

News and Views

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

October 2004

PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

From Clerk Laura Harley.

Parish Council Meeting

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wednesday 13th October 2004 in the Community Centre• Planning 7:00pm• Public time 7:30pm• Main meeting 8pm. |
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- Planning 7:00pm Tuesday 26th October
- Finance & General Purposes 7:30pm Tuesday 26th.

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

Flower Towers

Overton Parish Council has made the decision not to fund the Flower Towers in the centre of the village in future years, partly due to the cost (£700 per year), and partly because the contractor – Richard Stawt – is no longer doing this type of planting work. At a recent Parish Council meeting, some parishioners expressed their regret that the flower towers were no longer going to be part of the Overton scene in coming years. One suggestion was that the flower towers should still be planted in future Sheepfair years. Perhaps we could have large tubs that could be planted by volunteers with seasonal flowers throughout the year. Maybe you hate the flower towers and never want to see them again. Whatever your opinion, please let the Parish Council know by contacting the Clerk, one of your councillors or via the website on www.overtonvillage.org.uk

RADAR Gates on Footpaths

In response to Rosemary Trollope's letter last month regarding the gates that have been erected at the entrance to the Flashetts footpath. The gates were erected some years ago by Hampshire County Council to try to keep horses and particularly motorbikes and cars off the footpath while allowing access to walkers, people with prams and wheelchair users. Using a RADAR key opens the gate for wheelchair access, and the bridges along the path have been widened to accommodate pushchairs and wheelchairs. The Parish Council would agree that the design is not the most attractive, however the gate is robust and practical and so far maintenance free.

The Parish Council would like to remind residents that the Flashetts Path between Station Road and Kingsclere Road is a footpath and should not be accessed by horses, bicycles and motorbikes.

Starting School in September 2005

Was your child born between 1st September 2000 and 31st August 2001? If so it is important that you apply for a school place by midday on **Friday 19th November 2004**. To

do this you will need to collect a brochure and an application form (CR2) from your local primary or infant school from September 2004. If you need more information contact the Admissions Team at the Hampshire County Council Education Department on 01962 846004, 846001, 846020, or 846038.

Obstructive Parking

Due to the concerns of several residents, the Parish Council requested that the borough council look into the idea of introducing double yellow lines at the Waltham Road/Station Road junction and in Waltham Road opposite the end of Battens Avenue. The borough council has now reported that site visits have been undertaken during the day, evening and weekends, and that no obstructive parking was recorded. On the basis of the surveys, a Formal Traffic Regulation Order for double yellow lines is not recommended. If parking does become an issue in Waltham Road (or any other street in the village), then officers of the Hampshire Constabulary have the power to take action. PC Chris Swallow, who attended the last Parish Council meeting, urged residents to ring the 0845 045 45 45 number and report obstructive parking so that the incidents can be recorded and acted upon – please give as many details as possible about the car/cars involved.

Late Night Shopping

The Overton Business Association is holding two late night shopping sessions this year – on Thursday 2nd and Tuesday 14th December. The Mayor of Basingstoke and Deane will be joined by 'The King' to put on the Christmas lights for a little bit of Overton 'Viva Las Vegas'.

2005 Sheepfair Calendar

The Overton Business Association is sponsoring a 2005 calendar showing scenes from the recent Sheepfair weekend. The calendar will be available in all the Overton Shops soon, with proceeds going to the proposed garden behind St Mary's Hall.

United Halls' Committee

Representatives from St Luke's Hall, St Mary's Hall and Overton Community Centre met to discuss the way forward for halls in Overton. The result is a joint proposal allowing the three existing halls to be refurbished or rebuilt to provide central facilities for all the activities within the village. The plans for the three halls are as follows:

St Mary's Hall – the existing toilets to be demolished and replaced with new facilities and kitchen, the room behind the stage to be remodelled and a new disabled persons' access to be made and the façade to be updated. (Planning permission has been received for the work). This will provide a hall for plays, dances, parties and activities that need a stage. The Parish Council will organise consultation

with parishioners about St Mary's Hall as soon as a contractor is selected and the likely costing options known.

St Luke's Hall – to be demolished and rebuilt further back on the existing site with 20 car parking spaces to the front of the site to provide a hall for youth and sporting activities. The Planning Application for this project is to be submitted soon.

Community Centre – general refurbishment to include demolition of the existing toilets to be replaced with new and other internal modifications. (Planning permission has been received for the work). The Community Centre will be used for educational purposes and meetings.

The likely cost of these projects is in the region of £1,000,000. One quarter of that sum will be available from Developer Contributions. Additionally the United Halls' Committee is putting together a bid for Capital Funding from Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, although this is not guaranteed. The project will also require a lot of local fundraising. Inevitably most of the money (for St Mary's Hall – owned by the Parish Council) will have to be raised by increasing the council tax via the Parish Council precept.

If these projects are to succeed, then the United Halls' Committee must have the support of parishioners and users of the halls. Please keep reading *News and Views* for progress reports. Your views are VITAL at this early stage of the project – before it is too late to go back!

Cemetery Provision

The Parish Council's legal duty to provide a cemetery has again prompted a review of future requirements and availability of land. Possible reuse of various sections in the churchyard is being investigated first.

Governor/Parish Council Surgery

On 6th November there will be a combined surgery where representatives of the Parish Council, Overton Primary School Governors and Testbourne School Governors will be available to answer your questions. The surgery will take place in the Palmer Room of the Community Centre between 10am and 12 noon.

Parish Council Vacancy

Unfortunately, Graham Hensman has had to resign as a councillor due to pressure of work. The Parish Council would like to thank Graham for his efforts over the years. There is now a vacancy for a new parish councillor, which can be filled by election. If you are interested in becoming a parish councillor, please contact the Clerk.

THE BIG RECYCLE

From Lucy Keal, BDBC.

National recycling week is 18th -22nd October; "the BIG recycle" is being run as part of the national RecycleNow campaign. The campaign is aimed at increasing public awareness and participation in the recycling of household waste.

Play your part in 'the BIG recycle' and recycle as much of your household waste as possible. For further information

on the national campaign check out the website www.recyclenow.org.uk

In Basingstoke and Deane we are currently recycling about 16% of household waste collected throughout the Borough but with the average wheelie bin thought to contain 70% recyclable material there is still a lot more to be done.

There are a variety of recycling opportunities in the Borough. The kerbside recycling scheme allows mixed paper and card, plastic household bottles and food and drinks cans to be collected from the kerbside. There are also over 50 recycling sites taking a combination of materials including glass, textiles, aluminium foil, paper and card, plastic bottles and food and drinks cans making recycling easier and more convenient for local residents.

Every day we all produce huge amounts of waste. It is thought that over 125,000 trees are used per year in Basingstoke and Deane alone; by recycling all your paper this requirement could be greatly reduced.

Diverting recyclable materials out of the waste stream produces a resource from which new products can be made. Plastic bottles can be recycled into new bottles, garden furniture and compost bins even fleece clothing and sleeping bag filling. Cans are recycled into new packaging and save huge amounts of energy that would otherwise be required to turn the raw materials into these items and also helps avoid the need to keep using these precious resources.

The Three R's. It's not all about recycling though. Much of the rubbish we want to dispose of could be avoided by following the three r's of waste minimisation: **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.** Say no to carrier bags that you don't really need or use reuseable ones. Avoid single use items such as disposable razors, and batteries. Avoid over packaged products, buying in bulk often represents better value for money and there is less packaging to throw away afterwards, also choose items that have easily recyclable packaging. Finally support the market for recycled products and choose items made from recycled material.

Is once enough?....RECYCLE

To find your nearest recycling site please look at our website www.basingstoke.gov.uk and click on recycling information, alternatively call the Council's customer contact centre ☎ 845474.

In Overton you can recycle glass at the Memorial Institute and foil, shoes and clothes at St Luke's Hall forecourt.

OVERTON VILLAGE WEBSITE

From Colin McLaren.

The latest addition to the site is the village diary. Anyone holding an event, or any of the societies meetings can now be posted in a diary on the website. We would like to encourage you to list your events to get more coverage, a wider audience, and to keep this resource up-to-date.

After the positive feedback we have had over the Sheep Fair pictures we would like to encourage more of you to get pictures posted and so we are going to start with the theme "Images of Overton" the only rule is that your photograph must contain the word "Overton". There are lots of obvious (and not so obvious) places where the word Overton appears so let's see how good you are at having your pictures published on the website.

Agendas for upcoming Parish Council meetings will also now be posted as soon as they become available to the Webmaster.

The next **Overton Business Association meeting** takes place on Tuesday 2nd November at 7.30 at the Honey Pot. Any problems, please email or call ☎ 770757.

BIODIVERSITY SOCIETY.

From Kath Doyle.

The winners of the children's Sheepfair colouring competition were, Jodie Cook (11), Franchesca Stevens (8), Rebecca Wall (5) and Jessica Kempinski (3) with highly commended efforts from Otilie Buxton (4) and Luke Jones (20 months). These are on display in the Community Centre. The 23 new members who joined at the Sheepfair bring our membership to 140 making us, we think, the largest local wildlife group in the Borough.

The Overton Hedge and Tree surveys are progressing well and we are also contributing to a Hampshire hedge survey.

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 11am. Parking is limited so car share if possible. Bring your own picnic. Hot drinks available. A **Family Fun Wildlife Evening** is planned for Halloween weekend, Saturday 30th October at the Community Centre. Needless to say, this will involve bats and owls among other things. Don't be scared.... You don't have to hold a bat detector if you don't want to! Both events - £1 to non-members and 50p to members – including topical refreshments....??

OVERTON RECREATION CENTRE

From Gordon Baker, Chairman.

Congratulations to all 28 prize winners in our September draw. This month we again awarded our top prize of £1000 to the first number drawn. The top prize winners were: £1000 A Rowley £200 G Stubbington £100 J Sheffield, A Couling, D Whalebelly

If you want to contact the ORC, visit our web site at www.overtonrc.org.uk or phone Melanie Wincott, ☎ 772956 or Gordon Baker ☎ 770807. You can also e-mail us on chairman@overtonrc.org.uk. Our sports facilities and halls are available for hire at reasonable rates.

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

VICTORIAN SHEEPFAIR 2004

From Jeff Teagle.

The Financial Results to Date.

The primary aim of the Overton Victorian Sheepfair, to provide a memorable and entertaining community weekend was certainly achieved. Many *News and Views* readers will be keen to know if the Sheepfair was also a financial success. I have just sent copies of the interim statement to the Parish Council and requested that one set be placed in the notice board on Winchester Street. £1,535 was brought forward from the Millennium Sheepfair and the former Overton Carnival Committee donated its final bank balance of £879. Portals supported us with a grant

of £10,000 and the Parish Council provided £1,000. We also received further donations of £1,561, most from the fun-fair and entertainers. Our activities generated £13,845. All of this added up to £28,396.

We spent £18,640 and we have refunded the Parish Council grant of £1,000. The Committee has decided to distribute £4,000 to local charities and will publish proposals for inviting applications in the next edition of *News and Views*. The balance will be kept in reserve to organise the next Sheepfair.

These are not the final results. I will keep the books open until 31 December 2004 because some income is still due and some expenses may yet have to be met. The final accounts will then be independently inspected.

Incidentally, we are very pleased that the local societies and charities also reported much success in their fund raising activities.

LIBRARY NEWS

From Chris Vane, Library Supervisor.

Congratulations to the lucky winners of the Sheepfair draw. They are Eimee Brown, Sally Eagleton and Charlotte Harman. The winner of the Reading Rollercoaster Hunt is Danny Brown.

The next Storytime will be on Wednesday 13th October, at 2.15pm. All under 5s are welcome, with their parents or carers.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Traffic Lights

The Right Turn Problem would be substantially ameliorated if the traffic coming down Overton Hill actually heeded the lights. I have observed up to four vehicles passing through the lights after they have turned red, thus reducing the time in which traffic can turn right up Winchester Street, not to mention the safety aspects. Perhaps PC Swallow, in plain clothes, could be persuaded to observe this for himself, preferably between 5:30 & 6:30pm?

Barry Taylor, by e-mail.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

From Public Transport Representative Brian Langer.

Trains

Station car park users's survey

Although some more detailed analysis is necessary the preliminary findings show that of the 59 respondents, 30 came from Overton, one from each of Headley, Hannington and Newtown, two from each of Echchinswell, Newbury, North Waltham and Kingsclere, three from each of Oakley, Steventon and South Litchfield and four from Laverstoke/Freefolk. So the use of Overton by the wider commuting public was confirmed. The most popular day of usage was Wednesday with only three stating their use of the carpark was weather dependent. Only ten agreed that free parking was a determinant in using the station. Statistics are now available as to which trains are the most popular and so it will be easier to determine the schedule any shuttle bus should operate, if finances were available from the Countryside Agency or local government.

This matter is still fraught with problems, not least that the carpark and the overflow are already oversubscribed before

any building at Overton Hill and Foxdown takes place. Any parking charge, without treating the entire Foxdown, Copse Road, Beech Close, Hilltop Road area as a composite traffic management area, would only result in people deciding to park in residential roads that have no parking restrictions. Some people are prepared to pay if it guarantees them a parking place nearer the station but South West Trains, perhaps understandably, seem unwilling to deal with the car parking situation more pro-actively until they know if they have retained their train operating franchise, due to expire in 2006/7. The situation is further muddled by the likely development of the old and fenced off Portals/De La Rue car park for business units, an application for which was recently submitted, which will put further pressure on parking. In addition, the county council is unwilling to pay to adopt Station Approach as public highway as there would be little return in it for them; nor is it likely that the community of Overton would be happy for a very large proportion of developer's contributions, from Overton Hill and Foxdown, to be spent on adoption when such funds could benefit a wider range of parishioners if spent on other things used throughout the week and not primarily on weekdays.

TESTBOURNE NEWS

From Teresa Reynolds, Governor.

GCSE Results Hit Target

We were very pleased indeed with our GCSE results, with 69% of pupils achieving five or more A* - C grade passes. This is 4% up on last year and 1% over our target of 68%. Every pupil in full time attendance also gained at least five A* - G passes and 22% of those grades were A* and As.

Belgian Battlefields

A group of Year 10 has just made a now annual trip to the Belgian Battlefields as part of their history course. It is a sobering moment when they come face to face with the reality of the tragic human cost of warfare.

Help My School

If you shop on line at any time, with companies such as Amazon, Tesco, John Lewis and a host of other High Street names, you could "Help our School". This is a fundraising initiative, by which a percentage of the price of the order is paid to your nominated school. If you log on at www.HelpMySchool.co.uk/TestbourneCommunity you will be able to see which companies are included, select the Testbourne option and place your order as usual. It really is very quick and easy to do. If you are going on-line shopping we would be very grateful if you clicked on Testbourne.

Lunchtime Supervisors

We have vacancies for two Lunchtime Supervisors ~ to work one hour a day at lunchtime, 12.20 - 1.20pm. Please contact the school, ☎ 892061.

Clerk to the Governors

We are also looking to appoint a Clerk to the Governors to convene and give administrative support to the Governing Body. This is a paid post ~ for around 60 hours in the course of the year. Training will be given via county governor Support Services. Please contact Paul Welch for more details ☎ 892061.

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/59242 Erection of single storey front and rear extensions, construction of a first floor, involving raising the roof with roof lights to the front elevation and dormer windows to the rear elevation at 1 Copse Road. It was unclear how these plans differed from the original for this property (BDB/56447). Work was already underway and it was agreed to ask the borough council to check that work was progressing according to plan.

DEADLINE NEWS & VIEWS

This will be 16th October. 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

CELEBRATION CONCERT

From Paul Connolly.

The Rodges Trust

The Rodges Trust was founded in 1985 by the late Geoffrey Rodges of Oakley during his year as Mayor of Basingstoke & Deane. The trust supports young people of the borough in the visual and performing arts.

Supported financially and encouraged by The Rodges Trust, very many of these young people have progressed to careers as painters, dancers, instrumentalists, photographers, fashion designers, opera singers, actors, teachers of the arts, theatre designers and directors – young people of whom our borough can be justly proud.

One award winner was Timothy Mirfin in his training to become a highly successful opera singer and soloist. When, some time later, Overton's Derick Mirfin – Tim's father – became Mayor of the Borough he devoted himself to enhance the resources of The Rodges Trust. He understood – as did Geoffrey Rodges – how the spirit of our community would benefit.

To mark the 20th year of The Rodges Trust a celebration concert is to be held at: All Saints Church, Southern Road, Basingstoke, Saturday, 23rd October, at 7.30pm. The concert features the splendid **Beech Hill Concert Band**.

Tickets: £7 (concessions £6) from Modern Music (Town Centre, Basingstoke), Wendy Lodge ☎ 01256 326839, or at the door. Free programmes.

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.
