

# 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

September 2007

## PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

Parish Councillor Brian Langer.

### Parish Council Meetings

#### Taking place in the Community Centre

Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> September:	Public time	7.00pm
	Main meeting	7.30pm
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> September:	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 will be held on the fourth Tuesday of each month (except December) 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.

### A303 Closure

Occasionally the A303, the route to the West Country, is closed by the police because of an accident. When this happens much of the diverted traffic finds itself trying to get through Overton, either on the B3400 or along the C29 from the Micheldever direction. The consequences are tail backs along approaches to the traffic lights, which are not set to cope with such a surge in traffic, chaos for those seeking a parking place and delayed buses caught up in the congestion. There isn't much that can be done to alleviate the problem so tune into the local radio to get a traffic update and be patient.

### DEADLINE OVERTON NEWS & VIEWS

This will be 16<sup>th</sup> September. Please send your articles to the editor in writing (typed) or by e-mail. The email address is NewsandviewsRG25@aol.com

## BIODIVERSITY SOCIETY.

Ken MacKenzie

### Overton Biodiversity Action Plan

Overton Biodiversity Society is working with Hampshire and Isle of Wight Naturalists Trust and Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council to produce a biodiversity action plan for the parish.

The biodiversity of an area is the abundance of living things found within it and a biodiversity action plan is a record of the plants and animals within an area along with recommendations on how they can be protected and enhanced through the proper management of the habitats where they live.

We very much need your help in telling us about any areas rich in wildlife which you know about – particularly small areas which may not have been recorded in the past and which only you may know!

Please tell us about these by either phoning Jane or Ken MacKenzie – on 771121 or email

[jakmackenzie@yahoo.com](mailto:jakmackenzie@yahoo.com)

Photographs would be very helpful but any information is very welcome.

## POLICE REPORT

PC Baldwin

I've had reports that drivers are ignoring the No Entry sign at the bottom of Red Lion Lane. Can I remind everyone that you can NOT drive out of Red Lion Lane directly onto the High Street (B3400) and there are clearly marked No Entry signs forbidding all vehicular traffic from doing so.

The B3400 is one of the busiest routes for local patrolling Police vehicles; if you are seen committing the offence by Police you will be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice.

## OVERTON CHORAL SOCIETY

Lyn Hardy, Press Officer

Our 2007/2008 season started on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> September at 7:45 pm in St Mary's Hall. We have a very packed agenda for the next 10 months.

First will be our annual Christmas Concert (approximate date, Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December). Then rehearsals will start for the Winchester & County Music Festival, held in May. We shall also be rehearsing Haydn's Creation, to be performed at our Come and Sing and also in Germany.

We are looking forward to each of these concerts and to meeting up with our friends in Euskirchen again. We hope that other singers who have joined us for our previous "Come and Sings" will do so again – and bring a friend!

We are a friendly crowd and enjoy meeting new people so if you fancy joining in, please pop along to St Mary's Hall on Monday evenings. We have members in Andover, Dummer, North Waltham, Oakley and Whitchurch as well as Overton, so please ring me on 397507 and I can put you in contact with someone from your area.

## OVERTON PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB

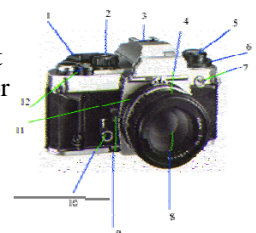
John Thomas

The Club's new season commences on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> September with a First Night "Fun" Competition giving members an opportunity to test out new images taken in the last year.

This is followed on the 14<sup>th</sup> with an evening of printer colour management, presented by Ray Grace of "Fotospeed". On the 21<sup>st</sup>, members are invited to present their work in a selection evening for prints and slides for inclusion in Southern Photographic Federation competitions.

Details of future meetings can be found on the Club's website

[www.overtonphotographicclub.org.uk](http://www.overtonphotographicclub.org.uk) or contacting John



Thomas on 770348 or Raynor Rudland on 780853. Meetings are held at Overton Recreation Centre, Bridge St, on Fridays, starting at 7.30pm for 7.45. New members will be made very welcome.

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### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

#### Thanks for Emergency Aid

This is a thank you note to the young man, two ladies and gentleman in Poyntz Close who helped me when I fell on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Your kindness in standing in the rain and getting the ambulance was greatly appreciated.

*Joan M Singleton, Dallance House.*

#### Music Festival

James Crosbie-Dawson has used the Church magazine, the Test, to justify his actions in allowing a music festival to be held on his land close to the village of Overton.

We would like to comment on his assertion that because planning permission was granted it was an acceptable thing to be doing. There is, unfortunately, a loophole in planning law which automatically grants a "Temporary Events Notice" Licence to any event with less than 500 people unless the police can prove that crime and disorder will take place. Although the police advised against granting such a licence it did not make any difference.

The fact that the weather was horrendous was a blessing in disguise as it ensured any unwanted attendees would have been discouraged from turning up and most likely kept the numbers down.

Mr Crosbie-Dawson was indeed right that they were lucky that the wind was from the south west and the village of Overton did not suffer much from the noise. However, we know this was not the case for those downwind of the event. We are all for diversification by farmers, but feel strongly that such diversification should not be at the expense of a significant number of people's quiet enjoyment of their environment. Forty-eight hours of continuous loud music was over-the-top. No one objects to a party that stops at a reasonable hour!

*Iain and Sarah Paterson, Court Drove.*

#### 30 Years Service at the Pharmacy

I find myself again congratulating one of my team for completing 30 years service at Overton Pharmacy. Pat Oram arrived soon after Joan Vickers and in that time has managed to knock two owners into shape. I would like to thank her for her continued help, support and dedication to the business. Whilst increasing my grey hairs it has been a pleasure to work the last eight of them with her.

*Steve Budden*

#### Re: Foot & Mouth Disease

The decision made by Laverstoke Farms to unilaterally restrict access to footpaths may be understandable but contrary to Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) recommendations and therefore probably illegal. Hence I find the alleged cooperation and support for this decision by Overton Parish Council and local police inexplicable.

I suggest the Parish Council should concentrate on the condition of Overton footpaths; footpaths around

Berrydown Farm and especially the one from the Farm to Waltham Road which has been turned into a quagmire by livestock and therefore more or less impassable!

*Barry Taylor, Woodlands.*

*The Parish Council comments that it is working with both landowners and the Rights of Way Officer to maintain and improve the footpaths within the parish.*

#### Methodist Church

Friends of the Overton Methodist Church would like to thank all those who support the weekly coffee morning on Thursdays in the front hall. The several thousand pounds raised over the past years is given to a number of charities, including Naomi House, St Michael's Hospice, Cancer Research, Macmillan Nurses and Barth Syndrome amongst others. A list in the chapel gives full details. It is run on a voluntary basis by members of various denominations who frequently "swell the coffers" with a home-made cake or scones. Contact Betty MacKrill 770798 or Mary Burton 770164 for further information if required.

*Dawn Denning, Charledown Close.*

#### ORC

We felt compelled to write to say a very big thank you to the Overton Recreation Centre (ORC), as one of our memberships has just been lucky enough to win the £500 prize in the draw this month. For those of you who aren't really sure what the draw or membership of the ORC involves: £24 a year membership entitles you to entry in to the monthly draw. Each month there are cash prizes of over £1500. The top monthly prize is £500 with a quarterly prize of £1000, the odds of winning a prize in any month are good and half the subscription money is distributed as prizes. What is more important about membership is that it supports the sporting facilities in Overton. Even if you are not a sport player you benefit from the green spaces in the heart of the village such as the Bridge Street Sports Ground and the nine hole Golf Course by the roundabout. Supporting the ORC ensures that we as a village keep these green spaces and don't lose them to development – what's that worth to the price of your house?

The ORC is struggling and needs new members to help fund and maintain its facilities. It is not only a club for original Overtonians, it needs all of us newcomers to join up and play our part too even if we don't play sport. Do something positive for our village today and join up, £24 for the year and discounts for families. Oh, and good luck in the draw!

*The Kater Family*

- From the ORC:- Membership leaflets are available from: The Fireplace Shop, or Emma Scoggins, 73, Woodlands, 770455

#### Travel Tokens

There have been reports recently in the local media advising that South West Trains will charge normal full fares for passengers buying tickets on trains. I checked with their Customer Service re paying with travel tokens and received the following reply, which may be of interest to other senior citizens in Overton .

"As there is no facility to purchase your ticket at Overton station using Travel tokens, you can purchase tickets with the appropriate discount applied to your Railcard from the guard on the train".

*T C Young.*

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## TESTBOURNE NEWS

*Teresa Reynolds, Governor.*

### The year ahead

A number of new teachers join the school in September: Colin Gibson from the Compton School in Oxfordshire will be Head of Science; Max Cornelius is Head of Maths, Barbara Clivery, Second in English, John Banks a teacher of English (and assisting with Land Applications as he also has an agricultural background) and Christopher Rowe, teaching Geography. David Jones is taking over as Head of Modern Languages. We will also be welcoming new pupil support and administrative staff.

As usual there has been quite a lot of work done on the site during the summer holiday: major repairs to the Sports Hall and Technology Block roofs funded by the County; refurbishment of a part of the Technology accommodation to create a very smart Graphics/ICT Suite; refurbishing and swapping the location of the Maths and Modern Languages Departments to enable all five Maths rooms to be together and creating a new Pupil Services and Support Base close to the main office.

One new change for the start of the year is a slightly shorter lunch hour – now 50 minutes -and earlier end to the day at 3.15.

### Dates for your diary

- Open Evening – Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> October , 6.30-8.30, & Open Mornings all that week
  - Our next major production “Grease” is being performed from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 6<sup>th</sup> October. It promises to be spectacular and a sell out so book early via the school office- 892061 or 890223 for direct line to the Performing Arts Office.
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## LAVERSTOKE PARISH COUNCIL

*Avril Lloyd, Laverstoke and Freefolk Parish Clerk*

### Green Bins

If residents find that their recycling bins are overflowing, they can request a second green bin from Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council on 01256 844844.

**Date and location of the next Parish Council Meeting for Laverstoke:** Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> September 8pm - at Portals Sports and Social Club.

Agenda will be posted in the notice boards in Florence Portal Close and also Freefolk Bus Stop, one week before the meeting.

### Bus News

txt4times is a new text messaging service which provides details of the next three bus departures from any stop and sends them to your mobile phone as an SMS text message. You find the code for your local bus stop using [www.transportdirect.info](http://www.transportdirect.info) website.

- 1) Click on “find the place” tab at the top of the screen, then “find a map” to show the Location Map screen.
  - 2) Put in your address and/or postcode into the box and click on the Address/Postcode button. Click “Next”. Bus stops appear as a small “lollipop” symbol on the map.
  - 3) Check the stops in our area (you may need to zoom out to move around the map, then zoom in on the stops you want) note that the stop names and codes appear only when zoomed in to the largest scale. For instance in Laverstoke to check out when the next 86 bus is coming on the way to Overton Text **hamdjgpm 86** to number **84268**
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-to check out when the next 76 bus is coming on the way to Whitchurch Text **hamdjgmw 76** to number 84268.

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## LIBRARY NEWS

*Chris Vane, Library Supervisor.*

We have been very busy here with the Big Wild Read. It finishes on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> September, and the medals and certificates will be presented in the library at 4.30 on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> September - so please do your best to bring your children here then. We will also announce the names of the competition winners.

Some of you will have noticed that calls to libraries are being routed to the Hampshire County Council customer contact centre, Hantsdirect. They will handle all sorts of general enquiries like book renewals and requests, as well as those aggravating calls offering cheap phones /electricity /double glazing, etc., thus freeing library staff to attend, without interruption, to all of you who come in person to the library. Callers using the old number will be transferred automatically to Hantsdirect; for those of you wanting to use the service, the new number is 0845 6035631.

We have - at last - received new supplies of our eco-friendly jute book bags. They are very strong, good for books or shopping, and will be ideal when Overton achieves plastic bag free status! They cost £2.99.

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## OVERTON SHEEPFAIR

*Sandy Sykes, Secretary*

The Sheepfair Committee will be taking applications for stalls and local entertainers who wish to be considered for the official programme from 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2008. Start thinking now. Details about how to apply in October *News & Views*.

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## AIKI EXERCISE

**Would you like to try something new?**

*Annie Willens*

Something that re-energises you after work or a busy day at home? It also encourages you towards more mobility, balance, calmness; freedom from aches and pains, from fear and from feeling bored.

Aiki Exercise and Aikido stimulate both mind and body.

You don't have to be fit to start and they are suitable for all ages 7-80+. It's also a great activity for the whole family to enjoy.

The first hour of Aiki Exercise suits all mobilities; people who are very active and wheelchair users are welcome. Aiki Exercise is also a great warm up for the second hour of Aikido.

Aikido is an enjoyable and exciting way to get fitter, improve your life and look after yourself, and learn how to be more positive, confident and dynamic – see [www.andoveraikido.co.uk](http://www.andoveraikido.co.uk)

Special introductory offer of 3 sessions of up to 2 hours each for £10! Free taster sessions available to any Overton groups to help with their fund raising.

Aiki Exercise and Aikido classes start on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> September in St Luke's Hall 7-9 pm. Please wear loose clothing.

For further information ring Annie, a fully qualified instructor on 01264 324324.

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## OVERTON SOCIETY

*Sue Carter*

**WASTE and RECYCLING** is the theme of our next meeting on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> September when speakers from Basingstoke & Deane BC, a supermarket and Overton Business Association will be talking about both local and wider issues. We hope that this will be an interactive evening so come prepared with questions and queries! The meeting will be in the Community Centre at 8pm; all are welcome – do come and join us for an informative evening complete with refreshments!

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## NAOMI HOUSE HOSPICE

*Rhian French, Communications Manager*

### Bring a Balloon to Open Days

Naomi House Children's Hospice is opening its doors to the public on 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> September to coincide with national Children's Hospice Week.

To mark a decade of providing care and support to life-limited children and their families, the charity is asking people to send a donation together with a message on a paper balloon to be displayed during the weekend.

Doors open 10am to 5pm on Friday and Saturday and from 11am to 4pm on Sunday.

Balloons are available from Naomi House fundraising shops in Andover, Boscombe, Cosham, Eastleigh, Fareham, Shirley and Winchester. [www.naomihouse.org.uk](http://www.naomihouse.org.uk) or by calling 01962 843513.

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## ST LUKE'S HALL

*Chris Penney, Acting Secretary*

We are reviewing our hall maintenance costs and are looking for a responsible, self-motivated individual to be the Hall Caretaker - or possibly Caretaker/Groundsperson - from October onwards.

As all hirers are responsible for sweeping and clearing up their own "routine" litter, the caretaker's job will be to back up our hirers by doing the more detailed jobs such as cleaning and restocking the cloakrooms and kitchen, as well as polishing the wooden floors etc.

If included, the groundsperson's job will also be to mow the grassed area and keep the forecourt weed-free and tidy.

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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](mailto: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:

<b>Parish Council Chairman</b>	Alan Whitney	770174	e-mail <a href="mailto:alan-whitney@hotmail.co.uk">alan-whitney@hotmail.co.uk</a>
<b>Vice Chairman</b>	Lucy Sloane Williams	770607	e-mail <a href="mailto:lucysloanewilliams@btinternet.com">lucysloanewilliams@btinternet.com</a>

### 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	772020	Ian Tilbury	771429 also Borough Councillor
Jackie Lessware	773043	Zoë Taylor	770146

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

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The successful applicant will be someone for whom the satisfaction of caring for this village asset is more important than financial gain. S/he will receive an hourly rate, paid calendar monthly, and will make their own arrangements for payment of income tax etc.

If you are interested in finding out more, please put your name, address and telephone number in a sealed envelope marked "Caretaker" and post it through the Hall's letterbox no later than Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2007, so it can be discussed at the Trustees' Meeting 3 days later. Thank you.

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## PUBLIC TRANSPORT

*Public Transport Representative Brian Langer.*

### Buses

#### Evening bus services saved

Following the item in August's edition Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council are to be thanked for agreeing to provide the necessary funding so that the currently county council subsidised evening services can continue for the time being. The public will notice no change from 3 September but the borough council's decision is subject to a full review of their transport support commitments before the end of this financial year. So if you want to ensure the evening 76 bus services continue Mondays to Saturdays they need to be used more than they currently are. Although bus deregulation legislation nominates the top tier of local government, the county in the case of administrative Hampshire, to consider providing subsidised services if they cannot be run commercially, Overton now finds itself with two out of the three subsidised routes being financially supported by the borough instead; only the village shuttle service continues to be financed by the county as the Sunday and evening services are financed by the borough.

#### Early morning bus to Winchester

Stagecoach has confirmed it will begin a 0721 service 86 bus from Overton to Winchester on 3 September to assist scholars reach Westgate School and Peter Symonds College. Travel Offices in Andover and Winchester will sell season tickets, or a weekly MegariderGold can be bought from the driver for £17, valid on seven consecutive days on any local Stagecoach service.