

News and Views

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

September 2004

PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

From Parish Councillor Brian Langer.

Parish Council Meeting

Main Meeting

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

Committee meetings

- Planning 7:30pm Tuesday 28th September
- Finance & General Purposes 8pm 28th September.

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

Did you know?

One of the most delightful views of Overton is from the railway line after it leaves the cutting westbound at Hill Meadow or emerges eastbound from the bridge carrying the untarred Court Drove. The huge North Field in all its arable glory leads the eye to the church and the river valley, with the village housing in the distance climbing up the southern and eastern slopes of a tightly bounded community. A fine example of an English village set in context – see it for yourself and appreciate how fortunate we are to live in such an attractive part of densely populated England and how important it was to complete a Village Design Statement back in 2002.

Street Lighting

To report a fault, check the defective light number (this is found on the street light column 5 to 6 feet off the ground facing the road) and the road name. Phone 0800 506060 and you will receive a prompt to leave a message. Be sure to state Overton as this number covers all of Hampshire. The light will normally be repaired within 5 working days.

Traffic Signals

The county council seem no closer to dealing with the right turn problem on the main road B3400, whereby vehicles block the route of those wishing to go forward. Therefore the Parish Council is formally asking the county to trial a four way phasing for six months. If the county can build in a decent pedestrian phase at the same time, all the better. We have also asked that a sign warning of changes to light phasing accompany this trial period.

JOINT SURGERY

From Borough Councillor Paula Baker

Cllrs Paula Baker and Ian Tilbury will be joined by PC Chris Swallow for a joint police and Borough Councillors

surgery on Saturday 11th September at 10am in the Community Centre.

OVERTON COMMUNITY CENTRE

From Paula Baker, Chair, OCA

A Big Thank You to some wonderful Volunteers
A team of volunteers from University College Winchester (ex-King Alfred's College) spent a busy but happy day at the Community Centre on August 14th. They painted the kitchen, the children's toilets and part of the Club Room. They also presented an exciting abstract painting which is going to be hung in the Club Room and are making some new curtains for the Palmer Room. The event was a team day for staff from Student Services. The University now has a satellite campus at Chute House in Basingstoke and is keen to develop local links. The Community Centre is now fresher and brighter, which will make it even more enjoyable to use, thanks to the hard work of these wonderful volunteers.

SHORT MAT BOWLS

From Neil Thomas.

The short mat bowling season is with us again and St Luke's Club will be bowling at St Luke's Hall on Mondays and Thursdays, 7.30-9.30pm and on Wednesdays 2-4pm. During last season the club played 9 friendly matches, winning 5 of them. Although we always set out to win the most memorable aspect of the friendlies is that they are enjoyable sporting and social evenings. The season was brought to a very satisfactory end by the St Luke's team winning the Basingstoke league Division 2 and thereby gaining promotion to Division 1 for this season.

Last year 8 new members joined the club and if there is anyone who would like to join us this year, or just give the game a trial to see if it is for them, they will be most welcome. The offer of a 4 week free trial still stands. If you decide to join membership is £5 per year, mat fees are £1.50 for the evenings and £1.20 for the afternoons.

For further information please contact Neil Thomas ☎
770490.

POLICE UPDATE

From PC Chris Swallow

Just a brief note to update you on what is occurring on the Overton Beat. There were a number of Dwelling Burglaries in July. Most of these occurred in one evening and entry was gained via insecure windows. Small items mainly cash credit cards etc were taken, all of the cards being recovered discarded the following day. These breaks are linked to others that have occurred in Whitchurch over a longer period. If anyone has any information please contact DC Furguson at Basingstoke Police Station on 0845-0454545. Please be aware and make sure all doors and windows (especially downstairs) are locked before going to bed.

Over the recent months probably due to good weather there have been a number of reports of Anti Social Behaviour by youths that cause annoyance to residents. These areas are mainly Sapley Lane Playing fields, the Square, Overton and Station Road. Not all those spoken to by Police came from Overton, a number came from adjoining villages such as Whitchurch. I will be working some late shifts to try and deal with these. I have requested a Police Pedal Cycle which will I hope make me more accessible and get around the village quicker and quietly.

RESULTS FROM THE SHEEPFAIR

Doll's House raffle winner Mrs Joan Smith, Tadley
Prize Draw winner D Flett.

If you would like to obtain a limited edition **Overton Ale Jug**, previously on sale during the Sheepfair, please contact Kevin Doyle, ☎ 771032. It is mostly the smaller pattern which remains with the legend "Proud Old Overton" and the Pointing Shepherd pictorial design.

SheepFair Sale

From Sandy Sykes, Hon. Secretary

The date for your diaries is Saturday 25th September between 10am and 12noon in the Community Centre Forecourt. Overtonians and your families and friends will have another chance to buy a souvenir or two of a very memorable weekend. Some items will be offered at reduced prices....up to 50% reduction.

PS If you were one of our SheepFair stallholders, and would like to join us and offer your wares as well at this SheepFair Sale, please pick up a booking form from either The Fireplace Gallery or Business Connections: but please remember that space in the Community Centre Forecourt is very limited, so it's first come, first served.

Sheepy Sheepfair Teacloths.

From Jane MacKenzie

150 wonderfully different sheep from Overton individuals and clubs flocked to this year's Teacloth. More than 800 have been sold as a tribute to Judy, who cared about everyone. All the profit, (over £1000) will be shared equally between WaterAid and NCH The Children's Charity. The re order cloths have arrived and can be bought from Overton Gallery, The Thursday Coffee morning at the Methodist chapel, and Pickwicks, or contact Jane ☎ 771121. They make great postable gifts and are totally unique! Plenty available if you need more.... Thank you everyone who drew one and thanks to everyone who has bought one (or 20 in a couple of cases). Thank you to the Sheepfair committee who made all this possible - it was a fantastic weekend.

Great Victorians Flower Festival

From Overton Methodist Church

Thanks to everyone who came and enjoyed the imaginative flower arrangements and delicious refreshments over the Sheepfair weekend. Your generosity resulted in a donation to WaterAid and Church Funds.

Laverstoke Bowls Club

would like to thank everyone who supported the raffle for "A Bumper Hamper", and also those who enjoyed a cup of tea and a Cake, from our stall by St Luke's Hall. The

hamper was won by Mrs Barbara Shaw, of Hill Meadow, Overton. The proceeds will help towards much needed repairs to the Pavilion at Batts Meadow.

Henry Watson, for Laverstoke Bowling Club.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Tasteful Design?

Who is responsible for the design of the particularly hideous gates which increasingly guard our footpaths?

The entrance to Flashetts from Station Rd was once a charming little corner, and remained so even after the loss of the ancient oak tree in a gale some years ago. It is now disfigured by the huge, ugly (though no doubt low maintenance) circular gate. Low maintenance is not the only factor involved, except to accountants and even some accountants are human beings with sensibilities and a sense of proportion, so it does need re-thinking.

I assume that the design is for the benefit of wheelchair users, but, try as I will, I cannot work out how the said user could get through, unless he had inordinately long, flexible arms, and three of them at that. Two to push the gate open while holding up the latch & the third to operate his chair. Now, on the opposite side of Station Road, and made of the same cold, incongruous metal, a gate of momentous size & weight has been installed. What are we anticipating in this quiet corner by the river? Enemy tanks?

The gigantic arm which has to be swung over to open or close the gate is so heavy that, were I a few inches shorter, a bit weaker, or arthritic, I couldn't have moved it at all. As it was, it occurred to me as I struggled with it, that a heedless child (albeit a necessarily well-grown & extremely strong child) could inadvertently leave fingers in the path of the descending metal arm and have them smashed.

So it is dangerous as well as ugly and totally unsuitable in such a setting: difficult to use & an offence to the eye for all who enjoy our lovely & precious countryside.

Footpaths are for walking on & gates are there to provide access & exit for everyone who wants to use them, no matter what their size or strength.

Given the fact that there is a wide choice of materials & design, why have these basic facts been forgotten?

Rosemary Trollope.

Fundraising for Health

Dr Cliff Reid would like to thank everyone who has helped raise funds for the Hampshire BASICS 0200 project – a medical charity that aims to provide a specialist emergency doctor at the roadside for North Hampshire. This voluntary service, which is not provided by the NHS, is in its infancy in North Hampshire and the team leader lives in Overton. We are particularly grateful to Christine Fields and the Workbox team, Derek Green and the Sheepfair committee, Dave Allen and his firefighters, and the Overton Methodist Church. If anyone would like to help coordinate fundraising for this charity please contact Sindy Coppin ☎ 397361.

More information can be found at
www.emergency.dsl.pipex.com/0200.htm

EXERCISE TO MUSIC CLASSES

From Caroline Mills.

Autumn Term starts Monday 6 September
Monday 7.30-8.30pm, St Mary's Church Rooms -Full Body Workout

Wednesday 9.30-10.30am, St Luke's Hall - Body Sculpt
Wednesday 7.30-8.30pm, St Luke's Hall - Aerobics/Circuits
Friday 9.30-10.30am, St Lukes Hall - Full Body Workout
All levels welcome. Cost £4 per session or £38 for 10. For further details please ☎ 397742.

YOUTH CLUB

From Teresa Reynolds, Secretary

Youth club starts again after the summer break. If you are aged between 11 and 16 you are sure to find something you like to do on Tuesdays from 7-9pm at St Luke's Hall. Small entrance fee. The club is run by two trained Youth workers.

BIODIVERSITY SOCIETY

From Jane MacKenzie.

Future events

Saturday 9th October – Family “**Hedges and Critters**”
Guided Walk led by Mike Fisher at Northdown Orchard Organic Farm. Please meet at Northdown Orchard (South Lichfield) at 11.00am. Parking is limited so car share if possible. Bring your own picnic. Hot drinks available at the end. - £1 to non-members and 50p to members.

OVERTON PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB

From John Thomas.

The Photographic Club commences its new season on Friday 10th September at 7.30 for 7.45pm. The Club meets at Bridge Street Pavilion on Friday evenings at the same time. New members will be made very welcome. Contact John Thomas ☎ 770348 or Ian McEvoy ☎ 780969.

TESTBOURNE NEWS

From Teresa Reynolds, Governor.

As the new school year starts we are pleased to welcome 6 forms of Year 7 pupils and five new members of staff to Testbourne. David Wood has moved with his family from Woolston School in Warrington where he was Head of ICT and Technology. He has joined the Senior Management Team in the new post of Assistant Headteacher and will also be teaching ICT. Louise Chorley will teach English and Rosemary Hughes White and Hazel Goodier will be working part-time in the Geography and Science departments respectively. Natalie Ayres will also be joining the administrative team in the school office. We are pleased to be fully staffed although we would still welcome someone who could teach a few hours of French and/or German a week in the Modern Languages Department. Do get in touch if you would be interested in this.

Open Evening

Our Open Evening to help Year 6 parents choose a secondary school for next year will be on Thursday 30th September from 6.30-9.00pm, with Open Mornings every day the following week. There will be tours of the school in action on those mornings and families who are interested in this should ring Mary Soper ☎ 892061 to book a slot.

Admission arrangements

There has been a change nationally in the admission arrangements. Parents will still have to submit their application forms in October as previously but will not be informed of the outcome until March 1st. This applies to all schools, not just Testbourne. It will mean more of a wait for families but is intended to help make the process a fairer one and should, for example, help avoid the situation we found

ourselves in this year. We had more first choice applications than places and regrettably were not able to accept everyone who applied. Gradually a number of pupils who had been given first choice places withdrew (some due to moving out of the area and some to take up places in the grammar or independent sector). We were then able to offer these places to children on the waiting list – but not before some of them had been through an upsetting time or decided to settle for their next choice school and leaving us, ironically with a couple of spare places for September. We will all have to see if the new system works well for all concerned.

Sponsored bike ride

We are looking forward to a lively and interesting year ahead, including developing our bid for specialist status. Look out for us on Saturday September 25th (weather permitting), when we will be embarking on our sponsored “In Tandem with Testbourne” (with our Headteacher and her husband riding the tandem) bike ride around the catchment area, including a visit to all our partner primary schools. All offers of sponsorship welcome.

OVERTON RECREATION CENTRE

From Gordon Baker, Chairman.

Congratulations to all 28 prize winners in our August draw.

The top prize winners were:

£500	C Wadhams	£200	S Johnson
£100	J Mackrill, R Arthur, D Dennison		

To contact the ORC, visit our web site at

www.overtonrc.org.uk or phone

Melanie Wincott 772956

Gordon Baker 770807

Or you can e-mail us on chairman@overtonrc.org.uk

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

Our sports facilities and halls are available for hire.

DEADLINE NEWS & VIEWS

This will be 16th September. 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

WI COFFEE MORNING

From Beryl Beckett.

The Overton WI's coffee morning will be held in the Community Centre from 9.45 - 11am on Saturday October 2nd. Craft items, cakes and preserves will be on sale and there will be a raffle.

OVERTON PLAYGROUP

From Emma Twamley

We would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all those who helped us in so many ways with the Sheepfair in July. We had 2 extremely busy but successful days; a stall on Saturday and the procession on Sunday, with our Alice in Wonderland float. We had a wonderful turnout of dressed up children and there were lots of parents in stunning costumes.

Now the new term is under way and playgroup children have now become fully fledged Pre-Schoolers! Also we would like to welcome all the new children who have started with us. We have lots planned for the coming weeks in the run up to the Christmas Period!

We will be holding our annual AGM on Thursday 30th September 2004 in the playroom at the Community Centre and all are welcome to attend.

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

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/59011 Erection of 2 no two-bedroom cottages on land at rear of property no 20 Winchester Street. Objection – to the development of privately owned dwelling without parking spaces – this was particularly relevant in the centre of the village where parking was already a problem.

BDB/58894 Erection of B1 business units at land at Station Approach, OS Parcel 4518 1507, Station Hill. Objection – concern that planning permission would be given for a site accessed from a private road. It was considered that the site was overdeveloped with too many units crammed onto a small site. There seemed to be very little parking, which could impact on the already stretched station parking – there was little room for manoeuvring a HGV (even though this was illustrated on the plan). The buildings were made from ugly materials and the height and location would impact on the houses opposite. It was agreed that the traffic to and from the site should be routed along Station Road (but not Quidhampton/Straight Lane).

BDB/58817 Erection of single storey outbuilding to form residential annexe to main dwelling and change of use of agricultural land to residential at Pilgrims House. Objection to proposed plan. The Parish Council supported the notion of removing derelict farm buildings and replacing them with (in this case) an artists studio. There was no support for the inclusion of a residential area (two bedrooms) as part of this building because in the future this could be claimed as a second property. The Parish Council was not in favour of the change of use from agricultural to residential.

WHITCHURCH SILK MILL

From Jan Rumball, Education Officer

Art Classes at the Silk Mill, aimed at both the beginner and the experienced artist. On Saturday 25th September. For the sketcher there is a 2 hour course from 10.30am; suitable media includes pencils, fine liners, charcoal or conté.

For the participant who prefers working with colour & tone there is a 2 hour course from 1.30pm; pastels, oils, colour pencils, watercolours, acrylic paint or gouache would be suitable. Enthusiasm and patience are more important than

owning an Art shop! Each course costs £8 and visitors can book one or both. Contact ☎ 892065.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

From Public Transport Representative Brian Langer.

Buses

Use of tokens – further to the August item, more problems were encountered when some drivers would not provide change when tokens in excess of the fare were proffered. This has been taken up with Stagecoach's Andover depot manager who assures me change can and should be given. Part of the problem stems from the borough council no longer issuing tokens worth 50pence but hopefully the matter is now resolved.

Overcrowded buses at the start of the college term – Stagecoach has been reminded that overcrowding, associated with the start of the autumn term at BCoT and Queen Mary's college, should be expected until student timetables are sorted out. It is hoped that, as in previous years, a duplicate bus will operate in tandem with the early morning services to Basingstoke so that regular travellers are not inconvenienced by being refused travel and thereby getting to work late. The relatively new Depot Manager at Andover has not yet had to cope with this problem so I hope he is equal to the challenge!

Wrongly advertised Sunday services – it is now fifteen months since Stagecoach replaced Countywide Travel as the Sunday bus operator, all services which are paid for by the county council. Yet the timetable panels displayed at many bus stops on the route still give the Countywide Travel schedule and not the one that actually applies on Sundays and Bank Holidays. I personally find the situation farcical, where a Stock Exchange quoted company can operate a service at council tax payers expense and expect to obtain business when they do nothing to advertise the correct schedule at bus stops. Parishioners can find the correct schedule on display at the public transport noticeboard on the Kingsclere Road wall of the Overton Fireplace shop, courtesy of Mr Baker.

Low level access buses. – these are few and far between on Stagecoach's Overton routes, which are mainly operated by the Andover depot, although both Basingstoke and Winchester's depots have some in their fleets. The company tells me that they have an ongoing replacement programme, but a bus's life is around 16 years, and it would be impossible to comply fully with the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act which come into effect in October. Bus operators have been given until 2015 to comply fully but the larger town and city networks are being given priority over such places as Andover. This problem is not just one for bus operators as roadsides should have raised platforms to assist loading and unloading and many rural routes do not provide such infrastructure.

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, ☎ 01962 774296, email opc@overtonvillage.com.
