

# News and Views

Issued by Overton Parish Council and distributed to Overton, Laverstoke and Freefolk.  
Information and Comment on Village Activities

August 2003

## PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

From Parish Councillor Brian Langer.

### Parish Council Meeting

- Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2003 in the Community Centre
  - Planning. 7:00pm
  - Public time 7:30pm
  - Main meeting 8pm.
- Planning 7:30pm Tuesday August 26<sup>th</sup>
  - Finance & General Purposes 8pm August 26<sup>th</sup>.
  - St Mary's Hall Management committee meeting 8pm Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September in the Hall.

Agendas and planning applications displayed on the events notice-board.

### St Luke's Hall Update

The St Luke's Hall Management Committee has produced an update about the current status of the charity. Copies of the four page document will be available from the carousel in the Community Centre, and from local shops. A copy will also be displayed on the Events Notice-board.

### Bollards in Winchester Street

These have recently been repainted and now include a red strip to improve their visibility after a request was received from a parishioner.

### Overton Handbook

A reminder to all society/club co-ordinators that Brian Langer and the Clerk will be putting the next edition of the Overton Handbook to bed during September so will want all updated data on appropriate contacts by 14<sup>th</sup> September. The intention will be to finalise it by mid October and have it printed before Christmas.

### Double White Lines and Speeding in London Road

At the July Parish Council meeting a parishioner sought some relief from the speeding traffic and dangerous overtaking between the traffic lights and Overton Hill. Speed enforcement is a police matter but complying with speed limits is the responsibility of every driver. It is a common finding from enforcement sessions that a large proportion of those exceeding the speed limit are local drivers so we have all been warned!

Double white lining was raised with the county council but the stretch of road does not meet the criteria laid down by central government. These specify poor forward vision of oncoming traffic, amongst other factors, before double white lines can be considered. Visibility along London Road is almost too good as sight lines extend to the top of Overton Hill; one of the problems is from vehicles exiting from side roads without first checking the main road traffic in both

directions and meeting someone overtaking on the main road.

### Dellands / Dellands Lane Closure - Gas work

The public notice advising of this work, which was due to start in mid July, incorrectly stated the diversionary route as along Red Lion Lane and into the High Street, thereby contravening the No Entry regulation. The county council is taking steps to ensure the contractors correctly sign the diversion route but it will mean more traffic at the traffic lights junction and through Lion Close and Woodlands for the four weeks the work is expected to take.

### Paths to Two Gate Meadow and The Green

The borough council will be responding to complaints about the low hanging branches and detritus from the sycamore trees alongside these paths. Separately, the county council will be cutting back the trees on the verge between the water pumping station and the B3400 which adversely affect the reading of road signs to the paper mill. They may also need to reposition some signs to ensure lorries do not miss them; we do not again want to have HGV's, which having missed the turn for Station Road, need to do three point turns at Woodlands.

### Overhanging Trees, Branches and Hedges.

Although the county council has a duty to keep the highway clear of obstruction it is the landowner of adjacent land who has the primary duty to keep vegetation in check. The warm, humid conditions have encouraged vegetation growth so please check and deal with any of your trees or shrubs if they are impeding the adjacent road or footpath, highway or street name sign. If a low lying branch or bramble from your property injures someone you could be held responsible.

### Proposed Development of 75 Dwellings at Foxdown

A revised planning application was considered by the Parish Council in July. The council agreed to continue to object amongst other things to the style of development being proposed and the distribution of social housing within the estate. The Parish Council also felt that the developer, Westbury Homes, should undertake a public presentation of its plans in the village so that parishioners would have the opportunity to ask questions about the proposal.

This land has been earmarked for housing for years and together with the Overton Hill site will constitute the largest developments in the village over the next few years. Their impact on the village, both visually and in respect of infrastructure, will be considerable.

The Parish Council emphasised to those at the meeting that it was important that individuals made their own representations to the planning authority on any application they had misgivings about and not leave it just to the Parish Council to comment on behalf of the village. The more

comments received by the borough council on an application the more notice is likely to be taken by council officers and elected members of the Development Control Committee when the application has to be determined.

### **Light Pollution**

This is an increasingly emotive topic. Overton streets were comprehensively lit in the late 1960's and early 70's and the type of lamp standard used contributes significantly to light pollution. Over the years improved designs have reduced the impact but it would be costly to replace all our existing signs with hooded designs concentrating the beam of light downwards. As and when lights need replacing the new design is used as is the high pressure sodium form of lighting giving off a pink rather than orange light. The Parish Council will be seeking co-operation from Portals De La Rue in reducing the impact of their lighting in the area, although it is accepted that security demands will mean that the mill site itself will continue to have significant lighting.

### **Villagers and their Litter**

Why are we so careless when it comes to disposing of rubbish? Blanche Miles from the borough's litter collection department gave a presentation to the council at July's meeting in response to growing concerns about the state of the village, particularly over weekends. The council will be considering a scheme whereby the borough helps fund someone to work for the Parish Council collecting litter but current cover by the borough would be reduced. Getting people to undertake the work has never been easy and stand ins would be needed for holidays, sickness etc. It would all be a lot simpler and less costly for the Council Tax payer if litter wasn't dropped in the first place.

### **Abattoir Proposal at Southley Farm, C29**

The Parish Council has agreed not to object to this development in principle. However, representations will be made about traffic movements and our concerns about related traffic using the railway bridge on the C29 towards the A303. Despite assurances from the county council to the contrary the Parish Council remains unconvinced that the bridge's parapets could withstand a collision between vehicles and prevent them falling onto the live electrified track below.

### **Pavement Extension -Lion Close to Red Lion Lane**

This has been costed by the county council and will be done when developers' contributions become available from the developments at Overton Hill and Foxdown. It is expected to be one of several improvements around the village.

### **Distribution in Laverstoke & Freefolk**

*News and Views* is now also delivered to households in Laverstoke and Freefolk, so if anyone in those villages would like to contribute, or advertise a charitable event, we would be pleased to hear from you.

### **Pat Baker – Parish Councillor and St Luke's Hall Trustee**

Pat Baker was elected as a parish councillor in May but now goes under the name of Pat Taylor should parishioners be puzzled by such references in Minutes etc. It also helps councillors who had three PB's to differentiate at meetings –

Paula Baker, Pat Baker and Peter Baker! Pat was elected as the second of the Parish Council's representatives on the St Luke's Hall trustees at the July meeting, replacing Lucy Sloane Williams who had resigned her trusteeship. The other Parish Council representative is Peter Baker.

### **Faulty Street Lights**

If you come across a faulty light please freephone 0800 50 60 60 and give the column number and street location making it clear it is in Overton. As the evenings begin to draw in the electrical contractors should be able to get the light put right well before the clocks go back.

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## **OVERTON GUIDES**

*From Marion Watson.*

Guiding is thriving in Overton! We have units which meet in Town Meadow every week during term time. These units are so popular that we currently have waiting lists for all three sections.

Guiding in Overton covers the following sections:

Rainbows	5 to 7 years
Brownies	7 to 10 years
Guides	10 to 14 years

Within this framework it is possible to join at any age and at any stage. Although some girls do move on from Rainbows through Brownies, then to Guides, others belong to one or two sections only.

Running of the sections relies entirely on adult volunteer leaders and helpers, without whom no Guiding would exist in the village. We urgently need leaders and helpers so that we can provide more opportunities within the existing units, also to open new sections in Overton, North Waltham and Whitchurch which are desperately needed. Any woman between her 18<sup>th</sup> and 65<sup>th</sup> birthday can become a Guider, as long as she is willing and able to make the Guide Promise and undertake the necessary leadership training. Guiding offers its leaders and helpers the chance of making a personal contribution to the future and, at the same time, of widening their own horizons and friendships. Together with the hard work and the commitment there is also lots of fun! If you would like to know more about becoming a leader or helper please call Marion Watson ☎ 770518.

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## **LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

### **Primary School Gardening Club**

Overton School has, for some time now, been running a Gardening Club after school. This is to give the children the opportunity to seed, plant, grow and tend their own plants in their own, individual little gardens. The boys and girls taking part have hugely enjoyed their special plots, watching their plants grow and their crops develop. Each child has spent a lot of time and effort tending and watering their gardens and was very proud of their achievements. Sadly, returning to school on Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> June, the budding gardeners found someone had gone into the gardens and pulled up all their plants and crops. Of course the children were heart broken!!! Particularly as this was not the first time!

I feel Overton Primary School is doing very well allowing people to use the playgrounds and pool for recreational purposes and opening the school for leisure clubs. Having

lived in Overton for many years now, I have always felt the village to be friendly and safe. It would be sad to see this change.

I am sure, if everybody using the school grounds treats the area with respect and consideration, the children will be able to enjoy their work again soon.

*A parent of an upset, budding gardener.*

### **OCA Silver Jubilee**

Overton Community Association wishes to thank the many organisations and groups who contributed to the great success of its Silver Jubilee celebration in July. We were particularly pleased that the school children played such an important part. A continuous stream of visitors on the Saturday enjoyed the excellent exhibition of items displayed by Alison Deveson and Richard Oram and several of them produced their own interesting material about local history. Alison's illustrated evening talk, describing her painstaking research for her book *Overton and its National School*, was followed by lively questions and discussion from the audience.

*Derick Mirfin.*

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### **OVERTON HARRIERS**

*From John Hoare.*

A reminder that this years Overton 5 mile road race will be held on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2003. In conjunction with this will be a 2 ½ mile Fun Run and our normal series of childrens races within the confines of Overton Recreation Centre. The childrens races will start at 2.15pm and the Fun Run and 5 mile race at 3.00pm. Entries for the childrens races will be taken on the day at the Recreation Centre from 1.00pm. If you would like to enter the 5 mile race or Fun Run entry forms are available on our website [www.overton-harriers.freeserve.co.uk](http://www.overton-harriers.freeserve.co.uk) or from John Hoare ☎ 770489. Medals will be awarded to all competitors in the childrens races and Fun Run and mementoes to all finishers in the 5 mile race.

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### **TESTBOURNE NEWS**

*From Teresa Reynolds, Governor.*

#### **Activities**

We have had a busy and enjoyable end to the Summer Term, including Sports Days and swimming galas. We also had a full scale Activities Day in the last week. Year 7 had a French Day, including recreating café life at Testbourne. We sent Year 8 to prison - or rather the prison came to us, with representatives of the prison and legal services running a "Prison? Me No Way!" day for our inmates, complete with supervised turns around the exercise yard! A suitable deterrent we hope for the future. Half of Year 9 were at Marwell Zoo, with the other half being put through their paces by the Army on the school site. Year 10 had a super Driving Day run by the British School of Motoring. We were also pleased to welcome our local MP Sir George Young for part of the day.

#### **Jubilee Garden**

We have also finally officially opened our Jubilee Garden, in the central quadrangle. Partly funded by the Queen's Jubilee "Funds for All", the first phase was indeed opened in Jubilee Year. More paving and planting has taken place since then (and an awful lot of weeding) and the garden is

already providing a really attractive and peaceful haven. The paving has some interesting geological features, which represent the story of the development of the Earth. The garden will be available for hire for anyone looking for a select venue for a summer party. Phone the school ☎ 892061.

#### **Battle of the Bands**

This also took place during the last week and raised over £500 for the school's chosen charity. It was won by *Who will be last in Line?*, with Testbourne's first ever all girl band, *Ramanda Jarvis* coming a close second. Well played Jenny, Fiona and Sarah.

#### **Key Stage 3 results**

There has also still been work going on amongst the fun, with our latest K3 test results showing how the hard work during the year has paid off. Around 90% of pupils achieved Level 5 and above in their SAT's, with virtually the whole of top set Maths achieving Level 8. This represents another record set of results.

#### **Tragedy**

As the term drew to an end we were thinking very much of Carl Hannay, a Year 11 pupil from Freefolk who was involved in a motorbike accident and is still seriously ill in hospital. Our thoughts and prayers are with Carl and his family.

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### **OVERTON SOCIETY**

*From Sue Carter.*

There will be an Open Meeting on Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> September at 8pm in the Community Centre. John Smith will give a short talk "Walking the Footpaths of Overton" based on the new and user friendly rights of way booklet and there will also be an update from the Biodiversity Group on the surveys undertaken to date. Do come and join us and find out more about current projects in Overton.

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### **OVERTON ART GROUP**

*From Harold Smith, Chairman.*

We are again holding our Annual Exhibition at the Recreation Centre, Bridge Street, from Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> to Monday 25<sup>th</sup> August. Opening times are 10am-8pm (6pm on Monday). A large number of pictures will be for sale.

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### **OVERTON RECREATION CENTRE**

*From Gordon Baker, Chairman.*

Congratulations to all 28 prize winners in the July draw: The top prize winners were:

£500 R Taylor                      £200 P Benham  
£100 Nicola Smith, D Traynor, Sheila Thomas.

The next draw will take place on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> August at 6:30pm in the Bridge Street Pavilion.

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

Mindy Noble                      773337

Gordon Baker                      770807

Remember, our sports facilities and halls are available for hire at reasonable rates (subsidised for our members).

#### **Collector Needed**

Because of a well-deserved retirement, the ORC is looking for a volunteer to collect subscriptions from our members in Station Road. If you can help with this, please phone the membership secretary, Debbie Tomlin ☎ 770154.

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## DEADLINE NEWS & VIEWS

This will be 16<sup>th</sup> August. 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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## OVERTON PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB

*From K McEvoy, Programme Co-ordinator.*

The photographic club starts its new season on Friday September 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:45pm. We meet at the Recreation Centre and new members will be made very welcome. The programme for the coming year includes competitions and talks on travel, wild life and portrait photography using both film and digital imaging techniques. Contact Ian McEvoy ☎ 780969.

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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/55831** Erection of a livestock building at Berrydown Farm, Berrydown Lane. No objection.

**BDB/55520** Erection of a new multi-species abattoir and processing facility. Change of use of existing building to lairage on land at Southley Farm, Overton. No objection.

**BDB/55978** Erection of a single storey rear extension and rear conservatory at 1 Poultons Road. Objection – undesirable effect on neighbouring properties.

**BDB/55928** Erection of single storey front and rear extensions. Construction of a first floor, involving raising the roof with the creation of dormer windows to front and rear elevations at 1 Copse Road. Objection – out of keeping with surroundings (most other houses in this area are bungalows). Setting a precedent for other properties to become two storey.

**BDB/55955** Construction of a barbeque area with pergola at Frost Hill Farmhouse, Frost Hill. No objection.

**BDB/55962** Change of house type to plot 2 to include car port. Amendment to planning permission BDB/53371 for 54 Waltham Road. Objection – over development of this site.

**BDB/56099** Erection of 75 dwellings, associated parking and creation of access at Foxdown. There had been few changes between this application and the previous (BDB/55516). The developers had put in a link to the cinder track, but in the wrong place, taken out one of the three storey buildings and the retaining wall below Lower Foxdown. There was still concern about the size of the social dwellings and related garden areas. The plans were still incorrect and did not conform to either the development brief or the VDS. The Transport Report was full of fundamental errors. Westbury Homes were still unwilling to meet with the Parish Council and Overton residents;

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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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councillors were unhappy with the borough council's choice of developers. It was agreed to object to BDB/56099 based on the Parish Council's objection to BDB/55516.

**BDB/56080/81** Demolition of existing toilet block, garage and corridor. Erection of a new toilet block and bin store, new entrance and internal alterations at Overton Community Centre. No objection.

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## ST MICHAEL'S HOSPICE

*From Mrs D C Heald, Fundraising committee.*

The Friends of St Michael's Hospice invite you to a Country Homes Clearance Sale on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2003, from 11am-3pm, at The Dummer Cricket Centre. All welcome; Admission £2, children under 16 free. Refreshments available; ample parking. All Tables already reserved, none available on the day.

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## BROWNIES JUMBLE SALE

*From Michelle Le'Warne.*

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September at Overton Community Centre from 10am-12noon.

Both the Overton Brownie packs, that also cover North Waltham and surrounding villages will be holding a sale to raise funds towards bringing in the new Brownie programme that is updated from 1968! We have been very fortunate the Overton Parish Council has given us £500 towards the cost. Please come and support us.

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## PUBLIC TRANSPORT

*From Public Transport Representative Brian Langer.*

### Buses

Services 76 and 86

A reminder that the service on Bank Holiday Monday 25 August will be the recently revised Sunday schedule operated by Stagecoach's Winchester depot; the last bus back from Basingstoke leaves the bus station at 1915.

It is likely that colleges in Basingstoke will have started their new academic year before the September *News and Views* is issued. It is hoped that to avoid the overcrowding experienced in 2002 Stagecoach will be able to provide duplicate services on the most popular services until students timetables have been sorted out. Any update will be given in the local press.

### Trains

A normal Saturday service will be operated by SouthWest Trains on Bank Holiday Monday 25 August. If your journey involves another train operating company please check their schedules on 08457 48 49 50.

Thanks to those fifty eight people who completed and returned the station parking survey. One hundred and thirty three were issued so it was a commendable response. The results have been analysed and will be published shortly.

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