

The Overton Oracle

Volume 23 Issue 12

December 2021

Overton's Free Newspaper - delivered to every household monthly for 22 years



It's Christmas !

Overton Community Council has organised the village Christmas Tree and the High Street Christmas decorations which will all be put up on December 1st.

On behalf of current and former Community Councillors and probably most of Overton too, we'd like to thank Katrina Chalk, our outgoing Clerk, so very very much, for working so incredibly hard as Clerk to the Community Council for all these years. With good humour and patience in abundance she worked tirelessly undertaking the ever-increasing duties required of a Clerk... THANK YOU!

We're thrilled to welcome David Williams as our new Clerk and we'll all look forward to working with you in the months and years to come. Happy Christmas to Katrina, David and all of Overton!

from
Overton Community Councillors

Overton Recreational Club News



Membership is no longer required so feel free to pop up and enjoy all that we have to offer - live sports shown on our big screen TVs, pool tables, snooker table, darts, regular bingo and quizzes, the list goes on! Bring your family and friends and enjoy a relaxed drink in one of our spacious lounge areas. Like our Facebook page for news of upcoming events and spread the word!

Helping Pudsey

A cake and raffle stall in the High Street organised by Sheila Miller, raised a wonderful £485 for Children in Need on 19th November. Eight bakers produced lots of cakes and 16 raffle prizes were donated, 9 by local businesses: Two Doves, Ego Xcentric, The Cross Foxes, Stan's, M E Evans, Ma Baker, the Corner Shop, Louise Higginbottom, glass artist, and Ocean Wave fish van. Thanks to all donors and to everyone who came along and supported what is such a worthwhile cause.



Festive Fundraiser

The Rainbow Foundation's latest fundraiser, a festive raffle has a very special first prize! Music giants Coldplay have donated a Fender guitar signed by all four members of the band as a raffle prize to raise vital funds to help the work of **The Rainbow Foundation**



The raffle, will raise vital funds for The Rainbow Foundation to allow them to extend their services as well as enabling them to provide high quality home care in areas where private firms won't operate.

Chief executive officer Caroline Tudor-James says "As an active ageing charity, we have worked relentlessly throughout the pandemic to support older people, particularly those with dementia and multiple disabilities to stay living in their rural communities and address the wider determinants of ill health. When other services closed their doors, we kept going, but our work is not done! Winter is a hard time of year for older people within our communities."



The black Fender guitar and case will be raffled with other prizes including signed Coldplay items, a luxury Fortnum and Mason Christmas hamper, a 5* weekend away in London, a 43" TV and a Peloton bike. Tickets are on sale via Just Giving www.justgiving.com/campaign/TheRainbowFoundationFestiveFundraiser for the festive Fundraiser Raffle. Tickets are £2 and it will be drawn on Dec 17th.

Happy Christmas to all Oracle Readers, Contributors & Distributors

Please note that because of the Christmas and New Year holidays at the printers, contributions for the January edition should be left at the Corner Shop or emailed to overtonoracle@gmail.com by December 16th at the latest.



Seeds from St Mary's

by Rev'd. Peter Mackriell

Has 2021 been an improvement on the strange 2020? How do you see it, as you look back?

I get the impression that the Christmas 'round robin' is losing popularity; maybe because of social media, through which it is so easy to keep up with your friends' news – including the sporting and academic achievements of their kids, which the traditional Christmas letter always seems full of! Well, whether you have written one of those letters this year or not, reflect for a moment. What good things have happened to you this year? What good tidings can you share?

Of course, for many of us, the present may be a time of worry or concern. We might think that 'prophets' are people who predict the future, but God's prophets are always concerned with the present – and the things, now, that could be better. As well as the crises in our world, there are also challenges on our streets and in our communities; and painfully difficult times in the lives of our friends and families. The prophets, from whom we hear in Advent, remind us that God always wants to bring us good news, whatever we might be suffering, because God wants things to change.

At Christmas we remember that, when the words of the prophets were not enough, God came to us in Jesus, revealing good news in a novel way; as John says, in the wonderful prologue to his gospel, "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us". God came and lived amongst us. As you write your greetings this Christmas, your thoughts, your ideas, your words take shape in a simple way. In a profound sense, God's word took on shape when Jesus was born.

When Jesus began his ministry, as we remember in the New Year, he didn't just speak 'good news'. He showed good news, he demonstrated God's love. He gave people hope. News is best communicated in person; love is best demonstrated in person. Christians are called to bring life and light wherever we can, to make a difference. Not just to speak good news, but to be good news. Christmas is a time when 'hopes become reality'; but also a time to pledge to make the world a better place.

I wish you a happy Christmas and a year ahead full of good news,

Peter Mackriell



Bend it like Buddha Yoga

Finding your balance for the festive season? There is another Yoga workshop with Heather in Overton Village Hall on Sunday 5th December 10am to 12 noon. Absolute beginners are welcome.

We had a wonderful two hour Yoga workshop in November – thanks to everyone who came.

Please do join us for a calming session of Yoga, Breathing and Meditation. £15 for the session.

The Overton Wildlife Project

The Overton Wildlife project came to an end in November. We are so grateful to the Landfill Trust for funding the works over the last eight months and for all the support from members of the community and volunteers to carry out the work. As part of the project over 5,000 wildflowers have been planted across the village, including native bluebells, oxslips and foxgloves.

As well as planting more wildflowers in the mini meadows in the park, Millennium Meadow and graveyard, we have partnered with St Mary's church, the Overton Bowls club, the Hedge Veg stall and Overton Primary School to create mini meadows within their grounds, creating space for pollinators to thrive. Beyond that, two barn owl boxes, five tawny owl boxes and ten blue bird-boxes have been put up in the village and the surrounding area. An area of Himalayan balsam was also cleared to provide a chance for native flowers to thrive.

Throughout all this we have been supported by our volunteers from Wrexham who come from as far afield as Russia, El Salvador, Turkey and Sri Lanka.

Our final wildlife project has been to create a wildlife pond with the help of Wildbanks Conservation and the permission of a private landowner to use an area at the edge of the village. The pond will likely fluctuate throughout the year in terms of water levels, providing a range of wildlife habitats for different species, including dragonflies and ducks.

Some of these wildlife features will take several years to come into their own and be used by local wildlife, and it will be fascinating to watch this development and the new species that take up residence.

If you have a wildlife project you are interested in taking forward, feel free to get in touch at

Katharine.piercy@googlemail.com

Nia Dance Class

Please join Becky for a Nia Dance class at Overton Village Hall on **Saturday 4th December** 10.00 -11.00am. Nia is a fusion fitness dance class, combining jazz, modern and free dance with martial arts like Tai Chi and Aikido and also the healing practices of yoga and Feldenkrais. It is usually practised barefoot and it is designed for all levels of fitness with an emphasis on sensation within the body to witness and heal. It's also good fun and a cardio workout!

£10 on the door, all proceeds to Children in Need



Community and Citizenship at the Heart of our Learning

This month's news from St Mary's School shows a common theme across the classes, as we focus on our Cynefin project (our special place in the World) and link learning to our local community and our role as global citizens.

As part of their study of Cynefin, pupils in Year 4 wrote to Liz and Michael, the new owners of 'Ma Baker Bakes' bakery on Overton's High Street, to ask about the history of the building they have moved into and what they had found during their renovation. Liz kindly came into school to meet the class to answer their questions and show a range of objects that had been found in the old Pharmacy House. *(photo right)*



As part of their work based around the COP26 environmental summit, Year 5 made pledges about how they could reduce their carbon footprints. They also took part in a virtual lesson live from a coral reef in the Caribbean Sea, and were thrilled to get a live shout-out by the presenter in this international event!

Year 6 have continued their collaboration with Jill Burton and, with Jill's historical research, created an Act of Remembrance film to commemorate the centenary of Overton War Memorial and share the stories behind the names of some of the fallen. This film was watched across all classes to time with the 11am silence on Armistice Day, and was a powerful and emotional moment of remembrance. Year 6 were amazed to hear how their film had also reached across the community when Margaret O'Neill, President of Overton Women's Institute, wrote to us on behalf of her members saying how much the film had meant to them. On Remembrance Sunday, Year 6 pupils Arthur and Yasmin, accompanied by Headteacher Mrs Williams, were honoured to lay a wreath at the Memorial on behalf of our School at the annual Remembrance Service.

In other news, lucky members of Year 6 have started a course of Computer Coding Workshops led by a specialist from Technocamps based at Glyndwr University. The class have learnt how to make their own chasing game using Scratch and then went on to build a model of the solar system using drag and drop coding. Pupils are very much looking forward to the next session which is about robotics!

by Mrs Williams (Year 6 Teacher) and Year 6 Reporters, Authur and Nyree.

Overton Playcentre News

We have had an exciting few weeks recently! Sven from SK Cobras came to join us during half term and now he is running Mini Cobras every Monday before Christmas. After Christmas he will be running Cobras for older children for 7 weeks in our St Mary's B&A Club! Also during half term we had Amy, textile artist, working with the children to create their capes for the Halloween dance party next day. We had a bonfire (small) and cooked marshmallows to make s'mores!!

We have also had our 24hr danceathon where all the staff and children danced throughout the Friday starting at 7:15 am and then 3 staff danced ALL through the night (some of us in our PJs!) until 7:15 am on Saturday. We were joined on zoom by families to help keep them going! Huge thanks to all the staff, children and families for your support and our Chair who arrived in the morning to help us end with umph!! We raised....drumroll..... £745 which with gift aid is a HUGE £856.25!! So thank you so much for your support!!

Also a BIG thank you to Overton Community Council who have been so supportive of us and continue to be with an amazing Community Chest grant to sort out our storage! We have been having a enormous sort out and audit of toys, equipment and storage so that all the staff can find everything and the grant will enable us to really have everything in it's place and a place for everything. So thank you OCC for enabling us to get to the next stage!!

Bags4School raised a massive £204 which was the highest we've ever made on this - thank you so much for supporting us on this! The man who came to collect was pushing down with all his weight to get all our bags in as we had so many!! Loved the healthy rivalry on this - I think 18 bags is the one to beat next time??

Our next wacky Fundraiser has something to do with haircuts.... - so look out for the posters and information!!



Dancing through the night

Spring into Action

As you lounge at home on these cold, dark winter nights, does your mind turn to thoughts of Spring? Do you think of new activities and pastimes that can fill the warm, sunny evenings when the clocks have gone forward?

WE HAVE THE ANSWER! Overton Bowling Club and Overton Tennis Club will be offering free professional coaching for both newcomers and players wishing to hone their skills. Everyone will be welcome, young and not so young.

Further details will appear in the March edition of the Overton Oracle, but if you are interested in either sport (or both), please let us know and we will contact you with details when the sessions have been arranged.

For crown green bowling call Val Stevenson on 01978 710618

For Junior or Senior tennis call Sally Caiger on 01978 710467

Bellringing Quarterly Update

It has been a busy few months since my last update. Our two brand new bell ringers have progressed very quickly, and both have made their Sunday morning debuts. We have also welcomed a lapsed ringer who has returned to the band, which is now seven in number. Practice night continues on a Tuesday evening with support from our ringing friends in Chirk. We are delighted with the encouragement shown us by the village community.

St Mary's church had a successful Gift Day and Open Church, giving visitors a chance to explore the church and enjoy an introduction to bell ringing and the pipe organ. In October the Friends of St Mary's kindly supported the purchase of a new set of bell ropes. They look resplendent as you pass through the church entrance.

And finally, the bells were rung half muffled before the Service of Commemoration and Remembrance on Sunday November 14th.

Clare Morris



Photo: Jim Glover, Clare Morris & Pauline Goring with 2 of the 6 new ropes in the Welsh national colours

Thank you for your support



The members of the Royal British Legion, Overton on Dee Branch wish to thank all those who participated in the proceedings on Remembrance Sunday 14th November, both at the War Memorial and at the Service in St. Mary's Church. Also, thank you to members of the local community who as ever gathered in numbers to be present on this touching occasion.

As a branch we are very conscious of the importance of this annual event for so many in the village, and we will do our utmost to ensure that this continues into the future.

Jean Williams – Branch Secretary.

On behalf of the members – Royal British Legion, Overton on Dee Branch.



News from the White Horse Inn

We have changed to winter opening hours at the White Horse, which means that we won't be open at lunch times on week days until the Spring. However we are introducing loads of evening Winter Warmer Meal Deals to help you through the dark and cold months!

- Every Tuesday – Curry and Chilli Night
- Every Wednesday – Pie Night
- Every Thursday – Fish and Chips Night

Our Meal Deals all come with chips or rice and a drink – for just £10.

We will continue to serve our full menu on Friday and Saturday evenings from 5pm-8.30pm and of course our Sunday lunch served every Sunday from 12-3pm.

Saturday Brunch Club returns on 4th Dec, there's live music from Willow Station on 11th Dec and from Zen Dogs on 18th Dec. Keep an eye on our Facebook page!

North Wales Community Alert is a free community messaging service brought to you by North Wales Police and partners. By registering you can receive up to date information on crime, missing and wanted appeals, crime prevention advice, engagement events and general policing activity in your local area. You can reply to messages and provide feedback to your local neighbourhood police team on the issues that matter to you. Registration is completely free, quick and simple. Visit www.northwalescommunityalert.co.uk and sign-up for free today.

PCSO Dean Sawyer's next Police surgery will be on Friday 3rd Dec at 12pm-1pm at the Two Doves Cafe. If you have any policing issues/concerns please come and see me. *Wrexham Rural PCSO Dean Sawyer*

Overton on Dee W.I. News

A colourful array of viola plants brought a smile to many around the village when the WI gave them away to surprised recipients to celebrate World Kindness Day in November.



(photo left) Kindness has been much needed and appreciated this year.

Heather Dulson, Shropshire WI Advisor paid tribute to Overton on Dee WI members at the recent AGM

for the way they had remained connected during the last difficult year, but also had had fun, despite all Covid restrictions. An example of this was the AGM being followed by a hilarious Beetle Drive, a blast from the past!

Our fabulous and friendly W.I. have been a great support to each other in so many ways. We have an exciting programme of events planned for next year - more details will be in the January edition.

Meanwhile, we would like to wish everybody a Happy Christmas and best wishes for 2022

Margaret O'Neill 01978 710451

Overton Christmas Openings and Events



OVERTON RECREATIONAL CLUB

Sat Dec 4 th	Pool Singles Knockout followed by Knockouts Presentation Night
Sat Dec 18 th	Family Christmas Party Night including Disco, Karaoke & Play Your Cards Right
Sun Dec 19 th	Christmas Bingo & Grand Raffle Draw
Christmas Eve	7.00pm – 12.00am
Christmas Day	12.00pm – 2.30pm & 7.00pm – 10.00pm
Boxing Day	12.00pm – 12.00am
Dec 27 th - 30 th	Normal Opening Hours
Dec 31 st	7pm - late "Peaky Blinders" themed New Year's Eve Party
New Years Day	3pm - 12 am

We wish all our customers a very Merry Christmas and happy and healthy New Year!

OVERTON SURGERY

Closed on Saturday Dec 25th and Bank Holiday Boxing Day 28th December and on New Years Day 1st January.

In a life threatening emergency dial 999
For Urgent Medical Attention ring the out of hours service on 111
For non-urgent Medical Advice ring NHS Direct 0845 46 47

OVERTON LIBRARY

Open up to and including Wednesday December 22nd and then reopens Friday January 3rd 2022.

Support your Local Library!

CORNER SHOP

Christmas Eve	7am - 4pm
Christmas Day	CLOSED
Boxing Day	9am - 1pm
Monday 27 th Dec	8am - 12pm
Tuesday 28 th Dec	8am - 12pm
Wednesday 29 th Dec	7am - 6pm
Thursday 30 th Dec	7am - 6pm
Friday 31 st Dec	7am - 4pm
Saturday 1 st Jan	9am - 12pm
Monday 3 rd Jan	8am - 12 pm



OVERTON PHARMACY

Christmas Eve	9:00-13:00 / 14:00-18:00
Christmas Day	Closed
Boxing Day	Closed
Monday 27 th	Closed
Tuesday 28 th	Closed
Wednesday 29 th	9:00-13:00 / 14:00-18:00
Thursday 30 th	9:00-13:00 / 14:00-18:00
New Years Eve	9:00-13:00 / 14:00-18:00
New Years Day	9:00 - 11:30 a.m
Monday 3 rd Jan	Closed

OVERTON POSTOFFICE at the Medical

Centre Closed Dec 25th to 28th. Open Dec 29th to 31st.
Closed Jan 1st to 3rd. Open Jan 4th
LAST UK POSTING DATES
2nd class - Saturday December 18th
1st class - Tuesday December 21st
USA - Monday December 13th
Australia - Monday December 6th

M. E. EVANS

TRADITIONAL BUTCHERS

December 20 th -21 th	8am - 6pm
December 22 th -23 th	7am - 7pm
December 24 th	6am - 2pm
December 25 th -28 th	Closed
December 29 th -31 th	9am - 2pm
January 1 st - 3 rd	Closed
January 4 th	Normal opening hours resume.



TWO DOVES COFFEE & GIFT SHOP

Dec 3rd Xmas Late Night Shopping Event Open till 7pm
Closed Monday Open Tuesday to Sunday
Sunday Dec 5th Gifts & Food Open 10am to 3pm
Sunday Dec 12th Gifts & Food Open 10am to 3pm
Sunday Dec 19th Gifts & Food Open 10am to 3pm
Dec 24th Closed
Dec 25th Closed
Dec 26th Closed
Jan 4th Reopen Tuesday to Saturday

Sunday at Two Doves

Two Doves are delighted to inform you all that Wrexham Planning Department have given permission to trade for these 3 Sundays - Dec 5th, 12th 19th ONLY. We cannot and won't be opening Sundays going forward.

Season's Greetings to all our customers

THE WHITE HORSE INN

Christmas Eve	3pm - midnight
Christmas Day	12pm – 3pm
Boxing Day	12pm – 10pm
Dec 27 th – 30 th	4pm – 10pm
New Years Eve	4pm – late "007 themed evening"
New Years Day	2pm – 10pm
Plus	
Pizza and Prosecco nights	Dec 3 rd , 10 th & 17 th
Christmas Party nights	Dec 4 th , 11 th & 18 th
Family Christmas afternoon	December 19 th
Karaoke night	December 24 th
Christmas Dinner served on	December 25 th
Telephone 01978 784727 for bookings & information	

MA BAKER

I am baking every week. If anyone would like to place an order, go to mabaker.cococart.co Thank you for all the support so far.
Bread Classes will be starting in the New Year and vouchers (for Christmas gifts) are available.
A bread class is the gift that just keeps on giving. www.mabaker.london



EGO XCENTRIC HAIR DESIGN

Monday December 20 th	Closed
Tuesday December 21 st	9am to 5pm
Wednesday December 22 nd	9am to 5pm
Thursday December 23 rd	9am to 8pm
Friday December 24 th	8am to 1pm
Then closed	Reopen January 4 th



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Overton Royal British Legion 120 Club

Results of the "120 Club" drawn on 11th November
 120 members entered and winning numbers were selected by Mr Martin Hughes.

Winners - -

1st Prize	£240.00	No 75	Jeff Hunt
2nd Prize	£120.00	No 99	Eileen Vickers
3rd Prize	£ 60.00	No 69	Mary Jones

Legion Fund: £180.00

CONGRATULATIONS

Next Draw will be THE XMAS BONUS DRAW on Thursday 9th December 2021

If you wish to join please ring DAVE AUSTIN 01978 710678.
ALL NEW MEMBERS MUST PAY BY STANDING ORDER.

"IF YOU DON'T PAY - - - YOU DON'T PLAY"
Thank you for your Loyal Support

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Thank you

Annmarie, Cathy Williams and families would like to thank everyone for all your love for Craig, asleep now with angels around him. xxx

Thank you

I would like to thank Overton Community Councillors, and Chairs, past and present, for all their support over the last 14 years. I have enjoyed my time as Clerk to the Council, even the challenging periods! The new Clerk from December 6th will be David Williams. I wish him all the best and am sure he will be excellent. Contact email for the clerk will remain the same clerk@overton-on-dee.co.uk Katrina Chalk

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What's On

December Diary for St Mary's & St Hilary's

Dec 5th 10am All Age Worship 11.00am Holy Communion
 Dec 12th 11am Holy Communion 9.45am Christingle
 Dec 19th 5.30pm Candlelit Carol Service 4pm Carol Service
 Dec 24th 4pm Crib & Christingle
 11pm First Communion of Christmas
 Dec 25th 9.45am Xmas Communion
 Dec 26th 11am Holy Communion
 For all service details see

<https://www.stmarysoverton-on-dee.org/worship>

December Diary for Overton Methodist Chapel

Sunday Dec 5th 2.30pm Rev Neville Pugh
 Sunday Dec 12th 2.30pm Mr David Young
 Sunday Dec 19th 2.30pm Mr Tim Guy
 Saturday Dec 25th 10.30pm Rev Phillip Poole
 Sunday Dec 26th No Service

Services at Our Lady And The Welsh Martyrs

Every Saturday 5.00pm Mass
 Christmas Day Mass 9.00 am
 New Year Mass 5.00 pm

Thursday December 2nd 12.00pm-2.00pm Rainbow Lunch Club. Meet - Eat - Socialise - Enjoy. £7.50 for a freshly cooked 2 course meal. To book Tel: 01948 830730

Friday December 3rd 12pm-1pm PCSO Dean Sawyer's next Police Surgery at the Two Doves. If you have any policing issues/concerns, please come and see him.

Saturday December 4th 10.00am-11.00am Nia Dance class at Overton Village Hall. £10 on the door, all proceeds to Children in Need

Saturday December 4th 2.00-4.00pm Overton on Dee WI Christmas Afternoon Tea in the Village Hall

Sunday December 5th 10.00am-12.00pm Yoga Workshop with Heather at the Village Hall. Absolute beginners welcome

Monday December 6th 9.30am-1.00pm Craft & Create "Making Christmas Wreaths" and lunch at Penley Rainbow Centre. Booking essential 01948 830730

Monday December 6th Quiz Night at the White Horse

Thursday December 9th 7.00pm Royal British Legion Meeting at the Village Hall & The Xmas Bonus Draw

Monday December 13th Quiz Night at the White Horse

Tuesday December 14th 6.50pm Overton Community Council meeting held remotely via 'GoToMeeting'. If members of the public would like to "attend" they should contact David Williams on clerk@overton-on-dee.co.uk for log in details. Members of the public wishing to speak can do so 6.50pm-7.00pm.

Thursday December 16th 7.00pm Overton on Dee WI Meeting in the Village Hall with Christmas Bingo.

Sunday December 19th Father Christmas afternoon at The White Horse Inn; booking required.

Friday December 31st From 7.00pm New Years Eve Party "Peaky Blinders Revisited" at the Overton Rec Club. 1920's & Peaky Blinders Fancy Dress optional.



Family Announcements



Congratulations to Robert and Laura on the birth of Fraser Charlie, a brother for Cerys and our second grandson. Love from John and Catherine Eve.

Happy December Birthdays to George Clarke, John Eve, Paul Whittaker, Gwyn Owen, Joseph Thomas, Iris Edwards, Carol Morrison, Howard Jones, Walter Roberts, Daniella Jones, Gareth Evans, Lisa Edwards, Aled Owen, Helen Roberts, Brian Williams, Amelia Lloyd, Aneira and Osian Barlow, Pene Coles, Aeddán Farley-Morris, Lauren Elizabeth Cheshire, Sean Clarke, Sarah Jane Hellingman, Glenys Roberts, Dilys Parkinson, Catherine Starkey and Mark Blythen.



For Sale

Overton 700th Charter Commemorative plate of Queen's visit to village, in original box and in perfect condition. £40

Tel: 01978 534218



Dustbin Days

Thurs Dec 2nd General Waste & Recycling/food
 Thurs Dec 9th Garden Waste & Recycling/food
 Thurs Dec 16th General Waste & Recycling/food
 Thurs Dec 23rd General Waste & Recycling/food
 Thurs Dec 30th Recycling & food waste only

Thank you from me to Tracy Leach, Mike Hamer and all others who kindly gave up their valuable time again this year to set up the stunning poppy display in church. We hope the community got a chance to see this spectacular heart felt display. *Sam Green*

Thank you Enid Thompson would like to thank the kind people who helped her after her fall near the Medical Practice on Saturday Nov 6th. It was much appreciated.

PLEASE REMEMBER

Copy deadline is 16th of December.

Get your events & news to us early to avoid disappointment

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