



Overton News & Views

www.overtonvillage.com

Information and Comment on Village Activities

February 2009

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

The main Parish Council meeting is held in the Community Centre on the second Wednesday of each month starting at 7.30pm. The next will be on 11th February 2009.

Please note: Public Time is from 7.00pm to 7.30pm.

Planning meetings are held in the Community Centre on the fourth Tuesday of each month starting at 7.30pm. The next will be on 24th February 2009. 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.

Speed Limit Reminder sign

Overton Parish Council is leasing a Speed Limit Reminder sign (in association with Whitchurch Town Council) from Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council.

The sign is currently in Winchester Street - but will be moved around the village during the course of the year.

Having Building or Garden work done?

From Tony Leach - Parish Councillor

Around the Parish we have a perpetual problem with the selfish and illegal issue of fly-tipping.

If you are having building work, landscaping or any type of garden work carried out, which results in waste material, it is important that you question the tradesman / labourer as to where the rubbish is going to be deposited. Maybe reminding them of the level of fines and imprisonment might cause some to think twice about how they dispose of the material.

This is a national problem, with rubbish illegally dumped every 35 seconds somewhere in England, resulting in an average of 89,173 reports of incidents of fly-tipping each month. (Information extracted from the Campaign to Protect Rural England web site - CPRE)

The Parish Council is taking this opportunity to encourage everyone to be alert to actual or potential fly-tipping activities. The only way to try and reduce this eyesore is to provide evidence of it happening - and hopefully see those responsible prosecuted. We would remind everyone in the Overton Parish area that anyone who commits the offence of fly-tipping shall be liable to a term of no longer than six months in prison or a fine not exceeding £20,000, or both.

If the case goes to the Crown Court, fines are unlimited and imprisonment can reach two years, or five years if the waste is hazardous. Where fly-tipping involves a vehicle, the driver can be prosecuted, as can the owner. (Environmental Protection Act 1990)

Also, the "duty of care" is for the waste's owner, before it is taken away, to check with the tradesperson that they have a licence to manage waste. Therefore, if the owner of the fly-tipped waste can be identified, they can still be prosecuted for allowing their waste to be transported by a non-licensed carrier (ignorance is *not* a defence).

This is a serious issue in the Parish. No sooner is one load cleared than another is dumped - and we are aware that somebody has left rubbish in one of the village lanes on two occasions, sufficient to actually close the lane to traffic!

If you have any evidence or suspicions then please inform PC Richard Baldwin on 07776 172303

T.O.M.

T.O.M. (Temporary Overton Museum) was conceived at 11.30am on 20th December 2008. The Co-op is the leaseholder of the old One-Stop shop at 1 High Street and has readily agreed to allow local history enthusiasts completely free use of the building until a commercial enterprise is found to take up the lease. During this "credit crunch" it might as well be used for the benefit of the community. Every cloud has a silver lining!

It is envisaged that we villagers will develop it to show our own treasured artefacts - anything from Roman coins, pottery, flint arrow heads to kitchen appliances as used by your parents! Naturally we promise to record carefully and take the greatest care of any loaned items. We are hoping to borrow items related to Overton from the Hampshire Museums Services, the Hampshire Record Office and the Hampshire Library Services.

The history of Overton from 909AD to the present day will be attractively displayed and local photographs and agricultural implements are needed. We plan to set up a children's discovery section. It is intended that it be a "working museum" and we shall collect Overtonians' own personal histories of living and working in and around the village. We shall also hold archive resources for people tracing their family history.

Most importantly, because it is our museum, we need volunteers to help with the research, setting up and running of this exciting project. It is hoped to open the door in the spring time, perhaps, for 2-3 hours several times a week, depending upon the number of volunteers who come forward.

At the moment we haven't a bean - but our fund raisers are going for sponsorship from local authorities and businesses and are setting up a Friends of Overton Museum group. Donations are now being accepted at Overton Fireplaces. Watch the One-Stop window for information / latest news.

Contacts: Peter Baker on 770007 or Jacky Lessware via Email at jlwinst@aol.com

Overton's Heritage

- Linking the Museum and the Community Centre

From Paula Baker - Chair of OCA (711219)

There is a brilliant opportunity for the Overton Community Association (OCA) to work with the Temporary Overton Museum project, just next door. Together we could achieve more than we each might separately and that could mean a greater scope and lifetime for the Museum.

OCA is now halfway through a restoration project. The second (and more exciting) part is what we are calling *Revealing the History of the Community Centre*. It will restore the shape of the original classrooms, by removing the false ceilings. The relatively modern entrance block will be demolished to reveal the Boys' entrance (matching the Girls' entrance which is now the way into the Library). We want to encourage local people to learn about the history of the building, through events and activities.

We also plan a permanent heritage display, but have only a small amount of physical space for it. We have planning permission and some of the funding and expect to apply to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the remainder. This could be the start of something really wonderful for the village. We'd be happy to hear from anyone who'd like to find out more about the Overton Community Centre.

Police News - From PC Richard Baldwin

The next Police Surgery will be held on
Monday 2nd February 2009 between 12noon and 2.00pm
in the Parish Office at St Mary's Hall.

I have started two posts on the Forum page of the local Overton Village website - www.overtonvillage.com
If anyone finds or loses any property they can use this site, which will hopefully reunite owners with their possessions. On a more personal note..... Rather foolishly, I've entered the London Marathon on Sunday 26th April!
Not content just to run the 26.2 miles, I'm going to be in fancy dress (costume yet to be decided, but past endeavours have seen me as Elvis and Rocky Balboa !!)
I couldn't think of any more deserving a cause than HART Wildlife: June, Bob and their volunteers work tirelessly to treat and care for injured, ill, or abandoned wildlife.
So, if you can make a pledge or donation, could I ask you to do so - quoting "Baldwin/Marathon" - *directly* to HART please (address on page 4) or you can contact me via Email at richard.baldwin@hampshire.pnn.police.uk or visit me at one of my local Police Surgeries. Thank you.

Forthcoming Overton Events**Overton Sheepfair Annual General Meeting**

From Sandy Sykes - Secretary

The Regency era - recreated for the successful 2008 Sheepfair - has now passed into Overton folklore, along with the 2004 VICTORIAN and the 2000 Mediaeval eras!
We invite you to come along and join us at the AGM on Thursday 19th February at 7.45pm for 8.00pm in the Overton Community Centre, when some grants will be made from the surplus from 2008.
Also, some early ideas for 2012 will be suggested - after which we can all chat and enjoy a glass of wine or soft drink and some "nibbles".

St Mary's Hall Overton

Film Nights: *Brideshead Revisited* (12A) will be shown at 7.30pm on Friday 13th February - advance tickets are £5.00 from Overton Fireplace Shop or £5.50 on the door.

Beverages and confectionery are available for purchase.

Easy Virtue (PG) will be shown on Friday 20th March - watch out on noticeboards for further details.

Ensemble Champagne - a string quartet - aim to provide an engaging and relaxed evening of classical music on Friday 6th February at 7.30pm. Tickets are £7.00 (£5.00 for children) to include a glass of "champagne" (not for the children) from Overton Fireplace Shop.

Silver Workshop - £35.00 - Saturday 7th March, 10.00am to 4.30pm. Places are limited - so, to book, or for further details, please contact Laura Harley on 01962 774296

Overton Scarecrow Festival 17th - 19th July (and family fun weekend)

What is the Scarecrow Festival? Another opportunity for the community to come together - this time to make and display amusing scarecrows in gardens, houses, shops and businesses right across the village.

This will provide a backdrop for fun activities, stalls and attractions at the Bridge Street Recreation Ground. Funds raised will support leisure and recreation. Come on - let's show again what Overton can do!

Please Make a note for your Diaries. Volunteers and helpers will be needed, please, so - for more information, or to help, contact Steve Williams on 07966 921584

Additional copies of ON&V are available each month from The Co-op (in the rack below notice boards), the Library, Parnell Jordy & Harvey, the Doctors' Surgery - or via www.OvertonVillage.com (click on "Parish Council" first)

Laverstoke and Freefolk Parish Council

The next Council meeting will be held
at 8.15pm on Thursday 12th February 2009
Please note: Public Time is from 8.00pm until 8.15pm.
For more information contact Rachel Abbott (Clerk)
on 892584 or Email at laverstoke.clerk@btinternet.com

Overton Activities - Regular Reports**Age Concern**

A new activity centre is opening soon in Overton, running for one afternoon a week in the lounge at Harvey's Field. Would you like to join our centre either as a volunteer or member? We will be offering refreshments, games, quizzes and gentle chair exercises - all suitable for older people. For more information please get in touch with Beverley Jones at Age Concern on 423871

Overton Biodiversity Society (OBS)

From Ken MacKenzie - Chairman

Come and join us for a *Winter Tree Walk* - looking at trees during this season - including tree identification, tree management and tree planting. We'll meet at the Community Centre at 2.00pm on Sunday 8th February and finish off with the traditional OBS tea and cakes at the end! All welcome (children must be accompanied and supervised). Please wear suitable footwear and clothing. £1.00 for OBS members and £1.50 for non-members.

Overton Choral Society (OCS)

From Lyn Hardy

At our successful and well-attended Christmas Concert, the collection raised £200 for the Mityana Project in Uganda. If singing with us is not what you wish to do, but you enjoy music, then please do come to our annual *Come and Sing* concert on Saturday 21st March at 7.30pm in St Mary's Church (admission £6.00) - always an enjoyable event and OCS members provide marvellous refreshments. We shall be performing Bach's Magnificat in D, Vivaldi's Gloria and Handel's Zadok the Priest (with soloists and orchestra). If anyone would like to know more, please either ring me on 397507 or Email me on lyn_hardy@hotmail.com

Overton Darby and Joan Club

On 24th November, members were well entertained during an enjoyable outing to St Mary's Hall for Overton Dramatic Society's pantomime - *Cinderella Interstellar* - which was a great success. This was followed on 15th December by our visit to Overton Primary School to see their Nativity plays. The traditional Christmas party was held on 18th December in the Community Centre. Members are very grateful for the continuing generous support of the Overton business community who kindly donated wonderful prizes for the raffle, ensuring that everyone went home a winner. Our next meeting will be held on Thursday 19th February in the Community Centre. We welcome all members and any new members on the day. For information, please contact Jackie Crosbie-Dawson (770258) or Inge Hunter (770088)

Overton Folk Club

From Tom Hanley

After our first two extremely successful meetings, Overton Folk Club gets together again at the Red Lion on Wednesday 4th February. All musicians and singers are very welcome - we have had a great variety of songs and tunes played already and look forward to seeing more talent come out of the Overton woodwork!

In March, we have a floor spot booked from local duo The Devil's Elbow. Plans are afoot for booking a folk duo of national renown and organising a ceillidh (barn dance) in the near future. Watch this space/ring 770384 for details.

Overton Garden Society (OGS)

From Greta Dixon - Chairman

Following a highly successful 2008 series of talks and visits, OGS starts its 2009 season with an illustrated talk - entitled *Imperial Japan in Cherry Blossom Time* - by Mary Taylor. New and old members are very welcome to this meeting at 8.00pm on Thursday 12th February in the Community Centre - the first of what looks like being an exciting programme of talks and garden visits throughout 2009.

Overton Library

From Chris Vane - Supervisor

In the run-up to Christmas, we ran a colouring competition, inviting children to decorate a hanger for our Christmas tree. We had some very charming entries and the winner is Holly Gilmour. Thanks to everyone who took time to enter.

Overton Recreation Centre (ORC)

From Colin Parker (771038)

Congratulations to these winners: In the Draw held on 12th December 2008: £1000 Sue Hunter, £200 Elizabeth Patterson, £100 each Diane Gregory, Mark Yelland and Elizabeth Green (all of Overton).

In the Draw held on 9th January 2009: £1000 Derek Clark of Whitchurch, £200 Mrs. A. Ross-Bradnam of Oakley, £100 each John Barker, Dave Osmond and Tim Clark (all Overton) ORC membership continues to rise - 2799 recorded by the end of September, including 255 "5 Star" members. The Golf Section now has 179 members, including 60 "5 Star" Members. Thank you all for your support.

The Planning application for the proposed work at Berrydown is close to being resubmitted and there are high expectations of getting approval.

ORC's Annual Meeting will be held in early April - the exact date will be announced in the next edition of **ON&V**.

Overton Pre-School

From Sally Sellwood

As part of our Christmas celebrations, we took 50 presents down to children being treated for cancer and leukaemia at Southampton General Hospital, and we raised £95 for Playgroup at our annual Sing along.

Looking forward to 2009:

We are now able to offer 15 hours of free pre-school education to our children who have turned 3, ahead of the national introduction of 15 free hours in 2010.

We will be holding an Open Evening on Thursday 26th March at 7.30 pm which will give prospective parents the opportunity to look around our Community Centre setting, talk to members of staff, and register children for places.

Finally we have a family photograph day on Saturday 7th March. You don't need to have a child at Playgroup - just sign up for a slot on the list at the Community Centre

Overton C of E Primary School

From Debbie Dennison - Parent Governor

The school succeeded in our Healthy Schools assessment - a thorough review of all policies/procedures on all aspects of health and well-being. Well done to all involved.

We said goodbye to Mr Kesterton and Mrs Shipley at the end of last term and we wish them both well for the future.

The school held an *Overton's Got Talent* show for which the children could sing, dance, act - anything they wanted! Auditions were held in class and six acts were successful in getting to the next round. It was wonderful to see the children's enthusiasm and confidence for this and we look forward to the Grand Final next month.

Parents will have the opportunity to come into school this term for Class assemblies and we are looking forward to welcoming you all.

Overton School Association (OSA)

From Emma Payne - Chairman

I would like to remind you all that we will be having a fundraising Valentine's Disco in St Mary's Hall on Saturday 14th February. The theme for the evening will be *Back to School / the '80s* - so perhaps you'll feel like entering into the spirit with a suitable outfit!

Our Overton Primary School Summer Fete will be on Saturday 13th June - a long way off yet, but I know that some of you also need to arrange your own events soon.

Overton & District U3A

2008 was nicely rounded off - first by a very entertaining and enlightening talk on 19th November, when Overtonian Bill Sait recounted many amusing incidents and people he encountered during his years practising as a solicitor.

Then, in December, we held a social occasion to celebrate the coming of Christmas - with festive music from Newtown and Burghclere Handbell Ringers (conducted by Diana Godwin), a varied selection of seasonal readings, communal carol singing (accompanied by Nicholas Hussey) and mulled wine and mince pies to round off a delightful morning.

The next meeting is on Wednesday 18th February, at 10.00am in St Mary's Hall as usual, when Donald Sullivan will speak to us about being *A country shepherd*. These monthly meetings are free to members. For a small charge of £3.00 visitors are always welcome. Refreshments are available for everyone at 50p.

For further information please contact Diana Goodwin on 771855 or Email dianaw@tesco.net

PS: The services of a native Spanish speaker are sought to tutor a group of beginners - please contact Jacky Lessware on 773043 or Email jglwinst@aol.com

Letters to the Editor

Please note that letters cannot be printed unless contributors are prepared to put their names to them and that the Editor reserves the right not to print articles without giving a reason

From Sheila [Fluff] Edwards (Rob's wife), Samantha (daughter) and Joseph (Grandson)

We would like to thank everyone for the generous donations, flowers, cards and words of sympathy we received at this very sad time. The flowers were beautiful and the cards a great comfort. The donations (for Naomi House and The British Heart Foundation) reached £4,000 which is a great tribute in Rob's name.

From Paul & Becci Larkham

Just a quick update for everyone who attended the *Twelfth Night Bash* on 10th January in St. Mary's Hall. This year, the event was held in support of The British Heart Foundation. We had a brilliant night and, thanks to the great turnout and the enthusiasm of everyone on the night, we raised a stunning £1000 for the charity. This is a brilliant result in these straitened times!

Once again, we're grateful to various Overton businesses for their support helping with ticket sales and raffle prizes, to Sideways Down for the great music, to lots of helpers and to everyone who came down, enjoyed the night, and dug so deep!

Thanks to all - and we hope to see you again next time...

Lost Property - From Jacky Lessware

St Michael's Hospice Shop in Overton has agreed to provide a temporary home to those lonely lost items which one sees perched on the walls around the village.

Should you come across a glove, a child's shoe, an umbrella, etc. please take it to the shop, where - hopefully - it may be quickly re-united with its owner who will be so happy that he or she will make a donation to the charity. (Please see also *Police News* - at the top of page 2)

From Overton Mummings

Many thanks to everyone who braved the cold on Boxing Day to come and see the Overton Mummings perform. A collection was made and we are very happy to be able to donate £152.00 to St Michael's Hospice.

From Disgusted of Station Road - (Sally Sellwood)

I would like to ask those people - who continue to let their dogs foul the pavements in the village and don't clear it up - whether they realise that not only are they breaking the law but that leaving dog mess on the pavements is disgusting and a risk to public health?

In recent weeks there have been a number of "piles" left along Station Road and London Road and at least one of the culprit owners appears to be of mature years. We complain about the anti-social behaviour of a small section of Overton's teenagers but surely this is just as anti-social?

Sally.Sellwood@googlemail.com

From Mary Reid, Poyntz Road

If you walk from Winchester Street on the Footpath next to the Redfort, you will soon reach a narrow, walled, "dog-leg" - where the path turns sharp right at the end of the Methodist Church garden. Please can we ask all users to take special care to avoid further accidental damage to this "lattice" brickwork, because Poyntz Road residents have to pay for repairs to this privately owned wall. Thank you.

Some readers will remember Mary Meeks, who lived in Batten's Avenue until about 10 years ago. Sadly, we have now heard from her granddaughter that, a few days after she enjoyed celebrating her 101st birthday (on 6th December) with her family, Mary became unwell and died peacefully on Boxing Day.

HART Wildlife Rescue Hospital at 16 Dellands, Overton, RG25 3LB www.hartwildlife.org.uk

(Most of the following news arrived just after the last edition of ON&V had gone to press, but I am sure it is still of great interest to readers - Editor.)

HART Hospital has re-opened on a small scale to new admissions, as fundraising for a new hospital continues.

"It was a very difficult decision to close earlier in 2008 and, to be honest, I have missed it - but I am determined not to let things get out of hand again. I will be fostering out the sick hedgehogs, once they have completed their medical treatment and, in the Spring, we will use a team of volunteers to care for clutches of new birds at their homes."

Since re-opening, June has taken in 58 hedgehogs and numerous birds (including a wren, a goldcrest, a bluetit and a kestrel) and four cygnets have been relocated.

Finding suitable alternative premises has proved impossible but fundraising for a purpose-built wildlife hospital and education centre has been going very well during last summer, with many donations coming in from well-wishers. De La Rue have confirmed that their land in Kingsclere Road remains available for such a building and the process of applying once again for planning permission has begun.

Contact **Jackie Grey** (01264) 356253 for more information.

The next (March 2009) edition of *Overton News & Views* will be published on Friday 27th February 2009

The final date for receipt of letters and contributions is Monday 16th February 2009

Please send them to the Editor, Chris Penney, either by Email to OvertonNewsViews@aol.com (WORD attachment, please) or typed to 7 Batten's Avenue, Overton, RG25 3NL

Highways and Transport News

From Brian Langer

C29 Overton to Micheldever Road. A reminder that it is still the county council's intention to begin work on 2nd February to improve the appalling state of the haunches south of the railway bridge - and that the related road closure could last for up to two weeks. During the closure, access to properties north of the bridge will not be possible from the A303 and such traffic will need to come through Overton. The formal diversionary routes will have to cater for all traffic - so expect more on "unofficial local rat-runs".

Village 30 proposals. The changes to village speed limits, as part of a county council initiative, have been published and displayed on poles around the village as well as receiving press coverage. If approved, all existing 40mph zones will be reduced to 30mph - Silk Mill Lane, Two Gate Lane, Station Hill, the roads to the Paper Mill and towards Polhampton would all become 30mph zones.

OPC supports the proposals after strong lobbying by parishioners that lower speeds were necessary; it remains to be seen if parishioners are prepared to comply with any new limits.

Road salting and salt bins. The county council under-took regular salting of its priority one and two routes during the recent cold spell but pavements and culs de sac were not covered. Salt bins were due to be replenished - but, if this has not happened, contact the customer service line on **0845 603 5633**

Motorists, especially if out very early, are advised that salt does not melt ice if ground temperatures drop below -5°C; traffic movement is needed to function well, so a salted road does not necessarily mean a non-slippery road surface

Trains Card "stands" at Overton Railway Station. These have appeared recently at the platform entrance and will be come into use when SouthWest Trains introduce a form of smart card system for printing off, for instance, tickets pre-ordered on-line.

Ticket barriers at Waterloo. These are now in place and you cannot exit the platforms without inserting your ticket. So, should Overton station be unmanned and the platform ticket machine is out of order when you travel, you must obtain a valid ticket from the on-train conductor/guard at the earliest opportunity.

Overton ticket office opening hours. The Government has reportedly authorised SWT's request that, from an unspecified future date, the office be open for reduced hours, Mondays to Fridays, from 0700 to 0920 hours.

Buses: Village Service 74 (Burghfield MiniCoaches).

The county council has confirmed that the contract for this service will have to be re-tendered by mid-summer as part of the Basingstoke area re-tendering process. No change to the existing route will be considered in the meantime, so any requests for changes must be addressed to me in writing so they can be forwarded to Winchester. Budgets are limited and continuation of this service will depend on how well its usage and related costs compare with other subsidised services.

There can be no certainty that the borough council will be able or prepared to meet the cost should the county decide they can no longer fund it. So, if you value the service, its use needs to be maximised, because pleas as to its "lifeline nature" by those living far from the village's commercial heart and services will carry no weight apparently. The county council wonders if users would prefer a "demand responsive" service rather than a fixed route and timing service such as Overton has now and, if the service could be funded for two days only rather than three, on which days should the service operate? *Let me have your views please.*

Borough travel tokens / bus passes for 2009-2010

Those over 60 and already receiving these should have received information from B&DBC on when and how to renew them for the coming financial year. If you are over 60, not in receipt of them but would like to be, please contact **844844** for the relevant form.

For problems or comments about Overton Parish Council matters, please contact:

Parish Council Chairman	Alan Whitney	770174	Email alan-whitney@hotmail.co.uk
Vice-Chairman	Lucy Sloane Williams	770607	Email 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, Email opc@overtonvillage.com			