The Overton Oracle

Volume 22 Issue 7 **July 2020**

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

Coronavirus Contact Tracing

If you are contacted as part of the Test, Trace, Protect programme, you will NEVER be asked to give any financial information, bank details or passwords. Testing is FREE.
If you receive a call from a contact tracer in Wrexham, and you're worried it might not be genuine, you can check by hanging up and calling back on 01978 292000.

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Keep Supporting our local businesses

Welcome to more local businesses who have opened, to Overton Fish & Chip shop and the Alaya Spice Indian Restaurant & Takeaway. Please respect the measures they and our other local businesses have put in place for their staff and your safety.
Remember to keep supporting our local shops.

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Organic veg

Knolton Market - Garden organic veg is now available on the stall beside the Cheese Machine, starting with broad beans and salad potatoes. The Cheese Machine also sells Vermulen's bread on Fridays only.

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Opening soon

The First Minister of Wales has announced that churches in Wales can start to re-open for private prayer (but not for services). The Church in Wales is asking local congregations to conduct risk assessments and to consider how buildings might be opened safely. As we are reliant on voluntary help to keep our buildings clean, we cannot guarantee if or when we will open. If you would like to come into St Mary's for private prayer, please keep an eye on noticeboards and the church website for further information: www.stmarysoverton-on-dee.org

5 Ride Wales - Huge Success!

The virtual bike ride covering the coast line of Wales and it's border with England took place as planned and resulted in a massive amount of money being raised. Paul Edwards, Dave Edwards, Brian Malam, Daniel Williams and Dave Williams each clocked up daily miles until the total of 717 miles was completed. They did it in just 9 days despite the heat, a knee injury and the fact that two of them returned to work full time having been furloughed. Once finished, a socially distanced gathering took place outside the Village Hall and Club to cheer the lads on and to thank them for their efforts.

The amount raised, although not yet finalised is in the region of £1,950 which is just fantastic! These funds will be split between the hall and the club and will help to secure their future opening. Hopefully by the time you read this we will have a better idea of when that will be.
But until then, stay safe and thank you to all who donated – it is so appreciated and will help no end.

Community Council Update

As both the UK and Welsh Governments begin tentative steps to lift the Lockdown, we have begun reviewing the support provided through our local arrangements of Buddies and Volunteers.

Firstly though, we would like to say a very big THANK YOU to everyone who has helped and supported those in our Community who are vulnerable or have been shielding. You have helped us all to keep safe and well and what you have done is very much appreciated.

Over the past couple of weeks requests for help with shopping deliveries and prescription collections have begun to reduce and some of our volunteers are also returning to work, we are taking steps to scale back the support we are providing. We are discussing arrangements with Stans Store, M E Evans Butchers and the Pharmacy and will ensure we continue to provide the service as required.

Whilst we would like to emphasise that the service remains available and anyone needing assistance should contact us as before, the Stans deliveries by Overton volunteers will now take place on Tuesday to Friday inclusive and no longer on Mondays and Saturdays.

At the same time we are developing our Emergency Planning Arrangements so we can try to be as ready as we can be for any future situations. If you are already a Buddy or a Volunteer you should have received an email from us to thank you for volunteering this time and asking, if you are happy to assist in future, that we may keep your details on record so we can contact you easily. Please just let us know by emailing volunteer@overton-on-dee.co.uk or call 07960 538089.

Musings from the Manse

by Rev'd Phillip Poole

There has been a lot of talk lately about "The New Normal". People use this expression when speaking about the future beyond lockdown and the expectation is that whatever the new normal is, it will be different from the normal we were used to before lockdown began. One American band has called its recent album "The New Abnormal" – they suspect that for a while at least the world will feel like a strange and unfamiliar place.

But where does this word 'normal' come from? According to one of the deacons who led devotions at Methodist Diaconal Convocation this year (Guy Austin Bride) it is derived from the Latin word 'normalis' which means something made with a carpenter's square or rule. Something built this way would have angles that were properly and perfectly aligned, and that meaning eventually gave us the broader sense of standard, or average or normal.

The Carpenter's Rule is important as we start to think about the new normal and what the world will look like beyond lockdown. Our Carpenter's Rule says "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength, and love your neighbour as yourself" (Matthew 22:37-39) and if we want to get things right in the future we need to be guided by that and let it shape the way we live and the way we treat one another.

In some ways being in lockdown has brought out the best in people. They have been volunteering in great numbers, raising lots of money for charity, showing their appreciation of people too often overlooked, and helping their more vulnerable neighbours by running errands so they can stay safe at home. Suffering together has united us with people in every part of the world, and we have learnt not to take our freedoms and privileges for granted. That is all to the good, so I hope that the lessons we are learning now will stay with us as lockdown is gradually eased. We should pray that God will keep us all safe as we slowly start to venture out into the world again, and we should pray too that when we re-enter and re-discover the world it will be a different and a better place because of the experiences we have all shared. Remember the Carpenter's Rule, and pray that as the new normal emerges we will be able to measure up to the Carpenter's example of loving-kindness and compassion.

Best wishes,

Phil Poole, Overton Methodist Church

Country Beat

by T/Sgt Tom Dewberry

Criminals are exploiting fears about COVID-19 to prey on members of the public, particularly older and vulnerable people who are isolated from family and friends. North Wales Police is warning people to remain vigilant following a rise in coronavirus-related scams that seek to benefit from the public's concern and uncertainty over COVID-19.

Members of the public should ignore scam products such as supplements and anti-virus kits that falsely claim to cure or prevent COVID-19. In some cases individuals may be pressurised on their own doorsteps or persuaded into purchasing products that are advertised on their social media feeds.

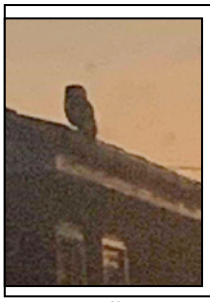
Communities are also being urged to look out for signs of neighbours being targeted by doorstep criminals. While there are genuine groups of volunteers providing help during self-isolation, there have been reports of criminals preying on residents – often older people or people living with long-term health conditions – by cold-calling at their homes and offering to go to the shops for them. The criminals often claim to represent charities to help them appear legitimate before taking the victim's money. There are genuine charities providing support, so consumers should be vigilant and ask for ID from anyone claiming to represent a charity. This also is the case for traders encouraging homeowners to pay for general work which does not need to be done, overcharging or being overly pushy with homeowners.

If there are any concerns, please contact **101** to report and record the matter.

Congratulations to Bella

'Beyond the Border', The Wales International Storytelling Festival, invited emerging and established storytellers to record a short story in response to the lockdown period as an alternative to cancelled events. Bella Atherton, aged 11 and a pupil at St Mary's School Overton was featured and chose "The Two Giants" which drew parallels to our current Covid 19 situation, in that the Giants lived apart but searched a way to stay connected. Eleven year old Bella shared her story as part of storytelling Friday, and you too can enjoy her storytelling by going to - www.facebook.com/BTBStorytelling/videos/

Bird spotting



Brian Hamlington recently spotted a very rare bird, an Albino Starling chick that, with it's family has been frequenting the Bird Feeding Stations in his garden. (*see photo right*) Being a bit of a Bird Nerd he was on to it straight away and took some photos. Look out for it in the Parkside, Tanners Row, Maelor Court areas of the village.

But meanwhile Alice, has spotted this bird (*photo left*) with a distinctive shape, in late evening sitting on top of the Editor's house.

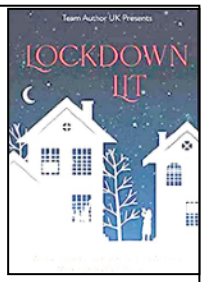
Let us hope it hasn't got it's eye on Brian's rare visitor!

One of the positive things to come out of this unprecedented situation has been Overton's community spirit. Last March, 3 members of the Community Council, Charlotte Copeman (Chair) Katrina Chalk (Clerk) and Paul Whittaker set up a Covid response team. I am sure the village would want me to thank them all for their swift response in ensuring that the village was looked after. Charlotte quickly co-ordinated the volunteer and buddy scheme using her characteristic good humour and positive attitude.

The letters in last month's Oracle attest to the reassurance that it brought to villagers. We have seen some wonderful acts of selflessness around the country during this crisis, and it is reassuring to know that Overton has worked together to support each other during such unusual times.

Paul Ashton Vice-Chair Overton Community Council

Local poets published in book to raise vital funds for carers



Local poets Joshy Carpenter and Rachel Harris have poems published in a new book. Authors from across the North West and further afield have contributed to a new inspirational book which will serve as a lasting reminder of life in lockdown and also raise funds to support the vital work of carers.

Lockdown Lit is thought to be one of the first literary collections of its kind to be published during the Coronavirus pandemic and will be read by generations to remember and reminisce the 2020 lockdown.

It features short stories, musings and poems from around 60 different independent authors, the majority of which live in the Merseyside and Cheshire regions as well the nearby counties of Shropshire and Staffordshire.

The paperback book can be purchased from Amazon:

https://bit.ly/LockdownLit

Dear Editor,

Can you please add a thank you to all the family and friends in Overton who made and displayed the super scarecrows. It kept me smiling and guessing in my lockdown here in Dawlish, Devon. We are not able to travel to Overton but I am so missing seeing them all. I was also able to watch the broadcast from BBC Wales as it went out; my Dad would have been so proud to see his home village on the TV. *Diana Frost nee Lewis*

Dear Editor,

I am very disappointed that the Church has been closed since the outbreak of Coronavirus. Considering the ways we have been able continue using supermarkets, garages, chemists and food shops including DIY shops, it would not have been difficult to let people walk into our church and seek the peace and pray (if required) which so many of us wish for at this time. The Church has let us all down and had not come forward with any effort to help those who wish to seek help through their faith.

I hope after all this is over, the small congregation does not deplete further which would end the possibility of encouraging others to help to keep this wonderful place open in the future. *Mike Lawrenson*

Overton's Got Talent

Your Community Needs You! We had to cancel the fête, we can't meet up as a community, BUT we can bring you an exciting opportunity to showcase the talent in our community through St Mary's on-line **'Overton's Got Talent'** competition.

The competition is open to all young and not so young! Bring us your magic tricks, your daring deeds, your musical instrumentals, your songs. All entries will be combined to produce a concert which all will be able to access on-line AND given the opportunity to cast a vote for those acts which most impress.

You will have until mid-August to record your entry; viewing and voting will be launched at the end of August, with the winners announced and prizes awarded in September. If we can have a live Grand Final, we will, but otherwise everything will be recorded. Full details and competition entry forms available through our website at: www.stmarysoverton-on-dee.org

Community Growers update

It's been a strange year for the growers, some things we have been able to quietly continue with, while others have had to be put on hold during lockdown. We also had no rain for 6 weeks which didn't help certain things e.g. the wildflower seed we planted on the car park garden never came up (and probably blew away!)

The mini allotment plots This is one of the areas that has benefited, it's fully planted up and all plots have been taken on by local people. Staying at home meant we could all grow more veg plants (that is if you could get any seed as demand was so high!)

Village planting Barry & Melanie Metcalfe have been busy planting up the village hall areas and they look great. Big Thank You to Knolton Nursery & Eastwick Nursery, our fantastic local plant suppliers, for all the annual & bedding plants we use. We grow some of our own plants & would like to get more people involved in that next year, but it's also really important to support local businesses.

Car park wildlife garden & Scout Hut area

Successful gardening is mostly about timing and if you miss the 'weeding window' at the beginning of spring, for example, you suddenly have an awful lot of work on your hands to catch up. That is what has happened in the car park, so I hope that everyone can forgive us this year for the sheer volume of weeds, they will be dealt with, but it's a case of nibbling away at it, as most of us are either still shielding or have overwhelming amounts of work and parenting to do. However the garden has functioned superbly for wildlife. If you are a bee, dandelions are very important early food suppliers and all the wildflowers have come up and look lovely. So please ignore the weeds and see it through a bee's eyes this year!

If you are able to do some social distance weeding or have any spare plants we can put in the Scout Hut planters we would be very grateful for your help, get in touch at overtongrowers@gmail.com Thank you.

St Mary's School during lockdown

'Homeover' – a school residential with a difference!

At this time of year, the highlight for every Year 6 is the School's annual residential trip to Condover Hall, near Shrewsbury. This year was no exception, as pupils had been very much looking forward to the trip; a chance to try new and challenging activities such as abseiling, canoeing and archery, as well as a week away with classmates. But on our planned departure date of June 1st we were still very much in 'Lockdown', with no chance of our residential taking place. So we had to get creative!

Pupils were instead given virtual experiences and challenges to participate in from home to recreate the experience the best we could. Camping out, model raft building, initiative exercises, and a movie night, were some of the activities children could have a go at. The highlight of the week being a finale on the Friday night with a virtual sleepover renamed 'Homeover'. Pupils built dens in their rooms and snuggled down with popcorn and snacks as they joined Year 6 teacher Mrs Williams on Zoom for games and quizzes. We also went into 'breakout' rooms so that we could have a laugh with our friends in our virtual 'dorms'. It brought us all together even though we were all safely in our own homes.

The following week Year 6 should have been taking part in their Bikeability training but, again, this could not take place. Instead of this, Mrs Williams put a number of videos and activities on Google Classroom all about road safety and encouraged us to go out on our bikes with our families if we could. As you can see from the photographs, pupils gave it their best shot and look pretty competent in their endeavours!

There is no doubt that quarantine has affected us all and curtailed many things we have had planned; visiting friends and family, holidays and trips out. But, despite cancelled schedules and personal disruptions, we have all been adapting and showing that with a little creativity we can still have experiences and make memories. We are really looking forward to getting back to school though!

by Year 6 Home-Working Reporters Eliza Dodd, Jess Rowley and Ethan Evans and Mrs Williams, Year 6 Teacher

Overton Library, message from Rebecca

Rebecca still hasn't got any news about the library reopening but will let everyone know as soon as she has. Meanwhile she has let us know that you can access Ancestry.com for FREE. If you want to check out your ancestors and what they did for a living, visit the library's website where you can have free full access to Ancestry.com. Go to www.wrexham.gov.uk/libraries and follow the online services link.

Letters of thanks

Update to last month's article on locally made mask adaptors organised by Maggie Jones; over 2,500 have now been distributed to the NHS, local hospitals, Doctors Surgerys, Care Homes, Funeral Homes, Nth Wales Police etc. Maggie has sent copies of letters of appreciation received, and her thanks to Sue Glover and to the people of Overton for the help they gave.

Help is still available - Village COVID Fund

Thanks to generous donations a local fund has been established to help residents during the current crisis. This allows grants to be payable to provide immediate financial support to alleviate hardship or provide protective equipment. The fund is being administered by a Trust and decisions will be made on a case by case basis as received until the fund is depleted and will end by 31st December 2020. Requests for grants may be made by or on behalf of any resident or family within the Overton Community Council Area. We are keen to see this money being used to help local people. Anyone requiring information should contact overtoncovidfund@gmail.com.

All contact will be treated confidentially.

Time to do some cooking

A summer desert

Rhubarb Fool *Serves 4*

450g (1lb) Rhubarb coarsely chopped
50-75g (2-3oz) Demerara Sugar
Grated rind of 1 small orange
150-215 ml (5-7½fl oz) double cream according to taste
2 small teaspoons Pernod (optional)

1. Simmer the rhubarb until tender in a little water with sugar dissolved into it, and the finely grated orange rind.
2. Drain the rhubarb and let it go cold.
3. Stir in the thick cream into which you have already stirred the secret ingredient - Pernod!
4. Serve, if you can in old fashioned custard glasses or otherwise in a fruit bowl.
5. Soft sponge fingers are a good accompaniment with this rich dessert.

Overton Wildlife Group

Mini Meadows

Now the grass has had its first cut many people may be noticing our mini meadows for the first time, areas where the grass is being left long, with it getting one cut at the end of summer. This has huge benefits for wildlife.

- Long grass creates moisture, cooler conditions during the summer, important for lots of insects and flowers.
- It provides shelter and places to hide from predators for small mammals, amphibians and insects.
- Many wildflowers cannot survive a harsh cutting regime and if cut before they have a chance to set seed they eventually die out.
- Not cutting during the summer gives plants a chance to flower and grow seeds or berries, these are important food sources for insects such as bees and butterflies.
- Plant leaves and stems are an important source of food for many insects, leaving them longer provides more food
- With more food for insects there are more insects for bird and mammal species, and these areas can be particularly important for nesting birds to get tasty caterpillars for their chicks in spring.

Currently we have three mini meadows (as well as the meadow test plot recently seeded with wildflower seed); in the playground, Millennium Meadow and graveyard extension. Within these plots we have many wonderful species such as meadow buttercup, creeping buttercup, ribwort plantain, cuckoo flower, meadow foxtail, sweet vernal, thyme-leaved speedwell and yarrow, to name a few. In time the cutting regime should encourage more wildflower species to appear, but this may take several years. Each area will be surveyed for wildflowers once lockdown is over. If you would like to attend the survey please get in touch on katharine.piercy@googlemail.com no previous experience required!

Himalayan Balsam Update

Thank you to all who have got in touch to help with the Himalayan balsam control along the River Dee. Currently, due to lockdown, no dates have been set, however it is hoped we will be able to get out before August if the current situation changes. If you are a landowner, particularly with land along the Dee and you would like advice or help controlling balsam, or if you would like to volunteer please get in touch; katharine.piercy@googlemail.com.

Recycling

Thank you to everyone who donates their crisps to the crisp packet recycling box at the cheese vending machine. So far we have raised over £50 for the North Wales Wildlife Trust. Please remember that tooth brushes, tooth floss containers and toothpaste tubes (of any brand) and be recycled there as well. Additionally if you have any used stamps you would like to donate to the RSPB 'Save The Albatross' appeal please put them in a small plastic bag and leave them in the tooth brush container.

Wild Flowers to look for in July - *more photos on page 6*

Water mint - fragrant leaves & purple flowers, growing in damp places.
Teasel - tall, prickley with large egg-shaped flowerhead.
Traveller's joy - rambling through hedges with white flowers and fluffy seedheads.
Greater burdock - large with heart shaped leaves & small purple thistle-like flowers.
Hemp agrimony - tall with frothy purple flowers.
Harebell - with papery blue bell-like flowers in hedgerows and road verges.
Autumn gentian - small tower of tube like purple flowers that open into star shaped blooms.
Common fleabane - large many petaled yellow flowers and wrinkled leaves.
Prickly lettuce - stiff blue-green stem, prickly leaves, small yellow dandelion-like flowerhead.

Keeping in touch

Overton-on-Dee W.I. may not be holding our regular monthly Meetings, but we are all certainly keeping in touch with each other in ways we could never have imagined. Our WhatsApp groups have been a huge source of fun and entertainment with daily challenges (this month the theme is Music), and our Zoom Meetings are brilliant. The depth of resourcefulness, creativity, humour and kindness of our members is quite breathtaking. Any who are not online receive phone calls and a letter every month with all the latest W.I. news, because although this year has seen so many events cancelled, the W.I. is still functioning at Local, County and National level and there is so much to look forward to.

Members have also been busy making scrub bags (and rather a lot of cake) for residential homes, face masks for friends and neighbours, and recently teddy bears for emergency services to hand to children experiencing a difficult situation. Those of us who are able, continue to help with shopping for anybody who needs it, and generally looking after people as best we can.

The W.I. truly is a wonderful organisation, full of fun and friendship. If you would like to know more, please call me for further information.
We wish everybody a safe and healthy summer.

Margaret O'Neill 01978 710451

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.

A Seasonal Poem

from 6 yr old St Mary's School pupil Jac Edwards.

Overton Royal British Legion 120 Club

Results of the "120 Club" Bonus Draw for June 2020. 117 members entered and the draw was made at the Overton Scout Hut on Wed. June 10th 2020. Winning numbers were selected by the Random Number Generator.

WINNERS: 10 LUCKY MEMBERS EACH RECEIVE £58.50

No. 117 Cynthia Smith	No. 87 Sara Jane Bangay
No, 100 Janet & Jill Owen	No. 78 Huw Birrell
No. 101 Pat Edwards	No. 39 Alan Mawdsley
No. 113 Jean Partington	No.120 Emma Birrell
No. 53 Mary Perrin	No. 33 Daniel Meredith

CONGRATULATIONS

Next Draw: Wednesday July 8th 2020

Membership numbers are now available. If you wish to join please ring DAVE AUSTIN on 01978 710678.

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

Wild flowers to look for in July

Autumn gentian

Hemp agrimony

Greater burdock

Prickly lettuce

Water mint

Local Services that will help

Overton Supermarket & Fuel
Mon to Sat 7.30am - 8.30pm.
Sun 9.00am - 8.30pm

The Corner Shop Open Monday to Saturday 8am-4pm Sunday 8am-12pm. Click & Collect and delivery

Two Doves Coffee Shop Open Tuesday to Saturday 10am-2pm. For Gift Shop items also have a look at www.2doves.co.uk

M.E. Evans Butchers are pleased to offer a free delivery service to the local areas. Phone **01978 710342** or there's a click and collect option through our website - www.meevans.co.uk

Knolton Market Garden & Cheese Machine Open 24/7. A safe way to buy cheese, butter, eggs. Organic veg starting this month with broad beans and salad potatoes. Now offering **Vermulen's bread** on Fridays.

Overton Fish & Chip Shop Open Fri & Sat 12pm - 2pm, Tuesday to Saturday 5pm-8pm.

Alaya Spice Open Tuesday - Sunday 4.30pm - 10.30pm Take Away Orders Tel: 01978 710999

The Pop up Post Office in the Parish Rooms open on Wednesdays between 10.00am and 12 noon

Rowland Pharmacy Overton Tel: 01978 710241 for enquiries.

Rainbow Meals on Wheels (Monday to Friday)
Two course dinner and teatime pack
Tel: 01948 830730 to order.

Stans Superstore Mon - Sat open from 7am. Sun 10am-4pm For delivery service please ring **01691 772348**. Your order can be delivered by Overton volunteers Tuesday to Friday. See page 1.

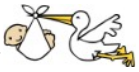
Home Farm Overton offers home delivery to local postcodes on selected days. Sausages, bacon, eggs, meat, pies, sausage rolls, cooked meats etc and other daily staples. Tel: 01978 710141

For Sale

St Mary's Church

The worship of the Christian community in Overton continues; you can join in our weekly worship via our website. www.stmarysoverton-on-dee.org Come and join us! Please also continue to pray the Lord's Prayer at one o'clock every day – as you do so, you know you are joining with others in praying "Thy kingdom come…"
Do contact me if we can pray for you, or if I can help you in any way. *Revd Peter Mackriell* Tel: 01978 710294 or email: revpeter@maelormissionarea.uk

Family Announcements



Congratulations to Matt and Laura Grindley on the birth of their first child, a son Theo Joseph born 22nd May 2020, making Peter and Jackie Grindley very happy grandparents for the second time.

Happy July Birthdays to Logan Netzband-Piggott, Anna Karlakki, Colin Davies, Dave (coal) Jones, Philippa Whitley, Jasmine Grindley, Miranda Austin, Paul Edwards, Matthew Lawrenson, Mike Pritchard, Stephen Reid, Davina Pritchard, Tracey & Kayle Leech, Jackie Kellet, Keith Miller, Ruth Overthrow, Avril Williams and Alice Foster.

Sincere condolences to the family and friends of Gertie Osborne who passed away aged 108 on June 2nd. Many will remember Gertie being the "celebrity" who opened Overton's Jubilee Fete 2012, in the year of Gertie's 100th birthday.

The family of Gertie Osborne want to thank everyone for the comforting messages received by telephone, card or just by a call across the 2 metre distancing. "The life the Lord gave her has, at last, ended. Amen"

Overton Community Council meeting

The next meeting will be held remotely via 'GoToMeeting' on 14th July 2020 from 6:50pm.
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.

Dustbin Days

Thursday July 2nd *Garden Waste & Recycling / food*
Thursday July 9th General Waste & Recycling / food
Thursday July 16th *Garden Waste & Recycling / food*
Thursday July 23rd General Waste & Recycling / food
Thursday July 30th *Garden 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
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.
Editor - Jill Burton.
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