

# The Overton Oracle

Volume 15. Issue 6

June 2013

Overton's Free Newspaper - issued monthly



## OVERTON ANNUAL VILLAGE FETE



Celebrate your village and Community!  
Saturday 29th June 2pm to 5pm

On Overton Recreation & Football Field



*Attractions:* ice cream, face painting, jams and chutneys, handmade jewellery, skittles, Vintage Cars, Fair Rides, Fire Engine, Police Cars, Craft Stalls, BricaBrac, Bottle Stall/Tombola & more.

*Refreshments:* Licensed Bar, Hog Roast, Teas, Sweet and Cake Stalls.

*Entertainment:* Circus workshop, crazy golf, Reptile-kids (hands on experience with reptiles). A-Stars Sports (taster sessions), football

Enquiries for stall holders- show case your Club, Charity or Business! (No stall fee for charities)  
Contact Katrina Chalk on 710055 [occ.clerk@btinternet.com](mailto:occ.clerk@btinternet.com)



## School Adventure Week

Children and staff from Year 6 at St Mary's School have just returned from their annual residential trip to Condover Hall near Shrewsbury. 26 excited pupils and 3 slightly tired staff members experienced an incredible variety of activities over the 5 days of the trip, ranging from archery, kayaking, climbing and abseiling to the terrifying trapeze and the very comical (and rather muddy) body zorbing!!



The unseasonably cold and wet weather did little to dampen the spirits of our bold adventurers as they pushed themselves to the limit and out of their comfort zones. As well as the individual triumphs and memories they took away with themselves each pupil also worked on team work, learning to support and encourage each other in a variety of different scenarios and situations.

As always the children acted as fantastic ambassadors not only for themselves but also the school and community as a whole, gaining many compliments off centre staff and teachers from other schools due to their friendly and polite nature.



## Ramblings From the Reverend **by Rev'd David Child**



I love football, and as many as you know I'm a Wrexham fan, and yes I was there at Wembley – a few seconds in the 86<sup>th</sup> minute – a simple defensive error and all was lost. Football can be a cruel and unnerving mistress at times, and with Wrexham, in particular, you never quite know if you'll wake up the morning after in joy or despair. But then again, who would have it any other way?

We may sometimes wish that we could guarantee a result before it happens, whether in football or more widely in life, but we simply can't, in either.

Life is so beautifully yet often so agonizingly unpredictable. As the great Algerian goalkeeper and sometime philosopher Albert Camus once suggested, it can seem positively "absurd".

The writer of the Old Testament Book of Ecclesiastes – a book to which I've referred to in a previous 'Ramblings' uses a similar word - *hebel*, or 'meaning-less', to describe the randomness of our human experience. Good things happen to bad people, and bad things happen to those who are good. Stuff happens.

Reading Ecclesiastes is a bit like watching football. They both make you realise that life doesn't work out exactly as you prayed or planned. And that, I think, is why it's good to have a book like Ecclesiastes bang in the middle of the Bible. It's not that everything is pointless. It's that we miss the point if we become too attached to whether things go according to plan or not – whether it's in our work, our home life or indeed in winning that game of football.

Because if we do we can end up waiting so long for the 'right' result, the 'right' outcome that life passes us by. I may never live to see Wrexham lift the FA Cup; but in a sense, it's liberating to admit that, because then I might just begin to appreciate the football more, including the opposition (well done, Newport County!) instead of holding my head in my hands when the match isn't going our way.

If we learn to relax our vice-like grip on what we think should happen next, perhaps we'll prepare with more grace, humility and courage for whatever the result.

With every blessing,  
David

## COUNTRY BEAT

by PCSO Phil Jones



Hello again,

I am happy to say that this has been a very crime free month; however there has been a report of Anti-Social Behaviour in the car park to the rear of the Doctors surgery. This involved some youths drinking and being very rowdy. Officers did attend, however the youths had made off.

This will not be tolerated, any youths found to be drinking and causing Anti-Social Behaviour anywhere in Overton and surrounding areas will be dealt with promptly. Police have the powers to confiscate alcohol, and will make the youths known to the Youth Offending Team. If the youths are under 18 then we will investigate where the alcohol has been purchased from.

If we discover that the alcohol has been purchased by a proxy person (someone who buys or supplies alcohol for youths) they will be given an £80 fine. Yellow cards (Anti-Social Behaviour warnings) will also be issued by a PCSO. The cards are recorded on the Police Computer. If we see that a person is "collecting" yellow cards for Anti-Social Behaviour then we will forward their details to other agencies that will carry out further investigations.

There has been suspicious activity in the church grounds where damage has been done to the boiler house. Any suspicious person seen in the grounds will be stop-checked by a PCSO or Police Officer, they will be asked why they are in the vicinity.

After working hard to organise a recent bike marking and community safety event held at the Overton Village Hall, myself, PCSO Lynne Maurice and PCSO Bethan Large Community safety were disappointed at the very low attendance. These events were publicised in the local paper, the Overton Oracle and in shops and notice boards, however only one person turned up. These events are for you the community and are aimed at protecting your belongings. We will be organising further events and hopefully more people will turn up.

Many Thanks,

**PCSO Phil Jones 2858**

Police Community Support Officer

Tel: 01978 348425 or 07854 389056

e-mail: [philip.w.jones@nthwales.pnn.police.uk](mailto:philip.w.jones@nthwales.pnn.police.uk)

**Non urgent calls 101 or in emergency call 999**

Overton Police Station covering area's Overton, Penley, Hanmer, Bettisfield & Horseman's Green.



### Writers' Group

Overton's own crime fiction writer David Mendus Harris has his first e-book in the Sophie Scrape series free to download on June 14th and 15th!

David who set up the Overton Writers group with Rob Davies, an e-book author of children's fiction, is currently in the process of writing his 5th novel of the series. So when you start reading his books you won't have to wait for the sequels!


The next Overton Writers Group meeting will be on Tuesday 11th June in the White Horse Pub in Overton at 8pm. Just in case we have to cancel do let us know you are coming. Follow the Mendus Harris Books blog - [www.mendus-harris-books.co.uk](http://www.mendus-harris-books.co.uk) for details of literature competitions and events.

### Slimming success

Bangor-on-Dee slimming group is offering a fresh start with a new consultant, award winning Yvonne Urquhart. Over the years in Slimming World's various competitions, Yvonne has helped many entrants through to the finals. Yvonne has recently retaken Slimming World's Secrets of Success, Food Optimising & Safe Practice, Body Magic, Xpress Weigh and Nutrition diplomas and gained her Diamond Diploma all passed with over 98%.

Yvonne looks forward to helping people of the local area change for having no confidence and embarrassed about their size to someone who looks and feels great. The group meets on Thursday at 5.30pm and 7.30pm at Bangor-on-Dee Village Hall.

### Summer Coffee Mornings

St.Mary's Church in Overton will be holding coffee mornings every Wednesday from 10.30 to 12.00 during June, July and August. 

Last year these coffee mornings raised £675 for Nightingale House. Hopefully an even better donation to Nightingale House can be made this year.

Please pop in for a coffee and cake and contribute to a very worthy cause.

### Lunch Club



The Overton Lunch Club is on Wednesday 12th June at 12.30pm at the White Horse.

The menu will be a Carved Meats buffet with Toffee and Vanilla Cheesecake to follow.

To book please ring Gwynneth Austin on 01978 710672.

# Kids Kolumn

by Kate Jenkinson,  
Robyn Rehbock and  
Charley Middleton

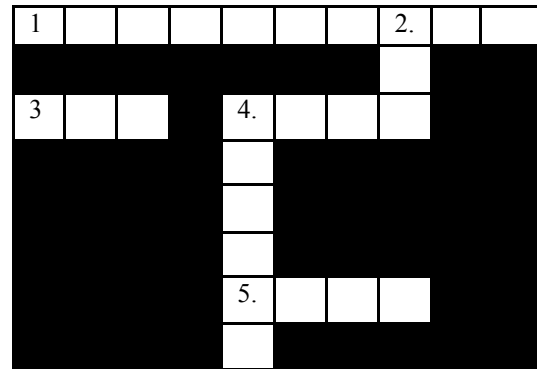


Hey guys, Are you looking forward to the summer holidays?? (We are !!!)

### Competition

**Father's Day:** our competition is to draw a portrait of your Dad and write why he is the best Dad..... The top 3 drawings will get a sweetie prize! Send to: [charleymid31@gmail.com](mailto:charleymid31@gmail.com)

### Crossword



1. Across - An event that takes place on 16<sup>th</sup> June
2. Down - Another name for father
3. Across - F\_n
4. Down - Another name for a hug
4. Across - You normally make these
5. Across - I \_\_\_\_ my dad

- Q. What did the father ghost say to the baby ghost?  
A. *Spook when you're spooked to!*
- Q. Do fathers always snore?  
A. *No - only when they are asleep!*
- Q. What do you call two people who embarrass you in front of your friends?  
A. *Mum and Dad!*

Colour in this Father's Day picture and show it to your dad!





## Mystery solved

The photograph in last months Overton Oracle showed Overton School children and teachers in the late 1880s. However there was a question as to what the building was in the background. Alan Jones, ex Overton resident who reads the Oracle on line, has solved the mystery.

He remembers that in fact the building was the school master's house which was originally built as a single storey building. An upper floor was added in round 1900, but however the foundations were never strengthened. Alan lived in the house for about 7 years and remembers that because of the lack of adequate foundations, the house had "wonky doors and windows".



The house in the picture was built in 1852 by money donated by Mary Ann Bennion who lived at 'Fairfield' on Salop Road. She handed over the house to the school trustees "*house built by her on land belonging to and adjoining the National School used for the residence of the school master*". Both house and school were demolished in 1987 and replaced by Old School Mews.

## Growing the team

The last 4 months have been exciting times for Overton company Wildbanks Conservation. They have welcomed a new Conservation Ranger, Michael Bird, an enthusiastic Yorkshireman who has relocated to the area and joined Wildbank's busy team. With the addition of Michael's skills the company have taken on more challenging projects, putting the company at the forefront of practical conservation. An extra pair of hands has also helped Mike and Clare transform the old blacksmith's workshop into an office for their base in Overton.



## Cemetery Maintenance

Should any maintenance work be required on graves in the Overton Cemetery, could you please contact the Clerk to the Council prior to the work being carried out? This is so any queries regarding the work i.e replacement soil on graves or headstone repair, can be discussed beforehand with the Clerk.

There are 2 piles of earth available, spoil and top soil and some individuals have been using the wrong pile for repair - spoil instead of the top soil.

Clerk to the Council – Katrina Chalk  
01978 710 055 Mondays or Wednesdays  
Email: [occ.clerk@btinternet.com](mailto:occ.clerk@btinternet.com)

## Playgroup News

After another successful Nearly New Sale in April I would like to thank everyone involved in making the day possible, we raised over £600 on the day, which is fantastic!! Thank you to all those who donated their old clothes etc for our Bags 2 School collection in May, I don't have the final figure raised yet, but we had a big pile of bags, so I will let you know as soon as we have the total raised.

We are all looking forward to the Village Fete in June, we will have our stalls set up for fun and games and face painting, so be sure to come and say hello!! I also want to send a big thank you to Mr Wyn-Jones at St. Mary's for his support and help with our fundraising and also for kindly giving the Playcentre space on their new website.

In April we held our AGM, it was a great turn out and I was so pleased to see so many parents there offering their support. A few changes to note, firstly Anna Heward and Danielle Baker, whilst remaining on the committee, have both stepped down from their elected posts as Vice Chair and Fundraiser. They have both been active on the committee for a number of years and whilst we are by no means saying goodbye, I want to thank them for all their commitment and support. Jo Smith has taken the role of Vice Chair and Nicola Pimparel will now be our fundraising co-ordinator.

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome Margaret Evison as a new trustee. Margaret was a founder member of the Playcentre and we are delighted to have her back on board with us.

Throughout the summer are planning to attend car boot sales and are looking for donations of any kind to sell. "One man's junk is another man's treasure", we can sell anything from lawn mowers to toys and clothes. Donations can be left at the Playcentre.

Angie Atkins  
Chair of Committee

## Overton Film Club

You may well be wondering what's happening with the last film of the Overton Film Club 2012-13 season! It was difficult to secure a good enough film. And then impossible to get a date that worked for both the Village Hall and the company that shows the films. We will delay till September and by then there will be a better range of films to choose from and the nights will be getting darker again. So, apologies for postponing, but rest assured there will be a film in September.



It will also be a better position by September to know if the Film Club will have enough funding to manage another season. To make this possible Wilf Macdonald-Brown would appreciate everyone letting him know if they would be prepared to renew their membership for 2013-14, or join at £20 for a season of 5 films. Email Wilf on [overton.film.club@gmail.com](mailto:overton.film.club@gmail.com)

**Best of luck** to Jenny England who leaves to climb Kilimanjaro at the end of June. She still has £250 to raise before she leaves so if anyone would like to donate she would be extremely grateful!!  
[http://www.hopeheroes.org/jennifer\\_england](http://www.hopeheroes.org/jennifer_england)

## Cricket News

Overton played Hodnet & Peplow on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May. This same fixture last year was cancelled due to rain and on arriving at Hodnet, it was again, damp. On winning the toss, Andy Clements had no hesitation in putting in the opposition to bat. It was slow progress mainly due to Ross Morrison and Matthew Lawrenson bowling tight and tidy opening spells. On the back of this pressure, Neil Woolley picked up 3 wickets; together with 2 catches from Gareth Overthrow, a catch to finish off the opposing team's innings by Scott Lawrenson and a fine run out by Matthew Lawrenson and Richard Hewitt combined. The Overton team went to tea feeling confident.

In reply, the skipper fell early, but then it was over to Mike Lawrenson who showed his class on a slow, low wicket, with strong driving and cleverly taken singles, that took him to 45 runs which added to his half century in our midweek game. As his Granddad left the field, Matthew Lawrenson took his guard at the wicket. From the very start, his timing was top-notch, smashing their bowlers to all parts of the field. His clean hitting included a straight six to win the match leaving him 53 not out – a good win by 6 wickets.

### Overton June Cricket Fixtures

Saturday 1st - Trysull & Seisdon - Away  
 Saturday 8th - Bridgnorth - Home  
 Saturday 15th - Newport - Away  
 Saturday 22nd - Prees - Home

*All games start 1.30pm    New members welcome*



## Your Letters...



*Dear Editor,*

I haven't lived in Overton as long as last months contributor but I agree that the roads have deteriorated in the past few years. As well as causing a nuisance through noise/vibration, potholes can damage cars and can increase the chance of an accident. I would like to remind everyone that there are a number of ways to report potholes to Wrexham County Council.

The Highways department can be contacted via telephone on 01978 298989 or there is an online form on the council website [http://www.wrexham.gov.uk/english/online/eforms/highway\\_main\\_form.cfm](http://www.wrexham.gov.uk/english/online/eforms/highway_main_form.cfm)

There are also a number of other websites that can be used to report problems with potholes, dog fouling, graffiti etc. My favourite is [www.fixmystreet.com](http://www.fixmystreet.com) which allows you to report a wide range of issues and see all the problems that have been reported locally. I've reported the potholes on Turning Street/Bangor Road so hopefully they should be repaired soon and last months contributor won't be woken up at 5:30am for much longer!

*Name and address supplied*

## Try the 'Flower Quiz'



Sunflowers, the parent support group for parents of children with additional needs, is running a 'Flower Quiz' to raise funds for Sunflowers and the Park! The Quiz is £1 and will be available from venues around the village, or phone Fiona on 710087 for details.

A prize of a £10 garden voucher will be awarded to the 1st correct entry drawn on 13<sup>th</sup> July at the Sunflowers 'Picnic in the Park' event in Overton. (So keep this date in your diary and look out for details in the next Oracle!) Please return your entry to Fiona Leaver, 3 Sundorne, Overton, LL13 OEB by 6<sup>th</sup> July.

'Sunflowers' is a support group for parents/carers of children with additional needs in Overton and the surrounding area. They normally meet on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 8pm in The White Horse, Overton.

Sunflowers is also part of 'Overton Outdoors Owrtyrn' with Overton Community Council and other local groups including Playcentre, toddler groups and Overton Scout Group (to name but a few!) who are working together with the aim of improving the safety of Overton park (playing fields) and providing more inclusive play equipment.

## New Councillors

**Overton Community Council** would like to welcome and introduce 3 new co-opted members onto the council. Mrs Pene Coles, Mr Clive Hellingman and Mr Peter Lynch who put their names forward and were unanimously voted on by the other members of the community council.

All full Council meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month in the Parish Room and commence at 7.20pm. The first 10 mins of the meeting allowing members of the public to speak. All members of the public are welcome. The minutes are available in the library and on the website [www.overton-on-dee.co.uk](http://www.overton-on-dee.co.uk)

## Tribute to Mr. Pratt

Tributes have been paid to Derrick Pratt who died at the end of April aged 81. He taught at the Maelor School Penley for 31 years, teaching geography, German and boys' PE and was Deputy Head.

Mr Pratt also managed to find time to write countless books on local history including three volumes on flying during the Second World War called 'Wings Across the Border', 'A Millennium History of Penley' many contributions for the Denbighshire Historical Society and a regular column for the Wrexham Leader. He also taught swimming at Oswestry Leisure Centre over two decades and was secretary for the Amateur Swimming Association.

Born in Acrefair in 1931, studied geography and German at Aberystwyth, and later read medieval British History. He did National Service with the Army in Malaya and lectured extensively on local history. He published 19 books plus 131 articles in learned journals, and 704 columns for the Wrexham Leader. He was twice winner of the Bishop David Bartlett Memorial Prize for ecclesiastical history, had written extensively on the history of aviation in NE Wales and adjacent counties - the 4th volume of Wings Across the Border was in preparation. His interests and publications stretched to canals, tramways, railways, markets, lead mining, the Home Guard, decoy sites and much more!



## New Friendship Group

**Contact the Elderly** and Penley Rainbow Centre are setting up a small **Friendship Group** to take out 7-8 older guests for Sunday afternoon tea once a month in the Penley/Overton area. They are looking for people who could be a host, welcoming the group into their home for tea and cake once a year or help with transporting the older guests.

And if you are over 75, live alone, and need a hand getting out and about, please ask about joining the group as one of our guests. It's free to join and you will be picked up from home.

To help contact Liz Morgan on 01938 810635 or email [elizabeth.morgan@contact-the-elderly.org.uk](mailto:elizabeth.morgan@contact-the-elderly.org.uk)

## Congratulations

Congratulations to the Overton Recreational Clubs "A" Pool Team captained again by Mark Whitall who have won the Ellesmere Pool League.

Congratulations to Mike Dorey on winning the Tom Povey Cup, the Oswestry pairs with Lee Gorton and the Oswestry singles competition in the Oswestry Snooker League.

*Commercial adverts are not included in the on-line version of the Oracle.*

*Business adverts can be viewed in the Business section of the Overton-on-Dee website page*

*To advertise on the website please click on link on Business page*



**WHAT'S ON****June Diary for St Mary's Services**

**Sunday June 2nd** 10.00am Family Village Praise  
**Sunday June 9th** 11.30am Holy Communion  
**Sunday June 16th** 10.00am Family Communion  
**Sunday June 23rd** 11.30am Holy Communion  
**Sunday June 30th** 10.00am Group Eucharist at Erbistock

**June Diary for Methodist Chapel Services**  
**Sunday evenings** 6.30pm

**Every Saturday** 10.30am - 12 noon Weekly Coffee Mornings at the Methodist Chapel

**Every Wednesday** 10.30 - 12noon Weekly Coffee Morning in St Mary's Church in aid of Nightingale House

**Saturday June 1st** 10.30am - 12.00pm Overton British Legion Coffee Morning in the Village Hall.

**Thursday June 6th** 10.30am - 2.30pm Penley Rainbow Lunch + Learn (Glass Painting) & Fun for You Both

**Monday June 10th** 10.30am Overton British Legion meeting for coffee at Woodlands Deli

**Monday June 10th** 6.00pm Overton Patient Participation Group at the Surgery. New members welcome

**Tuesday June 11th** 7.30pm Overton Community Council meeting in the Parish Room. Members of the public wishing to speak can do so between 7.20 – 7.30pm.

**Tuesday June 11th** 8.00pm Overton Writers Group meeting in the White Horse Pub

**Wednesday June 12th** 12.30pm Overton Lunch Club at the White Horse. Booking required.

**Tuesday June 18th** 10.30am - 2.30pm Penley Rainbow Games Day with Ron

**Thursday June 20th** Overton WI outing. Depart 2.30pm for visit to Well House Antiques & the Rowans Gardens. Competition: Piece of antique jewellery

**Friday June 21st** 9.00pm Live music at the White Horse. All welcome, free entry

**Monday June 24th** 2.00 - 3.30pm Penley Rainbow Open Day

**Tuesday June 25th** St Mary's School Sports Day

**Wednesday June 26th** 7.00pm Maelor Music Society Summer Supper Evening

**Saturday June 29th** 2.00pm - 5.00pm **OVERTON FETE**

**Wednesday July 3rd** 10.00 - 11.00am Overton Community Council Drop-In in the Parish Room

**In need of good home**

Very pleasant, friendly and confident big black cat with little stump for a tail. Velvety coat, neutered & in good health. Found near Old School Mews. Does he belong to someone or would you adopt him? Tel: 711970

**FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Congratulations** on the birth of baby Rose Elise, a baby sister for Lily and a new baby daughter for Paula and Gary Wyn Jones, Headmaster of St Mary's School.

**Happy June Birthdays** to Marlene Williams, Katharine Crockford, Jill Burton, Sandra Jones, Jenny England, Ken Roberts, Andrew Brookfield, Graham Manley, Colin Bamber, Olivia Phillips, Nicole Netzband-Piggott, Millie Davies, Bob Davies, Stephen Perrin, Tracy and Kayleigh Leech Ron Towers and Kate Best.

**Happy 21st Birthday** to Claire Hellingman for June 19th  
**Belated Happy Birthday** to Andrew Aaron Liu and Elis Perrin and belated **60th Birthday** wishes to John McCusker.

**Thank you**

Many thanks for everyone who supported the coffee morning on May 4th at the Village Hall which raised £435.

Further contributions are always welcome. This money will fund next December's party for Senior Citizens in Overton.

**For Sale****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; Treasurer Rob Netzband-Piggott; Distribution Cynthia Davies; Sean Clarke, & Euan Stevenson.**

**Editor - Jill Burton.  
 Tel 710631 or e-mail  
 overtonoracle@gmail.com**

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 Oracle is available on the internet. Please be mindful that personal details submitted will be available to a wider audience.

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