

The Overton Oracle

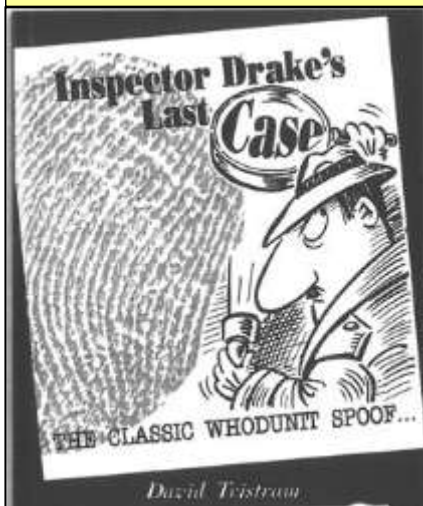
Volume 14. Issue 11

November 2012

Overton's Free Newspaper - issued monthly



Murder at the Village Hall



Overton Amateur Dramatic Society are now working hard on rehearsals for their latest play "Inspector Drake's Last case", a comedy by Shropshire Playwright David Tristram.

The hapless Inspector Drake is played by Mike Done, while his sidekick, the aptly-named Sergeant Plod, is played by Ian Edwards. With suspects including Mr Butler the guest, Mr Guest the Butler, Mr. Cook the gardener and Mrs Gardner the Cook, will Drake ever discover who killed the old, frail, defenceless but disgustingly rich Mrs Gagarin? See if you can beat him to it.

Come along to the Village Hall on Friday November 16th or Saturday 17th at 7.30pm to find out.

Tickets are only £5 per person and you can pay at the door.

The blight of criminal damage and anti-social behaviour

Many readers will be aware of the on-going incidents of criminal damage and anti-social behaviour that the village has suffered during recent months. The village crime report for October includes criminal damage in the grounds of St. Mary's Church, a break in at the Village Hall and anti-social behaviour/damage around the Doctors' surgery. Additionally there has been a recent incident of anti-social behaviour and what can only be described as a disgusting act of vandalism at the public toilets. Such incidents adversely affect the quality of life for residents. Damage caused puts additional expense on the organisations affected, which they are often unable to bear, and has a detrimental effect upon your local community services. Your Community Council is committed to do all it can to eradicate this blight.

Specifically we intend to:

- In accordance with our duty of care towards our employees we will not tolerate them being subjected to abusive and threatening behaviour. In any such instance we will not hesitate in taking the necessary legal action against the perpetrators.
- In the event of criminal damage to public facilities managed by the Council we will pursue civil litigation to obtain financial restitution for damage caused, including any legal costs we incur during the process.
- We will give our full and unqualified support to other community organisations adopting the same approach.
- We will continue to work closely and collaboratively with the local police force.

For this initiative to succeed we need the help and support of the community.

If we are to take effective action against those responsible **it is essential that incidents are reported to the police by dialling 999 in an emergency or 101 in a non-emergency**, so that an incident number can be allocated and, if possible, the culprits identified. If incidents are not reported the consequence is that an inaccurately low picture of local crime statistics is presented which in turn adversely affects our call on scarce police resources.

Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour depends on us all upholding the values of what is - and what is not - acceptable behaviour, reporting crime and giving the evidence required to bring offenders to justice.

Through collective community action we believe that we can have a significant and positive effect on this issue.

Mike Minihane

Vice Chair, Overton Community Council.

The Overton Oracle is available in colour on the village website www.overton-on-dee.co.uk

Ramblings From the Reverend **by Rev'd David Child**



When I was a boy I loved to watch the cowboy programmes on television and The Lone Ranger was a special favourite. The Lone Ranger was a masked ex-Texas Ranger who, with his Native American Companion Tonto, fought injustice in the American Old West. In one adventure they find themselves surrounded by 25,000 hostile Sioux. 'What are we going to do Tonto?' says the Lone Ranger. Tonto's reply, 'What do you mean by 'we' white man?'

We as people have to continually redefine what we mean by 'we'. We did that most successfully as a nation during the Olympic and Paralympic Games and as a village during the Queens Jubilee. The Churches in Overton too have a tradition of redefining what we mean by 'we'. We, the Anglican, Methodist and Roman Catholic Churches of our village, already work and worship together on special occasions. We hold a joint service during Christian Aid Week and we run a joint Bible Study group in Lent. We may worship God in slightly different ways but there are far more things that unite us than divide us.

And recently we stepped up a gear. The congregation of the Parish Church was joined by those of Methodist and Roman Catholic Churches for a joint Harvest Thanksgiving Festival in St Mary's. The Service reminded us that Harvest is not just about 'Thanking God' for the Harvest and all the other gifts we enjoy but also about 'Giving'. And the Brownies and the Beavers brought as well as traditional gifts, non-disposable items which the Salvation Army were able to deliver to the homeless in Wrexham. We then had a most enjoyable Harvest Lunch together in the White Horse. October 7th also saw the congregation of the Roman Catholic Church in Overton join with the congregation of St. Hilary's Erbistock to celebrate in St Hilary's with family and friends the Baptism of Charlie Jack Allwood-Reid. Luke and Gemma, Charlie's parents, regularly worship in both churches. I led the worship, preached, and baptized Charlie while the Rev'd Cliff Howe, the Roman Catholic Deacon, read the gospel, anointed Charlie and blessed the parents. The church was packed for what was a most joyous occasion.

We need to recognize that we are all God's children and that there are no barriers to God's love. We all need to work to bring the different strands of our community and the different denominations of our church together. This is far more likely to happen if the pressure comes from the 'grass roots' of our society and our churches. It starts with us.

With every blessing,
David

COUNTRY BEAT **by PCSO Stephen O'Connell**



I will start off this month's piece with the bad news that a house in the village has been burgled. Three suspects have been named and arrested. Two others are currently being questioned. The offenders possibly used a spare key kept underneath a plant pot to gain entry to the property. Whilst I understand the benefits of hiding a spare key it can lead to houses being broken in to. If you MUST leave a spare key please ensure that ONLY family know of its whereabouts or buy a key safe that can be attached to the wall and can only be accessed with a code.

Recently the Wrexham Rural local policing sergeant, during his patrol in Overton found five cars that had been left unlocked. The owners have been notified and will be receive a letter. Overton doesn't experience a lot of vehicle crime, but leaving vehicles unlocked increases the chances of contents being taken or the vehicle being stolen.

Over the past few months many incidents have occurred in the village but have gone unreported to North Wales Police. I have recently received correspondence from organisations in the village to complain about the ongoing vandalism, criminal damage, etc over the past 12 - 18 months. The vast majority of these incidents have gone unreported to NWP and without any awareness of the incidents, we are unable to commit resources to put a stop to these incidents. I have also been approached by members of the community reporting incidents that have occurred a few weeks ago but have only mentioned it to me because they have seen me in the street. It is imperative that if you perceive yourself as a victim of crime, that you report it to NWP. North Wales Police want all incidents reported to our control room on **101** or **0300 33 00 101**. Overton station is not staffed 24 hours and PCSOs are contractually obliged to spend at least 85% of our time out of the station. We do welcome all members of the community to the station, but please ring ahead to ensure someone is there.

If you see yourself as a victim of crime, no matter how trivial, please report it NWP on 101 or 0300 33 00 101. More than 90% of these call are answered within 40 seconds. The 101 number is to report incidents that are not an emergency such as suspicious vehicles or persons, anti-social behaviour, criminal damage etc. Please report anything that happens. If you are unsure if you should report it, contact our control and we will advise you. As always, in emergency or if the crime is ongoing, please dial 999. If you would like to discuss anything with me, please contact me on either of the numbers below. If I'm not available leave a message and I'll get back to you when I can.

Many thanks,
PCSO Stephen O'Connell
07854 352 601 or 01978 352 601
stephen.o'connell@nthwales.pnn.police.uk

St Mary's School Bonanza went really well with awesome weather. It was an extraordinary event, like no other school fete – a giant Yurt, Gladiator bouncy castles, crazy golf, a fantastic puppet theatre. As a result the PTA have presented a cheque for £4,100 to the Headmaster Mr Gary Wyn-Jones.

The final note



It is with great sadness that we received the news from Paul Whittaker that he is no longer to play our excellent organ and lead our musical worship at St Mary's. Paul leads an extremely busy professional life and has for some time travelled for an hour from his home to play for us on two Sundays each month, and for special festivals.

Paul told us "I have thoroughly enjoyed leading and being part of the musical tradition at St Mary's, Sadly my work levels are such that I no longer have the time." The present organ was installed in 2004 after Paul was responsible for locating it in a disused chapel due for demolition near Caernarfon, leading the fund raising campaign and supervising the rebuilding and installation. It has proved an excellent instrument and we will always be grateful to Paul for his untiring enthusiasm to ensure St Mary's has an instrument which will provide musical inspiration for many decades to come.

Paul will play for the last time at the Remembrance Day service on November 11th and we hope that as many of our congregation and villagers will come, not only for the Service of Remembrance, but to express our thanks to him for maintaining the level of music at St Mary's. We wish Paul well and hope that work pressures will occasionally allow him to come and play the organ again.

The Overton Recreational Club presents

Comedy Night

at the Village Hall on
Saturday November 24th
8 till late

Starring amongst others

'Chimes Two' - winners of Opportunity Knocks

Comedian Vince Earl - 'Ron Dixon' in Brookside

Tickets only £10 - available from the Corner Shop,
the Overton Rec. Club or call 01978 710875

Remembrance Sunday



This year's Remembrance Sunday Service takes place on Sunday 11th September at the Cenotaph at 11.00 am. The Scout Group and Brownies will be joining the British Legion. Our thanks are extended to Eastwick Nurseries who donated and planted the flowers around the Cenotaph and for their efforts in making sure it stayed colourful all summer.

Lunch Club



The Overton Lunch Club is on Wednesday 14th November at 12.30pm at the White Horse.

The menu will be Beef Stew and Dumplings with Rice Pudding with Jam Sauce. To book please ring Gwynneth Austin on 710672.

Kids Kolumn

by Kate Jenkinson,
Robyn Rehbock and
Charley Middleton



Hello everyone!! Are you all ready for bonfire night?

Remember, enjoy yourself

but be careful with all the fireworks around!

Here is a recipe for you to make some gorgeous bonfire toffee! You can eat it when you're watching the fireworks! Serves 12

Ingredients -

30g butter (not marg) softened;

200g caster sugar

260g golden syrup;

2 teaspoons vinegar

260g treacle,

¼ teaspoon bicarbonate soda

Also, a sugar thermometer



1. Grease a Swiss roll tin with a knob of butter
2. In a saucepan over a low heat, mix the sugar golden syrup and vinegar. Cook until the sugar is dissolved while stirring frequently.
3. Increase heat to medium and cook until a sugar thermometer reads 118° C stirring ever so often.
4. Add treacle butter cook uncovered until sugar thermometer reads 126° C stirring. Remove from the heat, add the bicarbonate soda and mix well.
5. Carefully pour the mixture into prepared tin and leave until its hardened. Break off bits of toffee and store in an airtight container.

Here are some night time jokes for when you're watching the fireworks in the dark!!!!!!

Q. What happened to the girl who always wore white at night?

A. *She got knocked over by a snow plough!*

Q. Did you hear about the night-owl who installed a skylight so that he could see the stars?

A. *The people in the room above were furious!*

Q. Doctor, doctor I have trouble getting to sleep late at night!

A. *Lie on the edge of the bed-you will soon drop off!*

Q. Did you hear about the wolves all night howling party?

A. *It was a howling success!*

Design your own firework pictures and see how bright you can make them!



Not sunk !!

I read with alarm on the front cover of October's Oracle that RFA Fort Grange was sunk in the Falklands. I was a junior officer in the Merchant Navy for some 7 yrs from the age of 18. Later on in the 1980's, after the Falklands war, I spent a year on her, sailing all over the Middle East, then the Far East, and finally out to Australia and back via India. I can assure you that she was very much afloat.

RFA Fort Grange won "battle honours" in the Falklands; she was there, in the thick of it, but was never hit or sunk. She was an ammunition ship and when we moored up to a buoy off a British port the authorities made us tie up or anchor up to 7 miles off shore. That gave some impression of the size of the hole in the sea if she had ever blown up. As young men we joked about how far in every direction our atoms would go if someone dropped a match in the wrong place. Humour managed the grim reality of it all.

Royal Fleet Auxiliary ships were part of the British Merchant Navy. Whilst they were technically merchantmen, they belonged to the Ministry of Defence, were painted grey and had plenty of guns on top. All the weapons were in theory defensive, such as anti aircraft guns, so we squeezed the definition of a "Merchant Ship". I also served on another of the ships mentioned in the Oracle article, RFA Sir Tristram, one of 3 identical landing ships hit in the Falklands war. RFA Sir Galahad, one of these, was terribly bombed with awful loss of Welsh life. Sir Tristram was hit by 3 bombs, killing a small number of her crew. The ship was beached and later recovered and rebuilt. I served on her 9 yrs later, in the first Gulf War. The landing ships all had flat bottoms. This meant that they could get in close to beaches to unload tanks. However it also meant they rolled terribly in heavy seas. We all had different ways of coping with this. I would eat to excess - if I had a reason to feel sick then somehow I never felt unwell due to the ship's movement.

I also served on tankers. I have a vivid memory of breakfast aboard RFA Brambleleaf in the North Atlantic one morning. The sea was dead flat calm, or so I thought. As I ate one of the deck officers asked if I had "seen outside". "No" I replied. Outside it was well over Force 12., the sea was mountainous. Our ship was gliding across the top of huge waves with the wind directly behind us - yet there was almost no movement. I remember we were doing 21 knots, on a ship with a top speed of only 18. A hour later we were being thrown around wildly, as the wind and waves hit us at the very slightest of angles.

After a serious night time fire on RFA Fort Grange, the ammunition ship, everyone looked tired at breakfast, my colleagues having been up half the night fire fighting. Third Officer Buttress had slept soundly right through all the excitement. It took a while to live that one down. Seeing the Red Duster in the picture took me right back. I still have an RFA ensign somewhere in a cardboard box.

From John Buttress

'Fish & Chip' babies

The members of the Overton Art and Craft group and the Penley Rainbow Centre have been knitting simple jumpers for 'Fish and Chip babies'. Every day



babies are born into extreme poverty in Africa in countries such as Malawi, Uganda and Somalia. Many are born already infected with HIV or are premature, and their families are so poor that the babies are sent home wrapped in newspaper giving them the name 'fish and chip babies'.

Knitted jumpers will not change government policy or cure drought or crop failure, but will send a message that the needs have not gone unrecognised and that people in the world do care. Overton's knitting will join that from groups from all over the country who have contributed, and all the knitted items will be sent before the New Year.



Happy 80th Peter

In my youth, my favourite book was "Treasure Island". One of the characters was Squire Trelawney. The Squire is described by Stevenson (the author) as a tall man who is basically a "good hearted guy". The Squire is proud of his country and his home village and is willing to take action to support his heritage and to help people all he can. He is an effective leader, extremely generous and well respected by all who know him.

Little did I know as I became acquainted with this fictional character, that when I became older I would be fortunate enough to make the acquaintance of such a person. The man I have come to know and respect in Overton who fits this description is Peter Rosselli.

I was surprised to learn that this month Peter will celebrate his 80th birthday - he is one of the most youthful 80 year olds you would ever be likely to meet. I think it is only fitting that in our village publication we should pay tribute to Peter for all he has done, and is doing, for our village.

To list but a few of Peter's contributions : - President of the British Legion, Founder and Chairman of the "Friends of St.Mary's", a very active PCC member, Chairman of the Village Hall committee, ex President of the Scouts, School Governor - Peter's energy knows no bounds. He is a tireless fund raiser and organiser and is quite prepared to get his hands dirty to complete a task - he has been cutting the grass in our churchyard, at his mature age, for many years, in order to save the church money. On behalf of the village, I would like to thank Peter for all that he does for our community, and wish him an extremely happy birthday.

Euan Stevenson

Animal Welfare Sunday

At St Mary's Church an Animal Service was held in October. Animal services have become a regular feature in many churches of many dominations to show concern for the welfare of other species, and provide churches with a opportunity to champion care for animals. Animal Welfare Sunday is on the birthday of St Francis of Assisi. This year pet dogs and a guinea pig behaved immaculately in church and were blessed by the Rev David Child.



St Mary's School News

On Friday 12th October years 5 & 6 pupils visited the Chill Factor in Manchester. We split up into 3 groups and our group had a 50 minute skiing lesson on the Nursery slope and had lots of fun even though we were mostly just falling over!! It was really strange going from quite a mild sunny Autumnal day outside to freezing temperatures inside and real snow. After handing our skis back it was our groups turn on the indoor climbing wall, it was 12 metres tall and looked even higher from the ground, luckily most of us made it to the top to ring the bell even though we were shaking like jellies. It was a long journey back to school but we made it enjoyable by singing songs, even though the teachers had their hands over their ears for most of the way. All in all everyone that went had **a fantastic day and can't wait to go again, we may even get to go sledging next time.**

*From Charlotte Young,
Seren Wright and Sophie Hill*



Medical Practice

Dr Fallows is back from maternity. We give our sincere thanks to Dr Elinor Cooper who has been a very popular substitute. And will be back as a locum in the future. Dr Stevenson starts her maternity leave in November with Dr Wess providing cover.

Flu Clinics have started and we urge those patients who are in the following "At Risk" categories to take advantage and make an appointment:

- Heart or Respiratory problems or Liver or Kidney disease,
- Lowered Immunity due to disease or treatment,
- Had a Stroke, TIA or Neurological condition such as MS,
- Diabetes, Pregnant, Aged over 65 or a Carer.

Reopened Trotting Mare

A warm welcome awaits from Overton's newest restaurant. The Trotting Mare Restaurant and Country Larder has opened its doors under new management and is now serving classic British Fayre. The ethos is "Why import our supplies when we have the very best right here on the doorstep". They intend to support local producers by sourcing within a 20 mile radius of the restaurant.

Rhys Knowles says "I've been in the restaurant industry for nearly 30 years and since moving to the borders I've been looking for somewhere to showcase the wonderful produce and suppliers that are in the area. We will also be selling a selection of homemade jams, pickles and chutneys as well as local produce from our Country Larder. Feel free to pop in for a coffee or pot of tea with a slice of homemade cake."

Rhys would love to hear from any local registered suppliers who would like to supply the business.

The Great Wall Challenge

Well we did it! The challenge was huge in terms of the trek itself, sheer drops and lots of rubble, uneven and exceptionally large steps. We endured very hot temperatures in the day, trekking on average 6 hrs per day on uneven and challenging terrain to put it mildly. It was extremely cold temperatures at night and difficult to get a good night's sleep. The rough camping we expected but the "slumming it" and living with the poverty stricken people we did not. It was a challenge in every sense of the word. I'm proud to say that we survived and the whole group (45 of us in total) so far has raised £160,000 Thanks to all who sponsored us! The statistics are that whilst we were 6 days trekking, a staggering 8,000 people would have been diagnosed with cancer. A very humbling experience on all accounts. *Jill, Jan and Claire*



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MP backs cycle safety

Local MP Susan Elan Jones, continued her campaign for safer roads by adding her name to an open letter to the Prime Minister, calling on him to promote measures to stop cyclists dying on British roads. "As we know all too well from our local country lanes, action needs to be taken now in order to save lives," said Ms Jones. "We need to stop cyclists dying on Britain's streets and improve the roads as a place to be shared safely by pedestrians, cyclists and motorists alike. David Cameron and the new Transport Secretary need to address this issue and commit to new measures that ensure that the death toll for cyclists is lowered. The reputation of Britain's transport system after the successes of the Olympic Games must be



The Overton Film Club begins the new season on Wednesday 7th November 7.30pm with the film "The Angels' Share", the latest film by the great British director, Ken Loach. It's a warm-hearted comedy caper about young Scotsmen who get involved in whisky theft. It had universally positive reviews in the summer.

*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*

WHAT'S ON

November Diary for St Mary's Services
Sunday Nov 4th 10:00am Family Village Praise
 4.00pm Confirmation in Ruabon
Sunday Nov 11th 10.45am Remembrance Day Service
Sunday Nov 18th 10:00am Family Communion
Sunday Nov 25th 11.30am Holy Communion

Methodist Chapel Services Sunday evenings 6.30pm

Saturday November 3rd 8pm Overton Recreational Club
 Female Vocalist "Jade" (& Bingo)

Monday November 6th 6.00pm Overton Practice Participation
 meeting. All welcome

Wednesday November 7th 7.30pm Overton Film Club at the
 Village Hall "The Angels Share"

Friday November 9th 7.30pm St Marys Quiz Night with cheese
 supper in the Village Hall

Friday November 9th 8.30pm White Horse Charity Race
 Night in aid of Wales Air Ambulance. 1st race 9pm

Monday November 12th 10.30am Overton British Legion
 meeting for coffee at Woodlands Deli

Tuesday November 13th Overton Community Council meeting
 in the Parish Room. Members of the public wishing to
 speak can do so between 7.20 – 7.30pm.

Wednesday November 14th 12.30pm Overton Lunch Club at
 the White Horse. Booking required

Thursday November 15th 7am - 10pm Election of Police &
 Crime Commissioner at Overton Parish Room

Thursday November 15th 7.30 pm Overton WI Annual
 Meeting and Cheese and Wine at the Methodist
 School Room with the WI County Advisor.

Friday November 16th White Horse Overton Monthly Music
 Night with 'Myles and Co'.

Friday November 16th & Saturday 17th 7.30pm Overton Am
 Drams present "Inspector Drake's Last Case"

Wednesday November 21st 7.30pm Maelor Music Society
 "Judith Hall (flute) & Craig Ogden (guitar)" at the
 Maelor School Hall

Saturday November 24th 8pm Comedy Night at the Village
 Hall with 'Chimes Two' & Vince Earl. Tickets £10

Tuesday November 27th 1.30 - 3.30pm Memory Café at the
 Rainbow Centre, Penley

Wednesday November 28th 6.45pm Christmas Prize Bingo
 Grand Draw & Raffle at the Catholic Church

Tuesday December 4th 7.30pm Overton Film Club. Film TBC

Friday December 7th 7.00pm White Horse Overton Mini
 Christmas Food and Wine Fayre. All local stalls.

Saturday December 8th Charity Afternoon Tea at Village Hall
 More details from Carol Dykes

FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to Laura & Sam on the birth of their 1st child
 Noah and to Pat Marks on the birth of her 1st great grandson.
 Also to Jenny & Dave Bellis on the birth of their 1st grandchild.
Congratulations to Dean Osborne and his partner Vikki on the
 birth of their 1st child, a daughter Poppy Rose, a 3rd great
 grandchild for Dave & Stella Austin.

Happy November Birthday to George Buttress, Anita Brown,
 Lydia Evison, Pearl Edwards, Hugo Hunter, Edward Pugh,
 Pauline Dodd, Phil Edwards, Dave Smith, Mike Done, Heather
 Davies, Margaret Mawdsley.

Happy 30th birthday to Rob Netzband-Piggott
 Happy 50th birthday to Neal Edwards
 Happy 60th birthday to Gerald Williams
 Happy 80th birthday to Peter Rosselli
 Belated happy 80th birthday to Brain Done

Congratulations to Diane and Mervyn Rodenhurst on their
 recent 30th wedding anniversary.

Sincere condolences to the family and friends of Grace James
 who passed away recently at the age of 95.



Thank you

Alice and Sam Wynne would like to thank everybody
 who contributed to Sam's 50th birthday party on Satur-
 day 13th October in the Village Hall. We raised £1,168
 for the Alzheimer's Society and Nightingale House.

St Mary's Quiz Night with Cheese Supper
 Friday, 9th November, at 7.30pm
 in the Village Hall
 Admission £6.00

CHRISTMAS PRIZE BINGO

Grand Draw and Raffle
at the Catholic Hall
on Wednesday November 28th
Doors open at 6.45pm Eyes down 7.30pm
Caller Mr Barry Barlow
Admission £1 to include Tea/Coffee & Mincepie

PLEASE REMEMBER

Copy deadline 20th of the
 month. Get your events
 & news to us early to
 avoid disappointment
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 tions, & announcements
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Space constraints mean that submitted articles may be edited or not published.

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