

The Overton Oracle



Volume 20 Issue 3

March 2018

Overton's Free Newspaper - delivered to every household monthly



**Hapus Dydd Gŵyl
Dewi**

Happy St Davids Day

OVERTON ON DEE WI



**Coffee
Morning**

at Overton Village Hall
on **Saturday March 3rd 2018**
at **10.30am**

Various stalls Entrance
Draw £1

White Horse Quiz Nights

The White Horse quiz night in aid of the Playcentre is on Thursday 1st March. 

And the Overton Branch of the Royal British Legion will hold a quiz night at the White Horse on Thursday March 22nd. (see p.6) If your organisation or charity would like to run a Quiz in the White Horse to fundraise for your cause, then pop into the White Horse and have a word with Andy and Donna.

Easter Bingo

The Easter Bingo evening at the Rainbow Centre, Penley will be on Tuesday March 13th. Cash prizes - £50 for the Flyer. Doors open 7pm, eyes down by 7.30pm.

Date for the Garden Diary

Bank Holiday Monday May 7th 2pm-4.30pm 'Passion for Plants' at Welshampton Parish Hall. This new all-ticket event replaces the Welshampton Plant Fair. Bodnant's Head Gardener plus beautiful & unusual plants to buy. Tickets £7.50 Tel:01691622653 or welshampton.tickets@outlook.com

Awards for Overton Playcentre



Congratulations on the 2 awards recently awarded to Overton Playcentre at the presentation of the 2017 Wrexham Childcare Awards. They were awarded runner-up in the Welsh Language development category and the playcentre's dedicated hardworking team member Sarah Carpenter was runner-up in the Volunteer of the Year award.

Great news at what's been a very busy few weeks at the Playcentre. and read all the details on page 2.

Goin' Up The Country

Get tickets now for a gig that Peter Evans has been hoping to confirm for a long while - on April 13th when Overton Village Hall welcomes Maggie Bell & Dave Kelly. Legendary Scottish blues rocking vocalist Maggie Bell started her career with the top band Stone The Crows in the 60s. As a solo artist she charted a no 11 with 'Hold Me' and is also known for being the voice of the theme to TV series Taggart. In recent years Maggie has teamed up with the UK's top blues guitarist Dave Kelly from The Blues Band, having also played with Howlin' Wolf, Muddy Waters and John Lee Hooker amongst others.

As usual, the tickets will be on sale at the Corner Shop.



Overton Royal British Legion

Last year Overton Branch of the Royal British Legion asked for 2 volunteers, one to carry the Overton standard and one to lay a wreath, to take part in the General Parade at the Menin Gate this August. One member of the village has already volunteered; the Legion Chairman is happy to go but he is willing to let someone else to go if they wish. But we need to know soon as we have to name the participants by the end of March! Participants do not have to be members of the Legion.



Also to commemorate the end of WW1 the Legion are promoting the "Silent Soldier" campaign in honour of those who fought and died, but also all those who silently returned home to continue their lives, trying to forget what they had witnessed. The near life size silhouettes will be displayed on the side of buildings, roundabouts, fields and gardens. Businesses and Local Authorities are being asked to support the campaign by sponsoring and displaying locally a silhouette from now to the end of 2018. The Branch would like to position two Silent Soldiers either side of the Overton War Memorial. If you would like to go to the Menin Gate, or would like to sponsor a 'Silent Soldier' please contact David Burton on 01978 710631.

Playcentre's News

Dydd Gwyl Dewi Hapus I chi gyd. Happy St David's Day to you all. Firstly I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new Chairperson of Overton Playcentre, I'm looking forward to being part of a hugely successful team and to bring to the Playcentre my knowledge and experience of working within the Facilities Management sector and having the benefit of being a fluent Welsh speaker.

We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who helped and assisted in our preparation for our ESTYN inspection and we would like to say a special thank you to Jo Richards from St Mary's School for her support throughout. The report will be published in April.

Children have been celebrating different cultures with Burns night at the end of January & Dydd Santes Dwynwen, plus the Chinese New Year of the Dog when the children enjoyed a visit from a Chinese dragon (thanks to Amy Caswell) and a variety of Chinese foods, music and dancing.

During March we will be celebrating St David's Day and all things Welsh, singing, dancing, listening to male voice choirs to name but a few. Welsh cakes have certainly already gone down a treat amongst the children and staff!

As part of world book day we will be visiting the library for story time with Rebecca. Our theme during the Spring term is Trees as part of our ongoing Around the World theme. We all love to see the blossom on the trees signalling the end of winter!

Finally on behalf of the Playcentre team, I would like to say a huge thank you to Sarah Evans for her dedication, and endless contribution to the continued success of the Playcentre over the last 3 years whilst Chair. Her support to all the staff & committee, in addition to arranging countless fundraising events, has been invaluable to the future of the Playcentre and instrumental to the success of the 50th year celebrations. I've got some big boots to fill that's for sure but with her guidance, knowledge and experience to date I couldn't have asked for a better person to set me on my way to take Overton Playcentre on to the next 50 years.

Diolch o galon.

Bethan Owens

Community Council News

Overton Community Council, through the Community Chest Grants, have been able to support five organisations, societies and clubs in this village. We are so pleased that the funds have been allocated. The next round of applications has to be received by 31st October 2018 so start planning. Applications forms are available from the Clerk: 01978 710055 or occ.clerk@btinternet.com

Overton Cemetery Upgrade will include new soil and turfing the area in the adjacent field, a new Garden of Remembrance and replacement gates into the adjacent field. This work is due to commence in April, however, this will be weather dependent. It is anticipated the whole project will take three weeks. The contractor will be respectful to the surroundings they are in and disturbance will be kept to a minimum.

Potholes

Ken Skates Clwyd Sth AM has welcomed Welsh Government investment of £1.4 million to Wrexham to improve the state of roads in the County Borough. He said "The winter has been damaging for our road network and it important that it's rectified quickly."

email: overtonoracle@gmail.com

Church Toilets

In reply to Mike Lawrenson's letter in the February Edition questioning whether we need to have a toilet facility in the church, I and the Parish Church Council still feel that there is a definite need for a toilet facility in St. Mary's. First of all may I remind readers that the toilet and baby changing facility is part of a package which includes a disabled access to the church, modern catering facilities and a social space.

The project was first discussed 3 years ago when over 250 villagers expressed their support, as did businesses and organisations. We held an open day and articles appeared in the Oracle. The only difference now is that apparently the public toilets are to be refurbished, but they have always been there, are not always open during church use and the idea of issuing a key to those in need is completely unworkable. In other words they still do not represent a proper solution to the problem, though the merit of the proposal is sound in theory.

The need for a toilet facility to be housed in an extension to the North Door becomes obvious when one considers the number of people who attend for services. We experience large congregations for weddings, funerals and baptisms as well as for special services at Christmas, Easter, Harvest & Remembrance. Many of the members who attend for these services often come long distances.

But it is fair to say that impetus to develop this facility came as a result of the large number of children who come to church. The whole school, 180+ children come at least 6 times a year and classes also come for rehearsals 2-3 times before each service. It's a real problem when a teacher has to accompany a child to the public convenience in the car park. We have the same problem with the Toddler and Playschool Services. And it's quite a frequent occurrence for a mum to have to change a baby on a pew-seat. I'm sure most of the readers recognise our need in this day and age when virtually all public amenities have their own toilets. We have to be realistic – this is the 21st century and if the ancient church of St Mary's is to survive, it must be there for the whole community, warm and welcoming with facilities that any visitor, be they worshippers, community groups, concert attendees, or simply tourists, expect from a public building. If we do not upgrade then St Mary's, its facilities and its relevance, remains outdated. One only has to ask users of the many other churches who have gone through the process to make their churches relevant in 2018, to know that modern facilities transform a village church.

In the 3 years since the project was agreed, we have worked very hard to apply for grants and, with our own contribution, which is prudently limited, we are over half way. We still have a long way to go and will continue to work hard to raise the balance of funds. The School, the Play School and the Toddler Group all welcome the initiative. BUT the overriding bottom line, as was said at our last PCC meeting is, if we get the grants we go ahead, if we don't we can't. We are doing our best to ensure a secure, busy future for our historic building and we hope the community will continue to support us. Regards, David

Mama Mia meets Sleeping Beauty

It was great to once more experience "Proper Panto" in Overton Village Hall and credit goes to Overton Amateur Dramatic Society for putting on such a tremendous and ambitious production. The traditional story of Sleeping Beauty



was given a new twist and interwoven with modern pop songs with lyrics appropriate to the story that the audience could all join in with.

The loyal and familiar cast of the OADS was supplemented by talented young dancers, musketeers, singers and musicians. Professional lighting and sound systems all added to the overall experience.



As befits the tradition of pantomime the cast led by an exuberant and hilarious dame, all overacted to an effective degree with plenty of opportunity for audience participation.



The slick timing, live music and sparkling



costumes swept the audience to the magic of theatre that would give credit to a professional panto company.

Thank you OADS for a great night out, and hope you also made lots of profit for the Maelor School Lesotho Link.

More photos on page 6



Country Beat

For your information, car owners in Flintshire and Wrexham are seeing an increase in Car-Key Burglaries targeting high performance Audis, BMW's and Volkswagen Golf Type R's and GTI's. Thieves will break into houses looking for car keys. They can also use wires and hooks to try and drag your keys through the letterbox. Keep your keys away from doors and windows, and tucked away out of sight. Have your vehicles windows etched with its registration number or the last seven digits of the vehicle identification number (VIN). This can put criminals off, as it makes your car more difficult to sell. It also makes it easier for the police to identify and/or return your vehicle if it is stolen.

Car burglaries are often committed by criminals who are working to order and targeting certain types of vehicle, based on demand and value. If you have cars of different values, please park the higher value car in your garage. If you can't do this, please park the lower value car in front of the higher value car, as the thieves are more likely to target high value cars and will be deterred if they can't easily drive such a car away from the scene. All vehicle owners should be vigilant with their vehicle security and take simple crime prevention measures to deter thieves. These include keeping vehicle keys safe and out of sight both in the home and when you're out and about. Should you note any suspicious activity involving your home or vehicle please call 101 and report it.

Regards, Lynne

**PCSO 151 Lynne Maurice,
North Wales Police / Heddlu Gogledd Cymru, Mobile / Symudol: 07854 352 815**

March 1918

March was a sad month in Overton 100 years ago, with the notification that 3 young men from the village had been killed in action in World War I within 4 days of March 1918.

Thomas Henry Jones 1897 – 1918

Thomas Francis Henry Jones was born in Overton in 1897. His father Francis Henry Jones, died when Thomas was only 2 and his mother, Mary Ann Jones, in 1901, was a widowed greengrocer with a shop in the High Street, near where the Post Office is now. Her other children were Charles b1892 and Frances May b1894, but baby Thomas spent time with his grandparents in Bayston Hill.

In 1906 Mary Ann married again, to Thomas Tudor Tart, a gardener at Bryn y Pys, and in 1911 they were living in the cottage to the right of the White Horse Inn, now known as Bumblebee Cottage, but previously it has had other names. In 1918 Mrs Tart's address was given as Baysdon House, Overton; perhaps this was another name for the cottage.

Thomas was 17 years old when the first World War broke out. He joined the Royal Horse Artillery in 1914, probably the 1/1st Shropshire RHA, but in 1916 was one of those who volunteered to man the 58th Divisional Trench Mortar Brigade, a group of mortar batteries formed within the British Army's 58th Division during World War I. He was Bombardier No 604454. The Trench Mortar Brigade provided short-range fire support as well as carrying out a variety of other trench warfare duties.

When the German Spring Offensive began on 21 March 1918, 58th's TMBs were positioned on the extreme right of the British line at Chauny but lost all their mortars. Thomas was reported missing on March 21st and taken prisoner and then shot. His death is recorded as the 22nd March, he was 21 years old. He is buried in Grave Ref: Plot 4, A2 in Chauny Communal Cemetery British Extension, Aisne, France but he is also remembered on Overton War Memorial.

Robert William Eyton 1895 – 1918

Robert was born in 1895 in Leintwardine, Herefordshire. He was named after his grandfather Robert William Eyton, the vicar of Ruyton and author of "The Antiquities of Shropshire". Robert's father was Lieutenant Colonel Philip Eyton of the 55th Border Regiment.

When Robert was young the family lived at Knockin Hall in Shropshire. But in 1907 Robert's father died, and in 1911 the widowed Mrs Eyton moved to Gwydir House, Penyllan Street. About 1920 Gwydir House became the Overton branch of the Maelor Co-operative Society shop when Mrs Eyton moved back to near where she was born in Hampshire.

Robert was 19 when the first World War broke out and he joined the Overton Rifle Brigade. He enlisted in January 1915 and joined the 7th Battalion Rifle Brigade and in 1917 was Mentioned in Despatches i.e. "his name appeared in an official report written by a superior officer and sent to the high command, which described his gallant or meritorious action in the face of the enemy." By 1918 he was promoted to Lieutenant and was attached to the 41st Trench Mortar Battery. He would have been 2nd in command of the battery at the Battle of St Quentin (on the Somme) which began on March 21st 1918. The Rifle Brigade suffered very heavy casualties, losing all their guns and with almost 6,000 men killed or injured. His mother wrote "*On March 20th he was at Brigade Head Quarters near Essigney le Grand when the enemy advanced under cover of thick mist in the early morning. He fought bravely in a railway cutting until nearly surrounded, later collected men King's Liverpool Rgt. And made a stand in the railway cutting between Guesy & Flaveg where he fell.*"

Robert was killed on 22nd March 1918, he was 22 years old. He has no known grave but is remembered on Panel 81-84 of the Pozieres Memorial, France, on memorials at Mill Mead School and Lancing College; he is also remembered on Overton War Memorial.

Thomas Jones 1888 – 1918

March is also the centenary of the death of Thomas Jones, the son of William and Elizabeth Jones, William was a farm labourer. The family lived in cottages in the village, in 1891 in a cottage to the right of the Bryn y Pys Arms, Salop Road (now demolished), in 1901 and 1911 in Back Lane (now School Lane), Overton by which time William had become a 'labourer in a gentleman's garden'. At age 13 Thomas was a butcher's assistant, and in 1911 a 'general labourer'.

Thomas married Agnes, and they lived at Tanners Row, Bangor Road. In 1915 he enlisted as a Sapper, No. 398821, in the 83rd Field Company of the Royal Engineers, part of the 20th (Light) Division established in September 1914 as part of Kitchener's Second New Army. On 21 March 1918 the German Army launched a large-scale offensive against the Allied front on the Somme battlefield. The offensive was known as the Kaiserschlacht or the Kaiser's Battle. The offensive on the Somme battle sector was the first of several German large-scale attacks made against the Allied line on the northern part of the Western Front in the spring of 1918. The Battle of St. Quentin began on 21st March 1918. On 24th March Thomas (age 30) was reported missing presumed dead. Thomas has no known grave but is remembered on the Pozieres Memorial, France, Panel 10-13 and on Overton War Memorial.

St Mary's School News

The Play-Makers

Recently, ten Year 5 pupils have received training to become 'Play-makers'. A responsible position to hold, the play-makers dedicate their time to organise a range of different play ground games - football, dodge-ball, stuck-in-the-mud and other team games - for pupils of



all ages to play at break times. If someone is feeling lonely or bored during their break they can play with the play-makers. We asked five of the play-makers how their job was

going: "It's going really well and everyone is really enjoying it!" Sophie Davis told us. "My favourite thing is playing football with the infants," explained Lucas. The Play-maker team work on a rota to ensure that, every break time, there is something different and fun on offer. Though they love being Play-makers, they all agreed that it was nice having a break of their own sometimes!

by **Clarrie MacDonald-Brown**,
St Mary's News Editor-in-Chief

Chemistry with Cabbages -

Bringing Science to Life

Year 6 were recently treated to a fascinating day full of science when Mrs Wilson, an award-winning scientist from 'Chemistry with Cabbages,' came to visit. Year 6 tested various substances with cabbage juice pH indicator to find out whether they were neutral, alkaline or acid.



The class separated protein molecules, created polymers and watched demonstrations on distillation and how carbon dioxide fire extinguishers work, using vinegar and bicarbonate of soda.

"My favourite part was making the polymer that was just like slime," enthused Tom. Over all, it was an inspiring, educational day for Year 6. With her pink lab coat, Mrs Wilson is far from a stereotypical scientist and a great role-model for encouraging girls into careers in science.

by **Clarrie MacDonald-Brown**, St Mary's News
Editor-in-Chief and **Tom Smith**, Year 6.

Dear Editor

Re: Parking on St Mary's Avenue in the February Oracle, parking in Overton is a BIG problem. Buses cannot get near raised bus stops because of cars parked there - this is illegal. Cars park across disabled parking drop-kerbs, the ones with the yellow paving slabs, especially in front of the village hall and at the end of St Mary's Avenue. Parking on these is not only illegal, it's selfish and arrogant. Where are the Police or Traffic Wardens? Overton Community Council has the fallacious argument that "the village came before cars and we must allow them". Tell that to London, Birmingham, Wrexham etc or to any city, town or village in this country. *Name & address supplied*

Safer Internet Day promotes the safe & positive use of digital technology for children and young people. Here are tips to help you to stay safe online:

- Never give out your personal information online.
- Do not make online connections on social networking sites such as Facebook and Snapchat if you are unsure who the person is.
- Online friends are best kept online, meeting strangers can be very dangerous.
- People may not be who they say they are.
- Be wary of opening files from people you don't know, they could contain a virus or unsuitable content.
- Be careful about what you write for everyone to see – a quick question to ask yourself before posting online is "would I print this on a t-shirt and walk down the street wearing it?"
- Most social networking websites have privacy settings that you can change to make sure only your friends can see your profile.

The 2018 W.I.

The next Overton W.I. meeting will take place in the Catholic Church Hall on Thursday, 15th March at 7.30pm. Please join us when Dr Geraint Owens from Wrexham will talk about 'Feeding the Roofless'.

The competition is 'An Interesting cutlery item'. Visitors are most welcome, the charge is £4 including refreshments, or you can join on the night. Why not come along, you'll be most welcome!



Overton Recreational Club

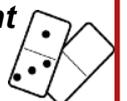


Snooker, Pool, Darts
Quizzes, Bingo & so much more
Sky Sports, Multi-room & BT Sport

OPEN EVERY NIGHT

Showing Joshua v Parker Fight
Saturday 31st March

Only £4 a year Membership



Overton Playcentre

Nearly New

Sellers packs are still available
from the Playcentre.

Sale




SUNDAY 18th MARCH 2018



Overton Royal British Legion 100 Club

Results of the "100 Club" draw for February 2018.
97 members entered and the draw was made at the White Horse on the 7th February by Mrs Diane Child.

Winners -

1st Prize	£ 194.00	No 38 Roy Walker
2nd Prize	£ 97.00	No 22 Howard Jones
3rd Prize	£ 48.50	No 89 Hannah Roberts

Legion Fund: £145.50

Congratulations

Next Draw: Wednesday March 14th

A number of places are now available. If you wish to join please ring DAVE AUSTIN: TEL- 01978 710678.

British Legion Charity Quiz



The Overton Branch are once again running the National British Legion Pub Quiz in the White Horse Inn on **Thursday March 22nd** at 9.00pm. The quiz is in aid of the Armed Forces Community and all proceeds will be given to help sick and injured ex-servicemen, so if this is something you believe in, get your friends to come along as a team of 4 or 6 people at a £2 each and have some fun in a good cause.

We may remember that this quiz is a little different with Jokers which your team can play to double your points in that round, so if you're hot on history and poor on pictures you can play to your strengths and increase your chances of winning! Why not come along first for a meal at the White Horse and enjoy some good pub grub!



Two evenings of March Music

There will be two evenings in March of music put on by the Maelor Music Society in the Maelor School Hall. On Thursday March 1st they welcome the Wrexham County Youth Choir drawn from the best singers in the schools across the county (including of course the Maelor School). And on Wednesday March 21st they welcome Trio Cymru with Annette Gwyn Parri performing with 3 fine Welsh voices, tenor, baritone and base.

More Overton Am Drams panto pictures



*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 4th 10.00am Family Village Praise
 Mothering Sunday March 11th 11.30am Family Communion
 3.00pm Messy Church in Scout Hut
 Sunday March 18th 10.00am Family Communion
 Palm Sunday March 25th 11.30am Holy Communion
 Maundy Thursday March 29th 7.30pm Holy Communion & Vigil
 Good Friday March 30th 2.00-3.00pm Stations of the Cross
 Easter Sunday April 1st 10.00am Holy Communion with
 Blessing of Easter Eggs

March Diary for Overton Methodist Chapel

Sunday March 4th 6.30pm Rev Neville Pugh
 Sunday March 11th 6.30pm Mr Collen Ndoro
 Sunday March 18th 6.30pm Holy Communion Rev P Poole
 Palm Sunday March 25th 11am All Age Worship Mr Woodhall
 Good Friday March 30th 7.30pm Circuit Musical -
 "Jerusalem Joy"

Easter Sunday April 1st 11.00am Rev Neville Pugh

**Coffee Mornings at the Chapel will recommence on
 March 10th - 10.30am to 12 noon**

Thursday March 1st 10.30am - 2.30pm Rainbow Centre
 Lunch & Learn - 'Henna techniques' with Sophia
 Leadill Taylor

Thursday March 1st 9.00pm Quiz Night at the White Horse
 in aid of Overton Playcentre, all welcome.

Thursday March 1st 7.30pm Maelor Music Society in the
 Maelor School Hall with the Wrexham County
 Youth Choir

Saturday March 3rd 10.30am Overton W.I. Coffee Morning
 at the Village Hall. Admission £1 incl. coffee.
 Raffle and stalls.

Tuesday March 13th 6.50pm Overton Community Council
 meeting in the Parish Room. Members of the public
 wishing to speak 6.50pm-7.00pm.

Tuesday March 13th 7pm for 7.30pm Easter Bingo Night at
 the Rainbow Centre, Penley. Tea & coffee available

Wednesday March 14th 10.30am Overton British Legion
 meeting at the Scout Hut. All welcome.

Wednesday March 14th 12.30pm Overton Lunch Club at the
 White Horse. To book please ring Gwynneth Austin
 on 01978 710672

Thursday March 15th 7.30pm Overton WI meeting in the
 Catholic Church Hall. Speaker: Dr Geraint Owens
 on 'Feeding the Roofless'. Competition: An
 Interesting cutlery item.

Sunday March 18th 1.00pm - 3.00pm Overton Playcentre
 Baby & Children's Nearly New Sale at the Village
 Hall

Wednesday March 21st 7.30pm Maelor Music Society
 in the Maelor School Hall present Trio Cymru
 with Annette Gwyn Parri

Thursday March 22nd 9.00pm The Royal British Legion
 National Pub Quiz at the White Horse, all welcome

Wednesday March 28th 7.30pm Overton on Dee
 Community Growers meet in the White Horse

Family Announcements



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

Happy Birthday to John Littleton for the 4th March -
 80 years and still going!

Sincere condolences to the family and friends of
 Joan Bowness formerly of Poethlyn Terrace who
 passed away 6th February.



Overton and District Bowling Club

The Overton Bowling Green will open
 for the 2018 season on Saturday
 24th March.

Thank you

Tracey Leech would like to thank all those that
 supported the bingo in aid of St Mary's Church in
 December and thanks also to all those who donated
 prizes for the raffle. Watch out for the next Bingo.

Thank you

Donna and Andy, the new landlords of the White
 Horse, would like to thank the people of the village,
 and surrounding villages, for all the support they have
 had since they have taken over. They say it's been
 amazing and they have met such lovely people!

Overton Lunch Club

is on Wednesday March 14th at 12.30pm at
 the White Horse. There will be a choice of a
 two-course menu all for £8.95. To book please
 ring Gwynneth Austin on 01978 710672



PLEASE REMEMBER

**Copy deadline is 20th of
 the previous month.**

**Get your events & news
 to us early to avoid
 disappointment**

**THIS INCLUDES
 ADVERTISEMENTS**

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 & announcements at the
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 Rob Netzband-Piggott;
 Distribution Cynthia
 Davies; Charlotte Clarke,
 Euan Stevenson, Sean
 Clarke & Gwynneth
 Austin.**

**Editor - Jill Burton.
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**The Overton Oracle is printed and supported by "Business Print & Design" Wrexham. Tel. No. 01978 664726
 e-mail: info@bpandd.co.uk**

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