

News and Views

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

April 2005

PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

From Parish Councillors Mark Attwell and Brian Langer.

Parish Council Meetings

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| • Wednesday 13 th April 2005 in the Community Centre | |
| • Planning | 7:00pm |
| • Public time | 7:30pm |
| • Main meeting | 8pm. |
| • Planning 7:30pm | Tuesday 26 th April |
| • Finance & General Purposes 8pm | 26 th April. |

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

Annual Parish Meeting

This will be on Wednesday 25th May at 7.45pm in St Mary's Hall - the theme to be Soapbox Session – groups will be invited to come along and have their say. All the usual suspects will be there:- OCA, St Luke's Hall, HART, police, Community Wardens etc.

Parking Survey

The Parking Survey will now be included within the May edition of *News and Views* – apologies for the delay.

End of the War – 60th Anniversary

Members of the Parish Council, Memorial Institute and British Legion are organising a series of events to mark the end of WWII. The events will cater for all age groups and will run on the weekend of 17th and 18th September 2005. Watch this space for details.

Parking

At the last OPC meeting several members of the local business community expressed their concerns over parking availability within the centre of the village. It was considered that many of the businesses in the village would not survive if the parking issues were not resolved.

Vandalism

BT phone boxes at Charledown Road and Hill Meadow were reported to have been vandalised with glass littering the inside of the cubicle. This has been brought to the attention of BT – but anyone can report damage by ringing 151 from the phone box.

Fly Tipping

Antisocial dumping of garden waste and fly tipping was once again brought to the council's attention. Particular areas of concern are Hill Top Road/Copse Road an area owned by Network Rail and on land adjacent to Lordsfield Gardens in Silk Mill Lane, land owned by local residents. OPC agreed to write to the relevant landowners bringing the issue to their attention.

St Mary's Hall

During the OPC committee meeting of 22nd February it was reported that St Mary's Hall refurbishment work was due to start on 1st April 2005. The Gazette had held a press launch in the garden on 21st February, and Hardys Plants had offered to supply the plants and design the floral borders. At the main OPC meeting in March it was agreed to draw down the previously sanctioned loan for £148,000 to carry out the works.

Post Office

<http://www.thirdclassmail.co.uk/>

This is the campaign to keep the sorting office in Whitchurch and save us all long journeys to collect undelivered mail.

Traffic Lights Junction

Every month seems to bring a slight change in the county council's attitude to this problem junction. It appears that the county council is now willing not only to trial, for three months, a four way phasing for the lights – which will help drivers turning right off the B3400 - but also to provide a period when all directions will show red to vehicular traffic, ostensibly to help pedestrians cross the road. However, there is no location where a pedestrian can stand and know that all lights show red for vehicles so how pedestrians will be helped without an aural notification remains to be explained.

BT work at Village Junctions

Little notice was given of recent work at the Dellands / Sapley Lane junction but be warned that similar work will take place in April at both the traffic lights junction and the Red Lion Lane/High Street junction. Be prepared for temporary lights at both locations and some frayed tempers!

Elections On 5th May

Irrespective of whether the Prime Minister calls a General Election for that date there will be an election for a County Councillor to represent the Candovers ward, within which Overton, Laverstoke and Steventon are now included.

Noticeboards

If you want a notice on any of the locked noticeboards, please drop copies into the Community Centre marked for the attention of the Parish Council, and they will be posted.

South East Plan

Each household has recently had a leaflet delivered concerning this plan which covers the area south and west of London from Kent to Oxfordshire. How that area develops up to 2026 will be determined shortly and the South East England Regional Assembly (SEERA) needs to know your views. One of the region's growth areas – Western Corridor and Blackwater Valley, extending from High Wycombe and Slough to Hungerford, includes Basingstoke and Newbury,

but Overton itself currently sits in what is euphemistically referred to as "Residual Hampshire". That doesn't mean this village will avoid development so in order to ensure Overton doesn't go the way of most "residue" please complete the form and send it back by 15th April to SEERA in Guildford. The Parish Council would also like to know your opinion.

WATERVOLES AND DAWN CHORUSES!

From Jane MacKenzie.

Overton Biodiversity Society's Open Evening was a great success with over 70 people coming to hear what the group had been up to and is planning for the coming year. Jon Benge's talk on watervoles (an endangered species nationally) was fascinating. Did you know their waterside tunnels can stretch 5m from the river itself? He stressed the importance of NOT trimming river bank vegetation, so that a green corridor gives them cover from predators. Watervoles have been spotted in the Test actually within the village.

Plans for Little Meadow (beside the cemetery) were displayed. You may have seen hedge planting of native species has been going ahead funded by the Lottery Grant, with work done by OBS volunteers.

3 Guided Dawn Chorus Walks on Sunday 8th May. Starting from Community Centre at 4.30am (for very early risers...), 6am or 7am. £1.50 or £1 for members. Bacon Butties or Marmalade Sarnies and hot drinks provided at the end of each walk. Contact: Peter Hutchings ☎ 770831.

You can renew your membership at any of our events for a mere £1 a year or phone Margaret ☎ 770827.

SPRING IS COMING

From Alan Turner

Sunday 24th April 2005 is the date for the Basingstoke Garden and Craft Fair. Organised by the Rotary Club of Basingstoke, this will be the third Fair to be held at Milestones. 10am – 4pm. Admission £3.00. Accompanied Children under 16 free.

For all your Perennials, Bedding, Shrubs and Trees, plus Craft Exhibits and a Gardeners' Advice Desk, this event is not to be missed by anyone with a garden. We are featuring the Hog Roast again, and Bar and Café facilities are available at Milestones.

If you want to be an exhibitor contact Barrie Smith on ☎ 357642 and remember all profits to local charities.

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

From Malcolm Trussler.

The Basingstoke Astronomical Society was formed in March 2004 after a group of adult students, fresh from a Beginners Astronomy Course at Queen Mary's College, decided that they wished to promote their newfound interest within the Basingstoke area and to further our mutual knowledge of this intriguing and fascinating subject.

We now seek to welcome anyone with a fledgling interest in astronomy. The Society meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at Cliddesden Primary School, from 7-10pm. We can offer visitors and prospective members an eclectic mix of guest speakers, a wide range of amateur observational topics including a monthly guide to the heavens and, if the weather conditions are favourable, the prospect of some serious star gazing from a site that has a relatively low level of light pollution.

Annual society membership is £10 with an additional monthly contribution of £1, however the first visit is free. Further details of the societies activities and events calendar are available at our website. However, should you require any additional information, please contact Treasurer Malcolm Trussler, on ☎ 471805, Secretary Andria Harbinson, on ☎ 413905 or Chairman John Stapleton on ☎ 01420 568130 or go to www.basingstokeas.org.uk

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Litter Picking

Foxdown has set a good example to the rest of the village. With the help of Downland they have organised a Residents Association and then a grand litter pick. They cleaned 16 bags of rubbish from the estate. The children joined in too and were rewarded with hot chocolate and cakes when they had finished. Congratulations to the committee. They are planning to a litter pick every 3 months. WELL DONE FOXDOWN. Perhaps other areas of Overton could do the same.

Mary and Bob Reid.

NSPCC LAMBING WEEKEND

From the NSPCC.

With the kind permission of James and Jackie Crosbie-Dawson, the NSPCC would like to invite you to the 7th Lambing weekend on Saturday 16th April and Sunday 17th April from 12 noon to 4pm at Northington Farm, The Lynch, off Southington Lane.

Adults £3.00. Under 12's free

PLEASE NOTE: That disease can be transferred between humans and animals. Any contact is at visitors own risk. No liability can be accepted by Mr and Mrs Crosbie-Dawson or the NSPCC for any illness or accidents which might occur. For further information please call ☎ 770078.

CHARITIES COFFEE MORNING

From Jane Waldram, Mission Committee

At the Community Centre on Saturday 16th April at 9.30 am. Cakes, biscuits, produce, preserves. No bric-a-brac please ! Raffle as usual. Do come and join us and enjoy a cuppa. Admission 50p including coffee.

LITTLE TOTS NURSERY

From Julie Torrible.

Little Tots Nursery is a Montessori nursery school, with highly qualified, mature staff offering excellent care for your child, running at Bridge St Recreation Centre. Due to increasing demand for nursery spaces for the summer term, we are unfortunately unable to continue running our music and messy play sessions during the mornings. From the summer term we will run a combined Music and Messy Session which will run on Monday afternoons from 1.30pm to 3pm. (term time only).

Sessions recommence Monday 18th April 2005.

This session will include art/craft activities and a music session. All children over the age of one are welcome accompanied by a parent/carer.

If you would like more information about the nursery school or the music/messy play sessions please contact Julie ☎ 0118 9831554 or Heather ☎ 0118 9833818.

PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

From Heather Cousins.

We have a craft club running at school during Wednesday lunchtimes. The children have been learning how to knit and now we would like to teach them how to crochet. We would be most grateful for donations of spare wool or crochet hooks - help would also be appreciated! Please contact the school office ☎-770249 - if you can give time or materials.

OVERTON DRAMATIC SOCIETY

Celebrating 25 years

From Jillian Smith.

Tickets are now on sale for our spring show, “**Love Begins at 50**”, a farce by Raymond Hopkins, published by Hanbury Plays. It is based around a man who has been married for 25 years and as he is about to turn 50, is feeling life is passing him by and has a yearning for a final fling. This fast, furious and hilarious farce is directed by Paul Robinson and David Maclarin and promises to be a great evening’s entertainment for all. It runs from Wed 27th -Sat 30th April in St Mary’s Hall, Overton, curtain-up at 7.30pm. Tickets are now available from the “Executive Dry Cleaners” on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays and at St Mary’s Hall on Saturday mornings from 9th April, priced at £5.50 and £4.50 concessions.

This show and our Christmas Panto, “**Beauty and the Beast**”, are part of Overton Dramatic Society celebrating its **25th anniversary** this year. We are also having a big celebration party in St Mary’s Hall on 14th May when “**Swell Party**”, a group of experienced musicians, singers and actors will be entertaining us with comedy and a great variety of music. For more information on this and details on ODS, please visit our website: ods-online.co.uk. or phone ☎ 770027.

TESTBOURNE NEWS

From Teresa Reynolds, Governor.

Money for Mobiles

We are happy to help with the dilemma of what to do with your old mobile phone. Give it to Testbourne! We are able to recycle them and raise funds for the school in the process. Just drop them in to the school office or the editor.

On Stage

The term ended with over 100 pupils taking to the stage to act, sing, dance and play their way through 4 evening performances of West Side Story. Our thanks go to everyone who worked hard to put on and support this hugely uplifting and enjoyable show.

Governors Wanted

The Governing Body is in need of a volunteer to act as a Community Governor. If you have an interest in the school and education and would like to serve in this capacity please contact the school on ☎ 892061.

KS 3 Results

This year the publication of the KS3 results was delayed due to problems with marking of the English papers. We did know that our English, Maths and Science departments had helped pupils attain excellent SATs results, (with 90%, 91% and 88% respectively of pupils gaining level 5 or more) but have only just found out, with the publication of the official tables that these results placed us 8th in the County and that

our value added scores put us in the top 25% of schools nationally.

September Intake

We are pleased to report that we have again filled all our places for Year 7 in September. All our first choice applicants have been successful in gaining a place and we have a short waiting list of pupils still seeking admission.

OVERTON SOCIETY

From Sue Carter.

Following on from the very successful AGM of the Overton Bio-diversity Society, the next Open Meeting of the Overton Society on 20th April will present an illustrated talk on the Heritage and Nature Trails that are being devised for our village. Your comments and contributions to further development of these trails will be welcomed. The meeting will be at 8pm in the Community Centre. All are welcome – non-members £1 admission.

DAFFODIL SUPPER

From Jane MacKenzie.

Remember you can come to the delicious home made supper on Saturday 30th April in the Back Hall of the Methodist Chapel and enjoy some sing along (or just listen) music. Tickets £7.50 from Pickwicks. In aid of Cancer Research and MacMillan Nurses.

LIBRARY NEWS

From Chris Vane, Library Supervisor.

A big thank you to all who turned out on a really unpleasant evening, weatherwise, for our Venetian Evening. It was a great success and we hope to offer more events later in the year.

Good news on the library front. From April the loan period for books will go back to 4 weeks, and the charge for requests for books held in the county will go down to 50p.

OVERTON RECREATION CENTRE

From Debbie Tomlin, Membership Secretary.

Congratulations to the prize winners in our March draw. The top prizes went to:

£1000 J Davies, £200 M Byles
£100 K Mackenzie, G Sheldon, S Newman

Full results can be found at www.overtonrc.org.uk.

A plea for help! We have regularly been asking for volunteers to assist with collecting subscriptions and have been without a treasurer for over a year. Gordon Baker, our chairman for the last two years, has now retired as planned, after successfully leading the ORC since Ken Hogan’s untimely death.

We have, for the last year, employed a paid Administrator to take on some of the work that was previously performed by volunteers, especially the treasurer. In recognition of the time-consuming duties undertaken by a chairman, we are now also advertising for a paid Executive Manager, 7 hours per week.

As with many organisations in the village, we are suffering from a shortage of volunteers to steer the ORC into the future. Although we have sufficient committee members for everyday tasks, all of them are either heavily committed to their own clubs, or already perform officer duties within the ORC. Most have also served on the committee for many years and would welcome some new blood.

This is an urgent appeal from the committee - if you are able to join the committee, act as Chairman or Treasurer, assist with projects, be the Executive Manager or collect subscriptions (within the village or by post outside the village) - please contact Paul Wheeler ☎ 770726 or any other committee member.

ST LUKE'S HALL UPDATE

From Chris Penney, Hon Secretary

As reported in March *News & Views*, the Trustees submitted an application to Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council at the end of January for Full Planning and Conservation Area approval to demolish the existing St Luke's Hall completely and build a slightly larger new hall further back on the present site in Winchester Street, Overton.

The application and plans were based on all the ideas and suggestions that had been received from Overton residents since the demolish/rebuild proposal was unanimously approved in principle at the AGM held in St Luke's Hall on 30th June 2004.

However, some new queries have now been raised - both from within B&BDC departments that are involved, as well as from parishioners - so the six Trustees have unanimously agreed to withdraw that application while these queries are properly looked at.

We will now draw up a mark 3 set of plans, taking all current thinking into consideration, and circulate these in good time for them to be fully discussed at our next AGM to be held in St Luke's Hall at 7.45pm on Wednesday 29th June.

If approval is given at the AGM, a fresh application will then be submitted to BDBC, based on those latest plans.

RECYCLE WASTE

From Lucy Keal, BDBC.

A large proportion of your household waste can be recycled. All your household plastic bottles, food and drinks cans, paper and card can be recycled through your kerbside recycling collection. Glass bottles and jars and textiles can be recycled at a number of recycling facilities throughout the borough.

By using recyclables as a resource to make new objects huge amounts of energy and raw materials can be saved and much of your waste will be diverted from final disposal through incineration helping to lessen the impact our lives have on our environment.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, the three R's to waste minimisation are a good way to start thinking about our waste differently. Say no to unwanted items like carrier bags, avoid disposable items like razors and single use batteries, avoid over-packaged items or choose items with easily recyclable packaging. A few small changes will make a huge difference.

The Borough of Basingstoke and Deane produces around 5000 tonnes of rubbish a month, that's approximately 80Kg per person per month and we only recycle about 16% of

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 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 774186, email opc@overtonvillage.org.uk.

this. The government has set targets that we must recycle or compost 30% of household waste by 2005/2006. We need your help to reach these targets.

For further information on recycling in Basingstoke and Deane please look at the website www.basingstoke.gov.uk or contact Lucy Keal at l.keal@basingstoke.gov.uk or ☎ 01256 845373.

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/60402 Erection of two storey side extension and a part two storey rear extension and construction of chimney to side elevation at 5 Lordsfield Gardens. No objection.

BDB/60220 Erection of 9 no 2 bedroom flats, 8 no 3 bedroom houses and 240 sq m industrial unit at Berrydown Garage. Objection on highways ground, isolated development out of the Settlement Policy Boundary.

BDB/60511 Installation of replacement rooflight to rear elevation at 17a High Street. No objection.

BDB/60338 Change of use of land from open space to domestic curtilage at land between 32 and 33 Two Gate Meadow. Objection - sets a precedent.

DEADLINE NEWS & VIEWS

This will be 16th April. 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

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

From Public Transport Representative Brian Langer.

Buses and Trains

May Bank Holiday weekend 30 April to 2 May inclusive

Buses are expected to operate a Sunday service on the Bank Holiday Monday, 2 May, with the usual Saturday and Sunday services operating on 30 April and 1 May.

Trains are expected to operate a Saturday service on Bank Holiday Monday, 2 May with the usual Saturday and Sunday services operating on 30 April and 1 May. However, please check the station notice board or 'phone 08457 48 49 50 for details of engineering works that may affect your South West Trains journey that weekend.

Displayed bus timetables in village

Despite Stagecoach taking over the Sunday and Bank Holiday services on routes 76/86 in 2003 the timetables at village bus stops still show that Countywide Travel provide the service, with the wrong timings for the very early and late journeys. For two years the Parish Council has been pestering both Stagecoach and Hampshire County Council, who subsidise these services, to correct matters but to no avail. Correct timings and operators are given on the public transport notice board on the Kingsclere Road wall of Overton Fireplaces shop, courtesy of owner Peter Baker.
