

# The Overton Oracle

Volume 23 Issue 9

September 2021

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



At the time of going to press Overton is subject to all Wales Covid-19 Alert Level 0, but still use your common sense!

The latest information is available on <https://gov.wales/coronavirus> or on <https://www.wrexham.gov.uk/coronavirus>

If you need assistance email - [volunteer@overton-on-dee.co.uk](mailto:volunteer@overton-on-dee.co.uk)

## Overton Recreational Football Club Race Night

Saturday 18th September at 8.00pm  
Details on page 2.

Cash prizes and much more  
If you played for Overton St Mary's or Overton Athletic your support for this event would be gratefully appreciated. A warm reception and chance to reminisce and chat with players of the present and future. We look forward to seeing you.

## Flu Vaccination at Overton Rowlands Pharmacy

More information to follow in the October issue of the Oracle but please ask, as of now, in the Overton Rowlands Pharmacy or call us on 01978 710241 to arrange your appointment for this year's seasonal flu vaccination.

## Green bins

If you haven't already signed up for the 2021/2022 garden waste collection service you'll need to do it as soon as possible to get your green bin emptied.



Go to the website [wrexham.gov.uk/gardenwaste](http://wrexham.gov.uk/gardenwaste) or ring 01978 298989. The charge has been frozen at £25 per green bin per year.

## Three Peaks Challenge

Three local lads, Jack Aplin, George Done and Jake Dodwell, have completed a truly mountainous adventure - the Three Peaks Challenge, that is climbing the highest peaks in each of the 3 mainland nations - Ben Nevis in Scotland, Scafell Pike in England and Snowdon in Wales - **all within 24 hours!**

They were carrying on the tradition of Jack's dad, Gary Aplin who sadly passed away in January, but who completed many fundraising challenges including bike riding from the Senedd, Cardiff to St Mary's School Overton in 2008 to raise funds for Overton children. Supported and chauffeured by Andy Dodwell, Richard Done and Nick Harrison,



they drove to Fort William and completed Ben Nevis in record time. A stressful drive to the Lake District meant setting off up Scafell Pike at 3am, completed in four and a half hours. Then back in the van heading south on the M6 and A55 to climb Snowdon, via the Pyg Track to celebrate on the summit with a bottle of Prosecco. The whole challenge was completed in 23 hours 10 mins! a fantastic achievement.

Jack, George and Jake are raising money in memory of Gary for the charity StrongMen who provide support to men suffering emotional and/or physical problems following bereavement. You can donate by logging on to:

[www.justgiving.com/fundraising/3-peaksforgazza](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/3-peaksforgazza)



## Overton Medical Practice Update

Overton Medical Practice will be commencing flu immunisations on the September 18th for patients 65 years and over and those in clinical risk groups. If you have not already received an appointment please contact reception to arrange one. During the flu clinics the front car park will be closed for patient safety. Please kindly attend at your allocated time to prevent unnecessary queuing. We highly recommend flu vaccination in these groups as it protects both you and those around you.

At this time we have confirmed expression of interest in delivering Cov-Sars-2 vaccine boosters to our patients and await further information and direction from Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board on when and how any locally administered boosters will be available?

Recent news coverage may have alerted you to the national shortage of blood sample vials. At this time we are under instruction that all Primary Care and Community blood testing must be halted until 17th September 2021, other than for emergency. Direction has been provided to GPs concerning what is considered an emergency requirement.

## Musings from the Manse

by Rev'd Phillip Poole



Dear Friends,

Earlier in August Lisa and I spent a few days in Cardiff, staying in a hotel overlooking the bay. The weather was gloriously hot and we enjoyed ice-creams by the water, a boat trip around the bay and visits to some of the city's highlights. We were grateful for the opportunity to enjoy some down-time, and the chance to take in some new sights and sounds.

The Gospels show us that even Jesus sometimes needed time away from the crowds and the pressures of his life, and he wanted his disciples to rest and to find peace too. Having sent them out in pairs to do the work of the Kingdom he welcomed them back with these words, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest." (Mark 6:31)

Eighteen months into the pandemic I believe we are all feeling tired; worn down by the changes we are having to endure, and the worry of it all. So I do hope that you are able to rest when you need to. Jan Struther's hymn, "Lord of all Hopefulness" ends with the words:

"Be there at our sleeping, and give us we pray,  
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day."

I believe peace in our hearts is worth more than gold or silver, and we can find it even in the midst of our busy lives when we learn to be still and rest in God's presence. King David knew this and even though he was surrounded by conflict he was able to say in Psalm 62, "Truly my soul finds rest in God." In the more famous Psalm 23 David imagined himself resting in a green pasture beside a gently flowing stream, "The Lord's my Shepherd, I shall not want..." Perhaps when we pray we should begin by seeking that inner place of peace. No words are required – just a willingness to be still and open to God. The place of prayer is a place where we can rest and let God's presence touch us, refresh us and make us whole again. Here is a green pasture for you to rest in - and still waters for you to lie beside.

God bless you,  
*Phil*

Rev'd. Phillip Poole  
Overton Methodist Church

## Traffic through the village

Be aware that from September 1st for up to 18 months! there will be work on the A483 between Ruabon to Halton junctions, with sometimes the road being closed, hopefully in the evening and night. The alternative route, the B5605 through Newbridge, is closed as the road has collapsed near Pentre.

The A483 diversion will be through the centre of Llangollen in order to cross the river, but for those who know the area, this is going to create an increase in traffic through Overton.

## Overton Art Group

Are you interested in Art? Why not join Overton Art group ?

We are a small informal group of people with mixed interests and abilities. Advice and guidance given. Guest Tutors attend several times a year.

We meet each Monday morning at the Catholic Hall 10.00am to 12.30pm. You are most welcome to join us.

Ring Ann on 01978 710327 for more information.



## Bell ringing news



Listen for the bells ringing at St Mary's Church, Overton.

On September 4th at 10.30am, we are going to attempt to ring a Quarter Peal in memory of Reg and June Jones, both bell ringers at St Mary's. Their two sons Richard and Gareth will be there too.

On September 11th between 4.30pm and 5.30pm the North Wales Association of Church Bell Ringers will be holding a branch association ringing event in St Mary's. This may the first time it's ever been held in Overton.

## OVERTON RECREATIONAL CLUB

Join us for  
**RACE NIGHT**  
On the big screen

Recorded races - Lots of competitive fun!

**SAT 18TH SEPTEMBER**

Doors open 7pm - First race 8pm

**In aid of Overton Recreational Football Club**

HORSES FOR SALE - £3 EACH OWNERS OF THE WINNING HORSE WILL WIN £10  
TO SPONSOR A RACE FOR £25 CONTACT PAUL EDWARDS OR THE CLUB  
FREE ADVERT FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES WILL BE ADDED TO RACE CARD



**Overton on Dee W.I. News**

Overton-on-Dee W.I. enjoyed **theWI** INSPIRING WOMEN their August Meeting - a Picnic In the Barn - and were blessed with fine weather after an afternoon of heavy rain.

We are all excited at the prospect of recommencing Meetings in the Village Hall from next month, where we will be holding a members' Flower & Produce Show and entertainment will be provided by Gabriela The Ukulele Lady. Although we are still in late summer, we are putting plans in place for the Village Handicraft Show in May 2022 and of course the return of our Village Flower and Produce Show in September 2022, and will endeavour to make these Shows extra special.

Anyone growing tomatoes and being lucky enough to have enough for the following recipe won't be disappointed - this is a delicious chutney.

**TOMATO CHUTNEY**

Ingredients:

900g / 2lbs tomatoes, skinned  
225g / 8oz raisins or dried dates  
225g / 8oz onion, chopped  
225g / 8oz caster sugar (more if tomatoes unripe)

600ml / 1pt malt vinegar (or red or sherry vinegar)

Method:

Chop the tomatoes roughly and put into preserving pan. Add the raisins, onions and sugar.

Stir and add the vinegar, bring to the boil and simmer gently for approx 2 hours until soft and thickened.

Transfer to sterilised jars, seal, and store in a dark cool place, leaving to mature for at least 1 month. The chutney will keep for 1 year, refrigerate after opening.

**Would you like to support St Mary's?**

This last year or so has been so difficult for all of us and it has been for St Mary's and our Christian community here in Overton. Already experiencing financial difficulties, the pandemic has reduced our income considerably. Closed for a while and unable to undertake any fundraising, our resources are significantly depleted. We may struggle to keep going without increased support. We have decided to launch an appeal to raise awareness and ensure we can be in a sound position for generations to come.

**Support St Mary's**

We are calling it **Support St Mary's**, but it is not just about money. It's about everything that could make your church stronger and more resilient. We will be appealing for people to offer their Time and Talents, as well as financial support. St Mary's is for everyone in the village and community. You are all welcome to be baptised, married or to hold a loved one's funeral here. And of course, join us for worship and prayer whenever you want to. Please consider whether you can help us to keep St Mary's going for many more years. Look out for our campaign.

**Our new website**

It's there for you to use too. It contains info about the church and forthcoming services and events. From now on you can also use it to announce your special services, such as Weddings, Baptisms, Memorial Services and Funerals. You can also pay tribute to a loved one passed away recently, or years ago, on our special Memoriam page. This is a free service. Just send any details to Rev Peter Mackriell [revpeter@maelormissionarea.uk](mailto:revpeter@maelormissionarea.uk) or Jo Kember [overton@maelormissionarea.uk](mailto:overton@maelormissionarea.uk)

Please let us know if you have any other suggestions.

**Would you like to join our mailing list?**

If you would like us to keep in touch with you, sending out this Newsletter and details of What's On, let us have your email details and we will add you to our mailing list – just email [overton@maelormissionarea.uk](mailto:overton@maelormissionarea.uk)

**Open Farm Day with the Alpacas**

Mulberry Alpacas, Red Hall Lane near Overton, are thrilled to be open again and they are supporting the British Alpaca Society's Open Farm Day on Saturday 4th September.

They will be open from 10.00am to 4.00pm and the £3 entry fee will be donated to the Severn Hospice. With the help of the Ellesmere Severn Hospice Support Group they will be offering a cuppa, a cake and a cuddle with an alpaca!

Mulberry Alpacas now have 17 beautiful alpacas including two cute babies - Olive and Ozzie.

Visit the shop and find some great alpaca gifts from alpaca socks to alpaca duvets. There will be a "Take a Selfie with an alpaca" competition, "Guess the weight of the alpaca" competition and a quiz for the children.

Come & see the alpacas!

**Open Day**  
**Saturday 4th Sept.**  
**10-4pm**  
**Entry £3**

**Red Hall Lane,**  
**Penley,**  
**Wrexham,**  
**LL130NA**  
**01978 710224**

**PIC•COLLAGE**

## The Overton Footprints

For all those who haven't heard it for a while, or for those new to the village, here's the story, as researched by John Wright. At the side of the A528 road to Wrexham, at the top of the hill just past the junction with Argoed Lane, are supposed to be 2 places in the shape of footprints where the grass will not grow! In the 'Looking Back' column of the Wrexham Leader in December 1969, a number of theories were examined as to the origin of the Overton footprints. Some believe it marks the spot where a huntsman was thrown from his horse and killed. A second theory is that it marks where a drunken man strangled himself in the railings; and thirdly, there is a belief that the old tradition of making a mark or cutting where a death has occurred was carried out here to prevent the spirit of the dead person from haunting the spot. This custom originated in medieval days.

The second theory has some truth. In 1881 an inquest was held into the mysterious death of John Brown, aged 57, a gamekeeper to Mr Peel at Bryn y Pys who was found dead with his body hanging strangely wrapped through the iron railings at this spot. John lived at Nant Cottages in Erbistock, but had been seen having a drink at the Bryn y Pys pub, Salop Road, but was not drunk. Witnesses said he started to walk home with other gamekeepers but stopped to rest and they walked on. John Brown's way home would have been High Street and Wrexham Road to just past the junction with Argoed Lane, where he would turn left on a path along the side of Overton Lodge grounds, through Holt Wood below Dee Bank Cottage to Mill House to cross the river by boat or the weir.

The inquest was told that he was a quiet married man with a family but that he had previously suffered several fits. Several people had heard noises. Witness, Jane Clay, said she was going along the road with her two children on Sunday night when she saw something lying against the iron railings on the path. She could not see what it was but it looked white. She heard a moan and called

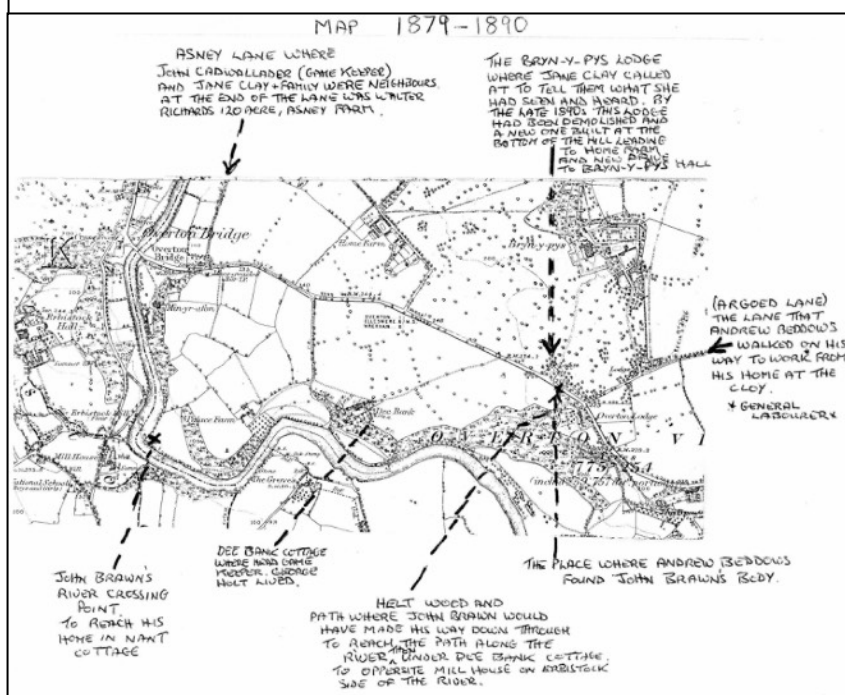


The footmarks at Overton

at Bryn y Pys Lodge to tell the occupants what she had seen. (In 1881 Bryn y Pys lodge was at the top of the hill, now demolished and replaced by the lodge at the bottom of the hill). However the occupants did not want to go and investigate so Mrs Clay and her children went home. Another cottager said she and her husband had heard terrible cries at about midnight on the Sunday, but were afraid to venture out believing the cries to be those of a Banshee.

Witness Andrew Beddow said he was going to work at 5.30am on the following Monday morning when he saw the body hanging through the iron railings, quite dead. He fetched assistance and word was sent to the police. Mr Beddow did not think Mr Brown had suffered any violence. Acting Sergeant Burton also reported that the deceased did not seem to have been molested, and so an open verdict was returned.

And a legend began!



## Congratulations

Happy 60<sup>th</sup> Diamond wedding anniversary to Alan and Barbara Palmer. of 22 Salop Road who celebrated on 9<sup>th</sup> August.

With love and congratulations from all family and friends.



## Oracle AGM

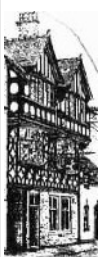
The Overton Oracle will be holding its first AGM for a while on Tuesday September 21st at 7pm in the Function Room of the White Horse. The Oracle is there for local people, organisations & businesses to spread information and news. Everyone is most welcome to come along to support the village's newspaper in its 23rd year.

## Cancellation

The Friends of St Mary's Church regret that due to a change in circumstances, the party at the Brow in aid of St Mary's Church which they had hoped to organise on 14th September, will have to be cancelled. But it is hoped that it will be reorganised in the future.



## What's on at the White Horse



It's hard to believe but on 15<sup>th</sup> August we celebrated the end of our first year at the White Horse with our first live band. It's been an interesting but fun first year and we can't thank you all enough for all the support and laughs along the way.

September is going to be another month of fun with something for everyone. We have live music on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> September, quiz nights on 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> September, and cash bingo on 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> September. We're serving a Saturday Brunch menu from 11:30am - 1:30pm on 18<sup>th</sup> September and a Greek themed menu in our restaurant on 25<sup>th</sup> September. Highlight of the month will be our afternoon with Billy Shannon on 19<sup>th</sup> September – singing hits from the 50s and 60s including Del Shannon and Billy Fury, you really don't want to miss him!

## Overton Wildlife Group

**Volunteer days** The July volunteer day saw us raking cut grass on the graveyard extension field, and planting over 1,000 wildflower plug plants. It was tough going, with the ground hard from the heat, however the rain that followed means the plug plants have had a good watering in. Hopefully next year the bright blue of chicory, yellow of agrimony and purple pink of red champion will spread across the area. Additionally plug plants of low growing flowers were added to the meadow within the grounds of St Mary's Church. These will add to the flowers already within the lawn, such as germander speedwell and cat's ear. The next volunteer day is on the 25<sup>th</sup> September. If you want to get involved please get in touch on 07725224151 or email [katharine.piercy@googlemail.com](mailto:katharine.piercy@googlemail.com)



**Meadow cuts** It may seem counter intuitive to cut down flowers in order to help wildlife, but at the end of the summer that's exactly what we do. Between mid-July and September the meadows need to be cut and the cuttings removed. Cutting too early would mean the flowers haven't been able to go to seed and there would be less the following year, whereas not cutting at all causes denser grasses to dominate over time, the wildflowers becoming shaded out. Grass that is left long over winter also has a benefit though, providing hibernating spots for insects and foraging habitat for birds and mammals. Yet for a wildflower meadow dense with oxeye daisies, black knapweed and bird's foot trefoil, a cut is essential.

**A big thank you** to Mary Williams who has donated large amounts of flowers from her garden to be planted in the community garden by St Mary's church, a fresh shot of colour this summer.

*Katie Piercy*

## Growers update

**Competitions** The growers will be judging the 'best hanging basket' and 'largest sunflower head' in mid September. We can hopefully see most of these with a walk around the village but to make sure we don't miss anyone out please contact Barry Metcalfe by 4<sup>th</sup> September at [b.metcalfe443@btinternet.com](mailto:b.metcalfe443@btinternet.com) or text 07960-717957 - include your name and address and what you are entering.



**Volunteering** We will be starting weekly volunteer evenings in September to help keep on top of all the little areas around the village, Mondays 6.00 to 7.00pm, meeting in the car park wildlife garden. Please come and join us, we always need more help, especially after this funny year of not being able to meet up. Gardening has loads of physical and mental health benefits so come and say hello and ask us gardening questions; we love a chat while we weed! Contact us [overtongrowers@gmail.com](mailto:overtongrowers@gmail.com) or stay updated by joining our Facebook page: 'Overton on Dee Community Growers'. I'd like to thank all the growers who have stuck at it this year despite the sporadic meetings and worked hard on their various areas around the village. Everything was flowering beautifully in August, looking great and feeding pollinators.

**Apple pressing day** We hope to be able to organise our annual apple pressing day (and go ahead with it Covid permitting) in early October. So save up your apples during September and you can bring them along to be juiced. You can then take the juice home, donate it to us or we can advise you how make it into cider. Details will be announced nearer the time via Facebook & posters.

*Claire Latham*

**Summer of Fun!** This summer has been the busiest Summer Holiday Club that Overton Playcentre has ever known! Children of all ages from 2yrs to 10/12 yrs have been coming to play with us all summer long. We have had lovely comments like "I want to stay here for EVER" and children booked in for extra days because they want more! We have been doing all sorts of activities, sandcastles in the huge sandpit with children standing on them as the moat fills up with water, "This is like the Beach!", water play with huge gutters transporting water around the yard, bubbles small and enormous. We've played rounders and football; we've painted huge sheets of paper and printed large cloth pieces, and of course toys and games, puzzles and books, chill out tent, have come out all summer! Craft included windmills, loom bands and much more! We also worked with Overton Library to bring us the fantastic summer reading challenge! Even more exciting has been the 'Summer of Fun Grant' that we were very pleased to be awarded. Simon, the animal man (Corner Exotics) came with his snakes, frogs, lizards, hedgehog, chinchillas not forgetting the spiders!! Xplore came from Wrexham and brought a Science adventure including egg challenges, slime making and a portable 'x-ray machine' with skeletons, bones and other exciting things!! plus Red Dragon adventure with Archery and Bushcraft for the day! And the fun doesn't stop there! October Half Term is coming up so do phone 01978 710688 to book your places for half term fun too!



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

*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 WI Barn Picnic



### More photos from Overton Playcentre Animal Man's visit



### Overton Royal British Legion 120 Club

Results of the "120 Club" Draw for August 2021. 119 members entered and the draw was made on 12th August 2021. Winning numbers were selected by Mr Peter Furber. **Winners -**

1st Prize	£238.00	No 31	Jill Burton
2nd Prize	£119.00	No 51	Sheila Matthews
3rd Prize	£ 59.50	No 63	Gerald O'Shaughnessy
Legion Fund: £178.50			

### CONGRATULATIONS

**Next Draw will be on Thursday 9th September 2021**

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



## What's On

### September Diary for St Mary's & St Hilary's

Sun. Sept 5<sup>th</sup> 10am All Age Worship 11am Holy Communion  
 Sun. Sept 12<sup>th</sup> 11am Holy Communion 9.45am Morning Prayer  
 Sun. Sept 19<sup>th</sup> 11am Morning Prayer 9.45am Holy Communion  
 Sun. Sept 26<sup>th</sup> 11am Holy Communion 9.45am Morning Prayer  
 HARVEST FESTIVAL at St Mary's is 17th October 11am

Every week:

Wednesdays 9.15 am Holy Communion

For all service details see

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

### September Diary for Overton Methodist Chapel

Sunday Sept 5<sup>th</sup> 6.30pm Rev. Neville Pugh  
 Sunday Sept 12<sup>th</sup> 6.30pm Mr. Phil Edwards  
 Sunday Sept 19<sup>th</sup> 6.30pm Rev Phil Poole Holy Communion  
 Sunday Sept 26<sup>th</sup> 6.30pm Mr David Young

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

**Saturday September 4th** 10am-4pm Open Farm Day with the Mulberry Alpacas, Red Hall Lane.

**Monday September 6th** 7.30pm Quiz Night at the White Horse

**Thursday September 9th** 7.00pm Royal British Legion Meeting at the Village Hall

**Saturday September 11th** 10.30am-3pm Overton on Dee WI hosts Shropshire Federation of WI's Ramble, from and back to the Village Hall

**Monday September 13th** 10.00am-2.00pm Craft & Create and a spot of lunch at Penley Rainbow Centre. Booking essential, 01948 830730

**Tuesday September 14th** Cash Bingo at the White Horse

**Thursday September 16th** 7.00pm Overton WI meeting in the Village Hall. Mini Produce Show and entertainment.

**Saturday September 18th** 8.00pm Race Night at Overton Recreational Football Club

**Sunday September 19th** An afternoon with Billy Shannon with hits of the 50s ad 60s at the White Horse

**Monday September 20th** 7.30pm Quiz Night at the White Horse

**Tuesday September 21st** 7.00pm Overton Oracle AGM in the Function Room of the White Horse. All welcome.

**Friday September 24th** Macmillan Coffee Mornings, find one on <https://coffee.macmillan.org.uk/about/search/>

**Saturday September 25th** Wildlife Group Volunteer day

**Tuesday September 28th** Cash Bingo at the White Horse

## Thank you

Thanks to everyone who sent me cards, and gave me presents for my birthday. I had a lovely day.

*Miranda Austin.*

## Family Announcements

**Congratulations** to Emma Birrell and Ben Willmott on their marriage at Bangor-on-Dee Racecourse on the 25th September.

**Congratulations** to Dani Jones and Tajay on the birth of their baby son, a first grandchild for Tom and Debbie Jones and nephew for Mikey.

**Congratulations** to Kevin and Lisa Owen on the birth of their baby son Finlay, a new brother for Kaisey and grandson for Pauline Edwards.

**Congratulations** to Roger Glover and Kait Hughes on the birth of a daughter, Penny Evelyn, a sister for Rory and James. Lots of love, Sue and James Glover and family.

**Congratulations** to Charlotte and Alex in Toronto on the birth of our first grandson Alfie. Love from John and Catherine Eve.

**Congratulations** to Eleri and Wayne on the birth of their beautiful daughter, Willow Farley-Morris, on August 15<sup>th</sup>. A little sister for Aeddán and gorgeous granddaughter for Alan & Glynis Farley.

**Happy September Birthdays** to Hannah Roberts, Lucas Pimparel, Brian Hamlington, Euan Stevenson, Val Stevenson, Ross Morrison, David (Wavy) Williams, Melissa Haynes, Charlotte Eve, Pauline Lynch. Kayleigh Cheshire, Haf and Aoife Edwards, Laura Marks, Myra Worthington, Holly Lynch, Pauline Edwards, Marion Sinclair, Amy Leech, Simon Edwards, Rob Lawrenson, Stephen Evison, Sarah Fell-Groom, Ian Roberts, Vince Worthington, and Jean Hughes.

**Happy 80th birthday** to Dave Austin.

**Sincere condolences** to the family and friends of Margaret Mathews of Parkside who recently passed away.

**Sincere condolences** to the family and friends of Dennis Lewis of Parkside who recently passed away.

### 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](mailto:overtonoracle@gmail.com)

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Editor - Jill Burton.

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