

The Overton Oracle

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Overton's Free Newspaper - issued monthly



Launch of Lunch Club

The new Overton Lunch Club had its inaugural lunch at the White Horse Inn on Wednesday 10th February. Promoted by Age Concern in conjunction with Wrexham County Borough Council, lunch club development is high on the agenda especially in rural areas. Chris Brownridge of Age Concern said that there were now 28 lunch clubs operating in the County. They are markedly different from previous lunch clubs which were run by volunteers who also cooked the meals. The new clubs are

different by going into pubs and clubs, where the food is prepared by the pub or club for a reasonable price.

White Horse landlord Steve Dodwell said he was delighted to host the new Lunch Club. In total 28 club members attended the lunch and enjoyed a two course lunch of Chicken, Ham and Leek Pie with potatoes and veg, followed by apple and mixed fruit crumble.

The Overton Lunch Club will meet on the second Wednesday every month, and the next meeting will be on 12.30pm on **March 10th**. Any-one wishing to join the lunch club, can do so by ringing Gwynneth Austin on 710672.



Mystery at the Village Hall

by Sean Clarke

Thursday Feb 4th saw the first night of Overton Am Dram's performances of 'Agatha Crispie' (it's a parody, not a typo) directed by Cynthia Davies. Set in Southern England, just after WW 2, the plot centres on Agatha, an unpublished mystery writer and the dynamics in her family.

Debuting were Bruce Young playing both Chief Inspector Bland and Sir Henry Dithering, and Roxanne Haynes who gave a creditable performance as Elvira Walloman, the spoilt debutante and step-daughter of Agatha. Mervyn Haynes was solid as usual as were the rest of the cast with two exceptions...

Ann Kynaston's interpretation of 'Pimms', Agatha's downtrodden but faithful maid, stole the show with her utterly convincing portrayal. Her performance brought spontaneous applause and her off script ad-libbing was comic. With Ann being one exception, the other nameless character was guilty of the worst overacting I have ever witnessed - there was less ham than in the film 'Babe'. However, this being a mystery, you will have to deduce exactly who the guilty party is yourself ...

Adding to the atmosphere were the Derwen School visitors whose generous appreciation and autograph hunting added to the atmosphere and enjoyment. Also in attendance were Bob Hughes and his partner from Llandegfan, Yns Mon, who, being distantly related to the author Cenarth Fox, had travelled over especially to take in the performance and gave very favourable comments.

Overall it was an excellent performance and a thoroughly enjoyable night. The best line though, came not from the play, but from the Director's other half, who, when I asked if he would be supporting from the wings, looked at me dead-pan and replied "Na, I'm not. I don't do amateurs"..... Genius.

Ramblings From the Rectory by David Lewis

Dear Friends,

The local clergy fraternal was a challenge to a new depth of friendship by one of its members. *"I think we should show our trust in one another by confessing our weaknesses and secret longings"* he said. They agreed and the Anglican Vicar began: *"My weakness" he admitted "is drink. I have to keep a careful watch or I could become an alcoholic".* The Roman Catholic Priest was equally frank. *"I miss female company. I would love to take an attractive girl for a meal and a chat, but of course I dare not."* The Methodist Minister was encouraged to unburden herself. *"I'm so hard up she said and my pay is so pathetic. There are times when I feel I would like to take twenty or thirty pounds out of the collection to buy myself a lovely pair of shoes."*

By this time, the Welsh Presbyterian Minister was getting very agitated. He kept shuffling his feet and looking at his watch. *"Must go, must go"*, he kept on repeating. But the others insisted that before he departs he should also declare his weakness. *"Well"* he said *"Since you insist. My problem is that I am a terrible gossip and quite honestly I can't wait to get out and tell all my friends the things I've just heard!"* And with that he disappeared out of the door!

Temptations and secret longings and desires AND WORRIES are of course some of the key things we think about in Lent. But one of the key things the above story stresses is that trust is so important in helping live out our Christian lives Trust that if we are honest about ourselves and our lives, then people will accept us for who we are, despite, our weakness and failings, and help support us.

It has been said that temptation is a test which comes to a person whom God wishes to use. The word temptation means testing and it reminds us that the person who attempts to live for God will be tested. And at such times we dare not go it alone. We need God's help and each other to keep us from falling. But can we truly trust each other in Christ to be honest and open and feel we are not judged. At a Deanery level to we are challenged to seek deeper levels of trust and understanding between our congregations. We can only do that by being open and by meeting each other. Yet the temptation is to say that the Deanery is nothing to do with me. I will stay in my small corner. I am only concerned with my church. And the minute we do that we put boundaries on our love and faith, and our spirituality starts to wither and die.

The season of Lent asks each of us some searching questions

Do I truly love? Am I joyful? Am I a sharing person? Am I peaceful?

Do I exercised kindness, gentleness and forgiveness? Am I open and trustworthy?

All of us fail at times, but the work of God's spirit is to challenge us and to enable us to change. And when a person is willing to trust and be changed, then the Holy Spirit can make remarkable transformations.

Are we willing to be changed? Are we?

Every Blessing, David



COUNTRY BEAT by Constable Stephen Evans

Its the time of year again when many of us start to look forward and start planning things like

gardening and DIY projects and even visiting car boot sales. Unfortunately there are people out there who will also be planning, but may be travelling around the area driving up and down the street where you live, visiting farms and businesses and looking for the opportunity to take what is yours. They'll take anything that can be quickly thrown in a van or the back of a pick-up.

Pretend you're the criminal for a minute and have a look around your property, what do you think a criminal would be interested in. Garden sheds, cars, central heating fuel, kids bikes, tools? Think what you could do to prevent you being the next victim.

Just make sure things are put and locked away at night. The kids bikes, lawnmowers for example. Make sure cars are locked and don't leave anything in them. Make sure the heating oil tank is well hidden and locked. To make it harder, what about security lights and locks on the gate. Another idea is if you've got anything of value or unique why not take a photograph of it. Brilliant for when we need to identify owners. There are loads of stuff we could all do, it really is simple. Importantly we need you to be vigilant. If you're not sure of anything you've seen make a note of it. Write it down or put it in text on your mobile. Make a note of people involved, descriptions, clothing. If you spoke to them what was it about, any vehicles seen, type of vehicle, colour and number plate. Then please let us know about it.

If you're unsure of anything I've talked about and would like some more information then please contact us at OVERTON police station.

Thank you, Steve - PC 1885.

Bronington & Overton Community Beat Manager. Overton Police Station, Station Road, Overton LL13 0EF
Tel: 0845 6071002 ext:48425 Mobile: 07966086868 E-Mail : Stephen.Evans@nthwales.pnn.police.uk

OVERTON MEDICAL PRACTICE

You may have been observant and noticed that we do not close the doors at lunch time now. There is a receptionist on duty and it means we don't have such a stampede of calls at 2pm when the telephones used to be switched back on. The only time the doors are now closed is the last Wednesday in the month when we have a Staff Meeting from 1 – 2pm and for the afternoons of staff training.

We have instigated a new method for prescribing to patients who are on the same medication/dosage and likely to remain so for the foreseeable future. Dr Bowdler is leading this initiative but you can request this service from any of the doctors in our practice and it is only available through Overton Chemist at the moment. A 12 mth supply of your medication will be issued by the doctor directly to the chemist who will dispense to you as requested by the GP. This means that you do not have to request repeat prescriptions, but only for those medicines that fall into the long term category. The prescriptions that request this service are labelled 'Automatic' to differentiate from the normal scripts.

Home delivery service of medication has proved to be very beneficial to a considerable number of patients who are elderly and in some cases housebound. This service is provided for those who have trouble getting about or have to rely on others to help them if they are living on their own or have mobility problems. Do remember anyone aged 65+ can have the 'Pneumonia Vaccine', a one off injection and can be done any time of the year – just ask!

Kids Kolumn

by Alice Foster, Lydia Biggs,
Becky Aitken and Lottie Blake



Hi guys, its March and spring is here (HOPEFULLY!!!) and don't forget the 14th is Mother's Day

Trivia: Scolionophobia is a fear of what?
(Answer revealed next month)

Fact: if you are born in March your birthstone is Aquamarine
Homework excuse: I lost it fighting this kid who said you weren't the best teacher in the school.

Fill in the gaps with these words

American Fashion Manhattan
Music Three

She is known for her odd _____ sense and expressively strange _____. She has recently won _____ Brit Awards. She was born in _____, New York city. She is an _____ recording artist. She is ???.

(Answer revealed next month)

Review

Avatar (12A) Avatar is a must see movie!!!

When disabled ex-marine Jake Sully's twin brother is killed he is asked to help in a mining expedition on the distant jungle moon of Pandora! Only Jake Sully's DNA will bond with an avatar. When Jake finds himself falling in love with an avatar named Natiri. Complications soon evolve.

This film is amazing, you need to see it.
I rate it 5/5 !!!



What do 'they' do at meetings?

ary we were pleased to welcome a new member and a visitor to our group. It has been a chance to enjoy a time together and make plans for all our spring activities and outings, as well as listening to some interesting people.

Mrs Myfanwy Povey, a larger than life character, was Senior Lecturer of Midwifery & Health Studies, at Bangor University until her retirement. I think she can be forgiven for forgetting her projector on such a cold snowy evening in January, so she gave an impromptu talk about her varied life and career, starting from humble beginnings growing up in a large family in a rural Welsh village. In the 1960s it was a real challenge for a 16 yr old Welsh speaking girl to set off to train in nursing in *England* (Oswestry), yet alone work in Manchester and London. Her story was fascinating and her evident boldness, openness and courage and, most of all, humour kept us entertained. She has met some famous people along the way, and had gossip and stories to tell too. I wish I could meet the Dalai Lama on a train! Well done Myfanwy, these are the women that helped make all things possible for today's women. They 'blazed the trail'.

Malcolm Booth's talk, in February, was on his 10 yrs teaching in Borstal Norfolk, and he told us of many of the innovative ideas he managed to introduce to the troubled boys who were sent there. Many came from hard backgrounds and lacked education, barely able to read and write and Malcolm pushed to give them teaching time in between the trades they worked in during the daytime. He introduced City & Guilds courses so the boys could leave with qualifications, and he managed to get boys into college to study GCEs. Although each boy would travel independently to and from the college, no boy absconded. A drama group was established and won a local competition with their play –such a morale booster. Boys helped at a hospice for young people, and some joined the Army Cadet Force, both with independent travelling and again no boy absconded. The success rate for Borstal then was 97% that says it all!

Inspiring people eh! We often take a risk making a booking for a talk/demonstration/hands on event but as these speakers demonstrate –that is what life is all about! We have a varied programme of events planned from cookery, to Chinese brush painting to Aloe Vera. Why not join us and make a difference. (See Page 8 for next meeting)

Overton Sports and Social Club 1968 to 1979

Following the article by Betty Williams on the history of the Cocoa Rooms Oracle in last months Oracle, Ivor Parkinson, Founder Chairman of the Overton Sports & Social Club writes about the early days.

There used to be a Billiard/Snooker room in what is now the main clubroom of the Club, with a table which has a history of its own. It was made from a sailing ship's timbers as recorded on the plaque at the end of the table. It was given to the village by Major Peel of Bryn-y-Pys. By 1968 use of the room had declined until the last villagers, Hughie Gregory of Bryn-y-Pys Home Farm, Sgt Smith, Bill Bloor and Geoff Hughes, stopped playing. The Village Hall Management Committee locked the room to prevent it from being vandalised.

To avoid losing the facility forever, Tom Haynes arranged an informal meeting with Bill Bussey, Ron Cox (all 3 now dead), Den Owen, Raymond Haynes and myself to look into the possibility of re-opening the room and trying to revive some interest in billiards and snooker. A committee was formed with me as Chairman, Ron Cox as secretary and Raymond Haynes as Treasurer. We re-decorated the room with paint from Noreen Haynes' shop at the Hermitage, Willow Street, which along with building materials was purchased on a 'pay when you can' basis. Later we successfully applied for a liquor licence and we asked the Village Hall Committee to re-locate the Library to what is now the Parish Room, and created what is now the bar and television room. They also let us have the store room which was located between the Library and the snooker room. We then met a representative from Watney's brewery who obtained a gift of £500 (this meeting took place on a freezing winter evening huddled around a small one bar electric fire in the library as there was no heating in the snooker room) which was used to build the bar and it is still in use between the store room and the library. This involved a lot of demolition work, removing rubble using a tractor and trailer provided by Mick Huntbach of Trench Farm and Tom Williams of Cae Dyah, who were both on the committee.

In 1969 the new bar and lounge was opened and villagers were invited to become members. The bench seating was purchased at a sale on Penley Camp for 50p each. All the work was done on a voluntary basis with Committee members sharing bar duties. Money was in short supply so fund raising was always going on, which included a 2 day fete held on the football field with a couple of committee members sleeping in the beer tent to protect the contents and culminating with a dance in a large marquee. One of the attractions in the afternoon was a piano smashing contest, great fun to watch! After further discussions with the Village Hall committee, their new kitchen was built, and the club could go ahead and build the present "snooker room", toilets and committee room, with all the steel girders purchased from Ifton Colliery. The second snooker table was bought from "The Swallow Club" in Whitchurch for £25, dismantled and brought to Overton in T.L. Haynes half ton van, carried upstairs and reassembled in its present position. One of the girders was used to replace the entrance door and wall to make room for the present bar area for the club room. At a later date the Cellar was extended and the Pool room built above it. The bar was manned by committee members for the first 10 years, with the cellar and Beer Pipes cleaned every Sunday morning, along with restocking the bar, cleaning the club rooms and ironing both snooker tables.

Watneys, now Carlsberg Tetley have always been very helpful with interest free loans for furniture purchases etc and membership rose quite regularly nearly 500 at one period. In 1979 the club had it's liquor licence taken away for a period of 6 months after more than 20 police personnel including constables sergeants, plain clothes and Inspectors raided the premises with a search warrant, resulting in about half a dozen members being prosecuted for drinking 20 minutes after the prescribed closing time, but still within the half hour drinking up time, so we all drank Coke and orange juice until the licence was restored and the club was renamed "Overton Recreational Club".

TRAFFIC CALMING MEETING

The next meeting is 15th March at 7 to 8pm in the Parish Room All members of the community are invited. Please remember without your input this venture may fail.

Since the last meeting members of the community have made a DVD of the Wrexham to Whitchurch Road and the councillors have devised a covering letter to accompany it to send to MPs, Police, Wrexham etc. We also have a task that will need your co-operation to move the campaign forward.

FROG RACE

Overton Cricket Club and Overton Twinning Association are holding a FROG RACE on Fri 5th March at 6.30pm in the Village Hall. Dave Evans's Frog Races are famous throughout the area. A great night of family fun is guaranteed. You "buy" a frog and choose your jockey. Bets are placed on all races according to Tote rules. Money will be won! A licensed bar will be open throughout the evening. An original and family fun night out. Family ticket £10. Adult £5 including Supper. Available from Catherine Starkey 710322 or Georgina Mason 710486

Junior Book Club



Overton Library is running a junior book club, for young readers aged 11 and 12. They meet on Wednesday evenings between 6 and 7 pm every month. The next meeting will be

24th March.

Rebecca the Librarian is also setting up another book club for readers aged 9 and 10. She would love to know if any young readers out there would like to join either group. If so, please get in touch with her at the Overton library on 710557 or just pop in.

And for the toddler and playgroup age there are also story times, the next one is Monday 29th March - 1pm to 2pm.

History Group

The last meeting of the History Group gathered together many memories, photos and facts about the buildings that make up Overton High Street and the people who lived there. The old photos show how little has changed since then. Now the village centre is protected by being designated a Conservation Area.

The next meeting will be April 14th upstairs in the White Horse and will first amend the notes made at the last meeting about the High Street and then begin collecting details of Penyllan Street and Station Road. Do come along.

Back on the web

The Oracle is now updated on the website www.overton-on-dee.co.uk from the latest edition to the ones from years ago. Do let your overseas friends & family know, as many have missed keeping in contact with village news over the last few months.

Help us keep Overton's streets clean

If you notice anything that affects the 'look' of the village then contact the number below and a dedicated team at Wrexham County Borough Council will respond to your call.

You can report things like potholes, problems with pavements, dog fouling, litter or faulty streetlights.

Call - Pride in your Streets on
01978 298989

Overton Athletic Football Club Reunion

A reunion to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the inauguration of the Overton Athletic Football Club, will be held at the White Horse Hotel, Overton on **Friday 14th May 2010**. The invitation is extended to everyone connected with the club during the 1970s and 80s, i.e.:- Players, Staff or Supporters. A small charge will be necessary to cover cost of buffet etc..... INTERESTED ?

Ring Dave Austin now on 710678 or e-mail
DvAust@aol.com Closing date:- 24th April.

DOUBLE YELLOW LINES

Overton Community Council are concerned that sometimes motorists are parking outside Rowlands Chemist in the village to pick up items from the chemist or visit the doctor's surgery. Some of the parked vehicles are causing an obstruction due to the position in which they park (other road users have to manoeuvre around them on the tight bend). Behind the surgery is the public carpark with a connecting door that brings you to the front of the doctors.

Wrexham County Borough Council have suggested that double yellow lines placed on this section of road is the only solution and Overton Community Council are seeking the views of the village, bearing in mind that this is part of the conservation area, before any decision is taken to install these lines and we would like to hear residents' opinions.

Please could you fill in the form below and return to either the Corner Shop or post through the black letter box at the village hall (marked Overton Community Council).

For the installation of double yellow lines
outside Rowlands Chemist

Against the installation of double yellow lines
outside Rowlands Chemist

Overton Cemetery



MAINTENANCE WORK ON GRAVES



Grave owners should be aware that due to soil settlement on some of the burial plots it will be necessary to level out the ground by adding top soil to graves and reseeding.

This work will commence on 10th March 2010.

Should you have any queries regarding this scheduled work please contact the Clerk on 01978710055

Best Kept Village 2010/11

Following on from the success of last year's 'Best Kept Village' award, Wrexham County Borough Council is again inviting villages across the County to enter this years competition. Overton Community Council would like Overton to compete and are therefore looking for a volunteer(s) to lead and co-ordinate the village's entry. It was felt that someone with a keen interest in gardening would be someone who could help and inspire villagers to make the most of their own gardens as well as the village's open spaces. Anyone interested in taking a lead should contact the Clerk to the Council, Katrina Chalk on 01978 710055 by Friday March 5th. The next Council Meeting is on March 9th and entry forms have to be submitted by March 31st 2010.

"A Bit of a Do"

Spring is here! Celebrate with a touch of glam OVERTON-ON-DEE TWI NNING ASSOCIATION is holding a Dinner and Dance with Live Music on Sat 27th March at 7.30pm at the Maelor School Penley. This well-established formula has become very popular in recent years and has many loyal fans who know to expect top quality homemade food, beautifully decorated tables, a licensed bar and great music from the band Three Mile Smile. And all that for £15 a head. A wonderful evening is guaranteed.

Tickets are going fast and are available from Catherine Starkey 710322, Georgina Mason 710486 & Karen Harrison 01978 710800

Lions Fundraising

Lion President Noel and the members of Wrexham Maelor Lions extend their appreciation to Mick & Karen of The Corner Shop, Overton for their donation of a Christmas Hamper which raised £420. The money will be used in the community to help those less fortunate than ourselves. We would also like to thank the people of Overton for their continued support. L.

to R. Kim Jewkes, Frank Lloyd, Mick Pinder, John Griffiths, Lion President Noel, & Vice President Joan Williams.



Overton Cub Scouts

A meeting will be held in the Scout Hut on Wrexham Road on Wednesday 3rd March at 7.15pm to 8.15pm to discuss the possibility of re-establishing Overton Cub Scouts.

This will include a taster session for the youngsters and a discussion with the parents to determine what happens next.

Cubs is open to all children aged 8 to 10½ years of age. For more information please contact David Burton Group Scout Leader on 01978 710631.

WHAT'S ON

March Diary for St Mary's Services

- Sunday March 7th** 11.30am Holy Eucharist
Mothering Sunday March 14th 11am Sunday Praise & Coffee
Tuesday March 16th 2.45pm St Mary's School Service
Sunday March 21st 11.30am Holy Eucharist
Palm Sunday March 28th 11.30 Family Eucharist
- March Methodist Church Services, Sunday Evenings 6.30pm**
- Tuesday March 2nd** Overton Film Club in Village Hall. Doors open 7.15pm, Film 8pm BAFTA winner "An Education"
- Tuesday March 2nd** 7pm Churches Together Lent Bible Studies in the Methodist Church
- Friday March 5th** 6.30pm Frog Race at the Village Hall
- Saturday March 6th** 10.30am Overton WI Coffee Morning in the Village Hall. Various stalls. Tickets 50p each.
- Saturday March 6th** 7.30pm Race Night at Overton Rec. Club
- Tuesday March 9th** Overton Community Council meeting in the Parish Room. Members of the public wishing to speak can do so between 7.20 – 7.30pm.
- Tuesday March 9th** 7pm Churches Together Lent Bible Studies in the Parish Room
- Wednesday March 10th** 12.30pm Lunch Club at White Horse
- Tuesday March 16th** 7pm Churches Together Lent Bible Studies in the RC church
- Thursday March 18th** Overton WI Meeting in the Parish Room Speaker Roy Henry on "Two Lives, Two Rivers"
- Tuesday March 23rd** 7pm Churches Together Lent Bible Studies in the Parish Room
- Wednesday March 24th** 7.30pm Maelor Music Society Concert in Maelor School Hall. "March 24 RNCM – Opera Gala & Songs from the Shows". Tickets £10 on door; Annual Membership £33
- Wednesday March 24th** 6 to 7pm Junior Book Club at the Library for 11 & 12 yr olds
- Saturday March 27th** 7.30pm "A Bit of a Do" Dinner & Dance
- Sunday March 28th** 2pm (weather permitting) The Overton Bowling Green opens for the new season
- Monday March 29th** 1pm to 2pm Story time at Overton Library for toddler & playgroup age children
- Tuesday March 30th** 7pm Churches Together Lent Bible Studies in the Methodist Church
- Friday April 2nd** 7pm Good Friday service at Methodist Church conducted by Rev Richard Hall
- Saturday April 3rd** Weekly coffee mornings start at the Methodist Chapel 10.30am till 12.00pm
- Saturday April 3rd** 10 -12 'Messy Church' in St Mary's Church Crafts, art, games & Easter Egg hunt. All welcome
- Easter Sunday April 4th** 9.15am Methodist Church Communion Service and 6.30pm Evening Service with Rev Richard Hall

FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy March Birthdays to Jack Edwards, Anne Clarke, Grace Haynes, John Austin, Gwynneth 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.
 Belated birthday wishes to Bruce Young, Anne Brereton and Trish Roberts.
 Belated congratulations to Arthur and Barbara Griffiths on their Diamond Wedding anniversary.
 Condolences to the family & friends of Rose Leadsome.

THANK YOU

Pam and Eric Jones wish to thank their children - Karen, Yola, Tom and Will for organising their Golden Wedding party, made more entertaining with the arrival of their extended families and friends. May we thank everyone for the greeting cards and presents, and also to the White Horse for a lovely buffet.

Overton Amateur Dramatics Society would like to thank Catherine Starkey and the French Twinning for the cakes and scones that were kindly given to the drama for refreshments on the Saturday matinee of the play because of the Maletones evening having to be cancelled. We would also like to thank everyone who came to watch Agatha Crispie and hope you all enjoyed it. Look forward to seeing you all at the next production.

To My Good Samaritan, many, many thanks to the gentleman, driving a Land Rover Discovery, through Knolton Bryn, who stopped on Friday 15 January and towed my car up my drive. I did not get his name but discovered he was on his way to work and still found time to assist people in distress. I am pleased to say chivalry is not dead.

Thank you again.

Jacky Maskall

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.

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