

News and Views

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

November 2003

PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

From Parish Councillor Paula Baker.

Parish Council Meeting

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wednesday 12th November 2003 in the Community Centre• Planning 7:00pm• Public time 7:30pm• Main meeting 8pm. |
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- Planning 7:30pm Tuesday 25th Nov
- Finance & General Purposes 8pm 25th Nov .

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

Public Time at October Council Meeting

The Parish Council was delighted to welcome a delegation of Brownies at the start of the evening. They were there to say thank you for the grant of £500 towards the new Brownie Programme. It was a pleasure to see them and the lovely handmade thank you card they presented.

Several interesting items were raised in Public Time. To start with, what should new developments on Overton Hill be called? Any ideas for local names please let the Parish Clerk know.

We were also told of several locations where garden waste was being dumped. The Parish is contacting the Borough to seek help in stopping this and also about instances of encroachment that were reported. Those with green waste to dispose of can take it to recycling centres (at Basingstoke, Andover or Aldermaston) where it goes to make high quality compost, or compost it in their own gardens. It should never be dumped in hedgerows.

Traffic speed on London Road was raised again. The Council has written to the police about this.

Another "old favourite", sad to say, was the lack of safe pedestrian crossing of the High Street. Cars jumping the lights cause a very real danger to pedestrians here. The Parish is querying the cost quoted for the inclusion of a pedestrian crossing phase at the lights. Having started with one thank you, we then ended public time with another when the Parish was thanked for agreeing to drop the idea of a pedestrian access to the River Test along its south bank, behind the High Street.

Resignation of Parish Councillors Paul Green and Stephen Heaver

The Council was told that Paul Green had resigned due to pressure of work. Our thanks go to him and Stephen for all they have done since the election in May. We wish them well for the future and look forward to seeing Paul, from time to time, at Parish Council meetings in his Police role. This means there are two vacancies, which have been advertised. They will be filled either by co-option, or, if

called for by the requisite number of people, an election will be held. The Council will also need to elect a Vice Chairman.

Land Purchase Unsuccessful

The Parish was unsuccessful in its bid to buy land south of the B3400 at Southington. There will be a need, at some time in the future, for the Parish Council to find land suitable to be used for burials, so we will continue to be interested in any plots of land close to the village that come on to the market.

It's Foxdown, not Overton Hill!

Many apologies, but there was an item in the October *N&V* about a meeting held with Westbury Homes. This, of course, related to Foxdown and not, as stated, to Overton Hill. There was a meeting with the developer held on the 22nd, but of September, not May! (see also next article).

Late Night Christmas Shopping

Overton Business Association is pleased to offer the popular late night shopping this year on Tuesday December 2nd. The Mayor of Basingstoke & Deane is coming to switch on the lights on the Christmas tree to be erected in the square at about 6:30 and this will be followed by a Firework display. There will be a Santa's Grotto situated in the HSBC bank and all the shops will have their own decorated Christmas trees in a colourful display.

On that evening there will also be a **Public exhibition** from 4:00–7:00pm in Overton Community Centre on the proposed development at Foxdown. This is in response to a request by the Parish Council to help the community see the proposed plans and learn more about the "green" design approach being used in this development. A representative from the developers, Westbury Homes, will be there to answer questions.

"Foulers will be Prosecuted"

Watch out for new signs – the Council is updating its signs about dog fouling to make it clear that anyone who allows a dog to foul risks prosecution.

Local Plan Review

Basingstoke & Deane BC's Revised Deposit Draft Local Plan touring exhibition will be visiting Overton library on Thursday 20th November from 2-7pm. This sets out a vision for the future development of the Borough to 2016 and beyond, including chosen locations. Members of the public have until 22nd December to comment on the revisions.

CCTV for Village Centre

The Clerk and Parish Councillor Paula Baker met the Borough's conservation officer to discuss CCTV proposals. It was agreed that there was no way a CCTV pole and camera could be fitted at the junction of Winchester Street and High Street without it ruining the appearance of this

very picturesque spot. However it may be possible to get coverage of the open area, where there have been problems from time to time, from cameras mounted on, or in, the Community Centre.

Health & Safety Policy

The Parish Council is drawing up a Health and Safety policy to ensure that proper care is taken by ourselves, our employees (currently the Clerk), volunteers working with us and any contractors.

OVERTON SHEEPFAIR 2004

From David Backers, Chairman, Sheepfair Committee.

The Sheepfair is back! For those who were not in Overton in mid-July 2000, the Sheepfair is a free celebration of Overton as a village and our home. Winchester Street will be closed to traffic for two days: Saturday/Sunday July 17/18 between the traffic lights and Greyhound Lane, and given over to entertainment and honest merriment. The 2000 event was described by one Overtonian as the best event in the village in his lifetime and we expect this one to be even better. This time the period is Victorian and the theme is transport— 2004 is the 150th anniversary of the railway coming to the village – oh, and sheep of course.

This is *your* fair and we need *your* help and support.

Do you want to raise money for your favourite charity, club or organisation? Would you like to organise a float in the procession? Are you a fundraiser? Are you a business person or someone who wants to display and sell your wares? Do you just want to know more or would you like to get involved, even at this early stage but do not know how? Contact us: David Backers ☎ 770793, Ian Crombie ☎ 770553; Peter Baker ☎ 770007.

The serious bit: To meet trading and insurance requirements, if you want to have a stall or trade at the fair you **must** register with the committee. Forms are available from Peter Baker's Fireplace shop. Stall space is limited and we cannot guarantee that all requests will be met – book **NOW**.

TIDDLER'S TODDLER GROUP

Tiddler's is now open from 9.30am to 11.30am every Wednesday morning including school holidays at Freefolk and Laverstoke Village Hall (behind the thatched cottages on the B3400). We have cars, toys, slides, see-saw, trampoline, playdough, sticking, painting, jigsaws, home corner, baby toys, soft play area and lots more. All babies and pre-school children and their carers welcome, so please do come along for a tea or coffee and a chat while the children play. 80p per adult and one child and 20p per extra child. Contact Noelle ☎ 895760 e-mail noelle@moysi.freeserve.co.uk for further info.

TESTBOURNE NEWS

From Teresa Reynolds, Governor, Testbourne School.

Open Evening in October

We had a full house for our Open Evening and hope this means we will again have 6-forms of pupils for September 2004. Our two state-of-the art Science labs are now up and running, with staff and pupils impressed by the new facilities.

The Art Department has already taken Year 8 pupils out on a very successful trip, to the Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford

and they are now back in school making fantastic masks based on their research.

The half-term came to a close with a Harvest Assembly ~ with each tutor group presenting a box of food gifts to representatives from the Andover Crisis Centre

Christmas Craft Fayre

This will be held on Saturday 15th November, from 10am-4pm. There will be many stalls, with Christmas gift ideas, a tombola, refreshments, children's games, cake stall and a Grand Christmas Draw with £150 first prize.

Help Needed at Lunchtime

We have vacancies for lunchtime supervisors to assist for an hour each day in the canteen and/or recreational areas. If you could help us with this, or know anyone who might, please do contact Paul Welch or Dick Stevens, via the school office ☎ 892061.

Governors AGM

This is coming up on Thursday December 4th and all parents are invited. There will be a presentation on the subject of Specialist Schools Status.

BIODIVERSITY SOCIETY

From Kath Doyle, Chairman.

Bird Talk, Friday 7th November

If you're interested in birds and butterflies this is for you! A talk by Geoff Sharpe (RSPB) 7.30 for start at 8.00pm in Overton Community Centre. Cost £2 to include coffee and biscuits (homemade!) If you'd like to keep a wildlife diary please pick up a sheet from the Hospice Shop. All the information will be collated. We have **extended the Photographic Competition** deadline 'till the end of January to allow for snowy footprint photos! You can enter up to 4 photos. We've had some lovely ones in already.

SCROOGE

From Jillian Smith, ODS.

Overton Dramatic Society is well into rehearsals for the Christmas production of "Scrooge - the Musical", the book, music and lyrics by Leslie Bricusse. It is a colourful show, based on the Dickens short story *A Christmas Carol*, and in 1996 was played on stage by Anthony Newley as the miserly Scrooge who repents his past life when visited by three successive Christmas spirits.

Produced by Graham Tipple and assisted by Jillian Smith the show will be fun for the whole family and has a strong cast from Tiny Tim to Scrooge.

The show runs from Tuesday 25th - Saturday 29th November at St Mary's Hall, curtain-up 7.30pm with a matinee performance on Saturday 29th at 2pm.

Tickets priced at £6 and £4.50 concessions (includes coffee or fruit juice) are available from The Executive Dry Cleaners.

CONCERT FOR ST CECILIA'S DAY

From Ray Bulpit.

Watership Cantabile, the Newbury based chamber choir directed by David Holland, presents a programme of choral music to celebrate St Cecilia's Day at St Mary's Church, on Saturday 22nd November. The programme will include Benjamin Britten's Hymn to St Cecilia, and popular choral items from the renaissance period to the present day. Admission payable at the door (including a glass of wine

during the interval) with students under 18 free and concessions available.

OVERTON SOCIETY

From Sue Carter.

The next meeting (complete with a glass of wine!) will be on 26th November at 8pm in the Community Centre when the guest speaker will be Andy Trotter from Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council who will talk about how successful the Village Design Statement concept has been in the Borough and in Overton. He will also facilitate a discussion on how the village sees the VDS now and in the future. We look forward to seeing you there! This will be followed by a short Annual General Meeting.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Housing

I read with interest the letter in the October *News and Views* concerning the lack of affordable housing in the village and I have to say that I have every sympathy with the author. I have lived in Overton for 17 years, bar 1 year living in London. My husband and I were lucky enough to be able to buy a 2 bedroom cottage 4 years ago before the boom in house prices. However, now we have a 11 month old baby, we are looking to buy a bigger property. Sadly, there are very few 3 or even 4 bedroom houses available within our price range. We were keen on the new properties on Farmers Garden, but £235K for a 3 bedroom end-terrace is verging on the ridiculous. My brother still lives at home because he cannot afford his own place. The way things are going, more and more young people will leave the village - even now you need to earn a very good wage to get on the property ladder! We know it is the same throughout the country, but it would be a great shame if more people end up leaving Overton.

Sophie Gilmour.

OVERTON RECREATION CENTRE

From Gordon Baker, Chairman.

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

£500 J Abate £200 K King
£100 P Dicks, T Neighbour, P Sullivan.

The ORC has reviewed its membership subscription, currently £18 pa. This rate has remained unchanged since 1996, and given intervening inflation, is due for a sharp proportionate increase. After careful consideration, it has been decided to increase it to £24 pa from 1st January 2004. This is still far short of the equivalent of the original 2 shillings a week that applied back in 1966. If that original subscription had been increased in line with inflation since then, it would by now be over £61 pa! At the same time as increasing the subscription to £24 pa, we will also be introducing:

a top prize in our cash draw every 3 months of £1000 (currently £500)

a sliding scale of discounts for those people who take out more than one membership and pay only once or twice a year by standing order.

We will continue to allow payment on a monthly, quarterly, half-yearly or annual basis, but if you currently pay like this, and you convert to annual payment before 1st January, you

will secure nearly an extra full year's membership at the current lower rate. More details about this will soon be available from your collector, or direct from the ORC. Hire rates for facilities are being reviewed at the same time. The ORC still 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.

If you want to contact the ORC, visit our web site at www.overtonrc.org.uk

Contact phone numbers are

Mindy Noble 773337

Gordon Baker 770807

Or you can e-mail us on admin@overtonrc.org.uk

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

CAROLS IN ADVENT

From Steve Dean.

Dellands Voices will be singing carols in St Mary's Church at 7.00pm on Saturday 6th December (St Nicholas' day), accompanied by Paul Wright. The programme will include some of the loveliest and liveliest carols covering the Advent and Christmas period, some of them familiar and some of them new to most of us. Music will range from the 16th to the 21st century and from polyphony to calypso - with a bit of audience participation too!

The proceeds from the concert will go to Welcare - a locally-based charity that supports single parents and their families.

Tickets are available from Brian Wheeler ☎ 771895 and cost £5; accompanied children are free.

OVERSEAS MISSION

From Jane Waldram.

There will be a coffee morning on Saturday 15th November in the Community Centre, from 9:30-11:30am. All the usual stalls and raffle.

Gifts of cakes and produce are most welcome. Do come and join us and enjoy a cuppa. Proceeds to the Barnabas Fund, helping Christians who are suffering religious persecution and Karenaid, serving the needs of displaced minorities in Myanmar (Burma) and Thailand.

ST LUKE'S CLUB

From Chris Penney, Secretary to the Board of Trustees.

An Extraordinary General Meeting (EAGM) was held in St Luke's Hall on 15th October 2003, attended by all six Trustees, 37 members of the public and a reporter from the press.

Overtonians were given up to date reports on all matters dealt with by the Board of Trustees since it was formed on 3rd July. In addition, the Report & Accounts for 2002 was adopted unanimously, as were seven interim amendments to begin to update the charity's constitution, and a Board of Trustees (who will act until the next AGM in June 2004) was agreed.

The EAGM closed with a vote of thanks and the presentation of an original watercolour of St Luke's Hall to Ollie Olsen, who "retired" as chairman because his job requires him to return to the USA. Minutes of the EAGM will be available shortly.

LIBRARY NEWS

From Chris Vane, Library Supervisor.

Libraries have space to display and sell craft items, so if you're interested please let us know. Space is limited in Overton but we will have room on a display board and shelf. In the near future we expect to have a small collection of videos for hire. The charge will be £1 per week and this will be a pilot in advance of the collection we'll have here next spring. Now for a timely hint; with Christmas fast approaching, remember that we have book tokens for sale - useful for last minute gifts, they come in denominations of £5 and £10, with a large choice of gift cards.

DEADLINE NEWS & VIEWS

This will be 16th November. 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 Don't forget, there is no *News & Views* in January, so events in January and early February, as well as in December, should be advertised in the December edition.

VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT

From K and J MacKenzie, Joint Chairmen.

Overton Hill

The developers have submitted an amended plan for 60 houses on Overton Hill. This has removed the large roundabout and Bath style crescent which the VDS team and others objected to. The new layout has a frontage to the B3400 which echoes the terraced style of the rest of London Rd, includes some bungalows and has **no three storey buildings**. However, Croudace has also submitted an alternative plan for 99 (originally 101) houses on the same site. The VDS group has studied both the plans and feels that **the 60 houses plans, though not perfect, fulfils more of the VDS guidelines than the 99 houses plan**. In particular there are three bulky buildings of 3 storeys high in the 99 plan which we all strongly oppose on such an exposed and highly visible site. The planning inspector recommended only 60 houses on this site and we feel that Overton's social and physical infrastructure will not cope with more. (The local community produced the VDS in 2001 and it was passed as supplementary planning guidance in 2002.) The VDS group wants the development which best fits the guidelines which so many local people worked hard to produce thinking it would give the village a stronger voice in planning issues.

Stop Press: The 60 house plan has been approved.

The VDS spoke against the 99 plan on the grounds of the inability of the village infrastructure to cope and the 3 storey buildings. The 99 plan will however give more affordable

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 Clerk to the Council Laura Harley, Oak Tree Lodge, Roundwood, Micheldever, Winchester, Hants. SO21 3BA, ☎ 01962 774296, email laura.harley@virgin.net.

housing. The 99 plan will only be approved by the planners subject to Croudace removing ALL the 3 storey buildings.

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/56396 Erection of rear conservatory at 1 Dellands. No objection.

BDB/56698 Creation of wildlife pond on land adjacent to 3 Silk Mill Cottages. No objection.

BDB/56347 Erection of 60 dwellings and garages with access roads and associated works on land at OS no 8565 SU5149NE, north of London Road No objection subject to clarification of the location and number of affordable houses on this site. The developer is still not complying with the development brief by including five bedroom houses as part of the plan. The Parish Council is concerned that no formal notice has been given regarding the ability of the infrastructure (roads, sewers etc) to cope with any additional development.

BDB/56349 Residential development of 101 houses, garages, highways work and associated works on land at OS no 8565 SU5146NE, north of London Road. No objection subject to the following: Clarification of the location and number of affordable houses on this site; replacement of three storey block at entrance to the estate with two storey block; no five bedroom houses to be included as part of this plan; formalise other transport routes – provision of bus stop on B3400, provision of footpath to school from Station Road to join up with footpath 5 (as in original outline plan), also footpaths/cycle routes to station and village centre.

SHORT MAT BOWLS

From Neil Thomas.

What can you get for £1.20 an afternoon or £1.50 an evening? Short Mat Bowls at St Luke's Hall, Weds 2-4pm and Mon-Thurs 7:30-9:30pm. Come and join us, you will get more than your money's worth. One off joining fee of £5 and an Annual Membership fee. For further information please contact Neil ☎ 770490 or Mike ☎ 770439.

OVERTON CRICKET CLUB

From Peter Tomlin.

Here are the results of the prize draw:

1st Prize: Eurostar Tickets - Jean Judge, Ticket number 00570

2nd Prize: Day at Newbury Races - Peter Howells, 00539

3rd Prize: Tissot Watch - Susan Chivers, 00186

Ten other consolation prizes of bottles of spirits have been distributed to the winners (details available from Peter Tomlin ☎ 770154). The Cricket Club Committee would like to thank everyone who supported the draw by buying a ticket and we look forward to your continued support.
