

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

April 2008

PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

Parish Council Meetings

Taking place in the Community Centre

Wednesday 9 th April:	Public time	7.00pm
	Main meeting	7.30pm
Tuesday 22 nd April:	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.

Consideration for Others when Parking

We all know parking can be a problem in Overton but lack of consideration by some drivers makes life difficult for pedestrians, the disabled, those using a wheelchair or buggy as well as for other drivers. Some recent examples have been a black Volvo parked half on the pavement outside the bathroom shop right on the stop line for the lights, a Ford Focus blocking the dropped kerb in Poyntz Road all day, increasing amounts of chevron style parking in Winchester Street which usually invades pedestrian space, vehicles outside the pharmacy in the disabled bay, but not displaying a valid blue badge. Time is precious for all of us but some care before abandoning one's vehicle, without thinking of other highway users, would be appreciated by the rest of us.

Saturday Royal Mail collection from Overton

There has been no Sunday mail collection, nationally, since October 2007 so the reliability of the Saturday collection took on a greater significance. During the winter Royal Mail increasingly collected from the box outside the Co-op before the advertised time of 12noon; this was particularly irksome if the item was having to be weighed etc at the actual post office counter before being posted. A complaint was made through Postwatch to Royal Mail and a promise was given that the matter would be rectified. If you are aware that collections are taking place ahead of the advertised time at any pillar box in the parish please advise the Parish Council clerk for the matter to be taken up with Postwatch. This situation is NOT a criticism of the staff behind the post office counter in the Co-op.

DEADLINE *OVERTON NEWS & VIEWS*

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

OVERTON FIRE STATION

Paul Allen

quickly block the sluices and if not dealt with lead to potential flooding. Every year I retrieve over 5 large plastic sacks full of general rubbish that has been thoughtlessly thrown in the river from road signs and plastic bottles to toys and even radios. One of the most destructive items are plastic bags that seem to be discarded after feeding the ducks in Bridge street. One hopes that this will get better now that the local shops have so wisely stopped supplying them with every sale, but it is up to each one of us to try and dispose of our waste items sensibly and legally. Can I appeal to all in the community to respect the fragility of this lovely river so that the flora and fauna can thrive.

Humphrey Miller

Walk the Walk for Breast Cancer: Overton Moonwalkers

You may have seen us recently, pounding the lanes of Overton and the surrounding villages in our matching pink jackets, and wondered what we are doing.

On Saturday May 17th at 11pm, along with 15,000 others, we will start our 26.2 mile power walk overnight through the streets of London, wearing decorated bras (and not a lot else!) in aid of breast cancer awareness.

Our team – a group of school Mums - Naomi Conneely, Karen Watts, Lesley Howse, Sarah Wiles, Zoe Taylor, Jane McDevitt and Dawn Patel are training long and hard, several times a week, in order to complete the marathon in under 6 hours.

Breast cancer affects 1 in 8 women and “Walk the Walk” is a charity that is very close to our hearts - we all have family and friends who have been affected by breast cancer.

If you would like to donate money to spur us on our way then you can do so online at:

<http://www.justgiving.com/overtonsoletosoul>

Alternatively you will find sponsorship forms at Overton Pharmacy, Bathroom Centre and Primary school. Your support is much appreciated. Thank you.

Zoe Taylor.

Pagan Spirituality

Overton appears to have a gradually growing number of people who have adopted some form of pagan spirituality into their lives, be it as families or individuals. If anyone following such a path fancies getting in touch it might be interesting to gather together and have a chat, swap some ideas, offer support to anyone who might need it, that kind of thing.

Drop me a note on line at ragingpagan@hotmail.com It would be great to hear from you.

Paul Crawte.

MacMillan Cancer Support - Cape To Cape

The late John Bennett - past chair of the Parish Council - and I had planned to take part in the 2007 version of this event. Sadly, John died before we could do so. This year, partly as a tribute to John, another friend and I will be participating. The event takes the form of a long-distance treasure hunt, travelling by “old and interesting” motor cars, and is dedicated to raising funds for Macmillan Cancer Support. Obviously, that was a cause that John was only too willing to support and I am pleased to be able to do something to support others who, like John, suffer from cancer.

This year’s event starts from Cape Cornwall on 26th April and finishes at Cap Ferret on the Atlantic coast of France on 3rd May - a total journey of some 1400 miles. We will be using the car that John and I bought to use last year: a 1976 Triumph 2500S Estate.

If anyone would like to support this cause, Peter Baker at the Fireplace Gallery and Teresa and Michael from The Honey Pot have kindly agreed to allow me to leave sponsorship forms with them for people to sign-up for a donation. I am covering the cost of the event entry and journey costs, so all sponsorship money raised goes to MacMillan Cancer Support.

John Thow.

SPRING IS COMING AND SO ARE THE LAMBS

Susan Bobin

NSPCC Lambing Event-

Saturday April 12th

Sunday April 13th

1pm – 5pm

At Northington Farm, The Lynch, off Southington Lane

Admission adults £3

Children under 12 free

With the kind permission of James and Jackie Crosbie-Dawson, two Lambing

Days are being held at Northington

Farm to raise funds for the NSPCC.

Come along and enjoy an afternoon on

the farm and see the new born lambs. Wellington boots

recommended.

Refreshments will be available.

Mr and Mrs Crosbie-Dawson and the NSPCC would like to draw to visitors attention the fact that disease can be transferred between animals and humans. Therefore any contact is at visitors own risk. Mr and Mrs Crosbie-Dawson and the NSPCC do not accept liability for any illness or accidents which may occur.

For further information about the days telephone 770078.



TESTBOURNE NEWS

Teresa Reynolds, Governor.

The Parents, Teachers and Friends Association is holding a **Ladies Night** on Friday 9th May, 7– 10pm in the school’s Youth Suite.

This evening will run on similar lines to previous Pamper/Ladies Days but as added interest there are two beauty/skin care demonstrations and a cookery demonstration. There will also be various tables selling jewellery, silk handbags, unusual gifts, handmade cards, Phoenix cards and lots of other lovely things plus a chance to have a mini treatment or two. Admission is free but due to the venue there are restrictions on the number that can attend so we suggest you book your ticket early to avoid disappointment on the night.

If anyone who does reflexology, manicures, pedicures or nail art and would be interested in taking space at this event the PTFA would love to hear from you. For enquires or ticket bookings please ring Hilary Bond 892350.

Admissions

Many local parents of Year 6 pupils recently received their letter telling them which secondary school their child will be

attending in September. Previously we have been able to offer places to all families who made us their first choice but this year have found ourselves quite heavily oversubscribed, partly as a result of the new equal preference system. We are pleased that so many children do want to come to Testbourne but very sorry for those we have had to disappoint.

Situation Vacant: Site Assistant, full time. Please contact Mary Soper on 892061 for details.

OVERTON REGENCY SHEEPFAIR

Sandy Sykes

The Sheepfair is getting closer – 19th & 20th July. For those of us who are unsure about our Regency costumes, Rosemary Trollope will be in the Palmer room at the Community Centre between 10am and noon on Saturday 26th April. She will be able to give advice and will have more illustrations for you. Some members of ODS will also be in costume.



RELEASE YOUR INNER ~~SELF~~ SHEEP...!!

Jane MacKenzie

Drawings of sheep representing old *and new* Overton people, clubs, shops, businesses, pubs etc...are needed for the world famous(?) **OVERTON SHEEPFAIR CHARITY TEA TOWEL**. All profits this year to WaterAid and Overton Recreation Centre. For a mere £2 the first 180 or so sheep to collect their instructions from The Faraway Tree, Executive Dry Cleaners, Business Connections or 1, Southington Lane will be immortalised in unbleached cotton!. This is the village's third Sheepfair Charity Tea towel. They have travelled round the world as gifts and souvenirs. Don't be left out. The cloths will still only cost £3 – *the same price as 2004*. Your sheep will be particularly welcome to join the flock if you can't draw!! Stuck for inspiration? Look in the library to see the previous two Sheepfair tea towels displayed.

6th DAFFODIL SUPPER

Overton Methodist Church

Homemade goodies galore will be served at our 3 course homemade supper, on Friday 18th April at 7pm in the back hall of the chapel. It is in aid of Cancer Research and the doctor's emergency response team. Tickets (£8.50) are available from Ikebana flower shop, Executive Dry Cleaners and Jane 771121. Raffle prizes gratefully received. We will have a fun sing-along session while coffee is served. Thank you for all the support this special event has had over the past 6 years.

OVERTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Debbie Dennison

The school has been revisited by Ofsted to follow up on the Notice to Improve that was issued after the previous visit a year ago. The plans in place at that time, and ratified by Ofsted as taking OPS in the right direction, have continued to be pursued with a lot of hard work and determination. The school is looking positively to the future and we look

forward to making public the final report once it has been moderated by Ofsted.

Year 3 had an exciting trip to the O2 Arena to see Tutankhamen and The Golden Age of the Pharaohs. It was a fantastic opportunity for the children who thoroughly enjoyed the visit, linked to the National Curriculum for KS2 History.

The "20 is Plenty" signs are now up on Court Drove and Silk Mill Lane. The school is very aware of the need to ensure the safety of all the children and endeavours to teach them how to take care of themselves and avoid risks through the PSHE element of the curriculum. Once they are outside the gates their safety is not in the school's control but every effort is made to work with the community to minimize the risks.

OVERTON GARDEN SOCIETY

Joy MacGregor

Following the success of John Negus in March, the next meeting is at 8pm on Thursday 10th April in the Community Centre when Mary Taylor will present "An Introduction to West Dean". This should serve as a guide as to what we can expect on our coach trip there in September. We also hope to have a plant and seed swop so bring along anything surplus and go home with something different! Visitors very welcome.

OVERTON VAULTING GROUP

Nicky Cotterill

Why not try something different? Vaulting is best described as "gymnastics on a moving horse". The horse wears a vaulting girth and is under the control of the coach, who lunges the horse in a 15 metre circle. Advanced exercises are performed at canter, while the learning of new routines and moves is usually undertaken at the walk. Junior classes combine walk and canter elements, while the junior team events are held completely at the walk.

With a qualified coach, vaulting helps build up balance and strength combined with confidence on the horse, as well as general athletic ability. They also enjoy the beauty of the horse and how they can both work together to create breath taking routines. Remember, you do not need to be able to ride to vault, but vaulting can greatly improve your riding skills.

Overton Vaulting Group train every Monday and Wednesday from 4pm at Hurstbourne Equestrian Centre, Hurstbourne Priors – for more information please contact Alice Ellingham 07921 868755 or Nicky Cotterill on 770958.

OVERTON PLAYGROUP

Anne Boyere

If your child was born between the 1st September 2005 and 31st August 2006 they can now register to attend Playgroup in the academic year 2008/2009. Please pick up a registration form from the Community Centre, Monday to Friday, 9am to 3pm or contact Amanda Igo, 770370. Don't miss the chance to send your child to our local Ofsted "Outstanding" Playgroup !

We are looking for a "storytelling cloak" to use in Playgroup. If you have the skills to make one for us or if you possess something that we could use would you please

contact Amanda. Our storytelling sessions could become truly magical thanks to you.

LIBRARY NEWS

Chris Vane, Library Supervisor.

Those who attended the library event enjoyed a talk with slides by Mark Helyar about his time in India - not just a travelogue, it included some fascinating facts and tales of the people whom he met.

BADMINTON CLUB

Teresa Reynolds

The club plays in St Mary's Hall on Thursdays from 8pm till 10pm and is in need of members. Please come along if you would like a game or two (and we go to the pub after!)

LAVERSTOKE BOWLERS

Henry Watson

Laverstoke B.C. is holding Open Evenings for Retired, Active and Aspiring Bowlers on Mondays, starting on May 5th at 6.30pm. This is not a coaching session, but an evening to enjoy with club members. Casual clothing may be worn, but flat shoes are essential to protect the green. We regret we are unable to accept under 16s. There will be NO charge on May 5th but there will be a small charge for subsequent sessions. For further information contact Henry on 772970.

Circular Walk

Laverstoke and Freefolk Parish Council has been asked by Ian Smith from the Hampshire Museum Trust to provide ground level support in maintaining the circular walk. If you spot any signs of damage to signs and footways along the walk please report them to Steve Grudgings on 896715 who is acting as the liaison with Ian Smith.

Rachel Abbott

Clerk to Laverstoke and Freefolk Parish Council.

OVERTON BIODIVERSITY SOCIETY

Free Family Fun In Little Meadow

Bring a picnic on Saturday May 3rd and enjoy an afternoon of children's wildlife activities and maypole dancing! Starts at 12.30 in Little Meadow, just past the cemetery on Kingsclere Rd. Enjoy a real community funtime in the sunshine.

CONCERT "OUT OF AFRIKA"

Comments and contributions for Overton News and Views

A musical evening with an African flavour **Kingsclere Singers** and guest performers Pan Everest - steel band from Everest Community College, Basingstoke April 26th 7.30pm at St Mary's Church, Overton. Tickets £7 (£5 concessions - Children under 12 free) from Overton Fireplaces and Caviste. Proceeds to St Mary's Church Funds and our African charities. Refreshments and Raffle *Enquiries: Diana Hughes 770338.*

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Public Transport Representative Brian Langer.

Buses

National Bus Pass for the over 60s

Further to the items in March's edition BDBC officers have provided further clarification details: if you are a particularly early riser and use the pass before 0930 to get to a destination outside this borough's boundary, eg Andover or Winchester, you cannot use the pass for the return journey (or onwards to some other place) if you leave those 'external' places before 0930. Also, if you have a friend visiting you with a pass issued by his/her own local authority, that pass will not be valid on services from Overton before 0930 Mondays to Fridays in the BDBC area. So if you want to travel together without the visitor paying the full fare you will have to travel after 0930 on weekdays.

Delayed services

Parishioners often comment on the late running of certain services, especially immediately after the morning and evening peak hours. The delay is sometimes caused by traffic congestion on the previous inward journey to Basingstoke or Andover which has resulted in a late departure from those points. A similar situation can occur on buses from Winchester on summer Saturdays when that city and the A34 are especially busy with tourist traffic.

May Day Holiday Weekend Services - 3-5 May Buses

Normal service on routes 74, 76, 86 on the Saturday and Sunday but a Sunday service will operate on service 76/86 on bank holiday Monday.

Trains

There will be major engineering works at Basingstoke all weekend which will seriously disrupt services to and from Overton, many of which will have to be undertaken by replacement buses. Full details on Southwest Trains' website or from 0845 7 48 49 50.

