

# The Overton Oracle



Volume 17 Issue 3

March 2015

Overton's Free Newspaper - delivered to every household monthly



**Hapus Dydd  
Gŵyl Dewi  
Happy St  
Davids Day**

## Come for Coffee

Overton WI is holding a Coffee Morning on Saturday March 7<sup>th</sup> at 10.30am in the Village Hall. Bric-a-brac, cakes, produce & book stall. Tickets 50p to include tea & biscuits

## Overton Bowling Club

Have you every thought of joining?  
We hope to open the Green for the coming season on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March at 2.00 pm.  
Come along you will be made most welcome.  
More details on page 3

## OCC Drop-in

The next drop-in will be at the Parkside Community Room on Wednesday March 18<sup>th</sup> at 2pm.

## The Severn Wind Quintet

will be performing at the Maelor Music Society on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March in the Maelor School Hall. All welcome, see details on page 5.

## La Murette and Overton Twinning Association



present an Evening Buffet with Wine Tasting on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2015 at 7.30pm at the Overton Scout Headquarters, Wrexham Road, Overton.

They invite everyone to join them for a gourmet evening with delicious home-made food plus a Wine Tasting contest.

No need to be an expert, it's an evening's fun where you try to match wines from French wine producing regions with written descriptions.

Tickets cost £10 per person and are available from Cath Starkey (tel: 710233); Georgina Mason (tel: 710486) or from anyone active in the Twinning Association.

Everyone is most welcome but numbers are limited so tickets are first come first served!

## Happy Birthday



Happy birthday to Overton WI who celebrate their 90th birthday the month.

Established in Overton in March 1925 they will be celebrating at the Village Hall on March 19<sup>th</sup>.

The Women's Institute movement in Britain is celebrating its centenary this year. During the First World War it was formed to encourage countrywomen to get involved in growing and preserving food to help to increase the supply of food to the war-torn nation. The first meeting in the UK was at Llanfair PG, on Anglesey, North Wales on September 16<sup>th</sup> 1915.



Overton on Dee Community Council with Keep Wales Tidy will be holding a **Big Community Litter Pick** on Saturday March 21<sup>st</sup>

Everyone to meet at 9.45 am on the playing field car park on Wrexham Road.

**Litter picking will begin at 10am**

Litter picking tools, bags and high-viz jackets will be provided and afterwards refreshments will be provided at 11.30 am. Phone 01978 710055 for more details

## Musings from the Manse

by Rev'd Phillip Poole



Dear friends,

A few years ago in early March I visited an agricultural college with my children for lambing day. More than a thousand lambs were expected and we joined dozens of young families to witness the miracle of new life and, of course, to be charmed by all the cute newborn lambs.

Some of the work on the college farm was being done by students, but it was clear that one person there was very much in charge. He was the shepherd, and at the same time as caring for the sheep, he was looking after the students and passing on his experience and skills to them. I remembered that in the Bible, Christ is called the Good Shepherd, and watching this man at work helped me realise the power of that image. At one point some worried students brought the shepherd news of a newborn lamb in trouble elsewhere on the farm, and he literally ran from the building to help. Amongst all those hundreds of lambs the life of one might not have seemed all that important but the shepherd dropped everything to go to its aid. I was reminded of the story Jesus told of a shepherd who left his flock behind to go and look for the one sheep which was lost - a parable of how God cares for us and comes to our help whenever we need him.

Later on I was standing near the shepherd again as he looked over a barn full of sheep and lambs with a small group of students. He was able to point out, just by looking, which of the lambs had problems or urgently needed to be fed. It was clear that to him each sheep and lamb mattered and merited individual care and attention. Once again I thought of the Bible and of the place where Jesus says, "I am the Good Shepherd. I know my sheep and my sheep know me." To Christ we are more than just a mass of people - each of us is known and loved.

This month as we journey through Lent and look forward to Easter let us trust ourselves again to Christ, our Good Shepherd. We will be surrounded by signs of new life everywhere as winter turns to spring. So may we find our hearts warmed, dark days left behind and life full of hope and new opportunities.

Wishing you joy and peace,

*Phil Poole*

### March speakers at Ellesmere Probus

March 5th Derek Arnold - The Thetis Tragedy

March 19th Fred Williams - Travels in Indo China

email: [overtonoracle@gmail.com](mailto:overtonoracle@gmail.com)

## Country Beat

by PCSO Lynne Maurice



Hello everyone, just a few bits & bobs from the PCSO team at Overton. I would like to refer to Phil's article from January and just reiterate to everyone, how important it is to be aware and vigilant regarding Doorstep Crime. During the last month we have had a burglary occur in the village where someone walked straight into an elderly gentleman's house. Please, please keep your doors and windows locked even when you are in just in case as Phil pointed out some of the newer type front doors also have handles on the outside of the door, so always make sure that you lock the door from inside as persons can try the handle and walk into your home. This is especially a worry when elderly people may be hard of hearing and may not even know that someone has entered their home.

The majority of people who knock on your door **ARE** likely to be genuine. However, it is important to know that some are rogue traders, doorstep criminals and uninvited sales people and may turn up unannounced, with the intention of tricking their way into your home. There has been a few males around Wrexham and surrounding areas urging people to have their gutters or driveways cleaned. They give a price and then when the person has had the work done they have put the price up. This is not the way to conduct a proper business so tell them where to go and that you are not interested.

So-called 'doorstep crime' often results from an initial cold call. Unscrupulous traders will prey on the elderly and vulnerable members of society, carry out unnecessary, substandard and sometimes even dangerous work and then use strong arm tactics to persuade consumers to part with large sums of money for poor workmanship. Tell your neighbours, family and friends about them so everyone is aware if they are rogue traders and are ripping people off, everyone needs to know what's going on in their areas. Forewarned is forearmed, as they say.

It's your home so it's up to you who you let in and what work you have done so don't be intimidated by them.

We have Crime Prevention Catalogues from our Community Safety Team with lots of security products and crime prevention equipment, ranging from as little as £1 upwards. So if anyone is interested in one of these please call into the station or give us a call and we can drop one off for you.

Thanks for reading

*Lynne Maurice*

**PCSO 0151 / SCCH 0151**

**North Wales Police / Heddlu Gogledd Cymru**  
**Overton Police Station / Gorsaf Heddlu Owrtyn**  
**Phone / Ffon: dd. 01978 348425 / extn. 48425**  
**Mobile / Symudol: 07854 352 815**  
**E.mail : [lynne.maurice@nthwales.pnn.police.u.k](mailto:lynne.maurice@nthwales.pnn.police.u.k)**

# Kids Kolumn

Welcome to our new Kids Kolumn team from Year 6 at St Mary's School.



This month's contributions are from Frank Macdonald Brown, and James and Luke Reardon



**Dydd Gwyl Dewi Sant hapus - It's St David's Day. Work out the missing letters from the words to discover more about Saint David.**

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
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## And it's Mother's Day. Make a cool Mother's Day card

1. Fold one piece of paper and red card in half, one for the outside, one for the inside.
2. Take the inside piece of paper and cut two short lines near the middle of the fold.
3. Fold the two outside flaps but not the middle one.
4. Refold the card, still with the flaps inside. Cut one short line on each inside flap near the edge. Fold the outside flaps. Open the card again.
5. Cut out some paper flowers (that you've drawn) and the letters HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY. Colour them in different colours and stick them on the card.
6. Get a piece of card and stick it in the inside, sign the card and give it to YOUR MUM



### Dates for the diary

- St Davids Day March 1st
- Mothers Day March 15th
- St Patricks Day March 17th



## Overton Bowling Club

Have you every thought of joining?  
We hope to open the Green for the coming season on **Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March at 2.00 pm**. Come along you will be made most welcome.



For the coming season we have three teams entered in the Oswestry & District League playing in the First, Fourth and Fifth Divisions on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings. On Friday afternoons we have two teams playing in the Veterans Division. All League matches are due to start on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April. Members are always willing to help and guide those who are new to the game. There are various sizes of "woods" available.

Bowlsnet.org is a good site to visit where there is information on League match fixtures  
Following the success of our last "Coaching Day" it is hoped to organise a further event this year.

## Overton Lunch Club



is on Wednesday March 11th at 12.30pm at the White Horse.  
The menu will be Bangers, mash and peas with onion gravy followed by fruit crumble and custard.  
All for £6.25  
To book please ring Gwynneth Austin on 710672





## Herbert Wicksted Ethelston 1882 - 1915

The second death in World War I to be remembered on the Overton War Memorial is that of Herbert Wicksted Ethelston who died 100 years ago this month in 1915. He was born in Park Lane, London but was brought up at Bryn y Pys, Overton living with his father Edmund Peel and brothers and sisters. It was his elder brother Hugh Peel (remembered as Major Peel) who inherited Bryn y Pys in 1904. Herbert's mother Henrietta died when he was 4 yrs old. The family surname had been Ethelston but Edmund Peel assumed his mother's surname of Peel by royal licence in 1851. Edmund went as a cadet to the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst. On his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday the tenants of the Bryn y Pys estate presented him with a set of silver salvers, a silver horn and an illuminated address. In 1903 Herbert married Muriel Kennedy and they lived at Wickstead Hall, near Whitchurch. When World War I broke out he was a Lieutenant in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Grenadier Guards.



Herbert was killed in action on 14<sup>th</sup> March 1915 aged 33, probably at the Battle of Neuve Chapelle. He has no known grave but is remembered on Panel 2 of the Le Touret Memorial, Pas de Calais, France (*picture above*). As well as Overton War Memorial he is also remembered on the War Memorial at St Michael's Church, Marbury, north of Whitchurch.

### *Dear Editor,*

Regarding Dave Austin's February comments about my letter in the December edition concerning Salop Road, whilst I appreciate any feedback on the matter, I fear that he has got completely the wrong end of the stick. Firstly I was greatly saddened to read that he thinks I want to change Overton, on the contrary I want only to maintain it as I love it just the way it is: that's why I moved here. Also I fully understand the tight economics involved in, not only haulage, but most every other industry at the moment and I have absolutely no intention of trying to prevent any lorries passing along Salop Road.

The problem is simply the state of the surface of Salop Road which not only causes my house to shake but must also reduce the life of lorry suspension systems and nobody wants ramps for the very reasons Mr. Austin states.

Whilst the speed of heavy lorries cannot be ignored my main point is simply that, since lorries passing through Overton north/south have no alternative but to pass along Salop Road where the surface is now beyond repair, I believe that the only way the Council can maintain it (as they are obliged to do) is by resurfacing it.

*David Warren*

### *Dear Editor,*

In response to Mr Roberts letter published in the February Oracle regarding litter in the village, Overton Community Council wish to up date residents on the organised litter picks we arrange in the village.

On January 24th five volunteers set out to pick up litter on Salop Road with the assistance of Shane Hughes from Keep Wales Tidy who provided picking tools, bags and high viz jackets . We spent just one hour and worked from the entrance to Springfield Park to the Overton border and we collected 11 bags of rubbish from the pavement and the ditches. At the end of the pick a generous passing motorist gave us each a hot sausage roll purchased locally. On the same day in Overton another resident went out and picked 3 bags of rubbish from Wrexham Road. Litter picking in the village is on going by 6 registered voluntary pickers and 2 more are waiting to be signed up.

You are correct Mr. Roberts when you note that there is a lot of rubbish in the village but we wanted you to know that we are proactive and trying to get on top of it. We are organising a big community litter pick on March 21st . Shane Hughes will be able to supply tools, bags and high viz jackets and we are hoping that lots of Overton residents will come out and help us.

*Pene Coles - Vice Chairman Overton Community Council*

### *Dear Editor,*

Last year my husband and I moved from Leicestershire to the Overton area. We didn't know many people and joined the local Overton Bowling Club. We were welcomed warmly and helped greatly by all the lovely members. Crown Bowling proved "tricky" but good fun and we look forward to playing again next season.

I would urge anyone who is interested to come along and have a try too. The players are friendly and new members are always welcome.

*Jim and Val Hill*

## Overton's 1st Blues and Real Ale Festival



Overton Village Hall has teamed up with the "Goin' Up The Country" Blues Club to organise the first Blues and Real Ale Festival in the village. In recent years, this successful festival has been held in Worthenbury and Bangor-on-Dee and we are pleased to be hosting the event this year in Overton-on-Dee.

It will take place on **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May** when bands will play at the White Horse and also at a BBQ organised by St Mary's School. Then on **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May** starting at 1.00pm in the village hall the festival continues with 8 excellent bands playing until midnight. We are preparing an excellent programme of events with some fantastic acts to suit all taste in blues and roots music.

Bands such as "*The Producers*" who have been voted No1 blues band in the past, "*Never the Bride*" who have played with Brian Adams and Roger Daltry plus *New Orleans* and Rocking blues with the addition of some acoustic sets.

All this combined with an ever popular real ale festival. There will be opportunities for many local organisations to benefit from the weekend of events. Any profits made on the event will be distributed to organisations in the village.

Put these dates in your diary as tickets will be limited to 250 and as it is being advertised nationally, they will disappear very quickly, Watch this space for further information!

## Sweet dreams are made of this!

On Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> February, Overton Playgroup in the pursuit of a fundraiser, organised an 80's Valentines Disco with a Fancy Dress theme. After careful consideration, can we get a taxi/babysitter/unspent energy and enthusiasm? your Oracle reporter, who for reasons of shame, shall remain nameless, hit upon the idea of 'transforming' into Adam Ant for the evening in order to accompany Bananarama. I write 'transforming' but in the interests of factual reporting I should replace this with the word 'mutating'.

Arriving in the village and entering the White Horse for some pre-match dutch courage we were delighted to find Mario and Luigi of the Nintendo brothers accompanied by Baby Spice and Ginger Spice. That growing fear that you are the only one dressed up at a fancy dress party had entered my mind. After trip- trapping over to the village hall, it was pleasing to find that nearly every one else there looked equally outlandish. The 80's truly was the decade that taste forgot. I reminisced over this point with Freddy Mercury, George Michael and a boy band member of uncertain attribution and soaked up the mixture of woeful music interspersed by the odd classic.



After a few looseners the dance floor started to crowd and it actually felt like being back in the 80's. The music boomed, the disco lights flashed and the whole room gyrated to the timewarp - it looked like a flashmob of perfectly choreographed but prematurely aged teenagers. Highlight of the evening was the sight of around 100 grown up's - yours truly included, sitting on the floor in parallel lines shouting "oops upside your head, I said oops upside your head !" whilst clapping hands and swaying from side to side - it was great. The organiser's had really gone for authenticity when a fracas broke out at the end of the evening in the middle of the floor and people gathered outside, hoping to witness the carnage. Thankfully it never occurred, but you've got to appreciate the attention to detail. Freddy and partner deservedly won best dressed couple and a good time was had by all. I'm hoping for a repeat next year and a change in decade - you just can't beat the sounds of the seventies.

## Support Live Music!



On Wednesday March 25th the Maelor Music Society present The Severn Wind Quintet at 7.30pm in the Maelor School Hall. These accomplished musicians come from Shrewsbury and this, their first visit to Penley, promises to be a delight.

The Quintet is made up of the following players: John Hargreaves on Bassoon, Emma Lindsay on Flute, Marion Holland on Oboe, Keith Corden on Clarinet and Gay Walker on Horn. They will be playing a varied programme with an emphasis on English music. This will include:

Three Shanties by Malcolm Arnold and Folk Song Studies by Vaughan Williams

How fortunate we are that thanks to the Maelor Music Society we can enjoy top-class music and musicians right here on our doorstep in this rural area. Do come and take advantage of this wonderful opportunity. Parking is convenient and free; light refreshments available; tickets cost £10 per person - under 16s are free..and tickets for students are just £3.

## Overton Community Council

Overton Community Council held a drop in on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February. Some of the issues and concerns raised by members of the public were; parking, the condition of the roads, local planning and double yellow lines. Many thanks to those who attended. The next will be at the Parkside Community Room on March 18<sup>th</sup> at 2pm.

We wish to welcome our newest co-opted members to the council, Steven Thomas-Spires and Tony Walker.

Saturday Coffee Mornings at The Methodist Chapel Schoolroom resume on March 28<sup>th</sup> 10.30am to 12 noon and will continue until the Autumn.

## Happy Birthday

This little girl is 50 on 5<sup>th</sup> March. Congratulations and a very Happy Birthday Janet.  
Lots of Love, Dad xxx



## Playgroup News

We would like to begin with a huge thank you to all those who supported us with our 80s/90s Valentines disco! The atmosphere on the night was amazing, and it was a room filled with everyone laughing and dancing all night long, and it was brilliant to see that so many people had made such an effort with fancy dress. We would like to pay special thanks to the 2 DJs, Chris Box and Mr Barnfather. They did a superb job, with brilliant songs played all night long. The hall looked fantastic courtesy of Amy Caswell, (Made & Found) a big thank you to her. Thank you to both the Deli and the Corner Shop for selling tickets. Finally we wish to thank all those who came along, we greatly appreciate your support we managed to raise £387.15 which shall be put to good use at the play centre, helping us maintain and improve our facility.

We are getting ready for it with our Easter Party Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup> at the Playcentre, 3 to 5pm, an afternoon filled with Easter crafts and games for the little ones to enjoy. We also have our Spring Nearly New Sale on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April, 1-3pm at Overton Village Hall. This is a very successful event for all involved whether you are buying or selling items!

If you would like to join the committee to lend a hand and support us, we are looking for some extra members so please contact either myself or Margaret at the Play Centre.  
*Sarah Evans*

Adverts are not included  
in the on-line archived edition of the Oracle.

This is because the archive of the Oracle is available on-line going back many years and the adverts and contact details would be out of date

## What's On

### March Diary for St Mary's Services

Sunday March 1<sup>st</sup> 10am St David's Day Village Praise

Sunday March 8<sup>th</sup> 11.30am Holy Communion

3-5pm Messy Church in the Scout Hut

Sunday March 15<sup>th</sup> 10am Mothering Sunday

Family Service

Sunday March 22<sup>nd</sup> 11.30am Holy Communion

Sunday March 29<sup>th</sup> 10am Palm Sunday Group Service  
& Family Communion

### March Diary for Overton Methodist Chapel

Sunday March 1<sup>st</sup> 6pm United Service at Regent St

Sunday March 8<sup>th</sup> 6.30pm Mr J Wells

Sunday March 15<sup>th</sup> 6.30pm Holy Communion R<sup>ev</sup> Poole

Sunday March 22<sup>nd</sup> 11am All Age Worship

M<sup>rs</sup> Thomas

Sunday March 29<sup>th</sup> 6.30pm Palm Sunday Members  
Service

Thursday March 5<sup>th</sup> 10.30-2.30 Rainbow Centre  
Lunch & Learn - Polish Easter Egg  
Decoration with Rebecca Cupit

Saturday March 7<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Overton WI Coffee  
Morning in the Village Hall

Tuesday March 10<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm Overton Community  
Council meeting in the Parish Room.  
Members of the public wishing to speak can  
do so 7.20-7.30pm

Tuesday March 10<sup>th</sup> 7 for 7.30pm start. Bingo at the  
Rainbow Centre, Penley. Tea & coffee  
available or bring your own alcohol

Wednesday March 11<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Overton British  
Legion meeting for coffee in the Scout Hut

Wednesday March 11<sup>th</sup> 12.30pm Overton Lunch  
Club at the White Horse. Booking required

Friday March 13<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm Maelor Belles WI  
upstairs in the White Horse. 'Be Loved  
Handbags' with local designer Sarah  
Glover

Wednesday March 18<sup>th</sup> 2.00-3.00pm Overton  
Community Council Drop-in at Parkside

Thursday March 19<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm Overton Women's  
Institute celebrates its 90th birthday in the  
Village Hall. Entertainment: 'wordybirdies'.

Saturday March 21<sup>st</sup> 9.45am Community Litter Pick

Wednesday March 25<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm The Maelor Music  
Society presents The Severn Wind Quintet in  
the Maelor School Hall

Sunday March 29<sup>th</sup> 2.00pm Opening of Overton  
Bowling Club green. All most welcome.

## Family Announcements

**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, James Morrison &  
Gwynneth Austin.



**Sincere condolences** to family and friends of Tom  
Lunt who has recently passed away  
Sincere condolences to the family and friends of  
Mrs Mawdsley who has recently passed away.  
Sincere condolences to the family and friends of  
Marianne Rogers who has recently passed away.

## Thank you

We would like to thank, Paul Morris for his time,  
help and patience while he was here delivering post  
to Overton for many years. We were very sorry to  
hear that he has been moved to out-lying areas. We  
would just like to say that he will be greatly missed  
and thank him for all he's done for everyone in the  
village. The postal service just won't be the same.

*Cynthia Davies and Gwynneth Austin*

## Wanted

"A Millennium History of Penley" By Shirley & Derrick  
Pratt Bridge Books ISBN 1-872424-82-1

In very good condition to send to family abroad

Tel: 01978 710711

## For Sale

### PLEASE REMEMBER

Copy deadline 20<sup>th</sup> of  
the previous month. Get  
your events & news to  
us early to avoid  
disappointment

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