

# The Overton Oracle

Volume 18 Issue 9

September 2016

Overton's Free Newspaper - delivered to every household monthly



## The 44th Overton Village Produce Show



Overton Village Produce Show is to be held at the Village Hall on

**Saturday 3rd September.**

Entries 9.00 am to 11.00 am.

Viewing from 2.30 pm

Presentation of prizes at 4.00 pm

## Coffee Morning

in aid of Overton Bowling

Club on Saturday

September 10th at 10.30am in

the Village Hall



## Next Drop-in



The next Overton

Community Council drop-

in is at the Village Hall on

Saturday September 17th  
from 10.00am to 11.00am.

## Quiz Night

The White Horse's next  
charity quiz night will be

on Thursday 1st

September at 9pm in aid of

'Brake', the road safety charity.

Contact Kev if you would like  
your organisation to benefit from  
a quiz in the future.



White Horse dates for the diary:

Joules brewery tour on Monday

21st November and

Christmas Eve Soul Night

with Soul Sam and Chris Box.

## Number 146 bus service

Many people in Overton and the surrounding villages have been struggling without public transport since the collapse of GHA who operated



bus 146 from Whitchurch to Wrexham. There has been very little information coming from WCBC despite the Community Council constantly asking questions by email and phone, and this lack of information has caused people to worry. Petitions have been signed and a very well attended public meeting organised by 3 Penley residents was held in the White Horse on August 9<sup>th</sup> where people were able to raise their concerns. Overton Community Council has written a long letter to WCBC Cllr. David Bithell voicing the concerns of the residents. Our Assembly Member, Ken Skates will be holding a meeting in the Penley Rainbow Centre on August 23<sup>rd</sup> and all are welcome to attend.

Hopefully by the time the Oracle goes to press there will be good news about a replacement bus but the worry now is that this will be a vastly reduced service. However the '146 Replacement Bus Service Group' intends to attempt negotiations for more buses and Overton Community Council will offer to help.

Thank you to all the car drivers who have been offering lifts to people who need to attend medical appointments, do shopping or just need a change of scenery for a while. Your generosity during this difficult time has not gone unnoticed but sadly there are still people who need help.

*Pene Coles*

## 14 Overtonians visit La Murette



Visits to a chocolate factory, a wine cellar, a prehistoric bear cave, a brewery and a cheese factory, swimming in lakes and swimming pools, walking in beautiful countryside and round delightful towns, playing boules, and joining together with all our French friends for picnics and evening meals; what a delightful July week we were treated to by our hosts in La Murette, the French village that Overton is twinned with.

The 14 representing Overton varied in age from 14 to 82, and everyone of us had a wonderful time. We will begin preparations very soon to welcome up to 20 Muretans from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> July next year, with visits to Old Trafford, Harlech and Chester, bike rides and fun and games in the park pencilled into the programme so far.

In addition, there are several 16 year old French students keen to spend a week in a family while attending the Maelor School and there is a warm welcome in La Murette for any Overton students who would like to

improve their French. If you would like to be involved in the visits, the student exchange, or just to learn more about the Twinning, please contact Sheila Miller on 710823 or any other member of the group.



**More colour photos of the visit on page 6**

## Musings from the Manse

by Rev'd Phillip Poole

Dear friends,  
Temptation is a funny thing sometimes. A man once became very annoyed with his wife because whenever she went out shopping she always came back with a new dress. He told her she should be more concerned about their finances and try to resist any more purchases, but she said it was very difficult as the Devil was always tempting her. Her husband pleaded with her and told her that next time she must say to the Devil, "Get thee behind me Satan", as Jesus had done. A few days later she came back from shopping with yet another new dress, and her husband was furious! "Didn't you tell the Devil to get behind you as I said?" His wife replied, "I did, but when he went behind me he whispered in my ear, 'It looks just as good from back here' so I had to buy it."

We all have a good idea of what is right and wrong; it's instilled in us from childhood, but actually doing what we know is right is much more difficult. And when we fail complications set in as we try to cover up what we have done. We rest easy if we think no one will find out, but the real damage happens somewhere within, with loss of self respect and a gradual paring down of our consciences.

David, the Old Testament King knew all about this. He wanted to please God, but at the same time was painfully aware of his own weaknesses. His Psalms reflect his ongoing struggle, sometimes full of despair, as in Psalm 22, but then at other times reaching the heights of praise, as in the beautiful 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm. David found peace through prayer. In Psalm 51 he confessed his sins and asks for God's help, using words we often echo in our own prayers. And in Psalm 139 he famously prayed: "Search me O God and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

The Bible teaches us to own up to our faults and to forgive one another, and it assures us that God himself is always ready to forgive. He will even help us to forgive ourselves, and for some of us that sense of being forgiven, accepted and at peace is just what we need to help us rediscover the real joy of living.

Best wishes,  
Phil Poole



## Time to remember Christmas

Just a quick up date on our next Overton Am Drams production in the Village Hall in November. Preparations are going well although there is still much to do and volunteers to find.

Rehearsals will start in earnest very soon but male singers are still a little shy at coming forward, more next month.

If you can help contact please email Mervyn on [haynes1954@hotmail.com](mailto:haynes1954@hotmail.com)



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

## Playcentre News

Hard to believe we're in September already! We would like to welcome our new families and children to Playgroup, we hope they settle well and begin to make lots of happy memories with us. We've had a really busy and successful summer holiday club and we would like to thank the staff for their continued hard work over the holidays.

We are delighted to announce that our toddler walk at the end of term raised an amazing £520 for the Playcentre. Thank you so much to everyone who sponsored the children. We would also like to congratulate Nicky Langley on her sky dive in August as part of her Diamond Duke of Edinburgh Challenge. It took a great deal of courage but was an unforgettable experience and she is continuing to raise money for the Playcentre with collection tins in Cup 'n' Saucer and the Playcentre.

Our toddler sessions run from 9-11am on a Tuesday morning. It's a very informal and friendly group for all pre-school ages including babies. We have a craft activity every week, circle time with singing, a snack for the children and grown ups too!

2017 marks our 50th anniversary and we will be starting to make plans for our celebrations very soon and hope to involve lots of you in the village who have been involved with the Playcentre over the years. Watch this space!

A date for your diary is our next Nearly New Sale - 16th October. Sellers packs are now available from the Playcentre or by emailing [overtonNNS@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:overtonNNS@hotmail.co.uk). Pop along if you can either as a seller or as a buyer to pick up some great bargains.

## Winning poster

The picture right was drawn by Seren Dodd and won first prize in a competition organised for St. Mary's School children. It will soon be displayed in various places around the village.

The dog poo situation in the village

has sadly not improved. The path that runs along the side and the rear of St. Mary's School playground is at the moment a hazard. Children who run and skip along this path with gay abandon are very likely to step in something nasty thus taking it home on their shoes. Dog owners, please consider other people.



*Pene Coles*

### St Mary's Baby & Toddler Group



A new term, new toys and a new start time. Starting Monday 5th September we will be open 9.15am to 11.15am every Monday in term time. Join us for play, singing and snack at Overton Scout Hut opposite the park. £2 per child, £1 additional children. All welcome.

### Bangor Scarecrow Competition



Friars Field Community Garden will be holding its Second Annual Scarecrow competition on Saturday 17th September at 11am. After the huge success of the event last year the intention is to again raise much needed funding for the maintenance of the Gardens, but also to allow for future events. Thanks to the

generosity of local businesses and local people last year, we have now been able to introduce a Bespoke Weather Vane, Shrubbery, Specimen Trees and a Dove Cote which is in the process of being made.

To register your Scarecrow for this years event please contact Jo and Jimmy on 01978 780919, or visit our Facebook page - [www.facebook.com/groups/friarsfield](http://www.facebook.com/groups/friarsfield). The cost to enter is £5.00 per Scarecrow. You will then be provided with your entry number. Your entry should be no bigger than 1.5/2metres tall and is to be delivered to the Field for judging on Saturday 17th September before 10am. On the day there will be a prize draw, tombola, name the teddy, count the sweets, plant stalls, cakes and refreshments and lots more for all of the family. Entry fee on the day will be £1 for adults and 50p for children. This includes a drink and piece of cake.

### Letter from The Palace

Sue Foulkes, Chairman of Overton WI has received the following letter from Buckingham Palace.



Dear Mrs Foulkes,  
The Queen has asked me to thank you for your kind letter on the occasion of the events that are being held in Overton to mark Her Majesty's ninetieth birthday, including a celebration tea that was held by the local Women's Institute and an Afternoon Tea on 12th June organised by the Royal British Legion in Overton.

The Queen much appreciated your thoughtfulness in writing as you did and, in return, has asked me to send her warm wishes to you and to all concerned.

Christopher Sandamas  
Chief Clerk to The Queen

### Overton Lunch Club

Overton Lunch Club is on Wednesday 14th Sept. at 12.30pm at the White Horse. The menu will be turkey and ham pie, potatoes and veg with trifle desert - all for £6.25. To book please ring Gwynneth Austin on 01978 710672



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

## Kids Kolumn



Here's a 'back to school' word search

Z	B	T	S	C	E	R	R	N	S
B	A	E	I	R	U	U	O	F	C
S	C	B	R	L	E	T	L	Y	H
N	K	U	E	A	E	K	T	G	O
O	P	R	Z	B	S	Q	R	M	O
Y	A	S	O	I	D	E	R	A	L
A	C	O	I	G	L	S	R	N	M
R	K	S	R	O	S	S	I	C	S
C	P	E	N	C	I	L	S	P	S
E	T	S	A	P	M	A	G	S	U

scissors  
backpack  
ruler  
crayons  
pencils  
eraser  
paste  
glue  
notebook  
markers  
school

### Protect and Preserve our Village

The second meeting of the newly formed Overton Protection and Preservation Society was held on August 19<sup>th</sup>. The society was formed following the WCBC consultation on the Local Development Plan when it was felt that there is an important need to protect and preserve Overton's unique character and charm.



The society will do its best to safeguard our beautiful village where we live, work and play. A public meeting will be held on Tuesday September 20<sup>th</sup> in the White Horse at 7.30pm and everyone is invited to attend.

### Gardening

The Overton Community Gardening Group will be holding their next meeting on September 1st at 8pm outside the Scout Hut. We will be watering the wicking boxes and making a plan of action for the coming month. We will meet inside the Scout Hut if the weather is bad and will conclude the meeting with a visit to the White Horse. New members will be welcomed warmly. For further details ring Pene - 01978 710598



### Overton Cricket Fixtures in September

3rd - Quayside - Away - 1.00pm  
10th - Hinstock - Home - 1.00pm  
17th - St Georges 3 - Home - 1.00pm



### 'Majors and Minors'

The Overton Musicians will re-group and meet on the second Sunday in the month in the White Horse. We will now be known as 'Majors and Minors' and will take the form of a folk or session group. Come and meet us and join in with the music on Sunday September 11th at 2pm in our local pub.

## Stay & Play Sessions



Sing and Sign will begin a new term in Overton on Monday 19 September. A key part of these sessions and my classes is to enable parents to socialise at a time when they can feel isolated and confused by the journey of parenthood. Classes will be held in the Parish Room next to the Village Hall and Library. Babes Class for littles aged 0-6 months will be at 10am and Stage 1 Class for littles aged 6-14 months will be at 10.45am. This is a 10 week term which can be booked via our Facebook Page. Find us on Facebook for more information on *'Sing & Sign Denbighshire and South Wrexham'*



## Penley Art Group Exhibition

Saturday & Sunday 1st & 2nd October  
10am to 4pm daily.  
Original works and cards for sale at  
The Rainbow Centre, Penley



## Carol's 70th Birthday - A Big Thank You

I would like to thank everyone for the cards, presents and best wishes I received. I had a fab time and I think a good night was had by all. A special thank you to my daughter Janene and grandchildren Georgie and Hugo for everything they did to make my birthday special. A big thank you to my son-in-law Jonny Bell for putting up and taking down the marquee so it could all take place at the pub. Thank you everyone.

Carol

## Open Studio



As part of the North Wales Open Studio event Helfa Gelf, Rachel Harris is opening her Overton studio at 1, Maelor Court on Saturdays 10th & 17th of September 11 - 5pm and Friday 16th 7-9pm.

Rachel's textile creations often using upcycled flotsam and jetsam from the sea shore and family life have been exhibited in Undegun, Wrexham, Blossoms Gallery, Aberystwyth. and a solo exhibition in Wrexham Library.



So join Rachel in her studio, enjoy cake and a cuppa, try your hand at some craft and take the opportunity to have a sneak preview of Dead Man's Gold by local author David Harris prior to the book launch later this year! For further details of Rachel's open studio event as well as other artists do go to [www.helfagelf.co.uk](http://www.helfagelf.co.uk)

Rachel will also be working on a new project as Artist in Residence with St Mary's Church in Overton throughout September and October on Tuesdays between 11-3pm where she will be using the sacred space to inspire a new body of work. Please do drop in and join Rachel or pop in to view the work in progress throughout the 2 months during normal church open times. As part of the Residency, Rachel would be pleased to hear from individuals or groups who would like to work with her during this project.

Contact details are email [racheltextilepoet@gmail.com](mailto:racheltextilepoet@gmail.com) or Tel: 07778 122801



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## Hanging Baskets

The Village Hanging Basket Competition was judged on August 14th by Mick Smith, owner of Overton based business Wildbanks Conservation. The winner was the White Horse for the best display, using an interesting variety of



flowers. Karen Richards came a very close second with the most spectacular entry.



Nearly all the entrants chose to donate their £5 entry money to the Dementia Society while the White Horse chose Enfy's Ward at Wrexham Maelor Hospital as their beneficiary.

The aim of the competition was to fill the village streets with flowers while raising money for charity and it is hoped that next year even more residents will take part.

## Crossing the Dee - Part 2

Village people did not travel a lot in the old days but supposing you wanted to attend one of the thrice-weekly markets in Wrexham, how would Overtonians have crossed the river before Overton Bridge was built? One obvious way, like the 146 bus route, would have been via Bangor-on-Dee, over the old bridge and on to Marchwiell. A second, and today not so obvious route ran from the junction of Argoed Lane and Wrexham Road across the fields to Home Farm and Maes Gwaelod, along Asney Lane to Asney Cottages and on to the river. If you look to the left as you come up the hill from Overton bridge you can still see the outline in the field bank. Then at Dutford Ford it crossed the shallow water of the Dee diagonally to a small road which still runs to meet the main road opposite Eyton Manor Farm, though half of it is now closed. From there it followed the present main road to Marchwiell.

From the 15th century there was a stone bridge, similar to the one at Bangor-on-Dee, near the Cross Foxes Inn. It's position was upstream of the present bridge, the road from Wrexham running past the pub and then around a sharp steep corner down to the bridge. (see picture) On the other side of the river the road would have come up what is now the drive of Minyrafon. Thomas Pennant says "The bridge consists of two neat arches and was first built of stone by the munificence of Gwenhwyvar, a maiden lady of Eyton." In "Overton in Days Gone By" by John Howson it says "*The old bridge at Overton was so narrow that two carts could not pass on it, and so low that when the river was swollen a man could dip his hand into the water from the top of it. It had on each side a low wooden rail*

*which we called the battlement. I once saw the lead horse of the stage coach in taking the Turn (on the Denbighshire side) run with their forelegs over the rail and the coach, horses and passengers all fall into the river*". The bridge was replaced in about 1814 by Thomas Penson. (1790–1859) His father (also Thomas Penson) was the County Surveyor for Flintshire but was sacked when the new Overton bridge which he had designed with one arch, collapsed. His son designed the replacement (our present bridge) with two arches and shortly afterwards designed the north aisle of St Mary. The new bridge was downstream of the previous bridge and much higher, with a large embankment created on either bank to reduce the gradient of the road on each side.

Ken Farrell



## Hosting

Over the last 6 years, my family has been involved with Llangollen's International Musical Eisteddfod by hosting competitors, alongside a number of other Overton village residents. Most recently, we have had groups from Singapore, America, Poland, Albania and Czech Republic. During these visits we have the chance not only to meet new people and make new friends, but also to learn about their cultures. I have found hosting to be a most enjoyable experience, as no matter the culture, language, or age, each person I've met has been so friendly and grateful to us for enabling them to learn more about this country by engaging fully with a family environment.

As a host, a new dynamic is added to the Eisteddfod experience, one that ties me to a group and makes me root for their success. An enormous amount of work goes into taking care of the groups on and off the field, and I appreciate so much more the journey they've undertaken to get to the stage of one of the toughest musical competitions in Wales. Towards the end of the groups' stay, the hosts and competitors get together for food and drink, to enable the visitors to thank the hosts for their hospitality, whilst also giving the hosts a better chance to get to know more members of the performing group and enjoy the groups' talents.

The current hosts are a close-knit, friendly group, who would recommend the experience to anyone, and would love to welcome newcomers. This is a unique experience which allows us to learn more about, and experience worldwide cultures. The Eisteddfod takes place each year throughout the first full week of July; with hosting responsibilities starting generally from the Tuesday, and ending on the Sunday morning. If you have beds to spare, even if only one, and are interested in hosting in the future, please call Carol Dykes on 01978 710 794 for more information as we would love to know there are people interested in the opportunity for future years.

Sarah-Jane Hellingman

## Iyengar Yoga at The White Horse

For complete beginners and those with experience. Starts Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2016 at 5.30-6.30pm in The Function Room. Drop-in £7.00 per class or monthly discount.

Iyengar Yoga has many Health and Wellbeing benefits. Research and studies found that many common complaints can be helped and alleviated by Yoga. Respiratory conditions; pain; stiffness; arthritis; balance; back pain; blood pressure; heart disease; weight - and many more. Recent studies show that Dog Down (Adho Mukha Svanasana) is more beneficial for warding off memory issues than doing puzzles!

Just pop in or contact Maisie Langridge on 01978355167 07910484461 or email [maisie\\_mouse@hotmail.com](mailto:maisie_mouse@hotmail.com)

More photos from Twinning groups 2016 visit to La Murette



## Congratulations

Congratulations to Gerry Owen's daughter, Jill Pugh on being awarded Volunteer of the Year award for NW area of the British Heart Foundation. Pictured here with her award & sister Jan Tinsley.



## Overton Royal British Legion 100 Club

Results of the "100 Club" draw for August.

83 members entered and the draw was made at the RBL meeting on the 10th August by Pene Cole.

Winners -

1st Prize £166.00 No 5 Anne Billington

2nd Prize £83.00 No 63 Gerald O'Shaughnessy

3rd Prize £41.50 No 83 Lucy Roberts

Legion Fund: £124.50

Next Draw Sept 14<sup>th</sup>

A few membership places still available, open to everyone, not just RBL members. If you wish to join please ring Dave Austin Tel: 01978 710678

*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.*

## What's On

### September Diary for St Mary's Services

Sunday September 4<sup>th</sup> 10.00am Family Village Praise  
 Wednesday September 7<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm Evening Prayer  
 Sunday September 11<sup>th</sup> 11.30am Holy Communion  
 3.00pm Messy Church in the Scout Hut  
 Sunday September 18<sup>th</sup> 10.00am Family Communion  
 Sunday September 25<sup>th</sup> 11.30am Holy Communion

### September Diary for Overton Methodist Chapel

Sunday September 4<sup>th</sup> 6.30pm Mr Tim Guy  
 Sunday September 11<sup>th</sup> 6.30pm Mr Carl Squires  
 Sunday September 18<sup>th</sup> 6.30pm Holy Communion Rev Poole  
 Sunday September 25<sup>th</sup> 11am All Age Worship Mr Nigel Burns

#### Harvest Weekend

Friday September 30<sup>th</sup> 7.00pm Rev Richard Hall  
 Sunday October 2<sup>nd</sup> 6.30pm Mr David Pickstone  
 Monday October 3<sup>rd</sup> 6.30pm Harvest Supper

**Every Saturday** 10.30am-12 noon Weekly Coffee Mornings  
 at the Methodist Chapel

**Every Wednesday** 10.30am St Mary's Coffee Morning and  
 Get-together in church for Nightingale House.

**Thursday September 1st** 10.30am - 2.30pm Rainbow  
 Centre Lunch & Learn. "Yoga and Sound"

**Thursday September 1st** 8pm Community Gardening Group  
 meeting on September 1st at the Scout Hut.

**Thursday September 1st** 9.00pm Charity Quiz Night at the  
 White Horse in aid of 'Brake' Road Safety charity

**Saturday September 3rd** 2.30pm Overton Village Produce  
 Show in the Village Hall

**Thursday September 8th** 7.00pm Erbistock WI meeting at  
 Stan's Superstore, St Martins. Speaker Mr Andrew  
 Ffoulkes on the family business

**Friday September 9th** 7.15pm for 7.30pm Maelor Belles WI  
 at the Rainbow Centre. Needle felting workshop

**Saturday September 10th** 10.30pm Overton Bowling Club  
 Coffee Morning in the Village Hall

**Sunday September 11th** 2pm "Majors & Minors" group  
 meeting in the White Horse

**Tuesday September 13th** 7.30pm Overton Community  
 Council meeting in the Parish Room. Members of  
 the public wishing to speak - 7.20pm-7.30pm.

**Tuesday September 13th** 7pm for 7.30pm start. Bingo  
 evening at the Rainbow Centre, Penley.

**Wednesday September 14th** 10.30am Overton British  
 Legion meeting at the Scout Hut. All welcome.

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

**Thursday September 15th** 7.30pm Overton WI meeting in  
 the Parish Room. Speaker: Lucy Hockenhall with a  
 Sugarcraft Demonstration

**Saturday September 17th** 10am to 11am Overton  
 Community Council Drop-in at the Village Hall

**Tuesday September 20th** 7.30pm Public meeting for  
 OPPS in White Horse

## Family Announcements



Congratulations to Rob & Nicole on the birth of  
 Liesel Meadow Netzband-Piggott, a sister for  
 Logan.

**Happy September Birthdays** to Lucas  
 Pimparel, Brian Hamlington, Ken Farrell,  
 Euan Stevenson, Val Stevenson, Ross  
 Morrison, David (Wavy) Williams, Melissa Haynes,  
 Charlotte Eve, Pauline Lynch, Kayleigh Grindley,  
 Haf and Aoife Edwards, Laura Marks, Myra  
 Worthington, Holly Lynch, Pauline Edwards, Dave  
 Austin and Marion Sinclair.



**Happy 21st birthday** to Amy Leech

**Happy 50th birthday** to Simon Edwards, Rob  
 Lawrenson and Stephen Evison.

**Belated happy 1st birthday** to Freddie Huxley.  
 love from Mum, Dad and Nana Pauline.

**Sincere condolences** to the family and friends of  
 Jill Jones who passed away in August.

## For Sale

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**the previous month. Get**  
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**The Overton Oracle is printed and supported by "Business Print & Design" Wrexham. Tel. No. 01978 664726  
 e-mail: [info@bpandd.co.uk](mailto:info@bpandd.co.uk)**

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