

News and Views

www.overtonvillage.com

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

August 2006

PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

Parish Councillor Paula Baker.

Parish Council Meetings

Taking place in the Community Centre

Wednesday August 9 th : Planning	7.00pm
Public time	7.30pm
Main meeting	8.00pm
Tuesday August 22 nd : Planning	7.30pm

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

New Parish Council Chairman

John Bennett has resigned as PC Chairman for health reasons. The Council thanked him for his work and we all wish him well for the future. We are very pleased to say that he is staying on the Council, so we won't be losing his knowledge and experience. The Council has unanimously elected Alan Whitney as its new Chairman and Lucy Sloane Williams as Alan's replacement as Vice-Chairman.

Parish Plans

Following presentations at the Annual Parish Meeting we discussed the part a Parish Plan might play in helping the village be proactive and to decide for itself what might be needed in the next 5, 10 or 15 years. Look out for an insert with September's *News and Views* and please let us know what you think and whether you'd like to get involved.

Litter Picking in Village Centre

The Parish Council has agreed in principle to take on litter picking in the village centre and will receive funding from the Borough Council to do this. The area to be covered is likely to be the main built up part of the village and the precise routes and hours will now be discussed. The next step is to find out whether the Borough will cover times when the village litter picker is away or unwell. It is hoped that this arrangement will allow us to provide a better environment for everybody. Wouldn't it be nice if people didn't throw rubbish around in the first place?

Recycling in Overton

The car park on Overton Hill will have a mini re-cycling centre, and will be signposted as such. Although the bottle banks had to be removed because of a small problem with the height barrier, this is being resolved and they will soon be back, to join the clothing bank (takes shoes and bags too) which is already there and the aluminium foil bank, which is on its way up from St Luke's. Please try to recycle, rather than throw away. Our natural resources are precious and we are currently living way beyond our environmental "means". Paper card, plastic bottles, tins and cans can go in the green wheelie bins, the Hospice shop or other charity shops will take unwanted items that are saleable and there is

"Freecycle" Basingstoke if you have items you are willing to give away - see www.freecycle.org and follow the links (over a thousand people have registered already).

Autumn Tidy up and Bulb Planting

Watch out for news of this nearer the time, but put your thinking caps on now. Are there places, such as the approaches to the village, where a few blooms would look good? The Parish Council would like to plant some native species bulbs at key points to provide some seasonal colour and interest and to make our lovely village even lovelier. If you have suggestions for key planting areas, please let the Clerk or one of us councillors know.

Zip Line in Edward Kersley Playing Field

Sadly this was maliciously damaged very soon after being installed. A new seat has been fitted and the zip line is usable again. The damage, caused by bolt cutters has been reported to the Police. The Parish Council hopes to be able to claim for the repairs on its insurance. We have also written to people living around the playing field to update them and to encourage them to let either the Clerk or a Parish Councillor know if there are any further problems.

Starting School in September 2007

Was your child born between 1st September 2002 and 31st August 2003 - if so they are due to start school in September 2007 - and you will need to apply for a place by FRIDAY 17th NOVEMBER 2006. To do so, collect a brochure and application form (CR2) from your local primary school from September 2006 or apply on line at www3.hants.gov.uk/admissions. For more information contact the Hampshire Admissions Team ☎ 01962 846004/846001/846020/846038.

Grants

Every year, Overton Parish Council sets aside £2,000 for grants to clubs and societies in the village. If you have a small project that requires funding please forward your application and a copy of your latest set of accounts to the Clerk.

Playing in the Streets

A reminder to parents during the summer holidays that letting their children set up a football goal post in the middle of a road, even on a housing estate that is a cul de sac, is very dangerous.

Baby Baldwin

Congratulations to PC (and Mrs) Baldwin on the birth of Lucy on 17th July - weighing in at 5lbs 15ozs.

Bank Holiday Duck Race

A Duck Race, in aid of the St Mary's Hall Garden Project, will be held at Flashetts (off Station Road) from 12noon onwards on Monday 28th August with races being held

between 1pm and 5pm. Get quacking and pre book your duck for a £1 at The Faraway Tree (ducks also available on the day). Come along and cheer your duck on and enjoy a barbecue, refreshments and stalls.

St Mary's Hall Bus Shelter

We have received a number of complaints about the lack of a seat in the bus shelter outside St Mary's Hall. The seat has been located and should be reattached in the next few weeks.

Did you know?

Euros and American Dollars are now available on demand from Overton Post Office. Other currency and travellers cheques can be obtained the following working day if ordered before 1pm.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

River Nuisance

In the hot weather children have been paddling in the river and I did see a lad putting his hands in the water possibly to catch a fish. When are these kids going to be told rats live by the river and leave their droppings around the banking and they could catch something very nasty? It is up to every parent to tell their children of the problems. Now to get in to the river in Bridge Street they have to cross private property and are trespassing. I see there is a police notice on the bridge so I do hope the notice works.

I have heard that the council wants to put concrete sheep on the top of Overton hill. Is this a joke? Or is it true? Are we going to be like Milton Keynes with its cows?

Yvonne Wilson.

Parish Council response

Croudace and Basingstoke and Deane BC were involved in choosing an artist to create a piece of community artwork for the new Neighbourhood Park. Six concrete and mosaic sheep seats will be constructed over the coming year and will be placed in the park in summer 2007.

Fly Tipping

Over the weekend of 1st - 2nd July a flat bed tipper truck was used to dump a large amount of ivy on our property at The Station. This land is used as overflow parking for the industrial units here, not a dumping ground for village rubbish. It has cost us time and money to have it removed, which as a small company we can ill afford to lose; fly tipping is illegal and because it's on private property we have to pay for the to have it removed. If you are the guilty party, in future please take your rubbish to the council depot in Basingstoke or Andover instead of illegally dumping it! If anybody has had a large quantity of ivy removed via contractors from a corrugated roof, our telephone number is in the directory.

I would also like to remind people travelling by train that our car park is not a public toilet either.

Sarah Bone

C F Smith Precision Grinding

Overton Business Association

I wasn't at all sure about joining OBA as my business, although located in Overton, is not a "local" business. My

first visit as a guest was an education. As I walked through the door the first person I was introduced to had the exact solution to a business premises problem I had been deliberating about for six months!

At that meeting I pledged my allegiance and joined. I duly got co-opted onto the website committee working on ways to get the OBA website more accessible and useful to villagers which was fun and I felt useful straight away.

The second meeting had a very interesting speaker from a business website directory which allows local businesses to obtain a better web marketing presences. The good value of this facility has prompted me to adapt one aspect of my "not local" business to appeal to a more local customer base.

Thus, my reluctance to join was clearly due to being uninformed - hence my writing this notice for *News and Views* as there are other business owners in Overton who would benefit from joining. This friendly and socially minded group of business owners get involved in all manner of things like setting up OBA stands at fetes, having a voice on local parking issues and running the Xmas late night shopping event.

Membership is £32 per annum and meetings are every two months held at the Honey Pot from 7.30pm - starting with a social drink and chat and with the meeting part done by 9.30pm.

So if you run a small business from home, a retail outlet, or a firm with a focus well beyond Hampshire borders - you will get a warm welcome.

For an invitation to attend - contact

chairman@overtonbusiness.com or 01256 770907

Next meeting: 4th September 2006

www.overtonbusiness.com

Sonia Hutton-Taylor

Inconsiderate Neighbours

Here I am sitting in my garden after a hot days work on the hottest day of the year 18th July 2006 when a kindly neighbour lights a bonfire yet again in Alexander Road at 6.30pm.

So I have closed all my windows and doors and I am sitting indoors away from the smoke and smell.

Please please please can we request that bonfires be lit at a convenient time in consideration to neighbours at dusk if need be so that people can enjoy a summers evening with their doors and windows open

Name & address supplied.

Christian Aid Week

The amount raised from the house to house collection was £3720. Thank you to all who contributed, it will make a difference to many people less fortunate than ourselves.

Brian & Margaret Wheeler, Winchester St.

Sad News

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Mr Clark (actual name "Tabs"), the cat. Mr Clark became well known in the village as the big furry tabby cat that visited local shops or lay basking in the sunshine on the pavement by the Co-op.

We would like to thank all the residents and visitors of Overton who paid him such great attention, he clearly enjoyed it and we are sure it made the last 4 years of his 15 year life very happy.

The Clark family, Winchester St.

FRIENDS OF THE EARTH

Darren Shirley.

Basingstoke Friends of the Earth will be hosting an informal public meeting with Sir George Young, MP for North West Hampshire in attendance. The meeting will be held at Overton Community Centre from 10am on 2nd September, with Sir George answering questions.

Homemade refreshments, provided by Overton Biodiversity Society, will be available. There will also be campaigners present providing further information on tackling climate change. The meeting is part of Friends of the Earth's national "Big Ask, Big Month, Big Lobby", where every MP will be lobbied to support the Climate Change Bill. Come ask your MP some pressing questions about his commitment to tackling climate change. There will also be the opportunity to meet members of the local group and find out ways to get involved. Further information from Mike Sparrow or Alison Pinto coordinator@basingstokefoe.org.uk

OVERTON ART GROUP

Pat Hutchings.

We will be holding our Annual Exhibition from Saturday 26th August to Monday 28th August in the Recreation Centre, Bridge St. Opening times: Sat/Sun 10am-8pm; Mon 10am-6pm. Admission free. Many pictures for sale.

ART EXHIBITION, ASHE CHURCH

Jill Smith.

Local artists, Jill Smith and Ivan Bellchambers will be exhibiting in Ashe Church near Overton, as part of Hampshire Artists Open Studios event. There will be a variety of paintings for sale including local views and boating scenes. Do come along and view the paintings in this lovely church setting. The exhibition takes place from Tuesday 29th August to Saturday 2nd September, opening times 11am - 6pm.

HAMPSHIRE ARTISTS

Lorna Bloor.

Raspberry and Sparkgun, as part of Hampshire Artists Open Studios initiative are opening their door for an exhibition of their work at the end of the summer; Thursday 31st August to Sunday 3rd September - 11am to 6pm every day.

Raspberry creates handmade unique pieces of felt, while Sparkgun's photography is inspired by the local rural landscapes.

Please come and view our work at 12b Laverstoke Lane, Laverstoke on the dates above.

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/63907 Erection of rear conservatory at 66 Woodlands. No objection.

BDB/63951 Erection of a single storey front extension and front porch with pitched roof over. Conversion of a garage to living accommodation at 11C Woodlands. Objection – out of keeping with the surrounding houses; concern about construction in front of the building line. Also concern about the garage conversion as parking is already difficult on this stretch of road, which is also a bus route.

BDB/63942 Demolition of existing shed and external alterations to storage building to include the installation of windows to the north at 21 High Street. Objection – overdevelopment of the site, there is no parking available. There is concern that the applicant is attempting to make a dwelling.

BDB/63689 Erection of first floor side extension above garage and conversion of loft to living accommodation at 19 Two Gate Meadow. No objection, but concern that new extension should be subservient to existing.

BDB/63795 Construction of an outdoor riding arena enclosed by timber fence at The Pines, Coxford Down, Micheldever. No objection.

BDB/63268 Erection of a detached garage with storage above to replace existing garage at 52 Bridge Street. No objection.

PLAYGROUP NEWS

Lorna Bloor.

We have come to the end of another year at Playgroup, and looking back it has been fantastic. We have been able to offer more children places at Playgroup than ever before, to give choice and flexibility to all our parents and carers and have been running four sessions daily since January.

This term we have had stunning weather and have spent a great deal of time in our lovely garden. We would like to thank everyone involved in the upkeep and maintenance of the garden.

We have just been on our Playgroup outing to Finkley Down Farm, and a great time was had by all, it may have been cloudy, but I don't think any of the children even noticed.

We are saying goodbye to two members of our excellent staff this July, Penny Brown is leaving to move onto pastures new, good luck Penny!

Karen Hogan is retiring after 14 years at Playgroup to travel around the world, and enjoy her garden in-between, we hope you enjoy the peace and quiet Karen!

Many thanks to all the staff, committee members, and all parents who have helped over the past year, without you we would not be able to continue to provide such an excellent and first class Playgroup experience in Overton.

OVERTON HARRIERS

John Hoare.

A reminder that this years Overton 5 mile road race will be held on Saturday 2nd September. In conjunction with this will be a 2 ½ mile Fun Run and our normal series of children's races within the confines of Overton Recreation Centre. The children's races will start at 2.15pm and the Fun Run and 5 mile race at 3pm. Entries for the children's races will be taken on the day at the Recreation Centre from 1pm. If you would like to enter the 5 mile race or Fun Run entry forms are available on our website

www.overtonharriers.org.uk or from John Hoare ☎ 770489.

Again this year our race has been included in the Hampshire Road Race League and we are expecting a field in excess of 400 runners. So if you are not running please give your support to the athletes during the race.

ST LUKE'S HALL UPDATE

Chris Penney - Hon Secretary.

Volunteers, please, for St Luke's Hall redecoration. Our 60-year old hall now needs to be redecorated throughout and