

News and Views

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

May 2006

PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

Parish Councillors Maggie Atkins & Brian Langer and Clerk Laura Harley.

Parish Council Meetings

Taking place in the Community Centre

Wednesday 10 th May:	Planning	7.00pm
	Public time	7.30pm
	Main meeting	8.00pm
Tuesday 23 rd May:	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.

Car Parking

Overton has a new car park!!

The new car park on Overton Hill is now complete and it is hoped that people who park in the village all day will make use of it thus releasing any centre car parking areas for shoppers. This will be of benefit to the shops in the village and encourage shoppers from other areas.

There are now bottle banks installed at the car park with much easier access than the existing sites.

Two Gate Lane

The rapid deterioration of the verges in the lane was again raised at April's meeting. One way traffic orders are not favoured as they increase traffic speed. A proposal was put that the road should be blocked off just east of Moores Farm's entrance and at Two Gate Meadow so that the intervening stretch could be covered by a Prohibition of Driving Order. This would prevent all rat running but would mean drivers from The Green and Two Gate Lane would have to use Waltham Road or Winchester Street to exit the village. Any views to the Parish Clerk by 23 May please, stating who you are and where you live

HCC Outstanding Tasks

The HCC's agency contractors are behind in completing several tasks around Overton originally scheduled for financial year 2005/6. These include white lining, the block paving of the corners of the 'circle' in The Green and some potholes filling.

Lamp Post Vegetation

Even with the lighter evenings vegetation can seriously restrict the usefulness of a street light. Very often the vegetation is the responsibility of a private landowner, not the county council, to clear. Please make an effort to clear the lights near you if good lighting is compromised.

Traffic Lights

We were too hasty in giving an assurance that the traffic lights were working properly; they are faulty yet again. There continues to be an excessively long green phase from

London Road, irrespective of traffic volumes, which HCC now admits is a failing but might take a while to resolve. HCC is also being urged to revert to having the 'green light' showing on Kingsclere Road if there is no traffic from any direction. This prevents rushing the green light on the B3400 and as forward vision is restricted on the B3051 no rushing can occur there.

St Mary's Hall

Moviola night moves to Fridays with the next show at 7.30pm on 26th May when the film will be *Memoirs of a Geisha*. *Walk the Line* will be shown on 30th June and *The Producers* on 21st July. Tickets are £4, available from Overton Fireplaces.

Dog training classes started on Tuesday 2nd May – there will be two classes – puppy training from 7.30 – 8.30 and dogs over 1 year from 8.30 – 9.30. Please contact Fiona for more information ☎ 01962 855426 or email swdte@yahoo.co.uk.

Annual Parish Meeting – 17th May 2006

Just to remind everyone that the Annual Parish Meeting will take place at 7.45 pm on Wednesday 17th May in St Mary's Hall. Anne Harrison and Jo Dixon will be speaking about the Market Town Initiative and Parish Plans, and there will be a presentation about the Overton village website and a report from PC Richard Baldwin. As always the evening is rounded off with a glass of wine and a light buffet provided by the WI. We hope to see you there.

Parking on Verges

A parishioner raised this matter at April's council meeting, regretting the mess it made of some parts of the village and the associated absence of local pride that seemed to be seeping into this aspect of Overton life. HCC states that such parking is not illegal as such but it is an offence to block a pedestrian footway which sometimes happens with verge parking. Some very unsightly areas can be seen around the village yet in many instances the property appears to have adequate off street space without the need to verge park.

2ND OVERTON BROWNIES

Michelle Le'Warne, Brown Owl.

On 14th March we were very lucky to have a visit to the Whitchurch Police Station, invited by PC Richard Baldwin and WPC Paula. We had a great time putting the police car lights on and trying out the "bad peoples cages" in the back! The Brownies also got to see what a cell is really like and thought it would be very scary to be alone in one at night, especially if the food was really awful! They also thought that the Police Station would be a great place to work if you could play with the lights and sirens all day. The Brownies now all have their crime prevention badges.

If you would like to help with any of the Guiding units you would be very welcome and you can even have support and guidance if you would like to train up to be a guider.

If you have a daughter who would like to join any of the units please contact the District Commissioner Mrs Hilary Paterson ☎ 01256 895493 or 07979 621157.

The units meet on:-

1st Overton Rainbows Thursdays 4.45-5.45pm

1st Overton Brownies Thursdays 6-7.30pm

2nd Overton Brownies Tuesdays 5.30-7pm

1st Overton Guides Tuesdays 7.15-8.45pm

All units meet in Town Meadow Hut.

OVERTON BEER FESTIVAL

Bob Edwards.

We are in the process of organising the next Beer Festival, which is scheduled for the last weekend of October, but we need people to help, both in organising and physical help over the course of the Festival.

If we do not get any response we are in danger of losing the Festival for good, something we do not want to happen. So please, if you have any time to spare, please contact Bob Edwards ☎ 771634.

May we also add that the local branch of CAMRA (Campaign for Real Ale) runs a coach on the last Friday of every month visiting four or more rural pubs. If anyone is interested in joining us please contact me on the above number for more details.

ST MARY'S CHURCH

Spring Fair

Jane Waldram, Mission Committee.

Do come and join us in the Community Centre on Saturday 6th May at 9.30am.

Gifts of cakes, produce, etc and donations are most welcome. Please ☎ Jane 770444

Proceeds to local charities

Admission 50p including tea, coffee and biscuits.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Dog Waste

All credit to those who pick up their dogs waste and take it home or bin it. But what is the point of bagging it and throwing it on the bank or into the hedge?

Myself and another local gentleman took part in the village litter pick in Dellands and Southington. The western trackway of Dellands was full of dog waste bags; these soon split and out falls the mess. This is a health hazard; many children play along the track and in the wooded area. Please dispose of waste properly.

R Oram.

Lambing Event

The ninth Lambing event at Northington Farm on the weekend of 14th and 15th April raised a magnificent £1731 for the children's charity the NSPCC.

Several hundred adults and children enjoyed visiting the farm and seeing the new born lambs.

The NSPCC is very grateful to Mr and Mrs Crosbie Dawson of Northington Farm for allowing the organisers to continue

to hold the event. The organisers are also very grateful to all who attended and help to raise funds for a very worthwhile cause –the prevention of cruelty to children.

Any further information contact Inge Hunter ☎ 770078 or Sue Bobin ☎ 07876526223.

Sue Bobin

Bonfires

Easter has signalled the start of bonfires again. *Please* can I ask people to consider others & light bonfires later in the day and away from our open windows. It isn't often we get the chance to enjoy clean fresh air.

What about using the FREE facilities at Wade Road or Andover to dispose of your waste - it takes about one hour of your time.

Name & address supplied.

PLAYGROUP NEWS

Lorna Bloor

We have had a busy Spring so far, with our own Tour de France! We ran a very successful Sponsored Cycle Ride in March and would like to thank all children, and their parents and carers, for the great effort made. We also have more events coming up soon.

Our annual Open Morning and fundraiser will be held on Saturday May 20th, 10am to 12 noon. This is a lovely opportunity for you to see what your children, or grandchildren, get up to at playgroup and share in some of their activities.

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 inside and out. If you know of anyone moving to the village with pre-school age children (3 to 5), please let them know about this great event. We look forward to seeing you!

TESTBOURNE NEWS

Teresa Reynolds, Governor.

Breakfast Club: As part of our drive towards healthier eating and being a more "extended school", we have introduced a Breakfast Club open from 8 – 8.40am each morning and serving toast, cereals, bacon baguettes and hot drinks. It is a good start to the day for pupils who might not otherwise make time for breakfast.

Groundbreaking New Course: a group of Year 10 pupils are looking forward to starting a literally groundbreaking new course from September. The course ~ an NVQ which covers areas such as land management and animal husbandry ~ will be delivered in partnership with Sparsholt College and the organic farm on Laverstoke Park Estate. This is a really exciting new development and particularly suitable for a school such as Testbourne in a semi-rural setting.

Keeping Up Standards: Governors were pleased to hear that Testbourne has been graded as "outstanding" against Local Authority criteria, following a visit from its School Improvement Partner. He reported that "All categories of pupils make the progress that could be expected of them and a particular strength of the school is its ethos of care for every individual, within the context of pupils achieving their potential and becoming confident and effective members of society". The school is again oversubscribed for September, with all 156 places full plus a waiting list.

LITTLE TOTS

Montessori Nursery School

For the summer term we have invested in more new Montessori equipment, which will benefit all the children. With the weather hopefully improving we will be continuing with our gardening projects; so far we've planted potatoes and broad beans, and we will be planting carrots, lettuce and French beans. All the children enjoy taking care of the vegetables, so fingers crossed everything will grow! This term our project is 'Food Around The World' and we will be doing lots of cooking and sampling of different foods as well as exploring different cultures.

Recent Ofsted Report awarded "Outstanding" in the quality of teaching and learning.

Nursery Grant Funding & Nursery Vouchers accepted.

If you would like to see a Montessori School in action, please come along to our **Open Morning on Monday 22nd May**. Or just pop in and see us, we always welcome visitors.

For further information please contact:

Brenda Sampson ☎ 07786 294574 or Julie Torrible ☎ 0118 9831554.

OVERTON BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Noelle Moysi.

Our next meeting is Tuesday 4th July at 7.30pm at The Honey Pot. 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 and join us and we look forward to seeing you at our next meeting.

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

ST LUKE'S HALL UPDATE

Chris Penney - Hon Secretary.

An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) was held on Wednesday 29th March in St Luke's Hall. This public meeting, which had been widely publicised in advance, was attended by 33 Overtonians and a reporter from Basingstoke Gazette. These topics were reported on and discussed.

Progress towards a new St Luke's Hall

As reported in *News and Views* (March), some late changes were suggested in January 2006 to the plans that were first sent in July 2005 to B&DBC Planning Department for its guidance. A panel of architects, who had been consulted by B&DBC, were not happy with the appearance of the hall when viewed from the front. They had also suggested that (1) the hall be moved to the front of the site, with the car park at the rear - even though such positioning had previously been rejected, particularly by the hall's users and neighbours, and (2) the entrance and foyer should be radically altered. While no formal proposals were made at the EGM, the meeting agreed that (A) such changes would alter the internal layout ("footprint") so radically that it would no longer provide the floor sizes and storage areas that are needed by current and prospective hall users, and (B) that the Trustees should make further enquiries and attempt to produce a frontal appearance that would allow the July 2005 "footprint" to continue as the basis.

Overton United Halls' Group (OUHG) and the proposed distribution of Developers' Contributions

OUHG, formed in 2004, meets several times a year with representatives from St Luke's Hall (SLH), St Mary's Hall (SMH) Overton Community Association (OCA) Overton Recreation Centre (ORC) Overton Parish Council (OPC) and an "external facilitator" from B&DBC.

One of OUHG's aims has always been full cooperation over each hall's refurbishment timetable, so that only one of the halls should be out of action at any time - and eventually that Overton village centre should have three upgraded and well-equipped halls to meet the diversity of village activities. SMH work is already well under way, while OCA plans are progressing for 2006/7 and SLH is aiming for 2007/8 - if the planning saga (see above) can be resolved.

It is estimated that Overton could eventually receive about £280,000 in S106 Developers' Contributions and at the March 2006 OUHG meeting it was agreed that, particularly bearing in mind the latest proposed hall refurbishment timetables (see above), the most realistic division of these contributions is that OCA should receive all the first half (which should become available when the Overton Hill housing development is completed) and SLH should receive all the second half (which should become available when the Foxdown development is completed).

RETURN TO THE FORBIDDEN PLANET

Jill Smith.

Fasten your seat belts and get ready for take off, on an adventure into hyperspace and beyond. Captain Tempest will take you on a cosmic journey accompanied by red-hot rock and roll hits of the sixties, such as Great Balls of Fire, Good Vibrations and Teenager in Love. **Overton Dramatic Society** will be performing the musical by Bob Carlton, by arrangement with Josef Weinberger, from Tues 20th - Sat 24th June at St Mary's Hall, with check in at 7.30pm and take off at 7.45pm. There will be a bar. Tickets are selling fast, at £5.50 and £6.50 concessions, and are available from the Faraway Tree, 25 The High Street, ☎ 770333, or from St Mary's Hall on Saturday mornings.

OVERTON RECREATION CENTRE

Ed Beckmann, Treasurer.

Congratulations to the following winners in the April draw:
£500 Mr Neil Ford, £200 Mrs Kitty Shadwell
£100 Jane Stovell, Nicky Clarke, Ian McCann.

The next draw takes place on Friday 12th May in the Bridge St Pavilion.

LIBRARY NEWS

Chris Vane, Library Supervisor.

We do try to act on comments and suggestions received in the library! As a result we now stock £1 Book tokens, so that if you want to buy a token gift towards a particular book, with multiples of £10, £5 and now £1 available, you have more flexibility to choose the amount you wish to give. Soon we will be offering Playstation games for hire, for a trial period. They will be priced at £1 for a one week loan. Plans are well advanced for a Jane Austen evening, to be held here on Wednesday 21st June. Kim Hicks will be

performing her one-woman show, entitled "Courtship".
More details next month.

OVERTON CHORAL SOCIETY

Lyn Hardy.

OCS would like say a huge thank you to all who supported its Sing Messiah Choruses on 1st April in St Mary's Church and was enjoyable to those who participated and those who simply listened.

Members from the Andover and Hook Choral Societies and other local choirs participated and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon rehearsal as well as the concert.

The orchestra was excellent, the Overton Sinfonia working together beautifully. They also enjoyed the tray bakes that OCS had provided.

Now we are on the final rehearsals for our contribution to the Winchester & County Music Festival. On Saturday May 13th we will be joining other local choirs to perform Elijah in Winchester Cathedral. This has been a very enjoyable work to rehearse and all the choirs are looking forward to the performance tremendously. The sister concert is being held in Romsey Abbey on May 6th. Posters are on display and tickets can be obtained from ☎ 01962 840440.

Francis Wells, who will be our conductor for this concert, has decided to retire. He will be sorely missed by all of those who have come under his baton over the many years he has led us at The Winchester & County Music Festival and we all wish him the very best for the future.

DEADLINE NEWS & VIEWS

This will be 16th May. 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

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/63039 Erection of a shed at Test Valley Golf Club. No objection.

BDB/62661 Erection of 6 x 8m high floodlighting columns the tennis courts, Bridge Street – there was some concern that these lights would be closer to housing than those that were already situated at Bridge Street and it was agreed that there should be a time limit for usage of 10pm.

BDB/63073 Erection of attached garage to front elevation at Dunroaming, Winchester Street. Objection - in front of the building line.

BDB/63074 Change of use of lower ground floor residential storage areas (for sole use as landlords space) to

provide 1 x one bedroom apartment and associated external amenity space at 23 Charledown Close. No objection.

BDB/62729 Erection of a two storey rear extension and detached garage at 13 Pound Road. No objection.

BDB/63128 Erection of a single storey side extension at 9 Alexander Road. No objection.

BDB/63097 Erection of a 2 storey rear extension and double garage at 1 Folley Cottages, Ashe Lane. No objection.

BDB/63147 Construction of pitched roof to replace flat roof to front elevation and erection of front porch at 16 Poyntz Road. No objection..

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Public Transport Representative Brian Langer.

Buses

Bank Holiday 29 May service routes 76/86

A Sunday service will operate on this route.

Travel Tokens and Bus passes

After a few problems on 1 April the new system seems to have settled down well and, as regular users will already know, the village shuttle, service 74, does definitely accept the free pass.

This free pass does not extend beyond the Hampshire county boundary. If you want to travel farther. eg Salisbury, Guildford, Bournemouth, then consider a Stagecoach Day Goldrider which covers all their services in south east England except London. cost is £6.00 with concessions.

Getting the bus to stop

A lot of us thought that there was a difference between a bus stop, where all buses stopped, and a request stop where the passenger had to advise the driver to stop; apparently not! Stagecoach advises that in this area all stops must be considered request stops; ie if you want to get off a bus you must press the button on the bus and if you want to get on then put your hand out. This clarification has arisen after passengers were left behind at some stops and others were taken beyond the point at which they wished to alight.

Trains

Bank Holiday 29 May service

Although a Saturday service is expected to operate by South West Trains in most of their area on the above date resignalling work in the Basingstoke area throughout the holiday weekend will result in closure of that station and replacement of all trains by buses. Trains to and from Salisbury and the west of England will travel no further east than Andover; call 0845 7 48 49 50 nearer the date for more details and also if travelling on another operating company's services.

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), 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.
