

The Overton Oracle

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March 2014

Overton's Free Newspaper - issued monthly



Twinning is Twenty!

In 1994 John Major was in No 10, ice skaters Torvil & Dean won the gold with 'Bolero', 'Four Weddings and a Funeral' was playing in cinemas, the Channel Tunnel was officially opened and after a careful matching operation Overton was twinned with La Murette.

Over the years something in the region of 500 people from both communities have been directly involved in visits. That's 250 French people down there in La Murette who every March 1st celebrate St David's Day with special leek dishes, a glass of biere in hand while the room fills with the strains of Land of our Fathers! They'll probably be wearing dragon hats and scarves bought in Wrexham Market, too. And in Overton, we have had Crepes tastings, Wine tastings and Cheese tastings. Snails next time?! We have had Pascaline belting out Edith Piaf songs from the stage of the Village Hall, Boules competitions on the Playing Fields and cricket, too.

Every year gifts are exchanged between the villages. In Overton some of these are displayed in the Parish Room, amongst them a panoramic photograph of La Murette, books of souvenir pictures and many other items. Have you noticed the Weather Vane on the top of the Village Hall? That too, was a gift from our friends in La Murette. And in the Playing Field there's a tree planted in memory of Nicholas Lalevee, a young man who died far too soon.

However more significant by far are the friendships forged by so many of us over the years. We have been friends now for 20 years. Long may the friendship continue and let's hope that in 2034, 20 yrs from now someone else will be writing in the Oracle celebrating the continuing and thriving links between our two fine communities. Vive le jumelage! Long live the Twinning!

More details on page 4

Storm Damage to Millennium Meadow

February's storms wreaked havoc in the Millennium Meadow. 3 trees came down, 2 American oaks and a horse chestnut. 2 further trees suffered severe damage, an American oak with a large vertical crack, which meant that it had to be felled, and a native oak which has had to have boughs lopped and it will look lopsided for some years to come, but has been saved. Moray Simpson, Wrexham Council's arboriculturist visited to confirm what needed to be done as the trees are protected, and to advise Overton Community Council that native oaks should now be planted. But it will be our great grandchildren who will see them in full glory!



Thank You For The Music!

For most people, music is one of the joys of life. The popular music of the latter half of the 20th century was fantastic. The songs of the Beatles, Elvis, The Stones, Abba, Queen (...the list could go on and on) provide many happy memories. To celebrate our wonderful heritage of popular music, Overton St.Mary's are organising a show featuring many of the hit songs of the 20th century. The show, entitled "**Thank You for the Music**", will take place in Overton Village Hall on **Friday 28th March, 7.30pm**

We have been fortunate in booking one of the most popular entertainers in the Shropshire and North Wales club scene....Keith Best. In addition we have talented local performer Russ Latham and last, but by no means least, a choir from Overton St Mary's School. We hope that many will want to attend what promises to be an enjoyable and memorable evening. Tickets will be on sale from early March and proceeds will be for Overton St.Mary's Church.



Ramblings From the Reverend by Rev'd Canon David Child



March 1st St. David's Day, what sort of images come to mind? Red Dragons, yellow daffodils, green leeks? But it's when we look beyond those symbols and ask who St. David was that we begin to really understand why he is so important to Wales.

The first Christians in Wales were probably Roman soldiers and settlers and when the Romans left, Christianity survived only as a weak and scattered community. In the 5th century Wales experienced a remarkable growth in Christianity brought about by contact with the missionary work of Martin of Tours in what was then Gaul. In Wales this time became known as the 'Age of Saints', one of the most dazzling periods of Christianity in Welsh History.

Among the early teachers and preachers were Cadoc, Dyfrig and Illtud. David in Sth Wales and Deiniol in Nth Wales were among their most active followers and for the first time Christianity became widespread throughout Wales with the building of over 500 enclosures each with a religious centre (the Welsh name for this kind of enclosure is Llan).

This 'Age of Saints' was significant because this was the time when the Welsh language was first formed out of the old British language, when the first literature in Welsh was written and when the broad boundaries of Wales were established.

We know very little about St. David from a historical point of view. Although we know he existed; the story of his life wasn't written down until the 11th century. Many legends have grown up around him. One of the most famous is said to have taken place at Llanddewi Brefi where the Synod met to decide whether David was to be Archbishop. A great crowd gathered and when David stood up to speak, one of the congregation shouted, 'We won't be able to see or hear him'. At that instant the ground rose till everyone could see and hear David. Not surprisingly, it was decided that David would indeed be the new Archbishop.

David must have been an outstanding orator in the Welsh-Celtic language. He brought much of the ancient British culture into Welsh Christian life with its sense of being one with nature. Welsh Christianity can then be traced back to St David and so probably can the Welsh enthusiasm for preaching and singing. These are the things we must celebrate and thank God for on St. David's Day.

So join us in our St David Celebration Family Service at 10 am on Sunday March 2nd. Welsh Costumes, Welsh Rugby and Football Shirts are welcome even though they weren't around 1,500 years ago!! With every blessing,
David.

Country Beat

by PCSO Phil Jones



We have been very busy of late with the recent severe weather, we have been called out to numerous road related problems with trees down, electric wires hanging down and monitoring the river levels at Bangor On Dee.

Overton has had its fair share of storm damage with 4 trees down in the millennium meadow, a very large yew tree down in the cemetery, a 30 mph sign down on Bangor Road at the end of Mae-lor Court and slates off roofs on Salop Road by the garage. We have also been called to other areas where there have been problems.

There has been signs of drinking going on in the children's play park on Wrexham Road, also signs of this have been reported at the cricket pavilion, bottles have been left and also signs of drug use (small plastic sealable bags etc). We have a zero tolerance policy to these offences, it has to stop, We will be patrolling the area more often and will be stop checking any youths found in that area.

Officers will be called to carry out random searches of persons we suspect as having any drug paraphernalia, if anything is found arrests will be the normal cause of action. If PCSO's find any alcohol and you are underage it will be confiscated, yellow cards will be issued and the youth offending department will be informed.

We are still having burglaries of sheds/garages on the outskirts of Overton, please make sure all your items are well secured, report any suspicious persons or vehicles, please take note of persons descriptions and registration numbers of vehicles..

I'm happy to see that Salop Road speeding figures are reducing, Go Safe will still operate at that location and we will be out and about carrying out speed surveys with the speed gun.

PCSO's are well embedded into the community now, we are the eyes and ears of the force, if you know something that is going on in the area and need to inform us this will be treated with strict confidence, intelligence reports will be submitted to our Intel department which will help disrupt any criminal incidents from occurring. We have just been recruiting more PCSOS and PC's so you will see more presence on the streets, this has to be a positive move to make communities safe.

I will shortly be starting to plan events for the summer, this will hopefully include another Rural Roadshow and a Mini Roadshow for youths so watch this space. Again if you see us about please stop for a chat or pop into the local Police station on Station Road.

Thanks, **Phil Jones 2858**

Tel: 01978 348425 or 07854 389056

e-mail: 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.

School News



Our adventurous Year 4 pupils have recently returned from their one night residential to **Glan-Llyn**, near Bala. With bags packed, enough clothes and provisions for possibly a week, and sleeping bags rolled up, our explorers excitedly waved goodbye to parents eagerly anticipating the adventures ahead.

Despite the weather which could certainly have been kinder, pupils braved the cold and snowy conditions. A variety of outdoor activities were undertaken by pupils (and staff!) which included canoeing and raft building on Llyn Tegid to conquering any fear of heights on the outdoor climbing wall. A popular activity for all was the swimming pool which was certainly a warm and welcome relief from the wintery elements outside! Evening activities included 10 pin bowling to which pupils were clearly far more successful than the staff (including Headteacher!), to a disco which ensured all were ready for bed following the final track. On return, the year 4 pupils excitedly retold tales to parents and inevitably spent the weekend catching up on sleep!

St Marys School proudly presents the 'eCadets'. Seven pupils across yrs 5 & 6 have been trained in eSafety and are now on hand to support their classmates with any questions they have about staying safe on online games, social media and the internet. Staff at school have also undertaken extensive training from local internet expert's eTreble9, who have advised how we can help to keep our pupils and school safe in a world of increasing social media. A popular parent's social media safety session was held which was certainly well attended.

We are proud to be one of the first schools in Wrexham to commit to their eCadet programme. The team will be working on monthly activities to promote eSafety and we are all very proud of them. Our commitment to the eCadet programme will continue for years to come and I hope you will join the school and I in congratulating our first group of eCadets.

Mr. Wyn-Jones (Headteacher)

Lunch Club



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

The menu will be Turkey Ham & Leek Pie, Creamed Potato and Vegetables followed by Strawberry Cheesecake and Cream

To book please ring Gwynneth Austin on 710672.

Kids Kolumn

Happy March everybody!



Here are some ideas of what you could make or do for your mum on

Mothering Sunday, March 30th.

- * You could make a cup of tea for your mum in the morning.
- * To be helpful you could help make the dinner.
- * Mum`s always like a nice card and maybe some chocolates.
- * You could help do the jobs around the house (or help with younger siblings.)
- * You could make a cake or some biscuits.



HEALTHY FOOD FACTS

1. Strawberries are the only fruit that has its seeds on the outside.
2. Hazelnuts are high in many minerals and vitamin E, so are very good for you!
3. A quarter of the 10 billion pints of milk a year is used for tea.
4. Yoghurt has been around for millions of years, it derived from the Turkish language.
5. Tuna contains vitamins B, D and E. It also has lots of omega 3!
6. Sweetcorn isn't actually a vegetable, it's a grain.
7. Tomatoes are great for fighting colds, so eat lots in the winter!
8. Spices used to be so special that wars would be fought over them.
9. The word pesto, comes from the Italian verb 'to crush'
10. Japan consumes the most salmon per person, and has the lowest level of heart disease.

The 17th March is St. Patrick's day!

- ◆ St Patrick was actually from Wales even though he is the Patron saint of Ireland .
- ◆ Originally St. Patrick's colour was blue but it was then changed to green because of the shamrock.
- ◆ We celebrate St. Patrick's day on March 17th because it is the day he is believed to have died on.
- ◆ The Chicago river is dyed green on St. Patrick's day.





Favourite food ?

St Mary's Church are producing a book of Overton's Favourite Recipes; a compilation of the recipes that are a big hit with your family or friends, or your reliable stand-by that you know never fails to please.

We would love everyone to contribute. It can be just one, or several, we really don't mind, and it doesn't have to be your own invention, any source will do, it just needs to be a tried and tested favourite. Savoury, sweet or totally bizarre, all contributions will be welcome to make this a memorable recipe book that we will all be delving into for ideas for many years to come. You can email your recipes to val.stevenson2@btinternet.com or drop into 9 Sundorne (LL13 0EB if you want to post)

Congratulations

Congratulations to our local MP Susan Elan Jones on being given a national award for her work for road safety by Brake, an independent road safety charity. Susan brought forward The Driving Offences (Review of Sentencing Guidelines) Bill under a 10-minute rule bill in January. She called for the government to reconsider the maximum jail sentences for driving that leads to death and serious injury, including unlicensed and hit and run drivers. The bill which has cross-party support has a second reading on February 28th.

Susan said, "Brake is an outstanding campaigning organisation - and I am absolutely delighted to receive this award. However, this award also belongs to local campaigners and Overton Community Council who have worked with me throughout on this campaign. We remain determined in our quest to work with Brake to secure some measure of justice for the family of those people so tragically killed or seriously injured on our roads."

Support the T winning

Overton Twinning is always delighted to welcome new members. Those teenagers who travelled to La Murette 18 years ago are now in their 30s and several are still involved. This year we are hoping that even more of their contemporaries will join us on our visit to La Murette on 3rd August. If that is you, get in touch! You are guaranteed a life-enriching experience and lots of fun. For further details, check out our section on the Village website. Contact numbers below, or if you like, email Georgina on gmemcloy@yahoo.co.uk. Very soon on FACEBOOK.



Dinner and Wine Tasting event

On **Saturday 22nd March** at 7pm for 7.30pm, we are holding our Wine Tasting event, this year with

full three course sit down meal, served with wine and coffee. The aim of the evening is to have fun with your friends while trying to match the taste of six wines to a description. It's right here in Overton Village Hall, so no need to drive! Great value tickets at £12.50pp. These are available from Georgina Mason 710486 and Cath Starkey 710322

Caring about Overton

Nine months ago I became a member of Overton Community Council and I have enjoyed every minute of it. I moved to Overton in June 2012 and was immediately impressed by beauty of the village and with the community spirit that I found here, something that was sadly lacking in the area I came from. I decided that I would like to help in some way to keep Overton as nice as I found it. I joined Keep Wales Tidy as a voluntary litter picker and through organising community litter picks I became involved with Overton Community Council and decided to apply to become a co-opted member.



We meet once a month to discuss agenda items concerning Overton. I have joined the Website sub committee, am a member of the village fete working party and represent Overton on the Wrexham Sth Community Safety Group and at the One Voice Wales meetings. The council is non political, we put the people of Overton before politics but we work closely with our local MP Susan Elan Jones and County Councillor Lloyd Kenyon our representative on Wrexham Council, towards the benefit of the village. We hold regular drop in sessions when members of the public can come and raise any issues and it is always nice to meet other villagers and hear their opinions.

I can recommend becoming a councillor to anyone who cares about Overton. It is a lovely village in which to live, work and play and it is important that we keep it this way. *Pene Coles*

The Overton Community Council is at present looking to co-opt 2 members to the Council.

If you wish to be considered and want more information please contact Katrina Chalk, Clerk to Overton Community Council, Overton Village Hall, 5 Penyllan Street, Overton, Wrexham LL13 0EE Tel: 01978 710 055 or email: occ.clerk@btinternet.com

Overton Village Hall now has a dedicated web site www.overtonvillagehall.co.uk and email is info@overtonvillagehall.co.uk to make enquiries about booking the Hall or download a booking form.

Learn to paint a portrait

There is an Overton opportunity in April for new or experienced artists to find out about portraiture in oils. Shropshire artist Leo Augustine Donaghy will be running a 2 day Portrait Course in Overton Parish Room on Saturday 5th & Sunday 6th April 9.30am to 4.30pm. Leo works from his studio in Shropshire, painting in many media and designing for clients.

He is organising an exciting 2 day course designed to look closely at a classical method used for Portraiture in oils. This is known as, 'sight size' whereby the subject is placed beside the canvas and their image is drawn onto the canvas by taking precise measurements. Once the drawing is complete and accurate the tonal values are added by using one colour, raw umber for example. Allowing a little time for demonstration and short breaks this will take up most of day one. Overnight the canvas will be allowed to dry ready for colour addition on day two. Hopefully by the end of day 2 a good image of the sitter will be nearing completion.

A little experience is a good thing but it is not necessary, a determined approach and a good sense of humour is essential. Take the plunge and have a go and remember, "We do not walk on our legs, but on our Will."

The cost is £85.00, if more than 5 people £75.00, to include morning coffee, a light lunch (soup & sandwich) and tea and cake at 4.00. You will need to bring your own equipment and Leo can advise on what you may need. You can contact Leo for more details on 01691 691803 or email: leodonaghy5@me.com



Brownies are 100



January got off to an exciting start for 1st Overton-on-Dee Brownies. As this is the centenary year for Brownies throughout Britain, they started the year with a party. The girls played lots of games, & enjoyed food supplied by the Buck Hotel Bangor-on-Dee.

1st Overton-on-Dee Brownies meet at Overton Scout Hut on Monday evening 5.30pm to 7pm at the Overton Scout Hut by the playing fields, Wrexham Road. Do come along to the **Family Quiz Night** in aid of 1st Overton-on-Dee Brownies on Friday 14th March at the Buck, Bangor, 7.30pm. Tickets £5 per team.

Overton Film Club



Many apologies for the cancelled showing of 'Philomena' in February. It will now be shown on Wednesday March 5th in the Village Hall. All welcome. £5 for non members.

Other dates for your diary are Thursday March 20th the Chilean film 'Gloria', and Thursday April 17th for 'Inside Llewyn Davis'.

Your Letters...



Dear Editor,

I read in the Leader on Tuesday 28th Jan. about non attendance of appointments at Doctors Surgeries, Overton having 144 of such missed appointments.

I would just like to say there would probably be a lot less if the phone was answered on a more regular basis. I know of a number of people who have tried to ring and cancel their appointments and that after 5 or 6 attempts to get an answer that have said "Well I've tried and nobody is answering".

Perhaps if the Surgery had a designated person just to answer the phone there might not be so many non attending patients.

Name and Address supplied

Playgroup News

We are collecting good quality teddy bears; if you have any unwanted teddies/soft toys; please drop them off at the Playcentre.



The focus for our fundraising this year will be to make vast improvements to the back garden area at the Playcentre. Amongst many jobs on the list, we need to buy new play equipment, climbing frame, slide and playhouse. We hope to create a small outside classroom/ reading area and in general create an outdoor space for the children from both Playcentre and the toddler group to enjoy.

Our AGM will be held on the **27th March 2014** at the Whitehorse Inn, Overton. 7.30pm onwards, all welcome to come along, and please do, as we are a charity and need as much support as we can get.

Thanks, *Angie Atkins*

Thank you

Brian Hamlington and family would like to thank friends, neighbours and the local community in general for the written and verbal sympathy, condolences and general support received after Doreen's sudden death.

The attendance at the funeral was reflection of how people thought of Doreen and was shown in the collection which realised £483.43 which will be donated to her preferred charities which were Hope House and Cancer Research. Thank you all.

Brian Hamlington

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

Extra photos in the web edition Oracle



Cllr. Caroline Rogers presents a cheque from Overton Community Council to St Marys School Eco-council for tree planting



Talk about parking

Travelling at 30 miles per hour along any 'A' designated road doesn't seem very fast, but when you couple this with our busy village street environment, the question of safety has a totally different meaning.

The A528 and A539 bring heavy commuting traffic through Overton each day, with vehicles ranging from motor cycles, school buses and heavy articulated lorries. Much of this traffic will wish to stop in the village to visit our local businesses, and this should be encouraged, but this is where the problems start. Inconsiderate, dangerous, or stupid parking, 'abandoning' of vehicles across or adjacent to tight awkward corners or junctions, or on double yellow lines; which is prohibited, are

all threats to public safety! None of us want to get soaking wet when we get out of our vehicles to nip into a shop for a prescription or a packet of crisps, but parking dangerously, illegally and inconsiderately is putting other road users and pedestrians' lives at risk. You do not want to be responsible for a major incident, or perhaps even the cause of a death?

The next OCC drop-in will be on Wed. 19th March, 10 to 11am in the Parish Room. Come along and talk to Councillors and PCSOs about issues you have with the parking in Overton and the surrounding areas.



Above - Leading professional Bridge player and coach Andrew Robson leads a bridge Tuition Day in the village hall which raised funds for the Friends of St Marys Church, Overton
And Left - ladies of the village prepare the participants lunch.

WHAT'S ON

March Diary for St Mary's Services

Sunday March 2nd 10.00am St David Celebration Praise

Wednesday March 5th 7.30pm Ash Wednesday. Imposition of Ashes and Eucharist

Sunday March 9th 11:30am Holy Communion

Sunday March 16th 10.00am Family Communion

Sunday March 23rd 11.30am Holy Communion

Sunday March 30th 10.00am Mothering Sunday. Group Service & Family Communion

March Diary for Methodist Chapel Services

Sunday March 2nd 6.30pm Evening Service

Sunday March 9th 11.00am Rev Patrick Rudden, No evening service

Sunday March 16th 6.30pm Evening Service

Sunday March 23rd 11.00am All Age Worship No evening service

Sunday March 30th 6.30pm Evening Service

Saturday March 1st 10.30am Overton WI Coffee Morning at the Village Hall

Wednesday March 5th 7.30pm Overton Film Club present 'Philomena' at the Village Hall

Thursday March 6th 10.30 - 2.30pm Penley Rainbow Lunch & Learn - Activity is Print Making

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

Tuesday March 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.

Wednesday March 12th 12.30pm Overton Lunch Club at The White Horse. Booking required.

Monday March 17th 6pm Patient Participation Group meeting at Overton Surgery

Wednesday March 19th 10 to 11am Overton Community Council Drop-In in the Parish Room

Thursday March 20th 7.30pm Overton WI Meeting in the Parish Room. Speaker: Sue Nelson on 'The Children's Centre Maelor Hospital'. Comp: Children's storybook.

Thursday March 20th 7.30pm Overton Film Club present 'Gloria' at the Village Hall

Friday March 21st 9.00pm Live Music at the White Horse

Saturday March 22nd 7pm for 7.30pm Twinning Wine Tasting evening at the Village Hall

Wednesday March 26th 7.30pm The Maelor Music Society presents 'The Royal Northern College of Music' with an evening of opera in the Maelor School Hall

Thursday March 27th 7.30pm. Overton Playgroup AGM at the White Horse.

Friday March 28th 7.30pm 'Thank You For The Music' in the Village Hall in aid of St Mary's Church

FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to Chris & Sarah Burton on the birth of a son Owen William, a new brother for Thomas and a new grandson for Jill & David Burton. 

Congratulations to Lucy Edwards who has got in to Keele University to study to be a Doctor. Mum Pauline & family are very proud.

Happy March Birthdays to Cynthia Davies, Jack Edwards, Anne Clarke, Grace Haynes, David Burton, Finlay Clarke, Janet Reid, Janene Bell, Freda Thompson, Barbara Griffiths, Kate Jenkinson, Joanne Kember, Liam and Matt Grindley, Roxanne Haynes, Imogen Jones, Pat Lynch, James Morrison and Gwynneth Austin. 

Sincere condolences to Joan Bowness, family and friends on the sudden death of Ben Bowness

Sincere condolences to the family and friends of ex Bryn-y-Pys Landlord Johnny Morris who has recently passed away.

Thank you

Thank you to Eastwick Garden Centre for their planting advice, supply and delivery of the holly bushes for the Park and also for planting the flowers around the War Memorial.

Thank you to Knolton Garden Centre for, once again, planting the flowers in the Village Hall planters. It makes the building look welcoming and colourful.

CONCERT

in aid of St Dunawds Church, Bangor on Dee

Saturday 26th April 7.30pm

SILVER RING Mixed Choir (from Bath)

supported by BRYMBO Male Voice Choir

Tickets £8 from 780243, or 780736 or Basket Shop

PLEASE REMEMBER

Copy deadline 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.

Your Oracle Team - Chairman & Advertising David Burton; Treasurer Rob Netzband-Piggott; Distribution Cynthia Davies; Sean Clarke, & Euan Stevenson.

Editor - Jill Burton.
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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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