

The Overton Oracle

Volume 12. Issue 4

April 2010

Overton's Free Newspaper - issued monthly



Spring at last



Last November Overton Oracle reported that come spring the village would look forward to a host of golden daffodils. The Community Council had acquired 100 kilos of daffodil bulbs. In the autumn children from St Mary's School helped Community Councillors plant some of them around Parkside. They then planted more around



the school. Spring has been slow in coming this year with such a long cold winter. But by the time the April Oracle is published we hope they will all be blooming, and the village will be as Homer Simpson wrote "a host of golden daffodils".



Overton School International News



St Mary's School in Overton-on-Dee are in the first year of an international Comenius partnership with schools from Turkey, Poland, Greece and Spain. The project is aimed at improving awareness of environmental issues and promoting citizenship and sustainability. As part of the project on re-cycled art the children produced red dragons out of waste material for the schools recent St David's Day Eisteddfod.

Pictured above is the year 3 class with their Dragons.

Pupils from St Mary's once again represented Wales in the international cross country ski race in Autrans, France. Our team of twenty one budding Winter Olympians acquitted themselves very well having the best team time of all the international schools competing. Since its creation in 1979, 170 000 XC skiers have come to participate and discover the ski tracks in this magnificent Nordic ski venue. *Picture to the right shows the St Mary's team*



Spot the deliberate April Fools in this edition?

Ramblings From the Rectory

by David Lewis



Dear Friends,
Lots of people like to start Good Friday with a breakfast of hot cross buns-delicious spicy buns, marked with a cross and served hot with butter. My taste buds are tingling at the thought of them! Street criers used to walk through the streets very early on Good Friday, selling freshly baked buns in baskets covered with a white clean cloth. They knocked on the doors or rang hand bells to rouse people to buy. They would loudly cry

*'One a penny buns, Two a penny buns,
If you have no daughters, Give them to your sons
One a penny, two a penny, Hot Cross buns!'*

Nowadays of course people eat them long before Good Friday. I think I saw my first hot cross bun the week after Christmas! But not long ago they were kept as a special symbol of Good Friday. But of course, like so many customs, hot cross buns originated long before Christianity.

The bun, in pagan times, represented the moon, and the cross divided it into four quarters. It is believed that buns marked with a cross were eaten by the Saxons in honour of the Goddess Eostre, from which some say we get the name Easter. For Christians the cross serves as a reminder of the crucifixion of Jesus and the first recorded use of the word hot cross bun is in 1733.

There are many superstitions surrounding the hot cross buns. One of them says that buns baked and served upon Good Friday will not spoil or go mouldy during the subsequent year, though they never hang around enough in our house to test this! The buns, if shared with another are supposed to guarantee friendship throughout the coming year, especially if shared with the rhyme *'Half for you and half for me. Between us two, goodwill shall be'*.

For me the buns are a wonderful symbol of the cross, which unites us as Christians and reminds us that even in the darkest of situations there is the hope of the resurrection.

Have a Holy and joyful Easter.
David

Messy Church Easter Fun Morning

Our next Messy Church event is on Easter Saturday
April 3rd from 10am to 12pm in St Mary's Church.

Try your hand at making Easter crowns, bonnets and egg painting. Join in an Easter egg hunt. See how many chocolate eggs you can collect?

Why not join in the fun this time!

All ages will enjoy the activities and fellowship this morning offers.

Refreshments will be provided.

COUNTRY BEAT

by Constable Stephen Evans

Since taking over at Overton it has become apparent from speaking with many of you that one of your main things that is said is "WE DON'T SEE ENOUGH OF THE POLICE".



PC Steve Evans

Overton is one of the few areas still to enjoy having a police station within the village. I know it is not staffed 24 hours a day but most days you will find someone here. I can't argue against people's perception that the police are never seen, however I hope the following will give you an indication of our responsibilities and hopefully have an impact on your views.

What I can tell you is that along with me, you have two PCSO's based at Overton. We are also supported by members of the special constabulary. We also have response officers who patrol the area on a regular basis.



Left:
PCSO Bethan
Large



Right:
PCSO Jemma
White

I think part of the perception problem is that people assume that we are solely the officers for Overton. We are not. We police an area which is known as Wrexham Maelor section. The population for this area is in the region of 8,000 residents. Other villages which form part of our patrol area include Cross Lanes, Bangor On Dee, Bronington, Penley, Hanmer, Worthenbury and Tallarn Green plus all the little hamlets in between.

We do strive to be visible and reachable as much as possible however please bear in mind that we have responsibilities which go unnoticed. As ever if there are any issues you wish to raise please contact us at Overton.

Regards,
Steve.

PC 1885 STEPHEN EVANS

Bronington & Overton Community Beat Manager

Overton Police Station

Telephone: 0845 607 1002 ext: 48425

Mobile : 07966086868

OVERTON MEDICAL PRACTICE

We do have some rather sad news, Dr Bloom is leaving us, possibly at the end of this month, depending on when a new doctor is recruited. He is taking up a post on Anglesey and has already moved house as his wife has been working in that area for several months. The distance to travel makes it very difficult to continue at the Overton Practice and he will be missed by both patients and staff alike. We wish him and his family every happiness in their new home and for him in his new job.

Another medical student begins his work experience with us from March for a six week period. Paul Hanlon is in his final year at Cardiff so we are responsible for showing him what life as a rural GP is like, we hope he finds his time with us both enlightening and beneficial.

Test results are a very important part of surgery life, we know how anxious patients are to know what is happening. In 2009 we made and received over 70,000 calls. To ensure that we are able to give you the correct information without having to rush we ask that you do your very best to ring after 11am. This enables us to get over the initial morning volume of calls and surgeries are well underway. Please retain the slip you are given which states which tests you have had and then you have the knowledge to ask exactly which results you require and we have the time to talk to you properly with less interruptions from phones ringing waiting to be answered.

More and more medical work comes under the jurisdiction of 'Private non NHS'. We realise that this is part of modern life with Insurance Companies, Solicitors, Police and employers etc asking for medical information. Whilst the doctors accept this as part of their working life we have to charge for any work done by a GP which is not NHS. A doctor's signature is now £15.50, the very basic cost and we have a rising scale which covers all the other requirements. Some patients are very annoyed when told this but we are an NHS practice and not private like the Nuffield or Yale. Please ask what the charge for any particular work you might require is prior to confirming that you want it done, e.g. HGV medicals, Travel Claims and To Whom It May Concern letters and suchlike.

Kids Kolumn

by Alice Foster, Lydia Biggs & Lottie Blake

Hi everybody.
Easters coming!!!
(& so is Lottie's birthday)



Trivia

If ten cows were in a field, and the farmer let three of them out and put five different cows in, how many would be in the field? (Last months trivia was 'Fear of school').

Fact

Lhasa Apso is a type of dog.

Homework Excuse.

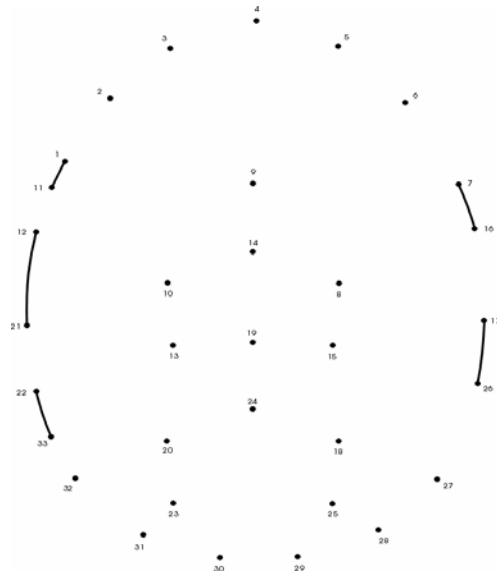
I just saw it on the New York Times Bestsellers List, so that means someone stole it.

Latest Hairstyles



(The answer to last month "Fill in the Gaps" was Lady Gaga)

Dot to Dot



Your Letters...

Dear Editor,

I have come across a reference to a hymn tune in Long Metre named "Erbistock", but it does not appear in any of the hymn books I have consulted. Do your readers know where the tune might be found, and how it is connected with the area?

Yours sincerely, Dr David R Jones, 1 Green Park, Erddig, Wrexham LL13 7YE Tel: 01978 353363



85 Years of WI in Our Village

As we celebrate another birthday of Overton WI, I tried to think what it must have been like back in March 1925 when Overton had it's first meeting. I hope to find out about its history over the coming months so watch this space! As coincidence has it, just like now, the late 1920s was a time of severe worldwide economic depression, known as the Great Depression. How Overton, with it's rural and farming life, was affected I do not know, but I'm sure some of you know much more than I do.

The WI was set up to provide an educational and social organisation for country women, giving them the opportunity of working and learning together to improve the quality of life in their community and to enable them to develop their own skills and talents. The aim is as valid today as it was then and has been extended to include women who have an interest in country matters but who do not necessarily live in the country.

It was Adelaide Hoodless in Ontario who first inspired the founding of the WI when her youngest child died at the age of 14 months caused by contaminated milk, it seems. When she spoke to a meeting of farmer's wives, campaigning for domestic science to be taught in schools, the women decided that if the men had a Farmer's Institute where they met together to listen to lectures which helped them to do their jobs better, then the wives should set up a Women's Institute where they could meet together and have their own educational programme.

Now of course, there are so many opportunities for women in all areas of life, but, I believe the learning and sharing of skills and ideas, new and old that take place in the WI still has a vital role in our community. Younger women with their vitality, enthusiasm and modern ideas can teach us new skills and new ways of doing things. Older women, with their wisdom, experience of life, and knowledge of traditional skills can inspire the younger women. The WI is a place where all ages, and all sorts of women can join together to pool their skills and become friends. This has happened in the past, lets hope we can keep it going well into the future.

Contact: Chris Nunns on 01978 710908 or email chrisnunns@hotmail.co.uk WI Website www.thewi.co.uk

Road Safety Campaign

You may be wondering what has been happening since the Public Meeting held on 6th October 2009? Members of the community decided to hold a Traffic Calming Meeting once a month to keep the impetus for change to the local speed limits ongoing. Members of the Community Council attend to offer advice to this working party.

To date, a petition has been organised (with approximately 420 signatories) and some of the working party filmed a DVD showing the problems on the A539 Wrexham to Whitchurch route. Council members devised a covering letter requesting a 40 mph buffer zone and these, with copies of the DVD, have been sent out and responses have already been received from some of the recipients.

During the Public Meeting held in October. A show of hands from the attendees implied that they would like to consider the purchase of a speed gun. This has been superseded by the following information from Wrexham South Police Authority: -

PC Evans has advised us that the area speed gun used for this neighbourhood is available at very short notice. The two PCSOs are now scheduled to use the equipment once a week for the foreseeable future and PC Evans will utilise the gun, but due to his high workload and the very large area that he has to cover, it will be approximately three times during the next two months and then this will be reviewed.

As many of you will be aware the Overton Community Council has been campaigning on our behalf for the best part of a decade. They have had some success i.e. chevron signs placed on some bends, white and red warning posts positioned in dangerous areas, new larger speed limit signs installed and the dragon's teeth warnings on the four main entrance/exit roads. With a change in the regulations recently passed by the Welsh Assembly Government we are optimistic that the time for change has come.

The dates for the next traffic calming meetings are Monday 19th April and Monday 17th May in the Parish Room at 7pm.

If you have questions or would like to attend the Traffic Calming meetings please contact Mrs.Katrina Chalk on 01978 710055; email occ.clerk@btinternet.com

New Yoga Classes

On Monday April 12th at 7:30pm Rosslyn Falconer will be re-starting the Yoga Classes in the Scout Hut. Rosslyn has been teaching yoga for twenty five years. Angela Mandy invited her to take over, having decided to concentrate her energies closer to home. Rosslyn says she is sure that all her students will join her in thanking Angela and wishing her well in the future. She will be teaching in a similar style, combining traditional yoga stretches with flowing sequences of movement, breathing exercises and relaxation, as well as discussing yoga lifestyle and philosophy. She looks forward to meeting fellow yoga enthusiasts in the coming weeks.

Your Letters...



Dear Editor,

It has finally happened, the Overton Oracle has taken a sideswipe at a voluntary organisation at the heart of the village. I refer to the rather unpleasant article featured in the March edition written by Sean Clarke about the Overton Amateur Dramatics play "Agatha Crispie". Mr Clarke appears to have no appreciation of the many hours of hard work and rehearsal time put in by members of "OADS" but instead resorts to ridicule the cast members in a very poor attempt at humour.

Whilst the productions staged by OADS may not be to everyone's liking, it is clear everyone who attends them, that a great deal of hard work takes place prior to any production being staged. Having spoken to many members of the village community, they have all said the same - that this play was one of the best that OADS have staged for a long time and everyone found the characters to be funny and entertaining.

I would like to suggest that instead of taking the easy route of criticising volunteers Mr Clarke takes part. Maybe then he would have a better appreciation of one of the assets of this village and would not be so quick to judge in future.

Steve Overthrow

Ed: the Oracle's policy has always been to submit controversial letters to the affected parties and invite their reply.

Dear Editor,

Regarding the above letter, as director of the Overton Amateur Dramatics play "Agatha Crispie", I stand by my decision to have Sean Clarke's piece printed in the March Oracle. I don't feel Sean was detrimental to the drama in any way.

Cynthia Davies

In view of the need to encourage the use of the language in the Maelor area, the Oracle will in future be published in Welsh. If you require an English translation it will be available for an additional charge. Dydd Ffŵl Ebrill.

Farm Shop & Deli comes to Overton

After a gap of nearly forty years, the 'Old Co-op' on Penyllan St. is to become a food shop again. Richard and Julie Done of Woodlands Ice Cream have signed a lease to take on the old shop and turn it into a Farm Shop & Delicatessen.

As part of their passion for local food they are keen to hear from any growers or producers who may have something special to sell in their shop. They are looking to talk to allotment owners, jam makers, sausage producers, etc.

If you have anything that may be of interest, please contact either Richard or Julie on 01978 780442 or email richard.done2@btinternet.com to arrange a meeting or to drop off some samples.

Coffee Morning

Keith and Joan Overthrow would like to welcome everyone to a coffee morning at 11 Sundorne, on **Saturday, May 8th, 10.30 am**

This is the annual event that raises the money to fund the Senior Citizens Christmas party.

People's support is not only welcome, but much needed. Any additional support in the form of donations would be greatly appreciated - for example cakes or home bakery, plants and garden produce, books etc.

View from the Village Vets

It is often said that a week is a long time in politics and had I written this piece about proposed changes to the Dangerous Dogs Act last week, I would now be out of date. The Government has once again done a U turn on it's proposals.

Nevertheless, there are some good reasons to update and modify the Dangerous Dogs Act. The bill was introduced hastily in response to the introduction of the American Pit Bull Terrier into the UK and in many peoples view was poorly thought out. The definition of the dangerous breeds was so vague that a number of animals resided on 'death row' for many months whilst the courts argued as to whether they were on the banned list or not.

However, the death of a number of small children following attacks by pet pit bull terriers, the rise in the number of so called 'status dogs' used to intimidate and threaten people together with complaints from unions about the increase in attacks on delivery drivers and postmen and women has prompted a number of people to call for compulsory microchipping of dogs and compulsory third party insurance.

As with any piece of new legislation, the majority of law abiding citizens are always penalised in order to try to clamp down on the small number of people acting irresponsibly and the Dangerous Dogs Act is no exception. However, there are many good reasons to consider having your pet microchipped and it might also be worth checking the small print of your household insurance policy to see if you are covered if your pet runs out into the road and causes an accident or bites someone.

Last year we ran a discount microchipping month in June and we hope to do the same this year, so if you would like to make sure that you dog is permanently identified ask at the surgery.

**Mark Spurdens,
Maelor Vet Centre. 01978 711975.**

Visit our new website and order repeat prescriptions online. Visit us at: www.blakemerevets.co.uk

Change of date

The date of the next meeting of the Overton History Group is changed from the 12th to **Wednesday 14th April**, upstairs at the White Horse (because the White Horse is now closed on Mondays).



Please let anyone know who you think may be interested in attending. Do come along.

Lunch Club

The next Overton Lunch Club is on Wednesday April 14th at 12.30pm at the White Horse.

The menu will be Roast Pork followed by Bread and Butter Pudding.

To book a seat please ring Gwynneth Austin on 710672

Football Club Reunion

A reunion to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the inauguration of the Overton Athletic Football Club, will be held at the White Horse Hotel, Overton on **Friday 14th May 2010**. Invitation is extended to everyone connected with the club during the 1970s and 80s, i.e.:- Players, Staff or Supporters. A small charge will be necessary to cover cost of buffet etc.....
INTERESTED ?

Ring Dave Austin now on 710678 or e-mail DvAust@aol.com Closing date:- **24th April**.

Big Brother's been watching us

And we look gorgeous!

It was nearly a year ago that some of you spotted the street mapping camera car in the village. The results are now on line. So for those of you with access to the internet look at <http://maps.google.co.uk> or pop into the Library. Once you have found Overton, zoom in and you can access "street view" and navigate backwards and forwards or look from side to side at each of Overton's streets and houses.

For those who have not used "street view", don't believe all the hype in the press. All number plates and faces are blanked out, and the camera does not get close enough to look through windows. But some of you may spot yourself or your car if you were in the village when the pictures were taken.

But it was a summer day, the sun is shining, the hanging baskets look glorious, especially those outside the White Horse, the Corner Shop and the butchers. And Overton looks good!

WHAT'S ON

April Diary for St Mary's Services

Maundy Thursday April 1st 7.30pm Deanery Eucharist & Vigil in Worthenbury Church
Good Friday April 2nd 2pm Meditation on the Cross
Easter Sunday April 4th 11.30am Holy Eucharist
Sunday April 11th 11.30am Sunday Praise
Sunday April 18th 11.30am Holy Eucharist
Sunday April 25th 11.30am Family Eucharist
Tuesday May 5th 2.30pm St Mary's School Service in Church. All welcome

April Diary for Methodist Church Services

Friday April 2nd 7pm Good Friday service at Methodist Church conducted by Rev Richard Hall
Easter Sunday April 4th 9.15am Methodist Church Communion Service and 6.30pm Evening Service with Rev Richard Hall
Other Sunday Evening Services 6.30pm
Saturday April 3rd Weekly coffee mornings start at the Methodist Chapel 10.30am till 12.00pm
Saturday April 3rd 10 -12 'Messy Church' in St Mary's Church. Crafts, art, games & Easter Egg hunt. All welcome Come and join us
Tuesday April 13th Overton Community Council meeting in the Parish Room. Members of the public wishing to speak can do so between 7.20 – 7.30pm.
Monday April 12th 7:30pm Yoga Classes restart in the Scout Hut
Tuesday April 13th 7pm St Mary's Vestry in the Parish Room
Wednesday April 14th 12.30pm Lunch Club at the White Horse. Roast Pork followed by Bread & butter pudding. Booking required
Wednesday April 14th 7.30pm History Group upstairs in White Horse. All welcome
Wednesday April 14th 7.30pm Overton Twinning Association AGM in the Parish Rooms
Thursday April 15th Overton WI Meeting in the Parish Room. Speaker: Mrs H Game on "Life on the Wicked Stage". Competition: 'Ring Holder'.
Monday April 19th 7pm Traffic Calming meeting in the Parish Room
Friday April 23rd 8.30pm Horse Race Night in aid of Hope House Children's Hospice at the White Horse Inn Free entry.
Monday April 26th 1pm to 2pm Storytime at Overton Library for toddler & playgroup age children
Saturday May 8th Coffee morning for Christian Aid week, including 'Bring & Buy' 10.30 -12.30

FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to Stuart Parkin and partner on the birth of their baby son, Cary Shane giving Dawn and Bobby Parkin their first grandchild and a great grandson for Jim and Rose Parkin.

Happy April Birthdays to Lottie Blake, Courtney Pugh, Iory Evans, Hayden Austin, Derek Edwards, Geoff Hodgson, Mervyn Haynes, Mike Dorey & Luke Hughes

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Overton Explorer Scout Adam Coates who has been selected to be one of the representatives from Wales Scouting to attend the 22nd World Scout Jamboree. The Jamboree will be held in Rinkaby, near Kristianstad, Sweden in 2011. Overton Scouts will be fundraising to help Adam on his way.

TWINNING A.G.M.

The Overton Twinning Association AGM will be held on 14th April at 7.30pm in the Parish Rooms. All are welcome. A reminder that everyone in Overton is automatically a member so do come along. The meeting will be short and light refreshments will be served.

FOR SALE

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

All articles and advertisements in the Overton Oracle are published in good faith and without prejudice. Space constraints mean that submitted articles may be edited or not published.

**The Overton Oracle is printed and supported by Prontaprint, Wrexham. Tel. No. 01978 664726
 e-mail: info@prontaprintwrexham.co.uk**

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The Oracle is delivered FREE to nearly 600 homes in the Overton Area.

Our thanks go to the volunteer distributors who make sure you receive your copy each month. We operate a postal service for our long distance readers, and we are also on the Web. www.overton-on-dee.co.uk You can also e-mail us at editor@overton-on-dee.co.uk
Useful telephone numbers; POLICE: 0845 6071002 LITTER CLEARANCE: 01978 298989