

News and Views

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

June 2005

PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

From Parish Council Clerk Laura Harley.

Parish Council Meetings

In the Community Centre

| | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------|--------|
| Wednesday 8 th June: | Planning | 7.00pm |
| | Public time | 7.30pm |
| | Main meeting | 8.00pm |
| Tuesday 21 st June: | Planning | 7.30pm |
| | Main meeting | 8.00pm |

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

Parking Survey

Thank you for the wonderful response to the parking survey. At the time of writing we have had about 200 copies returned giving us a lot of useful information and interesting comments. There is still plenty of time remaining for you to complete your survey and return it to the Community Centre. The deadline for returns is 19th June.

Thatch

The Parish Council has recently received a useful publication called "Thatch in Hampshire". If you are interested in obtaining a copy, it is available free of charge from Margo Teasdale at Hampshire County Council – ☎ 01962 846831. A reference copy should also be available in the local library.

Annual Parish Council Meeting

The Parish Council held its Annual General Meeting on 11th May at which John Bennett agreed to carry on as Chairman. Sarah Mills will also continue as Vice Chairman. It was agreed to hold two full Parish Council meetings per month; therefore on the second Wednesday there will be a Planning meeting at 7.00pm followed by Public Time at 7.30pm and the main meeting at 8.00pm. On the fourth Tuesday of each month there will be a Planning meeting at 7.30pm followed by a main meeting at 8.00pm. The public are welcome to attend all meetings.

Many Thanks

We would like to thank John Wall for all the work that he has done as the County Councillor representing Overton for the past 12 years. Apart from "routine" casework he led a deputation from Overton to the County to try to get the speed limit reduced to 40 mph speed on the B3400. He was heavily involved in getting the school extended and represented the County Council on the Overton Community Association to great effect.

Travellers

Our new Beat Officer, PC Baldwin has reported that travellers have been sighted inspecting the new rugby

pitches at Berrydown as a possible camp site. If you have any areas of land which you would prefer not to have used as unofficial camp sites, please ensure that they are secure, and that gateways are blocked off. For further advice, contact Whitchurch Police Station, ☎ 0845 045 45 45.

Election Results

Both County Council and Parliamentary elections were held on 5th May. Sir George Young continues as the Member of Parliament for North Hampshire – he can be contacted at 2 Church Close, Andover, SP10 1DP ☎ 01264 401401, fax 01264 391155, email sirgeorge@sirgeorgeyoung.org.uk. Our new County Councillor is Anna McNair Scott who has represented the Candovers Division since 2001, when she stood because of her concerns about the rising levels of traffic, the threat of major development and the way in which country issues are treated. She has been involved with the Education Policy Review Committee, the SEN panel, the Health Review Committee and the Social Care Policy Review Committee. She is married with 4 sons (all now married) and 6 grandchildren and taught dyslexic children for many years. Mrs McNair Scott's address is Huish House, Huish Lane, Old Basing, Basingstoke RG24 7AA, telephone ☎ 01256 476422, fax 01256 474706, email anna.mcnairstcott@hants.gov.uk.

Ducks on the Road

A number of parishioners are concerned about ducks on the road. It is advised that ducks be fed in the river rather than at the road side and with wet rather than dry bread.

POLICE NEWS

I would like to introduce myself as your new local Beat Officer. I have taken over from Chris Swallow, who has been appointed to the rank of Sergeant at Whitchurch Police Station. I know he will keep a keen eye on Overton and the surrounding areas. I will be working closely with him, in order to maintain a good relationship between the Police and the community.

I served as a Police Officer in Basingstoke before transferring to Whitchurch Police Station two years ago. You may have already met me or seen me on patrol around Overton, but don't worry if you haven't as you will see plenty of me in the future ! I have a very definite idea on how to Police and that is by High Visibility Patrolling. You will see me walking and cycling around Overton on a purpose built Police bike, so that I will be more approachable to anyone who wants to have a chat and I will of course be a visual deterrent to any criminal activity. Overton village is a lovely place to live and work and I look forward to keeping it a safe place. Although crime figures are generally low in the parish, there is always room for improvement as opportunist criminals and mindless individuals are still active in our area stealing and damaging

property. I will deal robustly with anyone who is involved in any criminal activity and I will prosecute any offender if they wish to break the law or act in an anti-social manner.

My main aims are to:

Actively patrol Overton and surrounding areas on foot and mountain bike.

Adopt a zero tolerance level to all criminal activity and anti-social behaviour.

Monitor and regulate traffic speed through Overton village.

Deal with the nuisance of trial bikes and mini-motorbikes.

Obtain and act on any information relating to drug misuse and the dealing of drugs.

Work closely with local publicans and off licence sales in tackling drunkenness.

Work with agencies, such as the local Parish Council and Neighbourhood Watch.

Work with Pub Watch, land-owners and gamekeepers to promote crime prevention.

Support any local events, which require a Police presence.

I look forward to hearing any of your views or concerns about Policing issues, please feel free to contact me at Whitchurch Police Station or stop me for a chat when you see me out on Patrol: ☎ 0845 045 45 45.

Richard Baldwin.

LAVERSTOKE & FREEFOLK

From Rosemary Allen, Parish Clerk.

Recycling Bins

The recycling bins that were situated behind Portals Sports & Social Club have been relocated to a position in the Millenium car park in Laverstoke Lane for a trial period.

Noticeboards

Anyone wishing to access the two parish notice boards in Laverstoke and Freefolk should contact one of the three key holders below.

Caroline Jolly ☎ 896430

Barry Giffen ☎ 893430

Rosemary Allen. ☎ 896463

OVERTON SHEEPFAIR 2004

From David Backers, Chairman.

Allocation of surplus funds and Annual General Meeting

For your diary: The SheepFair Committee will hold its Annual General Meeting on 30th June in the Community Centre at 8pm. All Overtonians and people with businesses operating within the Parish are invited.

If you enjoyed the last fair and are interested in contributing to the next fair then we shall be especially pleased to see you.

Nominations for all committee positions should be sent to the Hon. Secretary, Miss Sandy Sykes, 50 Winchester Street, Overton, RG25 3HY by 20th June. For further details please see the noticeboard by the Community Centre or contact David Backers ☎ 770793.

Disbursements of Funds

The 2004 Sheepfair was made possible by sponsorship from both Portals and Overton Parish Council and was never intended to be a fundraising event, however, after covering all our expenses and repayment of the OPC's grant, some monies remained.

The organising committee has decided to retain £5,000 towards a future event and to give away the remainder. Applications for a share of these funds were sought from organisations based in Overton and 15 were received. Sadly there are insufficient funds for all requests to be met in full and the committee has agreed that, subject to final auditing of the accounts, all requests up to £325 will be met in full, while other applicants will receive a grant of £325 each. In total this means that we shall make payments totalling £4,500.

Payments, of £325 unless otherwise stated, will be made to: Darby & Joan Club (£300), Girl Guiding, Hampshire Basics 0200 Team, Hart Wildlife Rescue, Kingfisher, Overton & Basingstoke Taikwando Club, Overton Boys/Girls Football (£250), Overton Community Association, Overton History Society, Overton School Association, Overton Youth Cricket Club, Preschool Playgroup, St. Luke's Hall, St. Mary's Hall (garden project), Tiddlers Mother & Toddlers (£50).

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Bonfires

Now that the better weather is coming, may I respectfully ask that bonfires be lit later in the evening so that we can enjoy the sunshine whilst working in our gardens & our washing can dry in the fresh air.

Bonfires are not environmentally friendly so why not use the waste facilities at Wade Road or Andover? It takes less than an hour of your time & it's free.

Name and address supplied.

Flashtetts

We would like to reassure the residents of Overton about our planning application (*News and Views* May 2005). We know how fortunate we are to live in such a lovely spot and are aware of our responsibility to preserve its beauty. A reputable local architect drew our plans. The footprint of the rear extension is 5.2 m x 6 m with the roof no higher than the existing roof.

The site's vegetation had been neglected for many decades. The restoration was done by a local specialist in woodland management. We had been advised by the Tree Officers of the Planning Department and had official planning approval. The mature trees that were felled were dead, one of which posed a serious hazard to the adjacent footpath. Only damaged and weak specimens, mainly sycamore, were removed to allow the remaining trees to mature. We filled two large skips and a lorry with rubble, scrap metal, broken glass and rubbish.

We have planted more than 60 trees, indigenous hedgerows and filled bare areas with a wildflower / grass mixture. It will take a several years for the planting to come to full fruition but we trust that the overall result and its beauty will satisfy the majority of Overton residents and ramblers.

Kevin and Nicola Conn

Daffodil Supper

This netted a magnificent £480 for Cancer Research, The Hospice and MacMillan Nurses. Thanks to everyone who contributed in any way to such a delightful gastronomic and musical evening! Special thanks to the various cooks and to Paul Holmes and his band of musicians whose highlights

from The Sound of Music and The King and I had us all singing along!

The Plant, Cake and Card Sale raised £460 thanks to the skills of the gardeners and many cooks who provided such a feast for the eyes and the stomach. Many old tools, including 5 hand sewing machines were also handed in to our ongoing collection for Tools For Self Reliance. These will be refurbished in Southampton and shipped out to provide the means for earning a living for someone in Africa. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

Jane & Sarah.

PLAYGROUP NEWS

From Lorna Bloor.

At Playgroup we are looking for a part-time Keyworker to start in September. The applicant needs to be NVQ Level 2 or 3 and have knowledge of the Foundation Stage. The hours are not yet set, but the applicant will need to work sessions as required. For an application form please see Amanda at Playgroup. We will be interviewing for this position at the start of July.

CHURCH FETE

From Robert Beesley.

This year marks a new beginning where we look forward to celebrating a new venue for St. Mary's Church Fete, right in the heart of the village, at the ORC Recreation Ground.

Always a wonderful afternoon of strawberries and cream, cakes, tea, straw hats, childrens' dancing and music, and duck racing on the bubbling River Test. This year you will be able to stroll across the cricket ground to enjoy an abundance of flowers kindly donated which will be displayed in the newly refurbished church.

As ever Overton will be bringing its smiles, enthusiasm to have lots of fun, with bash the rat, crazy golf, sweets and pony rides, and sunshine. The village's amazing ability to make such events utterly memorable was experienced by many from outside of the village who enjoyed its Victorian Sheep Fair last summer and the Medieval Millennium Sheep Fair.

ORC Ground 2pm to 4pm, **11th June.**

From Jane Waldram.

We need **Nearly New Clothes**, in good condition, washed and ironed. (We really cannot sell mens' suits, or any underwear, marked, old or worn clothing of any sort. Please, please, no jumble !!)

Please leave items on our doorstep at Parsonage Farmhouse Southington, or I can collect. ☎ 770444

OVERTON WINE CLUB

From Phil Cooke.

Overton has a very active Wine Club - it meets every month, mostly on the third Thursday at the OMI for a very sociable and mostly informal evening dedicated to tasting wines and learning about them, with a bite to eat. The activities are member led, expert led or visits to locations with a connection to wine and its enjoyment.

Events planned for the rest of 2005 include

- a tasting by the Champagne Information Board
- June trip to the English Wine Centre in Sussex
- a Beaujolais (not nouveau!!) tasting
- a Summer Barbeque

- two further tastings
- a Christmas dinner

There is a nominal membership fee and monthly tastings cost £6 per head.

If you are interested in joining or attending as a guest please call Tony Morris ☎ 770779 or Ann Leader ☎ 773030- you will be made very welcome.

LITTLE TOTS NURSERY

From Julie

Little Tots Nursery is a rapidly expanding Montessori Nursery located in the Overton Recreation Centre, Bridge Street.

We are holding an Open Morning on Thursday 30th June between 9.30am and 12.30pm.

Come and see a Montessori Nursery School in action, and meet our staff and children. We always welcome visitors, so if you are unable to make our open morning, please just pop in and see us.

For further information, please contact: Heather ☎ 0118 9833818 or Julie ☎ 0118 9831554 or by email:

little.tots@virgin.net

TESTBOURNE NEWS

From Teresa Reynolds, Governor.

Situations Vacant

We are looking to appoint the following staff for September:

- ◆ a full time teacher of English, for one term in the first instance;
- ◆ a part-time teacher of English (.25);
- ◆ two cover supervisors (school hours term-time only).

The latter are new posts for staff to cover classes during a teacher's absence. Training will be provided.

Please contact Mary Soper ☎ 892061 for further information if you are interested.

BIODIVERSITY SOCIETY

From Peter Hutchins.

On a cool and calm morning, members of Overton Biodiversity Society met in the Community Centre for a pre dawn tea and toast before heading off for a guided walk around the Flashetts Nature Trail. Wrens, robins, swifts, song and mistle thrushes, and a great spotted woodpecker were amongst the 40 species we heard or saw. I would like to thank all those who took part in this new venture for OBS, whether they participated in the walks, worked behind the scenes or prepared the breakfasts to come back to! Due to popular demand we will repeat this enjoyable event. Details on the parish notice board.

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/60768 Construction of gable end and new window to replace hipped roof and flat roof dormer at 3 Southington. No objection.

BDB/60828 Erection of two storey front extension and conversion of roof space to living accommodation involving raising of the roof and construction of dormer windows to the rear elevation and the insertion of a roof light to the front elevation at 16 Kings Meadow. Objection – three storey

building extended in front of the building line. Overlarge development out of keeping with the neighbouring properties.

BDB/60803 Erection of extension to provide two bathrooms, kitchen and conservatory following part demolition at Southington House. No objection.

OVERTON SOCIETY

From Sue Carter.

The next Open Meeting of the Overton Society will be on Tuesday, 14th June at 8pm in the Community Centre. Keith Pauw, Area Traffic Manager, Hampshire County Council, will be talking about local traffic safety and John Wallis from Croudace Homes will be updating us on the progress of the Overton Hill development. All are welcome – non-members £1 admission.

OVERTON RECREATION CENTRE

From Debbie Tomlin, Membership Secretary.

Congratulations to the winners of the May Draw:

| | |
|-------------------------------------------|-------|
| Adrian Baverstock | £500 |
| Margaret Doggett | £200 |
| Gareth Stickland, Avril Poynter, R Senior | £100. |

The ORC urgently needs volunteers. If you can help in any way, perhaps by joining the committee, helping with some of the projects currently under way, or assisting with the collection of subscriptions (even from the comfort of your own home), please contact a committee member or trustee, telephone Debbie Tomlin ☎ 770154 or leave a message with Paul Savory (the Barber).

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

From Public Transport Representative Brian Langer.

Buses – County Council subsidised services

Hampshire County Council has confirmed that Overton related subsidised services within the Andover contract have been renewed from the end of May for a further four years with no change of operator, namely Weavaway Travel's Thursdays only service to Newbury and the Monday to Saturday evenings and Sundays/Bank Holidays services operated by Stagecoach. This is excellent news for all those who rely on public transport. The three month trial of the three extra services from Andover to Basingstoke and return on Friday and Saturday evenings will be assessed in July. The Basingstoke contracts will not be determined until after this newsletter has gone to press but the Parish Council is hopeful that the village shuttle, service 74, will be retained for a further four years.

Train timetable from 12 June to December 2005

Few changes have been made from the current timetable. However, **westbound** the Mondays to Fridays 0715 train will leave at 0722 and terminate at Salisbury; the 1750 and 1850 ex Waterloo arrive at Overton at 1847 and 1947 respectively; the Saturdays 0715 train will leave at 0722. **Eastbound**, the 0549 and 0619 Mondays to Saturdays trains will arrive at Waterloo at 0652 and 0721 respectively; the

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 774186, email opc@overtonvillage.com.

0918 will stop at Clapham Junction at 1010 on Mondays to Fridays but not Saturdays.

DEADLINE NEWS & VIEWS

This will be 16th 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

HAMPSHIRE DOWNS BEER FESTIVAL

From Russ King.

It's that time of year again when people start to suggest that last orders has finally been called on the ever-popular CAMRA beer festival in Overton. The good news is that the beer festival is safe and will be held for three sessions from 28-29th October in St Luke's Hall. More details to follow. Just remember, lots of quality real ales - no tall tales.

ST LUKE'S HALL UPDATE

From Chris Penney - Hon Secretary

On Saturday 25th June, Overton's much-loved *Sideways Down* will be playing live in St Luke's Hall between 8.00pm and 11.30pm and all profits from the event will be donated to the Hall Rebuild Fund. Please come along and support St Luke's as you enjoy yourselves listening or dancing to your favourite tunes from the 60s, 70s, 80s & 90s. Doors open from 7.30pm and there will be a licensed bar so you can refresh yourself on what we hope will be a hot mid-summer's evening! There are only 150 tickets available and they cost just £5 each when bought in advance (from The Fireplace Gallery): they will be £7.50 each on the door on the night.

On Wednesday 29th June, the 2005 AGM will take place at 7.45pm, also in St Luke's Hall. Please come along to hear the latest developments towards the proposed demolition of the existing hall and plans for its replacement on the same site. Refreshments served at the end of the AGM.

HART WILDLIFE RESCUE

From Jackie Grey.

Classical Concert

ÆENCORE! a group of talented musicians, will be coming from all over the country to play together in a special concert in aid of HART Wildlife Rescue at St Mary's Church, Laverstoke, on Saturday June 4th. The concert will begin at 7.30 and tickets, £8 (£6 concessions) will be available on the door. Interval refreshments will be available in Village Hall. All proceeds to HART Wildlife Rescue.

Pippa Greenwood Opens Wildlife Garden

BBC's Pippa Greenwood will be opening a wildlife friendly garden to the public on Sunday June 5th. The one-acre haven for wildlife has been created by Annette and Dave Beeson at Forest Edge, Andover Down. Entrance is £3 for adults, children are free. Open 2-6pm. Plants, books and teas will be available and Pippa will be happy to give consultations for a small donation. All proceeds to HART.
