

The Overton Oracle



Volume 21 Issue 3

March 2019

Overton's Free Newspaper - delivered to every household monthly for 20 years

Overton on Dee W.I. Coffee Morning



Saturday 2nd March
10am-12.30pm

including an Art Competition by the children of St Mary's School and the Playcentre. Stalls include TV's Beatriz Albo, Barn Boutique, Knolton Nursery, Handmade Gemstone Jewellery and more. Raffle, Bacon Baps, Cakes & Preserves. Come and join the fun in the Village Hall.

March Music at the White Horse

Saturday 9th March is the Starstruck multi tribute band and disco (as seen on 'Stars in their Eyes') from 8:30pm till late.
Saturday 23rd March is the talented Tim Smith Strings playing popular acoustic songs through the eras from Green Day to the Beatles. 8:30pm till late

Pop Up Post Office

The Post Office is open in the Parish Room EVERY Tuesday from 10.00am to 12 noon. Please 'pop in' and support



Overton WI

The next meeting is on Thursday 21st March 7.30pm in the Catholic Church Hall. Our Guest Speaker will be Jon Croft, with "An Evening With the Ukulele Man" and he will tell us about the origins and history of this unique instrument, and of the banjo, with a good old fashioned sing-a-long too! All are welcome for an evening of fun and friendship. Guests £4 to include refreshments. Further details from Margaret on 710541



Well done to the White Horse

Congratulations to Andy and Donna on winning not one but TWO awards at the Joules Brewery Taphouse of the Year Awards. Out of all Joules 38 pubs, Overton's White Horse won the award for the



most 'Total Volume Growth in 2018' (well done to all those Overtonians who made that possible by consuming the volume!) and Andy and Donna were also awarded the 'Newcomers of the Year' Award.

Community Litter Pick

It was a nice sunny morning for litter picking in February. Five volunteers joined Katie Piercy to pick up the litter dropped by what is probably a small number of inconsiderate people. The next Litter Pick will be held on Sat. March 9th and it would be lovely to find there is absolutely nothing to pick up. If you would like to join in with tidying up the village please meet outside the Corner Shop at 10am.



An Evening of Magic

You are invited to a Magic & Mind Reading Show with Simon Rosselli, acclaimed London magician and Member of The Magic Circle, to be held at Overton Village Hall on Friday 29th March.



Come and find out if you have a psychic ability? See if you can read other people's minds & thoughts? Can you communicate to others telepathically? Do you have a 6th Sense and can you tap into it?

During the show, we will be looking at some of the above questions and a whole lot more. There will be audience participation.

The show is 7pm - 9pm (doors and bar open at 6.30pm) Advance tickets are £10 (£12 on door) in aid of The Friends of St. Marys Church, Overton. Hot food will be available to purchase during the interval.

For tickets, call Peter on 01978 710626, David on 710631, Mike on 710219 or Claire on 710568

Musings from the Manse

by Rev'd Phillip Poole



Dear friends, I'm sure we're all aware that St David's Day is celebrated on March 1st each year, and it looks very much as if this year the daffodils will be in bloom ready for the celebration.

St David was a native of Wales, of course, and lived in the 6th century AD. He was the Bishop of Mynyw in Pembrokeshire, and the tiny city and the cathedral there are now named after him. David and his followers lived a simple life of service and self-denial. They farmed during the day, pulling the plough themselves, and they drank only water and milk and ate only bread and vegetables. Their evenings would be spent in prayer and devotional reading and personal possessions were strictly forbidden. Their monastic way of life led to a special closeness with God, and David himself is attributed with a number of miracles. The best known of these is said to have taken place near Llanddewi Brefi in Ceredigion. David was preaching to a large crowd and in order to make him better heard a small hill rose up beneath his feet, while a white dove was seen settling on his shoulder. This is how David is most often pictured, though John Davies commented that 'one can scarcely conceive of any miracle more superfluous' in that part of Wales than the creation of a new hill.

As a recent incomer to Wales I have been impressed by the enthusiasm with which Welsh people celebrate this special day. For some March 1st is as much a celebration of Wales and Welshness as it is of the Saint himself, but let's not forget the important things David taught us. Amongst his last words to his followers were these, "Be joyful, and keep your faith and your creed, and do the little things that you have seen me do and heard about." Since then, 'Do the little things' has become a kind of watchword, reminding us that taking care over the small, seemingly unimportant things lays a foundation for a life of happiness and achievement. It looks back I think to a Biblical saying from Matthew chapter 25: "You have been faithful with a few things, so now I will put you in charge of many things." We all know that a little smile, a little prayer, a few little words of encouragement, or a little unexpected kindness can all make a big difference. And we should perhaps worry less about changing the world, and more about changing what is close at hand and within our reach.

Meanwhile, God bless you, and God bless Wales this St David's Day, a Dydd Gŵyl Dewi Hapus i chi i gyd.

Overton Playcentre & Overton Twinning Family Easter Eggstavanza

Easter trail, Easter bonnet parade, craft tables, refreshments and raffle at Overton Scout Hut **Saturday 13th April 2-4pm**. More in the April Oracle



email: overtonoracle@gmail.com

Goodbye



PCSO Lynne Maurice has now left Overton to take up a new post with the Community Safety Team in Wrexham.

PCSO Mike Simister has also moved on to pastures new, to an investigation post within CID at Llay Police HQ.

Lynne and Mike would like to thank all those they've met during their time here.

"It's a lovely village with nice people and we will miss it too, but both feel it's time to move on. We wish all the Oracle readers all the best for the future."

Not very funny!

We have all seen the Facebook strapline. "Overton on Dee... a lovely funny old village". I am sure 99% of people agree but a few individuals are badly letting the side down.

DOG FOULING.

All pavements, Musley Lane, the concrete bank, footpaths, people's open plan gardens, the Avenue and even the Church grounds are all regularly soiled. Dog mess is both an eyesore and a health hazard.

THE LAW

It is your duty to clean up every time your dog messes in a public place, obviously pavements but that also includes footpaths and lanes.

EXEMPTIONS

Registered blind or with a registered disability that means they physically can't pick it up. PERIOD!

The sad thing is that whilst the offenders obviously know who they are - in most cases - so do I.

I want everyone to be vigilant and report any more offenders to me. If this does not stop immediately I will pass on their details to the authorities for action to be taken.

I have kept this as mild as I can and I would love to be able to "name and shame" but alas. I did put up 15 posters a few weeks ago round the village and some were ripped down within days....I wonder who by ???

Can I suggest if you can't look after your dog THEN DON'T HAVE ONE!!

Regards,
Councillor John McCusker
Tel: 07902966075 or 01978 710875
Email: john.mccusker01@btinternet.com



Overton Village Open Handicraft Show 2019

The Overton Village Open Handicraft Show will be on Saturday 18th May 2019. But its not too early to get crafting, snapping and planning.

The Schedules and Entry Forms for this exciting new show are now available at the Corner Shop, M.E.Evans Butchers, and the Library.

There are 28 Classes for adults, and 6 for children. Along with Photography, Floral Art, Floristry and Woodcraft, there are 14 Classes of Craft and 5 of Art – so there's something to suit a wide range of interests and abilities.

Although our W.I. is organising this event, the Competition is open to all, men, women and children, and will be independently judged. There will be a great Raffle, and lots of lovely things to eat and drink too.

We hope to make this an annual event for the Village so please, get involved – support the Show, the Village Hall, but most of all enjoy the challenge!

Please contact Margaret on 01978 710451 for further details.



What's on at St Mary's in March

Ash Wednesday service – Holy Communion with imposition of ashes: Wednesday 6th March at 7.00pm in the Lady Chapel in St Mary's.

You are invited to **pray in church** during Lent – come in any time that church is open, or come and join Peter in prayer every Thursday at 7.00pm (starting Thursday 7th March) or every Monday at 8.30am (starting Monday 11th March). Prayer times will be led by Peter, with no pressure to pray aloud, and will last thirty minutes (max). All welcome.

The **Annual Meeting** will be on Wednesday 20th March at 7.00pm, when we will share reports on the last year and look forward to the year ahead. All welcome (it's not just for the church committee, but the whole church).

On the theme of **spring cleaning**, we have organised a churchyard tidy-up and spring clean of the church interior, on Saturday 30th March from 10.00am. Refreshments will be provided; bring your enthusiasm. All welcome.

For **Mothering Sunday**, we have a group service at 10am on Sunday 31st March, in St Mary's; this will be worship for all ages, with mums and grandmas especially welcome.



Playcentre News

Hello it is exciting to be writing this to you from the Playcentre at this time when so much wonderfulness is going on! Wildbanks Conservation have been busy creating our amazing outdoor space using the Awards for All Grant from National Lottery, including an incredible wooden gate, large chalk boards, shape sorter, Messy Maths cupboard, outdoor tables.... the list goes on!

In March we are having a **Volunteer Day on the 16th March from 10-3pm** to paint the wall of the Playcentre outside leading up to the reception door - all offers of help welcome! Following our **'Good' Estyn Inspection** this time last year we have just had a **very successful CIW inspection** before Christmas and our inspection report will be found on the CIW website by the time you are reading this - so have a look!

As part of our involvement in the community we are creating gardens on plates for the WI Eisteddfod Celebrations - so all Mums, dads, siblings and grandparents can come to the Village Hall on Sat. 2nd to see what your children have won! The children are loving running the Post Office Pop-up-Cafe on some Tuesdays. They serve the cakes, take the money as well as singing songs and having fun! please come to see us at our next one on Tuesday March 26th 10-12pm!

Early Education, EE for our 3 year olds started in January and is going well. We are starting our transition with St Mary's Primary School in March with Mrs Burton the Nursery Teacher coming over to read stories and small groups going to join with the Nursery groups in school.

March is full of activities with the children with - St David's Day, Mothering Sunday, visits from a vet, a nurse, an explorer, our new vicar, and many more! Our AGM is April 3rd 7.30pm, and the next Nearly New Sale is 7th April in the Village Hall.

Finally Nicole Langley has now been working at the Playcentre for 10 years!! She is a dedicated member of staff. Well done Nicky!

Overton Village Fete 2019

Save the Date!!

We are delighted to confirm the date of this year's Overton Village Fete which aims to bring the community together and provide a fun day out for everyone!



Saturday 29th June between

1:00 pm and 4:00 pm

This year's highlights will include a Village Parade, a Fun Dog Show, Silver Band, and, of course, a raffle with some AMAZING prizes... and much more besides

If you would like to have a stall, you can download a booking form directly from the Overton on Dee community website, www.overton-on-dee.co.uk, or email overtonfete@outlook.com. Hard copies can be picked up from Katrina Chalk, Council Clerk.

Completed forms should be placed in the OCC box outside the Village Hall or emailed to the same address as above.

We look forward to seeing you there!!

Pop-up Community Cafe

Village groups are running the Café in the Foyer next to the **'Pop Up Post Office'** which runs in the Parish Room EVERY Tuesday from 10.00am to 12 noon.

- Tuesday March 5th St Mary's School PTA
- Tuesday March 12th Community Agents Team
- Tuesday March 19th Overton WI
- Tuesday March 26th Overton Playcentre

Please 'pop in' and support these village organisations.

If your Group or organisation would like to join the **Community Café Rota** please tel 01978 710328 or email: cathroberts100@aol.com





Pop up to the Post Office

Year One from St Mary's School took a trip to Overton 'Pop-up' Post Office to post thank you letters to Lyla Honey who donated a beautiful doll's house to school. We used our literacy skills to plan and write letters to her and our maths skills when we saw how much it weighed and then how much it cost to post. The lady explained that it would travel by van to Wrexham to be sorted to her address and that's why it cost £1.01. We'd like to say thank you for being so accommodating to our impromptu visit and we know the letter got there safely! Look out for members of the PTA running the Community Café on Tuesday 5th March fundraiser for our school. They'd love to see you!



Thanks for all your support

The final amount fundraised at the Village Parade Jumble sale was an incredible £1,106.25p! Many thanks to all those who supported the occasion by donating items, attending and helping out on the day. Also many thanks to the Explorers who ran the tea, cake and bacon butty sales. Also thanks for the support of Overton Playcentre and St Mary's School who helped make the fundraiser such a great success.

Watch this space for details of plans and preparations for the 2019 Parade and follow / message us on Facebook, 'Overton Parade' or call 07815 787508 for up to date info or if you are able to offer to help in any way.



Want to plant up a hanging basket, tub or window box but not sure where to start?

Then we can help!

*The Overton-on-Dee
Community Growers*
will be holding a **Practical
Hands-on Tutorial on
Sunday 14th April from 2pm
onwards at the Scout Hut.**



Our resident retired professional gardener George will be there to give practical help and advice.

Bring your own basket and compost to fill or we can supply both at a reasonable cost.

Selection of suitable plants available to choose from.

Nominal charge for plants and compost. Tea, coffee and cake available to keep you going!

PRE BOOKING ESSENTIAL, PLACES ARE LIMITED

To book phone Secretary Claire on 07766 101639 or email williamsclaire@btinternet.com

'Together - let's get Overton Blooming!'

Closed

Please note: **The Upgrade of the Public Toilets** on Church Road will commence soon.

Whilst this project is underway, the toilets will be closed.

Notices will be put up outside the toilets (and on Facebook) to advise members of the public when they will be shut and for how long.

Overton Community Council.

Overton Mini Meadows

Since 1945 the UK has lost 98% of its lowland meadows. Alongside this decline, and partly fuelled by it, our insect and wildflower populations have crashed. Whilst large-scale changes will be needed to reverse this, even small things can make a big difference. With this in mind several mini wildflower patches will be established across Overton this summer to encourage bees, butterflies and other insects to flourish.

Wildflower patches can be created in a number of ways, one of the quickest is to clear the ground of topsoil and vegetation, and spread wildflower seeds. However although this method is quick acting, it is also more expensive and does not encourage the spread of local species, as ready mixed seed will contain plants from other parts of the country or even abroad. A simpler method is to allow the areas in question to grow long throughout the summer and then cut them back in July or August, removing the cuttings. By managing the areas in this manner the perfect conditions can be created to encourage wildflower to thrive, however the process can take several years.

In order to encourage local seed to spread and keep costs low we will be going with the second method. This means the numbers of wildflowers may be low in the first year, however even longer grass on its own can provide excellent spaces for insects to breed, whilst giving bird species good foraging habitat. The current areas being considered for these mini meadows include strips along the edge of the playing field, in the graveyard extension and by the public car park. All areas will be monitored throughout the summer to assess which wildflower species naturally appear.

St Mary's School News

Techniquist - Experiencing Life as a Scientist

In January, Year 6 pupils went on an exciting Science trip to Techniquist in Wrexham. The purpose of the trip was to experience hands-on experiments in a real-life laboratory to prepare pupils for their move to secondary school Science. Throughout the packed day, pupils identified acids and alkalis through colour-changing chemicals; learned about fire safety and practised using the Bunsen burners; identified various lab hazards and had fun attempting the challenges in the different Science Zones.

We asked Thomas C what he thought about Techniquist and he told us: "It was amazing, interesting and I thoroughly enjoyed it!" Pupils can now look forward to secondary school Science and have confidence in the laboratory environment.

by Lucas Pimparel, James Wright (Year 6 Roving Reporters) and Max Evans (Joint Editor-in-Chief)



Young Voices – The Experience of a Lifetime

On Wednesday 13th February, 45 members of St Mary's School Choir attended the prestigious 'Young Voices' concert at the Manchester Arena. The choir had been working hard to prepare for the event over several months, with lunchtime and afternoon practices, to learn the many songs and dances. The build-up had been very exciting but, even then, the choir could not have anticipated the buzz of being in the second largest concert hall in the UK, along with over 6,000 other children, to sing in front of a huge audience of parents and families.



The MEN stadium was nearly packed to capacity.

Songs ranged from pop classics by Kylie and Coldplay to showstoppers from Joseph and The Greatest Showman. Guest artists, who the choir had the honour to sing-a-long with, included 80's pop sensation Tony Hadley from Spandau Ballet, whom the choir supported through a version of 'Gold', and Beau Dermott from Britain's Got Talent. The atmosphere was electric and is sure to be an experience our choir will never forget; to be part of the largest children's concert experience in the World. A fabulous experience and it was all down to our amazing singing teacher Mrs Ashworth and the staff who took us there.

by Lucas Pimparel, Kyara Heward and James Wright (Year 6 Roving Reporters and Choir members)

Growth Mindset – Believe You Can Achieve!

During February we saw the launch of Growth Mindset Week here at St Mary's. Yrs 2 and 6 had already done some work on Growth Mindset in the Autumn Term, so they took on the responsibility of introducing the idea to the rest of the pupils across the school to set us on our journey to becoming a 'Growth Mindset School'.

Growth Mindset is the belief that abilities and skills can be developed through dedication and hard work and that anything is possible with self-belief. It's about learning to love challenges and being comfortable making mistakes, as it's from mistakes that true learning and growth occurs. Using IT and green screen technology, Year 6 (with some starring roles from Year 2) created an information film on Growth Mindset to model the concept to the rest of the school. This formed the basis of our launch, alongside a whole school study of a book called 'The Dot' which takes us on one young girl's Growth Mindset journey. We then went 'Dot' crazy – creating dot artwork and carrying out other dot-related activities, including building 'Dot' towers as a STEM challenge. Our corridors are now filled with beautiful dot artwork to remind us of our own learning journeys and that you can do anything if you put your mind to it. From Nursery right through to Year 6 we are now all using the same Growth Mindset language – remember, it's not that you can't do it – you just can't do it, YET!

by Olivia Busby and Max Evans (Year 6 Editors-in Chief)
(More photos on website) and Mrs Williams (Year 6



Overton British Legion Remembers Frank Howard

The January edition of the Overton Oracle featured the centenary of the death of Frank Howard, son of the groom at Bryn y Pys and who is remembered on Overton War Memorial. On the 24th January, members of The Overton Branch of the Royal British Legion gathered at the grave of Frank Howard in Overton cemetery exactly 100 years to the day since he died of illness caused by his service as a soldier in World War 1. He was just 18.

The Legion have contacted the Commonwealth War Graves Commission to see whether War Grave Memorials can be erected on the graves of the three WW1 Soldiers who died in 1919 and who are buried in Overton Cemetery.

Do you think your Council Tax Band may be too high?



A company has been ringing homes in the Wrexham area, offering to appeal Council Tax bandings on behalf of residents for a fee of £150.

There is nothing illegal or invalid about the offer, it's just that you do not need to pay for this service.

If you want to challenge the banding of your home, you can do that yourself rather than pay someone to do it. Just get in touch with the Valuation Office Agency on 03000 505 505 or read notes on



Overton Royal British Legion 100 Club

Results of the "100 Club" draw for February 2019.

100 members entered and the draw was made at the Royal British Legion Meeting on Wednesday 13th February by Miss Jean Williams.

The winners are -

- 1st Prize £200.00 No 28 Janet Davies
 - 2nd Prize £100.00 No 84 Cath Roberts
 - 3rd Prize £ 50.00 No 72 John Crawford
- Legion Fund: £150

CONGRATULATIONS

Next Draw: Wednesday March 13th 2019

If you wish to join please ring DAVE AUSTIN on
Tel: 01978 710678.

More photos from St Mary's School



**Year 6
Creating our
multimedia
'Growth
Mindset'
Presentation**



PIC-COLLAGE



**Growth Mindset
Week Activities**



**Designing and
testing the tallest
'Dot' tower**

PIC-COLLAGE



What's On**March Diary for St Mary's Services**

Sunday March 3rd 10.00am Morning Prayer with Baptism
 Ash Wednesday March 6th 7.00pm Holy Communion with
 imposition of ashes

Sunday March 10th 11.30am Holy Communion

Sunday March 17th 10.00am Family Communion

Sunday March 24th 11.30am Group Service at Erbistock
 with Canon Sue Huyton

Sunday March 31st 10.00am Mothering Sunday Family
 Worship

March Diary for Overton Methodist Chapel

Sunday March 3rd 6.30pm Rev Neville Pugh

Sunday March 10th 6.30pm Mr David Young

Sunday March 17th 6.30pm Holy Communion with
 Rev. Phillip Poole

Sunday March 24th 11.00am All Age Worship with
 Deacon Lisa Rathbone

Sunday March 31st 6.30pm Rev Richard Parkes

Craft Class 1.30pm each Tuesday

Bible Study 7.00pm each Wednesday

Toddler Group 9.30am each Friday

Saturday March 2nd 10am-12.30pm Overton WI Coffee
 Morning in the Village Hall.

Saturday March 9th 10.00am Overton Community
 Litter Pic, meet by the Corner Shop. All welcome

Thursday March 7th 10.30am - 2.30pm Rainbow
 Centre Lunch & Learn. "Still Life" with Christine
 Matthews

Tuesday March 12th 6.50pm Overton Community
 Council meeting in the Parish Room. Members
 of the public wishing to speak 6.50pm-7.00pm.

Wednesday March 13th 10.30am Overton British
 Legion meeting at the Scout Hut. All welcome

Wednesday March 13th 12.30pm Overton Lunch
 Club at the White Horse. Please book.

Thursday March 14th & 28th Lunch Club at the
 Rainbow Centre. 2 course meal for £7.50. To
 book Tel: 01498 830730. Transport available

Tuesday March 19th 12.30-2.30pm Tuesday
 Crafternoon at The Rainbow Centre - Easter
 basket weaving

Thursday March 21st Maelor South Adventurers Group
 visit to Dorothy Clive Garden. To book ring
 01948 830730

Thursday March 21st 7.30pm Overton WI Meeting.
 Speaker: John Croft with "An Evening with the
 Ukulele Man" at the Catholic Church Hall.

Wednesday March 27th 7.30pm Maelor Music Society
 present Cantorion Gogledd Cymru Male Voice
 Choir in the Maelor School Hall

Family Announcements

Happy March Birthdays to Cynthia Davies, Alan
 Mawdsley, Anne Clarke, Grace Haynes, David Burton,
 Finlay Clarke, Janet Reid, Janene Bell, Imogen Jones,
 Kate Jenkinson, Joanne Kember, Liam and Matt
 Grindley, Roxanne Haynes, James Morrison, Russell
 Simon, Toby Edwards, Chris Probert, John Littleton,
 Jan Davies & Gwynneth Austin.

Happy 18th Birthday to Mikey Jones, with lots of love
 from Mum, Dad and Dani xxx

Belated Happy Birthday on Feb 19th to Margaret
 Evison.

Sincere condolences to Dave (Dai) Jones, Natalie and
 the family and friends of Doll Jones, one of the most
 popular stewardesses that Overton Recreational Club
 ever had, who has suddenly passed away.

Sincere condolences to the family and friends of
 Gwenan Mottishead nee Owen who sadly passed away
 in February.

Overton Lunch Club

is on **Wednesday March 13th** 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



Advice Surgery Ken Skates AM & Susan Elan
 Jones MP will hold an advice surgery at Overton
 Village Hall on Friday April 5th 3.30pm to 5.30pm.
 First come first served, no appointment necessary.

Prize Bingo

in aid of The H.A.C.K. Horse Sanctuary

Thursday April 4th

Doors open 7. Eyes down 7.30pm

at **Gresford Colliery Club**

Bar. All welcome

**PLEASE REMEMBER**

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

Get your events & news
 to us early to avoid
 disappointment

**THIS INCLUDES
 ADVERTISEMENTS**

Leave your contributions
 & announcements at the
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overtonoracle@gmail.com

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