

# News and Views



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

December 2005/ January 2006

## PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

From Parish Councillors Liz Lewis, Alan Whitney and Clerk Laura Harley.

### Parish Council Meetings

#### Taking place in the Community Centre

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December and Weds 11<sup>th</sup> January 2006:

Planning 7.00pm

Public time 7.30pm

Main meeting 8.00pm

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January: Planning 7.30pm

Finance/Gen. Purposes 8.00pm

- St Mary's Hall Management committee meeting 8pm Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December in the Hall.

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

### Thank you from the Parish Clerk...

As always I would like to thank everybody who helps Overton Parish Council to tick along throughout the year – Stuart Pike our new litter picker who is doing sterling work keeping the centre of the village and play areas tidy and Eric Williams who cleans St Mary's Hall. To Teresa Reynolds our *News and Views* Editor and all the parishioners who deliver *News and Views*. To all the members of the public who come to meetings with their comments and questions and keep us all on our toes. Thanks also to all the members of the St Mary's Hall Management Committee. Most of all I am very grateful to the parish councillors who work hard throughout the year on your behalf. Merry Christmas to everyone and a Happy New Year.

### Batten's Avenue and Waltham Road

Residents in Batten's Avenue are concerned at the speed of vehicles using this road as a 'rat run' and report that parked cars and doorsteps have been damaged on a number of occasions. They have been campaigning, over many months, to restrict vehicles using the narrow road for 'Access Only', and the Parish Council has raised this issue with both the Borough and County Councils, who in turn keep passing the issue from one to the other. In the meantime it would help if drivers could avoid using this route, especially as there are young children living in the avenue, and to access their gardens they do need to cross the road.

Vehicles parked close to the junction of Waltham Road and Batten's Avenue do make it difficult for the Kingfisher Bus to collect elderly residents, some of whom find walking difficult, from Waltham Court, so it would also be helpful if drivers showed consideration for other road users when

parking in this area. Yellow lines are planned for this junction and the one with the main road and Waltham Road.

### Move Along Please

Our local policeman PC Baldwin has been pro-active in moving on drivers who park in the village centre in the evening, often playing loud music and leaving litter behind. Villagers have commented on the improved tidiness of the square.

### Safe Lanes Campaign

Sam Gould from Ashe attended a Parish Council Meeting in October to gain support for a Safe Lanes Campaign, inviting the people of Ashe to sign up voluntarily to keep to a low speed limit and give 'space' in rural areas. Ms Gould had not received a positive response from Hampshire County Council, but she had from CPRE, Anna Scott McNair and PC Baldwin. Such a scheme has been successful in East Sussex and the Parish Council is looking into ways in which they may be able to support the campaign. Ms Gould, whilst understanding that drivers may well be driving at speeds within the legal limit, is concerned at the number of vehicles are being driven too fast for the conditions, and that consideration is not being given to other road users including walkers, cyclists, horse riders and children who want to enjoy living in a rural environment. Would you be prepared to sign up to such a scheme?

### Website for Ashe

Sam Gould was keen for Ashe to have its own website so that it could be used to support her campaign for Safe Lanes and could also support the small businesses and local history of Ashe. Some concern was expressed about Ashe having its own website and whether this would isolate the settlement from Overton, so it was agreed that the two websites should be linked.

### Garden Waste

A resident has complained about the number of householders in both Station Road and Hilltop Road dumping their garden rubbish on the verge or bank opposite their houses. Not only is the dumping of rubbish illegal, it is also unsightly. The borough council subsidises the purchase of composting bins from Blackwalls – ☎ 0845 0738990 – so why not buy one and use the results on your vegetables!

### Trafalgar Victory Remembered

A crowd of more than sixty people gathered in the village square on 5<sup>th</sup> November to watch the Mayor, Paula Baker, unveil a plaque to mark Overton's part in the journey of Lieutenant Lapenotiere to London. Those attending the event enjoyed a sumptuous cream tea prepared by the WI.

## Overton Parish Council Community Strategy

Do you know what the Parish Council does? Do you know how you can find out? Does the Parish Council take any interest in what interests, worries or annoys you in the Parish? The answers to these questions and many more besides are all to be found in the **Overton Parish Council Community Strategy**, a document which is revised and updated annually, and which can be read either on the Village Website or by visiting the Public Library in the Village. Why should I be bothered you might ask. Well that's fine, leave it to someone else to bother or to take an interest. No one will listen to what I say so what's the point? Fortunately many, many Parishioners do bother, do take an interest in Parish matters and do voice their concerns and suggestions. Your Parish Council welcomes the interest already shown by those who are prepared to bother and is anxious to encourage more interest and more participation in every way.

The Parish Council has three main aims each explained in detail in the **Community Strategy**.

**Aim No 1** To provide services to the parish community in accordance with statutory requirements.

**Aim No2** To nurture Overton's heritage and protect it and its rural surroundings.

**Aim No3** To develop and promote culture, leisure and sports opportunities within the Parish.

The best way that these three objectives can be met effectively is by encouraging public participation and consultation within the Parish and by establishing working links with other local government and non-statutory bodies. It is not just the Parish Council it's the whole community. To find out more about what is going on try all or any one of the following:-

- **Read the Community Strategy.**
- **Come along** to Parish Council meetings and listen to the discussions.
- **Join in** discussions by coming along to the **Public Time** session at the first of the two monthly meetings of the Parish Council. You can express your views, raise questions, discuss issues that concern you and make suggestions. And the Council will listen and where it is agreed take action.

The dates and times of Parish Council meetings, the agenda for the up-coming meeting and the minutes of the previous meeting are all displayed on the Parish Council notice board in the Village.

- Don't forget the Parish Council monthly news letter "**News and Views**". It means what its title says and it is delivered free to your home eleven times a year.

So whether you just want to have a better idea of what is going on in the Parish or you want to join in and raise issues the opportunities are there for the taking. The Parish Council concerns itself with most of what matters to the parishioners from dog mess in the streets to major residential and business developments, from play areas for the children to the provision of cemetery facilities. The Council exists to serve the interests of the Parish and it needs your input, both passive and active, if it is to successfully carry through your **Parish Community Strategy**.

## Notice boards

Just to remind you that the Clerk holds the key for the notice boards on the public toilets and at Sapley Lane. Please put posters through the Community Centre door addressed to Overton Parish Council, and they will be posted on the boards.

## Cemetery Provision

The Parish Council has considered, yet again, the problem of continuing cemetery provision for the parish. Using the existing cemetery and churchyard will allow for about a further 20 years of burials, before another plot of land would be required. In the past, the Parish Council has been unable to acquire suitable land within the village and above the water table. Unless a site is forthcoming, the Parish Council has agreed that it will take no further action at this time.

## Village Diary

There is a diary facility on the [overtonvillage.com](http://overtonvillage.com) website which is very easy to use. Enter all the activities and events with which you are involved and hopefully avoid clashes with other groups and societies. It also gives everyone an opportunity to find out what's going on in the village.

## Training for New Members.

Alan Whitney and Liz Lewis who joined the council in the late summer have attended training for new councillors at the HAPTC centre in Winchester. They found it helpful to have an overview of the organisation of parish councils but realise that they still have much to learn, and are grateful that a significant number of Overton PC members have been on the council for a number of years, and over that time have acquired a depth of knowledge and expertise that as yet they can only aspire to!

## Did you know?

Hampshire Road Safety is offering confidential driving assessments for the more mature driver. The aim is to enable people to get the most from driving and continue driving for as long as they are fit to do so. Feedback from people who have already taken the assessment is very enthusiastic. To find out more, contact Mike Sambles ☎ 01962 847370 or email [mike.sambles@hants.gov.uk](mailto:mike.sambles@hants.gov.uk). To arrange an assessment contact Samantha ☎ 01962 846890.

## Fly Tipping

All households in England now have a responsibility under the Waste Duty of Care regulation to ensure that their waste is not passed onto "cowboys" who then dump that rubbish. If rubbish is traced back, then it can result in a fine of up to £5000.

## Local Plan Inspectors Report

The Inspectors Report for the Local Plan can be viewed at [www.basingstoke.gov.uk](http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk). Apart from the two developments on Overton Hill and at Foxdown there are no other developments planned for Overton, except infilling, until 2011. The excerpts of the report that are relevant to Overton will be available in the library.

## Street Lighting

To report a fault, 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.

---

## CONCESSIONARY FARES STATEMENT

**Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council.**

**Free bus passes for 2006 : Tokens still available**

Following the Chancellor's budget statement in March of this year announcing free bus travel for the disabled and elderly, Basingstoke & Deane BC has been reviewing how to incorporate the free bus pass into the concessionary travel scheme in a way that best meets the needs of those eligible. As a result, it has been proposed that the existing choice of concessions will be retained, enabling eligible residents to choose between either a free bus pass or an issue of travel tokens.

This year the base issue of travel tokens is £52 pa, with the supplementary issue being £16 pa. The latter amount applies to applicants who are aged 60 or over and are in receipt of Council Tax/Housing Benefit, and all disabled applicants who meet the criteria. The Borough Council is currently deciding the value of tokens for 2006.

The Government is offering the free bus pass to all residents who either meet the disability criteria or who are 60 years of age and over, providing that they have not opted for an alternative concession, such as travel tokens. The Government has stipulated that the free fare bus pass can be used on local bus services within the area of the issuing district after 09:30 each day. However, negotiations are taking place with local bus operators to try and extend this to all day and county-wide travel.

Because final details of the scheme will not be received by the Council until very late, bus passes will only be posted out to successful applicants in late March next year and not issued during January to March as usual.

Certain administrative amendments have also been proposed, with charges for lost bus passes being increased and the forfeiting of 3 months worth of travel tokens in the case of late applications.

You will be notified in the near future individually by letter, advising you of the application process and giving all the details of the offer. On the back of the letter you will also find some questions that we would like you to answer to help us review the effectiveness of our concessionary travel scheme. These completed questionnaires can be handed in when you either pick up your travel tokens or apply for a free bus pass.

Should you have any questions regarding any of the above please contact Basingstoke & Deane BC ☎ 01256 844844. Eleanor Scardifield

Corporate Communications Assistant ☎: 01256 845746

---

## POLICE NEWS

**PC Richard Baldwin**

I am pleased to report that since I took over in July I have arrested 12 local suspects for various offences; there have also been a number of arrests by Whitchurch Officers. The most recent was for damage to the waste bins in the High Street. The most notable arrest was for a Dwelling Burglary that occurred back in the summer.

From the middle of November for 10 weeks I have been joined by a fellow Officer, who I am tutoring before he goes out on independent patrol - I can't think of a better platform to get him started off with than with foot patrols in the village, especially at night dealing with our juvenile issues. I have also recently taken delivery of my cycling kit, so I have few excuses not to go out on Bike patrol....well apart from the weather !

Pub Watch is about to be relaunched to coincide with the much published Licensing Act brought in last month. The off licensed premises will be invited to participate as well to try and tackle drunkenness and associated behaviour.

I am also going to run a fortnightly surgery in the village centre, dates below. Should you wish to see me at anytime, I will only be too pleased to pop around on a cold evening for a cup of coffee - please let me know as I don't like to turn up unannounced.

### Surgery Dates:

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December** - 11:00 to 14:00hrs,

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> December**- 12:00 to 16:00hrs.

**Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> December** - 09:00 to 13:00hrs: all taking place in Overton Community Centre Car Park.

## Bank ATM's Converted to Steal IDs of Bank Customers

A team of organised criminals are installing equipment on legitimate bank ATM's in at least 2 regions to steal both the ATM card number and the PIN. The team sits nearby in a car receiving the information transmitted wirelessly over weekends and evenings from equipment they install on the front of the ATM. If you see a suspicious attachment, do not use the ATM and report it immediately to the bank using the phone on the front of the ATM.

The equipment used to capture your ATM card number and PIN is cleverly disguised to look like normal ATM equipment. A "skimmer" is mounted to the front of the normal ATM card slot that reads the ATM card number and transmits it to the criminals sitting in a nearby car.

At the same time, a wireless camera is disguised to look like a leaflet holder and is mounted in a position to view ATM PIN entries.

The thieves copy the cards and use the PINs to withdraw thousands from many accounts in a very short time directly from the bank ATM.

The teams that operate these type of scams would use force or violence if a member of the public were to remove any of these devices as they are obviously worth thousands of pounds to them. Police advice is to call 999 immediately and alert bank staff.

---

## ST MARY'S HALL NEWS

**Management Committee**

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December** – *Murder Mystery Evening* – with supper – presented by Phoenix Theatre Company – starts at 7.30pm - tickets £10 available from the Fireplace Shop.

**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December** – Overton Choral Society Christmas Concert – starts at 7.30pm.

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2006** – Stained Glass Window Making course (limited numbers)

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2006** – Hampshire Moviola – film title to be announced – watch out for details – tickets £4

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2006** – Singing Workshop

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2006** – second visit from Hampshire Moviola – film title to be announced – tickets £4 Tickets available from Overton Fireplaces; details from Laura Harley ☎ 01962 774296.

Thank you for all the offers of fridge/freezers that we have received.

PLEASE NOTE – St Mary's Hall will be closed from 1<sup>st</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> January 2006 to complete the Phase II refurbishment works.

---

## OVERTON CHORAL SOCIETY

*Lyn Hardy.*

The strange sounds you may have heard emanating from St Mary's Hall has been the members of Overton Choral Society attempting to pronounce the words of carols from around the world. The Finnish one has been particularly difficult with much tongue twisting and a variety of possible pronunciations taking place!

To find out if we have finally mastered the fiendishly Finnish language (and French, Russian, South American etc) come to St Mary's Hall on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 7:30pm for OCS traditional Carol Concert. There will be plenty of carols for you to join in with, which, you will be reassured to hear, will be very familiar and will not require the use of a set of foreign language dictionaries.

There will be the usual mince pie and cup of tea at the end of the concert and we hope many will come. The more of you who support us, the larger our donation for the refurbishment of St Mary's Hall will be.

We have had a few new members this term and they have been an asset to the group. If anyone would like to join us please come to St Mary's Hall on Monday evenings at 7:45pm.

OCS members will take a short break over the Christmas and New Year period and then will resume rehearsals on Monday January 9<sup>th</sup>. Forthcoming events are a Sing Messiah Choruses in March and Elijah, Winchester & County Music Festival in May.

---

## RECYCLING

*Pat Bain*

As the local Rubbish Ranger for **Naomi House**, may I say thank you to all of you who have been collecting recyclable items for us. For anyone who isn't aware of what we can sell to raise funds, these items are:

- red, green or blue plastic milk bottle lids
- inkjet and laser printer cartridges
- old mobile telephones (preferably with charger)
- used stamps
- foreign or obsolete currency

So, with Christmas coming up, could I ask you to tear off the stamps from your Christmas card envelopes, rinse your milk bottle tops from all that extra catering, and let Naomi House have that mobile phone which will become redundant when the latest model makes its way into your Christmas stocking!

There is a collecting bin located inside the Community Centre, or, if you are in business and have a reasonable turnover of laser printer cartridges, we can arrange for a bin to be left at your premises, which the recycler can collect directly.

For further details, please contact Pat Bain ☎ 771433.

---

## LIBRARY NEWS

*From Chris Vane, Library Supervisor.*

The storytime on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December has been cancelled. In its place we have a special session on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December, from 4 - 4.30. Twilight Tales is suitable for under 8s, and each child will be given an Activity Pack to take home, and there'll be mince pies for the grownups. Free tickets are available from the library now.

The first storytime session of the New Year will be on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January, from 2.15 - 2.45.

---

## PLAYGROUP NEWS

*Lorna Bloor.*

It's Christmas time again, and we are in the festive spirit at Overton Playgroup.

This year we have two events, one for the Pre-School children, and one for all Playgroup children.

On Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm we have the Christmas Sing-along for the Pre-School children, all parents, carers and grandparents of these children are welcome at the Community Centre.

On the last day of term, Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December, we have our Christmas Party for all the children who attend Playgroup. This is at 9.30 am to 12.30 pm at the Community Centre, please note we have no other sessions on this day at either the Community Centre or School setting.

We hope that during our party Father Christmas might have time to pop in and say hello!

Merry Christmas from all at Overton Playgroup.

---

## OVERTON RECREATION CENTRE

*Colin Parker.*

Debbie Tomlin, long serving ORC committee member is standing down from her role as Membership Secretary at the end of February 2006. Mindy Noble is also relinquishing her role in administrating the ORC web site.

We thank Debbie and Mindy for their loyalty and hard work and ask that anyone who feels that they could assist with either post to please contact Paul Wheeler ☎ 770726 or Colin Parker ☎ 771038.

ORC Membership Draw Collectors are meeting on Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 7.30pm at Bridge Street. Any villager who would like to assist with collections in their locality will be most welcome at the gathering.

Congratulations to the £500 winner in the recent draw:

Ken MacKenzie, Southington,  
and to the £200 winner, Margaret Lloyd.

---

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

### Uses for Overton Hill?

I am pleased to see there are actually some proposals to deal with the ongoing eyesore on Overton Hill. All sorts of rumours have been circulating about what the mysterious mounds of earth and metal barriers were to be used for - the first, that they were to be the first levees to be constructed in England to deal with rising sea water levels, was clearly far fetched;

- the second, that wild boars had escaped from Laverstoke Park and that Croudace Homes had erected them to keep the builders safe, was also to assume that builders would ever actually appear on the site;

- lastly and my favourite, there was to be a ski jump to encourage entrants, from the village, for the 2012 Olympics. I look forward, along with everyone else, to the replanting.  
*Paul McGill, Two Gate Meadow.*

### **Please Be Seen ...**

A plea to all the people who walk to and from the station via Station Road especially now as the mornings and evenings are darker. There are still some people who leave their journeys to the last minute in a morning and hare up this unlit road like maniacs and as I drive away from the station it terrifies me to see how close they drive to these pedestrians – it can only be a matter of time before there is a nasty accident. However, I feel that the pedestrians could help both drivers and themselves by wearing something reflective and allow drivers to see them before it is too late. Nearly everyone wears dark colours and they CANNOT be seen until the last minute – it would also be helpful if they could walk facing the oncoming traffic. Congratulations to the couple who have flashing lights attached to their rucksacks – please spread the idea to your fellow passengers!  
*Sue Clayton.*

### **Noisy Dogs**

Are there any other long suffering villagers who like me are being driven to distraction by the incessant barking of dogs? I live in Two Gate Lane and am at the end of my tether being subjected daily to dogs barking in Waltham Road and also a particularly noisy dog walked up Two Gate Lane at 8:00am and in the late afternoon. Dog owners should be more thoughtful when leaving dogs unattended or whilst out walking with their four legged friends. Do they not realise that many people now work from home or have long term illness or simply want to relax and have time for thought whilst gardening? A barking dog unchecked is of great nuisance and should not be allowed to ruin the peace and quite craved by others. If you too are plagued by this or something similar, feel free to contact me. Perhaps together we can put a stop to those that repeatedly offend.  
*Tim Clark, e-mail [clarkgas4@aol.com](mailto:clarkgas4@aol.com).*

### **Cancer Day, 4<sup>th</sup> November**

1 <sup>st</sup> Prize	Mrs & Mr Bowyer, Ash Warren
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize	Mrs Harvey, Harveys Field
3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize	Mrs Hunter, Dellands

Thank you so much for the support the village gave me on the day. The total raised was an amazing £957.15 thanks to the generosity of Overton people.

*Corinne Cooke.*

### **Dog Fouling**

It's me again! Concerning dog fouling at The Green. I have done everything I can think of to stop my front garden being a dog toilet but I'm still getting fouling on the path. I've had great support from PC Baldwin, but the person responsible does not care. I have to wash down the path every time this happens. It's not very nice, believe me.

*D M Bridges.*

### **WI**

Overton WI raised £106 for St Michael's hospice at a tea party, held for members and ex members, to celebrate the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the WI movement

*Beryl Beckett.*

---

## **TESTBOURNE NEWS**

*From Teresa Reynolds, Governor.*

### **Invitation to our Christmas Carol Service**

We will be holding our annual traditional Carol Service in All Hallows Parish Church in Whitchurch on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30. Members of the community are warmly invited to join us for this special event.

### **Ex Year 11 Presentation Evening**

This event was held at the end of November and was attended by Year 11 parents, teachers, Governors and special guest Sir George Young, who presented the certificates. Special prizes were awarded to the boy and girl with the highest grades at GCSE, the furthest away balloon released at the end of last summer term (Norfolk) and to the outgoing Head girl and boy. Afterwards all guests mingled over refreshments. Everyone agreed that this was a splendid tradition to maintain in future years.

### **School Council**

At their recent meeting the student representatives agreed the charities they wished to support this year, which are, nationally, The Terence Higgins Trust, and locally, the Wessex Children's Trust. Fundraising events will be held throughout the year.

### **New Telephone System**

If you have telephoned Testbourne since half-term you will have found that a new telephone system is in operation. The old one had been long due for replacement and could no longer cope with the demands placed on it. There are many advantages to the new system: more staff and departments have extensions making it easier to contact them; voicemail messages can be left for those staff; parents and other callers can now leave out-hours-messages, including for pupil absence; we can put emergency messages on the voicemail, for example in the case of closure due to bad weather; we will be able to send out "global" messages to parents; calls to the member of site staff on duty during hours of community use will be routed directly to their mobile. We will also in due course be linking our new system to a first day absence "truancy call" to ensure all pupils have a valid reason for their absence. The downside is, of course, callers now get through initially to a recorded message rather than a real human being! This frustrating element has been kept to an absolute minimum however. Like all new systems there have been a few initial teething problems but we hope the new system actually makes it easier to communicate with the school.

### **On- Line Learning**

We have made more progress on the technological front with the launch of on-line learning. Pupils, staff and parents can log on to Studywiz via the net. They can access their personal "page", complete with resources to support learning. Staff can "post" items such as homework or coursework, details of trips, rehearsal schedules and

examples of good work which can be audio or visual as well as text. Pupils can save and submit their own work too.

---

## O.Y.F.C.

*Tim Clark.*

Overton Youth Football Club will once again be embarking on it's Father Christmas tour of Overton and Laverstoke between Monday 19<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> December. This years fund will be shared with Overton Play Group. We look forward to receiving a warm welcome. Christmas Raffle. Tickets will be available from Paul the Barbers and on sale outside the community centre on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December. The draw will be held at O.U.F.C. on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> 7:30pm; everyone welcome to attend.

---

## 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/62000** Erection of a barn at Ashe Warren Farm. No objection.

**BDB/61983** Erection of a two-storey rear extension at Nutley Lodge, Ashe. No objection.

**BDB/62062** Erection of a two-storey front extension and conversion of roof space to living accommodation involving raising the roof and construction of dormer windows to the rear elevation and the insertion of roof lights to the front and side elevation at 16 Kings Meadow. Objection - development in front of the building line, over development of the site, out of keeping with the estate and detrimental to neighbouring properties.

**BDB/61984** Erection of a front porch at 5 Harvey's Field, Overton. No objection.

**BDB/61974** Erection of a part two storey part single storey rear extension at the Old School House, Ashe. No objection.

**BDB/61409** Display of 2 no non illuminated shop fascia signs at The Old Post Office, 2 High Street. No objection.

---

## DEADLINE NEWS & VIEWS

This will be 16<sup>th</sup> January. 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  
The editor would like to wish all *News & Views* distributors a very happy Christmas and warmest thanks for all their hard work throughout the year.

---

## COMMUNITY CENTRE PARKING

*Paula Baker, Chair, OCA.*

The parking area at the Community Centre is getting very heavily used. **It is private, for Community Centre users only.** It has never been a public car park. The Community Association realises that it is very convenient for people visiting, or working in, the village centre, but we do ask everyone, please, please, do not park at the Community Centre unless you are using the building. Our first priority has to be the safety of users of the building, especially children going to playgroup, the elderly going to lunchclub etc. Their safety is now being compromised by others. Thank you very much for your co-operation.

---

## COMPUTING SKILLS

*Kathleen Burnell, Aldworth Science College.*

*Can we help you?*

Just one telephone call to Aldworth Community Office is all it takes to enrol on our Computing for Beginners course at **Overton Community Centre.**

Our friendly, patient tutor will guide you through Wordprocessing, Spreadsheets and Introduction to Internet and Email.

Next course starts on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2006 at 1pm (registration fee £30)

For more information contact Kathleen ☎ 473698

---

## AWARDS FOR ALL

*Liz Daw, Head of Programme Management.*

Grants of £500 to £5,000 in Lottery money are still available for community projects across England under the Awards for All programme and applications are being encouraged for the £2.5 million remaining to be allocated in the South East this year.

Awards for All is actively encouraging small community groups, schools, health bodies, parish or town councils with projects that support the arts, education, sport, heritage, health and the environment in their community to apply for funding under this scheme.

Money is available now through a straightforward application process. Applicants will be advised within eight weeks if they have been successful and information can be given to groups that are unsure about their eligibility or how to apply.

To find out more about Awards for All grants, who is eligible to apply and how to submit your application, log onto [www.awardsforall.org.uk](http://www.awardsforall.org.uk) or ☎ 0845 600 2040. If you would like to discuss your project before applying please contact the Awards for All South East team ☎ 01483 462 943.

---

## SLEIGH THE PARKING QUEUES

*Basingstoke & Deane BC.*

A joint initiative by Basingstoke & Deane BC and Festival Place, Hampshire's flagship regional shopping centre will see additional parking made available to shoppers from 26<sup>th</sup> November to 15<sup>th</sup> January in the lead up to Christmas and the January sales.

In addition to the town's existing car parks and the Centre shuttle park and ride service at the Leisure Park, one extra car park and an extra park and ride are being provided.

The extra facilities include:

Gresley Road park and ride

Free parking

Return Bus fare; £1 Adult, 50p Concessions, £2 Family  
8am-10pm Mon - Fri 8am to 8pm Sat,

10am to 6pm Sun

Excluding Boxing day, Christmas day and New Year's day

Basing View car park

Car park single fee £3

Maximum stay of 5 hours

Mon - Sat 8am - 7pm

Signs will be in place to direct traffic to the alternative car parks and to direct the flow from Festival Place to ease any congestion caused on leaving the shopping centre.

Following the success of an earlier trial, cars leaving Festival Place car park from the East (main) exit will be redirected through the tunnel under Churchill Way East to the Ringway.

For further information contact: Katie Marlow, Corporate Communications Officer ☎ 01256 845507  
K.Marlow@basingstoke.gov.uk

---

## OVERTON CRICKET CLUB

*Simon Trott*

Overton Cricket Clubs annual awards evening was held at the Test Valley Golf Club on 18<sup>th</sup> November. After hearing from the Chairman and Captains who highlighted the most successful season in the clubs recent history the following awards were presented.

Chairman's Award	Peter Tomlin
1 <sup>st</sup> XI Batsman	Andrew Galvin
1 <sup>st</sup> XI Bowler	Andrew Regan
Sunday Batsman	Peter Blunden
Sunday Bowler	Nick Tomlin
Twenty20 Batsman	Will Kinnear
Twenty20 Bowler	Steve Smith
Scorers Trophy	Dave Pitt

The club would like to thank The Test Valley Golf Club, T.V. Trophies, The Overton Gallery & Chase Sports for helping make the evening a success.

The club averages for 2005 can be found at <http://overtoncc.proboards25.com>

---

## BIODIVERSITY SOCIETY UPDATE

*Jane MacKenzie.*

### Walks and Talks

In the summer over 30 people joined the guided tree walk to Ashe Manor Farm and back led by John Smith and Jim Stickland. This route took in the largest oak tree found so far in the parish (over 18 feet circumference). The walkers ranged in age from newborn to pensioners, and all enjoyed the walk which included lots of laughter and home made cakes and refreshments served up at the source of the River Test. The Dawn Chorus walks, led by Overton's Peter Hutchins, enabled early risers to enjoy the riot of birdsong which precedes the dawn, and to repair to the Community Centre for breakfast.

We've had two excellent and well attended talks recently. 'Skylarks and Subsidies' a joint event with the Overton Society, was led by Alison Cross who was brought up at Ashe and now works for Hampshire Wildlife Trust. 'All about Dormice' was presented by Ian White from Hampshire Mammal Group. Did you know that dormice won't cross tracks, or open areas? Clearing woodland undergrowth is disastrous for them.

### Little Meadow

The planting of native trees and shrubs is proceeding to plan and the logs have been 'tethered.' Please do go in via the small gate and have a look. A hardstanding area and a seat are next on the list to be done.

### Hedge Survey and Ancient Tree Survey

The results of the Hedgerow Survey are posted on our website. [www.overton-biodiversity.org](http://www.overton-biodiversity.org) and are being included in a county wide project. Jim and John have recorded the details of 430 ancient Overton trees – a

mammoth task and probably quite unique nationwide. This priceless data is also being collated and mapped on a computer programme.

Three Self Guided Nature and Heritage Trails are nearly complete which will enable visitors and people new to the village to enjoy our natural and historic heritage, with routes through Flashetts, along the River Test and round the oldest parts of the village.

### Photographic Competition.

Anything of a wildlife theme is welcome. Free entry forms are in the Hospice Shop and can be returned there until the end of February 2006. All entries will be exhibited at our AGM Open Meeting in March.

We now have nearly 200 members and aim to provide the opportunities for people to learn from each other and from specialists, about the precious but vulnerable wildlife habitat which we are lucky enough to enjoy in Overton.

Membership is only £1 for the year and entitles you to reduced rates for our various activities. (These usually include homemade goodies). You will be made very welcome whether you know the difference between robin and a rook or not! Please contact the secretary, Jane ☎ 771121 for more details.

---

## OVERTON METHODIST CHURCH

*Sarah Witchard.*

### **Shoebboxes Bearing Gifts**

Friends and members of Overton Methodist Church have packed an amazing 218 shoebboxes for 'Operation Christmas Child'. These will be sent to a Southampton warehouse to become part of thousands of boxes which will be sent out to 15 eastern European countries and also Mozambique. They will be distributed to children in refugee camps, schools, hospitals and shelled flats and to street children. These young people live in extreme poverty caused by civil war and other disasters.

Mary Burton, who co-ordinates the annual packing and collection explained "We collect items for the boxes throughout the year, then start the serious packing in about October – the boxes include toys, pens, pencils, a woolly hat, toothbrushes and toothpaste, puzzles and sweets and of course a cuddly toy. For children who have nothing, these shoebboxes sent from Overton with our love, might be the only gift they get. People are so generous and I do thank everyone who helps to make this wonderful donation."

The local enthusiasm for 'Operation Christmas Child' means that people are already planning what to put into their 2006 boxes!

If you have any queries about the above information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

3 Mount Pleasant, Freefolk, Whitchurch, RG28 7NX

☎ 893666 (E), 850777 (D)

email: sarah@witchard.com

---

## STEVENTON CHILDREN'S HOUSE

*Marianne Preece.*

Steventon Children's House is a Montessori nursery school for children aged between 2 and 5 years old situated in the

Parish Hall of Steventon. Sir George Young M.P. opened our doors at Easter 2005.

Our high adult: child ratios enable us to cater for the needs of every individual within a Montessori environment.

We provide organic fruit and vegetables for snacks, enjoy nature walks and have access to large gardens as we make the most of our idyllic location.

Last month the School celebrated winning a 'Sure start' grant from Hampshire County Council which enabled us to pay off our loans as well as buying musical instruments.

We are offering **free** taster sessions to children this term.

This is an ideal opportunity to find out more about us. We are registered for the 'Early Years Education Grant' for 3 and 4 year olds, Please contact me on the number below if you are interested or call in and see us, we welcome all visitors.

Marianne Preece ☎ 770720 or e-mail [mariannepreece@lineone.net](mailto:mariannepreece@lineone.net).

---

## THE VYNE

### *Press Office.*

#### **Christmas with all the Trimmings at The Vyne**

Enjoy a seasonal outing to this beautiful 16<sup>th</sup> century lakeside estate in Hampshire and celebrate the magic of Christmas in traditional style. Bookings are being taken for festive Tudor lunches from Thursday to Sunday in the beautifully restored Elizabethan Brewhouse. Or just drop in and wander along our garden walk or through the woods and then enjoy a seasonal home-cooked meal and browse for Christmas presents in the National Trust gift shop.

There's a wonderful variety of seasonal gifts at the shop and while stocks last every purchase of £25 or over from the shop receives a free gift. If you're looking for something more unusual this year, why not give someone a ticket to one of our popular lecture lunches on a wide variety of topics from art to archaeology. You could even buy someone a gift membership so that they can enjoy over 300 historic places and gardens all the year round.

A special event is that for the first time visitors will be given a special opportunity to view The Vyne's beautiful Tudor Chapel, with a nativity scene, festive music and traditional decorations. The chapel will be open on Saturday 10 and

Sunday 11 December from 11am until 3pm (admission by way of donation).

Christmas opening times - Restaurant, Shop & a Garden Walk: 3 November to 23 December Thursday to Sunday 11am to 3pm. No admission charge (except events).

To buy a ticket for a lecture lunch ☎ 01494 755572. To book a meal, a visit to Father Christmas and his grotto, or find out more about any of these events call the Estate Office ☎ 883858. Gift memberships can be purchased at The Vyne.

For further information or to arrange a photo shoot please contact: Kellie Coughlin, Assistant Visitor Services Manager at The Vyne, Vyne Road, Sherborne St John, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG24 9HL. ☎ 883858 or Fax no. 01256 881720. Email [kellie.coughlin@nationaltrust.co.uk](mailto:kellie.coughlin@nationaltrust.co.uk)

---

## **BASINGSTOKE OVER 55's FORUM**

*Gerald L Merritt, Secretary Over 55s Forum.*

One of our main objects is "to provide a forum, a network and a voice for the over 55s in the borough of Basingstoke & Deane, putting their views directly to the public authorities as a consultative group".

This is an invitation for all Over 55's in the borough to attend the inaugural Annual General Meeting of the Basingstoke & Deane Over 55's Forum, to be held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December at the Ark Conference Centre, Dinwoodie Drive, Basingstoke (on the North Hampshire Hospital site.)

Tea and Coffee will be served from 10am for a 10.30am start, and we finish with a buffet lunch.

Guest speakers are from Stagecoach, Hackney Carriage Federation and Hampshire Fire and Rescue.

Since being set up in mid 2004, the Over 55's Forum has gone from strength to strength with some 300 people wishing to become members, also the forum has just launched the Essential 55 Plus Guide with great success. If you would like to attend this AGM please contact Gerald.

L. Merritt on ☎ 412119 ..E.Mail

[gerald.merritt@ntlworld.com](mailto:gerald.merritt@ntlworld.com) or Heather Ann Worrell on ☎ 845238..E.Mail [ha.worrell@basingstoke.gov.uk](mailto:ha.worrell@basingstoke.gov.uk)

---

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](mailto: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](mailto:john@hid.cc), or Vice Chairman Sarah Mills, e-mail [Sarahmills46@hotmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:opc@overtonvillage.com).

---