

Overton 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

May 2007

PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

Parish Clerk *Laura Harley* and Councillor *Brian Langer*.

Parish Council Meetings

Taking place in the Community Centre

Wednesday 9 th May:	Public time	7.00pm
	Main meeting	7.30pm
Tuesday 29 th May:	Planning	7.30pm

The main Parish Council meeting takes place on the second Wednesday of each month starting at 7.30pm. **Please note that Public Time will now be held between 7pm and 7.30pm.**

Planning meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month starting at 7.30pm. The public is welcome to attend these meetings and may discuss any planning matters prior to the meeting from 7.30pm onwards. Agendas and planning applications are displayed on the events notice-board.

In Remembrance

The Parish Council has lost two former parish councillors during the last month. Chris Atkins was chairman during the early 1980s and served the council for many years – he died suddenly on 19th March. John Bennett who only resigned as chairman and councillor in Autumn 2006 died after a long illness on 31st March. Our thoughts are with their families at this sad time.

Parish Council Elections

There has been no Parish Council election as only 11 parishioners stood for 12 seats. The Parish Council would like to thank the resigning councillors Sue Johnson (who served on the council for 16 years), Sarah Mills and Liz Lewis. We would also like to welcome two new parish councillors Tony Leach and Jackie Lessware. The Parish Council still has one vacant post to fill.

St Mary's Hall -Moviola

The next film at 7.30pm on 18th May is Casino Royale (12A) – tickets £4.50 from the Fireplace Shop. On Sunday 20th May the **Community Garden** will be officially opened. Starting at 2.30pm, for the opening ceremony at 3pm. If you would like to attend please let Peter Baker at the Fireplace Shop know.

Street Lighting

To report a fault, phone 0800 506060 (for lights left on as well as not working). Your message should include the road name and lamp number; be sure to state Overton as this number covers all of Hampshire.

Surface Dressing

Crawts Road, Charledown Road and Close, Poultons Road and Close are all due to have surface dressing treatment during the summer which usually takes no more than a day to apply but can be disruptive whilst it is taking place. Return visits by the contractor will be necessary to sweep up

excessive loose chippings after the traffic has bedded some in.

Lion Close Footway Extension

This work has not been 'signed off' by the county council and will have to be re-done as the camber is totally unacceptable with safety issues paramount.

DEADLINE OVERTON NEWS & VIEWS

This will be 16th May. 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

POLICE NEWS

PC Richard Baldwin

The main message as reported to the Parish Council and parishioners who attended the Annual Parish Meeting on 18th May is; Overton is a safe place to live! During the period 1st April 2006 to 31st March 2007 we had 232 crimes (compare that figure with a housing estate in Basingstoke which had over 1500 crimes in the same period!!).

17 of these crimes originated from 999 / emergency calls which is a very low amount considering the population of Overton is over 4000.

A third of all reported crime in Overton was damage to property.

We only had 11 x Dwelling Burglaries, some of these were Distraction Burglaries whereby the offenders tricked their way into the homes of elderly residents by pretending to be from the Water Board or something similar. These kind of incidents can be prevented by **asking the caller for valid ID**, if in doubt **do not** let them in and **call** the Police.

WWW.OVERTONPICTURES.COM

Tony Morris

Our new website for pictures of Overton is being built and Stage 1, including 1,000 pictures of Overton from the early days of black and white photography through to the present day, will be completed by the end of April. It includes an introduction explaining how it has come about and our aims for the future. A number of enhancements will follow and there will be many more pictures in the months to come. This is a community project run by Overton people for Overton people. If you have pictures you would like to add to the website we would be pleased to hear from you. As well as pictures of the past, we particularly want present day pictures of village life and events throughout the year. Pictures can be left with Peter Baker at the Fireplace Shop. Don't forget to write your name, address and telephone number on the envelope and, after the photos have been scanned, they will be returned to you. Have a look at the village's new website and think how you could add to it. If you don't have your own access to the internet remember that there is a screen in the village library.

SPRING FAIR COFFEE MORNING

Jane Waldram Mission Committee

Saturday 19th May

9.30 – 11.30 a.m. in the Community Centre

Cakes, biscuits, produce, preserves, all very welcome.

Raffle as usual.

(No bric-a-brac please !)

Do come and join us and enjoy a cuppa.

PROCEEDS TO LOCAL CHARITIES

Admission 50p including coffee.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Supermarket Meat

In response to the recently published letter entitled “Hare Horror”, perhaps the author should have thought to question why this shoot had gone ahead and whether it was really in the name of sport. February hare shoots tend to be for pest control on ground where hares are numerous and not sporting events. The author, although a lover of flora and fauna, does not seem to be aware of the damage hares can do to arable and horticultural crops, as well as young trees and shrubs, often killing young plants.

Shooting is a quick and humane method of killing these animals which have presumably led healthy, happy lives roaming the countryside. I think it would be more fitting to reserve horror for the sight of the packaged up cuts of meat from intensively farmed animals in our supermarkets.

Susan Clifford.

Natural Control

Your correspondent gives a misguided account of hare shooting in the Overton area. Whereas she is perfectly entitled to her views on the ethics of the activity, the facts concerning the control of hares are as follows. In spite of the Brown Hare being part of the National Bio-diversity Plan, they are very common in this area. On our farm I would estimate there is at least a hare to five acres, and particularly at this time of year they are a common sight -they can regularly be seen in fields close to the village. As there is limited natural control, foxes and buzzards will kill leverets, they have traditionally been shot on a shoot organised solely for that purpose. These shoots take place in early February, before the leverets are born, and only if hares are in sufficient numbers to justify it. On our farm we decided not to have a shoot this year.

James Crosbie Dawson.

Hare Shoot

The hare shoot in question is on land I manage for a large estate that has over the last 20 years invested its own money in creating habitats for all forms of natural wildlife and “game”, the results of which enable us to have one hare shoot a year where a controlled number of hares are shot. The “dozens” shot on that particular drive covering 353 acres was in fact 38 head. I consider myself an animal lover and a keen conservationist and the 180 head shot this year maintains a healthy balance allowing the animals space to forage naturally and not become endemic with disease. A full census of hare numbers is conducted well in advance of the shoot and if numbers were poor a shoot would not take

place, conserving stocks of these wonderful creatures. Finally the men involved were all from a part of France where uncontrolled and unmanaged shooting has robbed them of these fine animals. Every hare shot is taken back to France where the meat is turned into a culinary feast and revered for its quality and rarity. This is nature as man the hunter was intended, hunt, kill and eat what you kill, something a lot of people are too squeamish or unknowledgeable to do

Nigel Plumtree Farm manager.

(No more letters on Hares please – if you wish to add to the debate please do so on the website.)

Speakeasy Advocacy

We have found Parish Magazines to be our most successful place to advertise for volunteers. This has resulted in a steady stream of people contacting us for more information. The purpose of this letter is to thank you for your help over the last few years and give you some information about the volunteers and their work.

We currently have 40 active volunteers, ranging from students, people in full/part time work to the retired. Our volunteers help in a variety of ways:

1:1 advocates – meeting with someone with a learning disability, autism and/or Asperger’s syndrome once every 2 or 3 weeks to build a relationship with them so they are able to support them to live the life they want.

Group Volunteers – supporting one of our self advocacy groups to develop their skills and find out about the local community.

Saturday Coffee Morning – support our members to run their own monthly coffee morning.

Our volunteers make a real difference to people’s lives. They are often the only person in the life of someone with a learning disability who is there for them and not because they are paid to be involved. All we look for is a common sense approach and we train and support our volunteers. We hold volunteer events twice a year to give everyone the opportunity to meet up, talk about their experiences and be updated on local initiatives and legislation.

If any readers are interested in volunteering they can call us on 332795 or email: speakeasy.advocacy@btconnect.com.

Ruth Jewell, Speakeasy Advocacy, 17 New Road, Basingstoke.

OVERTON RECREATION CENTRE

Ed Beckmann.

Congratulations to the £500 winner, P Whitehorn and the £200 winner Christina Green.

The ORC invites all members (and their children) to join our Golf section at Town Meadow. We want to see people of all ages enjoying “Leisure Golf” on our beautiful riverside ground. For details phone Emma Scoggins on 770455.

PLAYGROUP NEWS

Diane Wildash

On 16th May the children will be partaking in a sponsored bounce at the community centre to raise funds for playgroup. This will be a fun event for all the children and a bouncy castle will be hired for the day where there will be lots of bouncing, lots of laughter and hopefully lots of money raised for playgroup, which is a registered charity.

A reminder that we are currently registering children for September and to guarantee a place for your child, please either call in for a registration form, or contact the Play Leader, Amanda Igo on 770370.

ST MARY'S BADMINTON CLUB

Dave Reynolds

As part of an occasional series of articles on clubs and societies in the village we would like to introduce you to the badminton club, which meets on Thursday evenings from 8-10pm in St Mary's Hall. Although there is only one court, we put it to good use and have some enjoyable games.

Afterwards, as it is a *friendly* club (we do not play league games), we go to the pub!

If you can play badminton and would like to join us, come along on Thursday evenings or phone me on 770248.



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

Brian & Margaret Wheeler

May 13th -19th

This year the focus is on climate change and water "Helping poor countries to grow a future". The red envelope will be coming your way and we ask for your support – which has been very generous in previous years. Thank you.

OVERTON CRICKET CLUB

Simon Trott

The new season is finally upon us. With four junior and four senior teams we're able to offer cricket for all. All teams make use of the fantastic ORC facility with the Under-15's kicking off the home season on Friday May 4th against Alton (6pm start), followed by the 1st XI on Saturday 5th May against Farley (2pm start). Fixture cards are available from the club or various shops around the village.

Training

Training sessions begin in May. They are held at the ORC at the following times:

Seniors	Tuesday evenings 6.30 – 9.00pm
U15's	Tuesday evenings 5.30 – 7.00pm
U13's	Monday evenings 6 – 7.30pm
U11's	Monday evenings 6.30 – 8.00pm
U9's & Beginners	Saturday mornings 10.30 – 12pm

If you are interested in joining OCC these training sessions are a great place to start.

To keep up to date with all the latest club news and results visit www.overtoncricquet.com

TESTBOURNE NEWS

Teresa Reynolds, Governor.

Date for your Diary

TESTBOURNE ROCKS! music festival on Saturday 7th July. Tickets now on sale, please enquire at Testbourne School Office, 892061. The festival lasts from 12 noon to 11.30pm. The first 3 hours will be taken up with performing arts and music supplied by the pupils of Testbourne School. From 3pm to 6pm the indoor stage will feature anyone who wishes to get up and have a go at performing - bring your own instruments with you. There will also be an air guitar competition so get practising in front of those mirrors.

Followed by Dance Music for the rest of the evening. There will be Bars, BBQ, Children's Play area, Stalls and more. Anyone wishing to buy a table top for the Stall area should get in touch with **Carol Clark on 07710 231595** to reserve a place. The minimum donation is £10 for a 4ft x 4ft table. Please no food or alcohol to be sold from the stall area. All funds raised on the day will go towards the Mityana Fund. This is a 5 year project being run by Testbourne Community School which will see children in Uganda benefit from Water tanks being installed within their village. The project will also allow some of the Testbourne pupils to experience life in Mityana and understand the tribal systems, social issues, HIV and Aids and for them to experience first hand, geographical, ecological, economical and conservation issues so vastly different from our own.

ST MARY'S CHURCH FETE

Vanessa Miller

Saturday 2nd June, The Old Rectory, Bridge Street.

Lots of fun & games; Duck racing, stalls, bouncy castle "Anything Goes" fancy dress competition, BBQ, delicious teas and strawberries. Not to be missed!

OVERTON DRAMATIC SOCIETY

Jillian Smith

Our spring production is called "Day of Reckoning" and is a comedy by Pam Valentine. It starts as the summer fete committee meet on a cold January night to discuss arrangements for that year's fete. As committee protocol gives way to bickering and gossip, we begin to see the personalities of those present and much innuendo abounds, especially around the vicar who enjoys more than his share of the communion wine. It is later in the play that the secrets and hidden agendas of these ordinary people unravel. The play runs from Wednesday 2nd - Saturday 5th May at St Mary's Hall, Overton, 7.30pm for 7.45 curtain-up. Tickets priced at £6 and £4.50 concessions, on sale at the Faraway Tree, High Street. Tel 770333.

BIODIVERSITY SOCIETY

Ken MacKenzie

Come to the Grand Opening of Little Meadow in Kingsclere Rd (beside the cemetery) on **Sunday 6th May**. Bring a picnic anytime from midday and join in the family activities before the official opening at 2pm by Kath Doyle. The time capsule contents chosen by children at Overton school will be on display, and an afternoon of family fun including a treasure hunt is planned. Soft drinks on sale. Check if the human sundial is working and enjoy the early development of this community area funded by the Lottery Heritage Fund and created by village volunteers.

LIBRARY NEWS

Chris Vane, Library Supervisor.

At the end of March we took delivery of an extra computer, so now have two People's Network (public access) computers. This means that sessions have gone back to one hour long, and it is usually possible to operate a "walk in" system - although if you want to ensure a particular time-slot, it is still best to book in advance.

We were pleased to welcome a large group of Brownies recently. They were working towards their Booklovers

badges, and while here had plenty of time to look at our facilities. It was a very happy occasion, although some of our regulars were most surprised to see how busy we were at what is usually a quiet time in the evening! So if you're involved with any group of young people, you know that we'd be happy to arrange a library visit for them.

OPEN GARDENS

Hilary Bridgman

Gardens open at Turrill House, Southington in aid of the North West Hampshire branch of the Motor Neurone Disease Association on Wednesday 13th June and Sunday 17th June from 2 - 6pm. Teas and plant sales. Entry £2.50, children free. Bring wellies if wet. No dogs please.

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/65424 Internal alterations to form new toilet room at 17 High Street. No objection.

BDB/65534 Erection of an attached garage below ground level with living accommodation (kitchen and utility room) above and creation of new access at 8 Crawts Road. No objection.

BDB/65614 Replace existing flat roofs with pitched roofs over existing extensions at 30 High Street. No objection.

BDB/65641 Erection of a two storey rear extension, rear porch and wind turbine attached to rear of property at 13 Bridge Street. No objection.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Brian Langer, Public Transport Representative.

An insert for personal retention is included with this edition of *Overton News and Views* covering all public transport, buses and trains, in and around Overton. The train information is applicable from 20 May when the summer timetable is introduced. The insert provides basic information only, eg later departures are available by bus from Winchester but a change at Whitchurch is necessary. Full details of bus and train schedules are on display in the public transport notice board attached to the Kingsclere Road wall of the Fireplace and Photography shop.

Comments and contributions for *Overton 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, please contact:

Parish Council Chairman	Alan Whitney	770174	e-mail alan-whitney@hotmail.co.uk
Vice Chairman	Lucy Sloane Williams	770607	e-mail lucysloanewilliams@btinternet.com
Parish Councillors			
Maggie Atkins	770369	Brian Langer	770848 Transport and Highways Rep
Mark Attwell	770472	David Llewellyn	773004
Peter Baker	770007	Paula Baker	771219 also Borough Councillor
Tony Leach		Ian Tilbury	771429 also Borough Councillor
Jackie Lessware		Vacancy	

Clerk to the Council is Laura Harley, Oak Tree Lodge, Roundwood, Micheldever, Winchester, Hants. SO21 3BA, ☎ 01962 774186, e-mail opc@overtonvillage.com

Buses

Bank Holiday Mondays 7 and 28 May

It is expected that a Sunday service will operate on the service 76/86 route on those days.

Service 74 around the village

Best wishes for an earlier recovery are sent to Stewart, the regular driver of the bus, who has been taken ill. This caused some problems mid April with a dearth of properly licensed drivers for the larger mini bus and the provision of a smaller, unsatisfactory bus as a replacement.

Trains

Bank Holiday Mondays 7 and 28 May

It is expected that South West Trains will be operating a Saturday service on these days but check 0845 7 48 49 50 that engineering works will not affect your journey.

New timetable from 20 May

See insert. No major changes to existing times at Overton have been made but some westward destination details have changes.

Steam trains through Overton

Based on information from the Steam Dreams organisation (www.steamdreams.co.uk) these are expected to pass through on the following dates: 9 May am and pm (Lord Nelson class), 13 June am and pm (King Arthur class), 8 July am and pm (Lord Nelson commemorating the 40th anniversary of the end of Southern steam), 9 July am only (loco tbc), 21 July am only (Battle of Britain class), 5 September am and pm (Lord Nelson class), 7 October am and pm (King Arthur class), 11 December am and pm (Lord Nelson class), 20 December am and pm (Battle of Britain class). Sometimes Overton has been used as a water replenishment stop giving an even better chance to see these engineering master pieces at close hand.

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

E Robinson, Treasurer.

Overton Community Association is holding a Summer Craft Fair and draw at the Community Centre on Saturday 30th June. Any person wishing to have a stall at the Craft Fair, please contact Brenda Shelbourne on 770061. Stalls are £10 each. Entrance fee will be 50p per person, cup of coffee included. Doors open at 9.30am.
