

# News and Views

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

December 2003 / January 2004

## PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

From Parish Council Clerk Laura Harley.

### Parish Council Meeting

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|--|----------------------------------|
| • Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December 2003 in the Community Centre and Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> January 2004 |                                  |
| • Planning   | 7:00pm                           |
| • Public time  | 7:30pm                           |
| • Main meeting   | 8pm.                             |
| • Planning 7:30pm  | Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> January |
| • Finance & General Purposes 8pm   | 27 <sup>th</sup> January.        |

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

### Overton Website

The Overton website is now available on [www.Overtonvillage.com](http://www.Overtonvillage.com). Currently only a small amount of information is available on the website – but it is hoped to make it an interactive site which is regularly updated to inform everybody about Overton. Representatives from the Overton Business Association and Parish Council have formed a working party to progress the project. Please sign onto the site and give your feedback about what you would like to see from an Overton website. Remember if you do not have a computer at home, there is one available in the library during opening times.

### Parish Council Budget for 2004/2005

The Parish Council must decide the budget for the year commencing 1<sup>st</sup> April 2004 at the meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2003. The funding for the Parish Council comes from the precept, which is paid by each householder in Overton as part of the Council Tax. In the year from 1 April 2003 to 31 March 2004, the precept for Overton was £51,621 and the view has been expressed that the Parish Council should try to keep within this budget for the coming year. Apart from day to day costs such as salaries and maintenance, the precept included funding for local transport, new notice boards and a parish website, fencing and hedging works at Sapley Lane Playing Field, new playground equipment at Edward Kersley Playing Field and CCTV. Many of these projects are now underway. £7308 was used to pay off the final part of the loan taken out to purchase St Mary's Hall.

Following the parish referendum in 1998, which supported the purchase of St Mary's Hall, the Parish Council acquired the building in November 2002. At present the building of a new hall in the village seems as far off as ever, and so the Parish Council has to consider whether it will fund refurbishment works at St Mary's Hall to meet the criteria laid out in the new Disability Act by October 2004. It is likely, with the reduced funding availability that this work, in part, will have to be paid for from the precept. (Please see the St Mary's Hall article for further details of this project.)

The final budget for the year from 1 April 2004 will be posted on the Events Notice board following the December meeting. If you have any views on Parish Council expenditure please contact the Clerk or come to Public Time at 7.30pm on 10<sup>th</sup> December.

### St Mary's Hall

The St Mary's Hall Management Sub-Committee (SMHMS) is in the process of drawing up plans for the refurbishment of the hall. Discussions with the architect, Clive Pedlar, have progressed well, and the following is a brief outline of what has been agreed:

- 1 The old toilet block be demolished and replaced with a new block including kitchen, ladies, mens and disabled persons toilets, store room and boiler room.
- 2 A new disabled access be made to the east side of the building into the alleyway to the side.
- 3 The back of the building be extended to make a reasonably sized meeting room with new toilets and reorganised storage below.
- 4 The doors at the front are replaced with glass, and access for disabled people and the elderly be improved. It has been suggested that a canopy be placed over the front of the building and the bus shelter removed to improve the street scene.
- 5 The garden is redesigned so that the area can be better used by parishioners and hirers.

Hopefully the final plans will be submitted to the borough council in the next month. The plans will be displayed on the Parish Council notice board.

### Laverstoke and Freefolk Parish Council Clerk

Are you interested in becoming the Clerk for Laverstoke and Freefolk Parish Council? The job involves attending meetings and taking minutes, correspondence by letter and phone and keeping simple accounts. The job takes about 3 hours per week for which you would be remunerated. If you are interested, please contact the Parish Council Chairman, Barry Giffen ☎ 893430.

### BDB/56874

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council approved an outline planning application for a village hall on Overton Hill (BDB 49333) on 21 February 2001. As part of this application the 'reserved matters' such as the design of the building and landscaping of the site had to be approved by 21 February 2004. With the future of halls within the village still not settled, the Parish Council has requested that this deadline be extended. All other aspects of the original application remain the same.

### Recycling

Christmas postage stamps can all be recycled: please take them to the primary school or drop them in at the editor's door.

Christmas Tree recycling will take place between Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January and Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January from St Luke's Hall – please park trees tidily!

Empty bottles can be taken to the bottle banks at the Memorial Institute.

### **United Hall Survey**

Please remember to return your completed survey (distributed with last months *News and Views*) to either the Fireplace Shop or the Post Office. Thank you.

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## **OVERTON BOYS FOOTBALL CLUB**

*From Geoff Atkin, Chairman, OBFC.*

Overton Boys are pleased to announce that Father Christmas has once again agreed to tour the village with us on the evenings of 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> December. This year half the proceeds raised will go to Overton United FC's floodlight fund for Bridge Street. Thank you very much in anticipation of your support.

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## **PRIMARY SCHOOL**

*From John Davenport, Chair of Governors.*

Jo Baker, Headteacher at Overton Primary School, will be retiring at Easter 2004 after 31 years at the school, 13 of them as Head. Jo has specifically requested that there be no great fuss made of her leaving, but we will present her with a gift and a card at the end of the spring term. If any pupils or well-wishers would like to sign the card, and/or make a donation, then you can do this at Floral Inspirations. Please be sure to keep this quiet, as Jo has no idea we are doing this. Many thanks.

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## **OVERTON MUMMERS**

*From Tom Hanley.*

Overton Mummers will once again be making their traditional Boxing day appearance in the village. The mummers, mysteriously clad from head to toe in strips of wallpaper and brandishing staffs, perform a centuries old play (with a few modern references!) symbolising the dying of the old year and the birth of the new. You can see the mummers perform at 1pm in the Community Centre car park (or in St Mary's Hall if it is wet), followed by a performance outside the Greyhound pub at around 2pm. For more information ring Tom Hanley ☎ 770384.

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## **TESTBOURNE NEWS**

*From Teresa Reynolds, Governor.*

It is always wise to treat educational league tables with a certain amount of caution. We were, however, not displeased to find Testbourne at number 17 in The Sunday Times list of Top 50 Schools Without Sixth Forms for our A\* and A grade GCSE results this year! We welcomed back our class of 2003, which produced these splendid results, for our Annual Presentation Evening in November. Andrew Seber, Hampshire's Chief Education Officer, agreed to be our special guest and present the certificates this year.

### **Specialist Status**

Every school likes to think they are special and we are no exception but so far we have not chosen to go down the "Specialist School" route. It is now, however, the government's intention that all schools should eventually adopt specialist status. After much discussion we have decided that we too should follow this path. not least

because of the financial advantages. We presented proposals at the Governors' Annual Meeting for parents on 4<sup>th</sup> December and will report more fully in the new year.

### **Vacancies**

We are currently looking for a Teacher of Maths and a part-time Art Technician - providing practical support in the Art Department- for January, and a Learning Support Assistant and Lunchtime Supervisor as soon as possible. Please contact Mary Soper ☎ 892061 for more information.

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## **PRIMARY SCHOOL OSA NEWS**

*From Rachel Locke, Chair*

### **Bonfire Night, 8<sup>th</sup> November**

Many people have approached the OSA to say how much they enjoyed the fireworks and bonfire at Overton Primary School. We are delighted with the £1,100 raised, which will be used to support the school. A big thank you to all those who attended, as well as the volunteers for their help and those who made generous donations towards the event.

### **Carols in the Barn**

This will be held on 20<sup>th</sup> December at Quidhampton Farm, Overton. Please come and enjoy an evening of Christmas carols, mulled wine and mince pies.

### **Christmas Hamper**

Following the success of last year's Christmas raffle, we are pleased to announce that there will be another chance to win a hamper. Tickets are on sale at the school.

### **Produce Show**

It may seem early to be thinking about the summer fete but please note that the Overton School Association is going to run the show as part of the fete again in 2004. The categories are marmalade, chutney, wine, hand or machine knitting and patchwork. So during the long winter nights please get busy and make a resolution to help make the show bigger, better and more competitive than last year. For information on the any of the above please contact Rachel ☎ 770021, Heather ☎ 770706 or Julie ☎ 771299.

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## **CONCERT OF CHRISTMAS MUSIC**

*From Gill Corbett.*

Overton Choral Society will be giving its annual Concert of Christmas Music on Monday December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:30pm in St Mary's Hall.

We will be singing Christmas songs from through the ages, as well as many old favourites. There will be lots of opportunities to join in the singing, and coffee and mince pies will be served afterwards.

There is no entrance charge, but there will be a collection on the door. This year we will be donating the proceeds to "For Dementia" in memory of the late Tony Trollope, who was president of the Society for many years.

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## **LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

### **Shoe Box Scheme-Operation Christmas Child**

A record 182 boxes containing toys, sweets and items of a more practical nature were handed in at Overton Methodist Church this year. These will be included in the distribution at Christmas to homeless and suffering children in over 100 countries.

On behalf of these children many thanks to all who provided toys and undertook hours of knitting in order to provide such wonderful gifts. Your efforts will bring immense joy to



**BDB/56669** Demolition of existing single storey rear extension and erection of a two storey rear extension at 2 Folly Cottages, Ashe Warren. No objection.

**BDB/56900** Change of use of lower ground floor residential storage area to provide 1 no one bedroom apartment and associated external amenity space at 23 Charledown Close. Objection – over development of the site, concern about the constricted nature of the site and the lack of parking.

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## THE BARTH SYNDROME TRUST

*From Annick Manton, Fundraising Committee.*

We invite you to join us at our Coffee Morning which will be held on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2003 at Overton Community Centre from 9.30am to 11.30am. Christmas cards and decorations, stocking fillers and gifts donated by Disney, scrumptious home made cakes, delicious mince pies and a wide variety of gifts will be available. You might also like to try your luck at our Tombola, Lucky Dip and Raffle. All proceeds from the sale will go to **The Barth Syndrome Trust**. Please come and support us.

Barth Syndrome is a rare, life-threatening genetic disorder. Children who are unfortunate enough to have the Barth Syndrome have serious heart problems. The Trust aims to support families of affected children.

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## PLAYGROUP NEWS

*From Carole Clifford.*

To celebrate the opening of the new Playroom at Overton Primary, the children released 250 brightly coloured balloons from the school field. Once again Pat and Geoff Green have offered to donate the money raised by their fantastic Christmas light display at 15 Charledown Close. We are very grateful and thrilled by their generosity. Not only do Overton's young children get to enjoy a very special Christmas tradition but they will also receive some fabulous new equipment – watch this space. With Christmas growing ever closer, the children are busy practising for a festive Sing-a-Long on 17<sup>th</sup> December. Finally, we end the term with an amazing Christmas Party on 19<sup>th</sup> December when, we hope, Father Christmas himself may park his sleigh outside the Community Centre.

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## WHITCHURCH SILK MILL

*From Stephen Bryer*

The Silk Mill's waterwheel restoration appeal continues. Recently we invited an interior designer to provide a hands on evening, when guests learned how to create stunning Christmas colour schemes with scents to match. Forthcoming adult activities include a workshop on 17<sup>th</sup> Century Herbalism and Cookery at 7pm on Tuesday December 9<sup>th</sup>. Tickets are available from the shop at £3 or just turn up on the night.

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## DEADLINE NEWS & VIEWS

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.

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This will be 16<sup>th</sup> January 2004. 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

The Parish Council and the editor of *News & Views* would like to wish all our readers a very Happy Christmas

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## PUBLIC TRANSPORT

*From Public Transport Representative Brian Langer.*

### Trains

#### Christmas and New Year holiday period services

South West Trains intend to operate the following services but if your travel plans involve using another train operating company, eg Virgin Cross Country, please check details on 0845 7 48 49 50

<b>Wednesday 24 December</b>	Normal weekday service but all trains to have reached their destination by 2200 hrs.
<b>25 and 26 December</b>	No service.
<b>Saturday 27 December</b>	Special Saturday service
<b>Sunday 28 December</b>	Normal Sunday service
<b>29, 30 and 31 December</b>	Special Saturday service
<b>Thursday 1 January</b>	Sunday service
<b>Friday 2 January</b>	Special Saturday service

It is to be hoped that SWT will have taken note of the complaints from 2002 when the special Saturday service provided during working days inconvenienced many regular commuters.

### Buses

#### Christmas and New Year holiday period services Stagecoach Services 76 and 86

<b>Wednesday 24 December</b>	Services to have finished by 8pm.
<b>25 and 26 December</b>	No service.
<b>Saturday 27 December</b>	Saturday service.
<b>Sunday 28 December</b>	Sunday service.
<b>29, 30 and 31 December</b>	Saturday service.
<b>Thursday 1 January</b>	No service.
<b>Friday 2 January</b>	Saturday service.

#### Burghfield Mini Coaches Service 74 (Overton village Shuttle)

Tuesday 23 December	Normal service.
25 December	No service.
Saturday 27 and Tuesday 30 December	Normal service.
Thursday 1 January	No service.
Saturday 3 January	Normal service.

#### Weavaway Travel Service 120 to Newbury

18 December and 8 January	Normal service.
25 December and 1 January	No service.

#### Countywide Travel Service 11 to Winchester colleges

Service operates only during term times.

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