

# News and Views

Issued by Overton Parish Council  
Information and Comment on Village Activities

July 2003

## PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

*From Parish Councillors Paul Green and Brian Langer.*

### Parish Council Meeting

This will take place on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2003 starting with Planning at 7.00pm in the Community Centre. Public time is at 7:30pm when parishioners may speak about Overton issues, with the main meeting starting not later than 8pm.

The Planning and Finance & General Purposes committee meetings will take place on Tuesday July 22<sup>nd</sup> starting at 7:30pm. For matters relating to Highways & Byways please contact Brian Langer ☎ 770848 and for Amenities contact the Clerk, ☎ 01962 774296. The next St Mary's Hall Management committee meeting is on Monday July 7<sup>th</sup> at 8pm 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.

### Traffic Lights

A parishioner raised concerns that there was no warning sign to traffic entering the village about the traffic lights. The Parish Council will investigate this.

### Parish Council Surgeries

The Parish Council will hold a surgery once a month. The first one is on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> July from 10:00am-12noon in the Palmer Room at the Overton Community Centre. At least one Parish Councillor will be present and parishioners will be able to pop in and discuss anything that may be concerning them.

This is a good opportunity for the public to liaise more with the Parish Council and it is hoped that this will become a popular facility, especially as it will be on a Saturday morning when many people will be in the village centre. We hope it will create better communication with the public, especially those people who cannot attend the evening council meetings. Paul Green will co-ordinate this service.

### St. Luke's Hall

Lucy Sloane Williams has resigned as a Parish Council appointed trustee.

As many questions were raised by members of the public at the last council meeting, new trustees and Parish Councillors Peter Baker and Pat Baker intend to call an extraordinary general meeting at which they hope to be able to present the accounts and give an update on events.

### Broadband

The village has reached its target level and British Telecom will start the work soon so the village will have access to this sought after facility.

### Rights of Way Booklet

This has been revised and was sent to the printers in mid June. Copies costing £1.50 should be available from Peter Baker at Overton Fireplaces later in July. Thanks are due to John Smith of Poyntz Road, the Parish Council's footpath czar, for checking the paths over recent months.

### Flower Towers

Parishioners will have noticed that these beautiful displays are standing once more on the corners of Winchester Street. The Parish Council, who paid for them, thanks the Overton Business Association for planting and watering them.

### St Mary's Hall

If you would like to book this hall please contact Laura Harley ☎ 01962 774296. At present several time slots are available, including Tuesday evenings.

### Overton Handbook

This is being worked on. The updated handbook will be useful to newcomers and existing parishioners.

### Grass Cutting & Verges

Complaints have been received about the poor quality of the work and also lack of work by the Borough over grass cutting and maintenance of the verges.

Following work by contractors, the verge along the C29 from Sapley Lane is in a poor condition. A parishioner asked that this might be an opportunity to make a footway because it is difficult for pedestrians to avoid cars on this narrow stretch of road. The Parish Council has already complained about the state of the verge.

### Sapley Lane Playing Field

Motorcycles are getting in to the field. Some new gates are being installed which should stop them gaining access. A "No Motor Cycles" sign is being considered. Litter in the field is a problem but litterbins will be installed.

### Station Road

The County Council is investigating its responsibility for repairs of the collapsed slabstones holding back soil from private gardens. They were installed some years ago when the lay-by was constructed.

### Gullies and Manhole Covers

After some delay the blocked gullies outside the Institute on both sides of Station Road have been cleared. However flooding still takes place along Kingsclere Road by the tennis courts and in parts of Station Road by the settling beds. The county council has been asked to clear them out to ease matters. After a long period of disturbance to local residents caused by a misfitting manhole cover close to the Greyhound pub in Winchester Street, the county council has undertaken further work to rectify the problem.

## **Bonfires Aren't Green**

It is the season for enjoying the garden, but not if a bonfire has been lit somewhere. Please be kind to your neighbours and to the environment by taking your garden waste to Wade Road recycling centre, where they will be used to create "pro-grow" soil conditioner. If you really must have a bonfire don't put any other waste on it (especially plastics), never leave a bonfire unattended, don't light it when your neighbours have washing out, their windows open or are enjoying their own garden and, finally, never light a fire when the wind will blow the smoke across a road. The Borough's environmental health team will take action if your bonfire causes a nuisance.

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## **POLICE REPORT**

*From PC Paul Green.*

I am pleased to say that the crime rate in Overton is still lower than in any of the other rural beats in the Basingstoke Division. In general most people seem to be behaving but a couple of houses were broken into in early June, so we all have to be alert. Please report anything suspicious, and keep a special lookout on door to door callers because although some of them may be genuine you did not invite them to call and you do not know who they are. Please consider reporting anyone suspicious to the police control room, and include details of any vehicle that they may have. I still do not have a police office in the village but I hope to acquire an office in St. Mary's Hall soon. If you wish to discuss anything with me then please contact me via Whitchurch Police Station ☎ 08450-454545.

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## **LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

### **Halloween**

Having read June's *News and Views* I was amazed that the school governors have banned Halloween celebrations this year. What celebrations? As far as I'm aware there are no "celebrations" as such, only the school disco which is used as a way of raising funds for the school! I certainly don't regard this as a way of promoting devil worship, spells and encouraging interest in the occult and I'm sure many other parents don't either. Halloween actually started out as a pagan festival for marking the end of the summer and seen as a time for looking to the future and remembering loved ones who have passed away. It was subsequently taken over by the Christian faith. Is that evil? How many parents actually send their children to Overton school because it is a C of E school? Probably not that many, most parents send their children to Overton because it is the only school in the village and more convenient than travelling to Whitchurch, Oakley or North Waltham. According to the article in the Gazette on June 13<sup>th</sup> there were a number of governors who either didn't agree or were unhappy about the decision to cancel the "celebrations", why then was the disco cancelled? Why were the parents not informed? After all it is the parents who elect these governors onto the Board. If a disco is held in the Autumn term and children turn up in Halloween costumes will they be turned away? By the way I was brought up in the Christian faith and I have no problem whatsoever with people celebrating Halloween or any other religious beliefs, Pagan or otherwise.

*Lesley Batchelor, Station Road. Overton.*

**Following the recent interest in the Halloween affair,** I would like to make the following points: The decision taken recently by the governing body was simply that a church school should not be seen to celebrate Halloween. Although it is probably true to say that we did not see the Halloween disco continuing, there was no decision to "ban" Halloween. We had in mind that alternative celebrations more fitting to the Christian nature of the school would be organised and that the children would be given other fancy-dress discos. It is not our intent to deprive the children. As a governing body we recognise, and fully understand, the views of the parents in the village. These views will not be disregarded, and will form one of the inputs to our continuing discussions.

*John Davenport, Chair, Overton Primary Governing Body.*  
*NB A meeting of the Governing Body was scheduled for 30<sup>th</sup> June, too late for reportage in News & Views.*  
*No further letters on this subject will be printed.*

### **Christian Aid week**

Thank you to all the people of Overton, Ashe and Laverstoke. A total of £3071 was given by members of 1044 homes. Christian Aid works in nearly 60 countries providing aid and working with partners of many different faiths and cultures. We also campaign for Fair Trade and against the dumping of subsidised foods where this destroys the livelihoods of millions of poor farmers. If you would like to know more about how your money will be spent please contact Dick & Alison Hudson ☎ 770169 or Brian & Margaret Wheeler ☎ 771895.

*Brian & Margaret Wheeler, Winchester St*

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## **TESTBOURNE NEWS**

*From Teresa Reynolds, Governor.*

### **Pupil Successes**

Our team of fourteen Year 8 & 9 pupils put up a great show at the regional finals of the Magistrates' Court Mock Trial Competition, held at Southampton Magistrates' Court in mid-June. We did not gain first place on the day but earned many compliments for the quality of the performance and the way the pupils conducted themselves throughout.

### **Budget Blues**

Like many other schools you will have read about in the press, Testbourne has been feeling the pinch as far as the school budget is concerned. We are more fortunate than many in that we are not faced with having to reduce staffing. We have however had to cut spending significantly in a number of areas and put on hold some planned developments, as well as reduce the proportion the school contributes to extras such as individual music tuition. Governors are writing to the local MP and to the Secretary of State to express their concern at the impact that the miscalculation in central funding is having on schools. We are only managing this year through very careful housekeeping.

### **Jobs On Offer**

Have you ever been a Clerk to the Governors in a school or would you be interested in learning how to be one? We are looking for someone who would be interested in assisting the current Clerk with this role at Testbourne. The duties of the clerk range from the convening and minuting of meetings to co-ordinating the wider work of the governing body. The duties are remunerated on a pro rata basis,

depending on the hours required. Much of the work can be done from home or via e-mail.

We are also looking to appoint two lunchtime supervisors to assist during the mid-day break.

If you or someone you know might be interested in either of the above please do get in touch with Paul Welch on 01256 892061.

#### **Any Magazines To Spare?**

Do you have any magazines, calendars or old books with lots of pictures which you no longer need? The Art Department is collecting them to help pupils with their work and would welcome as many as you can spare.

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### **OCA SILVER JUBILEE**

*From Derick Mirfin, President, OCA.*

The founding of the OCA (Overton Community Association) in 1978, will be celebrated at the Community Centre on Friday and Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> July.

The main event will be an Exhibition, prepared by Alison Deveson (author of “**Overton: A Thousand Years of History**”) to illustrate the Victorian building’s role as the main village school in the century after its opening in 1868. Richard Oram (chairman of Overton History Society) will present a parallel display highlighting the history of the site, from the days of the celebrated coaching inn, the “Poyntz Arms”. Also on view will be information about current activities at the Centre and plans for the future.

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July

*Daytime*, visiting groups from Overton Primary School

*Evening*, officers of the OCA and invited guests

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> July –

*10am to 1pm* Exhibition open, all welcome, in the presence of the Deputy Mayor of Basingstoke & Deane

*Evening*, Alison Deveson will give an illustrated talk, based on her study, “Overton and its Village School” (tickets £1, including coffee, available from Brenda Shelbourn, Derick Mirfin or Paula Baker). Please join us in this happy celebration!

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### **INTER STREET FOOTBALL**

*From OUFC.*

Overton United Football Club is reviving the popular Inter Street 6 a side football tournament on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> July at Bridge Street. If your street would like to enter a team, forms are available from Paul the barber or Colin Phillimore, ☎ 771127. Games start at 11am.

There will also be a Fete on the day and donations for a bottle and can tombola and cake stall will be gratefully received by Anita Wheeler, ☎ 771241.

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### **BASINGSTOKE VISION**

*From BDBC.*

**Basingstoke Central Area: Draft Vision**

Following the successful opening of Festival Place and the renewed interest in town centre living, the Borough Council has begun to look at how the town centre might develop over the next few decades. It has therefore started work on a twenty year vision for Basingstoke town centre.

This will be interesting not only to those living within the town, but also everyone who uses the town for shopping, work, and leisure.

**We would like to hear** about your ideas for the Centre of Basingstoke!

Our manned exhibition trailer will be at the following locations.

- Leisure Park, West Ham, Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> July, from 16:00 to 19:00

- Eastrop Park link, Eastrop, Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> July, from 12:00 to 16:00.

Information will be displayed (during office hours) at the Civic Offices, London Road, Basingstoke, from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> July.

**Please note that the consultation period ends on 18<sup>th</sup> July**

A consultation document has also been prepared.

- Copies are available at the exhibitions or can be inspected at libraries throughout the Borough, or requested from: Environmental Regeneration Team  
Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council  
Civic Offices  
London Road  
Basingstoke  
RG21 4AH

email [a.trotter@basingstoke.gov.uk](mailto:a.trotter@basingstoke.gov.uk) or

[c.tuxford@basingstoke.gov.uk](mailto:c.tuxford@basingstoke.gov.uk) ☎ 845492 or 845742

- It can also be downloaded at [www.basingstoke.gov.uk](http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk) (follow links for services / planning)

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### **OVERTON YOUTH**

*From Teresa Reynolds, Secretary.*

The Youth Club, which runs on Tuesday evenings from 7pm-9pm, has just appointed a new Youth worker, Ben, who will work alongside the current leader, Carey.

However, we would welcome any volunteers, to help with some of the activities that we run. If you can help out on an odd Tuesday, please contact Teresa ☎ 770248 or Lucy ☎ 770607. If you have youngsters who would like to come along, sessions are 50p and cater for 11 to 16 year olds.

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### **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/55480** Erection of single storey extension and conservatory to front elevation at 42 Bridge Street. No objection.

**BDB/55776** Erection of rear conservatory at 11 Hazelcombe. No objection.

**BDB/55785** Erection of a two storey side extension with link to the existing house at 1 The Orchard. Objection; large extension which could be used as a separate dwelling - recommend a site viewing.

**BDB/55380** Erection of two storey rear extension at 6 Waltham Road. No objection but request further details of ground floor.

**BDB/55606** Construction of reservoir for water storage and fishing on land at Litchfield Grange, South Litchfield. Objection; concern about use of site for landfill - monitoring of material dumped and traffic movements along a narrow lane. There was also concern about the water extraction to fill the lake. A biodiversity survey should be completed before the work commences.

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## DEADLINE NEWS & VIEWS

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

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## LIBRARY NEWS

*From Chris Vane, Library Supervisor.*

Preparations are well in hand for this summer's Reading Scheme. The theme this time is Reading Planet, and "lift off" will be on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> July. More details and collectors' cards will be available in the library then, and the scheme will run all through the summer holidays.

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## OVERTON RECREATION CENTRE

*From Gordon Baker, Chairman.*

Congratulations to all 28 prize winners in our June draw.

The top prize winners were:

£500 T Sutton £200 A Cowd

£100 L Soper-Dyer, R Sheldon, E d'Arcy

We are actively seeking new users for the hall in the Bridge Street Pavilion, currently used for club meetings, exercise classes and drama rehearsals. This room has a wonderful view across the playing fields, a new kitchen and ample parking. Plenty of availability daytime and evenings. Only £6.00 per hour.

If you want to contact the ORC, our phone numbers are:

Mindy Noble 773337

Gordon Baker 770807

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## PUBLIC TRANSPORT

*From Public Transport Representative Brian Langer.*

### Buses

Services 76 and 86

I have again written to Stagecoach asking them for reasons why the above services have not reverted to travelling via Basingstoke railway station on their trip into the town, now that Festival Place has been completed. A reply is awaited.

### Trains

Permit to travel policy

From early June Overton and other minor stations on this line came under the above policy for times of travel when the ticket office is not manned. The policy means that everyone must put some money, as close to the likely fare as possible, in the machine at the station to obtain a permit to ride. Failure to do so will result in a fine of £10.00 or twice the full single fare to the next station at which the train stops. The permit lasts two hours but it is advisable to obtain a proper ticket from the conductor guard (revenue protection officer) as early into your trip as possible.

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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, Sarah Mills, 37 Red Lion Lane, ☎ 772069 or Vice-chairman Paul Green, 5 Oak Close, ☎ 07776-172303, email greenpaul@btopenworld.com or Clerk to the Council Laura Harley, Oak Tree Lodge, Roundwood, Micheldever, Winchester, Hants. SO21 3BA, ☎ 01962 774296, email laura.harley@virgin.net.

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Although it is accepted that ticket fraud has to be combated I have expressed my concern to the Retail Manager Wessex on two points: firstly that those who would normally pay for a ticket by credit or debit card don't always carry much change with them – no notes are accepted in the machines and secondly, the machine is not very reliable which has already given rise to arguments with the conductor guard on the train as to why a passenger does not possess a permit to travel.

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## HART

*From Jackie Grey.*

Around £1100 was raised by a charity auction in aid of HART Wildlife Rescue at St Mary's Hall. Several highly collectable items were among the lots for sale including two Nat West money box pigs, a 1950s doll's house and some attractive pieces of Carnival glassware. Many local businesses and attractions were particularly generous in supplying goods and offering promises such as meals, free entrance and memberships. All the money raised will be put towards the general running costs of the centre. For further information please contact Jackie Grey ☎ 01264 356253.

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## WHITCHURCH SILK MILL

*From Stephen Bryer, General Manager.*

Water water everywhere....

but at the moment less helpful than it might be for the Silk Mill at Whitchurch. We are hoping that soon that could all change: The Mill has undertaken a feasibility study to discover how possible it would be to generate electricity using the waterwheel.

We are lucky that the Test is a managed river, and all along its length there are trusty mill owners lifting or lowering hatches to alter the flow of water dependant upon the rainfall and the flow of water to the wheel is critical to the production of power

The other thing our new venture hangs on is the "drop", as in the height of the water as it enters the wheel at one side compared to where it comes out. Get this wrong and not enough energy is produced. We are told that over the years the level of the riverbed has risen by over a foot. For the wheel to do its job someone needs to get out there with the world's largest bucket and spade and dig out the silt of ages. Whitchurch Silk Mill is making a **special offer** to readers, who on submission of an original copy of this parish magazine can claim one free cup or mug of fresh coffee and a slice of homemade cake from the Silk Mill tearoom until December 2003 The first floor tearoom offers delightful views of the River Test and is open Tuesday to Sunday 10:30am to 5:00pm; last customer served at 4:30pm. Access to the tearoom is free of charge.

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