

News and Views

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

July 2005

PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

From Parish Council Clerk Laura Harley.

Parish Council Meetings

In the Community Centre

Wednesday 13 th July:	Planning	7.00pm
	Public time	7.30pm
	Main meeting	8.00pm
Tuesday 26 th July:	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.

Does anyone want to be a Parish Councillor – please...

Overton Parish Council is still looking for a new parish councillor to replace Graham Hensman. There are just less than two years of this term of office left, and it would be great to have a full contingency of councillors again to help spread the work load. It is always useful to have someone come in and look at problems and issues with a 'fresh eye'. If you are interested in taking on this role, please contact the Parish Council Chairman. You will need to be over 21 and an elector.

Overton Handbook

The Overton Handbook has now been out for one year and the information is on the Overton Village website. Please help us to keep this document up to date by informing us of any changes – such as contact details for clubs and societies, opening times, activities and so on. Please forward details to the Clerk or to webmaster@overtonvillage.com.

New Beat Officer for Overton

As you will realise from last month's *News and Views*, Chris Swallow is no longer Overton's Beat Officer having been promoted to Sergeant at Whitchurch Police Station. We would like to wish him well with his new appointment and thank him for his work in Overton over the past year. We would also like to welcome our new Beat Officer – PC Richard Baldwin to Overton. Richard should officially start in mid July.

Community Safety Officers

Julie Williams and Amanda Manaton who work for the Community Safety Service at Hampshire County Council attended the Annual Parish Meeting to speak about their work. Their main activity is to deal with low level crime associated with social misbehaviour, and they can issue yellow cards and Fixed Penalty Notices for anti-social behaviour. The officers intend to have close ties with the Youth Club, school and the police. Look out for them in the village every day and on some evenings over the weekends.

To contact the Community Safety Officers ring 0845 600 1747 or email them on community.safety@hants.gov.uk.

Parking Survey

Thank you once again for the wonderful response to the parking survey – the completed forms are now with the borough council being analysed. It is evident from some of the responses that residents are unclear about the status of the car parks within the village. The car park in London Road is free public parking available to all. The car park at the HSBC bank is available to customers of the bank, and those drivers with dedicated parking spaces, but it is not a public car park. The car parks at both the Community Centre and St Luke's Hall are for the use of hall users only – if you use these spaces as public parking you do so at your own risk.

Overton Parish Council Accounts

The Parish Council's auditor has approved the accounts for the year ending 31 March 2005. The accounts are now available to the public for inspection, and if you would like to do so, please contact the Clerk.

Public Rights of Way Definitions

Footpath - if the path is used for walking only, it is a footpath. This is different from the pavement alongside a road, in that it means the whole width of the highway. Footpaths are usually just tracks, and are rarely surfaced or lit.

Bridleways - are also footpaths, but additionally users are permitted to ride or lead a horse, and ride bicycles. Horse drawn vehicles are not allowed. This may not include other animals, although a donkey or mule is classed as a horse for these purposes. Cyclists must give way to pedestrians and horseriders. Motorcycling is not allowed. Bridleways are not necessarily surfaced, and because of this a well used bridleway can sometimes be effectively impassable for pedestrians.

Byway open to all traffic (BOAT) - allows the use of wheeled vehicles of all kinds, but the highway is normally used for walking or horse riding. Driving of off-road type vehicles for recreational purposes often happens along such highways. Again they are not surfaced, and can get very wet and muddy for obvious reasons.

The Overton Rights of Way booklet showing all the paths around the parish is available from Overton Fireplaces for £1.50.

Flashetts Footpath

The Parish Council has been informed that an Overton resident has forwarded a notice to Hampshire County Council to turn Flashetts footpath from a public footpath to a bridleway (see definitions above) under Section 53(5) of Schedule 14 to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. The basis for this notice is that this highway, although defined as a footpath, has been used by riders for many years

without being challenged. The Parish Council often gets complaints from walkers about the state of this footpath when riders have been along it. If you wish to give a view to this proposed change, then please do so in writing to Rachel Hawkes, Rights of Way, Recreation and Heritage Department, Hampshire County Council, Mottisfont Court, High Street, Winchester, SO23 8ZT.

Mayor's Charity Appeal

Did you know that the Mayor, Paula Baker, is supporting two charities during her year of office – the local Motor Neurone Disease Association with the purchase of 2 Lightwriters and HART (Hampshire Animal Rescue Team). As many people will know, HART has been based in Overton for the last 10 years and has treated over 8000 wild birds and animals with over 50% being returned to their original habitat. The charity is keen to develop a combined wildlife hospital and education centre in Overton and is now raising money towards this. If you would like to support either of these causes, please forward cash or a cheque (made out to 'The Mayor's Charity Appeal') to Mrs M Payne, Mayor's Parlour, Civic Offices, London Road, Basingstoke, RG21 4AH.

Victory Celebrations

There will be a weekend of events at the Overton Memorial Institute on 17th & 18th September to commemorate VE and VJ days. Saturday 2 - 4pm: The Paul Sykes Big Band playing music from the 1940's and Singalong with Marilyn Beddows.

Sunday 2 - 4 pm: Lola Gibbard with Wartime Favourites in music and song and the Overton Dramatic Society present "Worker's Playtime". Tickets will go on sale at the 'Stute in August. On Sunday at 4pm the Overton Bellringers will round off the event, so be prepared!

Interesting Publications

The Parish Council has received two publications from Hampshire County Council – Earth Structures and Re-pointing. These will be available to look at in the reference section of Overton library (open Tuesday and Thursday from 2.00pm – 7.00pm and Saturday from 9.30 – 1.00pm).

Street Lighting

There is a strong likelihood that the footpath from Foxdown to Copse Road will receive improved lighting.

To report a fault on an existing light, 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

POLICE NEWS

From Richard Baldwin, Overton Beat Officer.

Mini Motorbikes & the Law

Mini-motorbikes can travel over 5 mph which means they are classified as a mechanically propelled vehicle and as such are subject to the Road Traffic Act. Riders could be breaking the law by using them in public.

These bikes are in the same class as Mopeds and as such you need to be 16 years of age to use this class of vehicle

on a road. The bikes must be registered with the DVLA, taxed and fitted with a number plate and lights. The rider must also hold a provisional driving licence, display "L" Plates and have a minimum of 3rd party Insurance cover and wear a kite marked motorcycle helmet.

Anyone who rides them illegally faces prosecution and the risk of penalty points on their driving licence. Illegal riders also stand to lose their mini-motorbikes thanks to legislation that gives Police Officers the power to confiscate vehicles that are being used in an Anti-Social way.

Such bikes can be great fun if used responsibly, they can of course be ridden legally in a back garden or on private property with the owner's permission.

BIODIVERSITY SOCIETY (OBS)

From Jane MacKenzie

Dawn Chorus Walk

and Bacon Butties or Marmelade Toast!

On Sunday 10th July. Repeated due to popular demand.

Leaving from Community Centre at 5am for an hour long guided walk led by Overton's very own bird man – Peter Hutchins. It was a lovely morning last time. Come and listen to the treasure on our doorsteps. Members £1 non-members £1.50. If possible phone 771121 in advance.

Old Trees Walk

On Sunday 31st July leaving from the Community Centre at 2pm. Led by Overton's Jim Stickland and John Smith who have double handedly surveyed over 300 old trees in the village. You will be able to see the largest oak in the parish found so far. Home made cakes and hot drinks at the Ashe Manor Farm end of the walk. Members £1 non-members £1.50.

Little Meadow Update

From Margaret Rainford.

By now you may have noticed that things have been happening down at Little Meadow, the small field adjacent to the cemetery, which belongs to the parish and which members of OBS are developing as an area to encourage wildlife for members of the community to enjoy.

The first stage in the action was the removal of the rather large logs, together with their amazing fungal appendages, to their 'design' position, followed by mowing. The aim of mowing is to reduce nutrients in the soil to develop conditions suitable for creation of a wild flower meadow next year.

Back in February, braving the wind and snow, 8 members of OBS planted 105 shrubs and trees which make up the Western Border of Little Meadow. Species include Buddleia, Bullace (wild plum), Guelder Rose, Wild Privet, Dogwood and Spindle planted in drifts to make up the main bulk of the border, with specimens of Hawthorn, Oak and Field Maple to provide focal points.

In complete contrast (weather wise) the Southern Hedge, comprising sixteen different native species, was planted by a band of volunteers in the blazing sun of March. A further 75 trees were added on this occasion, all planted, staked, watered and mulched within three or four hours. Trees in this hedge have been spaced at one metre intervals, to allow room for them to develop to form a wildlife haven.

Planting will continue in November with a hedge along the Kingsclere Road side, which we hope to lay in due course, but over the next few months we will be working on a human sundial, hard standing at the entrance to help wheelchair/pushchair access and a stepping stone path. Do feel free to wander round and inspect the progress at any time; most of the trees are currently bursting into leaf, signifying (I hope) that they are still alive, thanks to the careful planting of our volunteers.

OVERTON VAULTING GROUP AND PONY CLUB

From Penny Brown, Charity Trustee.

The Overton Vaulting Group and Pony Club (having recently performed at both the Church and School Fêtes) are pleased and proud to present an "Old Tyme Cockney Knees Up Extravaganza" featuring children from the village and surrounding areas. Choreographed by and featuring our very own Pearly Queen, Lola Gibbard, and Chairman Larry Barnes – both have appeared at Leeds City Varieties, also Don Shearman on pianoforte. To be performed at St Mary's Hall, Overton on Friday 8th July. Doors open at 7.00pm for a 7.15pm start. Tickets, including a fish supper, are £5.00 each, available from "The Faraway Tree", High Street, Overton. Everyone is welcome.

TIDDLERS TODDLER GROUP

From Joanne Furlonger.

We meet every Wednesday at Freefolk and Laverstoke Village Hall from 9.30 to 11.30am. We are a friendly group that welcomes new parents and carers and their preschool children. We have a regular craft activity and a good range of equipment. £1 entry provides fruit and a drink for the child and tea and coffee for the adults. Additional children 20p. Call Joanne ☎ 892216 for more info or just come along.

TESTBOURNE NEWS

From Teresa Reynolds, Governor.

Inspector Pleased with Findings

We have recently received our annual visit from our LEA inspector. Having given us a good "going over" he has awarded us a "highly effective" category for our current performance.

New Community Manager

Linda Cowley, our Community Manager, left us recently to spend more time with her family. Linda has served the school and community with great commitment and loyalty and we shall all miss her. We have appointed Paul Bushell as part-time Community Manager and he took up his post at the start of June with help from Linda to get to know the ropes.

Retirements

We shall be sad to say goodbye to a number of staff at the end of this term including Rachael Bryan, who has been at Testbourne for 20 years. Many of you will know Rachael through her outstanding Drama productions.

DEADLINE NEWS & VIEWS

This will be 16th July. 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

DISTRIBUTORS WANTED

Are you able to deliver *News & Views* once a month? We need new deliverers on a couple of "rounds". Please contact the editor if you can help.

Can all current volunteer deliverers please let the editor know if you are going on holiday and unable to do the delivery before the Parish Council meeting (2nd Wednesday in the month). Thank you.

LIBRARY NEWS

From Chris Vane, Library Supervisor.

This year's National Summer Reading Challenge takes place from 23rd July to 10th September, and it is sponsored by Wave 105 and Chessington World of Adventures. The theme is 'The Reading Voyage', to complement the **Sea Britain 2005** celebrations.

Once again the children are asked to read six books of their choice during the summer holidays; they will receive stickers for each book read, and a medal & a certificate when the Voyage is completed. Further details can be found by logging on to www.readingvoyage.org.uk

Last year Hampshire children borrowed 435,341 books during the summer holidays, and a record 20,000 children took part in last year's Reading Challenge. For many it was their first experience of libraries. Please encourage your children and grandchildren to join this year!

OVERTON RECREATION CENTRE

From Debbie Tomlin, Membership Secretary.

Neville Cook was the £1000 prize winner in the June draw. D Glass won £200 and £100 went to R McDoom, Jamie Jones & Derek James.

One of our collectors has recently moved away and we need someone to take over collecting from houses in the Greyhound Lane area. If you can help please contact Emma Scoggins ☎ 770455 or Debbie Tomlin ☎ 770154.

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/60890 Change of use of agricultural barn to mixed B1 (light industrial) and B8 (storage) uses at Quidhampton Farm Buildings, Polhampton Farm Road. Objection – overdevelopment of a rural area, approach roads to the site are not suited to take additional traffic.

BDB/60996 Erection of a two storey front extension, first floor rear extension and porch. Raising of the roof to create second floor living accommodation involving construction of dormers in the front elevation and installation of roof lights in the rear elevation at 21 Lion Close. Objection – out of keeping with surrounding area. Three storey house will impose on street scene and is unnecessary in this location.

BDB/60918 Construction of new driveway and access to Northington Lane at Northington House, The Lynch. No objection.

BDB/61002 Erection of a detached double garage with storage area above and balcony to north elevation at Nutley Lodge, Ashe. Objection – accept application for double garage, but consider that area above is not for storage

BDB/60337 Erection of an outside WC to rear of premises Bet City, High Street. No objection

BDB/60835 Erection of a single storey front and rear extension and erection of a chimney to rear elevation at 29 Poyntz Road. No objection.

BDB/60753 Erection of a single storey front extension, single storey side/rear extension and erection of a rear conservatory at 15 Hill Meadow. No objection.

OVERTON LINUX SOCIETY

From Adam Trickett.

Would you be interested in forming a Linux club? The club would be open to anyone with any interest in Linux and other open source software. We could hold "bring-a-box" meetings where we would help each other out with any problems. We could arrange demonstrations of software for education, business & home use. Of course we would have fun too.

All ages and skill levels welcome.

Please contact me at opals@iredale.net or ☎ 772133 (eves & weekends) For more details see <http://iredale.dyndns.org/opals/> Adam Trickett.

LAVERSTOKE & FREEFOLK

From the Clerk to Laverstoke PC.

The Parish Council is currently considering its annual payment of grants to local worthy causes.

The committee welcomes suggestions or requests for this year's grants.

Please contact clerk to the council, Rosemary Allen ☎ 896463 or chairperson Caroline Jolly ☎ 896430.

HAMPSHIRE FARMERS' MARKETS

From Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council.

Following on from a recent article in *News & Views*, BDBC would like to remind readers that the next Farmers' Markets in the area will be held in Winchester, on Sunday 10th and Sunday 31st July from 9am –2pm; then Basingstoke on Sunday 21st August.

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, 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.

Sample some of the finest, fresh, traditional produce of Hampshire.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Please note that letters can only be printed if contributors are prepared to put their names to them.

Christian Aid Week

The people of Overton, Ashe, Laverstoke and Freefolk gave a total of £3765.53 including Gift Aid claims. 46 collectors received 1006 envelopes following their unsolicited knock on your doors!

Christian Aid helps people to help themselves in the most disadvantaged communities in the world –regardless of race, colour or creed. Thank you.

Brian & Margaret Wheeler.

GUIDE FOR OVER 55s

From Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council.

Organisations, community groups and volunteers who run activities and services for people over 55 are being urged to get them in a new guide.

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, working together with partners, is putting together an essential guide to being over 55 in the borough.

The guide was identified by older people as something they wanted when participating in the development of the strategy *Promoting Quality of Life for Older People in Basingstoke and Deane*. They said they needed a single source of comprehensive and reliable information about the things that were important to them - including social activities, volunteering and work opportunities, transport, care services, housing and many more topics.

So if your group or organisation is providing a service for the over 55s or is running an activity they may be interested in then please make sure it goes in the guide by filling in the leaflet available from your local community centre, the council offices, via the council's website at www.basingstoke.gov.uk or by calling ☎ 844844.

For more information about the guide call Heather Ann Worrell or Sara Shepherd at Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council on 01256 845238 or 845493 or email s.shepherd@basingstoke.gov.uk

Fax: 01256 844 707.
