

News and Views

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

February 2006

PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

From Parish Councillor Brian Langer and Clerk Laura Harley.

Parish Council Meetings

Taking place in the Community Centre		
Wednesday 8 th February:	Planning	7.00pm
	Public time	7.30pm
	Main meeting	8.00pm
Tuesday 28 th February:	Planning	7.30pm
	Finance/Gen. Purposes	8.00pm

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

St Mary's Hall

The builders should have completed their part of the refurbishment work to the hall which included insulation, remodelling of the entrance lobby and new doors and works to the fascia. It remains for volunteers to complete the works to the backstage area to make a small committee room that can be split into two changing rooms and a new toilet. The hall is now available to hire for evening and daytime use, and if you would like to use it on a regular basis there is still a Wednesday evening slot available. The hall is licensed for all forms of entertainment (except wrestling) and for the sale of alcohol. Please contact Laura Harley ☎ 01962 774296 to make a booking.

Here are a few dates for your diary:

Hampshire Moviola – Cinema in Overton

Tuesday 21st February at 7.30pm *Shall we Dance?*
(Cert 12A)

Romance starring Richard Gere, Susan Sarandon and Jennifer Lopez

Tuesday 21st March at 7.30pm *Mrs Henderson Presents*
(Cert 12A)

Period comedy (wartime) starring Judi Dench, Bob Hoskins, Will Young and Kelly Reilly

Tickets £4 available from Overton Fireplaces or on the day.

Saturday 4th March at 7.30 pm *Barcodes Blues Band*

Tickets £10 from Overton Fireplaces.

Table Top Sales

Saturday 25th February and 25th March.

Overton Hill

The work to the Overton Hill Car Park should start in mid to late February.

Traffic Regulation Orders

The borough council, in order to tackle some of the more pressing parking issues in the centre of the village and following consultation with the Parish Council, will be publicising several Traffic Regulation Orders shortly, including one revocation. If you wish to make a comment please ensure you meet the published deadline. These

Orders cover parking at the junction of Waltham Road and the B3400, the junction of Waltham Road and Battens Avenue and thirdly Bridge Street. One Order will also intend to provide a parking place for the disabled close to the pharmacy in Winchester Street. Instead of revoking the disabled driver bay provision from Poyntz Road the Parish Council asked the borough council to properly mark out the bay on the ground and display the appropriate signage.

Silk Mill Lane to Court Drove.

A parishioner asked that something be done to slow down traffic on this road which has no pavement and no verge along some stretches. It technically has the national speed limit for all purpose roads of 60mph but it is used not only by children going to school but also by many villagers who enjoy the walk to Southington away from the B3400. If you are a vehicular user of the lane please show consideration towards pedestrians who have a right to be in the lane too.

Neighbourhood Park off Overton Hill

This will be developed by Croudace, in conjunction with the borough council, and will be positioned at the eastern end of the site at the top of the hill adjacent to the existing football ground. It will contain some sculpture with a sheep theme to its design, representing Overton's historical link with sheep. It will be usable as seats and produced in concrete with some mosaics. The Parish Council was given a presentation in January by the sculptor, with a member of Croudace management present. Although the Parish Council, as well as the sculptor, is keen to involve sectors of the community in the final design it was disappointed by the lack of consultation by Croudace on the matter. If you are interested in getting involved please contact the parish clerk.

Parish Council Budget 2006/7

It was agreed at the December meeting that the parish precept would increase by 2.5% to £52,911. A large element of this relates to the ongoing costs arising from the community's decision to purchase St Mary's Hall some years ago. Full details from the parish clerk.

Borough Wards Boundary Review

The Boundary Committee for England advised in the autumn that a review would take place and sought the Parish Council's view. Subsequently the borough council informed us of the options they were submitting. The Parish Council's submission stated that it preferred the current ward boundary and had no wish to be linked to North Waltham. It did seek a more equitable representation of all communities many of which in rural areas were under represented on the borough council.

Fireworks Regulations

Many parishioners were startled by the loud but spectacular display of fireworks a few weeks ago, at a time many folk had gone to bed. This together with the nuisance caused by the fireworks set off around New Year and 5th November,

resulted in the parish clerk seeking clarity on the regulations. It is an offence to let off fireworks after 11pm and those in excess of 120 decibels should not be ignited.

Station Approach/Copse Road Footway

This footway is not adopted highway but its recent obstruction by machinery etc related to building works has caused problems for local residents, both as pedestrians and when exiting Cope Road with restricted sight lines. At the January council meeting the police agreed to investigate the matter in relation to road safety issues.

Overton Hill Housing Development

Nicholas Parsons from Croudace informed the Parish Council at the January meeting that work on the road access would re-start in mid January and take 12 weeks to complete. The housing would start thereafter, with completion of around one house per week. The southern section, nearest the B3400, would be built first.

Annual Parish Meeting

A date for your diary – the Annual Parish Meeting will be held on 17th May at a venue still to be decided. This will be after the borough council election in May 2006, at which one of this ward's seats has an election, and will be at the start of the final year of the current Parish Council whose councillors' period of office ends in May 2007.

Traffic Lights

After several weeks of an unduly long green phase for traffic from the Basingstoke direction, encouraging the use of rat runs by traffic from other directions, the county council has reset the mechanism and things seem back to normal.

ST LUKE'S HALL UPDATE

Chris Penney, Hon Secretary.

Diamond Jubilee Anniversary

Nearly 60 years ago, on 7th June 1946, the Bank of England gave St Luke's Hall and grounds to the parishioners of Overton as a thank-you for the hospitality shown by Overtonians to the many employees of the Bank of England who had been evacuated to our village during World War II. The hall had been built as the social club for the Bank's employees - and was never intended to last for more years than it took to secure peace in Europe: even during the austere 1940s, no-one would have expected that a single-skinned building would still be in active use 60 years later! But in fact there were more bookings in 2005 than any other year for which we can trace records! So we would like to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee by a village event at St Luke's Hall on Saturday 10th June 2006. Please put the date in your diaries now – and let us know asap if you have any ideas to help make this milestone anniversary unforgettable. Thank you in advance for your support.

FITNESS CLASSES

Jill Hills.

Monday Motivator St Mary's Church Rooms 7:30pm - 8:30pm.

Friday Fun Fitness Class St Mary's Hall 9:15am - 10:15am
Want to get fit, lose weight, tone up and have fun all at the same time?

Then join me in my well established classes for some basic Aerobics and Body Conditioning. All abilities catered for.
Jill Hills 07879473759.

POLICE NEWS

PC Richard Baldwin.

Police Surgeries –new dates

Wednesday 22nd February

All going well it should take about nine days to complete the 1000 miles; if you wish to sponsor Rich and Ray please forward donations to Whitchurch Police Station or to Peter Baker at the Fireplace Gallery.

If you would like to make a donation by cheque, please make it payable to Naomi House.

Many thanks for your continued support.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Churchyard Burials

Further to the recent paragraph in "News and Views" we thought it would be worthwhile to provide an update on the situation regarding the planned use of the existing churchyard for burials.

The Church Council has prepared and submitted a "Faculty" (a formal request for approval) to the Diocese of Winchester requesting their approval of the plans to use the existing churchyard for burials.

A Public Notice has been displayed at the church since 18th December, as required by the Diocese, such that anyone wishing to raise any objections could do so to the Diocesan Registrar.

The Faculty will be reviewed by the Diocesan Advisory Committee, at its monthly meeting, after which we will be notified of its decision. We expect the decision to be in the affirmative since at a preliminary review held on 7th September the proposal was recommended with certain conditions that we believe have now been satisfied.

Whilst the number of usable plots can probably be defined quite accurately, the number of parishioners opting for burial is a variable. Since the opening of the new Parish cemetery in 1984 there have been 195 burials. If this same rate continues, the area planned to be used under the present Faculty would provide a further 40 years for burials.

Brian Elkins, Glebe Meadow.

Charity Slim

Penny Lambert of Red Lion Lane is doing a sponsored slim to raise money for the Motor Neurone Disease Association. If you would like to sponsor her you can do so at Budden's Pharmacy or H-C Travel. Every little helps!

David Grist.

TESTBOURNE NEWS

Teresa Reynolds, Governor.

Performing Arts Status

This term we are beginning to see some of the plans related to our new specialist status in the performing arts take shape. Tickets are on sale for the first major production "Titanic – the unsinkable dream", the story of a White Star Liner told as a Dance, Drama, Music and Visual Spectacular, written by the new Head of Drama. This will be staged at the Theatre Royal, Winchester from Thursday 23rd to Saturday 25th March. There will be four performances, including a Saturday matinee, and tickets, priced £8, £7, £19 for families and £4.50 for concessions, can be obtained through the theatre box office (☎ 01962 840440) or booked directly online (www.theatre-royal-winchester.co.uk). Please come along and join us for this inaugural event to celebrate our new status.

OVERTON WINE CLUB

Phil Cooke.

A reminder to everyone with an interest in wine that the Overton Wine Club has once again an interesting and varied programme for 2006 – tastings, trip and barbeque. The OWC ethos is that wine is better tasted in a cheerful, social setting with food to accompany – and this is done every third Thursday of the month from 8pm at the Overton Memorial Institute. For more information call Ann Loader ☎ 773030 or Phil Cooke ☎ 771263, or turn up on the night.

OVERTON SCOUTS

Michael Reeves

To All 10½ to 14 Year Olds!

Do you enjoy having fun and adventure?

At our weekly meetings with **Overton Scouts Group** we offer all kinds of outdoor activities like hiking, camping, games, orienteering, campfires and indoor-fun plus much, much more. We currently have limited places available for boys and girls ages 10 ½ to 14 to join our meetings on Wednesdays 7.30pm to 9.30pm (term-time only).

Ring Stuart ☎ 770717 or Martina ☎ 771913 for details.

OVERTON RECREATION CENTRE

Colin Parker.

Dog Fouling at Berrydown

The village is aware that Overton Recreation Centre (ORC) is developing the land at Berrydown adjacent to the existing football pitch as playing surfaces for Overton Rugby Club. A number of instances have been reported of dogs fouling the land where the playing surfaces will be. The dog owners have not removed the animal waste. The land will be contaminated if this practice continues and be a serious danger when the Rugby Club begin to use the land. The area belongs to B&DBC and is leased to ORC. It is therefore private land in the same sense as the ORC land in Bridge Street.

Notices at the site indicate that dogs should not be walked on the land. These will be made more visible. In the meantime, ORC appeals to all dog owners to restrict their animals toilet activities to areas well away from the land that is being developed and to remove the waste when it occurs. Thank you.

Annual General Meeting, Bridge Street Pavilion
Monday 6th March 2006, 8:15pm, All Welcome.
Come And Help Us!

We need volunteers in several capacities, to help the smooth running of ORC affairs. In particular we need new collectors, but any offers of help will be welcome. If you are interested, please call Colin Parker ☎ 771038, or come along to the AGM on 6th March.

Congratulations to Joanne Woodham for winning the £500 prize in the January draw, and to Davina Crane for winning £200. (These are the correct amounts, apologies for any confusion on the draw sheets).

DEADLINE NEWS & VIEWS

This will be 16th February. 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 SOCIETY

Sue Carter.

Richard Baldwin, our Community Policeman will be the speaker at the next meeting of the Overton Society on Wednesday, 22nd February, at 8pm in the Community Centre. He will be speaking on community policing, neighbourhood watch and other allied matters. There will be plenty of opportunity for questions and discussion. All are welcome – non-members £2 admission.

LIBRARY NEWS

Chris Vane, Library Supervisor.

We had lots of colourful entries for our Christmas competition, and they were all so good that I was glad to ask someone else to judge them! Anna, one of our Children's team, kindly agreed to take this on, and she decided the following: 6 and under winner Susie Harrison; runner-up Bryony Coulter.
7 - 11 winner Rebeka Batty; runner-up Artemis Polemis.
Well done to you all.

OVERTON HISTORY SOCIETY

Richard Oram.

Several new members have made the comment "what a friendly group". Well, come and join us at our next meeting; March 2nd at 8pm in the Community Centre. The topic is "The Rise of Civilisation in Early Egypt". All welcome.

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/62246 Erection of a single storey front and side extension at 6 Glebe Meadow. No objection.

BDB/61966 Erection of a single storey rear extension, first floor side extension and detached garage at 13 Pound Road. No objection but query access to new garage over highways land in Mede Close.

BDB/62332 Demolition of concrete sectional garage and erection of a single storey front extension to form new attached garage, erection of a two storey side/rear extension and conversion of roof space to living accommodation at Sherdon, Bridge Street. No objection.

BDB/62347 Erection of a detached garage to front elevation of Dunroamin, Winchester Street. Objection – new garage to be placed in front of the building line. The Planning Inspector has recently turned down two similar applications in Winchester Street - at Laren and Glengarry.

BDB/62441/4 Change of use of gate lodge stable dwelling with internal alterations. Erection of glasshouses following demolition of existing at Berrydown Court,

London Road (planning permission and Listed Building Consent). No objection.

BDB/62414 Permanent use of land and building for storage of vintage buses at Beacon Farm, Coxford Down. No objection.

BDB/62471 Erection of a shed in rear garden (retrospective) at 30 Poyntz Road. No comment.

OVERTON BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Noelle Moysi.

The OBA thanks all those who came along to enjoy the festivities and entertainment on our Christmas shopping night in November. The village looked wonderful again this year with the lights along the High Street and Winchester Street and there have been reports of many flattering comments from visitors.

The OBA will be having its **Annual General Meeting** on Tuesday 7th March at 7.30pm at The Honeypot on Winchester Street. Membership of the OBA is open to all local commercial organisations, business owners, traders and self-employed both retail and non-retail, and is a valuable way to make business contacts as well as forming a powerful group for positive action in the village. All current and prospective members are invited to the AGM, and we look forward to seeing you there. Please contact our Membership Secretary Melanie Wincott with any queries ☎ 772956.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Public Transport Representative Brian Langer.

Buses

All users of the revised Sunday 76/86 service, which was secured last October thanks to funding from B&DBC, should contact either of the borough councillors for Overton, Laverstoke and Steventon ward – Cllr Paula Baker and Cllr Ian Tilbury – to ensure every effort is made to continue funding into financial year 2006/7, starting in April. Existing funding was only for a six month period and there was no guarantee that the subsidy would be long term. If you would be inconvenienced by any withdrawal of the service you need to make your views known to your borough councillors as well as to the Parish Council.

Trains

South West Trains franchise bid

The Department for Transport has announced the companies/partnerships short-listed to bid for the existing franchise which expires in February 2007. The existing operator is one of those short-listed. The new franchise will run for seven years with the possibility of an extension to ten years if certain conditions are met. Details available on the DfT website – www.DfT.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. 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.com.
