

News and Views

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

August 2004

PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

From Parish Clerk Laura Harley and Councillor Brian Langer.

Parish Council Meetings

Main Meeting

- Wednesday 11th August 2004 in the Community Centre
- Planning 7:00pm
- Public time 7:30pm
- Main meeting 8pm.

Committee Meetings

- Planning 7:00pm Tuesday August 25th
- Finance & General Purposes 7:30pm August 25th

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

If you want to get in touch with Overton Parish Council there is a new website address - opc@overtonvillage.com.

Overtonvillage.com Goes Live!

The new website at www.overtonvillage.com went live on the 15th of July in time for the Sheep Fair as promised. This first version now needs your input to help with its development. It's your resource and you should help to shape the content and how it develops over the coming months. Some of the content will remain fairly static such as the *News & Views* archive that goes all the way back to January 2000. Some parts are very dynamic like the weather that comes live from a weather station in the centre of the village! The team responsible for creating the site have lots of ideas but we would like your feedback, so use the form on the "contact us" page to let us know what you think. One of the benefits of the web site is that material can be placed on the site very quickly. An example is the Sheep Fair photographs that were published on the site by Sunday evening at the end of the Fair. Why not go and have a look!

Overton Sheepfair

The Parish Council would like to pass on sincere thanks to the Sheepfair Committee for the fantastic weekend that they organised on 17th and 18th July.

Thanks also to the Police, particularly Chris Swallow, the borough council for providing the pink bus and the litter picking team, the county council for mending pot holes around the village before the weekend and to all the stall holders and entertainers. What a brilliant weekend – roll on 2008!

Overton Handbook

The Overton Handbook has now been produced and should be dropping through the door of every household in Overton shortly. If you do not receive your copy, please let the Clerk know. The only error found so far (and there has to be one)

is that the collection of bulky waste items from the Borough Council is no longer free – please see item below. The information in the Handbook is now on the overtonvillage.com website – so please ensure that you notify the clerk of any changes to Clubs and Societies so that the information remains current.

Charge for Removal of Bulky Items

With effect from 29th June 2004, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council is making a £10 charge to collect bulky waste items. The definition of such an item is one that a person would take with them when they move house and where the collection time does not exceed 15 minutes (such as fridges, sofas etc). Collections can be arranged by contacting the borough council on 845474 and payments for the service can be made by credit/debit/switch cards over the phone. Quotations can be provided for other items of bulky waste such as bathrooms and kitchen fixtures – the minimum cost will be £42.

Halls

Quotations for the contract for refurbishing St Mary's Hall should have been received by 2nd August for consideration. With the St Luke's Hall Charity unveiling its plans, it seems timely to reform the Combined Halls Group to put together a collective plans for halls in the village to be able to present to the Borough Council and other funding bodies. If you are interested in the future of halls in the village, please volunteer to become involved with this project by contacting the Clerk.

Sapley Lane Playing Field

Following the article stating that the Parish Council intended to remove the goal posts from Sapley Lane Playing Field, a storm (well a heavy shower anyway) of protest was received. Consequently the Parish Council has acquired some better goal posts from the ORC and these will be installed at the playing field soon.

A new basketball post was installed at the playing field in time for the summer holidays. Concrete bases for three new fixed litter bins have also been installed and at the time of writing we are waiting for the bins to be fixed.

Edward Kersley Playing Field

The Parish Council has planning permission to erect a zip line and space net at the playing field. Quotations for this work are now actively being sought, although work is not likely to start until the autumn.

60th Anniversary of the end of World War II

The Parish Council is considering holding a series of events to commemorate the end of World War II. This project is in the early stages of discussion, but it is likely to take place in September 2005 and it is hoped to invite everybody in

Overton who was involved with the war. If you would like to get involved with the organisation of this event please contact the Clerk – otherwise watch this space for further details.

Red Lion Lane

There is no legal exit for wheeled vehicles from Red Lion Lane into the High Street. It has been several years since that traffic regulation order was made yet it continues to be ignored and it is only a matter of time before a serious accident occurs as drivers turning into Red Lion Lane are not expecting to meet any traffic. The same traffic order prohibits access to the Red Lion pub car park when travelling north along Red Lion Lane. It beggars belief which other regulations they ignore when drivers are prepared to treat the no entry signs in that area with such disdain.

Kerbstones in Kingsclere Road

The broken ones are being replaced between the river and the church.

Closure of Laverstoke Lane

The lane will be closed for several weeks and the diversionary route is via the B3400, Overton, then the C29 to the A303/A30 junction with the lane. This will result in some extra traffic through Overton.

Faulty Street Lights

If you spot a malfunctioning light please report it on 0800 50 60 60 so there is a chance it will be mended before the darker evenings arrive. Lamp column number, street name and village name are needed for your message.

Help Us to Help You

If you have experienced anti-social behaviour, inconsiderately parked vehicles etc do please report the matter to the police 0845 045 45 45 and obtain an incident number so there is a record of your complaint. Although Parish Councillors will try to help with a particular situation it is far better for the individual to deal with the matter at the time and not wait several days or weeks to bring it up with the council.

OVERTON VICTORIAN SHEEPFAIR

From David Backers.

A big thank you from the organisers of the fair to the hundreds of people who helped in so many ways during the two days of the SheepFair. We were astounded at the number of people willing to help ensure that the street was ready on time and cleared away promptly and also in arranging and taking part in both the attractions and the parade.

And an even bigger thank you to the thousands of you and your friends who visited Winchester Street and created such a happy relaxed atmosphere – a celebration of our village and its people - an event “by Overton, for Overton”.

A SheepFair – with no sheep!

You will have noticed that there were no sheep. Actually, there *were* sheep, they walked through Winchester Street at 10am on Saturday and were gone. We wanted more sheep, we arranged for more sheep, we had more sheep ready, but we fell foul of the foot and mouth regulations. The man

from the Ministry said we could not have more sheep – period! We apologise to all those who were disappointed.

SheepFair Raffle Prize Winners

1st Prize (£500) Mrs A Monger of Baughurst

2nd Prize (£100) Mrs R Sullivan of Overton

3rd Prize (Portable TV) Mrs Shirley of Basingstoke.

Congratulations to all the winners.

Street Collection – Thank You

During the carnival procession you put into our collecting buckets an amazing £1,100.30.

OVERTON HARRIERS

From John Hoare

A reminder that this years Overton 5 mile road race will be held on Saturday 4th September 2004. In conjunction with this will be a 2 ½ mile Fun Run and our normal series of children’s races within the confines of Overton Recreation Centre. The children’s races will start at 2.15pm and the Fun Run and 5 mile race at 3.00pm. Entries for the children’s races will be taken on the day at the Recreation Centre from 1.00pm. If you would like to enter the 5 mile race or Fun Run entry forms are available on our website www.overtonharriers.org.uk or from John Hoare ☎ 770489. Medals will be awarded to all competitors in the children’s races and Fun Run and mementoes to all finishers in the 5 mile race.

Again this year our race has been included in the Hampshire Road Race League and we are expecting a field in excess of 400 runners. So if you are not running please give your support to the athletes during the race.

There will be a number of attractions at the Recreation Centre during the afternoon for the youngsters; Bouncy Castle, roundabout, inflatable slide, Candy Floss and Shooting Gallery. If any club or charity would like to run a stall at the Recreation Centre that afternoon for their own funds you would be most welcome. Please ☎770489 to arrange.

TESTBOURNE NEWS

From Teresa Reynolds, Governor.

We were pleased to receive our KS3 SAT results for our Year 9 pupils - with 88%, 89% and 92% of pupils reaching Level 5+ in Science, English and Maths respectively. These are very high results and meet or go beyond the ambitious targets agreed with the LEA.

Pupils have been succeeding in other areas of school life too. Our Magistrates’ Court Mock Trial team represented us superbly at the National Finals in Birmingham. They reached the last 18 from 350 schools across the UK, winning both of their cases on the day.

We also held our first Sports Day and Swimming Gala under new House colours, with Beech House taking the honours on both fronts, and by only 5 points in the Athletics. The spirit of competition would seem to be alive and well.

Oakley Hall provided a fitting setting for our Leavers’ Ball this year. Pupils arrived in great style. Modes of transport this year included chopper bikes, a Morris Minor (which needed a bit of a friendly push), the odd stretch limo and Rolls Royce or two, a Ferrari, a horse and carriage and a helicopter.

We are still looking to appoint a part-time technician in our technology workshop (10 hours a week) plus someone who could do a few hours of Modern Language teaching each week (French and /or German). Please get in touch if you know someone who could help, ☎ 892061.

OVERTON BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

From Tracy Leach.

The Overton Business Association continues to galvanise support for the 'Shop in Overton' Campaign, which encourages the whole community to use local businesses where possible. The OBA meetings take place on the first Tuesday of alternate months, with the next meeting on Tuesday 7th September at 7.30pm at the Memorial Institute. We continue to encourage new members to join, and for existing members to renew their membership as soon as possible. Please contact Colin McLaren on colin.mclaren@pharostech.co.uk, ☎ 770566 for further details.

ART EXHIBITION

From Pat Hutchings.

Overton Art Group will be holding its annual exhibition in the Recreation Centre from Saturday 28th August to Monday 30th August 2004. Open from 10am to 8pm (6pm on Monday).

A large selection of paintings in all mediums by local artists will be on display many of which will be for sale.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Broken Glass

It is disappointing to see how many vodka and beer bottles are being broken along the path through the Edward Kersley playing field where groups are using the benches during the evening.

Can anyone suggest anything which would prevent this stupid and irresponsible behaviour? Needless to say it is impossible to pick up all the shards which have been shattered into the grass where children play.

Name and address supplied.

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/58784/5 Erection of a single storey side extension, reinstating original partition and chimney piece, blocking doorway and window and insertion of floor grills at Berrydown Court. No objection.

BDB/5833/4 Reconstruction of boundary wall and insertion of gates. Construction of pitched roof with floor lights to rear extension of no.29 at 29 and 31-33 Winchester Street. No objection but concern about access to Battens Avenue during the building works.

BDB/58702 Erection of golf driving range bays 2m high bund and 6m high mobile netting at Test Valley Golf Club. No objection provided that there is no additional outside lighting as part of the scheme

BDB/58503 Erection of rear conservatory at 19 Pound Road. No objection.

BDB/58693 Erection of rear conservatory at 24 Southington. No objection.

BDB/58577 Erection of 1 x two bedroom detached bungalow with detached single garage and creation of new vehicular access at 1 Copse Road. Objection – over development of the site, out of keeping with the surrounding area and impacting on the Conservation Area which runs along this property's boundary.

BDB/58696 Relief of condition 4 of BDB/56698 for the creation of vehicular access from Silk Mill Lane on land adjacent to 3 New Cottages, Silk Mill Lane. Objection – blatant disregard to the conditions laid down in BDB/56698. The removal of the bank is contrary to the Overton Village Design statement and sets a precedent for others. In addition any access created could be used in the future to apply for new development, which would be out of keeping with the area. The Parish Council would like to see enforcement action taken.

OVERTON PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB

From John Thomas, (Publicity)

The Photographic Club commences its new season on Friday 10th September at 7.30 for 7.45pm. The club meets at Bridge Street Recreation Centre pavilion on Friday evenings at the same time and new members will be made very welcome.

The programme for the coming season includes competitions, digital workshops, talks on travel, portraiture, Victorian photographs on glass and an unconfirmed evening viewing underwater images.

Contact John Thomas ☎ 770348 or Ian McEvoy ☎ 780969.

OVERTON RECREATION CENTRE

From Gordon Baker, Chairman.

Congratulations to all 28 prize winners in our July draw.

The top prize winners were:

£500 J Mackrill £200 M Phillips

£100 S Brown, M Watson, L Kingshott

We still need new collectors. If you can spare a little time each week, please consider helping us – contact Debbie Tomlin ☎ 770154 for details.

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

Contact us at chairman@overtonrc.org.uk or ring Melanie Wincott ☎ 772956 or Gordon Baker ☎ 770807.

LOCAL ART EXHIBITIONS

From Jillian Smith.

In conjunction with Hampshire Artists week, local artists Jillian Smith, Ivan Bellchambers and Shirley Baker will be holding art exhibitions from 21st – 28th August.

Ivan and Jillian will be exhibiting in Ashe Church, from 11am - 5pm each day, and Shirley, at the Contemporary Art Gallery, Overton, from 10am - 5.30pm Mon - Sat and Sunday at 11am - 4.30pm.

Many artists throughout Hampshire will be taking part in this event, which includes arts and crafts in artists' homes. Visitor's guides from the library and The Fireplace Shop.

OVERTON SOCIETY

From Sue Carter.

There will be an open meeting on 15th September featuring a presentation by Project Integra on recycling – what happens to the contents of your green bin once it has been collected! It is pleasing to see that litter has considerably reduced in the village since the school opted for healthy eating – paper and wrappers are not being blown out of the bins or pulled out by birds etc looking for a tasty treat!

YOGA CLASSES

From Peter Stanford.

Traditional Hatha Yoga classes have begun at St Luke's Hall on Monday mornings from 10.15-11.45. The current series runs until 6th September (excluding 30th August and timings are different on 9th August), but if you would like to sample a session before enrolling for a 6 week series, please contact Peter Stanford ☎ 882058 (leave a message if the answerphone is on) or go along to the Hall. Single sessions are £5.70 and it is £28.20 for 6. A new season will begin in September.

DEADLINE NEWS & VIEWS

This will be 16th August. Please send your articles to the editor in writing, on a PC floppy disk or by e-mail. The e-mail address is NewsandviewsRG25@aol.com

WHITCHURCH SILK MILL

From Jan Rumball, Education Officer.

The exhibition at the Silk Mill changed on August 1st to work by Laura Mitchell, who produces hand painted and printed silks with a botanical theme. This runs until 29th August. Do pay us a visit. The Mill is closed on Mondays.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

From Public Transport Representative Brian Langer.

Buses

Use of tokens

Enquiries were made of Stagecoach when a parishioner reported that some drivers on the 76/86 service had refused to accept tokens in conjunction with the half fare pass. The supervisor at Andover promised to ensure that all drivers were aware that tokens should be accepted with the pass but should problems still persist please contact me on 770848.

It was reassuring to see the buses being used that were put on especially for the sheepfair – around 500 people used the 'pink bus' on each of the two days and around 100 each day used the South West Trains bus which specifically connected with the trains at Overton station. Thanks are due

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. 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, 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, ☎ 771919, e-mail opc@overtonvillage.com.

both to the Woodlands residents who helped manhandle an unhelpfully parked vehicle that had blocked the shuttle bus's route late on the Sunday afternoon, thereby enabling it to continue its journey, and to the Borough Council and SWT and their drivers for supplying and operating the services.

More buses to Peter Symonds

Outward bus Mondays to Fridays:

Overton 0737 Laverstoke 0740 Freefolk 0742 Peter Symonds College 0805 Westgate school 0808

Return bus Monday to Fridays

Westgate school 1525 Peter Symonds college 1528 via Micheldever to Overton 1614 Freefolk 1616

Extra bus runs Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays:

Westgate school 1638 Peter Symonds college 1641 Freefolk 1703 Overton 1705.

Services do stop at Laverstoke but no times have been confirmed. The buses only run in school/college term times. Details of fares from 01256 780079

Trains

Operating policy matters

Most regular travellers will already know that South West Trains has applied a totally no smoking policy on its trains from late May. They are also going out for consultation on changes to the carriage of cycles policy. The demise of slam door stock is greatly reducing the availability of cycle storage space on trains across the whole country so if you are a cyclist who likes to travel by train do make your views known to the authorities.

Steam trains in and around Overton

After the minimal notice cancellation of the steam train to and from Exeter on 4 July, due to engineering work, let's hope the following will be more reliable.

Steam Dreams (01483 209888 or info@steamdreams.co.uk) will be running a service to Salisbury, Sherborne and Yeovil and back on 5 August and 6 October, to and from Bath and Bristol on 26 August, 29 September and 27 November, to and from Salisbury and Exeter on 5 September and 7 November and to Salisbury on 7 December. One or both directions will include passing through Overton. Train times and details of the locomotive being used are available nearer the date of travel.

The company also operates Sunny South Specials, using steam locomotives, from Kensington Olympia to Weymouth (nearest joining points to Overton are Woking and Eastleigh), on 18 August and 1 September. They are due to pass through Basingstoke at 0954, Worting junction at 0957 and go over the Overton to North Waltham road near South Litchfield at about 1000. The return journey is scheduled to pass Worting junction at 2048 by which time it will be twilight or dark depending on the date.