

# News and Views

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

April 2004

## PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

From Parish Councillor Brian Langer and Clerk Laura Harley.

### Parish Council Meeting

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2004 in the Community Centre</li><li>• Planning 7:00pm</li><li>• Public time 7:30pm</li><li>• Main meeting 8pm.</li></ul> |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Planning 7:30pm</li><li>• Finance &amp; General Purposes 8pm</li><li>• St Mary's Hall Management committee meeting 8pm</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> April</li><li>• 27<sup>th</sup> April.</li><li>• 5<sup>th</sup> May in the Hall.</li></ul> |
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Agendas and planning applications are displayed on the events notice-board.

### Annual Parish Meeting

This year's Annual Parish Meeting will be held at 7.45pm on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> April in St Mary's Hall. Speakers from the committees representing St Mary's Hall, St Luke's Hall and the Community Centre have all been invited to speak to update the community on the future for each building. As usual, the Parish Council will make a short verbal presentation, and both the borough councillors and county councillors will say a few words. For the first time, the Parish Council will produce an Annual Report and this will be circulated to all parishioners in the *May News and Views*. Refreshments will be served after the meeting.

### Parish Council Surgery

The next Parish Council surgery will be held in the Palmer Room at the Community Centre from 9 to 10am on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> April. If you have any matters that you wish to raise with your Parish Councillors, please come along.

### Waltham Lane Closure

We were notified in mid March that the road would be closed from Pound Road to the Burley Lane/South Litchfield cross roads for patching work which would take three weeks to complete. From enquiries made to the County Council's Highways Office it seems the closure may be for no more than a single day and could be at anytime between 22<sup>nd</sup> March and 22<sup>nd</sup> June

### Access to Overton from A34 southbound

Since the Newbury bypass opened some motorists access the A34 northbound via Whitchurch. A Public Notice has advised that **for southbound traffic only** the slip road for Whitchurch (near Litchfield) will be closed for a period of 18 weeks from around 1<sup>st</sup> April but it will revert to being open at Bank Holiday weekends. The next southbound exit is the Bullington Cross junction with the A303, a significant detour. Access to the A34 northbound from Whitchurch should not be affected whilst the contraflow is in operation.

### Litter Warden

The Parish Council still hopes to employ someone for a few hours per week to pick litter at Sapley Lane and Edward Kersley Playing Fields and in the village centre on a Sunday morning. If you are interested, please contact the Clerk.

### Parking

Drivers may think they are being helpful to other road users by straddling the pavement, but that and the blocking of dropped kerbs can be a real problem for those with impaired sight, pushing a buggy or in a wheelchair. Sometimes thoughtless parking necessitates pavement users having to use the road with all the safety implications that implies. Think about all users before you park on the pavement.

### Skateboarders

The Parish Council has received several complaints from local residents concerning the use of the highway by skateboarders. The Green, Two Gate Lane and Sprents Lane were particular problem areas and the complaints coincided with the local police constable attending a Parish Council meeting. Impeding the highway with makeshift ramps and being on the highway in darkness without lights are offences and parents need to be aware that their children are breaking the law. Having invested around £40,000 in a skateboard park at Sapley Lane some Council Tax payers are understandably annoyed when they have to negotiate skateboarders elsewhere in the village, especially if they get verbal abuse when asking them to stop.

The Community Centre forecourt is not public highway, it is private property, but a notice has been erected stating skateboarding is not permitted there either.

### Grounds Maintenance and Litter

Members of the Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council Street Care Team attended a recent Parish Council meeting. With regard to grass cutting, the borough council has agreed to raise the cutting level of the mowers used around the village and mow at a slower pace, so that the grass does look scalped. The grass will still be cut 13 times in the 34-week growing period. Spraying around signs should also be more accurate to avoid large areas of yellow grass, which looks very unattractive.

With regard to street cleaning, the amount of litter cleared from the streets in the borough area has more than doubled in the last 8 years, and it costs about £1,000,000 per year to keep the streets clean. With the village looking really tidy after the litter pick, let's keep the place clean by using the bins and not the ground for our litter. If you see fly tipping around the parish, please take the trouble to report the matter to the borough council ☎ 845474 which will remove the rubbish within a few days.

## OVERTON VICTORIAN SHEEPFAIR

*From David Backers.*

The Overton Victorian SheepFair will be held in Winchester Street on Saturday and Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> July 2004. Our objective is to provide entertainment for the whole family and there is no admission charge – no, not a single penny. There will be stalls, fairs, food and drink and a host of entertainers.

Do you want to take an active part in the fun? There is still a chance to have a stall for either one day or both to raise money for your club, your favourite charity or even just for yourself.

But how about taking part in our parade? On Sunday afternoon we shall have a carnival parade. The theme is "Transport", to celebrate two anniversaries - the arrival of the railway in Overton 150 years ago, while 250 years ago on what is now the B3400 there was a turnpike installed to raise money to improve the worst piece of road between London and Salisbury.

Arrange a float, take part on foot, in a wheelchair, ride your bicycle, your pony and trap, your donkey, whatever you want! Be inventive!!

Finally, come and visit our Easter Saturday stall in the Community Centre Car Park and purchase our Fact Sheet on Victorian clothing and our new range of SheepFair clothing with the new SheepFair logo – tee shirts, sweat shirts, polos. Who to contact: Parade, Derrick Green ☎ 770633 or Paul Robinson ☎ 771815 (evenings); Stalls, Peter Baker – Overton Fireplace Shop ☎ 770007; General queries – any of the above or David Backers ☎ 770793.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Daffodil Supper and Songs...

This delightful evening raised .£527 for Cancer Research UK and the Hospice. Huge thanks to the Paul Holmes Quintet and to the many cooks and other helpers who made it such a success again.

*Jane Mackenzie, Overton Methodist Church*

### Travel Tokens

Thank you to every one who gave me unwanted or unused travel tokens last year. A taxi is often the only way I can get in and out of Basingstoke and at around £25 a return I was very grateful to all who helped me out. It's that time of year again to get your travel tokens and if you don't use them yourself there will always be some one in your street, road or close who could make good use of them. And if by chance you don't know of anyone who can use them then remember the name under this letter. Again thank you all.

*Paul Allam, 1 Mede Close.*

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## ST LUKE'S CLUB UPDATE

*From Chris Penney, Secretary*

The date for the 2004 AGM has been fixed - it will be held on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> June at 7.45pm in St Luke's Hall, Winchester Street. There will be several reminders over the next two months, and the Agenda will be published and circulated by the end of May.

There is no truth in a rumour that it is planned to bulldoze the existing St Luke's Hall completely and turn the whole site into a large public car park. However, as it has been a few years since a full review has been undertaken, the

Trustees are looking (again) at the long-term *possibility* of building a new low-level hall, with an external design/façade *fully sympathetic to all its surroundings*, using modern eco-friendly materials and further back on the site with more car parking spaces at the front. This is only a feasibility study at the moment: if it does turn out to be a realistic idea worth pursuing, then full public meetings will be held before any decision can be made (this is a clear condition of the constitution and the motion passed at the 2003 EAGM).

In the shorter term the Trustees are having the kitchen facilities upgraded to modern standards, followed later (but as soon as possible) by refurbishment of the toilets. We are grateful to Elen Cook who is overseeing these projects.

Guidelines have recently been received from B&DBC about standardising halls booking forms/conditions of hire throughout the Borough, and the Trustees have revised their form for St Luke's Hall to meet these guidelines. New booking forms and details of current hire charges are available from the Hall Letting Officer, Peter Baker, at the Fireplace Gallery (☎ 770007).

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## EXERCISE TO MUSIC

*From Caroline Mills.*

SUMMER TERM 2004 - Starts Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April  
Mondays 7.30-8.30pm aerobics and conditioning, St Mary's Church Rooms

Wednesdays 9.15-10.15am 20:20 Conditioning, St Luke's Hall.

New! Wednesday 7.30-8.30pm Circuits, St Luke's Hall.

Fridays 9.15-10.15am aerobics and conditioning, St Luke's Hall.

£4.00 per session, or £38 for 10 sessions. All levels welcome. For further details ☎ 397742.

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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/57641** Erection of single storey rear extension at 67 Woodlands. No objection.

**BDB/57654/5** Construction of new driveway from existing field access on to Northington Lane from Northington House and creation of opening in brick garden wall. It was agreed that this should be dealt with by the Conservation Officers at the borough council.

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## BIODIVERSITY SOCIETY NEWS

*From Jane MacKenzie*

River Test Talk - Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April

Alison Cross, who was born and brought up at Ashe, the official source of the River Test, will be giving an illustrated talk on the character of the river and the pressures on it. She will explain how the hydrology of the Test and Itchen catchment area affects the biodiversity within it, and talk about some of Overton's river issues. This promises to be a really interesting and thought provoking evening. Please come along. Cost: £1 to include refreshments (50p to members) Overton Community Centre at 8pm.

Photographic Competition Winners!

We had a delightful display of 37 beautiful photos at the Open Evening. They are now on display in the library.

Many thanks to John Hodge who had the difficult job of

judging the very varied creatures and plants submitted! The winner of the children's section was *Isabella Kater* with her swan at Southington and the runner up was *Bryher Hutchins'* photo of daffodils.

The adult winner, "Walking out with Nan" was taken by *Alison Hutchins* and *Brian Chivers*, *Tony Morris* and *Peter Hutchins* were commended. A very big THANK YOU to everyone who took part and contributed to such an interesting and humorous exhibition of Overton wildlife and talent!

**Visit our website** on [www.bike2nature.org.uk/obs/](http://www.bike2nature.org.uk/obs/) to check out what we've been up to and what we hope to do in the future.

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## TESTBOURNE NEWS

*From Teresa Reynolds, Governor.*

### Water leak causes unexpected closure

Most pupils had an unexpected day off one Monday in March as a result of a serious leak in the piping which supplies the water tanks servicing the majority of the toilets in the school. Rumours did abound that "Testbourne is flooded" but there was nothing quite so dramatic. We were, however, advised that it would not be safe or healthy to open school with so many pupils and so few toilets. Pupils managed to contain their disappointment at being deprived of a day's education. Staff were in as usual, taking advantage of the time to catch up on all the tasks they can't do when pupils are here.

### Out and about

As usual some of our pupils have been enjoying educational experiences beyond school. Year 9 pupils visited Fort Nelson in Portsmouth as part of their World War One studies, including getting to load a cannon. Year 8 pupils visited the Medina Mosque in Southampton and Year 7 pupils have been sketching at Marwell Zoo as part of their Art course.

### Could you help?

As you may be aware we are hoping to submit a bid for specialist Arts status in the coming year. Before we can do that we have to raise £50,000 as our contribution. We shall be seeking to do this in a number of ways, including sponsorship from individuals, the community and the business sector. This can be actual financial support or in kind, eg through donations of relevant equipment or skill. If you think you, or perhaps your company, could help in any way please do get in touch with the school to discuss possibilities ☎ 892061.

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## OVERTON RECREATION CENTRE

*From Gordon Baker, Chairman.*

As I reported at our recent AGM, we still very much need volunteers from Overton to help the ORC's affairs. We are too reliant on the efforts of long-serving older residents, and need younger people (perhaps in their 30s and 40s) to help maintain the wonderful facilities under our management. As well as providing excellent sporting facilities, our grounds are lovely open spaces without which much of Overton's character would be lost.

Can you spare an hour or two each week to call on members and collect subscriptions? Even a small amount of time for this will help. We can tailor the size of the collection "round" to the amount of time you can spare.

We also need an Honorary Treasurer. This will necessitate a reasonable level of understanding of financial affairs, but as we employ an administrator to maintain books, the Treasurer's role is more supervisory, and engaging in associated correspondence.

Finally, our current administrator is leaving us, so we need a replacement. This is a 7 hour a week paid role, and requires someone with bookkeeping and IT skills.

Please consider if you can devote a little time to support us.

To discuss more details, call

Gordon Baker ☎ 770807 for the Treasurer and administrator positions; or

Debbie Tomlin ☎ 770154 about the collectors.

We had our first £1000 top prize draw in March. The winner was Mr John Brown – many congratulations.

The other top prize winners were:

£200 O Laminie

£100 M Heaton, S Lloyd and K Goodall

If you want to contact the ORC, visit our web site at

[www.overtonrc.org.uk](http://www.overtonrc.org.uk)

Or 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.

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## TENNIS CLUB

*From Joy MacGregor.*

The season has started! As usual, Club nights are on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6.15pm and we could do with some new players. We hope the courts will be repainted during April so give me a ring first ☎ 770391 to find out if they are available.

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## CRICKET CLUB

*From Nigel Parnell-Smith.*

Overton Cricket Club plays Saturday and midweek League games and Sunday friendlies. We are currently looking for players, of all abilities, and umpires for the coming season. Please contact Nick Parnell-Smith ☎ 773167 or email [oldgreyt@hotmail.com](mailto:oldgreyt@hotmail.com)

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## HEALING CIRCLE

*From Paul Robinson*

A small non-denominational Healing Circle meets each Monday evening at 42 Harvey's Field. Its activities are intended to complement mainstream treatments, in addition to providing opportunities for meditation and relaxation. If you are interested in joining the Healing Circle or attending for treatment \relaxation, please ☎ Bill: 770792/ 07960 394659; Sheila 01980 626342; Bert 07906 817403.

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## PLAYGROUP NEWS

*From Emma Twamley.*

Now Spring weather is here, the children and staff at Playgroup are planning many outdoor activities including a sponsored trike ride. The children have been busy planting in the garden and constructing water activities involving tyres, pulleys, and other bits and bobs! We held a coffee morning/Open day in March. As well as this being a great opportunity for new parents and their children to look around the Playgroup and meet the staff, we raised funds for new equipment – we are hoping to buy a new climbing

frame/slide for the children in the garden so a huge thank you to everyone who contributed.

Our plans for the Sheepfair are well under way now so if you are interested in helping Playgroup children with their float/costumes etc please contact Emma Twamley ☎ 770826.

We are on the lookout for a laminator for Playgroup so if anyone can help please could you let Amanda our leader know or call Noelle ☎ 895760. We also have a good quality desk for sale which is only about 6 months old so if you are interested please call Amanda ☎ 770370.

We are currently planning our sessions for next year and still have places available. **All children now receive 5 sessions a week FREE from 3 years** funded by the government. If you are interested in your child attending the playgroup or would like some more information please call Amanda our leader ☎ 770370 or come in and see her on a Thursday morning to secure your place.

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## DEADLINE NEWS & VIEWS

This will be 16<sup>th</sup> April. 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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## HART WILDLIFE

*From Judith Young.*

Following last year's successful concert, soloists and strings from Peter Symonds College return to St. Mary's Laverstoke on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> May. Their programme includes Vivaldi's famous Four Seasons. Proceeds will go to local wildlife charity HART. For more details see the May issue, or contact Howard Burchett ☎ 896642.

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## PUBLIC TRANSPORT

*From Public Transport Representative Brian Langer.*  
**Easter and May Day holiday arrangements**

### Buses

Stagecoach services 76 and 86 will operate as follows:

Good Friday 9 April	Sunday service
Easter Saturday 10 April	Saturday service
Easter Day 11 April	Sunday service
Easter Monday 12 April	Sunday service
May Day holiday 3 May	Sunday service

Burghfield Mini Coaches will operate the Overton Shuttle, service 74, as normal on Easter Saturday.

### Trains

South West Trains are expected to operate as follows:

Good Friday	Saturday service
Easter Saturday	Saturday service
Easter Day	Sunday service
Easter Monday	Saturday service
May Day holiday	Saturday service

Check on 08457 48 49 50 for engineering works that may delay your journey and the arrangements of other train operating companies, eg Virgin Cross Country.

### Overton's 150 year link with the railway

This line from Basingstoke to Andover opened on 3 July 1854 and Overton's own celebrations are being integrated with the Sheep Fair celebrations on 17 and 18 July.

Separately, South West Trains are holding a painting competition involving local schools in Overton, Whitchurch and Andover. Paintings must reflect trains, railway stations or railway life at anytime over the 1854-2004 period and prizes will be for the following age bands: 4-7, 8-10 and 11 and over. Paintings need to have been completed by 28 May. Further details from Mike Hedderly, Rail Officer HCC on 01962 845492.

Details of public transport arrangements in and around Overton over the weekend of 17 and 18 July will be given in a future *News and Views*.

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## ADULT EDUCATION

*From Glenda Walsh, Community Education Officer.*

The Adult and Community course listing, published by BCOT in conjunction with Queen Mary's College is now available, for courses starting after Easter in Basingstoke and Whitchurch. To obtain your free copy, ☎ 306347/355 or get one from libraries, the Information Centre in the town centre and many other outlets.

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## THE VYNE, NATIONAL TRUST

*From Ben Boyle, Visitor Reception Manager.*

Visit one of Hampshire's most beautiful locations, The Vyne Estate owned by The National Trust. This Historic Mansion House and Estate is running 'Vyne Extra Days' throughout the season. Get an unusual insight into the House, Gardens and Estate for just the usual admission fee. **'Inside Out in The House'** gives you the opportunity to walk around the house and discover what's behind cabinet doors, inside drawers and trinket boxes. Also feel the House come alive to the music of yesteryear. – 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of every month (except Bank Holidays) 5 April, 7 June, 5 July, 2 Aug, 6 Sept & 4 Oct.

**'Garden Secrets'** lets you join a tour at 12 noon from the ticket office and explore the 'Garden of the Month' with our gardening team. Learn about the garden's history, design and planting. Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month 13 April, 11 May, 8 June, 13 July, 10 Aug, 14 Sept & 12 Oct  
**'Meet our Oldest Residents'** is when The Vyne's tree expert will introduce you to the Oldest Residents on the Estate, some of them now in their 600<sup>th</sup> year! Meet at 12 noon at the ticket office. Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month 21 April, 19 May, 16 June, 21 July, 18 Aug, 15 Sept & 20 Oct.

Admission: House & Grounds: Adults - £7.00, Children - £3.50 & Family - £17.50

Grounds only: Adults - £4.00 & Children - £2.00.

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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, John Bennett, 64 Woodlands, ☎ 771144, email john@hid.cc, or Vice 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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