

# 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

February 2008

## PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

### Parish Council Meetings

#### Taking place in the Community Centre

Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> February:	Public time	7.00pm
	Main meeting	7.30pm
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> February:	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 second 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.

### Vacancy for Editor

A new editor of *Overton News & Views* is required as the current editor is stepping down after 10 years. This is a paid position, approx £7.90 per hour and involves on average 6 to 8 hours per month. Distribution is carried out by someone else (Brian Wheeler,). If you are interested and would like to discuss this please phone Teresa on 770248 or the Clerk Laura Harley on 01256 771919

### Christmas Cards – Don't Bin, Recycle!

The Royal Mail delivers as many as 150 million cards per day in the pre Christmas run up and up to 1 billion of those cards end up in the bin. These cards can take up to 30 years to decompose. If all these cards were recycled rather than thrown away, it would help save the equivalent of around 248,000 trees. Cards can be recycled in many shops around Basingstoke, or put into your green recycling bin.

### Bus Shelter Vandalism

The village has again suffered mindless vandalism to a shelter, this time at Southington. The costs and effort in clearing up the broken glass and installing the replacement shelter have to be borne by Overton council tax payers as, even if the damage can be claimed off the Parish Council's insurance, there is a likelihood that our premium will be increased as such damage is not rare in the village. If you see or hear any damage being done to shelters do please phone the police on 0845 045 45 45.

### 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.

### Highway Contractors

The contract Hampshire County Council has for day to day road repairs on those roads which are not the responsibility

of the Highways Agency (M3, A303 and A34 in this area) will alter in late April and Balfour Beatty will be replaced by Amey.

## POLICE NEWS

*PC Richard Baldwin*

### Forthcoming Police Surgery dates:

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> February 12 to 2pm

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March 12 to 2pm

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March 1pm to 3pm

The Surgery is held in the Parish Office in St Mary's Hall.

The Overton Beat (including the outlying areas of Freefolk, Laverstoke, Ashe, Ashe Warren & South Litchfield) only suffered 193 recorded crimes in 2007 compared to 268 in 2006. Out of the nine Rural Beats that lie within the Basingstoke Division, Overton had the third lowest amount of crime in 2007. I and our new PCSO - James Dalton will strive to keep Overton a safe place to live and work in 2008.

### Youth Club

I am planning to re-establish the Overton Youth Club and I'm looking for volunteers to assist in running one session per week. If anyone would like speak to me about the Youth Club or has any ideas which may help then please give me a call on 07776 172303 or alternatively e-mail me on: [richard.baldwin@hampshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:richard.baldwin@hampshire.pnn.police.uk)

## OVERTON COMMUNITY WARDEN.

*Richard Tozer*

Happy New Year from your Community Warden.

I am now planning my first community event of the year; a football day for children aged 8 years to 17 years old during half term week.

It will be held at Testbourne School, Micheldever Road, Whitchurch playing fields on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> February, between 10am and 3pm.

As it is a tournament, you will need to be available for the whole day.

Please bring with you the appropriate footwear and clothing for playing on grass and whatever the weather, along with lunch and refreshments.

On arrival you will need to present your permission slip signed by a parent or guardian and complete an attendance form.

Girls and boys come along to join in or with your friends to make up a team and have a ball!!

For further information regarding this event please contact David and Vikky at the Community Warden office on 845508.

And remember if you have anything you would like to discuss with us, either stop for a chat when you see us in the street, call us on 845508 or email [community.wardens@basingstoke.gov.uk](mailto:community.wardens@basingstoke.gov.uk)

## LITTLE TOTS

*Brenda Sampson*

We wish all the readers of *Overton News and Views* a Very Happy New Year.

Last term in a busy run up to Christmas, we raised £164 for Children in Need by baking and selling cakes to all the users of the Overton Recreation Centre, thank you to those who supported us. We also put on our annual Nativity Play, during the two performances over one hundred people came to watch and enjoyed coffee and mince pies afterwards.

This term we have welcomed six new children and their families to Little Tots, our numbers are increasing rapidly with many children now staying for lunch on our two longer days. We have now started to teach a second language, Spanish, to the older children and so this term our project is on Spain, which will give an insight to a different culture, we have the address of a Spanish school so will be sending them letters and pictures and hoping to develop an ongoing correspondence with them.

We always welcome visitors who would like to know more about the Montessori method and this thriving and popular Montessori Nursery School so if you would like more information please contact Brenda on 07786 294574 for more details.

---

## OVERTON BEER FESTIVAL

*Bob Edwards*

The much loved Overton Beer Festival will be held this year on the 14/15 March at St. Luke's Hall.

There are three sessions :- Friday evening 6pm - 11pm

Saturday lunchtime 11am - 3pm

Saturday evening 6 - 11pm

For advance tickets (recommended) please contact John on 892650 or e-mail (details on website

[www.overtonbeerfestival.org.uk](http://www.overtonbeerfestival.org.uk))

Some volunteers have already put their name forward to help, but if you would like give a hand we would be delighted to hear from you.

For any other details please contact John on 892650 or Bob on 771634.

## FOLK MUSIC

We are trying to assess the level of interest of Folk Music in the village, with a view to creating a Folk Club.

If you are interested in any way please contact Terry on 770004 or Bob on 771634. If we get a positive response we will let you know in the March *Overton News & Views*.

---

## TIDDLERS - NOUGHT TO FIVES

*Mindy Noble*

We are a friendly and welcoming parent run toddler group that meets in the Laverstoke and Freefolk Village Hall every Wednesday. If you have a child aged nought to five years please come and join us, we particularly cater for children up to 3 years. We have a wide range of play equipment for the children and provide parents with the opportunity to make friends and socialise. During the session the children can join in an art activity and sit down together for fresh fruit and a drink while parents have tea or coffee. All members are encouraged to join in the running of the group. We meet from 9.30 to 11.30, cost £1.50 per family. To get

to the village hall go through Laverstoke and take the second small right turning just past the hump back bridge. The village hall is on the right just before the church. For more info call Alison on 893770 or just come along any Wednesday.

---

## DEADLINE *OVERTON NEWS & VIEWS*

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

---

## OVERTON SOCIETY

*Susan Carter*

### What plastic can I put in my recycling?

Are you clear about what plastic items you can put in your recycling bin? Iain Pickles of B&D B C demystified this at a recent Overton Society meeting. If it's a plastic bottle of any kind (e.g. fizzy drink, milk or bleach bottle) put it in the green bin - without its lid, so it can be easily squashed and transported with minimum volume. If it's anything else made of plastic, including wrapping or yoghurt pots, even with some form of recycling symbol, put it in the black bin as it can't be sent for re-use through the Hampshire recycling processes.

---

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

### Thank You from The Barth Syndrome Trust

On behalf of everyone from the Barth Syndrome Trust, we would like to express our gratitude to the Overton Business Association for allowing us to hold a raffle for a Christmas Hamper on the late night shopping evening. Thanks also to all the villagers for their support. We made £307, which included a donation from the OBA. We would also like to add a huge thank you to those businesses that were kind enough to display one of our collecting tins on their counters. The continued support from the community is very much appreciated.

*Michaela Damin*

### St Mary's Autumn Fair

The Fair raised £669 for the Christian Aid Asia Floods Appeal. Thanks so much to all who supported this.

*Jane Waldram, Mission Committee.*

### Twelfth Night Bash 2008

Just a quick update for everyone who attended the "Twelfth Night Bash" on 12<sup>th</sup> January in St. Mary's Hall. This year, the event was held in support of Macmillan Cancer Care.

We had a brilliant night, and thanks to the enormous generosity of everyone on the night, we raised in excess of £842 for the charity.

All in all, this is a fantastic result from a great night out. Once again, we're grateful for the support from various Overton businesses for helping with ticket sales, "Sideways Down" for the great music, lots of helpers, and everyone who came down, enjoyed the night, and dug so deep! Thanks to all, and we hope to see you again next time...

*Paul & Becci Larkham*

---

## TESTBOURNE NEWS

*Teresa Reynolds, Governor.*

### Positive Start to the New Year

The start of the new year can be a bit hard-going – dark mornings, wet, cold days, and seasonal illnesses. It was decided, however, to get the term off to a positive start on January 3<sup>rd</sup> with a special staff conference on curriculum changes currently in the educational air. From September 2008 there is a new KS3 curriculum to be implemented and we will be introducing the first of the new 14-19 Diplomas. Don't be surprised if we offer GCSE Fishing to some pupils in the future!

To acknowledge and reward pupils efforts when they do well we have introduced a new Passport. Pupils collect Passport points for good work or contributions to school life – which in turn gives them access to certain privileges. This has been well received by pupils.

### Vacancy

We have an immediate vacancy for a part-time music teacher. Please contact Mary Soper on 892061 if you know someone who can help.

---

## FARMERS' MARKETS

*Sophie Boxall*

2008 dates for Hampshire farmers' markets  
Hampshire farmers' markets will run in 14 different market towns across Hampshire in 2008, and a flyer highlighting when and where is now available free from Hampshire Farmers' Markets, at libraries and tourist information centres.

Shoppers can visit local Hampshire farmers' markets held at weekends in Andover, Basingstoke, Hartley Wintney and Winchester (the largest farmers' market in the UK). Here, fresh, local and seasonal produce is sold direct to you by the farmers and producers who grow, rear and make it in Hampshire. Not only does this ensure traceability, it reduces food miles and packaging – and makes shopping more enjoyable! For more information, visit [www.hampshirefarmersmarkets.co.uk](http://www.hampshirefarmersmarkets.co.uk).

---

## OVERTON RECREATION CENTRE

*Colin Parker: General Manager 771038*

As many of you will know, 2007 proved to be a testing time for ORC.

A further review of our financial standing was necessary and is still being carried out by the Trustees and Management Committee.

The launch of the new 5 Star Membership Scheme has already attracted a number of new members from the local community, not least our MP Sir George Young who has pledged to ORC any winnings that may come his way. Whilst it is extremely generous of residents to support this unique Overton institution, we await a similar response from the club users who actually benefit from the grounds and building facilities.

The basic membership remains at £24 per year and if you wish to support ORC without participating in the monthly draw or enquire about membership issues, please contact **Emma Scoggins on 01256 770455.**

There has been progress on a number of issues, some of which have rumbled on for a considerable time. The opening up at Town Meadow of the vista towards the Test and the resolving of the car parking debate with High Street residents are significant steps forward. ORC is currently discussing with the Overton Bio Diversity group managing access to parts of Town Meadow for the benefit of the local community.

ORC hopes soon to complete a new lease on the Berrydown site allowing a greater variety of sports and related activities to take place. New accommodation is planned to replace the ancient changing facility that has served us so well. ORC is working with the expanding Overton Cricket Club to develop a square and ground for youth cricket in addition to a further facility for football in Overton.

ORC is taking part in discussions with other local organisations to improve sports and recreational opportunities in the Overton/Whitchurch area.

Whilst there are further hurdles to overcome, ORC looks forward with confidence to a successful 2008. The "hands-on" involvement of ORC Trustees, Brian Wheeler, Richard Gibbins and Dennis Rowles, the continued hard work of the Management Committee led by Paul Wheeler, and the excellent work of our groundsman Nigel Kent and other employees, will ensure that ORC develops into a stronger organisation during the coming year.

The ORC Annual Meeting will take place on Monday, March 10, 8.15pm at the Bridge Street Pavilion. (Anyone from Overton and Ashe may attend but only ORC members may vote if there is one.)

---

## OVERTON DRAMATIC SOCIETY

*Jill Smith*

We will soon be casting for our next show '**The Beggar's Opera**' which is to complement the Regency Sheep Fair in July and takes place the week before.

The show is not an opera but more like a sort of 18<sup>th</sup> century pantomime with a mixture of comedy, melodrama and popular songs of the day, such as '*Over the Hills and Far Away*' and '*Greensleeves*'.

If you would like to be part of it, on stage or off, please contact Gabrielle (771108) or Graham (771772) or come along to the read-throughs starting Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm at the ORC, Bridge Street. Casting will be 11<sup>th</sup> March. Do come and join us in this exciting production.

---

## OVERTON CHORAL SOCIETY

*Lyn Hardy*

OCS has now resumed rehearsals for the annual contribution to Winchester & County Music Festival. Once again, we shall be singing in Romsey Abbey and further details will be available soon.

The next "home grown" concert will be on 8<sup>th</sup> March. We shall be returning to our popular Come and Sing formula. This year we are performing Haydn's Creation in preparation for our trip to Euskirchen, Germany. For those who would like to join our Come and Sing please either ring me (397507) or email [lyn\\_hardy@hotmail.com](mailto:lyn_hardy@hotmail.com) for an entry form.

We are still looking for a secretary to do some small but essential work. This does not have to be someone within the

Choral Society, maybe a partner or friend could volunteer. We guarantee a free seat to all our concerts!

---

## **LIBRARY NEWS**

*Chris Vane, Library Supervisor.*

Attention all armchair travellers! On 11<sup>th</sup> March, at 7.30 pm, we will be welcoming Chris Bradley, a well known photographer and tour leader, who will show us slides on **The Splendours of North Africa – Roman and Islamic Art of Libya, Tunisia and Morocco.** We will see that ancient Roman wealth is widely evident in forgotten but magnificent cities, and villas with fabulous mosaics. Alongside these are unique structures of Islamic North Africa.

We are fortunate to have such a knowledgeable and eminent speaker here, and expect tickets (£4 each) to be in great demand – so do reserve your place as soon as possible.

During February we are holding a sale of videos, when all the stock we hold will be on offer at £1.

---

## **SPEAKEASY ADVOCACY**

*Ruth Jewell.*

Make a difference with just a few hours a week! We have the following opportunities for volunteers in Basingstoke & Deane:

- Act as a one to one advocate, helping someone to speak up
- Help with our self advocacy groups for adults with learning disabilities or autism

Full training and support will be given plus travel expenses. Interested? Call Speakeasy Advocacy on 01256 332795.

---

## **OVERTON PRE-SCHOOL NEWS**

*Anne Boyère*

The new children who arrived after Christmas are all settling in well.

The pre-school children are now involved in planning for each half term, requesting what they want to learn. Children are initiating their own learning and resourcing the equipment themselves.

---

Our Playgroup leader Amanda attended the Outstanding Providers conference. Only 2% of providers in England received Outstanding in sessional day care.

We would like to thank the Four Lanes Trust for their grant which enabled us to buy a new photocopier. The Four Lanes Trust gives money to people with ideas and projects which will improve life in Basingstoke and the surrounding district. More information about the trust and how to apply can be found at [www.fourlanestrust.gov.uk](http://www.fourlanestrust.gov.uk).

---

## **OVERTON DARBY & JOAN CLUB**

*Inge Hunter*

The traditional Christmas party was held on 20<sup>th</sup> December in the Community Centre. The members are very grateful for the generous support of the Overton business community who kindly donated wonderful prizes for the raffle which ensured that everyone went home a winner.

Colin and his quartet provided the music for the carol singing. Janet, Jean and Marion gave us a fantastic feast complete with sherry and Christmas cake and after a blessing from Harry Wilson we all made our merry way home.

A big thank you to everyone who contributed to such a wonderful success.

The first meeting of 2008 was on 17<sup>th</sup> January in the Community Centre and we hope to welcome new members, who can contact Jackie Crosbie-Dawson (770258) or Inge Hunter (770078).

---

## **PUBLIC TRANSPORT**

*Public Transport Representative Brian Langer.*

### **Public transport tokens/bus passes**

The tokens will be issued in Overton on Monday 4 February from the Community Centre between 9am and 2pm.

Existing users of the bus pass or tokens should have received an information sheet from the borough council some weeks ago. From April 2008 as part of a central government initiative a national bus pass will be available for the over 60s but it may not suit everyone. Basingstoke and Deane remains one of relatively few local authorities that offer the tokens as an alternative as some people prefer taxis, trains etc to buses. Further information from 844844 Concessionary Fares unit.

---

Overton News and Views

**Parish Council Chairman**  
**Vice Chairman**  
**Parish Councillors**

**Clerk to the Council**

---

fl