

The Overton Oracle

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September 2010

Overton's Free Newspaper - issued monthly



Plus a baby elephant

No one passing through Overton in recent weeks can have failed to notice the predominance of the blue, white and red around the village. Yes, it was that time again. Our French partners from La Murette were in town. Many thanks to the businesses who dolled up their premises to welcome our visitors. Thanks, too, to Mervyn Haynes for the eye-catching sign outside the Village Hall.

As always, we had a wonderful week, renewing old friendships and establishing new ones. No-stop chatting, whether in French, in English, in Franglais or using hand signals, was the order of the day. The French were very keen to practise their English and judging by the loud voices and laughter on every occasion, communication was never a problem.

What do you think the following might have in common? A baby elephant in Chester Zoo, a Male Voice Choir at Oswestry Show, storming the battlements of Caernarfon Castle, dressing up as a prisoner in Ruthin Gaol, orienteering in Mortimer Forest, belly dancing and Roman Army tactics in Bersham, learning the finer points of how a pint is brewed at The Three Tuns Brewery, tucking into Fish and Chips at the seaside; yes, you guessed, these are just some of the marvellous activities we all enjoyed together during the visit.

We were pretty lucky with the weather this year and it was never really cold. The waterproofs and umbrellas carried all the way from France mostly stayed in the bags. Of course the French are used to a warmer climate but they take our weather in their stride and as they said they're here for the camaraderie and the friendship and that's all that matters.

Sunday morning saw us all gathered in the car park reluctant for it all to end. We were all very sad that it was all over and that we wouldn't see each other for another year. Lots of tears were shed and email addresses and quite a few kisses were exchanged. We'd all had a wonderfully enriching, sociable and enjoyable week and looked forward to the return visit in 2011.

A big thank you to all who helped to make the week such a success.

If you think you'd like to get involved and to join in the fun, check out the village website or contact Cath Starkey on 710322 or Georgina Mason on 710486.



OVERTON VILLAGE PRODUCE SHOW

Saturday 4th September

Exhibits need to be brought to the Village Hall before 11.00am on the morning of the Show. Doors open at 2.30 pm. for viewing. Presentation of Prizes at 4pm

Ramblings From the Rectory

by David Lewis



Dear friends,

Sometime in September, most country towns and villages will keep their Harvest festivals, sometimes known as Harvest Home. There is much legend and ancient tradition attached to the Harvest and some of the old rites and customs reach far back into pre history.

Country people believed that the spirit of the harvest dwelt in the fields and she was thought of as the Earth Mother. As the reapers cut the corn, so the Earth Mother was forced to retreat into the dwindling remaining corn. No one wished to be the one to cut the last row of corn, so they would take it in turns to throw their sickles and scythes at it until it was all down.

Then the women would enter the fields and gather up the remaining corn and plait it into the shape of a female form, decorated with blue ribbons to represent the earth mother. This would then take pride of place at the Harvest Supper table and might have been the beginning of the corn dolly as we know it today.

For Christians Harvest time is the chance to see God around us in our world and to express thanks for our world and its gifts, and to pledge ourselves to a fair sharing of the world's resources.

There is a prayer from the Society of Our Lady of the Isles which expresses the belief god is all around us in the creation.

*Almighty God
You who are in the wind
That breathes on the sea,
And the waves of the ocean;
The seal on the rocks;
The lark in the heavens;
The rays of the sun
And the glittering rocks in the valley;
You who are in the whole of creation
And in your loved ones,
We give you thanks and praise.*

Your friend and Rector,
David

COUNTRY BEAT

by Constable Stephen Evans

Hello again.

First the bad news.

In the early hours of Saturday the 31st of July a young male was arrested for a spree of criminal damages which occurred in the village.

The male is currently on police bail and officers are investigating 5

separate damage reports. Also sometime between the 4th and 7th of August the ground roller from the recreational fields off Wrexham road was stolen.

As ever if anybody has any information regarding the above, please call and see us or give us a ring on the numbers below.

We still receive complaints of speeding through the village and are still involved in the traffic calming process. Remember if you would like to be present when we carry out speed checks, we can arrange this and provide suitable clothing etc.

Overall the area that we police from Overton has not suffered greatly from crime. We still get the opportunist criminal who will come onto your land and steal (usually in broad daylight) however these reports are thankfully not frequent. I thank all of you who have taken our repeated crime prevention advice on board.

As your local police team we are always willing to attend clubs, events or any other meeting that takes place within the village and are willing to provide a talk on policing matters which effect you. If you would like our presence at any of your functions, then please ask. You can contact us on any of the below ways or even better pop into the station.

Regards,
Steve. PC 1885.

Bronington & Overton Community Beat Manager.

Tel:0845 6071002 ext:48425

Mobile: 07966086868

E-Mail: Stephen.Evans@nthwales.pnn.police.uk



New Services

St Mary's Church is introducing two new services at an earlier time.

- On the 2nd Sunday of the month there will be a half hour family service at 10am with coffee.
 - On the 4th Sunday, again at 10am, there will be a half hour Family Communion service with coffee.
- Everyone is welcome

On the 2nd & 3rd Sundays there will also be a new Sunday school meeting at the back of church for children from 10am. Please contact Rafela Fitzhugh or the Rector for details.

Wanted

We are looking for new people to join St Mary's Choir.

If you have an interest in music or just like to sing, do come along and join us or contact the Rector on 710229.

CANADIANS VISIT THE VILLAGE

Overton was fortunate this year to play host to a group from Vancouver Island on the west coast of Canada who came to perform at the Llangollen International Eisteddfod. In previous years language has been a barrier, this year however there was no obstacle.

On Wednesday 7th July we welcomed the City of Gardens Chorus, a barber shop choir, along with husbands and friends. Their director Julie originated from Cardiff so they had performed in her home town before travelling north to Overton.

On the Thursday morning the ladies warmed up in Overton Church before a giving a performance in St Mary's School. Then they travelled on to Llangollen for more rehearsals. In the afternoon there was a visit to a residential home for a song or two plus afternoon tea. This was followed by an evening performance in Bala High School with an informal reception afterwards, and returning to the village later in the evening.

Friday saw another hectic schedule of rehearsals and then a night off with a visit to watch the performance of "Only Men Aloud". Saturday morning saw a brief rehearsal in the church before off to Llangollen to compete on stage at 12 noon in the "Barbershop and Close Harmony" section. The choir came in 3rd place which they were disappointed with but we all then had a delightful social evening 'do' at Tan House Farm thanks to Mena and John Rowlands. The choir did a variety of songs during the evening and all the choir's hosts enjoyed the opportunity to mingle with all the visitors. June Mason the oldest in the choir at 86 years young was an amazing display of vigour and of age being no barrier.

On Sunday morning the choir said farewell to their hosts and left Overton at 10am for a further few days travelling via Shrewsbury to Stratford upon Avon, a visit to Blenheim before a concert in Portsmouth. The group split on the Friday for further adventures, some returning home via Heathrow, and with 7 of the party going by Eurostar to Paris for a few days holiday.

We shall keep in touch with our friends as they continue their travels and god bless for a safe journey home. Anyone who would like to help in hosting next years Eisteddfod visitors in our village, please contact Carol Dykes who lives opposite the chip shop.



Kids Kolumn

by Alice Foster, Lydia Biggs & Lottie Blake



Hiya. It's nearly the end of the summer holidays.

NNOOOO!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

We are HUNGRY!

Why not make some Chocolate Caramel Bites



225g (8oz) softened marg
150g (5oz) caster sugar
175g (6oz) plain flour
1 tsp mixed spice
2 tbs golden syrup
200g tin condensed milk
150g (5oz) plain chocolate
Serves 18 bites

Preheat the oven to 180°C, 350°F, Gas Mark 4. Grease a 28 x 18 cm Swiss roll tin. Place half the margarine, 50g (2oz) of the caster sugar and all of the flour in a bowl with the Mixed Spice. Mix together to form a dough.

Press the dough into the tin, levelling the surface with the back of a metal spoon. Prick the surface with a fork and bake for 20 - 25 minutes until pale golden. Whilst the shortbread is in the oven prepare the caramel.

Place the remaining margarine, sugar, golden syrup and condensed milk in a small heavy based saucepan. Heat gently until the margarine has melted and then boil the mixture rapidly for 5 - 10 minutes until a golden colour. Make sure you stir the mixture constantly to prevent it from burning. Cool for 2 - 3 minutes.

Pour the caramel over the cooked and slightly cooled shortbread base. Leave to cool. Meanwhile, melt the chocolate in a bowl, set over a pan of simmering water, and pour over the caramel. Leave to chill for 4 hours or more. Cut into 18 pieces and serve.

Top 5 must-see movies in cinemas now

- 5: The Last Airbender 2D (PG) **3 ½ stars**
4: Furry Vengeance (PG) **4 stars**
3: 3D Step Up 3D (12A) **4 stars**
2: Inception (12A) **4 ½ stars**
1: Toy Story 3 (U) **5 stars**

An Overton Mystery

by Ken Farrell



A tale that has long intrigued me is the "Mystery of the Overton Footprints".

On the right-hand side of the Wrexham Road, just below the top of the hill near Argoed Lane by the pavement at the side of the road, there appeared long ago two bare patches on which grass refused to grow. Many older residents of the village claim to have seen them and a friend recently showed me a photograph of the spot taken some years ago. Why, one wonders, did this small patch of the verge remain bare of vegetation for so long, and what is the mystery behind it?

There are conflicting versions of the tale but one of the most popular tells of an earlier resident of Overton who, returning home after a good night's revelry, fell down and became entangled in the railings. These are just visible at the bottom of the photo. Despite his frantic attempts to free himself, his struggles were in vain and he sadly perished in the spot.

According to another variation a poor man was accused of a very grave crime and was subsequently hanged, always protesting his innocence. He declared that to prove that he was speaking the truth, grass would refuse to grow at this spot where he had once stood.

Yet another version was told to me by a friend who grew up in the village and who recalled that, as kids, she and her friends used to go and scrape their feet on the bare patches to make sure the grass would not grow, and thereby keep alive the legend. I must admit I prefer the first two versions with their hint of mystery - this last one only ruins the story!

Medical News

A new facility is being introduced this month at the surgery, bringing us slightly more 'up-to-date'. Should you need to pay the surgery for any private work undertaken on your behalf you will, in future, be able to pay by Credit or Debit Card. We have to undergo some training but once completed we should be in a position to use the credit card machine.

There are times when we need to contact patients by telephone, this can be most frustrating at times. Where possible we always use the land-line but we do store mobile numbers. If you change your telephone numbers don't forget to tell us. This information can be really important should there be a need for medication to be issued or to call a patient in to see a Doctor. For your own safety and to keep our records current, please make a note to let us know of any changes like this when they happen. There are times when the hospital rings to ask us to double check our details as they cannot make contact so it is really important that you do keep us informed. 1 in 5 calls we made on 710666 are unanswered. 2000 calls in total during the first 6 months of 2010 – a lot of time and effort.

We know our phones are very often busy and you may have a wait to get through. Every day we get patients ringing up to see what time their appointment is? If you make your appointment in the surgery you will be given written confirmation of the time and date but if you make it over the telephone please ensure you write it down somewhere safe. By being a little more organised you could save yourself the cost of a call and leave the surgery lines less congested in case there is a real emergency. If you have a computer and register online, you will have the ability to check for yourself. Visit our website www.overtonsurgery.co.uk

Rector in Africa

Reverend David Lewis, Rector of Overton is part of a team from the Diocese of St Asaph (Church in Wales) which has travelled to East Africa for a 10 day visit as part of the link between churches in North East Wales and Tanzania.

They will be welcomed by the Bishop of South West Tanganyika, the Rt. Rev John Simalenga who visited St Asaph in 2008 and earlier this year. The two dioceses, St Asaph and South West Tanganyika, signed a companion link agreement in November 2008. Bishop Stephen Lowe, honorary assistant bishop in the St Asaph diocese, said "We are delighted to build a bridge between Nth Wales and this fairly remote part of Tanzania. Their church is strong and growing and they have much to teach us. But their needs are enormous and we are going to explore how we can mutually support each other."

St. Mary's School News



Sophie Hill, Charlotte Young & Seren Wright prepare for the grand opening →

Pupils at St Mary's School, have worked hard for a performance to mark the opening of their historical gardens in July. Pupils designed the gardens based on four historical periods, Roman, Tudor, Victorian & World War II.



YOUR St. MARY'S

This is not just a fete,
this is a St Mary's Fete

Saturday
11th September 2010

Free Entry!
Fun for all ages
Everyone Welcome
Proceeds for the school

And later . . .
Food, Music
& Merriment
Firework Display
7.30pm-late

- Punch & Judy
- Fire Brigade
- Army Assault Course
- Pony Rides
- Bouncy Castle
- Tug of War
- Football Games
- Face Painting
- Crafts
- Reptile Man
- Birds of Prey
- Gymnastics Display
- Quiz
- Cream Teas
- Food and drinks
- And much more . .

Champion Team

Eliza Rosselli of Overton was one of the team which has won the Pony Club National Championships, and her sister Heath was travelling reserve. The Sir Watkin Williams Wynn Hunt branch of the Pony Club, fought off fierce competition at the Pony Club National Championships at Draycott Manor to become the Pony Club Mounted Games National Junior Champions!

The Pony Club Mounted Games is relay races on ponies. Each team has 5 riders and ponies, and the games require a good level of agility, riding ability and team work! The team, trained by Lisa Gregory of Erbstock, have worked hard all year competing at friendly competitions against 250 other Pony Clubs across England, Wales, Scotland & Ireland, and managed to sail through each of the 2 qualifying rounds to gain their place at the National Championships along with 24 other teams. The whole competition was very close and very exciting, the children held their nerve in the 6 races and eventually won by 3 points. All the practice had paid off! The Team were invited to take part in the winners parade at the August Bangor on Dee race meet which was very exciting for the young riders.



Are you at risk of diabetes?

by Joanne Kember

During September Diabetes UK and Pharmacies across the UK are giving you the opportunity to find out your risk score. Most people are not aware that they are at risk of developing diabetes and yet there is an easy 'paper' test you can take to find out your risk score. Diabetes is a serious medical condition which if left untreated can lead to serious health problems such as heart disease, kidney failure, blindness and other life changing problems. There are about 50,000 people in the UK who have the condition but don't know it! The good news is that if diabetes is spotted early enough then the risk of developing serious health problems is considerably reduced.

Our three nearest pharmacies Overton, Ellesmere and Kingsmill are all offering a quick and easy (and pain free!) 'Diabetes Know your Risk' service. This will be backed up with advise leaflets from Diabetes UK giving handy lifestyle hints so that you can reduce your chances of developing this serious condition. If the score recorded for you puts you in the 'at risk' group then they will give you a supporting referral letter to take to your GP.

We have an excellent diabetes nurse and GP with special interest in diabetes in Overton surgery, but prevention is better than 'treatment'! A '5 minute' test could prevent you from developing a life threatening condition! Pop into your local pharmacy NOW – to steal a well worn catch phrase—'You know you are worth it!'

History Group

The History Group welcomes all memories, stories and old photographs of the village. Does anyone recognise this picture?



The group is very informal so do come along to the next meeting September 14th which will be concentrating on memories of Salop Road, 7.30pm upstairs at the White Horse.

Overton Community Council

Overton Community Council purchased a large dustbin for use at the playing field. The caretaker empties the litterbins each day and places the waste into the dustbin. As those of you who regularly use the playing field can imagine there is a large amount of litter collected.

If you see the dustbin out on the Wrexham Road either waiting to be emptied or empty please don't add your refuse from home to it as it takes up leaves less room for the playing field rubbish. Thank you.
Clerk to the Council

Lunch Club

The next Overton Lunch Club is on Wednesday September 8th at 12.30pm at the White Horse.

The menu will be chicken, ham and leek pie with potatoes and vegetables followed by rhubarb crumble all for £6. To book a seat please ring Gwynneth Austin on 01978 710672.

Traffic Calming Working Party

by Jacky Maskall

We requested volunteers to conduct a pedestrian head count from August the 9th to 15th inclusive. We received offers of help from 5 people. We then tried for the following week and 4 of the 5 original volunteers offered their services again. We only required 14 people, each to cover an hour between the hours of 8am to 10pm, on a day of their choosing.

This count was suggested when Community Council members had a site meeting with, amongst others, Aled Roberts, Leader of Wrexham County Borough Council, to show why Overton should be a priority when new speed limits are applied. Aled Roberts suggested that this count be carried out, to add data to the existing information held, which will be taken into consideration when Wrexham starts to look at areas with speeding problems. **Remember** this is your community and **you** requested something be done regarding speeding traffic. If you are not prepared to assist when asked, you cannot then expect your requests to be expedited. Next Traffic Calming meeting is September 20th in the Parish Room.

Friends of St Mary's

The Friends of St Mary's will hold a get-together in the church at 6.30pm on Monday 20th September to thank all those who have supported the fundraising for the fabric of the building during the last few years. If you would like to help, do come along.

WHAT'S ON

September Diary for St Mary's Services

- Sunday September 5th** 11.30am Holy Eucharist
Sunday September 12th 10.00am Coffee & Sunday Praise
Sunday September 19th 11.30am Holy Eucharist
Friday September 24th 2.00pm St Mary's School Harvest service
Sunday September 26th 10.00am Harvest Family Eucharist

September Diary for Methodist Church Services

Sunday Evenings 6.30pm
 Weekly coffee mornings every Saturday at the Methodist Chapel 10.30am till 12.00pm

- Sunday September 26th** 6.30 "Back to Church" Sunday
 Encourage friends and families to join us once again
 Conducted by Rev Chris Pritchard

- Saturday September 4th** The Village Produce Show.
 Doors open at 2.30 pm for viewing. Presentation of Prizes at 4.00pm

- Wednesday September 8th** 12.30pm Lunch Club at the White Horse. Booking required

- Saturday September 11th** The Annual Bowling Club Coffee Morning is to be held in the Village Hall from 10.30am to 12 noon. Tickets are 50p

- Saturday September 11th** 1pm - 4pm St Mary's School Fete. Free entry proceeds to the school.
 7.30pm – till late Food, Music & Firework Display

- Tuesday September 14th 7.30pm** History Group meeting upstairs at White Horse. All welcome

- Tuesday September 14th** Overton Community Council meeting in the Parish Room. Members of the public wishing to speak can do so between 7.20 – 7.30pm.

- Wednesday September 15th 6pm** Bookclub 1 for 11 and 12 year olds at Overton Library

- Thursday September 16th** WI meeting in the Parish Room. Speaker: Nicola Dickson on "Natural Products-Aloe Vera". Competition 'Hanky'.

- Friday September 17th 6pm** Bookclub 2 for 9 to 10 year olds at Overton Library

- Monday September 20th** 7pm Traffic Calming meeting will take place in the Parish Room.

- Friday September 24th 6.30pm** Churches Together Harvest Supper in the Village Hall

- Friday October 1st 7pm** Harvest Festival at Chapel
 Conducted by Mr Tim Guy

- Sunday October 3rd** 6.30pm conducted by Paul Braisdell

- Monday October 4th** 6.30pm Harvest Supper at Chapel.

FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy September Birthdays to Brian Hamlington, Euan Stevenson, Val Stevenson, Ross Morrison, David (Wavy) Williams, Melissa Haynes, Mary Smitheram, Charlotte Eve, Geoff Pritchard, and Kayleigh Grindley.

Belated birthday wishes to Dave Bellis.
 Belated 21st birthday wishes to Gareth Overthrow.

Sincere condolences to the family and friends of Peter Henstock.

SPONSORSHIP

Andy Dodwell is running in the Great North Run on September 19th in aid of the British Heart Foundation. You can sponsor him on

<http://original.justgiving.com/andrewdodwell>

THANK YOU

We want to say a huge thank you to all who donated to the Callum's sky dive fundraiser. It really means a lot to us that people are willing to be so kind and generous to our cause. Thanks to you all we have made a relay good start toward raising the money we need for Callum. And a special thank you to the local shops for being willing to help.

FOR SALE

**The Bowling Club
 Annual Coffee Morning
 is to be held in
 the Village Hall
 on Saturday 11 September 2010.**



PLEASE REMEMBER

Copy deadline 20th of the month. Get your events & news to us early to avoid disappointment
**THIS INCLUDES
 ADVERTISEMENTS**

Leave your contributions, & announcements at the Corner Shop.

Your Oracle Team -

Chairman & Advertising David Burton; **Secretary** Nicole Netzband; **Treasurer** Rob Piggott; **Distribution** Cynthia Davies; Sean Clarke, & Euan Stevenson.

Editor - Jill Burton.

Tel 710631 or e-mail editor@overton-on-dee.co.uk

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