

# News and Views

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

October 2003

## PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

From Parish Councillors Mark Attwell and Brian Langer.

### Parish Council Meeting

- |  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| • Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> October 2003 in the Community Centre |                                  |
| • Planning 7:00pm  |                                  |
| • Public time 7:30pm   |                                  |
| • Main meeting 8pm.  |                                  |
| • Planning 7:30pm  | Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October |
| • Finance & General Purposes 8pm                                 | Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup>         |

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

### Public Time

During public time the council was pleased to receive a diverse range of concerns, issues and suggestions. These included: the absence of law enforcement with regards to speeding on Overton Hill; a request for trees between The Green and the B3400 to be cut back to enable the street lighting to be effective and a request for footpath signs and maps to be posted within the village indicating local walks.

### Parish Council Surgeries

Following the election of this new Parish Council in May it was decided to trial a series of Parish Council Surgeries.

Their purpose is to enhance communication with parishioners and to give anyone unable to attend evening meetings the opportunity to meet with councillors and raise their concerns. Two of these have now taken place and both were well attended.

It is intended to provide feedback during the surgery, or for those issues where clarification is needed, to post a reply on the Parish Council notice board. Future surgery dates can also be found there.

### Overton Hill Development

Westbury Homes, the developers of the Overton Hill site, is meeting with the Council on the 22<sup>nd</sup> May. Westbury Homes will be requested to arrange a public meeting to enable villagers to have the opportunity to discuss plans and issues directly as part of a consultative process.

### St Mary's Hall

The Parish Council passed a resolution to commit £5000 to the St Mary's Hall Management Sub Committee (SMHMS). This money will assist SMHMS in preparing detailed plans that will enable the hall to comply with the Disability Discrimination Act and therefore to continue to remain open.

### Cemetery Extension

One of the main responsibilities of Parish Councils is the provision of suitable facilities for burials. For some years the council has been seeking alternatives to the current

cemetery at St Mary's Church in preparation for when it is full.

Because of the difficulties in obtaining suitable land locally, when land south of the B3400 in Southington became available recently the Parish Council agreed to bid for it. The outcome will be reported in a later edition.

### Overton Business Association

Following last year's successful festive late night shopping event the Business Association is planning a repeat. This is expected to be held on the first Tuesday in December. More details to follow.

### Lighting

The clocks go back at the end of the month when it will be dark by 5.30pm. If you find a light which does not work please contact the county council's free phone number 0800 50 60 60 and ensure you leave details of the light column number, the road name and the fact that the fault is in Overton.

### Grit Bins

The county council should have replenished these after last winter but if the one near you is empty please contact the parish clerk ☎ 01962 774296 so that the county can be informed before any wintry weather sets in.

### Footpath Quotes

Some surprise was expressed at the cost of laying down a footway on the C29, as quoted by the county council in response to a parishioner's recent request. The county quotes an approximate charge of £20 per square metre if no black topping is needed and £60 if it is; both these quotes are exclusive of costs related to any utility work required.

### North Wessex Downs Area Of Outstanding Natural Beauty

The parish of Overton lies on the southern edge of this designated area which covers all land in this parish north of the railway line; the area itself stretches from the Bourne Valley to Wallingford and from Overton and Ibworth to Devizes and the Marlborough Downs. A draft Management Plan for the area has been published and is available from the AONB's office: Denford Manor, Lower Denford, Hungerford, Berkshire RG17 0UN ☎ 01488 685440. The draft consists of four documents: an Overview; Landscape and Context – Ambition for the Future; Policies for Delivery and an Action Plan. A copy should be in Overton library and can be viewed on the AONB's website:

www.northwessexdowns.org.uk. Comments were due in during September but for those who live in the area or have a particular interest in it comments submitted by early October may be considered.

Brian Langer, ☎ 770848, represents both Overton Parish Council and the Hampshire Association of Parish and Town

Councils on the AONB's Council of Partners which meets several times a year.

### **Attack on Shuttle Bus and its Driver**

An unprovoked attack by a white van driver took place in the bus layby by the Community Centre on 13<sup>th</sup> September at about 11am. The Shuttle bus had its entry door kicked in making it inoperable and the driver was threatened with a crowbar. The van's registration number was obtained and the incident was reported to the police but they are not prepared to take the matter further unless witnesses are prepared to come forward and confirm the bus driver's report of the incident; at present it is one person's word against another. If anyone witnessed the incident and is prepared to back up the bus driver please contact Sue, the manager, at Burghfield Mini Coaches ☎ 0118 959 0719. Alternatively contact Brian Langer ☎ 770848 who will take up the matter with the bus company.

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### **ST LUKE'S CLUB- LATEST NEWS**

*From Chris Penney, Secretary.*

Here is the promised reminder that an Extraordinary Annual General Meeting has been called by the Board of Trustees of St Luke's Club Overton for 7:45pm on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> October in St Luke's Hall.

Many Overtonians will now have seen the St Luke's "update" and the Trustees hope there will be a high turnout at the EAGM to follow on from this. You will also have an opportunity to see the results of recent work inside and outside the hall, to vote on the 2002 Report & Accounts and to vote in the elections for Trustees.

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### **VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT**

*From Ken and Jane MacKenzie*

Re: Proposed Foxdown Development

A representative of the VDS group and The Overton Society spoke at the Borough Council's Planning Committee in August objecting to the current plans. The Parish Council also spoke against the proposal. We were delighted that the Committee decided to defer the decision. Much more consultation and revision of design needs to be done before the plans accord with Overton's VDS guidelines.

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### **PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS**

*From Mrs J Baker, Headteacher.*

After this wonderful Summer, we are now back for a new school year and looking forward to the fresh experiences that this will bring. We are pleased to welcome two new members of staff - Marianne Smith has joined us as a Year 1 /2 teacher and Dave Emery as a Year 5 /6 teacher.

The re-lining of the pool was extremely successful and hopefully it will have new surrounds and smooth pool edging stones laid this Autumn.

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### **OVERTON SOCIETY**

*From Sue Carter.*

We had a very well attended and successful meeting in September when John Smith talked about the updated Footpath booklet (copies available from Overton Fireplaces!) and Kath Doyle and Valda Stevens spoke about the progress so far of the Biodiversity Group. The Annual General Meeting will be on 26<sup>th</sup> November when the guest speaker, Andy Turner from Basingstoke and Deane BC, will

facilitate a discussion on the Village Design Statement. We look forward to seeing you there!

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### **ODS SCROOGE BAZAAR**

*From Jill Smith.*

Overton Dramatic Society is holding its annual bazaar on **18<sup>th</sup> October from 10-12 noon at St Mary's Hall**. There will be lots of stalls including tombola, cakes, white elephant etc. Tickets for **SCROOGE**, our Christmas show, will also be on sale there for the first time. They will then be on sale at the "Executive Dry Cleaners" from 20<sup>th</sup> October. The show runs from Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> until Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November, (with a Saturday matinee), at St Mary's Hall.

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### **LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

#### **Overton Sabres Badminton**

I have become accustomed over many years to announcing in *News and Views* the start of a new season for Overton and latterly Overton Sabres Badminton Clubs. 2003 is different because in June members decided to close the club and to travel elsewhere to continue their interest in the sport. This leaves Overton without representation in League Badminton for the first time for many years.

Past members may be saddened by this, but may be pleased that the Southington Cup will have a home in Overton Surgery, and that a small surplus of funds has been donated to village based charities.

It is important the community understands why this decision was taken. In the population there is a declining interest in playing sport, and badminton, one of the easiest and cheapest sports to play, suffers from this.

More significantly, Overton lacks premises suitable for further developing a Badminton Club.

St Mary's Hall is in reality a third world facility for sport and now loses one of its biggest paying customers. A misleading campaign in 2002 led to a choice not to build Community facilities on the Overton Hill site, the only viable site for a facility of any scale. This eliminated any prospect of a hall more suited to developing and growing a Badminton Club. That Overton roots provision of community facilities around small early 20<sup>th</sup> Century buildings lacking the flexibility and scale a growing population requires for sport and leisure made the closure decision inevitable.

*Phil Cooke, by e-mail.*

#### **Housing**

Following another objection to a proposed housing development in Overton, it is quite clear the Parish Council does not want any "affordable" housing in the village. My partner and I have lived in the village for over four years and while we cannot class ourselves as established locals, we have contributed to the local economy and supported local businesses during this time. However, we are now at the stage where we wish to get onto the property ladder and even having two good jobs, this is an impossibility in Overton. The Parish Council seems happy to allow the construction of four and five bedroom properties but continually resist the provision of realistic housing. We have taken the decision to leave the village and are buying property elsewhere, something that I believe many others will have to do too. Overton is a fine village with great history and heritage, but it should not be treated like a

museum piece and left as monument to the past. Isn't it time the Parish Council made some serious and sensible progress with the housing requirements and helps build a village community for the future? We will be sad to leave Overton and would have happily stayed if there was the opportunity, but if the Parish Council decides to continually object we could have been waiting forever.

*Soon to be ex-resident of Overton. (by e-mail).*

#### **Reply from OPC**

The Parish Council has always supported the borough council's policy to increase the number of affordable houses on any housing site. Regrettably, other planning matters such as design and layout, which may not be satisfactory, have led the Parish Council to raise objections to both the Foxdown and London Road developments, in many cases reiterating comments made in the community's Village Design Statement. Any new development is a permanent feature of Overton and it is vital that it blends into the village scene of the future.

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### **TESTBOURNE NEWS**

*From Teresa Reynolds, Governor.*

#### **New Staff, New Pupils**

We are fortunate to again be starting the school year with a full complement of well-qualified teaching staff. There are now 682 pupils in the school, with 160 starting out in Year 7 in six-tutor groups.

#### **A Smashing Set of GCSE Results**

We are very happy to be able to report another set of successful GCSE results this year. No pupil left the school without qualifications. 100% of pupils in attendance in Year 11 gained five or more GCSEs – a tremendous result. 67% of pupils in Year 11 gained five or more A\* - C grade GCSEs, which meant we hit our target for the year, with boys and girls doing equally well. Targets are set taking account of the actual pupils in the year group and their previous attainment. Every year group is different, with pupils of varying abilities and personal circumstances and results vary accordingly. We were delighted to see so many young people achieving their potential and Testbourne continuing an upward trend of improvement. Congratulations and thanks go to everyone – pupils, staff and parents - who contributed towards this success.

#### **Open Evening Date**

Our Open Evening for prospective new pupils and their parents will be on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October from 6.30 to 9.00pm for all who would like to come and see.

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### **OVERTON RECREATION CENTRE**

*From Gordon Baker, Chairman.*

Congratulations to all 28 prize winners in our September draw. The top prize winners were:

£500 B Gammon                      £200 M Elkins  
£100 G Gane, S Dutton, P Paine

The ORC needs to recruit new collectors, to replace some long serving collectors who have left us in recent months. Collectors each visit a small group of members regularly, to collect their subscriptions. As an incentive, the collectors for the top 8 prize winners each month receive a small

collector's prize themselves. If you want to discuss this, please call our membership Secretary, Debbie Tomlin ☎ 770154.

We could also make good use of an internet-enabled PC. Are you about to replace one and throw the old one away? Please get in touch if you can help us.

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

Mindy Noble                      773337

Gordon Baker                      770807

You can e-mail us on [admin@overtonrc.org.uk](mailto:admin@overtonrc.org.uk)

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

Finally, don't forget our new web site at

[www.overtonrc.org.uk](http://www.overtonrc.org.uk) (an alternative – and shorter! – address to the one published last month).

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### **BROWNIE FUND RAISER**

*From Michelle Le'Warne*

Health Fair and Aloe Vera Sale at Overton Community Centre on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October, from 9:30am-3:30pm. All profits going to help with the costs of the new Brownie Programme. Come and try something new, have a cuppa and buy early Christmas bargains. Book a facial or make up (costs apply). Further info from Michelle ☎ 770454, Angie ☎ 770104, or June ☎ 771139.

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### **LIBRARY NEWS**

*From Chris Vane, Library Supervisor.*

With the start of the new school term it was time to restart our storytimes, and it was good to welcome so many new faces to our first meeting. The dates up to Christmas are 12<sup>th</sup> November and 10<sup>th</sup> December and the session runs from 2:15 – 2:45 - so if you haven't been before, please come and join us. This summer 63 children joined our Book Trail and all those who completed have received their certificates, Well done, all of you!

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### **CHARITY CONCERT**

*From Steve Dean.*

Dellands Voices returns to St Mary's church on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December (St Nicholas' Day) for a concert of some of the loveliest and liveliest Christmas music there is. Proceeds from the event will go to "Wel-Care", a local charity supporting lone parents and their families. Further details will be published in the November edition of *News and Views* - in the meantime, please contact Brian Wheeler ☎ 771895 for further information.

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### **SUMMER KICKS**

*From Gerry Reilly, Senior Instructor.*

#### **Overton & Basingstoke Taekwondo**

23 local children took part in this year's summer school, a week of fun, fitness, games and martial arts training at St Luke's Hall. We had a range from 11 total beginners up to those with 5 or more years' experience, and for the first time more girls than boys! During the week, the children got to experience all aspects of Taekwondo including self defence, traditional patterns training, and modern Olympic style sparring. They were also introduced to the philosophy behind Taekwondo including the tenets of Etiquette, Modesty, Perseverance, Self-control and Indomitable Spirit - key values that the children can use to develop themselves

in all aspects of their lives. Overton and Basingstoke Taekwondo Club is unique in that it aims to provide Taekwondo training to everyone who can benefit from the training and this was recognised by the recent awarding of charitable status to the club making it the first Taekwondo club in England to be recognised as a charity. For more details of our classes please visit our website [www.obtkd.org.uk](http://www.obtkd.org.uk) or call Gerry Reilly ☎ 895701.

## PUBLIC TRANSPORT

From Public Transport Representative Brian Langer.

### Trains

#### Winter train services

These started on Sunday 28 September and continue to 22 May 2004. The first two eastbound trains Mondays to Fridays will run three minutes later from 22 December **Eastbound** all go to Waterloo unless B (Basingstoke) is given.

#### Monday to Friday:

0556	0634	0704	0743	0821	0848
1002	1118	1218	1318	1418	1518
1618	1648	1720	1826	1848	1927
2053	2138	2313B			

#### Saturday:

0558	0641	0743	0845	0918	0945	1118
1318	1518	1718	1848	1943	2118	2313B

#### Sunday:

0903	1100	1313	1451	1651	1851	2030
2310B						

**Westbound** destination Salisbury unless E Exeter St Davids, G Gillingham, H Honiton, PN Paignton, or Y Yeovil Junction shown.

#### Monday to Friday:

0033 set down only & Tues to Fridays	0038 set down only & Mondays only	0728 Y	0804 PN	0847	0959
1059	1159	1359	1459	1629 Y	1700
1729 E	1756 Y	1825 E	1907 Y	1929 E	2001
2029 H	2129 E	2229 G	2329.		

#### Saturday:

0033 set down only	0701 E	0804 E	0959	1159 E	1359
1559	1729 E	1759	1929 E	1959	2129 Y
2229 G	2329.				

#### Sunday:

0033 set down only	0850 E	1059 E	1259	1459 Y	1659 Y
1859 Y	1959 E	2059 Y	2259.		

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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:laura.harley@virgin.net).

## Buses

### Southington Close eastbound bus stop

The Parish Council has had a longstanding request into the county council to provide a hoggin base for the grassed area immediately west of the shelter. This was to help passengers when the bus did not align its entrance door with the tarmacadamed area. It is now understood that the county council will be providing a proper hardstanding at this site in the near future.

## OVERTON SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

From Shirley Davies, Chairman

The Bonfire Spectacular on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> November promises to be the best ever! Look out for the posters nearer the time.

## YOUTH BADMINTON

We have started again for the autumn term with a change of day. We now meet at St Mary's Hall every Tuesday during term time at 7pm. We play for an hour and the cost is £1.50 per session. If you would like to play and are aged between 11 and 16 please come along, or contact Debbie Tomlin for information; e-mail [debbie.tomlin@btinternet.com](mailto:debbie.tomlin@btinternet.com) ☎ 770154.

## DEADLINE NEWS & VIEWS

This will be 16<sup>th</sup> October. 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](mailto:NewsandviewsRG25@aol.com)

## OVERTON PLAYGROUP

From Carole Clifford.

A warm welcome to all our new children (and parents!). This year even the "old hands" have had some adjustments to make as we now offer extra pre-school sessions sited in the Playroom at Overton Primary School. This gives the children a fantastic opportunity to familiarise themselves with what will one day be their (not so) new big school. If you are interested in sending your child/ren to Overton Pre-School – Playgroup either now or in the future, please contact Amanda Igo, Playgroup Leader. We take children at the beginning of the term in which they will be 2 years and 9 months. Playgroup sessions operate Monday–Friday, 9.00–11.30am; pre-school sessions run Monday-Friday at the Community Centre 12.00–3.00pm and at Overton Primary 8.45–11.45am. Both these sessions include an optional "Lunch Club" where the children bring a packed lunch. For further details, please ☎ 770370 or drop in and see us at the Community Centre. Finally, many thanks to all those who attended our recent AGM. We'd like to say a big thank-you to all our departing committee members and to welcome on board those who have offered their help.