

News and Views

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

May 2004

PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

From Parish Councillor Brian Langer and Chairman
John Bennett.

Parish Council Meeting

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| • Wednesday 12 th May 2004 in the Community Centre |
| • Planning 7:00pm |
| • Public time 7:30pm |
| • Main meeting 8pm. |
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| • Planning 7:30pm | Tuesday 25 th May |
| • Finance & General Purposes 8pm | 25 th May. |

Agendas and planning applications are displayed on the events notice-board. The public is welcome to attend any of these meetings.

Documents Available

Copies of both the Conservation Area Character Appraisal and the Management Plan for the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty are available as reference documents in the library.

Beat Officer for Overton

PC Swallow has now started his duties as the new Beat Officer for Overton. He can be contacted at the Whitchurch Police Station during opening hours which are 9–10am and 5–7pm. PC Swallow attended the Parish Council meeting in April when he ran through the crime statistics for the year to date. He has the flexibility to work shifts to suit the times when it is felt his presence will be most effective in the village. He has been made aware of some of the areas where inconsiderate parking is causing an obstruction to other villagers. He can take action against such parking where the traffic wardens cannot!

Overton Website

At the April Parish Council meeting, it was agreed to employ Acclaim to write the Overton Village website. The website is up and running in a draft form and can be viewed at www.overtonvillage.com. If you have any ideas about the website, please contact the webmaster via the site.

Village Car Parking

The Parish Council briefly discussed all the possible areas where a car park could be constructed both in the centre of the village and further out. Councillors agreed to produce a table showing the pros and cons for each site and a report will be sent to the borough council.

Parish Council Committees

The Parish Council has agreed to pass some powers to the Finance and General Purposes Committee if a majority of councillors attend the meeting. Members of the public are welcome to attend this committee meeting which takes place from 8pm on the fourth Tuesday of the month in the Community Centre, however there is no opportunity for the

public to speak. Public time takes place between 7.30 and 8pm on the second Wednesday of each month.

Planning Committee

Plans to be discussed are advertised on the Local Events noticeboard before each meeting. Members of the public who wish to speak either in favour or against any planning application in the village are welcome to attend the Parish Council planning committee meetings which take place on the second Wednesday of the month at 7pm and the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm. Both meetings are held in the Community Centre. If anyone wishes to view a copy of a planning application, please contact the Clerk.

CCTV

The Parish Council has received three quotes for installing a CCTV system around the Community Centre at an approximate cost of £5,000 with an ongoing maintenance cost of about £400. Every year, the Community Association has to pay to repair the damage caused in the forecourt at a cost of between £500 to £1,000. CCTV will be discussed at the Annual Parish Meeting, and we are interested in your opinions on CCTV at the Community Centre and other sites around the village. Please contact the Clerk with your views.

Play Areas

The Parish Council has agreed to install a basketball post at Sapley Lane Playing Field and the work should be completed in the next few weeks. Two new gates are to be installed at either end of the Edward Kersley Playing Field path. New signs are to be erected at both play areas.

Closure of Links between the M3 and A303 in both directions

The Highways Agency has announced through a Public Notice that the above links – only one at a time – will be closed to traffic overnight (2200 to 0530hrs) for 17 weekday nights over a five month period from 19 April. No work will occur at Bank Holidays but as part of the work a 40mph speed limit will apply from the M3 slip roads along the A303 to Bullington Cross – the junction with the A34. Formal diversions will be in place, eg westbound via junction 9 of the M3 at Winnall, Winchester. Watch for Advance Warning signs to minimise delays to your journey.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NSPCC

The Lambing Days at Northington Farm on Good Friday and Easter Saturday raised a magnificent £1565 for the NSPCC. This was the seventh occasion on which Mr and Mrs Crosbie-Dawson kindly agreed to hold the Lambing event. The organisers Inge Hunter and Sue Bobin are very grateful for all their support and hard work without which it

would not have been possible to raise the funds for the vital work of the NSPCC helping to protect children from cruelty. *Sue Bobin.*

Retiring Head

After 32 years at the school I found retiring a mixture of emotions. I have loved working at this school but all good things must come to an end eventually. I had the most fantastic send off from the children and staff even though I had requested that nothing be done! I was particularly touched by the generosity of parents – past and present - who donated so generously to my farewell gifts and I should like to say thank you to you all.

Jo Baker.

Local Charities Coffee Morning, 20th March.

Thank you to everyone who helped us to raise £337 to be divided between Wel-Care, Darby & Joan and A.C.T.I.O.N.

Jane Waldram, Mission Committee.

Litter

Having recently litter picked with others the Portals to Hannington Lane, it is very disappointing to see, only 2 weeks later, a trail of empty Mega Strength White Cider cans on this country lane.

If anyone knows who the culprit might be could they please contact the Whitchurch Police ☎ 450314 with a view to having the person prosecuted, or PC Lee Coleshill at Basingstoke ☎ 405369.

Name & address supplied.

OCA AGM

From Paula Baker, Chair, OCA.

Overton Community Association's AGM is being held on Thursday 27th May at 7.30pm in the Community Centre. All are welcome! For more information ☎ 771219.

OVERTON RECREATION CENTRE

From Gordon Baker, Chairman.

Congratulations to all 28 prize winners in our April draw.

The top prize winners were:

£500 E Mooney £200 P McCann

£100 R Shadwell, R de Prez, R Heaver.

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

Contact the ORC by email on chairman@overtonrc.org.uk or by phone ☎ 770807 (Gordon Baker).

We still need a collector in Station Road for 7 houses, contact Debbie Tomlin ☎ 770154 if you can help.

Remember, our sports facilities and halls are available for hire at reasonable rates.

LIBRARY NEWS

From Chris Vane, Library Supervisor.

There will be a change to some of our Storytime sessions from now on, as we welcome children's librarians to join us from time to time.

We meet from 2.15 – 2.45 on the second Wednesday of each month, so if you haven't visited us before, do come along soon. Our collection of children's videos has proved popular, and the stock has been changed recently. All titles can be hired for £1 per week.

FRIENDS OF OVERTON SURGERY

From Chris Smith.

The Annual General Meeting will be held at the Community Centre, Overton on Thursday 27th May, at 8pm.

This is a Group with Charitable Status to oversee the effective use of bequests made to the Overton Practice for the benefit of the patients.

All patients over 18 who are registered with the Overton Practice are invited to attend. The Annual Accounts will be available for inspection at Overton Surgery from 20th May. Nominations for membership of the Executive Committee should be submitted to the Secretary by 12th May and must be supported by at least 2 group members.

Notice of any resolutions to be considered should be given to the Secretary by 12th May, and must be tabled by not less than 10 members.

For more information contact the Chairman Bill Denny 770183 or the Secretary Chris Smith ☎ 397 283.

BIODIVERSITY SOCIETY NEWS

From Kath Doyle.

We were delighted to see so many new faces at the AGM and Open Evening on 24th March and our membership has now increased to over 55. A possible management plan for Little Meadow (the fenced area to the north of the graveyard extension) was on show. The plan includes areas of different native trees, shrubs and wildflowers and we hope to put it on display in the library shortly for comments. While the plans are being looked at, the usual regime of short mowing will be suspended.

7th May, 7.45pm- Evening Bat Walk - starting from the Community Centre. £2 for non members, £1.50 members, children £1. See posters for details or ☎ 771121

28th May - Moth Evening. See posters or phone above.

OVERTON SOCIETY

From Sue Carter.

Our next Open Meeting is on 5th May at 8pm in the Community Centre when Bill Fergie, Chairman of the Hampshire Preservation Trust, (late of Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council) will talk on Conservation Areas and the benefits and the down side of living in one. Admission is free to members, £1 to non-members.

SOLOISTS AND STRINGS

Talented soloists and strings from Winchester's Peter Symonds College return to St. Mary's Church, Laverstoke for a concert in aid of HART Wildlife Rescue. The group will perform Bach's Violin Concerto in D minor for two violins as well as Vivaldi's famous Four Seasons. Two works by English composers complete the programme: William Walton's incidental music to Sir Laurence Olivier's production of Henry V, and Five Bagatelles for clarinet and strings by Gerald Finzi, who lived for many years at Ashmansworth, near Newbury.

The concert, on Saturday 15th May, will start at 7.30pm and interval refreshments will be available in the Village Hall. Tickets £8 (£6 concessions) can be obtained from Overton Fireplace Gallery and the Newbury Building Society in Whitchurch, or on the door. Contact Howard Burchett ☎ 896642 for more details.

OVERTON VICTORIAN SHEEPFAIR

From David Backers.

The Overton Victorian SheepFair will be held in Winchester Street on Saturday and Sunday, 17/18th 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.

On Whit Saturday, 29th May, the SheepFair Committee will have a stall in the Community Centre Car Park, come and purchase our Fact Sheet on Victorian clothing (20p) and see our new range of top quality SheepFair tote bags and clothing for all ages all with the new 2004 SheepFair logo – tee shirts, sweat shirts, polos, or just chat with us about the Fair.

Do you want to take an active part in the fun? You can have a stall to raise money for your club, your favourite charity or even just for yourself (Saturday is now nearly full, but there is still some space on Sunday).

Take part in our Sunday Carnival parade? The theme is 'Transport' as we celebrate two village anniversaries in 2004. 150 years ago the railway arrived in Overton, however before that, the B3400 was on the stagecoach route from London to Exeter, the motorway of its time. In 1754, 250 years ago, a turnpike was erected to improve the Overton stretch which was notoriously bad. You paid to use the road, and the money paid for improvements – sounds familiar somehow. So help us celebrate our SheepFair, our village and its transport. Arrange a float, take part on foot, in a wheelchair, ride your bicycle, your pony and trap, your donkey, whatever you want! Be inventive!!

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.

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/57890 Erection of single storey extension following demolition of conservatory at Venetta, Winchester Street. No objection.

BDB/57900 Installation of new sash window to ground floor west elevation at Court Farm House, Church Road. No objection.

BDB/57850 Erection of a replacement front porch and attached garage to side of property at 1 Sapley Lane. No objection.

BDB/57898 Application for Certificate of Lawfulness for change of use of land to be included within the domestic curtilage at Well House, Burley. Objection – agreed that land was agricultural. Concerned that a change of use would alter the nature of the area.

BDB/57927 Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of 2 no. four bedroom dwellings at Ambledene, Winchester Street. Objection – dangerous access, change character of area with three storey properties, inefficient use of land, the Parish Council would prefer to have smaller properties on the site, preferably bungalows.

BDB/58204 Application for Certificate of Lawfulness for unrestricted residential use at Cross Keys, Vinns Lane. No objection.

BDB/58160 Erection of single storey side extension and detached outbuilding forming garden room/storage at 8 Crawts Road. No objection.

OVERTON SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

From Rachel Locke.

Quiz Night - Saturday - 15th May

Following the success of the last quiz night we are holding another quiz night at School and all are welcome. Teams of six adults can be entered for a cost of £5 a head, which includes a ploughmans. Forms for team entry are at the School office. Please come along and help make this another very enjoyable evening.

Summer Fête - Saturday 12th June

There is something for everyone at the School fête this year. There are the usual attractions including face painting, big bouncy castle and slide, cash raffle and BBQ. As well as craft stalls, the produce show will run for you to compete with your knitting, quilting, needlework, preserves, wine, arranged flowers and photographs. The fête will end with a colourful balloon race this year. All funds raised are used to support the school so please bring family and friends along to help make this a great success.

If you would like a craft stall please contact Sally Davenport ☎ 770799, and/or if you would like to advertise in the programme please ring Julie Kalton ☎ 771299.

DEADLINE NEWS & VIEWS

This will be 16th May. 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

A SPECIAL MUSICAL EVENING

From Carolyn Sheffield.

Sponsored by De la Rue Currency.

Concert performed by Dellands Choir on Saturday 3rd July in aid of Laverstoke Church and The North Hampshire Medical Fund.

Picnic and enjoy Jazz and Spirituals by the River Test in Batts Cottage Garden from 6.00pm to 7.30pm followed by Anthems and Organ Music in the beautiful Victorian Laverstoke Church from 7.45pm to 9.30pm. Tickets £7.50 Concessions £5.50. (Laverstoke Church is in walking distance from Batts Cottage). Tickets available from Business Connections, The Cellar Door and Carolyn Sheffield ☎ 895130.

PLAYGROUP NEWS

From Emma Twamley.

We have chosen the theme of "Alice in Wonderland" for the Sheepfair so plans are in progress for the design of our float in the parade and also the events that will take place at the Playgroup that weekend. If anyone can help us with donations of wood, paint, craft materials such as newspaper, glue, tissue paper etc please contact either Emma Twamley ☎ 770826, Amanda Igo at Playgroup ☎ 770370 or Noelle Moysi ☎ 895760.

Overton Pre-school Playgroup offers excellence in pre-school learning through play and we are based at both the Community Centre and the Primary School. Pre-school education is FREE for ALL children once they have turned

3. We still have places available for playgroup and for pre-school children. If you are interested in sending your child to us you are welcome to visit us or contact Amanda Igo ☎ 770370 as soon as possible in order to secure your place.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

From Brian & Margaret Wheeler.

There will be a house to house collection again this year in Overton, Laverstoke and Ashe. Christian Aid offers a hand up to people in dire need in more than 50 countries worldwide – they respond to major disasters and campaign for trade justice and the universal right to health care, clean water and education. Please give a welcome when our collector calls. Thank you.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

From Public Transport Representative Brian Langer.

Buses

Services 76 and 86 serving Basingstoke railway station

The Parish Council was assured that the service to Basingstoke would revert to passing Basingstoke railway station once Festival Place had been completed. That was 18 months ago and the service from Overton has still not reverted to the original route despite several requests to Stagecoach Bus. The parish clerk has now written urgently seeking the reinstatement of this service which is especially important to those with baggage or who are infirm. It is no fun having to carry or pull a case from the bus station to the railway station if one is in good health; when one is elderly or has any kind of incapacity the journey on foot makes a mockery of so-called integrated transport. It is especially ironic when both the buses and the trains are run by the same parent company!

Spring Bank Holiday 31 May

Services 76/86 Sunday service.

Trains

Summer Schedule South West Trains

This begins on Sunday 23 May and continues to December to comply with the continental practice of having a single change of schedules per year.

Overton will be served by two extra trains from Waterloo:

1503 Mondays- Fridays arriving here at 1559

1203 Saturdays arriving here at 1259.

There will also be a very limited service to and from Bath and Bristol but the timings relating to Overton are more suited for trips lasting more than a day.

Some minor changes have been made to other services. Note that the first two eastbound trains Mondays to Saturday run earlier from 27 September.

Always check with ☎ 08457 48 49 50 as to whether engineering works will affect your journey, especially at weekends.

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, e-mail john@hid.cc, or Vice Chairman Sarah Mills, 37 Red Lion Lane, e-mail Sarahmills46@hotmail.com or Clerk to the Council Laura Harley, Oak Tree Lodge, Roundwood, Micheldever, Winchester, Hants. SO21 3BA, ☎ 01962 774296, e-mail laura.harley@virgin.net.

Eastbound all go to Waterloo unless (B) Basingstoke, (E) Exeter St Davids, (BB) Bristol.

Monday to Friday:

0559 until 24 Sept – 0556 thereafter, 0637 until 24 Sept – 0634 thereafter, 0704, 0743, 0821, 0848, 1006, 1118, 1218, 1318, 1418, 1518, 1618, 1648, 1720(from E & B), 1826, 1848, 1927, 2053, 2138, 2313(B).

Saturday:

0603 until 25 Sept- 0558 thereafter, 0646 until 25 Sept- 0641 thereafter, 0743, 0845, 0918, 0945, 1118, 1318, 1521, 1718(from B), 1848, 1943, 2117, 2313(B).

Sunday:

0903, 1100, 1313, 1451, 1651, 1851, 2030, 2310(B).

Westbound destination Salisbury unless (B) Bristol Temple Meads, (E) Exeter St Davids, (G) Gillingham (H) Honiton, (N) Newton Abbot, (P) Paignton, (Y) Yeovil Junction.

Monday to Friday:

0033 (Tuesdays to Fridays to set down only), 0038 (Mondays to set down only), 0728(Y), 0804(E), 0847, 0959, 1059, 1159, 1359, 1459, 1559(G), 1629(Y), 1700, 1729(E), 1756(Y), 1825(E), 1907(Y), 1929(E), 2001(B), 2029(H), 2129(E), 2229(G), 2329.

Saturday:

0033(to set down only), 0701(P), 0804(E), 0959, 1159, 1259(B), 1359, 1559, 1729(E), 1759, 1929(E), 1959(B), 2129(Y), 2229(G), 2329.

Sunday:

0033 (to set down only), 0850(P until 26 Sept then N), 1059(P & B), 1259, 1459(Y), 1659(Y), 1859(Y & B), 1959(E), 2059(Y), 2259.

Spring Bank Holiday 31 May

A revised Saturday service will operate that day.

Do you live North of the Railway Line?

If you do, then you are in the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty which stretches from the edge of Wootton St Lawrence to Devizes and from Hurstbourne Priors and the edge of Andover to Wallingford. A Management Plan for this area has recently been submitted by its Council of Partners to the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and will be formally launched on 12 May at Shalbourne near Hungerford. Copies of the Plan are held by Overton Library, the Parish Council, Overton Society, the Biodiversity Group and several farmers in the area but parish councillor Brian Langer ☎ 770848, who is the Hampshire Association of Parish and Town Councils's representative on the partnership, has some copies if you would like to obtain one. The Borough Council is also represented on the partnership by cabinet member Cllr Paula Baker and a Planning Officer.