

# The Overton Oracle

Volume 21 Issue 10

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

October 2019



## The invitation

to the 2019 St Mary's Senior Citizens Christmas Party is on Page 3.

## Flu Vaccination Clinics

BOOK NOW at Overton Medical Practice for **Saturday 26th October** for 'At Risk' groups or age 65 or over (at Overton Surgery)

Flu is a contagious viral infection that affects people of all ages. Even if you feel healthy, vaccination is important as it will not only protect you, but also those around you. Please help your GP Practice by having your flu vaccination at the Surgery. Tel: 01978 710666 / 780804

## Overton-on-Dee W.I.

will be holding their next meeting in the Catholic Church Hall on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30pm. We will be entertained by Catherine Galliers showing us "Things to Make for Christmas". There will be lots of ideas to share for the Festive Season. All are very welcome, guests pay £4 to include refreshments. Come and join the fun!



## We did it! The Twisted Blisters climbed Snowdon!

In September 8 people (plus Tess the dog) climbed Mount Snowdon via the Llanberis Path in 5hrs 45mins to raise funds to help pay for Fire Safety works carried out at Overton Recreational Club.

The mountain was covered in cloud which dampened our clothes and hair but not our spirits. We huffed and puffed to the top and we were all absolutely elated when we arrived at the summit. After some group photos and refreshments in the café we started the descent. Coming down was not as easy as some of us had expected but we made it despite the shaky, aching, jelly legs. And there was only one blister reported! Just before we got to the bottom the cloud lifted and the view was spectacular. We came home, tired but jubilant to Overton Recreational Club where we received a hero's welcome. This was a real challenge for most of us but with support from each other and lots of laughs along the way we did it. We thank everyone for their generous donations which have so far exceeded £1000. There has been talk of doing the Three Peaks next time but some of the members (Kath) aren't keen!!!

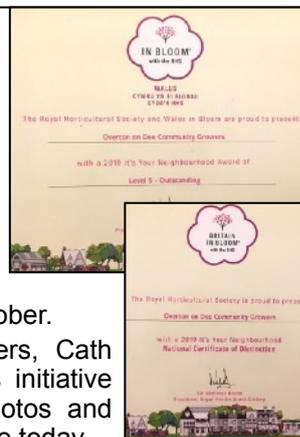


## Overton is Outstanding!

We are absolutely delighted to announce that at the RHS Awards Ceremony in South Wales, Overton won an OUTSTANDING in the RHS "It's Your Neighbourhood" category. As if that wasn't enough, we then went on to win overall 'Best in Category across Wales', beating over 40 other entries!! We will now automatically go forward to the RHS National In Bloom Awards, which will take place in October.

A huge thanks to the Chair of the Growers, Cath Roberts, who has been instrumental in this initiative and has produced numerous portfolios, photos and countless forms to help get us to where we are today.

Thanks to those Growers who have worked tirelessly behind the scenes, planting, weeding, raking, clearing, painting and cleaning in preparation for our assessment. And a huge THANK YOU to all of you! Thanks to everyone who donated flowers, put up baskets and planted tubs which all helped us to win. We couldn't have done it without you! 2020 is going to be a very busy and exciting year as we plan for the next stage. Thanks for your continued support!!



## Congratulations and Thank you

Congratulations to those who completed the ringing of a Quarter Peal at St Marys on 31st August. It was the first quarter on the bells since 2007 and ringers 1 & 5 are believed to be the first Overton ringers to ring a quarter on the bells for at least 50 years. It was rung as a thank you compliment to Mike Marshall and Reg Jones for their many decades of ringing at St Mary's Church. Ringers from L to R; Samantha Bateman-Green, Peter Furniss, Thomas Miles, Peter Woollam, Clare Morris and Nicola Galton. We are currently looking to recruit new learner ringers at St Mary's and if anyone would like to find out more information please contact Clare on [claremorris@live.co.uk](mailto:claremorris@live.co.uk).



## Seeds from St Mary's

by Rev'd. Peter Mackriell



Returning from holiday after a fortnight, it was inevitable that my garden would look rather neglected. Nature takes its course – and whilst the clematis and roses continue to ramble in a pleasing way, the grass grows and the weeds multiply. At the same time, the nights draw in and there's an Autumnal nip in the air. As our harvest festival approaches, we supplement our church flower arrangements with produce from farms, allotments and gardens – and we are very aware of the changing seasons.

In the news, the Brexit crisis deepens, the Bahamas try to recover from tragic storms and there are disturbing pictures from Hong Kong. And in our own context, children start new schools or classes, young people leave for university or start their first job, parents face empty nests, challenges at work remain to be faced and illness stirs up fears of our own mortality. The changing seasons only serve to underline that we live in a world of change. As one of the most popular funeral hymns puts it – rather starkly – “Change and decay in all around I see...”

I often hear people say that they don't like change, but the falling leaves remind us that change is inevitable and fighting it is futile. As my first summer in the Rectory draws to an end, I can't stop the annuals dying and the perennials shrinking back. But what I will be doing is putting some new bulbs in the ground so that there is spring colour to look forward to. I won't fight the changes in my garden but I will invest in the future. Even in the face of death, there is hope.

The hymn continues, “Thou changest not, O Lord, abide with me.” The tulip, daffodil and crocus bulbs hide in the ground, unseen, ready to produce their display in good time. God is invisible to us, but his unseen presence gives strength to those facing changes and challenges, and hope to us all. May Autumn's decay remind us of the new life that is to come.

## Changes at St Mary's

From Sunday 6 October, new service times will come into effect. You may notice that the bells are ringing at a different time!

On the FIRST SUNDAY of each month, our ALL AGE WORSHIP will begin at 10.00 a.m. This will be a 30 minute service, followed by refreshments.

On all other Sundays of the month, worship will begin at 11.00 a.m. See calendar for details of services. The church committee has agreed to these changes on a trial basis and we would be grateful for your feedback.

**All are welcome at St Mary's.**

Please note that our **HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICE** will therefore begin at 11.00 a.m. on Sunday 13 October. A light lunch will be served after the Harvest service.

Revd Peter also ministers at St Hilary's Erbistock (next to the Boat) Services there will be 11.00am on the first Sunday of the month and 9.45am on all other Sundays.

## Change your bus pass

Transport for Wales announced in June that Concessionary Travel Cards are to replace current bus passes for over 60s and disabled. Old-style cards will still be valid for travel and offer the same benefits until 31 December 2019.

You will need to change your old-style card to the new-style between now and 31 December 2019. You can apply for a new Concessionary Travel Card on line on [www.tfwwales/travelcards](http://www.tfwwales/travelcards),

telephone 03003034240 to ask for a paper form or get one from the Library.

If you have a computer why not ask friends or neighbours who are over 60 who have not got access to a computer if you can help them complete the application on-line. It is much easier on-line, postal applications have to send documentation, on-line applications do not.

To reapply, you will need the following information to hand; the 18-digit card number printed on the front of your (green) bus pass, your date of birth, the postcode your current card is registered to, and your National Insurance number.



## Green bin charges update

In light of cuts to local government funding, WCBC will be charging £25 per year to empty your green bin from April 1 2020. If you want the council to continue emptying your green bin from April 2020, you'll need to pay online or by card over the phone - details will be available nearer the time. Any additional green bins will also cost £25 per year to be emptied.

## Maelor Music Society Penley 51st Season

For all our loyal supporters and friends in Overton and the surrounding area here is a flavour of the programme for the 51st season of our concert series.

Between October 2019 and March 2020 we have invited the following artists to entertain us. The North Wales Opera Society with a mix of opera and operetta; Jean Stanley Jones from Wrexham with the Sirenian Singers; the London-based Odora Piano Trio; Chetham's School of Music and a Lithuanian Pianist who has played with the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra. We start on Wednesday 16th October at 7.30pm at the Maelor School Hall in Penley with the talented young players of The Odora Piano Trio. We look forward to seeing you there.

Tickets are £10 on the door. £2 for students over 16 or free to anyone under 16. Alternatively save with a subscription - £40 for all five concerts.

## Overton on Dee Community Growers

Congratulations to Sue Glover who won the Growers Tallest Sunflower Competition and to her grandson James who won the Under 16's class.

The Growers Gardening Awards were given out at the Overton Produce Show last month.





# INVITATION to St Mary's Church



## **SENIORS' CHRISTMAS PARTY**

on Tuesday 3rd December at 1.00pm in the Village Hall

If you or your partner are over 60 and live in the parish of Overton,  
you are warmly invited to our Christmas Party.  
Lunch and entertainment and a chance to meet new and old friends.

**There is no charge. We just ask that you let us know by  
Sunday 24th November, if you wish to come.**

Contact Mrs Val Stevenson, 9 Sundorne, Overton  
Tel: 710618 Mobile: 07484 118484  
Email: [val.stevenson2@btinternet.com](mailto:val.stevenson2@btinternet.com)

### **WHEN AUTUMN LEAVES BEGIN TO FALL**

#### **An evening with the Vale Royal Singers at St Mary's Church**

*(As heard at Revd Peter's licensing service in Dec.)*

**Saturday 19 October at 7.30 p.m.**

*Tickets (£8 or £20 for families) can be reserved by  
contacting Rev'd Peter Mackriell*

*[revpeter@maelormissionarea.uk](mailto:revpeter@maelormissionarea.uk) or 01978 710294  
or Sandra Manley on 01978 710163*

### **October and November Overton Amblers**

The Overton Amblers are a group of walkers who go out once or twice a month to explore Overton's many beautiful footpaths with the aim of keeping these paths open and accessible. The dates for ambles for the next 2 months are Sat. October 12th, Sat. November 23rd and Wed. November 27th. The Wednesday walks are afternoon walks and on Saturdays we walk in the mornings. For further details contact Pene Coles on 01978 710598 or 07939 075194 or [penecoales49@gmail.com](mailto:penecoales49@gmail.com) and Ian Roberts on 01978 710504 or [ian.barsfield@btinternet.com](mailto:ian.barsfield@btinternet.com)

### **The Peel Mortuary Chapel and Cemetery**

The rediscovery of the architectural form and detail from beneath the ever encroaching vegetation growing over the standing remains of The Peel Chapel has been one of the most rewarding aspects of the recent works that have been taking place at the cemetery. Now that the repairs are nearing completion, it is possible to reflect on the challenges that Smith Building and Conservation Ltd. have encountered during the last couple of months. They have methodically cut back vegetation to gain access to the site in the first instance, before then tackling the extensive growth of ivy, the saplings and deeply rooted perennial weeds that were beginning to dislodge the stonework in key locations.

Once the walls were clear, it was very pleasing to see that the overall condition of the chapel structure was good. There were obvious locations where care and attention was necessary and this began by recording the position of stonework within the walls, before dismantling small sections to remove the most invasive roots, and rebuilding in lime mortar. A key aspect of the work has been to ensure that water is prevented from entering the top of the walls for the foreseeable future and so a softer and more flexible lime-based mix has been specified to replace the harder cementitious mix previously used. A similar mix has been used to rebed coping stones and for general repointing purposes.

We were hoping to reuse more of the existing stonework that had been dislodged from the building during episodes of anti-social behaviour and thrown over the retaining wall into the woodland below. Whilst this detective exercise has been successful in part, it was also necessary for new stone to be introduced to repair one of the corner piers. It was our intention to reinstate some of the lost architectural details at the doorway into the chapel but this was not eventually possible because the original pieces could not be located.

The Representative Body of the Church in Wales sincerely hope that the Chapel of Ease (Peel Chapel) within its wonderful setting can again be enjoyed by the community of Overton on Dee.

*(History of the Chapel & Cemetery in the next edition)*

*Geraint Roberts – Architect, Tim Ratcliffe Associates*



## In good times and in bad

You will be familiar with the headlines after tragedies in communities such as the recent mass shootings in El Paso and Daytona or closer to home after the Manchester bombing, recounting how people have come together to pray. The reports explain how this is comforting and draws people together, strengthening bonds and bringing solace at sad times.

It got me thinking – why do we only do this during hard times?

Surely as communities we can draw strength and comfort in prayer together whatever the world is throwing at us?

Within our village places of worship we don't consider our congregation to be just those who attend our Sunday services. Our thoughts and prayers embrace our wider congregation – our community.

How wonderful it would be if the whole community were given the opportunity to come together by sharing a short simple prayer each day, wherever you are and whatever you are doing.

How powerful, comforting or invigorating it would be to know that at that precise moment every day you will be in the thoughts and prayers of those around you? Whether you are on your own, with family or friends, at home or at work, once a day you will actively be part of a loving, caring and praying community.

The prayer to start us on this journey?

Well the Lord's prayer seems the obvious choice, it is a prayer straight from the gospel and the one which most of us will have learnt from a very early age.

So once a day I invite you to join us in prayer at either 7am or 7pm (or both) whichever is most convenient for you, where ever you are and whatever you are doing.

The power of prayer – a few short moments – each day.

*Joanne Kember*

## Overton Playcentre

Overton Playcentre has had a busy start to the new term and new year!

Our Toddler Group on a Tuesday 9.00am - 11.00am is a lovely friendly group that has started the new year with flower pictures. Our breastfeeding baby group run by Sam



the Health Visitor is well attended every other Wednesday!

If your child is 2 years old or over then please do get in touch with us and visit the Playcentre to see what we can do for your child! If your child is 3yrs old before 6th January 2020, they are entitled to 10 hours a week of free Funded Early Education. Please do get in touch on 01978 710688 to find out more!

Thanks to Linda we have had a declutter with a massive car boot sale raising over £130! This is all in Preparation for our Opening Day on Saturday 12th October at 11am! So we would like to invite you to come along and see what we have done with the Awards for All National Lottery grant and our Overton Community Council Grant as well as grants from the Wrexham Council and Play Development Team! Enjoy a cake and a cuppa and find out what we have been up to last year!! We look forward to seeing you on 12th October 11am!

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

## Wildlife News

### Bug Hotel

This week the Overton Wildlife Group, with help from the Beavers and Cubs, built a new bug hotel at the end of the playground. The hotel was made entirely from reclaimed and recycled waste and has been filled with wood and grass from the park, and will provide a home



for plenty of creepy crawlies. Thank you to everyone who donated items towards the bug hotel. We are now looking for items for a second bug hotel for the car park beside the church. Wood, pipes, bamboo canes and stone are all useful. Please get in contact if you have

anything to donate [Katharine.piercy@googlemail.com](mailto:Katharine.piercy@googlemail.com).

### Crisp Recycling to Expand

The cheese vending machine crisp recycling point is being well used, with packets being sent in already for recycling. We will now also be taking used toothbrushes and empty toothpaste tubes. Please deposit in the crisp bin until a separate bin is set up. We also need big boxes for posting the crisps in, please let me know if you have any to donate.



### Time for a Nap

As the cold weather begins to move in, spare a thought for the wildlife heading to bed. From butterflies sleeping away the winter in garden sheds, queen bumblebees tucked up beneath the soil and beetles squeezed into the hollow stems of dead plants, you'd be surprised where you might find these sleepy creatures. By leaving piles of twigs and leaves, not clearing away all the dead stems and flower heads, and leaving hibernating creatures where you find them, you can help them sleep away the winter, ready to wake up again next spring.

### Litter pick

Thank you for everyone who has been joining the monthly litter pick. Anyone welcome, litter picks are the first Saturday of every month, meeting at 10am outside the Corner Shop.

## Overton 2019 Produce Show

Quality Produce and plenty of happy faces were to be found on display at our 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Produce Show on 7<sup>th</sup> September. The Village Hall as usual provided us with a great setting. The Judges didn't have an easy time picking winners from the beautiful vegetables, fruits and flowers on display. The Baking, Preserves and Wine sections were also outstanding, and this Show proves again what wonderful talents the people of Overton and surrounding areas have in Growing and Showing! It was especially nice to see such skill and enthusiasm among the younger entrants too – the future of our wonderful Show looks very bright indeed. Many thanks to all who entered, and those who worked hard to put on such a wonderful day for all to enjoy.



### Trophies 2019

British Legion Cup *Exhibitor with most points*

Tradesmans Cup *Runner-up*

Lowther Cup *Overton WI member with most points*

Farmers Cup *Best in Vegetable section 10*

WI Cup *Best in fruit section 21*

Healey Salver *Best in Blooms section 36*

Rosselli Cup *Best in Pot Plant section 45*

Kath Hamlington Cup *Best in Floral Art 52*

Mrs Sumsion's Tray *Best in Cookery section 469*

Mrs Woodhouse's Bowl *Best in Preserves section*

Haynes Wine Cooler *Best in Wine section*

Trotting Mare Cup *Best in Class 11*

Fitzhugh Goblet *Best in Class 3*

Pam Upton Memorial Bowl *Best in Class 38*

Mrs Wrights Cup *Best in Class 57*

September Plate *Best in Class 34*

Twining Assoc. Trophy *French Apple Tart 69*

Mrs Watts Shield *Best in Class 92 6-9 yrs inc*

Mrs Price Jones' Shield *Best in Class 93 6-9yrs*

Margaret O'Neill & Glenys Roberts (*jointly*)

Claire Latham & Vic Roberts (*jointly*)

Margaret O'Neill & Glenys Roberts (*jointly*)

Vic Roberts

Claire Latham

Jack Platt

Vic Roberts

J A Mellis

Val Ketelle

Doreen Walker

Josie Ralphs

Claire Latham

Clare Christian

Val Ketelle

Josie Ralphs

Jude Williams

Val Ketelle

Jack Platt

Jack Platt & Hanna Smith (*jointly*)



*More photos on the Oracle website*

## St Mary's School News

Welcome from the Oracle to our new St Mary's School  
Year 6 Roving Reporters

### Danger Point

On Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September, Year 6 went on an exciting trip to DangerPoint in Talacre.

Danger Point is an award-winning interactive visitor centre on the North Wales coast, where children and adults can learn about safety. Designed like a film set, Danger Point visitors journey from the home to the beach, and many more real-life scenarios, to raise awareness of dangers and how to stay safe in everyday life.

Pupils learnt about keeping safe in any situation, from dangers in the home, gas safety, road and rail safety, to the dangers of smoking and staying safe online: the experience was wide-ranging. As it was Gas Safety week, the class had a special add-on to the experience and learnt about the dangers of carbon monoxide – the silent killer. Make sure you have a working carbon monoxide detector in your home, as well as smoke alarms, and test them weekly!



We interviewed Erin Hayward, aged 10 from St. Mary's: "My favourite part of Danger Point was the Home setting; we had to put hoops on where we thought the hazards were in the living room and kitchen. Danger Point was so much fun!"

At the start of the day Year 6 took a quiz to see how much they already knew about safety and, at the end of the day retest, the results had gone up massively based on what the pupils experienced during the day! We are grateful to the Gas Safety Council who fully funded this trip to raise awareness during Gas Safety Week.

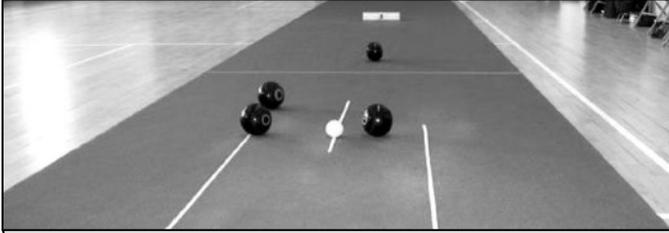
by

**Eliza Dodd (Year 6 Editor-in-Chief) and Ethan Evans & Jessica Rowley (Deputy Editors)**



### Indoor Bowls

Indoor Bowls will start again on each Wednesday from 16th October, 2.00pm to 4.00pm in the Village Hall. New members are most welcome. If you would like more information please contact Alan Mawdsley on 01978 710052.



### Overton Royal British Legion 120 Club

Results of the "120 Club" Bonus Draw for September. 105 members entered and the draw was made at the White Horse Lunch Club on Wednesday 11th September by Alan Mawdsley.

Winners -

1st Prize £210.00 No 34 Cynthia Davies  
2nd Prize £105.00 No 29 Colin Davies  
3rd Prize £ 52.50 No 99 Eileen Vickers  
Legion Fund: £157.50

#### CONGRATULATIONS

**Next Draw: Wednesday October 9th 2019**

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

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### The White Horse

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## What's On

### October Diary for St Mary's Services

Sunday October 6<sup>th</sup> 10.00am All Age Worship  
 Sunday October 13<sup>th</sup> 11.00am Harvest Holy Communion  
 Sunday October 20<sup>th</sup> 11.00am Family Communion  
 5.00pm Mission Area Evensong at Overton  
 Sunday October 27<sup>th</sup> 11.00am Holy Communion

### Diary for Overton Methodist Chapel

#### Harvest Weekend

Friday October 4<sup>th</sup> 7.00pm Mr David Young  
 Sunday October 6<sup>th</sup> 6.30pm Rev Philip Poole  
 Monday October 7<sup>th</sup> 6 for 6.30pm Harvest Supper  
 Sunday October 13<sup>th</sup> 11.00am United Harvest Festival Service at St Marys Church  
 Sunday October 20<sup>th</sup> 6.30pm Rev P. Poole Holy Communion  
 Sunday October 27<sup>th</sup> 6.30pm Local Arrangement  
 Craft Class 1.30pm each Tuesday  
 Mothers & Toddlers 9.30-11.30am each Friday  
 Bible Study 7pm each Friday

### Coffee Mornings at the Chapel every Saturday morning 10.30am to 12 noon

**Tuesday October 1st** 10.00am-12 noon Post Office with Community Cafe run by the Community Agents Team  
**Thursday October 3rd** 10.30am-2.30pm Rainbow Centre Paint, Craft & Create with lunch. 'Wax Batik workshop'  
**Saturday October 5th** 10.00am Community Litter Pick, meet by the Corner Shop. All welcome.  
**Saturday October 5th** 11am-4pm Overton-on-Dee W.I. Exhibition and Sale of Work, in the Village Hall  
**Tuesday October 8th** 10.00am - 12 noon Post Office at the Village Hall with Community Cafe run by Overton WI.  
**Tuesday October 8th** 6.50pm Overton Community Council meeting in the Parish Room. Members of the public wishing to speak 6.50pm-7.00pm.  
**Wednesday October 9th** 10.30am Overton British Legion meeting at the Scout Hut. All welcome.  
**Wednesday October 9th** 12.30pm Overton Lunch Club at the White Horse. To book please ring 01978 710672.  
**Tuesday October 15th** 10.00am-12 noon Post Office and Community Cafe run by Overton Bowling Club  
**Wednesday October 16th** 7.30pm Maelor Music Society present The Odora Piano Trio in Maelor School Hall  
**Thursday October 17th** Maelor South Adventurers Group Ten pin bowling & lunch. To book ring 01948 830730  
**Thursday October 17th** 7.30pm Overton WI Meeting at the Catholic Church Hall. Catherine Galliers with "Things to Make for Christmas".  
**Saturday October 19th** 7.30pm An evening with the Vale Royal Singers in St Mary's Church  
**Tuesday October 22nd** 10.00am-12 noon Post Office with Community Cafe run by Overton Playcentre.  
**Tuesday October 29th** 10.00am-12 noon Post Office with Community Cafe run by Overton Twinning.  
**Wednesday October 30th** 7.30pm Overton Community Growers meeting in the White Horse

## Family Announcements

**Congratulations** to Llewelyn Kember and Lorren Walwin on their recent marriage.



**Happy October Birthdays** to Kathleen Dorey, Mary Perrin, Thomas Dorey, Charlotte Clarke, Rebecca Overthrow, Jean Edwards, Brian Done, Ruth Reeves, Stephen Sorfleet, James Wright, Mark Whittall, Martha Roberts, Lesley Davies, Tomos Williams, Donna Edwards, Vi Taylor and Sally Green. Happy 90th to Brenda Farrell.



**Sincere condolences** to the family and friends of Michael Eagar

OVERTON-ON-DEE W.I.  
presents



### AN EXHIBITION AND SALE OF WORK

in the Village Hall

**Saturday October 5<sup>th</sup> 11.am – 3.30pm**

A Variety of beautiful Crafts and Artworks on display, some of which will be for sale.

Home Baking and Preserves stall.

Home Made Refreshments Raffle

A show of the proud history of Overton-on-Dee W.I.

**Congratulations** to Steven Thomas-Spires whose poem "The Noisy River" was used on the BBC1 Countryfile programme



### Overton Lunch Club

is on **Wednesday October 9th** at 12.30pm at the **White Horse**. A choice of a two-course menu all for £8.95. To book ring Gwynneth Austin on 01978 710672.

### For Sale

Black glass DVD unit and black glass coffee table  
 VGC. £25 each Tel:01978 710412

### PLEASE REMEMBER

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

Get your events & news to us early to avoid disappointment

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