

The Overton Oracle



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March 2009

Overton's Free Newspaper - issued monthly



Happy Mother's Day to all Overton mothers

MOTHERS' DAY - MY HERO

by Dave Austin

I've read with interest over the past few months the campaign in the national press to award our troops with a recognised medal for their services in the conflict zones of Iraq and Afghanistan, whilst I fully support the campaign I may raise a few eyebrows in thinking that the gap between Hero or Idiot, Bravery or Stupidity is that of a very narrow margin, even more so in the field of conflict where acts of heroism last just a few seconds or at the most, a few minutes as does that of the mega rich footballers, sports and singing stars who pick up an OBE etc for virtually very little effort.

For me a true Hero is someone who I know very well, in fact she happens to be my sister-in-law Gwenneth Austin. It's only just recently that I've been able to fully appreciate the mammoth burden she took upon herself and with very little help from any other source, to care for her severely disabled son, an act of heroism which has lasted now over 35 years. During that time she also took on board the responsibility of caring for her elderly Mother who was also a wheelchair dependant.

With very little help from her late husband she still found time to be a good Samaritan to other people, run the Thursday Club, be a very active member of the Methodist Church, and at any event in every quarter of the village her helping hand is so often always readily available, for so very little reward. An unsung Hero indeed, but in every sense of the word she is my true Hero. And if when the time comes, there is such a place as Heaven, Gwenneth is one person I know that deserves to go.



CHILL OUT

by Scott Lawrenson and Jack Harrison



Well we missed the BIG freeze...it seemed that we only got a medium sized one but there was still plenty of time for us local youngsters to have lots of fun in the snow! We didn't really have the forecasted 'snow day' but certainly made up for it before (during) and after school when the village seemed alive with hoots of laughter and squeals of joy.

A great bit of good, old fashioned fun - how many of you grown ups couldn't resist a snowball or two? go on....own up....we saw you!

SPRING'S COMING

by Gerry Owen

Catkins are out,

The rooks have come home,

Snowdrops flowering,

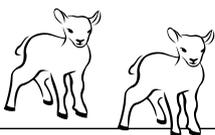
How the daffodils have grown .

The lambs have arrived,

Hedges are green,

The most wonderful sight

I have ever seen.



Soon it will be Easter day.

Martins, swifts & swallows are on their way.

Not far behind the cuckoo will arrive.

It's spring and how wonderful to be alive



Ramblings From the Rectory by David Lewis

Dear Friends,

There is a custom which is scarcely heard of today, but in medieval times was very popular. This custom was built around a figure called Jack o'Lent. He was a straw figure dressed in rags and was intended to represent Judas Iscariot, the Disciple who betrayed Christ.



This ragged straw figure was paraded through the streets on Ash Wednesday with crowds booing and jeering it. It was then placed in a prominent position where everyone could see it and those who wished could throw sticks and stones at it. Throughout the period of Lent this straw figure stayed there, and if anything remained of the effigy when Lent was finished, it was burnt publicly. Most often there was very little left to burn.

There are many customs associated with Lent. But they all remind us that as human beings, we all have failings. It is nice to be able to take everything out on a scapegoat such as Jack o' Lent. But the reality is at times we all let each other down, or do something that we would rather forget.

A friend of mine once said: "I have many faults, but being wrong is not one of them!" If only that was true!

Lent is a positive time, when we can truly assess our lives, both the positive aspects and the things we are not so proud of. And then start again. God loves each one of us and wants us to live happy and fulfilled lives, not lives bogged down with guilt and regret.

So why not use this Lent profitably, letting go of the things that weigh our lives down, and try to be the people God would have us be, forgiving and loving Human Beings.

Your friend and Rector, David

COUNTRY BEAT by Constable Luke Hughes

Crime has recently remained low across the area, however I would ask you all to remain vigilant and report any sightings of suspicious vehicles, in particular in the rural areas of Tallarn Green, Marchwiell and Horsemans Green. I have received reports from Wrexham Highways that they have lost a number of metal "Gully" Covers in these areas over recent weeks. It is quite likely that we have a scrap metal thief operating in the area, most probably driving a van of some description, if anyone has seen a vehicle of this type in suspicious circumstances over the last few weeks I would be grateful if you could let me know.

There also appears to be an emerging trend in respect of Mini Diggers, JCB's and Farm Machinery / Plant. Please ensure you take reasonable precaution to secure these items, to date we have lost around six in the last few months.

During a normal working month your local policing team will attend a number of meetings across our area of responsibility; these meetings, often community council meetings give representatives from your community the opportunity to raise and discuss any concerns they may have about police related matters in the respective areas. On a number of occasions Road Safety has been highlighted, particularly in respect of speed, manner of driving, lack of safety belts and parking.

It is the intention of your police team to actively address these matters in the followings areas in Overton - Station Road, Wrexham Road, School Lane, Salop Road and also will be monitoring the Speed of School Buses. Positive enforcement is likely in the form of prosecution so please keep your speed down and your safety belt on.

Overton Police Station
Station Road
Overton
Wrexham LL13 0EF
Telephone: 0845 607 1002 ext: 48425

E-Mail : Luke.Hughes@nthwales.pnn.police.uk

OVERTON MEDICAL PRACTICE

We have some very good news that Dr Sreeram, one of our current Registrars, is expecting her first baby, in April. She will probably start her Maternity Leave at the end of March. We send her and her husband 'Congratulations' and we will let you all know the news when the time comes.

Soon patients will start to see a bar code printed on their prescriptions. This will improve efficiency for Pharmacists and improve safety and security for the issue of medications. Dr Bowdler is instigating a new 'Telephone Consultation Protocol'. What this means is that for a certain time, on most days, he will allocate time which can be booked, the same way as a normal appointment, for him to ring the patient on a number which they have supplied to hold a short consultation over the telephone, saving them a visit to the surgery. This could be at home or at work, whichever is suitable and used to perhaps follow up discussions or give advice relating to previously seen or existing conditions, or for medication reviews where existing prescriptions are straightforward. Test results could be discussed or the suitability of medications. The Doctor would ring at the appointment time, only one attempt will be made, no message or dialogue left with a third party. Your thoughts and comments on this service would be appreciated. It is hoped to start as soon as possible, but we will make it known once we are up and running.

SCHOOL NEWS

On behalf of all at St. Mary's School, we would like to thank everyone who either attended or helped organise our hugely successful 'Open Morning'. It was a pleasure to open our school to the community and we're sure that all who attended enjoyed a taster of Forest School, our musical interlude and the tour of the classroom and practical areas led by our splendid pupils of years 5 and 6.

A huge thank you to everyone involved.

From everyone at St. Mary's

ABU DHABI ADVENTURE

Overton's Tom Hodgkinson and his FGS adventure racing team have completed the ABU DHABI ADVENTURE CHALLENGE, across 361km of desert, sea and mountains to finish in 19th position in 49 hours 12 minutes and 59 seconds, and as the second GB team by 36 minutes.

The Abu Dhabi Adventure Challenge is a multi sports race in teams of 4, racing over 6 consecutive days in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi. Disciplines are: Sea Kayaking, Camel Hiking, Cross Orienteering, Mountain Biking, Adventure Running, and Rope Activities. Each team consists of 4 competitors (with no Assistance crew). Teams have to be mixed.

The first 3 days were fast and furious for the triathlon and Tom was cycling alone ahead of the pack followed by 45.5km mountain bike race and 85km sea kayak where Team FGS gained a 2.5 hr lead over their GB rivals. Days four and five were spent in the desert with blistering heat and blisters. The final day was an all up hill mountain summit bike race, a 200m abseil, a 14.5km canyon trek and the final 27km mountain bike race to the finish.

The team worked together as a strong team, at some points even towing each other in order to get to the finish line. A magnificent effort.

Messy Church Easter Fun Morning
SATURDAY 11TH APRIL
ST MARY'S CHURCH, 10AM-12PM

Our next Messy Church event is on Easter Saturday from 10-12pm in **St Mary's Church**.

Try your hand at making Easter crowns, bonnets and egg painting.



Join in an Easter egg hunt.

See how many chocolate eggs you can collect?

Everyone loved our last messy church at Epiphany. Why not join in the fun this time!

All ages will enjoy the activities and fellowship this morning offers.

Refreshments will be provided.

Kids Kolumn

By Alice Foster, Lydia Biggs and Lottie Blake

Hi everybody its March.



Ask Alice

Q: Hi, I'm 9 years old and I really want to go swimming by myself but my Parents think that I'm not responsible enough. **From Molly**

A: Hi Molly, Although your parents may sound mean they are just trying to look out for you, you don't know who's around, but maybe when you are 10 your parents might let you go with a couple of friends. **Thanks.**

LAUGH WITH LYDIA

Q.What do you get if you cross a Dog and a Phone?
A Golden Receiver

Q. What wobbles when it flies? *A Jellycopter*

Q. What sits in a pram and wobbles *A Jelly-Baby*

Q. Why do Jelly Babies go to school?
Because they want to be Smarties

Q. What sits in Custard looking cross?
Apple Grumble

Lottie's Pet of the Month

Pet: Dog Breed: Chihuahua

The Chihuahua is the world's smallest dog. At maturity they are generally between 2 and 6 pounds. The Chihuahua is one of the most loved dogs and is extremely popular in America. This long-lived breed has a life expectancy well into the mid-teens. Chihuahuas are known as either handbag dogs or show dogs. Many people dress their Chihuahuas to look like them.



Reviews Film - Hotel for Dogs

Bruce and Andi have had many foster parents, but none of them have known they had a secret pet dog, Friday. They decide it's best if they give the dog up as they can't look after him anymore. One night Friday runs off and finds a couple of stray dogs living in an old hotel. Bruce and Andi follow him, and with the help of a couple of friends, go about decorating the hotel and rounding up all the stray dogs so they can live in the hotel for dogs. But can they keep it a secret from their foster parents and the local pound? The main stars are Jake T Austin and Emma Roberts, Bruce and Andi. Don Cheadle, Kevin Dillon and Lisa Kudrow.

What we thought - This definitely gets a thumb up, even if you aren't a big fan of dogs.

Ways to help the Overton Play Centre

The Play Centre has recently been registered with the Utility Warehouse discount club which is part of Telecom plus PLC, a major UK company and backed by the Police Federation. With them you can save money on your utility bills and they will beat the prices of the main 6 players in the market. Combine your electricity, gas, telephone, internet and mobile telephone bills or a combination of any of these by going to the Utility Warehouse and The Play Centre benefit as well by being given a direct donation from the company of up to 5% of your bill total. You save money on your utilities and we make money, so everyone wins!!! Please ring Anne on 01978 710854 for more details or if you have any queries. Our reference no. is B84900 and you can easily switch your utilities by calling 0800 1313000.

The Play Centre is also registered with

Easyfundraising.org.uk If you buy through this website with shops such as Marks and Spencer, Next, Currys, Argos, WH Smith, Comet, HMV, Pets at Home, B & Q, Screwfix, John Lewis, The Body Shop, Boden, HMV plus many many more - then The Play Centre will directly benefit. You will find us under '**Overton Pre-School Play Centre**'.

and with Yellowmoon.org.uk for crafts, toys and party ideas. Our reference is WOV03996 & find us from our postcode: LL13 0ES

Please also remember that we are still collecting clothes, shoes, soft toys and handbags for the recycling initiative. Should you be having a clear out I am happy to collect the bags from you and store them until the collection date in June - more information nearer the time!!

Play group fundraisers for March

Pamper evening March 6th from 7.30pm. Ladies (and gentlemen if you wish - we would love to have you along!) do come along for a relaxing pamper evening by experienced consultants from The Body Shop. We will have a number of complimentary treatments, such as nails, mini facials etc included in **the evening's price as well as the opportunity to buy Body Shop products. These could be for you or for a Mother's Day gift (on 22nd March)**. Also included in the price of £6 will be a glass of wine and snacks. You know that you deserve a treat, so book your place and relax!!!

Saturday 7th March from 10.30am. We are going to have a stand at the W.I. sale at the village hall and will be face painting and doing crafts suitable for Mothers Day and Easter. Do come along with your children and have some fun!

Charity bag packing initiative 21st March. From 10am to 5pm the Play Group has the opportunity to bag pack for shoppers at Stans Superstore in St Martins. If you come along to shop on that day, we will help you pack your bags and you have the opportunity to donate a small amount of money for our efforts if you wish!!! Also, if anyone can donate a couple of hours of their time to help us during this fundraiser, we would really appreciate it. Please contact me Thanks, Andrea (tel: 710246)

Commercial adverts are removed from the
online edition

George, Beryl & Me

Overton Village Hall will play host on March 14th to The Central Town and Country Touring Company's production of "**George, Beryl & Me**", an evening of family entertainment, the songs George sang and the stories surrounding them.



The evening will cover the story of George Formby and his wife Beryl., the entertainers who made the nation laugh and sing in the 1930s and 40s. It will tell as much of their story as possible from the perspective of the people who knew them both or came in contact with them. Having researched the story Imelda Delve of the CTCT Company hopes to give a balanced view that will emphasise the talent of both George and Beryl and the sheer stage persona of George. Imelda says "The show I have devised rekindles an interest in George and his music for those who had forgotten him or in some cases never heard of him, like the young actor in the show, Russ. So it will have an all-round appeal as we tour the show around Shropshire, Cheshire, Staffordshire and the borders"

An evening of tremendous family entertainment, a good night out and a chance to banish the winter blues. Show starts 7.30pm. Tickets are £5 and available from 07733092616.

Saving Grace – A tale of two journeys by Sean Clarke



My usual experience of the movies is bittersweet. A twelve mile trip to Wrexham's multiplex theatre is preceded by a swift mugging at the box office. I realise that this is the warm up to the pick and mix counter where my little cherubs will manage to relieve me of what meagre resources I have left. I get strange looks leaving the shirt off my back as part payment....

The films nonetheless are usually great with excellent sound and sharp quality images so I keep returning. Recently though, I was lucky enough to venture out on a cold Friday night to Overton's inaugural screening in the village hall. A short trip, a hot pork bap, a glass of wine and the film 'Saving Grace' - it was brilliant.

I laughed in particular at the two W.I. members behaviour in the film as they attempted to serve a customer whilst stoned on cannabis – it was hilarious. And given the fact that hydroponics and industrial growing was discovered by Police in the local area a couple of years ago, the storyline wasn't so unbelievable.

The screening, undertaken by local enthusiasts, was an attempt to gauge interest and judging by the turnout, there is plenty. The hall was packed and I wasn't laughing alone ☺. Wilf and his fellow enthusiasts will be looking for support to make this a regular event and I really hope it takes off. Watching a film locally, without all the commercial trappings that detract from the experience was great and I'm sure I'm not the only one who thinks so....

Village Hall hosts Blue Bands by Sue Glover



Dennis Greaves

Overton Village Hall were delighted to offer a venue to The Hooker Blues Club on 24th January. They needed a bigger venue for the band **NINE BELOW ZERO** who had been booked for over a year. The Club has a huge following and the tickets were all sold out very quickly. On the band's web site it seemed strange to see OVERTON listed among London, Oslo, Bahrain, Liverpool, York, Dortmund & Ris Orangis on the tour dates. www.ninebelowzero.com.

Nine Below Zero have been around for about 30 years and have been guests on The Old Grey Whistle Test, The South Bank Show and had a legendary appearance on "The Young Ones". One promoter said *Who else is this good --- so often.* We were treated to excellent music from Brendan O'Neill, Gerry McAvoy, Mark Feltham and Dennis Greave, excellent beer from the Stone House Brewery in Oswestry - also a sell out - and really good company.

The Village Hall has been booked again on Friday 20th March 09 to welcome **SON OF MUDDY WATERS** and his band. Tel: 01948 770215



Mark Feltham

Overton Scouts Centenary Badge and Neckerchief Available



Overton Scouts are trying to raise £1,000 for a firework display for the village on September 18th to celebrate 100 years of Scouting in Overton. The centenary badge, in green and gold with the scout logo in purple, is £2 and the neckerchief, also in green and gold, is £9. If you would like to buy either or both please contact Group Scout Leader David Burton on 710631. If every household bought a badge we would easily reach our target!

For the first time in 100 years, Overton Scouts has a girl in the troop. Antonia Harlow from Cross Lanes joined the troop last September. One of the leaders nicknamed her Bruce, as Antonia was a bit of a mouthful, and this name has stuck, even at home. Antonia is happy just to be regarded as one of the group! If there are any other girls aged 10½ to 14 who would like to join, come to the Scout Hut on a Friday evening at 7pm—9pm.

There were girls in Overton Venture Scouts some years ago. The name has now been changed to Explorer Scouts, we've only got boys at the moment, but if you are between 14 and 18, boy or girl, you are most welcome to join Explorers, who also meet on a Friday.

Calling all Overtonian Musicians

St Mary's Church is organising a concert for local people with musical talent so if you reached Grade 8 or that level and are currently playing or rusty (and want encouragement to get the dusty instruments down from the attic) then we want to hear from you.

** All types of musical talent welcome **

We also want to hear from anyone who wants to help organise the event which is primarily to have a party to celebrate and enjoy a wide range of local talent, but is also to fundraise for the church.

The inaugural meeting is being held in the Parish Rooms on Wednesday 1st April at 7pm and for more information please contact:

David Lewis 710229, Sandra Jones: 822859
Neil Evison: 710223, Rafela FitzHugh 710329

Banquet - Back by Popular Demand

Overton Amateur Dramatic Society (OADS) together with the Twinning Association are bringing back our themed Banquet after a break of 3 yrs. Following on from the original Mediaeval Banquet organised by Ann Lipson in 1992 to celebrate the 700th Anniversary of Overton's Charter, OADS took up the mantle and over the years have had themes including Caribbean, Roman, The Good Old Days and the War Years.

This year think ABBA, Black Forest Gateau, Blue Nun, Glam Rock, Disco, Chopper Bikes and Klackers just for starters. That's right - we're going back to the **Seventies** with a three course meal, entertainment, music and dancing. So why not get in the mood, dust off your platform shoes, and dig out those flared jeans, tank tops, hippy wigs and cheesecloth shirts. Make a note of **June 20th** in your diary and watch out for details of tickets going on sale. **Don't miss out!** We are also looking for acts to perform. If you can sing, dance or act ring Glynis on 710455

Your Letters...

Dear Editor,

On Friday 30th January at 7.00pm I went with my husband to Maelor School Penley to watch Dance Addiction. I was amazed and astounded by children, boys and girls aged between 3 to 18yrs doing all kinds of dance. The School Hall was full of parents, grandparents and friends of the children that were taking part. Congratulations must go to Lorren Wallwin who had instructed young and older children so brilliantly to put on the show that they did, but of course the main congratulations must go to the children without whom there would not of been a show. Very well done to all those who took part and here's looking forward to the next show.

Cynthia Davies

Dear Editor,

I sent an amusing birthday card with a badge on it to a friend. The friend was not amused to be charged £1.60 because the badge made the envelope too thick. So embarrassing; it never occurred to me and I have since learnt that others have fallen into the same trap. Hope this warning will prevent someone else having their day spoilt.

Lesley Pugh

Dear Editor,

As a dog owner it was nice to see Wrexham Council Wardens being so vigilant over dogs doing their business in the park (Tree Avenue) and speaking to the owners who did not pick up after their dogs. It is just a shame that they couldn't be as vigilant in the village on the pavements where dogs seem to be able to do their business without any charge. Perhaps it's time to name and shame. Well done to all those responsible dog owners who do clean up after their dogs.

C. Davies

WHAT'S ON

March Diary for St Mary's Services

- Sunday March 1st** 11:30am Holy Eucharist
Tuesday March 3rd 2.45pm St Marys School Service in Church. All welcome.
Sunday March 8th 11.00am Sunday Praise & coffee
Sunday March 15th 11.30am Holy Eucharist
Mothering Sunday March 22nd 11.30am Family Eucharist
Sunday March 29th 10.30am Group Eucharist in Erbistock

Churches Together Lent Bible Studies 7pm. All welcome
Tuesday March 3rd in the Parish Room.

- Tuesday March 10th** in the R C Hall
Tuesday March 17th in the Methodist Church
Tuesday March 24th in the Parish Room
Tuesday March 31st in the R C Hall.

Saturday March 7th 10.30am Overton WI Coffee Morning in the Village Hall. Various stalls. Tickets 50p each.

Tuesday March 10th Overton Community Council meeting in the Parish Room. Members of the public wishing to speak can do so between 7.20 – 7.30pm. The meeting commences 7.30pm.

Saturday March 14th 7.30pm "George Beryl & Me" at the Village Hall. Tickets £5 An evening of music & drama, the story of George Formby.

Thursday March 19th Overton WI Meeting in the Parish Room. "Talk & Film – Trip on Orient Express" by Shirley Owen. Competition: Perfume Bottle

Friday March 20th Overton Village host Blues Band 'Son of Muddy Water and his band. Tickets from Peter Evans 01948 770215

Thursday April 2nd St Mary's Church Vestry in the Parish Room

April 23rd, 24th and 25th 7.30pm Overton Amateur Dramatic Society's next production "How the Other Half Loves" by Alan Ayckbourn in Village Hall. Directed by Alan Edwards

PLEASE REMEMBER
 Copy Deadline 20th of month. Get your events & news to us early to avoid disappointment
THIS INCLUDES ADVERTISEMENTS
 Leave your contributions, & announcements at the Corner Shop.

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Burton.
Tel 710631 or e-mail

FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy March Birthdays

To Jack Edwards, Anne Clarke, Grace Haynes, John Austin, Gwyneth Austin, Ivor Parkinson, David Burton, Finlay Clarke, Janet Reid, Janene Davies, Freda Thompson, Barbara Griffiths, Kate Jenkinson, Joanne Kember, Liam and Matt Grindley, Roxanne Haynes and Cynthia Davies. 

GOOD LUCK and safe journey to our grandson Dean Osborne posted to Kenya. Dave Austin

Congratulations to Scott Lawrenson who has been selected for North East Wales Under 10's cricket team. We are all so proud of him and can't wait for the season to begin! Well done Scottie! Howzat!

From Mum, Dad and Matthew

THANK YOU

It gives us great pleasure to be able to announce that the sale of **Overton on Dee Christmas Cards**, made using the photos of the village, which were so kindly donated by local residents, generated a profit of £246.34. This has been divided between the three active churches in the village, so each church will receive a cheque for £82.12. (once gift aid is added, this will increase to over £108 if my calculations are correct). A very big thank you to all who bought the cards, the local residents for their photos, and Steve and Sandra Whitely at Prontaprint for without their help, none of this would have been possible. Once again, THANK YOU. *Mick and Karen*

I would like to thank all our customers and friends for their enquiries and good wishes whilst I have been off work ill and for accepting the reduced hours of opening at Select & Save while I am off work. Thank you to my staff for the extra work they have done for me. I hope to be back at the helm & behind the counter again very soon. Thank you all so very much.

Caroline Wason

May thanks to Oracle distributor Rona Williams who cycles round her route whatever the weather. and is greatly appreciated by residents of Cloy Lane.

FOR SALE

16" upright pedestal fan £5

Phone 01978 710474

PC for sale, Compaq 1909, 17" Flat Monitor

Desk Top Printer, Work Station/Desk £300

Genuine Reason for sale Phone 01978 780142

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