

The Overton Oracle



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January 2010

Overton's Free Newspaper - issued monthly

Happy New Year to all our Oracle Readers & Distributors

OVERTON LIBRARY OFFICIAL OPENING



Cllr Bob Dutton tries out the library computers

The new Library was opened in December with a sprinkling of officials and a crowd of infants from St Mary's school who invaded the story telling corner and would not leave until they had heard a good number of stories! The officials included Wrexham Cllr Bob Dutton; Alan Watkins, Leisure, Libraries & Culture Officer; Dylan Hughes, Libraries Officer; Linda Thomas, Cymal Director; David Burton, Overton Community Councillor; Sue Glover, Chair of Overton Village Hall



Children for St Mary's in the Story Corner

Management Committee and Tony Read, Treasurer of Overton Village Hall Management Committee.

Library Assistant Rebecca Baskerville was delighted with the newly refurbished Library which includes a number of mobile shelving units, giving more flexibility in the use of the room. Libraries Officer, Dylan Hughes said "Overton Library is one of the most used libraries in Wrexham Borough. In terms of the number of issues per member of staff it is equal to Wrexham's main library in the town centre." The new Overton Library opening hours are: Monday 2 to 6pm; Wednesday 2 to 6pm; Friday 2 to 6pm; Saturday 10am to 1pm

JANUARY DRAMA AT THE VILLAGE HALL

Overton Amateur Dramatic Society present a comedy about Dame Agatha Christie and her famous fictional characters. In the world of England not long after World War I, the unknown writer Agatha Crispie writes mystery stories. She longs for their publication but Agatha's family detest her writing and ridicule her plots. Agatha gets a lucky break, a body is found in the library. The police arrive as does a grey-haired cardigan-wearing spinster with a knack for solving crimes. Suddenly the pressure is too much; Agatha disappears. Then a dapper foreigner appears, he too has a knack for solving mysteries. There is a dead body, suspects, amateur sleuths, red herrings and dithering cops. It's just like life and characters of another scribbler, the slightly better-known Agatha Christie.



There are surprises, mystery, drama, humour and that infernal, eternal mousetrap! The play is on the nights of 14th, 15th & 16th January and heralds the welcome return of Ann Kynaston to our cast. Two newcomers are Roxanne Haynes and Bruce Young who accompany Stephen Sorfleet, Ruth Overthrow, Mervyn Haynes, Sue England and Cynthia Davies. Believe it or not the play is being produced and the identity of the producer will be revealed in February's Oracle, provided you enjoy the play. Seriously, an excellent evening's entertainment - not to be missed. Free admission to all 80 yr olds provided they are accompanied by both parents.

WHITE HORSE OPENS NEW RESTAURANT

Steve and Jane Dodwell are delighted that their new restaurant at the White Horse is now open. Areas at the rear of the 100 year old inn have been knocked together to create a warm and tasteful eating space. But memories of the changes are kept with the names of the seating areas, such as the coal house, the wash house, and the back yard.. After a busy Christmas season Steve and Jane are looking forward to introducing their menu for the New Year.



Ramblings From the Rectory by David Lewis

Dear Friends,
Candlemass is a winter festival celebrating birth and light as well as ageing and learning. It is a celebration of life.



At one time Christmas was said to last forty days and actually ended on Candlemass Day, February 2nd. And an old country belief was that Candlemass Day will decide the weather for the remainder of the winter. Hence this verse:

*'If Candlemass be fair and bright
Winter will take another flight.
If Candlemass be cloud and rain
Winter is gone and won't come again'*

We can only hope!

It was the custom in Biblical times for the parents of a Jewish baby boy, to take him to the Temple in Jerusalem, 40 days after his birth, in order to present him to God and to offer their thanks for his safe delivery.

It was in the temple Mary and Joseph met Simeon, a very old man. Simeon had been promised by God that he would not die until he had seen for himself God's Son. On seeing Jesus he realised that time had come, that here was the God's Son, who would be a light to peoples everywhere. And so Christians, following Simeon's words, often refer to Jesus as the Light of the World and on Candlemass day candles are lit as a reminder of this. And thus we have the popular name of Candlemass for this festival, celebrated on the 2nd February.

What the Candlemass story teaches is the importance of faithfulness in life, of never losing hope or wonder and being always open to God's leading. There is a Candlemass poem by Ruth Burgess from a book called 'Hay and Stardust'.

*'Like Simeon may I grow old in hope and wonder.
May I be open to truth, open to surprises.
May I let your spirit into my life.
May I let your justice change my behaviour.
May I live in the brightness of your joy.'*

And that is my wish for us all in this first Oracle of 2010. That we will all live in the brightness Of God's joy.

Your Friend and Rector
David

The first **Lunch Club** will take place at the **White Horse on Wednesday 13th January** between 12.30 and 1.30. If you are interested in joining in, please ring Gwynneth Austin to reserve a place on 01978 710672.

There must be at least 20 people to keep the lunch club going.

Price of the 2 course lunch will be £6.00.

COUNTRY BEAT by Constable Luke Hughes

North Wales Police have launched the "Balance Your Bobbies" initiative to complement ways residents can communicate their concerns and needs to their local officers.

"Balance Your Bobby" can be accessed through the North Wales Police website on www.north-wales.police.uk. Clicking on the "Balance Your Bobby" icon will take you to the relevant page. This takes you to a log-in page which by putting in your postcode allows you to view the Overton page. You will recognise the pictures of PCSO's Beth Large and Jemma White and for now, myself Luke Hughes. There are five bobbies helmets which you can slide along to give you the emphasis you want on policing in this area.

The five categories are: Alcohol Related Anti Social Behaviour; Increased Visible Policing; People Using or Dealing Drugs; Speeding/Dangerous Drivers and Vandalism/Graffiti. So if you think speeding is important slide the helmet to the right and you will see the percentage number in the box increase. Then move the other slides across until your total reaches 100% (it won't allow you to go over 100%). Once you have finished click on the "NEXT" button to see your score recorded and to see how that compares with the overall South Wrexham percentages. The South Wrexham team can then see which areas of operation need increasing to provide a better service to everyone living in the South Wrexham Area.

I will continue to serve in Overton until early January when PC 1885 Steve Evans will take over. Steve is an experienced officer and I couldn't wish for anyone better to replace me.

Review of Scouts 100th Year

As we come to the end of our 100th year we would like to thank everyone for their support this year. We have had a busy year starting with the setting up of the Beaver Colony for those who are between 5¾ and 8 years of age. If your children fall into this age group there are plenty of places. Beavers meet on a Wednesday evening between 6 and 7pm.

At the end of January the Scouts went on a frost camp at Coxwood, although it wasn't that frosty. In April we held the Group's 100 year Exhibition and a big thank you for everyone who helped fill in some of the gaps in our history. This was followed by another scout camp at Coxwood and our reunion in May, not too many there but Alan Jones entertained us with his "Tales From The Gambia". The big event of the year was our firework display and we ended the year with Christmas parties for the Beavers and Scouts.

In 2010 we are going to try and restart our Cub Pack. There will be a meeting in the Scout Hut on Wednesday January 13th at 7pm, everyone with a child aged between 8 and 10½ years old is welcome.

Katia does Joseph



Katia Allen, age 9 of School Lane, recently appeared in the touring production of 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat' in Manchester and Llandudno. Katia was one of 28 children picked to appear alongside BBC's TV Joseph finalist Craig Chalmers and North Wales's own Tara Bethan finalist in 'Any Dream Will Do'.

It was hard work being on stage for two hours at a time and often matinee and evening performances, but a great experience. Katia thinks that Steve Kirwan was the best Joseph and well worth seeing when the show comes to Shrewsbury's Theatre Severn this coming May.

Has Katia got the bug for the stage? - you bet and she hopes to get a part in Castaway in the Spring. Thanks to Mrs Clarke and Mr Williams at St Mary's School for the time off.

OVERTON MEDICAL PRACTICE

We welcome our new student, Timothy Kelly from the first week in January 2010. Without exception, the students we have had in the surgery have all thoroughly enjoyed their stay and speak very highly of us all which is extremely gratifying. Thanks go to you patients who are very understanding about their need to work alongside our doctors to get a feel for 'general practice'.

Since early 2007, we have operated a process where a patient, who does not wish to wait a few days for a routine face-to-face appointment, is able to discuss their medical issues with one of the Doctors, over the phone. This form of Telephone Consultation provides you with the benefit of a return phone call within hours of initially contacting the Surgery. You are asked to provide a contact telephone number (land-line if possible) and to briefly describe the reason for the call to the receptionist who notes the information for the Doctor. This information permits the Doctor to check your medical history prior to the Telephone Consultation.

Often, the call may simply result in advice about the treatment of your symptoms, though sometimes the Doctor may ask you to come to the Surgery for further investigation. If you feel unwell and cannot/do not wish to wait for a routine appointment, please speak to the receptionist about the need for a Telephone Consultation. Less urgent issues, where you are simply requesting general advice from a Doctor will be recorded in the Message Day book and the Doctor will try to respond by the end of the day.

The interfaced ECG and Spirometry equipment has been installed which will benefit patients who are in need of this for a speedy result from the doctor. We are down 4% on missed appointments from last year. Thank you all so much for making the effort to either 'keep it or cancel it' - we do appreciate you letting us know if you cannot attend your appointment

Kids Kolumn

by Alice Foster, Lydia Biggs
and Lottie Blake



Hi everybody hope you enjoyed Christmas and are looking forward to the year ahead.

Celebrity profile

Cheryl Cole



Full name: Cheryl Ann Cole

Maiden name: Tweedy

Husband: Ashley Cole
(famous football player)

Height: 5' 4"

Birth Date: June 30th, 1983

Place of Birth: Newcastle Upon Tyne, England, UK

Occupation:

Music Artist, X Factor Judge

Claim to Fame:

Member of UK's girl-band Girls Aloud

Word Ladder.

Fall	
	Opposite to short.
	Inform.
Yell	

Fact: In 1571 a man could be fined for not wearing a woolly hat.

Trivia: Amathophobia is a fear of what?
(Answers will be revealed next month in the Kids Kolumn)

Homework excuse of the month: My father had a nervous breakdown and he cut it up to make paper dolls.

Review.

Album - Echo

Artist - Leona Lewis.

Leona Lewis, the English R&B/pop singer, is coming up with her second album, Echo. The exact scheduled release of the album was on the 16th of November 2009 in the United Kingdom and is managed by Syco Music. Leona Lewis has particularly worked with a lot of artists for this album. Some of them are Justin Timberlake, Xenomania, James Fauntleroy and Max Martin. Echo was preceded by Leona's single, "Happy", which was released on the 15th September.



MEMORIES OF HIGH STREET?

At the November meeting of the Overton History Group everyone looked at the pictures that have been collected at the Open Morning. It was felt that an ideal project would be to collect stories about the various areas of the village, and to call this "Memories of Overton". A selection of work collected can then be available on the new Overton website and perhaps in the future, be published. To create some framework it would be best to concentrate on just one street of the village at a time. And obviously we should start with the High Street.

So if you have a memory or story connected with a house or building in the High Street please share it with the group. You can leave it in writing in the "Oracle Envelope" at the Corner Shop, email to editor@overton-on-dee.co.uk or come along to the next meeting of the History Group, upstairs in the White Horse on Thursday February 4th.



The White Horse before 1905

Do you have stories of people or events at for example Pendas House or Quinta House, of using the Midland Bank at Bank House, of Metcalfe's shop, Overton Hall and of course, of meeting the Queen in the High Street! And do you have any old pictures of the High Street? But not to worry if you can't remember the High Street shown in the picture above! That's the White Horse before 1905! And don't feel left out because in future months there will be opportunities to look at other areas of the village.

MYSTERY SOLVED



Last month's Oracle asked if any one knew who was this Overton postman? Success! Noreen Haynes from Willow Street recognised her grandfather.

He was Colin Cross, shoemaker and part time village Postman. Colin was born in 1855. As a boy he lived with his parents John and Elizabeth plus brothers and sisters (in order of age - Alfred, Reuben, Edward, Pamela, Walter, Colin, Sarah Jane & Elizabeth). Their home was in Salop Road close to the Turnpike gate. John was a Shoemaker employing 2 men and 2 boys. Colin learnt his trade from his father and married his wife Mary Owens in 1882, she was from Dolgellau. Colin and Walter traded as Boot makers and they lived and had a shop in Turning Street, in what was later Dalby's shop. Their children were Elizabeth, Agnes, Richard and Norah. Colin died in 1941, aged 86.

OVERTON & DISTRICT BOWLING CLUB

The Annual Dinner & Presentation Evening was held at The Plassey Shippon Restaurant on Friday 20 November with members and friends. Mr Den Owen, President, presented trophies to the winners of the various competitions held during the season: Duncan Rennie - Spring Shield, Chris Probert - Fitzhugh Cup, Derek Edwards - the John Cooper Cup, Neil Edwards/ Phil Edwards - Doubles, Derek Edwards - the Gwynne Lewis Trophy, Roger Bailey - Non-winners, Rhys Woolham/Dave Edwards/Den Owen - Floodlight Triples.



An Open Doubles Competition had been held at the Green in September and the successful winners were Dave Bond (Llangollen) and John Edwards (Overton). Members had entered various Competitions in the Oswestry & District League. Dave Edwards had enjoyed an excellent season winning the League merit in Division 1 and League Competitions.

The B Team were successful in winning Division 3, the A Team came 3rd in Division 1. The Veterans A Team were 3rd in Division 7 and team member Roger Bailey 2nd in the League; the team also won the Peter Kendall Shield in the Veterans Knockout Competition. The Club looks forward to the coming season and hopes that visitors and new members will come along to join us when the new season starts in April.



Well done to all those who brightened up the village with their Christmas lights. Examples from Parkside, Plas Madoc and the Cocoa Rooms.



SCHOOL NEWS

If your child will have their 3rd Birthday before 31st August this year they will be eligible for a place in our nursery class from September 2010. Forms will be available from school from 5th January 2010 and it is of **UTMOST** importance that your child's form is returned to school by 23rd February 2010. Places will be allocated from that date **ONLY**. For further details and a prospectus contact: St Mary's School on 710370 or by letter to **Mrs P.A. Clarke, Headteacher, St. Mary's School, School Lane, Overton, LL13 0ES**



Year 5 attended the Victorian Christmas at Chirk Castle. We sang "Silent Night" to Lady Myddelton and helped the servants prepare for a traditional Victorian Christmas. The pupils loved the time travel aspect! Here's what they said.

Charlotte Clarke age 10 said *"It was a pleasure to meet Lady Myddelton Biddulph"*

Sophie Vibhishanan almost 10! *"We learned a lot about the Victorians"*

Wyn Bellis age 10 *"Lady Myddelton was lovely and she gave us all a nice present."* Libby Hughes age 9 said

"It was great to travel back in time and make peppermint creams!"

Year 4 took part in the 'Food for Thought Christmas Cookie Competition'. We were delighted when our biscuits were selected to go forward to the finals at Yale College. Kate and Joseph decorated the biscuits we had



made in school and had the experience of working in a professional kitchen, alongside professional chefs. They were judged by the Mayor and Mayoress on taste, texture, hygiene and presentation. We were delighted when we came first! Our prizes include a microwave, cinema tickets, a class visit to Chester Zoo, cookery books and tea with the Mayor next year!



In December Years 3 and 4 took part in the Nativity concert 'O Come All Ye Faithful'.



We all really enjoyed singing and performing

in front of our families and friends. It was a great end to our first term in school.

NEW PARENT & TODDLER GROUP

by Jean Thomas

Exciting news is that Overton Methodist Church have agreed that the "school room" can be a meeting place for parents, or grandparents with babies and toddlers. The first meeting will be on Wednesday January 13th at 2.00pm the purpose of this will be to discuss how future meetings might be organised. We will assemble some toys & drinks for the grand opening. Please do come along for a chat and tell us what you would like.

We are aware that a successful group already operates on Tuesday mornings, but we have been informed that another opportunity to meet would be appreciated. See you on January 13th

PLAYGROUP OUTSIDE SPACE PROJECT

The Overton Playgroup has successfully raised over £7,000 towards redeveloping its outside space. The plans include replacing the double door (which has seen better days) with glass centred doors to improve the natural light. A shelter will then extend from the door to enable children to have a small play area outside in all weather. To teach the children road safety from a young age, a road network will be painted on the ground which children will use when pedalling their cars.

The wire fence at the back beside the school will be replaced with a wooden fence. The area will be much more child friendly with a musical area kitted with fixed instruments (neighbours not to worry!) and a story-time area (with logs which will no doubt double for a stepping stones area). Other small improvements for Health and Safety, such as replacing gates, will also take place.

The project has been funded by two excellent donations from the Dame Dorothy Jeffrey's charity and the Wrexham Rural Key Fund, as well as some fundraising events. The plans are on display in the playgroup and please call 710 688 if you want more information. A second Open Day to look on the plans will take place on Sunday 17th January at the Playgroup from 5-6pm. All welcome.

Reflections on 2009

by Chris Nunns



The WI AGM at the Albert Hall

As we welcome in the New Year, looking forward to some new and exciting times in the WI, our thoughts also turn to look back at what we did in 2009. It is always a busy year in the WI Nationally and there is plenty of choice for women to get involved as little or as much as they want. 2009 has been no exception and with the Shropshire Federation of WIs celebrating its 90th birthday, many brilliant events were organised. The 90th Anniversary Annual Council meeting in April was held at the new Shrewsbury Theatre Severn which was 'packed' with women. I, for one, as a new member of WI found it awe inspiring, the atmosphere electric, as were the guest speakers.

Two of our members attended a birthday celebration of 'Fashion and Flowers' at the new Prostar Stadium, where Howard Franklin, who has worked in many 'high' places, shared his talents with us, followed by a show of M&S summer fashions. Not to be missed was a trip to London to the WI AGM at the Royal Albert Hall (see picture), an even more impressive event, with yet more women together –thousands –can you imagine? 5000 plus WI members and guests sang, looked & listened, voted, applauded, laughed and shed tears. Maureen Lipman and Eve Pollard were amongst guest speakers, but Richard Stilgoe's students from his Orpheus Centre, a residential performing arts centre for young disabled people, stole the show.

We WI women do exercise as well you know, and our new Overton President, Rona Williams, took part in a WI Spring 7 mile ramble around the Wrekin and raised £100 for Nightingale House, Wrexham, on the 9k/9 bridges Fun Run/Walk. Last but not least, a few women enjoyed an evening playing 'New Age Kurling' at Tilstock. I nearly forgot, we also organise our own trips and in March we had a coach trip to see 'Calendar girls', in July we went to the Glass Blobbery and Uchaf Gardens near Bala.

As the National Federation states, "*The WI is a progressive organisation that is keen to move forward in the 21st Century, by attracting new younger members, by adapting to the needs of modern lifestyles, and by modernizing the activities of the WI*". Here in Overton, we would welcome any new members and visitors this year to help us succeed in this goal. Contact me Chris Nuns on 710906

WHAT'S ON

January Diary for St Mary's Services

Sunday January 3rd	11.30am Holy Eucharist
Tuesday January 5th	2.30pm St Mary's School Service in Church. All welcome
Sunday January 10th	11.00am Sunday Praise & Coffee
Sunday January 17th	11.30am Holy Eucharist
Sunday January 24th	11.30 Family Eucharist
Sunday January 31st	10.30am Group Eucharist at Penley

January Diary for Methodist Church Services

Sunday Evening Services 6.30pm

Saturday January 9th 10am - 12 noon Messy Church in the Roman Catholic Church Hall. Crafts, painting, games. Fun for everyone.

Tuesday January 12th Overton Community Council meeting in the Parish Room. Members of the public wishing to speak can do so between 7.20 - 7.30pm.

Tuesday January 12th Overton Film Club in Village Hall. Doors open 7pm, Film 8pm, "Life of Brian".

Wednesday January 13th 12.30pm First Lunch Club at the White Horse

Thursday January 14th Overton WI Meeting in the Parish Room. Speaker: Myfanwy Povey on "Costa Del Wrexham". Competition: Holiday Photo.

January 14th, 15th and 16th Overton Amateur Dramatic Society production "Agatha Christie", a comedy mystery by Cernath Fox

Friday January 22nd 7.00pm Overton Twinning Musical Evening with The Maletones at the Village Hall Tickets £5 or pay at the door

Monday January 25th 7.30pm Bowling Club AGM to be held in the Parish Room.

Wednesday February 3rd 7.30pm Maelor Music Society Concert in Maelor School Hall. "Robert Chesters - Piano". Tickets £10 on door; Annual Membership £33

Thursday February 4th 7.30pm Overton History Group "Memories of the High Street" in upstairs room at the White Horse.



Overton Twinning are holding a

Musical Evening at
Overton Village Hall on

Friday 22 January at 7pm,

featuring THE MALETONES - a local male voice choir plus special guests.

We will be serving refreshments and holding a raffle.

Tickets £5 on sale in January

or pay on the door



FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to Beth and Ian Wright on the birth of their first baby daughter, Ffion, a sister for Nathan and Jamie, and a first granddaughter for Ken and Patricia Roberts and a great granddaughter for Ray Keen.

Belated congratulations to Olive and Walter Roberts on the birth of their fifth grand daughter.

Happy January Birthdays to

Dan Hunter, Sylvia Ogden, Micki Blair, Kyle Stubbert Pugh, Raymond Austin, Poppy Bateman Green, Jack Pritchard, Karen Pritchard and Ronnie Foster.

Sincere condolences to the families and friends of Mrs Jonathan and Helen Rennie who passed away in December.

It is with deep regret that we report the sudden death of Overton resident Helen Rennie. Helen who was 69 was a keen golfer and badminton player, a local J.P. and was involved in many local and national charitable organisations. Over the years these included the NSPCC, the Scouts, the PTA, and the Playgroup, and she was a counsellor for Citizens Advice Bureau for over 25 years. Helen leaves husband Duncan, sons Scott and Finlay and 2 grandchildren.

LITTER PICK

Shane Hughes, Project Officer for Keep Wales Tidy in Wrexham CB is looking for groups or volunteers to take part in a litter pick in Overton, either Saturday morning or weekdays. If interested please contact Katrina Chalk on 710055.

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.

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