

The Overton Oracle



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Overton's Free Newspaper - issued monthly

Farewell to Monsignor Webb by Yvonne Bamber

It is with great sadness that we report the death of the Rt. Rev. Mgr. Philip Bernard Webb on 14th October. Monsignor came to Overton as a young priest in the early fifties and saw his Church grow from a few parishioners to a staggering congregation of over 100.

In the early days, when Mass was held in the Caravan in the grounds of Pendyffryn, Monsignor always had the ambition to have a 'proper' church and with the help of the Dowager Lady Kenyon, was allowed to purchase the land on which our church of Our Lady and the Welsh Martyrs now stands. It took a great deal of hard work to clear the dump, as it was then, but finally Monsignor's ambition became a reality, and the Church was opened on 5th October 1958 by the Rt. Rev. John Edward Petit. Monsignor overcame the little opposition there was with his friendly manner and soon was accepted by even the most hardened of critics.

Over the years, the admiration and affection in which he was held has increased and by the time he decided he had to retire in October 2008 at the grand age of 91½, he was loved by everyone and respected as part of the family. The Church is in mourning for the passing of a true friend. We will not see his like again, but his 56 years as our Parish Priest will never be forgotten. R.I.P. Monsignor.



TRAFFIC CALMING

Over 100 members of the community packed the village hall on October 6th to take part in a public meeting on traffic calming. The meeting was attended by councillors and police officers. The Community Council started the meeting with a presentation setting out what the problems were with respect to speeding traffic. Within the presentation recommendations were made based on the questionnaires which had been published in the Oracle, on how they wished to address the problem.

A lively period of questions and answers took place with most of the questions directed at the representative of the Wrexham Council's traffic department and the senior police officer from the road policing unit and North Wales Police. The residents backed the Community Council and formed a working party to push forward the plans to achieve safety in the village.

The next Traffic Safety Working Group meeting is at 7pm in The Parish Room on the 17th November. There will be a petition in the local shops for the next 2 weeks regarding installing 40mph signs at the 4 entrances to the village if everyone could sign one, ONCE. The working party is determined to work hard, even if statistics and Welsh Assembly guidelines are not supportive, to achieve their aims.

OVERTON'S GOT SO MUCH TALENT!

Come and see over 15 acts including:

Overtonians
Amigo's Magi
AbbaDadda
Singers & Choirs
Welsh Folk songs
Other musicians
Dance Addiction
Dramatic sketches
Poetry readings
Fat Bottomed Boys and more

on Friday 13th November

From 7.30pm at St Mary's Church

* Licenced Bar * Hot drinks * Nibbles and cakes *

Tickets on sale at the Corner Shop

or call Anne Butt on 01978 710107

Adults £5 * Under 16s £2

The event will be held in St Mary's Church and will be fundraising for the Church as well as a social evening.



Ramblings From the Rectory by David Lewis



Dear Friends,

One of my abiding memories of childhood is when my father arranged a bonfire and fireworks for our back garden. This was long before all the safety regulation and I can remember the thrill of seeing the fireworks light up the night sky. Nowadays we are all urged to go to communal bonfires, but I was reading of customs in the 17th century and how bonfire night was the scene of great revelry and wild practices.

Huge fires would be lit, started from blazing tar barrels that were rolled up and down the streets. Councils today would have a fit! In fact it was very dangerous to be out on the streets that night. And many houses were burned as a consequence of this wild night. Fortunately regulations came into force forbidding the burning of tar barrels on the streets and so the practice started of having much smaller bonfires in one's own garden, which grew into the communal bonfires of today.

But for me, every time November 5th rolls around, I am back in my childhood garden, watching the night sky light up. For me seeing lights in the dark is a very powerful symbol, especially at this time of the year. And of course that is what Jesus asks of us, to be his lights of hope and love in our world. St Paul put it like this: *'You are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness'*. By our love and faith we are to shine in our world. And our world really does need signs of hope and love

A friend of mine went to New Zealand some years ago. He was looking for a cousin he had not seen for many years. He had lost her address and only roughly knew where she lived. And so he drove along a long street where he thought she lived in the dark. He was about to give up, when he suddenly brought the car to a halt. 'This must be the place', he thought. 'It's got to be it.' The house to which he looked was no different from the others, except the in this one the blinds to the room were not drawn, and there like a point of light penetrating the surrounding darkness, was an image of Jesus surrounded by candles.

And he was right, it was his cousin. And as they were reunited, my friend realised that the light surrounding the picture was the symbol of another light-Christ the light of the world was a reality in that home.

You know, how wonderful it would be if we could all so live our lives, that through us the light of Christ could shine out in the family, out from the family into the street, into the community and out into the world. The out world would truly be a more hopeful place.

Every blessing
David

COUNTRY BEAT by Constable Luke Hughes

As the nights draw in and the temperature starts to drop, it won't be long until we are de-frosting our cars in the morning. Below is some general advice to help keep safe this winter.

Walking at night.

As the clocks go back and the nights draw in, everyone is more vulnerable as you are less visible to motorists. We need to wear something bright and take extra care when out and about near roads.

The key messages are:

Make sure you can be easily seen at all times, but especially at night, on dark days and in bad weather.

- Bright or fluorescent clothes show up best by day, especially in dull or misty weather.
- By night, reflective material is best and shows up in car headlights – fluorescent clothing doesn't work after dark. Reflective tape can be put on clothing, school bags and equipment
- Cross the road at the safest place possible. e.g. zebra, pelican, puffin and patrolled crossings.
- Use the Green Cross Code: Stop, Look, Listen.
- If you are out at night, choose routes that are well lit by streetlights and cross at well-lit places.

Cycling at night.

The advice given to pedestrians about being seen applies equally to cyclists. In addition, bikes need to be equipped with good lights. It is an offence to cycle at night without a white front light, a red back light and a red reflector at the back.

Driving at night.

Ninety percent of a driver's reaction depends on vision, and vision is severely limited at night.

The key messages are:

- Make sure all lights are clean, working and adjusted properly.
- Make sure the windscreen is clean inside and out
- Use headlights whenever visibility is reduced – for example, early morning, at dusk, when it's raining or in any gloomy conditions. It'll help others to see you.
- Increase your following distance so you don't blind the driver ahead of you.
- Don't dazzle others with your main beam.
- Reduce your speed. You should be able to stop within the distance you can see.
- If your vehicle breaks down, pull off the road as far as possible and switch on the hazard warning lights.
- Older drivers face greater difficulties. A 50-year-old driver may need twice as much light to be able to see as well as a 30-year-old.

PC 1842 Luke Hughes
Bronington & Overton Community Beat Manager
Telephone: 0845 607 1002 ext: 48425

Do you remember Overton Station?

I am looking for information on the Railway stations at Bangor and Overton-on-Dee c1949 to 1951. My particular interest is in the positions held at Overton-on-Dee station by Mr. M. H. Evans 1949-51 and Mr. E. H. Gregory 1950-1960. I would also like to hear of any memories folk may have of these two stations prior to closure and these would be a bonus.

Many thanks, Allan Harmer,
8, Blue Hatch, Frodsham, Cheshire WA6 7QJ
or allan_harmer@talktalk.net

OVERTON MEDICAL PRACTICE

We have a new member of staff at the Overton Medical Practice; she is Rachael Brookes who is being made welcome by us all. She will be working mainly mornings but helping to cover for holidays and sickness. Dr Sreeram, the registrar who left us in April to have her baby daughter, is returning next month to complete her 12 month stint.

We will be having a Medical Student Naomi Flowers, with us for 6 weeks from the end of October. You are always very obliging at these times when we ask you to consent to a student being present during your consultation. If you really want to talk privately to the doctor it is no problem, the students understand, but they do have to get practical experience and we have an extremely good reputation for being an excellent training surgery.

It has been decided to purchase an EMIS-interfacing ECG/Spirometry machine. This means that ECG's etc will be automatically and instantly stored on a patient's record with the GP able to view results on screen and past ECG history to check for trends. This is a major step forward for the surgery and has been partly paid for by using the money from patient donation funds from the past few years, so using the money for the greater good of all our patients.

The normal 'Flu Injections' have started from 5th October. We are about to enter a very busy period with Flu Clinics etc, it would be helpful if you could possibly leave ringing for results until late morning, if at all possible. By then the rush has calmed down slightly and we are able to respond much more easily.

Thank you so much to all those who made the effort to attend the Practice Patient Participation Group on Monday 14th September – how rewarding.

We hope to see as many again at the next meeting on Monday 7th December at 6.00pm.

Kids Kolumn

by Alice Foster, Lydia Biggs and Lottie Blake

Hi everybody, it's November. Were you all spooked about Halloween?

Factamania

1. Fear of kneecaps is called Genophobia
2. The oldest word in the English language is Twon
3. Smallest bird of prey in the British isles is the Merlin
4. Rain drops fall at 7mph
5. Amathophobia is a fear of dust.

Famous Facts

Famous Person: Alexandra Burke

Home: North London

Age: 20

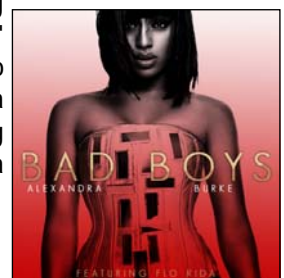
Alexandra started singing at the age of five and when she was 9 yrs old she was passed the microphone at one of her mother's gigs. Everyone loved her and from that moment onwards she was hooked on performing.

She then moved on to the X Factor at the age of 18-19 and won the 2008 competition and now has moved on to releasing a new song called 'Bad Boys'.

Review

After she won X Factor at the end of last year, Simon Cowell packed off Alexandra Burke to the States to work with the sort of producers most pop wannabes could only dream of: RedOne ('Poker Face'), Stargate ('Don't Stop The Music'), Ryan Tedder ('Bleeding Love'). Quite rightly, they see the 21-year-old Londoner as more Leona than Leon (Jackson, 2007 champ, in case you'd forgotten).

Quite rightly again - given Burke's sass and all-round performance skills - they haven't gone with a ballad for her first proper single. Instead they've plumped for this corker, a stomping electro-R&B tune with a chorus that grabs you on first listen, loads of big rubbery beats and some impossible-not-to-join-in-with backing vocals. "Oohwayoohwah" indeed! 'Bad Boys' is so much fun it even pulls off a minor pop miracle - turning a Flo Rida cameo into a good thing.



Harvest Supper

by Josie Ralphs

The village Cytun Harvest Supper which took place on Friday 25th September at the Village Hall was well supported and thoroughly enjoyed by the 60 people who attended. Lots of good food, salads etc, - all home-made by committee members - were served buffet-style with generous portions of turkey and ham, followed by apple pie and cream, gâteau or trifle.

St Mary's School Choir welcomed us at 6.30pm with a medley of songs sung with gusto. They deserve a very big thank you and congratulations to their teachers who had worked hard to put the entertainment together in just three weeks. After our meal which included a free glass of wine, we were entertained with songs from the Shows, beautifully rendered by Helen Belton accompanied by her sister Jayne on piano. Every one thought Helen's singing was simply gorgeous. Thanks to all the helpers, washers-up etc for a lovely evening.



St Mary's School Choir entertains at the Harvest Supper

View from the Village Vets - FIREWORKS!

I remember attending the 200th Anniversary celebrations of the Pontycysyllte Aqueduct a few years ago where there was a spectacular display of fireworks from the bridge. Sadly my daughter, then age six was petrified by the noise of the fireworks and we had to hide behind one of the marquees for the whole of the display! Thankfully, she has now overcome her fear and whilst she always covers her ears to reduce the noise level, she enjoys the various firework displays we attend throughout the year.



However, many pets do not learn to tolerate the noise of fireworks and indeed some may become more rather than less frightened with age. There are a number of steps you can take to try to reduce the stress of firework noise:

- Keep all pets indoors
- Muffle the sound of the fireworks by making sure doors and windows are closed
- Make sure that you pet has a safe and secure place to hide
- Stay calm yourself and do not over fuss your pet

Some pets particularly dogs become so agitated by firework noise that they have to be given mild sedatives to calm them. Whilst these can be used on an occasional basis, they are not suitable for regular use. For those pets which develop serious behavioural issues with fireworks, there are other types of medication which might help. These include pheromone sprays or diffusers for cats and other types of oral medication for dogs. If your pet will require sedative tablets or require other forms of medication, please call in to discuss the options. We require an accurate bodyweight to dispense the medicines, so it would be a good opportunity for your pet to have a weigh-in at the same time!

Mark Spurdens, Maelor Vet Centre 01978 711975

Overton History Group

Thank you to all those who brought their photos and memories to the Overton History Group meeting in October. Next meeting to discuss what next, is Thursday November 26th upstairs in the White Horse.

HANDICRAFT GROUP

Unfortunately we have had to raise the cost of our Thursday afternoon meetings to £1 per session. This is due to the rising costs of heating and lighting of the room. The group will start after half-term.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

This year's parade and service will take place on Sunday November 8th at St Mary's Church.
On Wednesday 11th November the Silence will be observed at the Overton Cenotaph at 11.00 am.
All welcome.
Overton Royal British Legion will be holding their Annual General Meeting on Monday 7th December in the Recreational Club at 7.30pm.

TWINNING GROUP

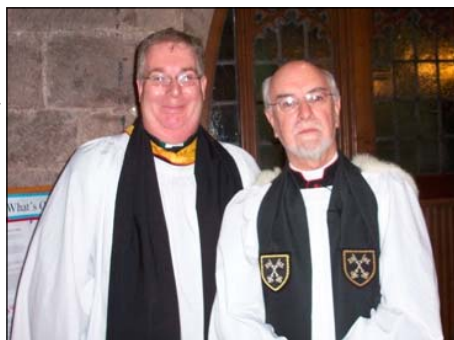
Overton Twinning Association with the Playgroup invite you to a Beetle Drive, a great evening of family fun.
on Saturday 21st November
6.30-9.00pm
at the Playgroup Centre
Family ticket:£10 Adult:£3.50
Includes a light supper and tea and coffee

Congratulations Dean David by Euan Stevenson

On Sunday, 11th October, at St. Mary's Church, our rector, David Lewis was affirmed by Archdeacon Malcolm Squires as the Rural Dean for all the churches in the local area. These parishes include not only Overton, Penley and Erbistock, but Bangor, Marchwiell, Hanmer and Worthenbury.

What exactly does an Area Dean do, and how will this promotion affect David Lewis's Overton St. Mary's responsibilities? Well, apparently an Area Dean is required to co-ordinate the work of all the churches in his area, and has overall responsibility for their continued mission. This means that David's energy and time will be spread over a much greater area.

The consequence, inevitably, will be that we will see much less of him at Overton St. Mary's. The consolation is that we have a very worthy deputy in the Rev. David Child, who already conducts many services in Overton. David Child is an ex-hospital consultant, and also a Wrexham football fan (his faith knows no bounds) and he is already greatly appreciated in Overton, and we look forward to seeing him even more regularly.



Visit the 'New Look' Overton Library



Overton Library opened in its newly refurbished premises on Wednesday 7th October. Space has always been a problem in Overton but we feel that the cleverly designed new furnishings, new carpeting, new lighting and decoration has given the library a new, modern and welcoming feel and we hope that library customers agree!

As part of the improvement project, over the next few weeks, we will also be installing a new computer, improved printing and photocopying facilities and a hot drinks facility. From the second of November the opening hours will increase from 10 - 15 hours which will include a Saturday morning.

Many thanks to the village hall committee for their co-operation in allowing the library to be housed in the meetings room while the refurbishment was taking place. This meant that the library service in Overton was not disrupted over the period.

SCHOOL NEWS

Overton will look forward to a host of golden daffodils in the Spring. The Community Council has acquired 100 kilos of daffodil bulbs. Children from St Mary's School helped Community Councillors plant some of them around Parkside. They will plant more around the school.



Pupils from St. Mary's during a school visit to Chirk Castle



Pupils from St. Mary's, Community Councillors & residents of Parkside

Children from the school have also visited Chirk Castle in October to spend a day finding out what it was like to live there in Tudor times.

*Your Letters...**Dear Editor,*

On Oct 6th Overton Community Council held a public meeting to discuss traffic calming measures in Overton. There were representatives from Wrexham County Borough, Police & Traffic Depts and a large turnout of the general public.

The Overton Community Council had prepared an excellent agenda which included illustrations and descriptions of the areas of Overton which cause us concern. These were based on the four entrances to the village, with particular reference to the A528 from Wrexham, with its blind bends, high hedges and the close proximity to the village of the 30mph sign. There were three suggestions as to the possible improvements and during the interval vote was taken as to the most popular. This was to have 40mph signs spaced well in advance of the existing 30mph signs.

There was lively discussion throughout, but I was not alone in feeling frustration and deep disappointment that bureaucracy and statistics seemed to triumph over the concerns and wishes of local inhabitants.

When will we be listened to?

Mary Hilton Jones (Mrs)

Reunion Presentation by Dave Austin

As a follow up to last month's Reunion and the sincere generosity of the "old" pupils of Overton VA Primary School, I was able to present a cheque for £165 to the Wrexham Communication Support Group. Thanks to all those involved.



The Wrexham Communication Support Group meets every Tuesday in Garden Rd, Wrexham, and it helps people who experience speech difficulties following a stroke. It was initially funded by the Stroke Association, but the majority of its funding is voluntary and from fundraising.

Without such group meetings many people such as my wife would be stranded within the boundaries of their own homes. 1 in 4 women and 1 in 5 men have a stroke which is the greatest cause of disability in the UK, and the third biggest killer following heart attack and cancer. The wonderful work of these support groups should not be overlooked.

Hello from the Overton Playcentre

by Rachel Harris

We've had a great start to the new year with lots of new faces at playgroup and toddlers. We have some fun ways for fundraising as well so do come along and join us.

7th November - 10-12pm Toys Bring & Buy sale. Bring along all your unwanted toys and then buy some more for presents - calling all parents/ grandparents / aunts/ uncles /friends - get your presents here! Toy recycling - brilliant! don't forget a cuppa and a cake while you are with us!

30th November - Bags4school - yes it's that time again! We raised nearly £300 last time with all your kind donations - so please do give us your unwanted clothes/ shoes / soft furnishings / curtains / linen / soft toys / handbags and belts! we can collect bags as well so do phone 710688 or 710041 if you need us to pick up your bags!! All your unwanted bits going to a good cause!!

Early December there will be an evening of socialising and buying Christmas presents as well - more details to come later. Lastly for all working mums and dads - don't forget our new holiday club for 2-8yr olds - experienced CRB checked qualified staff, 8am - 6pm £3 per hour, do come and talk to us if we can help you!

WHAT'S ON

November Diary for St Mary's Services

- Sunday November 1st** 11:30am Holy Eucharist
Monday November 2nd 2.30pm St Mary's School Service in Church. All welcome
Remembrance Sunday November 8th 11.00am Act of Remembrance at the Cenotaph followed by Remembrance Service
Sunday November 15th 11.30am Holy Eucharist
Sunday November 22nd 11:30am Family Eucharist
Advent Sunday November 29th 10.30am United Eucharist at Erbistock 5.00pm Deanery Advent Service at Marchwiell
-
- Methodist Chapel Services Sunday evenings** 6.30pm
- Saturday November 7th** 10.00-12.00pm Overton Playcentre Toys Bring & Buy Sale
-
- Tuesday November 10th** Overton Community Council meeting in the Parish Room. Members of the public wishing to speak can do so between 7.20 – 7.30pm.
-
- Friday November 13th** 7.30pm "Overton's Got Talent" in St Mary's Church. Tickets £5, (under 16s £2) from Corner Shop or 710107
-
- Saturday November 14th** 7.00 - 11.30pm "Villefest" in the Village Hall. The finest local bands in an exceptional night of live music. Licensed Bar, Tickets £7 from Corner Shop or Recreational Club
-
- Wednesday November 18th** 7.30pm Maelor Music Society Concert in Maelor School Hall. "Sara Deborah Struntz – Violin & Alessandra Timossi – Piano". Tickets £10 on door; Annual Membership £33
-
- Thursday November 19th** Overton WI Meeting in the Parish Room. AGM and Speaker: Mrs Heather Dulson, WI Adviser . Competition: Farm animal ornament .
-
- Saturday November 21st 6.30pm** Twinning Group Beetle Drive at the Playcentre. Families £10 Adults £3.50
-
- Saturday November 21st** 2pm Our Lady & the Welsh Martyrs Xmas Fayre. Admission 50p
-
- Tuesday November 24th** Doors open 7pm, Film for 8pm Overton Film Club in Village Hall "Looking for Eric"
-
- Thursday November 26th** 7.30pm Overton History Group upstairs at the White Horse. All Welcome
-
- Monday November 30th** Overton Playcentre Bags4School
-
- Saturday December 5th** 2pm Overton Methodist Church Christmas Fair at the Chapel
-
- Monday December 7th** 6.00pm Practice Patient Participation Group 6pm at the Surgery. New members welcome.
-
- Monday December 7th** 7.30pm Overton British Legion AGM in the Recreational Club.

FOUND

Navy small size Slazenger jacket.
 Found at Overton Fete! Tel: 01978 710055

FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to Euan and Val Stevenson on the birth of their new grandson, Arthur, a son for Neil and Laetitia.
 Congratulations to Mark Blythen and Beverley Thelwell on the birth of their first child a baby daughter Sophie, giving Will Thelwell another granddaughter.

Happy November Birthdays

to George Buttress, Anita Brown, Lydia Evison, Pearl Edwards, Hugo Hunter, Edward Pugh, Pauline Dodd, Andrew Maskall, Mike Done, Phil Edwards and Jacky Maskall

Sincere condolences go to the family of Matthew James Gregory whose funeral was on 2nd October.

And sincere condolences to Paul, Jackie, Tony and Martin Arrowsmith, family and friends on the sad loss of Mary Arrowsmith.

FOR SALE

THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who helped at St Mary's Autumn Fayre and the committee who are working so hard for our Overton's Got Talent evening on Friday November 13th. It should be a really fun evening.

Thank you for everyone who supported me and sent good wishes to me on my licensing as Area Dean. Your prayers and thoughts are much appreciated.
David

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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 Space constraints mean that submitted articles may be edited or not published.

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