

News and Views

Issued by Overton Parish Council
Information and Comment on Village Activities

December 2001 / January 2002



PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

From Parish Council Chairman Lucy Sloane Williams and Councillors Maggie Atkins and Brian Langer.

Parish Council Meetings

This will take place on Wednesday 12th December 2001 at 7.30pm in the Community Centre. Public time is at approximately 8pm when parishioners may speak about Overton issues.

There will be no committee meetings in December. The next Parish Council meeting will be on **Wednesday 9th January 2002** and the committee meetings are on Tuesday 22nd January, starting at 7:30pm with Highways & Byways, 8pm Planning and 8:30pm Finance & General Purposes.

The agenda and planning applications for each meeting are displayed on the events notice-board three days before the meeting. Minutes can be found on the notice-board inside the Community Centre.

Leylandii on The Lynch

Hampshire County Council is seeking the removal of the leylandii hedging and the fence behind it put in by Mr & Mrs Cardone, owners of Southington Mill, in April. The Council is also requiring the removal of the fence and hedging planted by the previous owner of the Mill in 1990. In all this comprises about 210 trees extending over about 143 metres.

The Council has powers under the Highways Act 1980 to deal with unauthorised interference with the highway which may need to be invoked.

Dog Field

For the past 12 years, thanks to Tholstrup Farms, walkers have had free access to what is known as the "Dog Field". The estate has now been sold and as the buyer wishes to return this field to agriculture it will now be fenced. (The track that runs east from Turrill Fam to the barn in Sapley Lane Playing Field is also private).

The Parish Council requests that those who have been using these areas respect the wishes of the new owner and only use the Public Footpaths and tracks. Copies of the Parish Footpaths booklet are available for purchase from the clerk ☎ 01962 774296.

It should be noted that the proposed "Right to Roam" legislation only applies to moorland and heathland – not agricultural.

New Village Hall

The year 2002 will be a period of intense concentration for the New Hall Steering Group as it works to provide the information required by the main proposed funding body, the Community Fund (formerly the Charities Board). Details of the communities to be served, skills and experience of the future hall's management committee, a business plan and

fully costed detailed design of the building and car park will form the core information. Revised timetables are being sent to key groups in the village and a warm invitation is extended to potential users to participate in the forthcoming meeting on Monday 10th December in the Overton Community Centre.

St Mary's Hall – the Final Clause

Having dealt with some difficult unforeseen challenges, the Parish Council and the trustees of St Mary's Hall are now negotiating the delicate wording of an "Overage Clause" which will govern any subsequent disposal of the site after purchase by the Parish Council. This is the last significant hurdle before completion, which should follow smoothly.

Affordable Housing

What role can the Parish Council play in ensuring the need for local affordable housing is met? Attendance at a recent housing conference highlighted the value of research by some parish councils, which builds on the Housing surveys and Housing Needs Registers managed by the larger district/borough councils. It also exposed the many difficulties in finding the cheaper building sites sought by housing associations. Good contacts have been made with experts in the field, which should facilitate the Parish Council's further deliberations on the matter.

St Luke's Hall AGM

Readers are advised that this will take place on Tuesday 9th February at 7.30pm. This year's agenda will include a progress report on the development of the New Village Hall and proposals to change the charity's constitution.

B3400 Traffic Lights

An on-site meeting took place in November with an officer from the County Council to determine how traffic flow could be eased as a result of right turning traffic off the B3400 holding up vehicles continuing along B3400 and congestion in clearing the lights from Winchester Street. Extra timing is likely to be given to traffic exiting Winchester Street during the peak period and a sensor will be placed close to the centre of the junction to determine how long vehicles are stood waiting to turn right. Once the results are known the County will propose remedies. The extra traffic likely to be generated by 75+ extra houses at Foxdown and 60 on Overton Hill was also pointed out to the officer as further congestion and tailbacks at the traffic lights are inevitable.

Extension of 30mph Limit in Waltham Road

An official notice from the County Council advising of the intention to extend the limit several metres to the south east has been considered by the Parish Council. Our response is that the limit should be extended even further - to the Overton village sign beyond the last bungalow.

Bus Shelter (eastbound) Southington Close

Now that the new hardstanding has been put in place it should not be long before contractors can re-site the shelter to provide better sight lines for people waiting for a bus.

BOROUGH COUNCILLORS' REPORT

From Borough Councillors Paula Baker and Derick Mirfin

Refuse Collection

Some villagers need reminding that, on Overton's new collection day, Friday, rubbish bins need to be put out for collection by 7am on the morning of the collection.

The green bin recyclable collection is separate from, and somewhat later than, the black bin collection. But both the weekly black bins and the fortnightly green bins should be put out the night before, unless there is a narrow pavement problem.

Despite some hiccups, the new system – across the whole borough- is already achieving an increase of 150% for recyclable material, compared with the previous system.

Borough officers and ourselves will soon be working out a solution to the problem of households which find it difficult to accommodate and manoeuvre the black and green bins.

If you'd like more information about Council services there is an assortment of current leaflets available in the Community Centre entrance. This includes a supply of application forms for housing. As ever, we can be contacted at
Cllr Paula Baker, 59 Winchester St. ☎ 771219

Cllr Derick Mirfin, 45 Winchester St. ☎ 770664.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Christmas Lights at Charledown Close

This year we will once again be raising money for Overton Playgroup. All money raised will be kept in the village for local children. Do come along and please give generously. Lights switched on 1st December.

Pat & Geoff Green, Charledown Close.

Royal British Legion

The Poppy Appeal in November 2001 raised £2249.63 in and around Overton. This was over £100 more than was raised last year. Many thanks for such a wonderful effort by all who helped and contributed.

Tony Brown.

Open Day

Thank you to everyone who came to the Open Day on November 21st in aid of Cancer Research. The raffle raised over £200 and first prize went to Nancy Cathcart-Jones.

Corinne Cooke, Glebe Meadow.

Adult Vandals

Your correspondent may well be right in implying that a few of the youth in the village are anti-social. But the worst anti-social behaviour surely comes from the grown ups and this can all be seen in Winchester Street. Double parking outside the shops, using the grass verges and pavements as car parks and an apparent desire to vandalise a pretty street by building the most inappropriate and ugly structures. I am not talking about the big developers who seem to try quite hard to create an environment which is quite pleasant to look at

and live in. Only the "grown ups" have the money to vandalise the village on this scale.

David Rees, 101 Winchester Street.

CONCERT OF CHRISTMAS MUSIC

From Gill Corbett, Overton Choral Society.

Overton Choral Society will be giving its annual Concert of Christmas Music on Monday December 17th at 7:30pm, in St Mary's Hall. We will be singing Christmas songs from through the ages, as well as many old favourites. There will be lots of opportunities to join in the singing, and coffee and mince pies will be served afterwards. There is no entrance charge, but there will be collection on the door. Do come along and join us.

Tony Trollope has retired from the choir this year after over 30 years of singing with us. In recognition of the contribution he has made over the years he has been made a life member of the choir and we have asked Tony and Rosemary to nominate the charity to which this year's proceeds will be donated.

LIBRARY NEWS

From Chris Vane, Library Supervisor.

Library

After such a long, warm autumn, it seems that winter has finally arrived. Our special collection for December is called "Mystery in History" - so if you feel like curling up with a good book on a cold winter evening, this may be the answer. There will be a pre-Christmas story time for children who are under school age. Please ask at the Library for further details.

ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES

From Glenda Walsh, Community Education Officer.

The Spring 2002 Adult Education Programme organised by Basingstoke College of Technology starts Monday 14th January 2002. You can obtain your copy of the programme form the 3rd January at your local supermarket, library, the hospital, the Information Centre in the Town Centre and various other outlets and also by telephoning the Information Office at BCOT ☎ 306484. We run a large and varied programme in nine different centres including BCOT, so there is a course near you that you may be interested in. Topics range from IT to art and craft, carpentry and motor vehicle, holistic therapies, exercise routines and may more besides. To enrol or obtain more information on a particular course please call the above number or the Adult Education Office on ☎ 306347/306355.

TESTBOURNE NEWS

From Teresa Reynolds, Governor.

Celebrating Success

We were delighted to welcome back pupils who left Testbourne in the summer for our Presentation Evening on 15th November. Richard Faulds, now famous ex-pupil and winner of a gold medal at the Sydney Olympics presented them with their GCSE certificates watched by parents, Headteachers of their Primary Schools, past and present staff and representatives of the community, including local councillors. We thank everyone who joined us for this happy evening.

Art Visit Earns Praise

Year 8 art classes visited the Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford this term. It was a highly successful visit, with pupils sketching totem poles, masks, pots and pieces of armour in preparation for projects in school in the coming months. We were also very pleased to receive a letter from the museum after the visit congratulating staff on their organisation and pupils on their outstanding work and behaviour. Thank you to all concerned.

An Inspector (Or 12) Calls!

It has been five years since an OFSTED Inspection team last visited Testbourne and it was therefore no great surprise when the large brown envelope plopped onto the mat at the end of September. New regulations mean that the interval between receiving notification and the actual inspection is now much shorter. The inspectors were in school this past week and their report is expected in January.

Invitation To Testbourne Christmas Carol Service

We will be holding our annual Christmas Carol Service at 7.30pm on Tuesday 18th December in Whitchurch Parish Church. This will be a traditional service of carols and readings, with contributions from the Testbourne Singers and Band. Parents and friends of the school are invited to join us for this special evening and for coffee and mince pies afterwards.

OVERTON PLAYGROUP

From Carol Clifford.

As the end of a very successful and happy term approaches, the Playgroup is busy preparing for Christmas. The children are practising for a festive "Sing-a-Long" on 17th December and looking forward to the Christmas Party on 20th December when, it is rumoured, Santa Claus himself may drop in for a mince pie!

As a result of our recent AGM, we now have a new chair, Emma Twamley. We wish her all the best in her new role. All parents and staff wish to say a huge thank-you to Tracey Bullen and Rosemary Sullivan, our departing chair and treasurer, whose hard work has done so much to ensure the Playgroup's success. It has been much appreciated.

If you are considering sending a child to the Playgroup, you are welcome to visit us. Sessions run from 9.00-11.30am and from 12.30 -3.00pm. Please note that places are filling up rapidly and that if your child is eligible to start before September 2002, you should contact Amanda Igo, Playgroup Leader, as soon as possible ☎ 770370.

OVERTON RECREATION CENTRE

From Ken Hogan, Chairman.

Congratulations to the following major prizewinners in the November draw.

£500 P Whitehorn £200 Alan Williams
£100 V Miller, Des Doyle, C Lambden.

We are very grateful to Mr Mike Dawes, who has chosen to donate his £100 prize, won in last month's draw, to our Berrydown fundraising. Anyone wanting to know more about the project or how they can support the fundraising should contact the Chairman ☎ 770716.

The next draw will take place on Friday 14th December at 6:30pm in the Bridge St Pavilion.

OVERTON MUMMERS

From Gill Corbett.

Overton Mummers will once again be making their traditional Boxing day appearance in the village of Overton. They will be performing their centuries old play which represents the dying of the old year, and the birth of the new. It is performed by 6 people, mysteriously clad from head to toe in strips of wallpaper and brandishing staffs. You can see them perform at 1pm in the Community Centre car park (weather permitting, though it can't be any colder than last year!), followed by a performance outside the Greyhound pub at around 2pm. This will be followed by a session of traditional music and carols in the pub. For those unable to make Boxing day they will also be performing on Sunday December 16th at the Watership Down, around 2pm. For more information ring Tom Hanley ☎ 770384.

VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT

From Ken & Jane MacKenzie.

The Overton VDS Public Display meeting was held on 12th November and proved to be a well attended and enjoyable event. Over 75 people were able to view the draft copy of the VDS and a range of comments were made which will be incorporated into the final version.

Andrew Trotter from Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council gave a short talk in which he said that the VDS was making good progress and would shortly be ready to be submitted for approval as "supplementary planning guidance."

The Lottery "Awards for All" programme is covering the cost of publication and we intend to distribute a copy of the VDS, at no charge, to every household in the parish.

In addition to the main VDS display, there was also a display of the excellent written work and drawings which children from Overton Primary School produced to be included in the VDS. We were particularly pleased that many of the children involved were able to be present.

During the evening the winner of the "Old Overton" Place Names was announced.

5 people - A. Smith, R. Hopkins, Sarah Mills, H. Chatt and Alison Oliver scored 17 out of 17! After a nail-biting draw by Terry Robinson the lucky winner of the £10 prize was announced as **Alison Oliver**. Congratulations and thank you to all who took part. (The answers are on display in the library). Finally, the VDS Steering Group would like to extend its thanks to all who attended and to everyone who has helped us over the last year.

OVERTON BOYS FOOTBALL CLUB

From Ken Hogan.

Father Christmas Float

Once again Overton Boys will be bringing Father Christmas around the village this year and he will be visiting your road between Tuesday 18th and Thursday 20th December. Subject to weather or any other diversions, the plan is to cover the village during the 3 days.

This year the club will be making a donation of sports equipment to Overton School for the benefit of the pupils. Please give generously.

FOSTER FAMILIES NEEDED

From Hampshire CC, Social Services.

Are You the Right Family for Rebecca and Sarah?

Rebecca and Sarah are sisters. They get along very well together and only rarely squabble. They are looking for a family who can care for them for the remainder of their childhood.

Rebecca is 12 years old. She has strawberry blond hair, blue eyes and a rosy complexion. Rebecca enjoys many typical teenage activities including listening to pop music, computer games and watching TV. She loves singing and drama and is a keen member of her local drama group.

Rebecca is generally cheerful, willing and helpful. She finds some schoolwork difficult and needs encouragement and support in doing her homework.

Sarah is 11 years old. She also has strawberry blond hair and blue eyes. Sarah tends to be rather quiet and shy until she gets to know people, then her cheekiness and sense of humour becomes apparent. Sarah enjoys writing and drawing, computer games and watching TV. Sarah is doing well at school and is cheerful and helpful.

Rebecca and Sarah have regular contact with family members and this will continue. They need carers who can understand their need to keep in touch with their family and understand the impact that some of their past experiences may have on them in the future.

If you think you can help or would like to know more about fostering please phone Edaena Watson of Social Services Family Placement Team ☎ 362073.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Readers should note that the comments given are those of the Parish Council; the Borough Council does not necessarily endorse them when arriving at its decisions.

BDB 51734 and BDB 51735 Renewal of permission for BDB 41997 and 41998 for the erection of a replacement farmhouse and conversion of former agricultural buildings to two dwellings and erection of garage building at Willesley Warren Farm. No objection.

BDB 51761 Erection of a single storey side extension at Ramblers, Sapley Lane. No objection.

BDB 51225 Erection of detached double garage with a revised vehicular access at Nutley Lodge, Ashe. No objection.

BDB 51319 Erection of conservatory at 41 Pond Close. No objection.

BDB 51551 Erection of single storey side extension at 4 Southington. No objection.

BDB 51663 New pitched roof to bay windows, new glass roof to conservatory, new windows to side elevation, raise level of garage with new roof to provide first floor and alterations to provide double vehicular access at 22 Dellands. No objection.

BDB 51650 Construction of pitched roof to replace flat roof on existing two storey rear extension at 24 Bridge Street. No objection.

DEADLINE NEWS & VIEWS

This will be 16th January. Please send your articles to the editor in writing, on a PC floppy disk or by e-mail. The email address is Reynoldsxx@aol.com

We would like to wish a Happy Christmas to all our readers.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

From Public Transport Representative Brian Langer.

Trains

Christmas and New Year services

The following service will be operated by South West Trains but if you intend to use other operators' trains please check with 08457 48 49 50:

24 December special Saturday based service but closedown by 2200;

25, 26 December no service;

27, 28, 29 December special Saturday based service;

30 December normal Sunday service;

31 December special Saturday based service;

1 January Sunday service;

2 January normal weekday service.

Sunday service 13 January to 17 February inclusive

Although some timings along the Exeter Waterloo line will alter during this period the actually arrival and departure times for Overton are unaltered. Do check the above number if you are travelling west of Salisbury.

Buses

Overton Shuttle

Did you know that anyone can use the shuttle bus that runs around the village on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday each week. The fare is 70pence.

Farewell to Noreen Clutterbuck

Noreen has been the regular driver on the Tuesday and Thursday Shuttle services for many years but at the end of October she retired from the job. She made friends with many around Overton, especially her regular passengers, and it was appreciated that the Andover Advertiser was able to record the event with a photo article in a recent edition of the paper. We wish her well for the future and reassure users of the Shuttle that the service continues as before.

Comments and contributions for *News and Views* are welcomed by the editor, Teresa Reynolds, The Three Horseshoes, 41 Winchester Street, ☎ 770248, e-mail reynoldsxx@aol.com. The editor reserves the right not to print articles without giving a reason.

For problems or comments about Parish Council matters, contact the Parish Council Chairman, Lucy Sloane Williams, 1 Riverside Close, RG25 3JU, ☎ 770607, email LucySloaneWilliams@btinternet.com or Vice-chairman John Thow, 15 Station Road, ☎ 770617 email john@thow.org.uk or Clerk to the Council Laura Harley, Oak Tree Lodge, Roundwood, Micheldever, Winchester, Hants. SO21 3BA, ☎ 01962 774296, email laura.harley@virgin.net.

The next Parish Council meetings will be held at the Community Centre on Wednesday, 12th December and Wednesday 9th January at 7.30pm. The meetings will be open to the public, and those who wish to speak may do so during public time at about 8pm.
