

The Overton Oracle

Volume 22 Issue 10

October 2020



New Post Office

The new Post Office counter will open in Overton Medical Practice on Friday 2nd October from 1.00pm, and will then be open Monday to Friday 8.30am to 6pm.



Overton ScareFest

The Dough Nation Station ScareFest will take place from Friday 23rd October. Put your Halloween displays in your front garden or front window where others can see them from a safe social distance. Judging on 30th Oct.



The Poppy Appeal

There will be no house to house or local collection boxes this year because of social distancing and transfer risk. Poppies will be available from Sainsbury and other major retail chains. Overton organisations who wish to order a poppy wreath should ring Colin Bamber on 710612 by October 7th.



Flu Vaccination Clinics

Make a booking at Overton Surgery
Saturday 10th Oct - AGE 65 or over ONLY
Saturday 17th Oct - AT RISK & Age 65 or over
Saturday 31st Oct - AT RISK & Age 65 or over

Overton's Got Talent

Thank you to those who entered our talent competition. The quality of the entries was high and very varied – but the quantity wasn't huge. You can watch the entries on our website at www.stmarysoverton-on-dee.org All are winners! Thank you all.

Monthly Litter pick

The next monthly litter pick will be on Saturday 3rd October and will meet at 10am outside the Corner Shop for an hour picking around the village. Wear gloves. All Welcome.

Harvest time

Harvest is a traditional festival of celebration and thanksgiving. We would like to invite you to take part in Harvest celebrations this year at St Mary's Church.

We don't know yet whether we will be allowed to sing hymns, but we would like to fill the Church with the sights and smells of a traditional Harvest Festival on Sunday 4th October. Hygiene measures and social distancing will be in place. We welcome donations of baskets, to include traditional Harvest items such as fruit and vegetables, or packets and tins, flowers or other symbols of your gifts. Baskets will be received at St Mary's on Saturday 3rd October. On Sunday 4th October church will be open for a short service at 10.00am and there will also be times of prayer at 12 noon and 2pm, with a short closing service at 4pm. Church will be open for everyone to come and view the baskets. During the day we hope to have music of different kinds being played live, so please get in touch if you would like to come and play an instrument or sing.

During the day people can place a bid for any basket that they would like. Bidding will close at 4pm and baskets can be paid for and removed (phone numbers can be left by people who won't be present at 4pm and we will arrange collection). Proceeds from the auction and offerings made on the day will support the work of Christian Aid, one of the many charities supporting vulnerable people in our world today.



Overton's yew tree nominated in Tree of the Year 2020

Overton's oldest yew tree has been nominated in the Tree of the Year organised by The Woodland Trust with support from the Peoples Postcode Lottery, a national contest which celebrates special trees across the nations of England, Scotland and Wales.

Our tree was chosen as one of the 5 trees shortlisted in Wales. Voting has now closed but thank you to all the Overton residents and their friends and relations who voted for our tree; results will be announced shortly.

Overton's yew tree is believed to be between 1500-2000 years old, and is the largest yew in a group of yew trees in St Mary's Churchyard called 'The Overton Yews' which are mentioned in the folk song "The Seven Wonders of Wales".

Once there is a winning tree from each country's public vote, a panel of experts will select one of the winning trees from either England, Scotland or Wales to go forward to represent the UK in the European Tree of the Year competition.



Photograph by Rory Francis of Angus Birditt who nominated our tree

Seeds from St Mary's with Rev'd. Peter Mackriell



I understand that this Harvest season has been particularly challenging for our farmers. Although there are bumper crops in our orchards, the result of a warm spring blessing the blossom followed by plentiful rain to swell the fruit, the wheat harvest has been devastated by the same conditions. It is a troubling time for our farmers, some in our own community, with implications for us all because of the impact on food supplies and prices.

It is true to say that many people enter this Autumn season troubled and anxious about the future. Of course, being too future-focused can exacerbate our anxiety. Which is why, at the end of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said "do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink... Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?" (Matthew 6.25a, 26)

Is this advice hopelessly naïve? Do we want to say, "well, it's all very well for you, Jesus, but gazing at the lilies of the field won't put bread on the table!" And yet, when I heard the report about the challenges faced by our farming community this year, I was impressed by the way that the farmer accepted that this year's low is part of the natural cycle of events, a seasonal dip from which he expects to recover. He looked at the fields and knew that this year's crop is only part of a much bigger story.

Even if we have been able to travel this summer, we return to green and pleasant lands that remind us of God's goodness. And that is the point of stopping and looking at "the birds of the air" and "the lilies of the field". Giving attention to the detail of the natural world grounds us, putting us back in touch with nature, with God and with the bigger story. Stop, look, listen. Breathe. Some of us are so busy that we fail to notice what is around us – and then it is no wonder that our anxiety levels rise.

In this Harvest season we support, encourage and pray for our farmers. We give thanks for all of their work and the way it shapes our landscape. We pray for them as they face particular challenges this year. Next time you are caught behind a tractor on our country lanes, accept the slower pace, notice what is around you, and pray for the tractor driver and all of his or her colleagues. Not only will you bless the farmer by your prayers, but you may also receive the blessings that come from slowing down and being more aware of your surroundings. Stop, look, listen. Breathe. And give thanks to God for his goodness.

St Mary's is open

Peter Mackriell

We are now worshipping in church on Sundays. You are very welcome to join us. We are keeping one another safe, with social distancing, hand sanitising and face coverings. The congregation isn't allowed to sing but we can have soloists lead us from behind a screen – and the organ can now be heard. We have even had our first wedding. For those who prefer to come into church quietly, we are open on a Tuesday morning from 10.00 a.m. to 12 noon and on a Thursday evening from 6.45 p.m., for private prayer, with Evening Prayer led for twenty minutes at 7.00pm. Opening times may vary, depending on Government guidance. Please check church noticeboards.

Overton-on-Dee W.I. News

theW
INSPIRING WOMEN



Overton-on-Dee W.I. have been very fortunate, unlike fellow W.I.s in England, in

being able to meet outdoors with up to 30 members. We are also lucky enough to have a member with a temporarily empty barn and yard, so have enjoyed two fun-filled meetings.

Our first, in August, proved how resilient and determined we can be, as the weather was not kind and yet the afternoon was filled with laughter. We held our second on 17th September. This was of course the month when we would normally be holding the Village Produce Show, so we thought we would mark the occasion by having our own mini show.



Members brought along items for 6 Classes, and it was an impressive display. The winners were:

- 1st** Sue Foulkes who won both Floral Art Classes
- 2nd** Val Ketelle with 5 superb roses
- 3rd** Elizabeth Coward with 3 beautiful apples

The Trophies were a very appropriate mix of Barnyard Egg Cups and Cruet Sets, and were as highly prized as any silver cup.

The weather was glorious, a perfect warm autumn day, and we were entertained by members reading favourite poems, most of them very funny! Beaty Roberts was the star turn, reciting Walter de la Mare's 'The Scarecrow' by heart – very fitting for our surroundings (the poem, not Beaty!)

Although it is of course difficult organising events at the moment with juggling Government guidelines, weather and health



issues, it's not impossible, and we will carry on as best as possible until we can once again enjoy indoor meetings. Our next project is to create an offering for the Harvest of Talents at St. Mary's Church on October 4th. Meanwhile, we will stay in close contact with all members far and wide via Zoom and WhatsApp. If anyone would like to share our supportive and fun group, please do contact me. We are offering a "taster Membership" at the moment, you may be pleasantly surprised at what our W.I. has to offer. I know I was!

Thanks as usual to all our local businesses for working so hard in these difficult times.

Margaret O'Neill 01978 710451

Overton Playcentre

Calling all parents who have children turning 3 yrs old by January 2021 that you are entitled to 10 hours Free Early Education. Funded Early Education is your child's first steps into education! With Overton Playcentre your child learns many of the skills that will help them to successfully enter St Mary's nursery class in September 2021. They will meet and make friends that will go over to St Mary's School and be with them throughout their time there.

At Overton Playcentre we deliver Early Education over 4 mornings (not Tuesdays). The morning starts just after 9am with play and settling in. Then we learn to sit in a circle together and sing songs, look at the weather, discuss our day and take the register, all in both Welsh and English. The children have free choice as to where they want to play in our 15 areas set up for the Early Years Curriculum which include water play, construction, numbers, mark making and more. Your child can freely choose to be both inside and outside throughout the session. Before our healthy snack we all tidy up the toys, washing our hands and sitting down to eat together while we chat about our morning and recap the highlights so far! Story and songs follow with physical exercise and finally our goodbye songs.

So do register your rising 3 year old on the Wrexham website for your free sessions of Early Education. Registration is open until October half term, though it is not a problem if you have missed this date. Phone us on 01978 710688 to discuss.

Wild flowers to look for in October

Common catsear - looks like a smaller more delicate dandelion and small scale-like leaves that run up its stem.

Red dead-nettle - Nettle-shaped with no sting, purple trumpet-like flowers that push out from under its leaves.

Hedge woundwort nettle - straight tall plant with hairy square stem and toothed leaves. Unpleasant smell.

Chicory - with a tall stalk scattered with pale blue dandelion-like flowers.

Scarlet pimpernel - small scarlet star-shaped flowers are easily missed, due to it's low growing habit.

Shepherd's purse - heart-shaped seedpods line the stem and several small white flowers form a crown.

Reg Jones

It is with sadness that we report the death of Reg Jones of Maelor Court. He was an active member of many organisations in the village since marrying June in 1959 and moving to Overton. He and Harry Evison joined the Playfield committee encouraged by Phillma Hughes (Sankey). They started fundraising which resulted in the building of the Children's Playground on the Playing fields. The Playfields committee also had a rota of litter pickers and kept the play area tidy. Sunday morning would often find Reg and Harry manning the goals while their families and other soccer fans practised their goal shooting. He was also an Overton bellringer and supporter of Wrexham FC. Reg joined the Bowling Club about 40 years ago when John Cooper and Ron Cox were running it. He took over from Ron as Chairman and chaired it for over 30 years. Reg and his committee were instrumental in securing the ground next to the Tennis Courts when the Bowling Club had to be relocated to make way for the new Medical Centre. He was not just a figurehead however but ensured that the green was kept to a high standard, the Green neatly trimmed and hedges and borders immaculate. In addition to his commitment to Overton he was also on the Oswestry League committee.

He and June joined the Twinning Association in the village when it first started and were two of the original eleven members who went to La Murette that very hot summer. Since then they have been staunch supporters of the Twinning Association. He enjoyed the fun side of fund raising too.

Reg with his tenacity and commitment has ensured that many children and adults have enjoyed hours of pleasure in our village. Our thoughts are with his family at this sad time. *Funeral October 1st, 12 noon at St Mary's Overton*

email: overtonoracle@gmail.com

Poppys for Remembrance

Overton has been busy making poppies during 2020 and lockdown, all ready for Remembrance Sunday. On Saturday October 10th about 10am, the poppy team will be going to the church to put all the pieces they have been making together, to see how they look.

The Overton poppy display will be in St Mary's Church for 3 weeks from 24th October until a week after Remembrance Sunday. All donations from the display will be jointly shared with the Royal British Legion and St Mary's Church.

There will also be a separate display to commemorate the poor horses that were part of World War 1, and donation for this will be for The War Horse Memorial fund.



WAR HORSE MEMORIAL
STRENGTH IN ADVERSITY

Makeover for the telephone box

Overton's smallest listed building, our red telephone box, has been spruced up. It has been cleaned inside and out and been repainted with the correct red colour with small gold crowns. Designed by Sir Gilbert Scott in 1935, the Overton box is a K6 design.

The work was done by Andy who works for BT renovating the old red telephone boxes. He works all over the country starting in the north of Scotland and working down to Cornwall. And in September 2020 it was Overton's turn.

The K6 design was the most prolific kiosk in the UK and by 1980 there were 64,000. But since then many have been replaced or used for other things such as mini-libraries, defibrillators etc. It is believed there are still about 8,000 still in public service of which Overton's is one.



First responder's crowd-funding appeal to buy a car

A long-serving Community First Responder has launched a crowd-funding appeal for a replacement car so that she can react rapidly to life-threatening emergencies along the Wrexham-Shropshire border. Effie Cadwallader, who is now responding for the Welsh Ambulance Service, is still covering some of the same area, but is without a scheme car.

"First responders receive no funding from any official source", she explained. "As volunteers, we must raise sufficient money to pay for all our uniform and equipment. Previously, when I volunteered with a neighbouring ambulance service, I managed to raise enough to finance a car, and with the help of local businesses and private donations, the running costs were covered. Now that I am with Wales, I miss the former car I was using and I'm hoping the communities I serve will give me their support."

Over the years, Effie has attended more than 3,000 emergency call-outs, and been highly-praised for her dedicated service to the local communities around the border area. As a member of the Wrexham Rural First Responders team, all volunteers responding for the Welsh Ambulance Service Trust, she attends calls in her home village of St Martins, while her "patch" now extends to include Chirk and Llangollen, the Ceiriog Valley, Overton, Penley, Bettisfield and the outskirts of Ellesmere. "Having a dedicated car with high-viz markings is an absolute boon," she said. "Without blue lights, the striking livery can help with ease of passage, and eccentric parking at an emergency is forgiven. It keeps the CFR much safer, and seeing the car's arrival is a huge relief to the patient."

Effie has set a target of £10,000 and the group is also looking into sources of match-funding. In addition to the purchase price, an extra £1,000 must be found to cover the cost of livery and insurance, plus another £1,000 a year for running costs, including the road fund licence, servicing and MOT.

"The car would not belong to me personally, but to the Wrexham Rural CFR group, which is strong, growing, well organised and well managed. There are over 30 active CFRs in the group. Community First Responders are trained by the ambulance service and deployed to attend 999 medical emergencies such as cardiac arrest, strokes, choking, diabetic and other life-threatening incidents. They will usually be the first on-scene to assess the patient and begin treatment until the professional crew arrives. Unpaid volunteers like Effie receive excellent on-going training from WAST plus consumables such as oxygen, trauma bandages and medical essentials, but they must raise the money themselves to fund all other equipment such as kit bags, defibrillators and uniforms. Effie would be immensely grateful for contributions to the CFR Car Appeal. To make a donation via Go Fund Me please go to <https://www.gofundme.com/f/effies-community-first-responder-car> For information about donating by cheque or BACs, please contact Effie at alovera13@outlook.com



Effie with the car that she used previously

Rainbow Roadshow

The Penley Rainbow Centre bus has been touring the South Maelor area over the past few weeks, highlighting the services the Community Agents can provide for people in the area. When it visited Overton, Community Agents Carys Hughes and Julie Birrell, were on hand to answer questions and introduce themselves. Julie explained - "Our role is to work with the over 50s in Wrexham Maelor South, bridging the gap between the local community and the statutory or voluntary organisations, and offering help or support. If you think we can help, please get in touch with us at the Community Agent Office in the Rainbow Centre, Penley. Tel: 01948 830242 or email at julieb@rainbowcentrepnley.org.uk



Thank you to the Outreach Post Office

On behalf of all those who have used the Outreach Post Office in Overton, we would like to thank Jolene, the Sub Postmistress from Bryn Hafod, for supporting residents over the past two years with postal services, bill paying etc.

Jolene's friendly, professional approach especially during the past few extraordinary months, has been appreciated by everyone and we are really, really grateful! Thank you, Jolene!

Public Toilet at the Playingfield

Work is due to start on the new public toilet at the Playingfield. The toilet will be at the back of the garage connected to the Football Pavilion. It is hoped the toilets will be open by the end of October.

Overton's Rocks

Have you noticed the painted rocks along the churchyard wall? They have all been painted by lots of Overton children. The idea began when everyone was clapping for the NHS and it was suggested to Ruby (*in photo right*) that she paint a rainbow on a rock for the nurses. She thought it a good idea to put the 2 she completed on the wall by the churchyard. Since then it has just kept growing, and from her 2 there are now 68 rocks - and by the time the Oracle reaches you, there may be more!



St Mary's School News - Pupils Eagerly Return to School

The beginning of the new academic year was all the more exciting this September as it was the first time that school has been fully open to all pupils since the start of National Lockdown in March. Whilst St Mary's has remained open as childcare provision for children of essential workers during the Pandemic, the majority of pupils have been engaged in home learning. So the excitement of finally being able to see classmates and teachers once more made the anticipation of a new school year all the greater.

For the first week, year groups returned on a staggered basis and Year Six were the first class to return back on Thursday 3rd September. Being Year Six pupils ourselves, we have found going back to school has felt very strange but most welcome. With new social distancing measures in place, the school has made adaptations for keeping the virus at bay. Because of the rules we cannot mix with other classes, so we are keeping in our own class



Year 6 on the first day together



Year 6 doing some Art in our newly arranged classroom

'bubbles'. Tables are facing forwards instead of in groups and instead of all eating in the hall, we all have lunch in our separate classes. We always used to have assemblies together in the Hall, but now we have decided to beam into each other's classrooms using Microsoft Teams! To make our school extra clean we use a lot of hand sanitiser and regular hand washing - every time we arrive at school, before and after all breaks, and when we leave to go home.

Our fellow classmate, Henry Ellis, told us: "Coming back to school has felt a lot different and it's going to need some practice using hand sanitiser and keeping distance from other children. I thought I might feel anxious but I am really enjoying school, and I am glad that the

teachers are easing us back." In fact, all classes have come back to school happy and with smiles on their faces. A lot of pupils in the same class haven't seen each other for nearly six months, so we are glad that we can see each other again.

So whilst it may not be the usual school environment we are used to as we adhere to the regulations that the government has set to keep us safe, we are thrilled to be back learning and having fun with our classmates.

**by Oliver Jones and Tomos Williams,
Year Six Overton Oracle Reporters.**



Our first trial virtual assembly with Mrs Williams (Head)

Thank you

Thank you to all those Overton people and business's who have made their front gardens, their plant pots and their hanging baskets look so lovely and colourful this summer. And thank you to the volunteers who have brightened up the public areas such as in front of the village hall and library. It is a joy to walk around our village.



email: overtonoracle@gmail.com

Overton Wildlife Group - Meadow Test Plot

It's been lovely to see a few flowers blooming in the Millennium Meadow test plot, particularly as this year the plants have just been establishing, and so might not have been ready to flower. Within the square we now have a good selection of species including; ox-eye daisy, common knapweed, yarrow, lady's bedstraw, musk mallow, common sorrel, prickly ox tongue, rough hawkbit, wild carrot and ribwort plantain. Hopefully these flowers will bloom more fully next summer.

A few residents have asked why we haven't included poppies, cornflowers and corn marigolds in the wildflower areas. Whilst these wildflowers are stunning, they have evolved to grow in disturbed ground, which is why they do well on regularly ploughed arable fields. If sown on the Millennium Meadow these seeds would therefore not survive past the first few years, as the grasses and other wildflowers would outcompete them. Additionally, as breaking up the soil releases carbon, adding to the effects of climate change, and is more costly and labour intensive, we have opted for flowers happy to live in a grassland or meadow habitat. However, there will still be plenty of wild flowers in this patch to benefit insects and add a little interest.



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.

More photos from the Covid-19 outdoor socially-distanced WI meeting



St Mary's School & footpath Working with Wrexham Local Authority we have devised a one-way system to ensure the safety of our parents and children each day. A gate has been put into the fence onto the public footpath for parents and children to use to exit school each day. We envisage this being used for less than 20 mins in the morning and 20 in the afternoon. We appreciate this is a well used public footpath but hope that this won't inconvenience walkers around the village too much. We hope you will support us in this temporary measure



Overton Royal British Legion 120 Club

Results of the "120 Club" Draw for September 2020. 120 members entered and the draw was made on Wed. September 9th 2020. Winning numbers were selected by the 'Random Number Generator'.

Winners -

1st Prize	£240.00	No 81	Sharon Vaughan
2nd Prize	£120.00	No 17	Hayden Austin
3rd Prize	£ 60.00	No 4	Alan Foulkes
Legion Fund: £180.00			

CONGRATULATIONS

Next Draw: Wednesday October 14th 2020

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

Please Note: THE RBL "120 CLUB" DRAW WILL CONTINUE TO TAKE PLACE EACH MONTH DURING THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS.

"If you don't pay ...you don't play!"

What's On

October Diary for St Mary's Services

Sunday October 4th 10.00am Harvest Celebration
 Sunday October 11th 11.00am Holy Communion
 Sunday October 18th 11.00am Morning Prayer
 Sunday October 25th 11.00am Holy Communion

Tuesday October 13th 6.50pm Overton Community Council held remotely via 'GoToMeeting'. If members of the public would like to "attend" they should contact Katrina Chalk on clerk@overton-on-dee.co.uk for log in details. Members of the public wishing to speak 6.50pm-7.00pm

October 23rd-31st Overton 'ScareFest' organized by The Dough Nation Station

Saturday October 24th for 3 weeks Poppy display in St Mary's. Opening times advertised on the door.

Support our local businesses

The White Horse

OPEN every day from 12noon

Two Doves Coffee Shop

OPEN for sitting in, plus temporary out door seating at rear. Tuesday to Saturday 10am-3pm.

Afternoon Tea/picnics/Buffets to takeaway all available For Gift Shop items have a look at www.2doves.co.uk

Overton Supermarket & Fuel

Monday to Saturday 7.30am - 8.30pm.
 Sunday 9.00am - 8.30pm

The Corner Shop

Open Monday to Friday 7am-6pm
 Saturday 8am-6pm, Sunday 8am-2pm.
 Click & Collect and home delivery

M.E. Evans Butchers are open Monday to Friday 8am-5pm, Saturday 8am-2pm, Phone **01978 710342** or there's a click and collect option through our website - www.meevans.co.uk

Knolton Market Garden & Cheese Machine

Open 24/7. A safe way to buy cheese, butter, eggs. Organic veg starting this month with broad beans and salad potatoes. Now offering Vermulen's bread on Fridays.

Overton Fish & Chip Shop Open Fri & Sat 12pm - 2pm, Tuesday to Saturday 5pm-8pm.

Alaya Spice Open Tuesday - Sunday 4.30pm - 10.30pm For Take Away Orders & Restaurant Reservations Tel: 01978 710114

The Post Office at Overton Surgery open Monday to Friday 8.30am to 6pm, closed 30 mins for lunch.

Home Farm Overton has a new website <https://homefarmoverton.co.uk> Sausages, bacon, eggs, meat, pies, sausage rolls, cooked meats etc and other daily staples. Tel: 01978 710141



Family Announcements

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, Sophie Blythen, Beverley Thelwell, Vi Taylor, Sally Green. and Brenda Farrell.

Sincere condolences to June and all the family and friends of Reg Jones, who passed away in September.



Fundraiser Wanted

Overton Playcentre is a charity embedded in our community. We have an opportunity for a volunteer fundraiser to join our Management Team to raise funds for the Playcentre. Unfortunately due to Covid all our usual fundraising and social events will not be able to take place. Therefore we are looking for someone with imagination and flair to achieve fundraising in these different times. Please phone us on 710688 for a chat.

Indoor Bowls

In view of Covid-19 we have cancelled the Indoor Bowls at the Village Hall for this autumn. *Alan Mawdsley*

For Sale Aluminium coalbunker almost full of hexagon anthracite smokeless coal. Bunker H 36" D 23", on wooden base. Open at top with easy access point bottom centre. Buyer bags and collects. £80.

Tel: 01978 710714

2 seater brown leather settee - free to a good home

Tel: 01978 710618

Dustbin Days

Thursday Oct 1st General Waste & Recycling / food
 Thursday Oct 8th Garden Waste & Recycling / food
 Thursday Oct 15th General Waste & Recycling / food
 Thursday Oct 22nd Garden Waste & Recycling / food
 Thursday Oct 29th General Waste & Recycling / food

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 **Corner Shop** or email overtonoracle@gmail.com

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Editor - Jill Burton.

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