

News and Views

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

September 2005

PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

From Parish Councillor Sue Johnson.

Parish Council Meetings

Taking place in the Community Centre		
Wednesday 14 th Sept:	Planning	7.00pm
	Public time	7.30pm
	Main meeting	8.00pm
Tuesday 27 th Sept:	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.

New Parish Councillors

OPC welcomed two new parish councillors at the August meeting, Alan Whitney and Liz Lewis. Alan has lived in the village for 4 years and Liz for 30 years.

Telecom Mast BDB/61512 Grid ref 450516.9 149989.6

Erection of a 25 metre high lattice telecommunications tower with 3 antennae, a 300mm microwave dish and a ground based equipment cabinet is planned at Lordsfield Plantation. The planned mast will be at the edge of a well used footpath near the sewage works and is within sight of Overton Primary School. There has been no public consultation by the company wishing to erect this mast. Parents and others wishing to comment on the positioning or visual impact of the mast should contact the planning officer Jane Colley.

Your Role in Planning

If you want to know whether there is a planning application on land close to your home or on land that is in your view, keep an eye out for planning notices. There is also a list on the PC notice board and plans can be made available for you to look at if you contact the parish clerk.

The borough **may** notify close neighbours of a planned development but not always. Parish Councillors do consider how a development will affect neighbouring properties but this cannot be the sole reason for objecting to a plan. Also the PC can only comment on the plans as they are presented, some are drawn up with very limited information about neighbouring properties and none have to disclose the ownership of land or rights of way over it when planning permission is being sought. Borough officers have delegated powers to pass plans, instead of sending them to development control committee, when there is a "minor" development (up to 10 houses) and fewer than 6 people object by individual letter. If the development is outside a settlement boundary only 4 individual objectors are needed. It is up to you to complain because, once planning permission is granted, you are literally going to have to live with the consequences.

Letters should be sent to the Planning department at the civic offices or attached to an e-mail to the officer dealing with the planning application.

Overton Parking Survey– Summary of Results

In May 2005 a questionnaire was distributed with *News and Views*, seeking your views on parking in Overton village centre.

A big thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the questionnaires, which provided a wide range of views and opinions. Of the 2000 copies distributed, 372 were returned completed which represented a response rate of 19%. The questionnaire allowed for responses from multiple residents per household and as such a total of 595 residents were able to provide their views.

All survey responses have now been analysed and the following provides a summary of the results.

- 72% of residents felt that there was insufficient parking in the village centre.
- Walking was the preferred mode of transport to the village centre for 68% of residents followed by 30% travelling by car and 2% cycling.
- Just over a quarter of residents were unaware of the shuttle bus serving the village centre.
- Improved management of on street parking and more car parking spaces were seen as the two measures which would most improve access to the village centre.
- Nearly half of all residents spent between 5 and 15 minutes in the village centre. Only 5% spent over 2 hrs.
- Issues with delivery vehicles and a lack of parking spaces were seen as the biggest single issues surrounding car parking in the village centre.
- Only 11% of residents park their cars on the street overnight.
- 54% of residents access services in the village centre at least once a day. Not surprisingly, Saturday was the most popular day for using the village centre, followed by Monday and Friday.
- Some 57% of residents said they would be prepared to use a car park situated behind the Institute on London Road.

The results of the survey will now be used to assist with the development of a car parking strategy for Overton village.

The New Trafalgar Dispatch

The new dispatch started its journey to London on 1st July. It will be presented to Overton on 5th November – on the date the original passed through in 1805. The mayor will unveil a plaque commemorating Lieutenant Lapenotiere's change of horses in Overton as he sped on his 37 hour journey from Falmouth to London with the news of the victory at Trafalgar. The plaque will be a permanent feature on a wall of the Community Centre - which was built on the

foundations of one of the many inns there used to be in High Street.

Grants

Grants were given to the following organisations:

St Luke's Hall, Kitchen upgrade	£425
History Society, Projector stand	£100
HART, Projector	£174
OCA, Sink	£791
Overton Cricket Club, Net surface	£150
Kingfisher Trust, Magnetic locks	£150

No more grants will be considered until January 2006 when the PC will have more idea of what funds are still available.

Planting on Verges and Amenity Land

The first 2 metres of a verge are the responsibility of the Highways authority, although it may not own the land. Some amenity land e.g. the copse in Copse Road, is amenity land owned by the borough. Hedges or individual shrubs planted on this land may be removed by these authorities because they have the duty to cut hedges and grass to keep sight lines clear.

There is concern about the rash of garden plants appearing on lane banks around the village. Wild flowers cannot compete with garden plants; they are shaded and die out. If you want colour there are now plenty of wild flower seeds or plug plants available from organisations like BTCV and the Hampshire Wildlife Trust offers advice for wildlife gardening on its website. Overton is one of the last places in Hampshire where birds are still found that were familiar throughout the county less than 30 years ago. They feed on seeds and insects attracted to the wild flowers that we still have in some of our lanes and wild places. Once these plants go, so too will the insects and birds. Extinction starts closer to home than we like to think!

And some Dates for your Diary...

The St Mary's Hall Committee has booked a number of events to be held in the hall over the winter months. On 17th December, we have a Murder Mystery evening; on 21st January 2006, there is a Stained Glass workshop and on 4th March the Barcodes Blues Band will be playing. Watch out for further details.

Live Music

Come and celebrate the opening of the first phase of St Mary's Hall Refurbishment on Saturday 1st October. Live Music from Sideways Down together with a special guest spot from Overton's brilliant singer/songwriter Nina McCann. St Mary's Hall from 8pm. Tickets will be £5 and available from Overton's Fireplace Shop in advance or £7.50 on the door. Licensed bar.

Table Top Sale

The next St Mary's Hall Table Top Sale is Saturday 24th September from 10am- 12 noon. Featuring a yummy cake stall...! Sell anything i.e. household goods, collectors items, clothes, for just £5 a table, to book your table please contact Mark or Maggs ☎ 771457. Entrance is free so come along and take advantage of some fantastic bargains. Teas, coffees, squash and biscuits will be served. All proceeds to St Mary's Hall Refurbishment Fund. The Table Top sale dates for the rest of the year are 15th October, 26th November and 17th December.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT –BUSES

From Brian Langer.

The county council's budget review is threatening discontinuation from 2 October of services 120 to Newbury and 76/86 on Sundays/Bank Holidays to Basingstoke, Andover and Winchester. If you would be adversely affected please contact Brian Langer ☎ 770848 urgently.

T AND TOTS

From Betty & Trish.

A well established mother and toddler group running for twelve years will be starting again on September 12th after the summer break. We meet every Monday afternoon during term-time, 1.15 to 2.25pm in the back hall of Overton Methodist Church. The cost is £1 per family. New mothers, childminders, grannies made welcome. ☎ 770798 / 770106.

OVERTON SOCIETY

From Sue Carter.

“Skylarks and Subsidies - A Bird's Eye View of CAP Reform and the Countryside”

For thousands of years our landscape and wildlife have been shaped and influenced by a combination of natural processes and man's activities, especially farming. During the last 50 years, technological advances and agricultural policy have driven change at an unprecedented rate, which has had a huge impact on both our countryside and the farming industry. Will the current round of Common Agricultural Policy Reform begin to put some of the wrongs right? Can we expect to see a countryside in which wildlife will flourish and farmers make a living?

Come to an illustrated talk from Alison Cross, an Overton resident with a farming background and now working as a Conservation Adviser with the Hampshire and IOW Wildlife Trust. Alison will talk on the new Environmental Stewardship Scheme, its contribution to the agricultural industry and how it might affect Overton's countryside and wildlife. This meeting is on 21st September at 8pm in the Community Centre.

The Overton Society AGM will be on 16th November at 8pm - details to follow nearer the date.

OVERTON HISTORY SOCIETY

From Richard Oram.

We have a full programme for the coming 2005-06 season. Starting on Thursday 6th October with Pre-historic Winchester and its Treasures. All meetings are held in the Community Centre at 8pm. Nelson and Trafalgar follow in November, on Thursday 3rd, the speaker will be Rear Admiral Lang. Come along and join a very friendly crowd for a chat and a cup of tea or coffee. Small entrance charge.

ST LUKE'S HALL UPDATE

From Chris Penney - Hon Secretary.

Important Date for your diaries, please.... An Extraordinary Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 28th September 2005, at 7.45pm in St Luke's Hall, Winchester Street, Overton.

At this EAGM, the Trustees will be presenting to Overtonians the final revisions to the plans for the “Option 2” design of the proposed new/replacement St Luke's Hall on its present site (please see also N&V, August issue).

These revisions follow on from the AGM in June and subsequent helpful discussions with planners at B&DBC - and incorporate their views as well as those from within the village and from hall user groups.

If the EAGM results in agreement, the Trustees will then submit a full planning application to B&DBC.

TRAFALGAR CONCERT

From Colin Parker.

Overton celebrates Trafalgar 200, on Saturday October 22nd at 7.45pm in St. Mary's Church. The Overton Choral Society and the Hannington Silver Band will perform a distinctive nautical programme (see article below). Tickets at £7.50 each to include interval refreshment are on sale from Paul the Barber in Winchester Street. The proceeds of this concert will be donated to the Royal Star and Garter Home for Disabled Ex-Service Men and Women.

OVERTON CHORAL SOCIETY

From Lyn Hardy.

September sees the start of Overton Choral Society's new season. The first meeting will take place on Monday September 5th at 7:45 and will also be the AGM and a discussion on music for the forthcoming 2005/2006 season. The first concert of the season will be in conjunction with Hannington Silver Band and will take place in St Mary's Church, Overton, on Saturday October 22nd. The theme will be based on Trafalgar 200 and will include nautical music. OCS will be joining other choirs in Hampshire for the Winchester County Music Festival which will be held on Saturday 13th May in Winchester Cathedral when they will be performing the stirring and dramatic work "Elijah" by Mendelssohn. Such was the rapturous reception of "Elijah" at its first performance that no fewer than eight of its items (four arias and four of the choruses) had to be encored! Definitely not a work to miss. A "sister" concert will be held in Romsey Abbey the preceding week.

We look forward to meeting new singers on Monday nights at 7:45pm in St Mary's Hall, Overton. We are a friendly crowd and have been known to seek liquid refreshment after a concert or sometimes a rehearsal! So just come along and listen to our rehearsal and decide if you wish to join us.

TESTBOURNE NEWS

From Teresa Reynolds, Governor.

New Pupils & Staff

We are starting the new school year in a positive mood. We are welcoming six classes of new Year Seven pupils, having again reached our target numbers. We embark on our new adventure as a specialist school in the performing arts, whilst ensuring that standards and opportunities right across the curriculum continue to improve and increase. Six new members of staff will be joining the school: Becky Reed in Music, Laura Ryan in Dance, Dr Andy King as Head of ICT, Brenda Harvey in the English Department, Liz Vallance as Head of Year Eight and teaching PE and Geography and Peter Hallmann as Head of Drama and Performing Arts. We are hoping to appoint additional Learning Support Assistants and Lunchtime Supervisors in September and may also still require a part-time teacher of English (approx six lessons a week).

We will also be recruiting for GCSE Examination Invigilators. If you are interested in any of these positions please do contact Mary Soper via the School Office ☎ 892061 for more details.

Buildings

We have continued to make improvements to the building and facilities during the summer holiday, including refurbishment of one of the ICT Suites. We are continuing to improve our ICT capability, taking out lease arrangements with Dell to ensure we keep up to date with ever-improving hardware. We have benefited in this respect from sponsorship from Microsoft/Dell as part of our new specialist status.

GCSE Results

The GCSE results will be available for next month's edition.

Open Evening

Thursday 6th October from 6.30 to 8.30 and Open Mornings from Monday 10th to Friday 14th October. Please ring if you would like to book a tour.

OVERTON YOUTH CLUB

From Teresa Reynolds, Secretary.

The Youth Club evenings start again on Tuesday 13th September, 7-9pm in St Luke's Hall. These sessions are run by qualified youth workers and are open to all 11 to 16 year olds. Small entrance fee. Activities such as pool, unihoc, table tennis, computer games are offered, or you can just turn up for a chat with your mates.

We are always looking for helpers, perhaps just once a month. Please see Carey in the Youth Club if you can help.

SALSA BEAT

From Sue Berry.

Held at the 'Stute Club every Thursday from 8pm until 11pm. Complete beginners to Intermediate standards are taught. Contact Ivan ☎ 07885 744263.

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/61391 Conversion of existing garage into living accommodation and installation of bay window to living room at Laren, Winchester Street. No objection.

BDB/61512 Erection of a 25 metre high lattice telecommunications tower with 3 no antenna, a 300mm microwave dish and a ground based equipment cabinet at Lordsfield Plantation. Objection – too close to the school and other houses. It will be an eyesore for the rest of the village. There has been no consultation with the neighbouring residents.

BDB/61569 Outline application for siting and means of access for the erection of 2 no three bedroom dwellings and a replacement detached single garage and provision of new access and crossover, and new crossover at 15 Sapley Lane on land at Lemsford and 15 Sapley Lane. No objection but the following points were made regarding any full planning application – the holly hedge at 15 Sapley Lane should be replaced with one of the same species, consider bungalows at this location which would give less impact, request that off street parking is sufficient.

BDB/61558 Change of use of agricultural building to class B1 light industrial and class B8 storage at Quidhampton Farm Buildings. Objection – units will be accessed from an inappropriate quiet rural lane and will cause disturbance to neighbours. More details are required regarding the type of use, the numbers of people employed and the hours of business.

BDB/61555 Erection of a two storey front/side extension, first floor rear extension, side porch and raising of the roof on existing dwelling at 21 Lion Close. No objection.

BDB/61424 Erection of a two storey rear extension at Nutley Lodge, Ashe. No objection.

OVERTON RECREATION CENTRE

From Colin Parker, General Manager.

The date on the ORC document inserted in last months edition of *News and Views* should have been dated "Summer 2005". The information is accurate at this time.

OVERTON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

From Paula Baker, Chair, OCA.

Thank you to the many people who filled in a questionnaire for us during this spring and summer. We've looked at all the suggestions made and have done our best to start the activities you want, when you want them! So, if you are interested in Family history, a book group, job skills or computers, please look out for the posters or contact Paula Baker ☎ 771219.

On September 24th we are holding a table top sale, £5 per table; please contact Brenda Shelbourn ☎ 770061 to book. Also, please make a note in your diaries, we'll be holding a Grand Christmas Fair on Saturday December 3rd. Tables for that will be £10 each - the perfect chance to sell Christmas cards, craft items and decorations. Funds raised from both sales will go to the refurbishment of the Community Centre.

OVERTON PLAYGROUP

From Alice Bloor.

Welcome back to the new term, to new parents as well as parents of our Pre-School children.

If you are looking for a place for your child who be turning three in this coming school year, we still have some spaces available, please drop in and see Amanda at the Community Centre or give her a call on ☎ 770370.

We are rated top in all six OFSTED categories, as well as being fully accredited by the Preschool Learning Alliance earlier this year.

Places are FREE to all children the term after they turn three, we accept children from the age of 2 years 9 months.

We are having our AGM on Tuesday 27th September at 8pm, this is open to all, and we look forward to seeing you

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, or Vice Chairman Sarah Mills, or Clerk to the Council Laura Harley, Oak Tree Lodge, Roundwood, Micheldever, Winchester, Hants. SO21 3BA, ☎ 01962 774186, email opc@overtonvillage.com.

all again, so we can keep everyone up to date with our plans for the forthcoming year.

HART WILDLIFE

From Jackie Grey.

A nautical theme has been set for the next fundraising event for the Mayor of Basingstoke and Deane's charity appeal which will benefit HART Wildlife Rescue and the Motor Neurone Disease Association. Called *Sea Britain* the concert, at the Anvil on September 10th, will include items by the Basingstoke Male Voice and Ladies Choirs and visiting artistes. It promises to be a rousing musical evening and everyone is welcome. Tickets are available from the Anvil box office on 844244.

Please make a note in your diaries for the Fireworks Spectacular on November 5th and a Carol Concert on December 10th. All your support will be greatly appreciated.

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

OVERTON PARISH LINUX SOCIETY

From Adam Trickett.

Our first meeting will take place on Friday 16th September at 7:30pm. Anyone with any interest in Linux and other open source software is invited. New members of all ages and skill levels are welcome. Please contact me at opals@iredale.net or ☎ 772133 (eves & weekends) or check out the web site for more details.

<http://iredale.dyndns.org/opals/>

LIBRARY NEWS

From Chris Vane, Library Supervisor.

Splash! is a photographic competition and exhibition celebrating **SeaBritain 2005**. As you may guess from its name, the subject of the entries must have a watery connection – so when you get your holiday photos developed, why not enter your favourite? The competition is open to all Hampshire Library users in the Basingstoke area, and is being run by Basingstoke Library in conjunction with Basingstoke Camera Club. The closing date is Saturday 17th September, and entry forms can be collected from Overton Library.

More children than ever have joined the **Reading Voyage** this summer. This is a gentle reminder for those who haven't completed the Voyage – it ends on Saturday 10th September. Entries for the colouring competition must be in by then too.
