

News and Views

Issued by Overton Parish Council
Information and Comment on Village Activities

March 2003

PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

From Parish Council Clerk Laura Harley.

Parish Council Meeting

This will take place on Wednesday 12th March 2003 at 7.30pm in the Community Centre. Public time is immediately at 7:30pm when parishioners may speak about Overton issues, with the main meeting starting not later than 8pm.

The committee meetings will take place on Tuesday 25th March starting at 7:30pm with Highways & Byways, 8pm Planning and 8:30pm Finance & General Purposes.

The next St Mary's Hall Management Committee meeting will be Wednesday 19th March in St Mary's Hall.

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.

Halls in Overton

Following the outcome of the ballot held in October when a majority of people voted against the siting of a new village hall in London Road, the Parish Council recognises that it needs to re-examine the issue of providing halls within the village.

Since the ballot, the Parish Council has completed the purchase of St Mary's Hall. The Management Committee is keen that the hall should remain open and is looking into the feasibility of this. However, the future of St Mary's Hall has to be considered along with the expectations of all the hall providers in Overton.

The Parish Council has yet to decide on the best course of action, and is awaiting further proposals from all the hall providers – these will be shared with the community when they become available.

Community Facilities Meeting

A multi-hall meeting was held on 24th February and was attended by representatives from St Luke's Hall, St Mary's Hall and the Community Centre together with a Parish Councillor and both borough councillors to try to seek a way forward for the existing community facilities. Currently, the halls within the village have complementary facilities and this has been expanded upon positively. The groups present at the meeting agreed that the following ideals should be pursued:

- That the Community Centre should be refurbished and would focus on small activities and information point and computer facilities.
- 2. That St Mary's Hall should be refurbished and would focus on the medium size activities – possibly with an arts and entertainments angle.
- 3. That St Luke's Hall should be demolished and rebuilt – focusing on the current gaps in community provision

– youth, space for sports' activities and a large hall facility (capacity of 250 – 300). Current users would be accommodated in the hall most suitable to their needs.

- 4. To look at the possibility of employing a Community Development Worker to develop the range of activities within Overton and help with applying for funding.

It was agreed that these aims should be furthered and that this way forward will form the basis of a compromise solution that can be accepted by most people in the village. Representatives from the community facilities within the village would now meet on a regular basis – the next meeting will be at the end of April.

Update from St Luke's Hall Management Committee

At the January meeting, the St Luke's Hall Trustees told the Parish Council that they were intending to continue to pursue the proposed new hall scheme. St Luke's Hall is a single skin building and nearing the end of its useful life; a number of people at the February meeting complained that the hall is dirty and unpleasant – reasons in fact why St Luke's needs to be replaced. The current Trustees are trying to keep the hall going on a shoestring and they carry out a lot of work voluntarily so that this can happen. A recent appeal for help with painting and decorating produced only one offer of help.

Update from St Mary's Hall Management Sub-Committee

The Parish Council completed the purchase of St Mary's Hall on 4th November 2002, and shortly afterwards the above committee (SMHMS) was set up to run the hall. As always, there were a number of matters to discuss such as making the rules for running the committee, setting up a bank account, finding a piano for the Choral Society (thanks to Derick Mirfin for lending his), re-painting the badminton lines and thinking long and hard about how to make up the £1000 a year deficit which the hall is running according to the last set of accounts from the church.

Now that all these matters are in hand, the committee is turning its attention to the future of the hall. It is committed to keeping the hall open in the village as long as – 1) a survey which is being carried out currently does not reveal any major structural problems; 2) a business plan can be drawn up which proves that the hall can cover its costs or – even better – make a profit; 3) St Mary's Hall can be part of a multi hall plan and 4) money can be found to improve the hall's toilets, kitchen, façade and accessibility for all.

The committee is also looking at the possibility of redesigning the garden at the back of the property – with a view to providing a community garden and as an extra facility for hirers. To this end, the committee is applying for a grant to help with this work. We are also hoping that PC

Green will have his office in the hall where he will be available to parishioners regularly.

You campaigned to keep St Mary's Hall so why not book the hall for an event, or even better a series of events. We also intend to hold some fundraising activities in the coming year so please support them when you see them advertised.

Annual Parish Meeting

This meeting will be held earlier than usual this year to take into account the Parish Council elections. The proposed time and date for the meeting is **7.45pm on Wednesday 2nd**

April 2003 at the Community Centre. The Parish Council has invited John Lancaster to speak about Rural Housing and a representative from Laverstoke estate to speak about the plans for that estate. As always, the meeting will be followed with wine and refreshments served by the WI.

Parish Council and Borough Council Elections

Elections for the Parish Council will be held between 8.00am and 9.00pm on 1st May 2003 in St Luke's Hall. **It is hoped that with the increasing interest in the work of the Parish Council, many of you will stand as Parish Councillors – we need more than 12 people to ensure that an election is held.** Nomination papers must be delivered to the borough council offices by noon on 1 April 2003. If you are interested in becoming a Parish Councillor, please contact either the Clerk or Electoral Services at the borough council for information and a nomination paper. Please note that there is an election on the same day for one of the two borough councillors seats for the Laverstoke, Overton and Steventon Ward.

Litter Pick

The Parish Council would like to add its thanks to all the people who turned out on Sunday 9th February to take part in the litter pick arranged by the Overton Action Group. It is brilliant that people are prepared to give up their time to take part in this activity and tragic that so many people in the village are still dropping litter. Please put litter in a bin or take it home and do not deface our beautiful village with rubbish.

On the subject of bins – do we need some more?? If you know of an area of the village which needs a bin – please let the Clerk know. The borough council has agreed to provide some new bins as part of a future anti-litter campaign.

Please also remember that the borough council will remove bulky objects for free – there is no need to dump them in the hedgerows – just ring the borough council on 845474.

Rubbish Clearance from St Mary's Hall

Overton Parish Council and the St Mary's Hall Management Sub-Committee would like to thank Dennis Rowles and his staff for removing all the rubbish, which had been cleared by the Overton Dramatic Society, from St Mary's Hall. The rubbish was taken to Sapley Lane Playing Field and was due to be picked up by the borough council together with all the litter from the litter pick. Unfortunately, somewhere in the process Mr Rowles was reported to the borough council as a "fly-tipper", which left him to do some fast explaining to the borough enforcement officer when he arrived. We would like to make it clear that Mr Rowles was putting the rubbish at Sapley Lane Playing Field on behalf of the Parish Council and was not illicitly dumping waste on his own behalf.

Footpath 5.

Recently a parishioner walking the path from Kingsclere Road to the school found one of the gates chained and padlocked. The Parish Council was not responsible for this because the route is a recognised footpath. Anyone who knows anything about this incident should let the Clerk know as soon as possible. Had the lock remained on the gate, children walking to the school on Monday morning would have been forced to cross the road nearer the church - a very dangerous possibility.

Resignation of Mel Byles

Melvin Byles has informed the Parish Council that he is resigning as a councillor. The Council would like to thank Melvin and will miss his vast experience gained over a number of years as a borough councillor.

CCTV

PC Green, Paula Baker and the Clerk are currently looking at the possibilities for providing CCTV in the village centre. They have spoken with a number of representatives from various companies, and are hoping to finalise a scheme and receive quotes in the next month. Funding is available from both the borough council and Police Authority and it is hoped that these grants will pay for the majority of the work. Further updates will be reported in future editions of *News and Views*.

Divorce Recovery Workshop

If anyone is interested in attending a Divorce Recovery Workshop in Basingstoke please contact Denise Allen ☎ 357562, who started this charity in 1996. For further information you can also contact the website on www.drw.org.uk

Basingstoke Breast Cancer Self Help Group

If you have had or have got breast cancer you may be interested in this new support group, which will meet every month in Basingstoke. For further information, please contact Angela Bennett on 762573.

TESTBOURNE NEWS

From Teresa Reynolds, Governor.

For the first time we have entered the Magistrates' Court Mock Trial Competition. This is a national competition, organised by the Citizenship Foundation, which aims to introduce young people to the workings of the legal system. Our team of 12 pupils, from Years 8 and 9, will be playing a full range of roles, including prosecution and defence lawyers, witnesses and magistrates. We have already begun preparation and will be competing against other local schools in the first heat, in Basingstoke Magistrates' Court, on Saturday March 15th. It is proving quite an intense, but fun, learning curve for all of us. We'll let you know how we get on!

Can anyone help us with our latest fund-raising ventures?

This time we are collecting old mobile phones (including charger if you have it), unwanted European currency (some no longer any use to you now that several countries have adopted the Euro) and, of course, Walkers crisps tokens. We can trade all of these in for cash or goods. We have collection points at the school office if you can help.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dog Fouling on Pavements

Would the few selfish dog owners that do not clear up their dogs mess, *please* start considering other footpath users. I am fed up with having to steer myself, a pushchair and young son around piles of dog faeces. It is very unhygienic & unpleasant, especially if trodden in by accident.

Just think how you would feel if I were to empty the contents of my toddler's nappy onto the footpath outside your house. If you are unable to clear up after your dog in public places, could I suggest you keep it home?

I'm sure if the dog fouling fines were seen to be actively enforced, things would change rapidly.

A big thank you to the majority of dog owners in the village that I know do keep the pavements clear.

Mrs E McLaren, Winchester St.

SHEEPFAIR 2004

From Chris Penney.

Following the success of the mediaeval SheepFair in 2000, provisional plans are already being hatched for **next** year – this time with a Victorian theme.

The proposed dates, for your diaries, are:-

Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th July 2004.

Although still 16 months in the future, we thought it would be helpful to let readers know well in advance – partly to help avoid any possible duplication of events, especially bearing in mind that Overton is likely to be VERY busy and congested that weekend.

More information will be published at regular intervals as plans progress: meantime, you might like to give some thought about what part you may wish to play in helping to organise, or take part in, Overton's Victorian SheepFair 2004? Thank you.

Contacts: Peter Baker at The Fireplace Gallery or Chris Penney at Business Connections.

OVERTON RECREATION CENTRE

From Gordon Baker.

As the Overton Recreation Centre reorganises its affairs following the recent tragic death of Ken Hogan, opportunities have arisen for Overton residents to become involved in its running. We are looking for someone to act as Honorary Treasurer, who is prepared to spend a few hours each week supervising the maintenance of the ORC's books, and who will liaise with third party firms when necessary on ORC financial matters. Any other offers from people to serve on the management committee will be welcome.

Additionally, however, we wish to recruit two people:-

A part-time **Administrator** (who has good computer skills and access to the internet), to work 1 day a week from home, controlling all the ORC's routine administrative functions; eg book-keeping, correspondence, bookings, ordering supplies etc.

A part-time **Groundsman**, employed two days per week between April and September, to assist the ORC's Groundsman in the maintenance of the playing surfaces and surrounds.

In both cases, pay rates will depend on ability and experience.

All these roles give an opportunity for you to be involved in a unique charitable organisation. The ORC not only maintains top-class sports facilities for local residents who are sports enthusiasts, but also provides beautiful open spaces in our village. These are one of Overton's great attractions, and limit the encroachment of housing.

Are you interested in any of these? If you would like more information about the roles, please contact:

Gordon Baker ☎ 770807 for the Honorary Treasurer or Administrator roles;

Brian Shadwell ☎ 770876 for the part-time Groundsman.

OVERTON SCOUT & CUB GROUPS

From Carole Woodcock.

Almost 30 Overton boys belong to the Scout and Cub groups, and have lots of fun whilst learning many of life's skills and how to behave responsibly.

Both the Cub and Scout sections are currently led by one warranted leader, and they desperately need extra assistance. If anyone would be willing to give up some of their free time to help, preferably as a warranted assistant following a period of training, or if they want to know more information, please contact the group leaders.

Cubs	Mandy Attwell ☎ 770472
Scouts	Stuart Williams ☎ 770717
Group Scout Leader	Carole Woodcock ☎ 770434

OVERTON ART GROUP

From Harold Smith.

Overton Art Group is taking a summer break in St Malo, France, from 12th to 15th June inclusive. 4 days/3 nights B&B & Evening Meal in a 3* Hotel in the heart of the old town. Price £245.50. Single room supplement £64 for the 3 nights.

We have some places available to non-members. Please contact Harold Smith ☎ 770592.

Editor's Note: We have been asked to clarify that the dates printed above are correct: the date of July printed in The Test is incorrect.

BOOK CLUB

From Teresa Reynolds.

It has been suggested that a reading group be formed within the village, with a nominated book being read and discussed every few weeks. If you are interested in joining please contact me ☎ 770248 or email reynoldsxx@aol.com

NSPCC LAMBING DAYS

From Inge Hunter.

Spring is coming and so are the lambs. James and Jackie Crosbie-Dawson have again generously invited the public to 2 lambing days in aid of the NSPCC. On Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th April from 1pm to 4pm at Northington Farm, Overton. Admission £2. Children under 10 years free.

Mr & Mrs Crosbie-Dawson and the NSPCC would like to draw visitors attention to the fact that disease can be transferred between animals and humans. Therefore any contact is at visitors own risk. No liability is accepted for any illness or accidents that may occur. For further information ☎ 770078.

FIESTA TIME

From Peni Harman.

The Basingstoke based Fiesta dance school is to begin providing dance tuition in Overton from May. Dance teacher Peni Harman is initially offering Salsa and Ballroom classes for beginners. She is also considering extending this to other activities such as afternoon or evening social dances and holiday clubs for the kids.

The 10 week beginners course commences on Wednesday 7th May in St Mary's Hall with a Modern Ballroom and Latin American class from 7-8pm and a Salsa class from 8-9pm. The classes will cost £3.50 each or £[^] for the 2 sessions. Anyone wishing to pay for the full 10 week course in advance will receive a further 10% discount, offering a potential saving of £32 for a couple participating in both classes.

To find out more, or to register your interest please phone Peni, ☎ 896833.

OVERTON SCHOOL FETE

From the OSA.

Fancy a fun packed family afternoon? This year's fete will be held on Saturday June 14th and plans are already underway to make it even better than ever. There will be all the usual attractions, the netball and football competitions car boot sale, BBQ and bar. In addition this year we are hoping to promote some competitions to reflect the wide variety of clubs and interests in the village. This will give you an opportunity to show off your photography, baking or your flower arranging and maybe win a prize as well. A list of the categories along with the rules will be available from the school office from April 1st.

Please make a note of the date and come along and support the school.

DAFFODIL-TIME SUPPER & MUSIC

From Jane MacKenzie.

Join us for a three course supper in memory of our friend Phyllis Male, in aid of Cancer Research and The Hospice, with music from the shows played by Paul Holmes and others. Tickets from Pickwicks at £7.50 each. To be held in the Back Hall of the Methodist church at 7.30pm on Saturday April 26th.

EASTER CONCERT

From Gill Corbett.

Overton Choral Society is giving a concert in St Mary's Church on Saturday April 5th at 7:30pm. The choir will be performing Samuel Barber's Agnus Dei (a vocal arrangement of the Adagio for Strings) and Stainer's "The Crucifixion". The choir will be conducted by Paul Timms and accompanied by Nicholas Hussey on organ. Entrance is £6 on the door.

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, Sue Johnson, 19 Lordsfield Gardens, ☎ 770975 email sue@johnsn.freemove.co.uk or Vice-chairman Lucy Sloane Williams, 1 Riverside Close, RG25 3JU, ☎ 770607, email LucySloaneWilliams@btinternet.com or Clerk to the Council Laura Harley, Oak Tree Lodge, Roundwood, Micheldever, Winchester, Hants. SO21 3BA, ☎ 01962 774296, email laura.harley@virgin.net.

CHARITY LUNCH

From Doris Shorrock, St Mary's Mission Committee

Ash Wednesday, March 5th, in the Church Rooms, from 12noon to 1:30pm. There will be home made soup and bread.

Donations to Mission Aviation Fellowship which flies to inaccessible parts of Africa, Bangladesh, Mongolia and Papua New Guinea to make contact with and take emergency aid to vulnerable people in remote communities.

Editor's note: some villagers may not receive their copy of *News & Views* in time for this event. We apologise, but there is nothing we can do to avoid this.

If your event is near the beginning of the month, please try and let the editor know the month before.

OVERTON RECREATION CENTRE

From Gordon Baker, Chairman.

Congratulations to the following prize winners in the February draw:

£500 R Croft £200 Sheila Locke
£100 Steve McNair, T Harding, Lucy Malphus.

DEADLINE NEWS & VIEWS

This will be 16th March. 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

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.

BDBC 54879 Construction of tractor turning area and change of use of agricultural land to land for the keeping of horses at 7 Vinns Lane. No objection providing that this is for residential use only.

BDBC 54752 Lift low branches on two mature beech trees to approx 6 – 7m on land opposite Southington Lodge. No objection.

BDBC 54850 Erection of two bedroom single storey detached dwelling at 18 Copse Road. No objection.

BDBC 54911 Erection of single storey rear extension at 24 Woodlands. No objection.

BDBC 54932 Change of use from police offices to single dwelling at Police House, Winchester Street. No objection if house used for key workers.

BDBC 54835 Installation of 14.5 metre street furniture style telecommunications column supporting two sector antennas with ancillary equipment cabin at CF Smith Precision Grinding, The Station, Station Hill. No objection.

BDBC 54822 Demolition and reconstruction of chimney using matching bricks, a hydraulic lime mix and insertion of two lead trays at Southington Cottage. No objection.
