on progress, and on local crime and policing issues. This will include the provision of crime maps, information on specific crimes and what happened to those brought to justice, details of what action we and our partners are taking to make your neighbourhood safer and information on how your force is performing.
9. If you have been a victim of crime agree with you how often you would like to be kept informed of progress in your case and for how long. You have the right to be kept informed at least every month if you wish and for as long as is reasonable.
10. We will strive to acknowledge any dissatisfaction with the service you have received within 4 hours of reporting it to us but in any case within 24 hours (unless you agree a different timescale). To help us fully resolve the matter, we will discuss with you how it will be handled, give you an opportunity to talk in person to someone about your concerns and agree with you what will be done about them and how quickly.
11. To reflect the linguistic and cultural needs of our local communities and in accordance with our legal duties, we are committed to providing a genuine language choice for our customers. We will ensure that the Welsh and English languages have an equal status in all our dealings with the public. We want to do our best for you but if we fail to meet our Pledge we will always explain why it has not been possible on that occasion to deliver the high standards to which we aspire and you deserve.

OVERTON PRODUCE SHOW

A date of your diary is **Saturday September 5th** when the Village Hall is the venue for the 37th Annual Overton Village Produce Show. The show opens at 2.30pm. Entries are to be staged between 9.00 & 11.am. Enquiries to the Secretary, Doreen Walker 01978 710776

Fat Bottom Boys - Act II

Mission accomplished...!! 48 miles of rowing canoes along the Llangollen canal! It hurt like hell, but we did it and thank you to all who have kindly donated money in aid of **St Mary's School Fund**. The web page is full of pictures and videos if you would like to view our suffering and it is not too late contribute if you like the look of our pain...!! Just click on www.fatbottomboys.co.uk and see for yourself. Thanks again for your support. Andy Dodwell.



Community Café At The Village Hall

**Open: Mondays 9am - 12pm,
Wednesdays 2-5pm & Thursdays 9am - 12pm**

Come and try us out and give us your views - we will be running a questionnaire over the next 3 weeks to find out what YOU think. Two new promotions to tempt you -

1. **FREE** cuppa with every teacake or scone purchased for pensioners for a week starting **Mon 13th July**
2. **FREE** squash for children and a free refill of tea/coffee for parents for the **last week of term**

Please do get in touch with us if you are interested in helping out in these initial stages of the café. Many thanks and hope to see you at the café. Rachel 710041

OVERTON MEDICAL PRACTICE

Swine Flu has been dominating the news for the past few weeks but thankfully now seems to be a little less threatening. The magazines and toys have been removed from the communal waiting rooms to minimize germs being passed from patient to patient. These may be returned in the near future if there is no increase in the number of cases in this area.

A new part-time receptionist Jackie Egerton has joined the team, I'm sure she will be made to feel welcome. We now have over 400 patients using the on-line Appointment system. If you want to enrol for this service please ask at reception for the necessary paperwork. Remember, it will also allow you to order Repeat Prescriptions online.

Quite a few of our patients have been asking about chiropody and if they can be seen with their problems. If you want to use the NHS service you have to be either diabetic or else have seen a doctor and been referred for a particular condition. Other than the above, it is a case of finding someone suitable and paying for treatment privately. Another polite reminder that appointments are for 10 minutes duration. If you have more than one issue to discuss with the doctor you may need to make more than one appointment.

Kids Kolumn

by Alice Foster, Lydia Biggs and Lottie Blake

Hi everybody. Hope you enjoyed the fete, we did.

Ask Alice

I have been invited to a boy's party, but I am the only girl going. I am scared all of the boys will tease me. From Beth

Thanks Beth for your e-mail. **Don't worry we are sure that he wouldn't have invited you if he didn't think you and the other boys would get along**, We are sure he will look after you if he is a proper friend.

LAUGH WITH LYDIA

Teacher: Class, we will have only half a day of school this morning.

Class: *Hooray*

Teacher: We will have the other half this afternoon!

Our teacher talks to herself does yours?
Yes, but she doesn't realise it, she thinks we're actually listening!

Lottie's Pet of the Month

Animal: Mouse

Mice are nocturnal and very social. They will be very active in the evening and night, but don't expect to do much with them during the day. Being social, they are best kept in groups. A pair of females is the easiest, although larger groups are fine if you provide the cage space. Pairs of males should be avoided, unless they are litter mates, never separated, and given a large enough cage that they can have their own space (unfamiliar males are very likely to fight). Keeping males and females together should be avoided unless you want **lots** of mice in a short amount of time.

Life Span: Their short life span is one of the biggest drawbacks of mice. On average they live for about 1½ - 2 yrs, although they can sometimes live up to 3 yrs

Reviews

Film: Beverly Hills Chihuahua

Beverly Hills Chihuahua is about a Chihuahua called Chloe who is looked after by her owners niece, Rachel. When her owner goes on holiday Rachel takes Chloe to Mexico but Chloe gets lost. Rachel has to get her back before her Aunt returns from her holiday. Although this film is funny and exciting, it has got many sad moments.

Rating: 9/10

Constance's Colditz Story told by Euan Stevenson

There used to be a series on TV called "The Naked City", which always ended with the line "*There are 8 million stories in the Naked City and this has been one of them*".

We don't know how many stories there are in the village of Overton, but the story of villager Constance Best, must be one of the most interesting.

The story of Constance (or Con, to her friends) is really that of her late husband Jack. who was brought up in Llangollen. Constance and Jack were living in Kenya where he was a farmer, when in 1939, war broke out. Jack, who had a pilot's license, immediately joined the RAF. Constance returned to London on a troop ship (she was one of only two ladies on board), which took 6 weeks to sail round the Cape and then a circuitous route via the West Indies and across to the UK, in order to avoid U-boats.

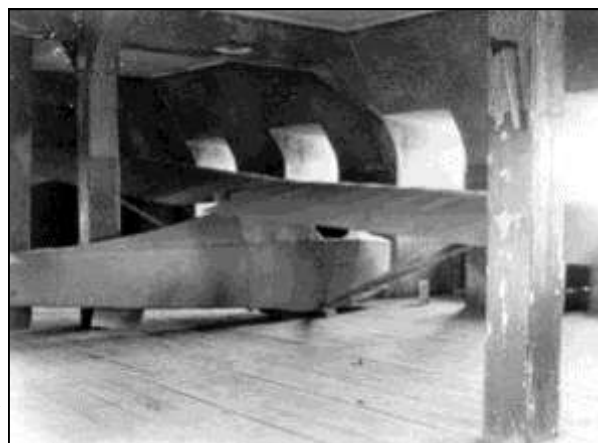
In the early years of the war, Jack Best's luck ran out and while on an operation in the Mediterranean, his plane ran out of fuel. He landed in the sea and swam ashore to an island, where, unfortunately, the Greeks handed him over to the Germans. He was transported by cattle-truck to prison camp Stalag Luft 1, and shortly afterwards, escaped, but was re-captured. He was then transferred to another prison camp, Stalag Luft 3, and being a determined chap he promptly escaped again – only to be again re-captured.

The Germans then sent Jack to the notorious Colditz Castle, or OFLAG 1V-C, near Leipzig, a Prisoner-of-War camp for Allied officers who had repeatedly escaped from other camps. Although Colditz was a daunting prospect, Jack was fortunate in a way, since Stalag Luft 3 was the camp of the "Great Escape" and had he been kept there he may well have been involved in the mass escape which resulted in all 40 escapees being shot.

Being a heavily fortified castle, the Germans regarded Colditz as escape-proof. Soon, however, Jack was escaping from Colditz. He and a fellow prisoner, let themselves out a window and down the steep ramparts, using ropes made from strips of bed linen. They managed to get as far as the Dutch border, but unfortunately, due to their pale complexions, developed by living in dungeon-like conditions, they were spotted, chased, re-captured and returned to Colditz by the SS.

The story becomes even more remarkable when we consider Jack's next escape bid. A fellow prisoner asked him to help build a glider, aided by their discovery in the prison library of a book entitled "*Aircraft Design*". They called the glider "The Colditz Cock" and constructed it from bed struts and sheets. The glider was assembled by Bill Goldfinch and Jack and 12 assistants known as "apostles", in the lower attic above the chapel. They built a false wall, to hide the secret space in the attic where they slowly built the glider out of stolen pieces of wood. Since the Germans were accustomed to looking down for tunnels, not up for secret workshops, they felt rather safe from detection. However, they still placed many lookouts, and created an electric alarm system, to warn the builders of approaching guards. The runway was to be constructed from tables and the glider was to be launched using a pulley system based on a falling metal bathtub full of concrete. As the bathtub fell to the ground, the cables would fling the glider into the air where it would glide for about a mile over the town of Colditz and over the River Mulde. From there Jack and Bill were planning to walk to a train station and escape by train to Switzerland.

There is a slight anti-climax to this audacious plan, in that, just after they had completed construction, on April 15th 1945, US troops entered Colditz and the prisoners were released before the escape could take place. The castle came in to Russian hands and no one knows what happened to the glider. However Bill Goldfinch, had kept his drawings, which enabled a one-third scale model to be constructed. This was eventually launched from the castle roof in 1993. In 1946 Jack was awarded the MBE, and in 1999 he was a consultant for a British TV movie documentary called "Escape From Colditz" in which a full-scale replica of the glider was built and successfully flown. The replica glider can be seen to this day in the Imperial War Museum.



The only known photograph of the original Cock"glider. Taken on 15th April 1945 by Lee Carson, one of two American newspaper correspondents assigned to the task force which relieved the castle

T.R.E.E.S and Eco council @ St. Mary's School

Our school based group "T.R.E.E.S." ("Through Recycling in our Environment we Encourage Sustainability") was originally a dream that consisted of developing the outdoor learning environment to be explored by all the children at St. Mary's School. Since that time, the group has worked tirelessly with a band of willing volunteers to develop our Forest School area, a beautiful kitchen garden, wildlife boxes and equipment for the children to use and much, much more. The most amazing news we've EVER received came in July 2007 when we became the proud recipients of **£7,625** from The National Lottery and BBC Breathing Places. This has funded two members of staff to train as Forest School Practitioners, supplied cold frames for our developing garden, a bird hide, a fire circle, an environmental report for the school building and it's grounds, removal of our tired, old, mobile classroom, replacement fencing and brand new P.E. storage units.

Now there is **EVEN MORE GOOD NEWS!** We have recently received confirmation that The National Lottery and BBC Breathing Places have awarded T.R.E.E.S. **£3,050** to further resource the school's outdoor learning equipment and facilities and the chance to develop a book of local stories and pictures for storytelling. An exciting event is set to be held on the school grounds to celebrate the fantastic successes of T.R.E.E.S. @ St. Mary's School and Eco Council on 11th July 2009 and everyone is invited! We would love you to join us anytime between 10am and 2pm. You could come to just have a look or 'go the whole hog' and join us for a Farmer's Market, have a taster of a Forest School session and team games, help with new themed gardens, and stay for a spot of light lunch too!

Brave bears are needed to take part in a **parachute jump** from St Mary's church tower on July 4th 2009. Teddy medics will be on hand to comfort nervous bears. Fee for each jump is 50p. For an extra £1 you can buy a ticket for the teddy bears picnic which will include sandwich, cake and juice. Teddies are asked to report at 2pm for their pre-jump check over and to be allocated a jump number. Jumps start from 2.30pm. Prizes for the slowest descent and furthest float. Registration forms are available in advance from the back of church, St Mary's School or on the day.

View from the Village Vets.

July 1st sees some important changes in the rules for the identification of horses and ponies. From that date ALL newborn foals and any other horses or ponies which do not already have a passport **MUST** be microchipped. In addition, vets must see the passport each time they treat an animal and verify it's identity. The new rules bring the UK into line with the rest of Europe and the aim of the legislation is to ensure that horses which have been treated with veterinary medicines not authorised for use in food producing animals cannot be slaughtered for human consumption. If the UK had not complied with the passport rules up to 70% of our horse medicines may have been banned from use. Without a passport horses will not be able to be moved in or out of the UK, used for competition, move premises, sold or used for breeding.

Whilst the primary aim of microchipping is to comply with the new rules, there are other benefits and it is hoped that the requirement for microchips will discourage indiscriminate breeding of low quality, low value horses/ponies and that a national database of equines will be of use in disease prevention and monitoring. Only vets will be allowed to insert microchips, but the chips themselves can be supplied by the vet or by the breed society responsible for issuing the passport. A full drawing of the horse and it's markings may no longer required if a microchip is inserted and certified by a vet. Further information about the new rules including a list of organisations able to issue passports can be found at www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/id-move/horses or by telephoning the DEFRA helpline on 08459 335577

Are you interested in local history?

Are you are interested in **any** aspect of Overton's history, maybe the history of your house, the buildings in the village, the changes to the roads, pathways and the railway, the people who lived here, the jobs they did, the ways they spent their time, the stories people have to tell?

A group of interested people met with Karen, the Project Officer from Northern Marches Cymru at the Brow last month and talked about how it would be good to record more of the long and fascinating history of our village.

If this interests you then come to the inaugural meeting of the Overton Local History Group 7.30pm **Thursday 23rd JULY** upstairs in the White Horse.

OVERTON CENTENARY SCOUTS REUNION



From left: Aled Owen, Simon Edwards, Alan Jones, Stuart Williams, Tony Grice, Steven Hamlington, David Burton & Harold Toone.

A small group of ex scouts and leaders met in the White Horse in May and had a great time with lots of laughs. Those leaders present were proud of the influence scouting has had on the life of many former scouts.

We now have a complete list of all the leaders from 1951 to the present day and don't have too many gaps from 1909 to 1951. The early leaders were Harry Richards, W Taylor & B S Arkwright (1909 to 1915) and Harold Elwis (1932 to 1936). It is possible that the Troop, like many others in the UK, may not have met during the war years as most or all of the leaders would have been involved in the armed services. Do you know different or any more names?

WHAT'S ON

July Diary for St Mary's Services

- Sunday July 5th** 11:30am Holy Eucharist
Monday July 6th 2.30pm School Leaving Service
Sunday July 12th 11.00am Coffee & Sunday Praise
Sunday July 19th 11.30am Holy Eucharist
Sunday July 26th 11.30am Family Eucharist
Methodist Chapel Services Sunday evenings 6.30pm
Saturday July 4th 2pm St Mary's Church Fete in the Church grounds. Teddy parachute jump!
Saturday July 4th 12.30pm Family Day at the Play Centre. Barbeque, games, tombola, Raffle. Tickets: £5 for adults, £2 for children
Saturday July 11th 10am to 2pm T.R.E.E.S. event at St Mary's School. All welcome
Tuesday July 14th Overton Community Council meeting in the Parish Room. Members of the public wishing to speak can do so between 7.20 – 7.30pm.
Thursday July 16th Overton WI Meeting in the Parish Room. "You won't believe it. But..." by Gordon Farr. Competition: Pill Box.
Tuesday July 21st 7.30pm Prize Bingo for all the family at Overton Recreational Club
Thursday July 23rd 7.30pm Overton Local History Group upstairs at the White Horse
Friday July 31st 9pm Overton Recreational Club AGM. All items to be discussed must be in writing & to the Secretary (Dave Edwards) by 17th July
Friday August 28th Hog Roast with "The Weebag Irish Band" at Hanmer Arms. Tickets - 01948 830532
Saturday September 5th 2.30pm 37th Annual Overton Village Produce Show in the Village Hall. Entries to be staged between 9.00 & 11.15am
Saturday morning 10.30am till 12.00 noon Chapel Coffee Mornings every Saturday till end of Sept
November 13th "Overton's got talent" at St Mary's Church. Contact Helen Belton on 01978 711970 for information or application form

PLEASE REMEMBER

Copy deadline 20th of the month. Get your events & news to us early to avoid disappointment
THIS INCLUDES ADVERTISEMENTS

Leave your contributions, & announcements at the Corner Shop.

Your Oracle Team -

Chairman & Advertising David Burton; Secretary Nicole Netzband; Treasurer Jacky Maskall; Distribution Cynthia Davies; Sean Clarke, Euan Stevenson & Rob Piggott.

Editor - Jill Burton.

Tel 710631 or e-mail editor@overton-on-dee.co.uk

THANK YOU

A very big thank you to all who supported the Christian Aid Coffee morning which took place on the 23rd May in the Methodist Schoolroom. The amount raised was £103.00

The President John and the members of the Wrexham Maelor Lions Club would like to thank the residents of Overton for their donations and continued support at the recent Coffee Morning. We raised £306 which will be used to help those more unfortunate than ourselves.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Rona Williams** of Cloy Lane who recently took part in the Shropshire Federation of WI's 90th birthday 9K fun run & walk over 9 bridges in Shrewsbury. Rona was one of over 150 runners or walkers who took part and who raised £100 through sponsors for her chosen charity which was Nightingale House in Wrexham. Well done, Rona!

And congratulations to **Doreen Walker** who was presented with the Blood Transfusion Service Emerald Award and a cut-glass plate, for donating 75 pints of blood over 35 years, at a ceremony and lunch held in Liverpool for the Nth Wales & North West area.

Overton Film Club Latest!

Following the successful trial screenings in the Village Hall of 'Saving Grace' and 'Hope and Glory', Overton Film Club is ready to launch! This autumn and winter, we propose to show a season of 6 films: a mix of blockbusters, recent releases, classics - and anything else that YOU want to see! We aim to show a film each month in the Village Hall from October '09 to March '10. However, the cost of screening the 6 films will be more than £2000.

Until (or unless) we can get financial support from the Community Council and/or other sources, we need to be self-financing. In other words, we need MEMBERS. We need YOU! The deal we're proposing is this:

£20 for annual membership. This entitles you (or your partner) to FREE ENTRY to all screenings - plus reduced rate for one guest @ £2.50. If we can get 100 people to pledge their membership by 1ST September, then the season of films can be paid for, and the Overton Film Club has a future. Without your support...we're history. SO...if you want to support a cinema of our own in Overton, showing the films that YOU want to see, then please sign up for membership of the Overton Film Club TODAY! Contact Wilf Macdonald-Brown: 710329 or wilfmb@yahoo.co.uk

All articles and advertisements in the Overton Oracle are published in good faith and without prejudice.
Space constraints mean that submitted articles may be edited or not published.

**The Overton Oracle is printed and supported by Prontaprint, Wrexham. Tel. No. 01978 664726
e-mail: info@prontaprintwrexham.co.uk**

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The Oracle is delivered FREE to nearly 600 homes in the Overton Area.

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