

News and Views

Issued by Overton Parish Council
Information and Comment on Village Activities

April 2003

PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

From Parish Councillor Brian Langer and Laura Harley.

Parish Council Meeting

This will take place on Wednesday April 9th 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 April 22nd, starting at 7:30pm with Amenities, 8pm Planning and 8:30pm Finance & General Purposes. The next St Mary's Hall committee meeting will take place on Wednesday 30th April at 7:45pm in St Mary's Hall. The AGM will be on 20th May in the 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.

Sapley Lane Playing Field

Work has finally started on the skateboard park at Sapley Lane Playing Field. At the time of writing, the site has been cleared and the old barn removed ready to dig out so that the tarmac can be laid. The ramps have been made and should be installed before the end of April, say the manufacturers, GBH Ramps.

The Parish Council is also having some fencing, hedging and tree works carried out, and a small car park installed to meet with the criteria laid out in the planning application.

Edward Kersley Playing Field

The problem of the gates (or lack of them) at Edward Kersley Playing Field was raised during public time at the last Parish Council meeting. The Parish Council is attempting to come up with a permanent solution to the problem. Another parishioner has pointed out that there is a "bolt hole" in the hedge leading onto Red Lion Lane, which is being used by children as a short cut and quotes are being sought to have this area fenced.

Dog Fouling of Play Areas

It has been brought to the Parish Council's attention that dogs are now being allowed to foul Edward Kersley Playing Field. It is also understood that dogs are fouling along the newly made up path behind Harvey's Field and in the children's play area between Harvey's Field and Kercher's Field. It is illegal to allow your dog to foul these areas. Dog's faeces can carry *Toxocara canis* and about 100 children per year in the UK pick up this disease, which can result in blindness. The worms develop in the faeces that is 3 – 6 weeks old and survive in the ground once the faeces had rotted away. The Parish Council is willing to provide further bins around the village for the deposit of dog waste – please let us know if there is an area that needs a bin – but

will take a particularly dim view of dog fouling, particularly in play areas.

St Mary's Hall

The St Mary's Hall Management Sub-Committee has received the results of the recent buildings survey and is now waiting for a costed list of priority works before planning a refurbishment programme. It was agreed to defer work to the community garden until decisions about refurbishment work have been made.

The committee discussed the use of the front cloakroom as a police office for PC Paul Green. The details of this lease have been finalised and communicated to Paul, and it is hoped that he will soon be available in the village to provide help and advice on police matters.

The group has looked at the cost of hiring the hall. It was agreed to keep the basic rate at £8.00 per hour for evening use, and to introduce a new daytime rate of £5.00 per hour. If you wish to book the hall for a Friday or Saturday night party, the cost will be £50.00 for the evening.

New play group for St Mary's Hall

Starting on 28th April 2003, Sabine Jamieson is running a Sport and Playgroup in St Mary's Hall at the following times – Toddler Sport and Playgroup (age 18 months to 4 years) Monday 9:30 – 10:30am. Sport and Playgroup (age 2 years 9 months to 5 years) – Monday and Friday afternoons 1:00 – 3:00pm; Tuesday and Thursday mornings 9:15 – 11:15am. The aim of the playgroup is to encourage learning through sport and play. For further information, please contact Sabine ☎ 771510.

Overton Parish Council Grants

Does your club or society want to purchase an item of equipment or wish to pursue a project? If so the Parish Council may be able to help by giving a grant towards the cost. Please put your proposals in writing and address them to the Clerk, enclosing your latest set of accounts.

High Street/London Road Surface Dressing

This is a reminder that rectification of the sub-standard work undertaken last summer is due to be carried in the new financial year. No specific date has been given but the job is weather dependent and is expected to be carried out on a Sunday to minimise disruption.

Verge Damage

The borough council has replaced a grass verge in Poyntz Road with granite sets where parked cars have caused vehicles, especially the dust cart, to damage the verge. A cheaper option of placing "dragon's teeth" posts, paid for by the county council, to deter over-running at the Quidhampton triangle has been less successful; three of them have already been damaged. However, this option will be tried at the junction of Two Gate Lane and Two Gate Meadow where damage is occurring.

Community Centre Clock

The Community Centre clock has been made and is waiting to be installed during 2 weeks in May. Unfortunately, the builder will need to erect scaffolding around the bell tower to access the area safely.

Dropped Kerbs to Help the Disabled

Overton has had several of these put in recently by the county council but it is uncertain if all the routes covered by vehicles for the disabled have been covered. There is no certainty that costs will permit every location to be dealt with but please let the clerk know if there is a particular route causing you a problem. Where the dropped kerbs are installed it is important that cars are not parked in such a way that they cannot be used.

Overhanging Branches Hilltop Road

Both Hampshire County Council and South West Trains/Network Rail have been asked to cut back branches which are encroaching on the highway and reducing walking and vehicular space.

Battens Avenue Traffic Management

A meeting involving local residents, which will discuss the outcome of the recent survey, is expected to be held at 6:30pm Tuesday 22nd April in the Community Centre.

Pilates

Did you know that there are daytime and evening Pilates classes being held in Overton? Pilates is especially effective for chronic back and neck pain, osteoarthritis, osteoporosis, women's health problems and repetitive strain injury and is suitable for all ages and fitness levels. For information about classes please contact Sarah Karstan, a qualified physiotherapist and Pilates instructor on ☎ 895242.

Rural Policing Initiative

A manned mobile police office was spotted in the village on 20th March. It appears that Hampshire Constabulary has acquired funding for the vehicle and the officers' time from the government's current Rural Policing initiative.

Communication had clearly failed as prepared posters announcing the police office visit had not been received by the Parish Council. Hopefully this shortcoming has now been put right, so please keep an eye on the parish noticeboard to see when the next monthly visit is due. Don't forget however that the Whitchurch Police Station may be contacted ☎ 0845 045 45 45.

Computing for Beginners

This FREE 12 week course will commence on 30th April 9.30 - 11.30am in the Community Centre. To enrol please contact the Community Office, Richard Aldworth School ☎ 473698.

BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN UPDATE

From Ken MacKenzie.

Local people have formed a "Local Biodiversity Action Plan" group with the aim of recording the wildlife of the Parish and suggesting ways in which it can be preserved and improved.

For this work we are delighted to have the support of both Overton Parish Council and Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council as well as the assistance of organisations such as the Hampshire Wildlife Trust.

An open meeting is planned for early summer at which everyone will be given the opportunity to become involved in the process of recording the wildlife.

In the meantime we are hoping to gather as much information as we can about the local plants and animals be they big or small – birds, bats, bees, butterflies, beetles, bushes or bullheads (in the river!).

If you have any information which you are willing to share with us on any local plants or animals – common or rarities – we would love to hear from you. Any survey work that has already been done would be of great interest. Similarly we would like to know about plants and animals which were once found in the parish but have now disappeared and also to hear from anyone who has experience of creating a wildlife garden.

For more information please contact Kath Doyle ☎ 771032 or Ken MacKenzie ☎ 771121.

OVERTON TENNIS CLUB

From Joy MacGregor.

Weather permitting, the first Club Night will be 6.15 onwards on Tuesday 1st April and we would be pleased to welcome prospective members on that evening. We now have the added facility of the floodlit courts at Laverstoke and further details of the Club can be obtained from Joy MacGregor ☎ 770391 or Bob Pallister ☎ 770643.

CONCERT

From Judith Young.

Soloists and strings from Peter Symonds' College's Hampshire Specialist Music Course will give a concert in St Mary the Virgin, Laverstoke, on Saturday May 24th, in aid of local charity H.A.R.T. The group will perform two of Bach's Brandenburg Concerti, nos. 3 and 4, as well as Mozart's Clarinet Quintet and the less well-known Bagatelles by Dvorak. Tickets £6. Further details from Howard Burchett, ☎ 01256 896642

H.A.R.T

From Anne Corrigan.

HART Wildlife in Overton is planning a fundraising auction of promises and donated items and would welcome any contributions. Items already received include a 1950's Triang Dolls House, a Victorian brass plant stand, LP's and 45's from the 1960's and 1970's, a brass bugle from the 23rd Royal Welsh Fusiliers and a 1930's Oxford straw boater! Promises include a reflexology massage and a pet portrait by a local artist. Any further contributions will be very gratefully received so please clear out your attics! The auction is to be on Saturday 17th May at St. Mary's Hall Overton at 6pm (with viewing from 5pm).

If you have anything you would like to donate please contact Anne Corrigan ☎ 01962 774889.

RUGBY CLUB INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL 19-21 APRIL

From Roger Filby.

To be held at the Old Cricket Ground Laverstoke on **Saturday 19th April**. Men's starting at 9:30. Teams from England, the Netherlands and Overton's twinned village Neuvic from France, and Scotland. Schools Tag Rugby 14:00 including schools from Overton and Whitchurch.

Grand Dance 2000 with food. Tickets £10 from Pauls Hairdressers, ORFC and Sue Hunter.

Sunday 20th Minis festival with teams from all over Hampshire and Overton Veterans V The Dutch!!

Monday 21st Overton Presidents Game V Alresford plus Overton v The France!

Also come and see a Medieval Knights display from 13:00.

OVERTON CRICKET CLUB

From Nick Parnell-Smith.

We are currently looking for players for the coming season for Saturday and midweek league games, as well as Sunday friendlies. If you are interested please call Nick Parnell-Smith ☎ 773167.

TESTBOURNE NEWS

From Teresa Reynolds, Governor.

The second half of the spring term is proving to be quite an eventful one at Testbourne.

Red Noses

We celebrated Red Nose Day on March 14th in some style. School council had voted to have a non-uniform day and a talent contest to raise money for Comic Relief and achieved nearly £850.

Testbourne Pupils in Court

Our team in the Magistrates Court Mock Trial Competition put in a magnificent performance in the local heats and were declared joint winners. This was a national competition, organised by the Citizenship Foundation.

BBC RADIO BERKSHIRE

From Matt Cole.

On your doorstep and especially great at breakfast time... no NOT a bottle of Milk... but BBC Radio Berkshire's coverage of local news. I'm Matt Cole, the BBC's district reporter for Basingstoke and I'm here to get your views, your news and your voices onto the air.

If you've been listening lately you'll have heard mums in Woolton Hill village battling to solve their traffic congestion troubles, Basingstoke head teachers fighting to recruit staff, and campaigners for the homeless putting their case.

But what about YOUR news? If Overton is as busy as it is pretty - let me and everyone else know about it.

Tune to 104.1 fm and catch a flavour of what we can do for you.

Troubled or triumphant, either way, help me chart the highs and lows of village life -. Call with your news ☎ 0118 946 4200, or email me at Matthew.Cole@bbc.co.uk.

PLAYGROUP NEWS

From Naomi Conneely.

In order to ensure that we offer the very best quality of education and care for your children, Overton playgroup is currently working towards Accreditation with the Pre-School Learning Alliance. Of course we know that we provide our children with a top quality early years learning environment, but by achieving this goal, the high standards we offer will be fully and formally recognised.

One consequence of our success is that we are increasingly over subscribed. There is a situation arising where we have more pre-school children than places available, and we are now considering options to expand.

ST. MARY'S MISSION

From Jane Waldram.

Please support St Mary's Mission coffee morning in aid of local charities on Saturday 12th April in the Community Centre at 9:30am. Proceeds to Wel-Care and other local charities.

LIBRARY NEWS

From Chris Vane, Library Supervisor.

It has been long promised but at last I can say that the People's Network is online in Overton! There have been teething problems, of course, but we hope that this new FREE service will be appreciated - and used regularly. The only charge is for printing and for CD's to download any work you might wish to save.

There is a booking system for hourly slots but if you want to take a chance, just come in and ask on the day.

The other new service in the library is the sale of book tokens - handy for that last minute present.

ARKLE LODGE

From Friends of Arkle Lodge Residents.

Everyone is welcome to the Easter coffee morning on Saturday 12th April, 10am-12 noon at Arkle Lodge, Sprents Lane. Admission 50p, includes tea/coffee. Cake raffle, tombola, main raffle.

DEADLINE NEWS & VIEWS

This will be 16th April. Please send your articles to the editor in writing, on a PC floppy disk or by e-mail. The e-mail address is NewsandviewsRG25@aol.com

Please note new e-mail address.

ST MICHAEL'S HOSPICE CONCERT

Last September, well known local musician David Holland was appointed Musical Director of Watership Cantabile, an amateur mixed voice chamber choir based in Newbury. The choir's extensive repertoire, mainly sung "a cappella", comprises religious and secular music dating from the renaissance period through to the 20th Century, embracing motets, madrigals, anthems, popular and modern songs, together with a vast collection of folk songs from around the world, sung in appropriate native languages. It's members live and work mainly in north-west Hampshire and West Berkshire.

Watership Cantabile's 2003 concert season commences with "A selection of Music for a Spring Evening" at St Mary's Church, Overton at 7:30pm on Saturday, 12th April.

Admission is by Programme, available from St Michael's Hospice shops or at the door.

FRIENDS OF OVERTON SURGERY

There will be an Inaugural Meeting at the Community Centre on Tuesday 29th April at 7:30pm.

This is a Group seeking Charitable Status to oversee the effective use of bequests made to the Overton Practice for the benefit of the patients.

All patients over 18 who are registered with the Overton Practice on that date are invited to attend.

Copies of the Constitution and the Agenda for the meeting are available to read from the Practice and from local pharmacies.

For more information contact

The Chairman Bill Denny ☎ 770183
or the Secretary Chris Smith ☎ 397283

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

From Public Transport Representative Brian Langer.
Easter and May Day weekends

The following services are expected to operate

Trains

(South West Trains) check with 08457 48 49 50 for other operators

Friday 18 & Saturday 19 April	Saturday service
Sunday 20 April	Sunday service
Monday 21 April	Saturday service
Monday 5 May	Saturday service

Buses

Friday 18 April Countywide Travel will operate a Sunday service on routes 76/86;

Saturday 19 April Hampshire Bus on routes 76/86 and Burghfield Mini-coaches (Overton Shuttle) will operate a Saturday service;

Sunday 20 and Monday 21 April Countywide

Travel will operate a Sunday service on routes 76/86

Monday 5 May Countywide Travel will operate a Sunday service on routes 76/86.

Season ticket usage service 76/86 Sundays only
Hampshire County Council has provided the following:

“Season tickets provided by HCC to scholars to access school and college
These have been provided for the purpose of getting to school or college on school/college days only. They are not for use at weekends.

Season/multi-journey tickets issued by Stagecoach Hampshire Bus

These are issued for use on its services only. They are not issued for use on the services of other operators. On Sundays the 76/86 services are not Stagecoach services and consequently, tickets issued by Stagecoach are not valid unless (as was the case until June last year) Countywide Travel offers a discounted fare to holders of such tickets. Stagecoach prices its tickets on the basis that regular travellers riding five days a week will get a discount when compared with paying daily. Anyone who travels six days a week effectively gets the sixth day free. The only people who can claim to have bought a weekly ticket in the sense that “weekly” means seven days a week are those where Stagecoach operates the service Sunday to Saturday inclusive eg Basingstoke town routes. It is clear therefore that Countywide Travel is not in breach of the Conditions of Contract.”

It seems inconsistent that train season tickets for a specific route eg Basingstoke to Winchester are currently available for use on South West or Virgin Cross Country services but

Comments and contributions for *News and Views* are welcomed by the editor, Teresa Reynolds, The Three Horseshoes, 41 Winchester Street, ☎ 770248, e-mail newsandviewsRG25@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.

bus season tickets between Overton and Basingstoke are not inter-usable between the two operators on that route. The current regulation also means that Overton residents are discriminated against, when compared with people living in Basingstoke itself, should their Basingstoke, Andover or Winchester employer wish them to work on a Sunday. It is believed Countywide Travel altered its policy last June when permission for its services to use the bus station was withdrawn by Stagecoach.

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/55055 Erection of a two storey front extension with dormer window and a side conservatory at 5 Southington. No objection.

BDB/55069 Demolition of existing buildings and the erection of 4 x two bedroomed, 1 x three bedroomed and 2 x four bedroomed dwellings at 53 Kingsclere Road. No objection in principle. Query number of houses now allowed off a private drive. Question access to this site in connection with possible roundabout access to Foxdown.

BDB/55005 Construction of a tennis court enclosed by 2.75m high galvanised netting at Well House, Burley Lane. There was concern about the designation of this land and it was agreed to clarify this before making a decision.

BDB/55009 Erection of a single storey front extension and porch at Ashe Cottage, Ashe Warren. No objection.

BDB/55018 Erection of a front porch at 78 Winchester Street. Objection – inappropriate development not in keeping with the Village Design Statement.

BDB/54961 Construction of a new access across highway land at 3 Pound Road. No objection.

BDB/55202 Erection of a first floor over existing garage at Cobley Wood, Coxford Down, Micheldever. Objection, over development of the site.

BDB/55206 Insertion of window to side (west) elevation (amendment to BDB/52188) at Charleston, Winchester Street. Request up-to-date site plan before making a decision on this application.

BDB/54850 Erection of a two bedroom single storey detached dwelling at 18 Copse Road (amendment). No objection.

BDB/55106 Erection of a rear conservatory at Laren, Winchester Street. No objection.

BDB/54891 Creation of access from Silk Mill Lane and construction of a pond on land adjacent to 3 New Cottages, Silk Mill Lane. Objection – concern that the removal of the bank will exacerbate the flooding problem, change the character of the lane, and that an entrance at this point will be hazardous. The preservation of Silk Mill Lane is highlighted in the Overton Village Design Statement.