

Overton News & Views

www.overtonvillage.com Information and Comment on Village Activities September 2008
Issued by Overton Parish Council and distributed to Overton and Ashe, Laverstoke and Freefolk

Overton Parish Council (OPC) Notes

From Laura Harley - Parish Clerk

Parish Council Meetings

These will take place in Overton Community Centre:

Wednesday 10 th September:	Public time	7.00pm
	Main meeting	7.30pm
Tuesday 23 rd September:	Planning	7.30pm

The main Parish Council meeting takes place on the second Wednesday of each month starting at 7.30pm.

Please note: Public Time will now be held between 7.00pm 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 start of the meeting. Agendas and planning applications are displayed on the events notice-board.

Planning Applications

The following planning applications have been approved by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council

BDB 68514 Ashe Hill. Change of use of existing land to land for keeping horses and erection of stable block, construction of outdoor riding arena and extension of drive to new facilities.

BDB 68433 Coney Field House, Polhampton Farm Road: Construction of bund & landscaping on adjacent land.

BDB 68434 Hilltop House, North Field: Erection of single storey front extension.

BDB 68424 90 and 92 Winchester Street: Erection of 2 no four bedroom dwelling and creation of new access following demolition of existing dwelling.

BDB 68790 12 The Green. Erection of a detached two bedroom dwelling and associated parking following demolition of garage. Creation of new vehicular access and parking facilities.

BDB 68639 11 London Road, Southington: Erection of a detached double garage with studio in roofspace.

BDB 68677 13 Woodlands: Erection of single storey front extension.

BDB 68932 Berrydown Court: Erection of agricultural barn. Please check the notice board for planning applications to be considered by the parish council or access them online at www.basingstoke.gov.uk

Plans are available from the Clerk.

Laverstoke and Freefolk Parish Council

The next Council meeting is on Thursday 2nd October 2008 at 8.00pm at Portals Sports and Social Club. All members of the public are welcome. For more information contact Rachel Abbott (Clerk) on **892584** or by Email at laverstoke.clerk@btinternet.com

In September there will be an exhibition outlining the plans for Laverstoke Mill - more information to follow when dates have been confirmed.

Recently a football was kicked through the window of Freefolk Village Hall, leading to a bill of over £400 to replace the glass. At a time when the village hall is already struggling to meet its financial commitments, this bill is a further drain on resources. Care should be taken around the hall to avoid accidents such as this happening in the future.

Traffic Light Survey

HCC will be carrying out a topographical survey around the traffic signal junction in Overton during the second week of September. This will enable the county council to form an accurate picture of local detail to complete the design of the revised kerblines in readiness for the new pedestrian phase that will hopefully be introduced in early 2009

Parking in Overton

As the pressures of parking in the village centre become greater, OPC is once again considering ways to ensure that the parking provision provided is used to maximum benefit for both residents and businesses. Overton is very lucky to have mostly unrestricted parking at present with no charges and not too many traffic wardens - but this is likely to change with a 10% increase in population due to the new housing. Please do not double-park next to the cash point machine when the Co-op lorry is on the other side of the road - and, if you need to park for more than half an hour, please use the Overton Hill car park - leaving room for the erstwhile double parkers to slip into a space for a few minutes. A bit of consideration now might mean less draconian steps may need to be taken about future parking.

Overton Hill (London Road) site

The parish council has been considering possible uses for part of the Overton Hill site that is earmarked for a new village hall. It has been agreed to investigate a proposal to locate a Multi-Use Games Area on this site. This would be a fenced tarmac area which could be used for football, netball, basketball and tennis either on a casual basis or for clubs. Any such facility would be subject to the borough council's agreement and planning permission.

Small Grants for footpaths

Grants available from Hampshire County Council are offered to improve access to the local countryside by offering 50% funding for projects including path resurfacing, replacing stiles with gates, providing benches, map boards and leaflets and improving drainage.

If you know of any such project on footpaths around Overton, please let the Clerk know as OPC or the landowner has to submit the application.

Public Transport

From Brian Langer

Travel tokens on trains: South West Trains assure me that these are accepted on trains and change will be given. As the machine at the station does not accept tokens for payment passengers should incur no penalty for boarding a train without a ticket if intending to pay with tokens.

Buses: Stagecoach has again been asked to provide a duplicate bus on the busiest morning services to Basingstoke for the period following the start of the BCOT and QMC students' autumn term. In previous years some of the regular travellers needing to get to work have been unable to get on the buses causing resentment and some staff relations problems with employers.

Trains: a reminder - to allow for autumn leaf fall clearance from 29th Sept. the 0547, 0618 and 0641 eastbound trains, Mondays to Fridays, will leave two minutes earlier and the 0549 and 0618, Saturdays, three minutes earlier.

Steam trains: are due through Overton westbound mid-morning on 11th September and both west and eastbound on 14th September.

Details from www.steamdreams.com or on **01483.209888**

Highways - Ditch clearing: a reminder that adjacent landowners are legally obliged to keep ditches clear so they can take water run off from roads; the county council as highway authority has to keep the 'grips' clear which lead from the road to the ditch. With the very wet weather this is important to comply with please.

North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

Funding for parish and community groups schemes

From Brian Langer

The AONB covers the half of the Overton parish acreage extending north of the railway line and stretching towards Wallingford, Devizes and Wootton Bassett, covering much of the chalk downland of central southern England. Grants for financial year 2008/9 amounting up to 75% of the total cost are available to help deliver local projects that have a positive impact on the environment of that area, raising awareness, understanding and appreciation of the fine landscape's qualities and sensitivities. Those costing over £5000 will require a comprehensive business plan. Applicants don't have to live in the AONB but the project must be relevant to it. Don't delay your application!

Full details from www.northwessexdowns.org.uk or by contacting John Tabor at the AONB office 01488.685440 NB Any project supported by the Fund must be fully completed by 31st March 2009

News Roundup: Overton Regency Sheepfair 2008

From Jeff Teagle, ORSF2008 Chairman

Well done Overton. Once again the Sheepfair has demonstrated the wonderful community spirit that makes our village such a special place. Without the widespread participation and attendance of the businesses, voluntary associations and individual citizens of our village the Sheepfair would never achieve the buzz that we all experienced on 19th and 20th July.

The weather gave us a bit of a scare early on the Saturday morning, but the rain blew over and gave way to an ideal climate that was sunny yet not too hot. Many people have shared their experiences with me and other committee members. Most mentioned appreciation of how many people dressed up in Regency outfits and how good it was to see the children participating in the maypole and longsword dancing. We are very pleased to know that the voluntary associations had great success in their fund-raising activities. Congratulations to Grand Prize Draw winners Mandy Oram (£500) and Colin Lewis (£250) and all others who won prizes and trophies.

I thank De La Rue and Overton Parish Council for their grants, my fellow committee members for their organisation, our volunteer helpers, the entertainers for all their fun and all who organised stalls and activities. Most of all, thank you - the people of Overton - for coming out and enjoying yourselves.

Now it's time to start thinking about the Sheepfair 2012!

Sheepfair Souvenirs still available ...

Programmes ... now at £1.00 each and **logo coffee mugs** now at £3.00 each - both from The Fireplace Shop.

Teacloths ... thanks to everyone who helped me sell out of the 1,000 original order! If you didn't manage to get one of these quirky Overton heirlooms/presents at the Sheepfair, there is still time because an extra final 100 are available at the Fireplace Shop or from me (Jane MacKenzie) on 771121. All profit is going to WaterAid and ORC - the final figures will be in October's ON&V

DVDs Please note that these are being produced by Overton Photographic Club, but it's a long process, editing hundreds of photos. They should be available in good time to be "Christmas stocking fillers". Watch this space for news!

Festival of Flowers - St Mary's Church

From Sheila Boreham

On behalf of St Mary's Church I would like to thank all the people of Overton who helped to make this such a wonderful and successful event. Clubs, shops, businesses, schools, youth groups, other churches and our own church family depicted in flowers 50 biblical scenes from the old Testament to the new.

Our own village school made a beautiful collage of the 23rd Psalm (The Lord is my shepherd - as it was the Sheepfair weekend) which now hangs in the church for all to see. The event was a colourful, fragrant and imaginative journey through the Bible - hundreds came to view and over £1500 was raised for charity (local and overseas).

Naomi House - Wessex Children's Hospice Trust. Registered charity 1002832

From Pat Bain

Thank you to all the Overtonians who supported us in St Mary's Hall Garden on the Sheepfair weekend, when we raised well over £1000. Now, would you like to see how the money is spent on the facilities enjoyed by the children and families we support?

Once a year, Naomi House opens its doors to the public on a weekend when none of the children or their families will be staying at the House. This year, the event will be held on Friday 19th, Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st September - and, courtesy of Steventon Travel Services Ltd, we will be running two free trips to the House in Sutton Scotney on Saturday 20th September at 10.00am and 12.30pm, returning to Overton approximately 3 hours later.

The pickup point is St Luke's Hall in Winchester Street. You will be taken on a tour of the House, watch a DVD about the work of the Trust, see the exciting new development for young adults jacksplace@naomihouse enjoy the funfair attractions and be treated to "the best tea and cakes in town". Numbers are limited to 48, so first come - first served: please contact me on 771433

Saturday night of the Sheepfair

From Peter Baker - Organiser

The *Music from the Time of Jane Austen* evening which was performed, very kindly, by the Steventon Players led by Marilyn and Paul Wright, was greatly entertaining. More thanks must go to the "St. Mary's Garden Players" who entertained the audience with a playlet entitled *Pride & Prejudice* - particularly enjoyed by certain ladies who shouted "We want Mr. Darcy", much to the consternation of his girlfriend in real life who knows only too well the effect he has on 'women of a certain age'!

HART Wildlife Rescue benefited by £586.00 Robin Thorn of Vision Office & AV Ltd were very generous in providing the sound system, free of charge.

ODS - The Beggar's Opera (14th - 18th July)

To enter St Mary's Hall on a muggy evening this July was to be transported back to a time when roguish highwaymen and lusty wenches plied their dubious trades along the highways and byways of Georgian England. Boisterous and bawdy, this ODS production entertained from the moment people stepped inside the doors to its dramatic conclusion.

The entire cast handled the period English dialogue with great flair and gamely tackled the dozens of short ballads that make up the opera. An accomplished *Beggars' Band* provided the authentic musical accompaniment, while directors Gabrielle Esplin and Graham Tipple moved things along at a brisk pace and made excellent use of the hall's limited space to bring the action right into the audience.

A grand old time was had by all: a testament to the quality of the production and cast and to the enduring appeal of a timeless theatrical piece approaching its 300th birthday - and a fitting curtain raiser to Overton's Regency Sheepfair

Forthcoming Events

Overton Harriers' 5-Mile Road Race

From John Thomas - Race Director

This year's event (including a 2½ mile Fun Run) will start at 3.00pm on Saturday 6th September. The Registration Desk at the Overton Recreation Centre is open only between 1.00pm & 2.15pm: those intending to take part should register with ample time to spare. Children's races within the ORC will start at 2.15pm.

As with previous years, Overton traffic will be somewhat grid locked during the Race and residents are advised to avoid driving in the village between 3.00pm & 4.00pm

A programme, giving details on how to enter, is being delivered to every household approximately one week prior to the event. Details can also be obtained by visiting overton5@overtonharriers.org.uk

St Mary's Hall Film Night Winter Season

12th September 2008 - Ruby Blue (12A)

Please note that, on 10th October 2008, the film will now be **Happy Go Lucky** (12A) as *The Children of Huang Shi* (12A) seems to have sunk without trace following its American release and will not be shown.

The film starts at 7.30pm (doors open from 7.00pm onwards) and is shown in St Mary's Hall, High Street, Overton. Tickets can be bought before the night from Overton Fireplaces for £5.00 (or £5.50 on the door). Beverages and confectionery are available for purchase.

Cheese & Wine Ladies' Night

All proceeds in aid of Motor Neurone Disease Association

Ladies, do come along to support and enjoy a wonderful evening on Friday 19th September in St Mary's Hall from 7.30pm. Tickets £5.00 from Overton Fireplaces.

Start the evening with a complimentary glass of wine and some cheese, followed by expert demonstrations of Jewellery Making, Make-up and Floristry. For your complete relaxation and enjoyment our own masseuse and aromatherapist, Janine Berry, will be taking bookings for foot, shoulder and Indian head massages for £8.00 and hand massages for £5.00 To soothe aches and pains, Fiona Berry, a qualified physiotherapist, will provide free on-the-spot advice, consultations and exercises. Craft stalls, handmade cards, candles and lingerie complete the line-up. Wine will be available throughout the evening. For more information please contact Maggs on 771457 or Becci on 770401

The Largest Coffee Morning *From Karen Elliott*

This will be run by Overton Guiding and Scouting groups, in aid of Macmillan Trust, on Saturday 20th September at Town Meadow Scout and Guide Hut, 10.00am to 12noon. Table-Top sale, Bacon Butties and Cakes for sale. Please come and take part.

Pets' Service

From Maggie Atkins

There will be a Service of Thanksgiving for Animals at 3.00pm on Sunday 21st September in the field to the south of Ashe Church (to the west of Ashe House) by kind permission of Mr and Mrs Bronks. All are welcome with their animals. Last year we had all shapes and sizes of animals, so please do come with your pets.

Visit to Kingston Lacey

From Sue Carter

Overton WI and family/friends are visiting this National Trust property on Thursday 25th September. Mervyn's coach leaves at 9.30am (from outside the Pharmacy in Winchester Street) and we should be back in the village by 4.30pm. The cost is £12.00 for the coach (payable in tokens, cheque to "Overton WI" or cash) and entry to the house for non-NI members is £10.00 payable at the property. There are some spare seats on a 'first come' basis - please contact me on 770681 or susan.carter22@btinternet.com

PC Baldwin's next Police Surgery

will be held on Monday 15th September between 12noon and 2.00pm in the Parish Office at St Mary's Hall.

Overton Activities - Regular Reports

Overton Business Association (OBA)

The next OBA meeting is on Tuesday 2nd September at 7.30pm at The Honey Pot Restaurant. All members are requested to attend and visitors are welcome. For more details please visit us at www.overtonbusiness.com or telephone Chairman Keith Green on 770907

HART Wildlife Rescue *From Jackie Grey - Secretary*

Many thanks to everyone who generously donated items for sale and bought goods from the charity shop in Whitchurch recently. The fortnight was the best ever for the charity raising over £1,780.

Regrettably, HART remains closed to new admissions while searching for new premises, temporary or permanent, which can cope more adequately with the large number of wild animals and birds that regularly find themselves in need of a helping hand. If you can help in any way please contact HART please email help@hartwildlife.fsnet.co.uk or leave a message on 770438

Donations are still much needed towards the building of a new hospital and education centre and can be made through the web site www.hartwildlife.org

Overton Library News

From Chris Vane

Some of you may have seen the library staff at the Sheepfair and I know that lots of children entered our Sheepfair Animal Quiz. There were only two that were all-correct, so the winners are Sophie Ironside and Lily Biggs. Rosie guessed the name of our sheep (Kicker) and the sheep went home with her soon afterwards.

The library has been given a collection of books on climate change and alternative energy, as part of the prize awarded to Overton Parish Council from Basingstoke and Deane's **Switch on to climate change** competition. In September the children at Overton Primary school will be entering a competition to design a commemorative bookplate for this special collection. Do come in and see the books for yourself!

The summer reading scheme, Team Read, finishes on Saturday 13th September. Please encourage your children to finish their 6 books so they can be presented with the certificates and medals.

Overton Lunch Club

From Val Bodle

This is held on Tuesdays at the Community Centre, from 12noon to 1pm. We desperately need volunteer drivers to be on our reserve list, to bring members in and take them home. We also desperately need, as reserves, helpers in the kitchen from 11.50am until 12.50pm.

If you feel you can help us, please contact me on 770275

We are having a trial period of chair aerobics (gentle chair exercises for the elderly) on Tuesdays from 11.00am to 11.30am at the Community Centre.

If you are interested please come along.

The next (October) issue of **Overton News & Views**

will be published on Friday 3rd October 2008

The latest date for receipt of contributions and letters is Tuesday 16th September

The Editor's contact details are shown at the foot of page 4

ON&V Distributor - vacancy

Please can you help by delivering approx 80 copies around the end of each month, starting with the October issue (see date box above) in Crawts Road, Poultons Close, Charledown Road & Charledown Close? If so, please contact the editor. Thank you.

Overton Pre-School News *From Anne Boyere*

The summer holidays 2008 have ended but our children will have some very nice memories of them and of this year's big Sheepfair. Our children dressed up as sheep and joined the closing parade, receiving a lot of applause and Aaaaaahs ! We were very pleased to get best child entry in the parade. Thank you to the children for joining in this memorable event and thank you to all the people who helped or supported us during the weekend. Our face painting and second-hand stall raised a fantastic £265. 00 Well done everyone !We are now thinking about the year ahead and would like to invite every Playgroup parent or prospective parent to our AGM. We will meet at the Community Centre on Tuesday 23rd September at 7.30pm. Finally you can now put your name down, at the Community Centre, for our photographer family session, Saturday 27th September from 10.00 am to 12noon

Overton C of E Primary School

From Debbie Dennison - School Governor

The school year came to a close with a wonderful adaptation of Grease performed by the Year 5/6 children. The hard work and enthusiasm of children and staff ensured that this was a fitting finale to a year of achievement. The Year 6 Leavers' Assembly was on the last morning, with parents present to celebrate the children's achievements.

We said goodbye to two teachers this year, Miss Bates and Miss Dixon, with thanks for the contributions that they have made to our school's progress. We will all miss them and wish both of them great success in their careers.

The Overton Regency Sheepfair presented opportunities for the children to demonstrate their skills, both with dancing and floral displays (as mentioned elsewhere in this issue) with invaluable help & guidance from dedicated volunteers.

A highlight for all pupils in July was a SuperSchools day where the children took part in sponsored exercises with the objective of raising funds for our schools fitness programme and the SuperSchools Award Scheme in support of rising talent in sport. We were fortunate to have Charlie Burrows with us, a member of the former GB National Acrobatics Squad, and currently ranked number 1 in Great Britain, who gave an inspiring talk and concluded with a wonderful acrobatic display involving a number of children and the Head teacher in demonstration of his skills.

Despite the best efforts of the weather we managed to complete our Sports Day this year and enjoyed wonderful sunshine for the rearranged swimming gala. The children enjoy competing in house teams and everyone played their parts with enthusiasm. Many parents were there to support both events. The return to school in September will see progress scheduled to take place as part of our landscape project. The development work will be taking place during the school term so that the children can enjoy seeing the changes in their surroundings as they take place.

We look forward to welcoming our new Reception children who enjoyed the opportunity to gather in school for a Teddy Bears' Picnic before the end of term. We are also pleased to welcome our new teachers, Mrs Charlton and Mr Bulpitt and wish them success in their new roles.

Overton Recreation Centre *From Colin Parker*

ORC is indebted to David Bowyer of Ashe who won the top prize in July and generously donated his winnings back. Membership has risen by over 100 since the end of June to 2624. 5 Star Membership is now 232. Contact the Membership Secretary, Emma Scoggins on **771038** for more details. The Golf Section now has 152 members.

ORC is most grateful and would very much like to thank individuals and groups who have made recent donations to the charity and its projects - Mary and Bob Reid, the EWE-nique stall, Jane MacKenzie and the "Workbox".

Town Meadow is still being used for unauthorised parking. Numerous requests have been made to those who abuse the "Private Land" signs. At the August meeting of the Management Committee it was reluctantly agreed to engage Frontline Security - as from 1st September, they will begin monitoring and immobilising vehicles that are parked illegally. ORC is arranging to provide all official "users" of Town Meadow with permits for display on vehicles' windscreens.

Overton Society *From Sue Carter - Hon Secretary*

River Management and Current Farming Issues are the themes of our next meeting in the Community Centre at 8.00pm on Wednesday 24th September, when Richard Gibbins will be our speaker. Richard manages the upper reaches of the Test at Polhampton and has a wealth of knowledge about this stretch of our river. All are welcome (visitors £1). Do come and join us for an informative evening complete with refreshments!

Overton & District U3A

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 17th September at 10.00am in St Mary's Hall. Mike McTaggart will be giving an illustrated talk on The North-West Passage. For further information please contact Diana Goodwin on **771855** or e-mail dianaw@tesco.net

St Luke's Hall Update

Registered Charity 1026873 *From Pat Taylor - Chairman*

Many thanks to everyone who sponsored a roof tile during Sheepfair weekend, when our ageing hall and grounds proved, once again, to be such an asset for a major Overton event. You helped us to raise a magnificent £600 for the Refurbishment Fund, which is eligible for another £600 from the Parish Council's match-funding schemes. Gift Aid declarations should add another £100 or so in due course.

If you missed this Sponsor-A-Tile at the Sheepfair or the Great Overton Duck Race, we are pleased to say it will continue indefinitely, either in person at The Fireplace Gallery, or you can drop us a line for a form at: St Luke's Hall Overton, 49-55 Winchester Street, Overton RG25 3HA

Stop Press *From Laura Harley - Parish Clerk*

On Monday 8th September, the road under the railway bridge in Ashe Lane, Ashe, will be closed to through traffic between 9.30am and 3.30pm for essential bridge inspection and diversions signs will be in place from the B3400.

For problems or comments about Overton 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 Representative
Mark Attwell	770472	David Llewellyn	773004	
Peter Baker	770007	Paula Baker	771219	also Borough Councillor
Tony Leach	772020	Ian Tilbury	771429	also Borough Councillor
Jacky Lessware	773043			

Clerk to the Council is Laura Harley, Oak Tree Lodge, Roundwood, Micheldever, Winchester, Hants. SO21 3BA
 ☎ 771919, e-mail opc@overtonvillage.com

Comments & contributions for **Overton News & Views** are welcomed by the Editor, Chris Penney, either *typed* to 7 Batten's Avenue, Overton, RG25 3NL or e-mail (WORD attachment, please) to OvertonNewsViews@aol.com The Editor reserves the right not to print articles without giving a reason