

# News and Views

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

June 2004

## PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

From Parish Councillors Sarah Mills and Brian Langer.

### Parish Council Meeting

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| • Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> June 2004 in the Community Centre |
| • Planning 7:00pm   |
| • Public time 7:30pm  |
| • Main meeting 8pm.   |

- Planning 7:30pm Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June
- Finance & General Purposes 8pm 22<sup>nd</sup> June.

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

### Annual Parish Meeting

Once a year the Parish Council organises a public meeting to report on the past year's activities and listen to parishioners comments. At the Annual Parish Meeting this year we invited the committees which currently run St Mary's Hall, St Luke's Hall and the Community Centre to talk about their plans for the future.

All three groups propose to refurbish their sites and have submitted plans. The next stage is for each group to seek funding. As the success of these projects depends on the availability of grants and loans, the Parish Council has not yet made a final decision on the future of the site on Overton Hill.

The well-attended meeting finished with drinks, and fine food supplied by the WI.

### Council Representatives

In May, the Council also elects a Chairman, Vice Chairman and representatives on "outside bodies" who attend meetings and report back to the Council. The results are:

Public Transport Liaison & Highways Liaison Brian Langer

Overton Primary School Governing Body (from June 2004) Sue Johnson

St Mary's Hall Peter Baker and Ian Tilbury

Overton Community Association Sarah Mills

BDAPTC Brian Langer

Overton Combined Charities Val Bodle

Overton Business Association Peter Baker

Overton Youth Lucy Sloane Williams

Chairman John Bennett

Vice Chairman Sarah Mills

### Leisure Facilities

The Parish Council is looking at leisure facilities in the village. The play equipment at Edward Kersley Recreation Field is very popular with young children, however, a quick survey at the school bus stop shows that more challenging equipment would be much appreciated by the secondary school age group.

The Parish Council is also considering removing both sets of goal posts at Sapley Lane Playing Field having received advice from the Football League. In an ideal situation, goal posts should be removed when not in use.

Please let the Parish Council know if you have any opinions on these matters.

We are also considering the leisure needs of older parishioners, as Overton has the second highest percentage of over 65s in the Borough.

### Did You Know....?

Parents driving to Overton Primary School can park on the tarmac area belonging to the ORC at the corner of Bridge Street and Court Drove. The gates are open for an hour at the start and end of the school day. Parking at the bottom of the hill would reduce the amount of traffic outside the school and make it safer for the children who want to walk or cycle along Court Drove.

### Useful Telephone Numbers

Street lighting fault reports should continue to be made to 0800 50 60 60 but Hampshire County Council has now introduced a number to which highway faults, eg potholes and damaged signs, can be reported. It is 0845 850 44 22 but be sure to specify that the problem relates to Overton when phoning in as the line deals with a wide area of the county.

### High Street Pavement Repairs

The work undertaken a few weeks ago on the north-side pavement was not fully completed by the end of their shift and contractors will return to undertake work from the Overton Gallery westwards to opposite the solicitor's premises. Again it is likely to take place on a Sunday but they have been asked to avoid both the Sheepfair and Harriers weekends in July and September.

### June Elections

Contrary to what you may have read in the Basingstoke Gazette there are NO Parish Council elections in Overton this year; nor are there borough or county elections for this ward. However, there are elections to the European Parliament in Brussels which will take place on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> June and the results will be based on proportional representation according to the number of votes cast for each political grouping.

### OPEN DAY LAVERSTOKE PARK

From Jackie Keep.

Laverstoke Park and Overton Rugby Club are jointly hosting an open day on 19<sup>th</sup> June from 3.00pm – 9.00pm at Southley Farm, Overton. Tickets are £4.00 in advance and £5.00 on the day per adult and children under 8 go free. For further information or to book tickets, please ☎ 890906.

## ST LUKE'S CLUB - UPDATE

*From Chris Penney, Secretary*

The 2004 AGM will be held on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> June at 7.45pm in St Luke's Hall, Winchester Street. The agenda is displayed at several prominent locations around the village. The constitution states that "*all inhabitants of the area of benefit (the Parish of Overton) of 18 years of age and upwards shall be entitled to attend and vote at the annual general meeting*".

The Trustees look forward to a high turnout so that they can gauge the opinion of Overtonians on some ideas for the long-term future of St Luke's Hall. Preliminary thoughts were included in the April edition of *News and Views*, as well as being presented and discussed at the well-attended Annual Parish Meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> April.

In the shorter term, the wire fence on the northern boundary has been professionally replaced. Inside the hall, the kitchen facilities have been upgraded to modern standards and the next stage is to refurbish the toilets. The Trustees are very grateful to all the volunteers who have helped them by giving so much time to this work, as well as levelling and tidying up the grounds ready for the SheepFair weekend of 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> July.

The Trustees have agreed unanimously to two requests received from Overton Parish Council in March 2004: (1) the return to OPC of the balance (£18,745.45) of the grants it made to the New Hall Project, and (2) that all plans and papers relating to this project should be held in the Parish Office for safe-keeping.

As also mentioned in the April *News and Views*, new booking forms/conditions of hire have been introduced to comply with guidelines from BDBC for all halls within the Borough. Details are available from the Hall Letting Officer, Peter Baker ☎ 770007.

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## OVERTON BEAVER SCOUTS

*From Keith Green.*

Beavers are the youngest (6-8 year old) group in Scouting and we meet at the Scout Hut on Wednesday evenings. We currently have 11 boys regularly attending.

Unfortunately I have to step down as Leader of the Overton Beaver Scout Colony. My assistant Linda Crowe will be remaining but is unable to take over as Leader. I have agreed to remain until the end of the Summer Term if an immediate replacement cannot be found. If any adults would be interested in the position please contact myself, Keith Green ☎ 771217 or the Group Scout Leader Carole Woodcock ☎ 770434. The Scout Association provides full training. It may be possible to "jobshare" the role if 2 or 3 people want to do it but cannot commit on a weekly basis.

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## TESTBOURNE NEWS

*From Teresa Reynolds, Governor.*

### Testbourne awarded Artsmark Silver

We are delighted to be able to report that Testbourne has been awarded Artsmark Silver by Arts Council England. The Artsmark Award recognises schools that demonstrate a commitment to providing opportunities across all artforms from drama to music, design to literature and dance to sculpture. Testbourne has a tradition of lots of good things going on in the arts, both in and beyond lessons and we are

very pleased to have everyone's work and achievements recognised in this way. The award will also be a good springboard for our bid for specialist school status in Performing Arts which we hope to be able to submit later this year.

### Can you help us raise £50k?!

We shall be working on this over the summer and trying to raise the £50k needed to support the bid. This is the pre-requisite of becoming a Specialist School; the school raises £50 and the Government matches this amount. There will be much sponsoring, and bringing and buying (one Year 7 pupil has vowed to raise £500 all by herself by selling her old toys and books – what a star!). It is rumoured that Ms Jackson will be getting on her tandem to help raise the necessary funds. We will also be approaching the business sector for sponsorship. If you have connections with any company or individual who you think could help please do let us know by contacting the school office on ☎ 892061.

### Up, up and away

May and June always brings us round to the time for our Year 11 to say their farewells and to finally get down to doing those GCSEs. Parents attended a special Leavers' Assembly on May 21<sup>st</sup>, for which event pupils had composed their own music. We wish them happiness and success in their future lives.

### In the dock again!

For the second year running our team of Year 8 & 9 pupils has made it to the regional final of the Magistrates' Court Mock Trial Competition. They did magnificently to win the Basingstoke area heat and will be representing us on June 19<sup>th</sup> in Fareham.

### Everything's going swimmingly.

And oh yes – the ducks are back, along with ten Testbourne ducklings. We had thought that now our Jubilee Garden is used every break and lunchtime by pupils that the ducks would give it a wide berth this year. Not so. Mother and offspring have been swimming blissfully on the pond, happy to share pupils packed lunches.

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## OVERTON DRAMATIC SOCIETY

*From Jill Smith.*

### A Right Victorian Knees Up

In the three days leading up to the Overton Sheep Fair, **Overton Dramatic Society** will be presenting "A Right Victorian Knees Up", (The Mystery of the Black Sheep). It will be great entertainment for all, so do come along and join in the merriment.

The show runs from Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> - Friday 16<sup>th</sup> July, at St Mary's Hall, with curtain-up at 7.30pm. Seating is to be "cabaret style" and there will be a Victorian bar.

Tickets are available from The Executive Dry Cleaners, Overton, from 14<sup>th</sup> June, priced at £5.50 and £4.50 concessions, to include coffee.

For more information contact Jill Smith ☎ 770027.

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## DEADLINE NEWS & VIEWS

This will be 16<sup>th</sup> June. 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)

### **New Deliverer Wanted**

Can you deliver *News & Views* once a month to Hill Meadow and upper Kingsclere Road. If so please contact the editor ☎ 770248.

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### **OVERTON GUIDES**

*From Marian Watson.*

Help urgently needed for new Guide and Rainbow Units in Overton.

There are so many girls on the waiting lists that we cannot offer them places because the existing Units are full. We can accommodate term time meetings in Town Meadow for Rainbows on Tuesdays from 16:15 to 17:15 and Guides on Thursdays from 19:45 to 21:15, but we cannot open these new units without adults to run them.

If you can help or want to know more, please call Marion Watson ☎ 770518.

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### **OVERTON RECREATION CENTRE**

*From Gordon Baker, Chairman.*

Congratulations to all 28 prize winners in our May draw.

The top prize winners were:

£500 M Gearing £200 V Darley

£100 J Simpson, S Randall, R Stevens.

We welcome Melanie Wincott as our new Administrator.

We wish her well in the role.

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

[www.overtonrc.org.uk](http://www.overtonrc.org.uk). Contact phone numbers are

Melanie Wincott 772956

Gordon Baker 770807

Or you can e-mail us on [chairman@overtonrc.org.uk](mailto:chairman@overtonrc.org.uk).

We still need new collectors. If you can spare a little time each week, please contact Debbie Tomlin ☎ 770154

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### **OVERTON FIRE STATION**

*From Sub. O. Paul Allen*

Overton Fire Station responds to between 150 and 200 emergency calls every year. To carry on providing fire cover in Overton we need to recruit new retained (part time) fire fighters especially people who can provide cover during the day. If you have ever thought about becoming a retained fire fighter and are over 18, male or female and would like to know more, come along to our Open Evening, at the Fire Station, Station Road on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> June between 7 and 9pm for an informal chat.

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### **PLAYGROUP NEWS**

*From Emma Twamley.*

To prepare the Pre-School children for their start at school in September, Reception teachers Mrs Ashcroft and Miss Difford have been and will continue to visit pre-school children whilst they are up at the school setting and the children have also had the opportunity to visit what will be their new classroom. The theme for this half term at Playgroup is "People who help us" and we have a number of visitors to the Playgroup including the village Lollipop Lady and Dr Decker from Overton Surgery. If anyone else is interested in coming to talk to the children about their work please call Amanda ☎ 770370.

A "Grand Summer Picnic" will be taking place for all PreSchool/Playgroup children on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June at the Edward Kersley Playing Fields. We hope to have games and activities for the children and any parents that want to take part too!

Preparation for the Sheepfair is well under way now with the theme of the Victorian book Alice In Wonderland for our float in the procession.

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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### **MEDICAL MATTERS**

*From Overton Surgery.*

**Attention everyone aged 75 or older!! – Have you had your pneumococcal jab?**

Everyone aged 75 and older should be immunised to help protect them against pneumococcal infection, which can cause diseases such as pneumonia, blood poisoning and meningitis.

The disease is spread by coughing, sneezing and close contact between people. Everyone is at risk of getting pneumococcal disease, but the older you are, the greater the risk. The NHS is now offering people of 75 and older a routine pneumococcal jab.

Leaflets giving more information are available at Overton Pharmacy and Overton Surgery.

If you are a patient at Overton Surgery and are aged 75 or older and have never had a pneumococcal (pneumovax) vaccination before, you can make an appointment to have one. Just phone the surgery ☎ 770212 and tell the receptionist that you want to make an appointment for a pneumovax.

If you are registered at another surgery, please contact them for details.

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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/58335** Demolition of existing building and erection of 4 no. two bed, 1 no three bed and 2 no four bed houses with creation of new access at 53 Kingsclere Road.

Objection on highway grounds only. It was agreed that there should be a roundabout at the Kingsclere Road/Foxdown junction to meet the demands of the proposed 75 houses at Foxdown together with this new development. The Parish Council has no objection to the actual houses on this site, only to the problems of highway access with so many new houses being developed.

**BDB/58275** Erection of side extension to existing shed at 11 The Green. No objection.

**BDB/57978** Erection of replacement conservatory and single rear extension at 45 - 47 Dellands. No objection.

**BDB/58138** Erection of first floor side extension (amendment to BDB/57254) at 14 Waltham Road.

Objection - over development of the site.

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**BDB/57806** Erection of single storey rear extension at Lower Whitehill House, Sapley Lane. No objection.

**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.

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## **BASINGSTOKE HEALTH WALKS**

*From Jane Wilding, Health Improvement Team.*

Enjoy your local parks and open spaces, and improve your fitness, by joining the “Walking for Health” scheme in Basingstoke.

Led by volunteer leaders, these walks are non-competitive and everybody is welcome.

**Monday walk** - meet at the Boathouse in Eastrop Park in the town centre at 11am. (this walk is generally about 3.5 miles long and takes approximately 1.5 hours)

**Thursday walk** - meet at the Walled Garden car park, Down Grange, Pack Lane, and Kempshott at 11am.

**Friday walk** – meet at Popley Fields Community Centre, Carpenters Down, at 11am.

The walking routes vary each week and last about an hour. Wear comfortable clothing appropriate to the weather and shoes suitable for walking and bring a drink.

Just turn up on the day, or if you have any queries or would like further information about the Health Walks please contact Marilyn Davies (Park Ranger) ☎ 845630.

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## **PUBLIC TRANSPORT**

*From Public Transport Representative Brian Langer.*

### **Buses**

#### **Services 76 and 86 serving Basingstoke railway station**

Further to the item in May's *News and Views* Stagecoach has commented that the matter is still under consideration but one major problem remains the very limited ‘turnaround time’ the service has at Basingstoke bus station. Any additional journey time resulting from a diversion may jeopardise timekeeping and necessitate the provision of an additional bus duty which would increase costs. The Parish Council will be responding pointing out that an inbound route via the railway station results in driving past one less signal controlled pedestrian crossing and one less traffic light to negotiate at Eastrop roundabout so the journey time is unlikely to increase.

#### **Low floor vehicles services 76 and 86**

Compared with other parts of the country and even with Stagecoach's own network in Hampshire the Andover depot, which provides the buses for the 76 and 86 service Mondays to Saturdays has very few low floor buses. Stagecoach write that the company has, since 1997, an ongoing low floor replacement programme for its 7000 buses, each of which has a life of around 16 years. The

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Comments and contributions for *News and Views* are welcomed by the editor, Teresa Reynolds, The Three Horseshoes, 41 Winchester Street, 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, John Bennett, 64 Woodlands, e-mail [john@hid.cc](mailto:john@hid.cc), or Vice Chairman Sarah Mills, 37 Red Lion Lane, e-mail [Sarahmills46@hotmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:laura.harley@virgin.net).

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Disability Discrimination Act recognises that bus companies need a realistic period to update their fleets and operators have been given until 2015 to fully comply with the Act. That stated, they hope to comply well before the deadline but that city routes will be given priority because they are more heavily used and cities tend to have more appropriate infrastructure already in place, such as raised kerbs to ease access for wheelchairs.

### **Public transport over the Sheepfair weekend 17 and 18 July**

Full details will be given in the July edition but the following details may be helpful at this stage.

#### **Trains:**

No change to the Saturday services but South West Trains are hoping to stop several services at Overton on Sunday which would normally pass through non-stop.

#### **Buses:**

Saturday and Sunday services 76 and 86 – no change to existing schedule;

Service 74 Overton village shuttle – this will NOT be operated by Burghfield Mini-Coaches but a FREE service will be operated on both Saturday and Sunday by one of the Pink Buses currently operating the Leisure Park to Basing View park and Ride service in Basingstoke. The route will have to alter because of the closure to traffic of the northern end of Winchester Street but the only part of the existing route that will NOT be covered will be from the Institute along Waltham Road to Pound Road and back to the traffic lights. Instead the pink bus will travel from the Institute along London Road to the lay-by by the Community Centre. It is hoped that a half hourly service will be provided to both the Hill Meadow and Pond Close ends of the village throughout the period the Sheepfair is open. This service will also provide a bus link to the village centre from close (junction Pond Close and Sapley Lane) to Sapley Lane Playing Field on which the parish council has permitted car parking for the Sheepfair weekend.

#### **Rail link bus service:**

In addition to the Pink Bus South West Trains are arranging for a vintage King Alfred Motor Company bus to operate a Saturday service, specifically to connect into and out of trains at Overton station, from the station via Station Road and London Road to Kingsclere Road (drop off and collection close to the old Surgery), before returning to the station via Hilltop Road. On the Sunday the service will be operated by one of South West Trains' Rail Link buses usually operating on the Romsey to Winchester route.

#### **Steam train through Overton**

Although the 150th anniversary of the coming of the railway through Overton is 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2004 Steam Dreams intend to run a steam-hauled special through to Exeter on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> July when the line is less busy. Train “paths” preclude the train from stopping at Overton but it is understood it will be whistling a lot from Worting Junction to Andover! Please look in the local press for details nearer the time.

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