

News and Views

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

April 2006

PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

Parish Councillor Alan Whitney and Clerk Laura Harley.

Parish Council Meetings

Taking place in the Community Centre

Wednesday April 12 th :	Planning	7.00pm
	Public time	7.30pm
	Main meeting	8.00pm
Tuesday April 25 th :	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.

Playing Field Equipment

At its March meeting, the Parish Council authorised the placing of orders for the following: Edward Kersley Playing Field – a timber frame 20m zip line at a cost of £9,300 from EJ Services. This equipment should be installed at the end of May/beginning of June; Sapley Lane Playing Field – two green painted metal seats at a cost of £524 each plus £107 each for installation from Neptune Outdoor Furniture.

Reduction of Speed Limits at Southington

The Parish Council considered concerns at the speed of traffic on the B3400 at Southington and has agreed to support the request of an extension of the 30mph speed limit between Harvey's Field and the existing 40mph limit. The Roads Policing Unit of the Hampshire Police Authority has carried out speed checks at Southington and this showed that the average speed of traffic was 33mph with a top speed of 43mph. The Parish Council has supported PC Baldwin's request for double white lines to be painted on the B3400 between Overton and Laverstoke and also from the east of the village towards the Deane Gate public house where the twists and turns obscure the sight lines. It would also like to see stretches of the B3400 subjected to a maximum 50mph limit. The Parish Council is concerned at the frequency of traffic accidents along the B3400 and is using every opportunity to raise these concerns.

Quiet Lanes

Our country lanes, so much a part of the character of the parish are under increasingly heavy use by private cars, commercial vehicles, tractors and other vehicles. The results are damage to verges, more litter and the increasing risk to walkers, horse riders and others who wish to enjoy using these ancient routes away from the main roads. A parish resident has recently complained about the increasing use of Two Gate Lane as a by-pass by drivers seeking to avoid driving through the centre of the village, also encouraged by the temporary traffic lights on Overton Hill. The Parish Council is trying to get the traffic lights moved to a point

east of Two Gate Lane to minimise the use of the lane as a by-pass route.

All lanes within the parish are under threat from increasingly heavy use. Do other residents consider that this is a problem which needs attention? Has anyone any suggestions that would help to discourage the use of the lanes as rat-runs by drivers? If you have the answers to these questions, then come along to the a Parish Council meeting and take part in Public Time or air your views in writing to the Parish Council or through *News and Views*.

St Mary's Hall News

Unfortunately we had to postpone the recent performance by the **Barcodes Blues Band** which has now been rescheduled for Saturday 23rd September at 7.30pm – tickets £5 from Overton Fireplaces – we have heard from several sources that the Barcodes are an excellent band so please come along and support this evening's entertainment.

The **Moviola** evenings are proving to be a great success with over 100 tickets sold for the March showing of Mrs Henderson Presents. The next show will be The Constant Gardener on Tuesday 18th April at 7.30 pm – tickets £4 in advance from Overton Fireplaces and £4.50 on the door. From May, the shows will move to a Friday evening and will take place on 26th May, 30th June and 21st July 2006 – all films to be announced.

We are pleased to announce that **dog training classes** will be held in the hall from Tuesday 2nd May. There will be puppy training for dogs under 12 months old from 7.30 – 8.30pm and training for older dogs from 8.30 – 9.30pm. For further details, please contact Fiona ☎ 01962 855426 or email swdte@yahoo.co.uk.

We also intend to hold some **taster dance sessions** – please look out for further details.

Garden Project. We are still in need of willing helpers to finish off the garden project at the hall. Please contact Peter Baker.

Market Town Healthchecks

Hampshire's market towns and larger villages have been the focus for social and commercial activity for centuries. In recent weeks the national news media has been reporting on the increasing rate at which small businesses are being forced to close because of the dominance of the supermarket chains; between 1995 and 2000, Britain lost 20% of its corner shops, banks, Post Offices and public houses. Outside support is now being offered by Hampshire County Council's Economic Development Department in partnership with the South East of England Development Agency to cope with future changes by spearheading the Market Towns Initiative. The aim is to work with rural

communities to assess strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats and decide what needs to be done within and by that community to prevent their decline.

The county council has appointed a Market Towns Initiative Coordinator, Anne Harrison, whose role is to help rural communities develop their own community led regeneration initiatives. Already some twenty towns and villages in Hampshire are or have been involved in carrying out these assessments referred to as Healthchecks. Once the Healthcheck process has been completed and action plans agreed and submitted, funding can be allocated from SEEDA's Small Rural Towns Funding Programme. Anne Harrison and Jo Dixon (of Community Action Hampshire) have been invited to speak about the Market Towns Initiative and Parish Plans at the **Annual Parish Meeting** which is to be held in the newly refurbished St Mary's Hall at 7.45pm on 17th May. This is an opportunity for anyone in the parish who is concerned about the threat of decline in our rural communities to come and find out how this can be halted. Anyone wishing to find out more can contact Anne Harrison ☎ 01962 846558 or email anne.harrison@hants.gov.uk.

Website News

Virginia Langer

Keep in touch with what's going on in Overton -- latest news articles on www.overtonvillage.com include news from PC Richard Baldwin on his sponsored bike ride from John O'Groats to Land's End, and an illustrated update from Croudace Homes on the new housing development on Overton Hill. Also, remember to post your club or society dates on the website's village diary, so that website users can access times and details of your event.

In April the website will be running a photo competition, with prizes for young and old. So keep watching, and see how well you *really* know your village.

BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORT

Cllrs Ian Tilbury & Paula Baker

Following the Local Plan Inquiry, the Inspector recommended a number of modifications to the Plan, which have now been considered by the Borough Council, and a view formed as to whether it wishes to accept the recommendation and to amend the Local Plan, or to reject the Inspector's recommendations.

Details of all proposed modifications are available on the Councils website www.basingstoke.gov.uk or in the library.

None of the numerous sites being proposed by developers in Overton are supported by the inspector, or the Borough Council.

While this gives Overton some breathing space, the inspectors unexpected decision to reduce the period of the Local Plan from 2016 to 2011 means that we will have to repeat this process 5 years sooner than planned. Shortening the plan period has created considerable uncertainty over the proposed Manydown development. Clearly a major development area on this scale requires considerable forward planning to ensure the infrastructure requirements can be met. If this has not been sorted out by the time this plan expires, any future inspector could decide that Overton, along with Whitchurch & Tadley, which are seen as the most sustainable locations for housing

development outside Basingstoke, could be required to fill any gap in future housing provision.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

The Moon Walk

Seven ladies from the village have been accepted to take part in The Moon Walk which covers the London Marathon route (26 miles) overnight on May 20th, in aid of Breast Cancer.

We are walking along the lanes around Overton as we train. *So please give us a smile instead of a frown as you slow down! A donation would be good too!*

If you would like to sponsor us, please see one of us or call into Playgroup.

Thank you for your support

Jo Aris, Amanda Collins, Karen Elliott, Amanda Igo, Sally Stone, Tracy Waissen.

OVERTON DRAMATIC SOCIETY

Jill Smith.

We are now well into rehearsals for our next show, "**Return to the Forbidden Planet**". It is a musical by Bob Carlton, inspired by the motion picture "Forbidden Planet", based loosely on Shakespeare's "The Tempest" and performed by arrangement with Josef Weinberger Ltd. Join Captain Tempest and his fearless crew on their journey into hyperspace and beyond, accompanied by red-hot rock and roll hits from the sixties.

The show runs from Tuesday 20th - Saturday 24th June at St Mary's Hall, with check-in at 7.30pm and take-off at 7.45pm. There will be a bar and seating is cabaret style.

Tickets, priced at £6.50 and £5.50 concessions, including coffee or tea, are available from 10th April at the Faraway Tree, 25, The High Street, Overton ☎ 770333.

POLICE NEWS

PC Richard Baldwin – Contact Details

Should anyone wish to speak to me please contact me on my work mobile number - **07776 172303**, if I'm off-duty at the time of your call you will be transferred automatically to the Police Control Room (0845 045 45 45) where you can leave a message for me or report any matters to the Police Operator.

Alternatively you can contact me by e-mail on richard.baldwin@hampshire.pnn.police.uk

In the event of an emergency, please call 999.

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/62822 Erection of an extension to the east elevation of the pool house at Frost Hill Farmhouse, Kingsclere Road. No objection.

BDB/62875 Erection of a detached garage following demolition of existing at 54 High Street. No objection.

BDB/62879 Installation of French doors to rear of elevation following demolition of existing flat roof at the Overton Gallery, High Street. No objection.

BDB/62949 T2 Oak tree, crown reduction by 20%; crown thinning by 15% at 1 The Orchard, Winchester Street. There was concern that this was a very severe treatment of this tree. The applicant, who was at the meeting stated that the borough council Tree Officer had viewed the tree and that the application had been put together by the contractor who was to carry out the work and a tree surgeon who stated that the tree needed to be made tidy. It was noted that there was also a new Tree Policy which would impact on this application. It was agreed not to object but to seek the advice of the Tree Officer.

OVERTON RECREATION CENTRE

Colin Parker

The ORC held its Annual Meeting on March 6th at Bridge Street Pavilion.

Chairman Paul Wheeler welcomed Paula Baker, Mayor of Basingstoke and Deane who presented the Young Sportsman of the Year Award for 2006, to Nick Tomlin. Nick has already, at 16 years of age, earned himself a reputation as a cricketer of note. He is now a regular in the Overton 1st XI and is developing into a fine left arm swing bowler. We wish him continued success and will follow his career with interest.

The Chairman told a packed hall that, in this 40th year for ORC, he had high hopes of a revitalized organisation based on completion of the Berrydown Project and the possibility of a multi sports facility on the site. ORC now has some 2000 `users` in the 22 groups that use its facilities and is looking to build on this solid foundation to provide further excellent opportunities for recreation in the village.

Town Meadow boundary with the Whitchurch Road

Many of you will know that there has been an on going debate over the future of the leylandi "hedge" opposite Kings Meadow. The trees lie within the Overton Conservation Area and are on the land leased to ORC by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council. The matter was raised by the Golf Club at the ORC Annual Meeting and is now in the hands of the ORC Trustees.

Congratulations to the £1000 winner in the February draw, Sarah Mellor; and to the other winners: I Phillimore, £200 and Mrs G Sheldon, Chris Sharp & Lew Difford, £100.

OVERTON RUGBY CLUB

Gary Millar.

Overton rugby club's under 13s team will be playing in the final of the Hampshire county cup on Sunday 9th April against local giants Winchester RFC.

Overton beat opposition from all over Hampshire on their way to the final. In the semi finals they met Trojans RFC (Southampton), who claim to be one of the largest and oldest rugby clubs in the county. In an extremely hard fought game Overton ran out 26 – 17 winners.

The under 13s squad have also been placed in division 1 on the newly formed Hampshire league and will play teams from Portsmouth, Havant, Southampton as well as the

Channel Isles. Local rivals Basingstoke and Andover are both placed in Division 2.

Many of the team attend Testbourne school and as a rugby squad they were awarded the 2005-6 Basingstoke and Deane young team of the year. This crowns off a great year for the school; Daily Telegraph emerging schools national champions, Runners up in the Daily Telegraph national team of the year and now the Basingstoke and Deane award. Overton coach Gary Millar was Basingstoke and Deane coach of the year 2003-4, so it looks like the boys are following in his footsteps.

If you are interested in playing rugby please go to www.overtonrugby.com or contact Gary ☎ 770759.

LIBRARY NEWS

Chris Vane, Library Supervisor.

Our free internet service has been very well used recently - so much so that we have decided that to be fair to everyone, we will be limiting sessions to 45 minutes, which will allow more people to have a turn each day.

On Thursday 6th April there will be an Easter storytime in the library for 4 - 7s. It will run from 4 - 4.30 and as space is limited admission will be by ticket. These are free but must be booked in advance. Parents or carers must remain in the library.

OVERTON CHORAL SOCIETY

Lyn Hardy

It has been a very hectic few weeks for members of the Choral Society as they rehearsed for both Come and Sing Messiah Choruses and Elijah.

Elijah is proving to be a very popular piece and members are enjoying the joint rehearsals with the other County Music Festival Choirs which are taking place in Winchester. The concert will take place on Saturday May 13th in Winchester Cathedral and tickets are on sale now. The annual Winchester & County Music Festival, which involves choirs from the area and has some fantastic soloists, is always worth attending. Two or more works are performed in Romsey Abbey and Winchester Cathedral each year. Next year we will be performing in Romsey Abbey.

DEADLINE NEWS & VIEWS

This will be 16th April. Please send your articles to the editor in writing (typed), on a PC floppy disk or by e-mail. The email address is NewsandviewsRG25@aol.com

FRIENDS OF OVERTON SURGERY

Chris Smith.

The Annual General Meeting of the Friends will be held at The Community Centre, on Wednesday 17th May, at 8pm. This is a Group with Charitable Status to oversee the effective use of bequests made to the Overton Practice for the benefit of the patients.

All patients over 18 who are registered with the Overton Practice are invited to attend. The Annual Accounts will be available for inspection at Overton Surgery from 10th May. Nominations for membership of the Executive Committee should be submitted to the Secretary by 3rd May and must be supported by at least 2 patients over 18 years of age.

Notice of any resolutions to be considered should be given to the Secretary by 3rd May and must be tabled by not less than 10 patients over 18 years of age.

For more information contact: The Chairman, Bill Denny ☎ 770183 or the Secretary - Chris Smith ☎ 397283.

OVERTON BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Noelle Moysi

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 2nd May at 7.30pm in The Honeypot on Winchester Street. The feature event will be a presentation by Wendy Funnell of Business Xchange, a thriving Hampshire and Dorset based business network organised and run by Business Link Wessex (a local business support service). Business Xchange gives members and visitors an opportunity to showcase their businesses, network with other members and obtain useful support. 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 come to the next meeting, and we look forward to seeing you there.

Please contact our Membership Secretary Melanie Wincott with any queries ☎ 772956 or ☎ 770333.

PLAYGROUP NEWS

Lorna Bloor

Spring has sprung at Overton Playgroup, and we have all been enjoying the garden at Playgroup with the bulbs beginning to bloom.

We have a busy term ahead of us, including our fantastic version of the Tour de France, our sponsored cycle ride at School, we and all the children are looking forward to it. We also have our Fundraising Open Morning on Saturday May 20th, 10am to 12 noon. This is a lovely opportunity for you to see what your children get up to at playgroup and share in some of their activities, whilst having a coffee and getting your face painted! This year we hope to have a homemade cake stall, tombola, raffle, and a Pebble Painting competition. The garden will be open and there will be toys to play with both inside and out.

We would also like to say a big thank you to Overton Football club for their very generous donation of £600 raised by the annual Christmas float in Overton and Laverstoke.

As I mentioned we are really enjoying our garden, but as ever we need help to cut the grass in our garden. We have our own lawnmower and strimmer. If the grass is cut once a week it only takes about 25 minutes. It can be done at weekends or evenings. If you feel that you can help, please

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 Parish Councillors – Maggie Atkins (770369), Mark Attwell (770472), Peter Baker (770007), Paula Baker (771219 – also Borough Councillor), Sue Johnson (770975), Brian Langer (770848 – Transport and Highways Representative), Liz Lewis (770576), Lucy Sloane Williams (770607), Ian Tilbury (771429 – also Borough Councillor), Alan Whitney (770174). Clerk to the Council is Laura Harley, Oak Tree Lodge, Roundwood, Micheldever, Winchester, Hants. SO21 3BA, ☎ 01962 774186, email opc@overtonvillage.com.

see the form on the notice board in the Playgroup Entrance at the Community Centre. The more names we have, the more the work can be shared.

BASINGSTOKE OVER 55 FORUM

Gerald Merritt.

A SPECIAL EVENT on Wednesday 19th April. Basingstoke has been chosen to stage a performance of "TRICKSTER" by the Hampshire County Council Trading Standards in conjunction with the B & D Over 55s Forum, at the Carnival Hall, Council Road, Basingstoke, 2 to 3.30pm. This is a very IMPORTANT event to draw attention of ALL the Over 55s to rogue traders knocking on your door to get you to have work carried out.

OVERTON PARISH LINUX SOCIETY

Adam Trickett.

What is Linux? What is Free Software? Can I use Linux? If you are interested in using Linux at home, school or work on your computer then come along to a meeting and find out how.

Our meetings take place on the third Friday of the month in the village at 7:30pm and are free. You are encouraged to bring along your computer and share in the experience. 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 web site for more details. <http://iredale.dyndns.org/opals/>

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Public Transport Representative Brian Langer.
Easter weekend and May Day weekend

Buses

A Sunday service will operate on Good Friday 14 April, Easter Sunday 16 April, Easter Monday 17 April and on Monday 1 May. A Saturday service will be operated by Stagecoach on services 76/86 and the Village Shuttle, service 74, on 15 April and 29 April.

Trains

A Saturday service will operate on 14 and 17 April and also on 1 May, with the normal Saturday and Sunday service operating on 15 and 16 April respectively. However, major engineering works will be in operation between Farnborough and Andover between 29 April and 1 May which will affect Overton services so please check with 0845 7 48 49 50 for full details nearer the time.