

Overton News & Views



www.overtonvillage.com

Information and Comment on Village Activities

March 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 March.

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 March. 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.

Website News

Did you know that there is a Village diary on the website? If not - please go to www.overtonvillage.com and have a look. The diary now appears on the front page of the website - it is easy to use and can be accessed by anybody. It has been agreed that the diary will be printed and displayed on the noticeboards around the village at the start of each month - so make sure your event is included. There is also a new News page, where people can report information. You will require a log in to be able to access the News - please contact webmaster@overtonvillage.com for further details. Please forward your email address to www.overtonvillage.com (see front page of website) to ensure that you are kept up-to-date with all the activities within the village.

New councillor for Overton Parish Council

Overton Parish Council is now up to its full complement of councillors following the co-option of Dr Tom Ridler at the February meeting.

Planning Applications

Approved by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council:

BDB 69538 - 18 Southington. Conversion of garage to living accommodation

BDB 69826 - 17 Glebe Meadow. Consent for work to preserved trees

BDB 69884 - 7 Sapley Lane. Erection of two-storey side extension and installation of roof lights

BDB 69868 - Ashe Court. Erection of porch canopy on north elevation etc

Refused by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council:

BDB 69753 - 15 High Street. Display of 1 no externally illuminated fascia

Police News From PC Richard Baldwin

PC Baldwin's next Police Surgeries will be held on
Monday 2nd March & Tuesday 7th April (provisional date)
between 12noon and 2.00pm
in the Parish Office at St Mary's Hall.

Unfortunately we've had a less than auspicious start to 2009 with 20 crimes in January (13 in 2008 and 19 in 2007) committed in and around the Overton area, including a lot of theft of property / vehicles/ caravans.

The beat team from Whitchurch and I are naturally concerned about these recent "insurgent" criminal attacks and will be doing everything we can to prevent and deter these criminals from visiting our area to commit any further thefts. We have stepped up our patrols and we're also

conducting roadside checks on all the gateways to and from the area.

The problem is not just isolated to Overton, with our neighbouring beat areas also being targeted (21 crimes for both Whitchurch and Kingsclere).

Crime Prevention advice

I would urge everyone to take extra provisions to secure their property at this time:-

- Lock all gates, sheds and garages
- If you own a caravan remove the wheels and install an alarm
- Don't leave valuables in your vehicle
- If your house or car has an alarm, then please use it
- Report any suspicious activity, however trivial you may believe it is.

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)

Forthcoming Overton Events

A Fun Quiz Night is being held by The Barth Syndrome Trust at 7.30 pm on Saturday 7th March in the Methodist Hall, Winchester Street. Tickets are £7.00 each - from either Terri Allison on 781905 or Heather Oram on 770822 - and include a ploughman's supper (bring your own drinks and glasses). Please come along and support us.

St Mary's Hall Overton

Film Night - "Easy Virtue" (PG) will be shown at 7.30pm on Friday 20th March. Tickets are available from Overton Fireplaces for £5.00 in advance (£5.50 on the door).

Silver Workshop: Sat 7th March 10.00am - 4.30pm (£35)

Mosaic Workshop: Sat 21st March 10.00am - 4.00pm (£22)

Watercolour Workshop: Sat 25th April 10.00am - 4.00pm (£20)

Places are limited - so, to book a space or for further details, please contact Laura Harley on 01962 774296

Ensemble Champagne - a string quartet aiming to provide an engaging and relaxed evening of classical music were due to perform in St Mary's Hall on Friday 6th February, but this concert was cancelled due to the snowy conditions. It will now be held on Friday 8th May. Tickets are £7.00 (£5.00 for children) to include a glass of "champagne" (not for the children) and are available from the Fireplace Shop.

Cheese & Wine Ladies' Night Ladies, do come along to support and enjoy a wonderful evening on Friday 3rd April in St Mary's Hall from 7.30pm. All proceeds will go to the Motor Neurone Disease Association (MNDA) - a Registered Charity (No 294354).

Start the evening with a complimentary glass of wine and some cheese, followed by expert demonstrations of Dichroic Glass Jewellery and Floristry. For your complete relaxation and enjoyment our masseuse will be taking bookings for foot, shoulder and Indian head massages. Tarot Card Reading and manicures are also an added attraction this time together with Handbags, Indonesian Arts and Craft stalls and a luxury Taster Table.

If you have any costume jewellery that requires some TLC bring them along as Sandy will have her mending tools! Wine and refreshments available throughout the evening. Tickets are £5.00 from Overton Fireplaces. For more information contact Maggs on 771457 or Becci on 770401

Laverstoke and Freefolk Parish Council

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Thursday 19th March from 8.15pm, with public time from 8.00pm.

The Parish council will be considering grant requests at their next meeting in April. Requests - in writing and with information showing what the grant is for - should be sent, by Monday 20th April, to *Rachel Abbott, Clerk to the Council, 7 New Barn Farm Cottages, Hurstbourne Priors RG28 7RU* or Email laverstoke.clerk@btinternet.com

NSPCC Lambing Event 2009

With the kind permission of James and Jackie Crosbie-Dawson, two Lambing Days to raise funds for the NSPCC are being held at Northington Farm, The Lynch (turn left, off Southington Lane)



Come along between 12noon and 5.00pm on either Friday 10th or Saturday 11th April and enjoy an afternoon seeing the new-born lambs on the farm.

Admission £3.00 (free for under-12s). Wellington boots are recommended. Refreshments will be available.

Neither the Crosbie-Dawsons nor the NSPCC accept liability for any illness or accidents which may occur. They draw visitors' attention to the fact that disease can be transferred between animals and humans - so any contact is at visitors' own risk. For further information about the days, telephone 770078 or 773054

Overton Walks on Easter Saturday

The North Hampshire Downs section of the Ramblers' Association (RA) have organised a choice of three circular walks from the B3400 Overton Hill Long-term car park on Easter Saturday 11th April, to commemorate the life of Brenda Parker, who died last April.

The walks, taken from a book "Walks in North Hampshire" written by Brenda and published in 1984, are 10 miles (start time 10.00am - this one includes a pub stop) 6 miles (start time 10.15am) or 4½ miles (start time 10.30am).

Brenda had been involved with footpath work for many years and was at various times RA Hampshire Area Footpath Secretary, Countryside Secretary and Chair. She had a passion for walking and an understanding of the basics of rights of way law and local authority consultation and planning processes. She was actively involved in footpath work - taking a lead in coordinating this when necessary - and had close contact with other Hampshire groups, parishes and the County Council.

The RA protects the public's right to use public paths and ensures paths are adequately maintained and unobstructed. Local groups organise weekly led walks of varying length. For further details please contact Barry on 770175 or Email BarryLeslie45@gmail.com

Overton Scarecrow Festival

(and Family Fun weekend) 17th - 19th July 2009

What is it? A display of witty Scarecrows across the village, providing a backdrop for fun and entertainment at Bridge Street Recreation Ground, where we are also considering requests for anyone wishing to run a stall.

Let's show again what Overton can do, with lots of amusing scarecrows - we have a target of 150 scarecrows. Sssh... Don't tell anyone, but some people are secretly making scarecrows already!

Don't worry: come to the Scarecrow Making Workshops at the Recreation Centre, on either Saturday 14th March or Saturday 28th March, from 9.30am - 1.00pm each day.

For more information, contact *Steve Williams* on 770434 or 07966 921584

Overton Activities - Regular Reports**Age Concern**

We are very pleased to announce that the weekly activity centre for older people in Overton will be opening its doors on Tuesday 24th March. Running each week in the lounge at Harvey's Field from 2.00pm to 4.00pm, we will be offering gentle chair exercises, games, quizzes, good company and lively conversation.

Please contact *Beverley* at Age Concern on 423874 for more information and to reserve your place.

Badminton Club

Did you make a New Year's Resolution to get more exercise? If you would like to play badminton in Overton come along to St Mary's Hall on Thursdays from 8.00pm until 10.00pm. We welcome new players. Please phone *Teresa Reynolds* on 770248 - or just turn up.

Overton Biodiversity Society (OBS)

OBS will be holding a short AGM on Thursday 19th March at 7.30pm in the Community Centre, which will be followed by an illustrated talk by David Poynter on *Impressions of Spring*. We also hope to be able to look at a draft copy of the new Overton Parish Biodiversity Action Plan. The evening will finish with home-made refreshments. Everyone is welcome - especially new members! For further details please telephone *Ken Mackenzie (Chairman)* on 771121

Overton Business Association (OBA)

OBA is holding its 2009 AGM at 7.30pm on Tuesday 3rd March in The Honey Pot Restaurant. Members, please put this date in your diary and we look forward to seeing you - we urge you to attend as we will need to elect a new committee and 2009 membership fees will be due. If there are any nominations for committee positions, please Email them to chairman@overtonbusiness.com Visitors are welcome at the AGM and our other meetings. The OBA website www.overtonbusiness.com has more details - or telephone *Keith Green (Chairman)* on 770907

Overton Choral Society (OCS)

OCS is holding its 2009 Come and Sing Concert on Saturday 21st March in St Mary's Church, Overton - Bach's Magnificat in D, Vivaldi's Gloria, Handel's Zadok the Priest (with soloists and orchestra). Conductor: Paul Timms.

Afternoon rehearsal with refreshments (Singers £10) followed by a concert at 7.30pm to celebrate Mothers Everywhere (Audience £6.00).

For more information or a form please contact *Lyn Hardy* on 397507 or Email lyn_hardy@hotmail.com

Overton Folk Club

February once again saw a full house at the Red Lion, despite the snow and ice. Our next meeting is on Wednesday 4th March, when we have booked *Devil's Elbow*, a duo from South Warnborough - but there will still be chance for regular musicians and singers to perform. Entrance will be £2.00 this month.

On Saturday 28th March we are organising a ceillidh in St Mary's Hall, dancing to local group *Sharon's Handbag*. There will be a bar (but no food). Tickets are £5.00 in advance, available from the organisers or Overton Fireplace Shop, or £6.00 on the door.

Future events see another singaround on Wednesday 1st April, then on Wednesday 6th May we are presenting a concert with nationally renowned duo *Belshazzar's Feast* - not to be missed. More details next month, or from *Tom Hanley* (770384) Email overtonfolkclub@hotmail.co.uk

Overton Garden Society (OGS)

Ray Broughton from Sparsholt will be the speaker at the second meeting of our 2009 season - he will be talking us through **Pruning Skills**.

All existing and new members are welcome at 7.45pm for 8.00pm on Thursday 12th March in the Community Centre, when we shall also be finalising the numbers for a Hampton Court trip in July.

From Greta Dixon - Chairman

Overton Library

Our Membership Campaign is still running - until 9th March - during which, everyone who joins will have the opportunity to choose a free book(while stocks last) and will be entered into a prize draw.

There will be more than one winner! So, if you've been thinking of joining yourself, or if you have a child who isn't yet a member, there's still time to come and see what's happening.

From Chris Vane - Supervisor

Overton Pre-School

We will be holding an Open Evening on Thursday 26th March at 7.30pm. Children born between 1st September 2006 and 31st August 2007 are eligible to start with us from September 2009 and this Open Evening will give prospective parents the opportunity to look round our Community Centre setting, talk to members of staff, ask any questions and register their children with us.

Then at 8.00pm there will be a presentation for all parents about the Pre-School, looking at the value of play. Please phone Amanda on 770370 for further details.

From Anouska Colledge

Testbourne School News

Situations Vacant We are looking for reliable, conscientious, individuals to add to our pool of Examination Invigilators. The work is on a casual basis throughout the year, with the majority of sessions occurring in May, June and November. If you would be interested, please contact Nicky Alcock, Examinations Officer, in the school office on 892061 (she usually works Wednesday to Friday).

From Teresa Reynolds - Governor

Overton Recreation Centre (ORC) wishes to

congratulate these winners in draw held on 11th February: £1000 - Michael Reeves, £200 - Mrs. Helen Wakelen, £100 each - Richard Bronks, Josh Basham and Paul Terney. The general membership of ORC, 5 Star membership and that of the Golf Section all continue to climb with 2802, 258 and 182 respectively recorded at the end of January. Thank you all again for your continuing support.

ORC's Annual Meeting will be held on Monday 27th April at Bridge Street Pavilion, at 8.05pm. The inspected accounts for 2008 and the Trustees' Report will be presented. Please note that this is a change from the date published with the Draw results in February and shown on the ORC notice board near the library.

From Colin Parker (771038)

Overton Society

The topic for our next Open Meeting - to be held at 8.00pm on Wednesday 25th March in the Community Centre - is **A Museum for Overton?**

Come and find out about the concept, progress to date and how you can get involved in this exciting venture. Light refreshments will be served. There is a charge of £2.00 for non-members to cover costs.

From Sue Carter

Overton & District U3A

We are delighted to report that U3A is going from strength to strength, with over 130 signed up members, very well attended monthly meetings and 20 subject groups regularly getting together. Having found a tutor, a Spanish group is confidently expected very soon!

At our January meeting, local photographer Tony Morris described how he developed his overtonpictures.com website from a hobby to a project which involves the whole community and draws on/preserves the memories and photographic memorabilia of the past and present lives of Overton residents.

He needs more to fill in gaps - so please look for photographs in your attic and do not throw away any old ones! He is always happy to collect them and give them a good home (he has never lost one photograph that has been loaned to him).

At our next meeting, in St Mary's Hall at 10.00am on Wednesday 18th March, Sheila Glyn-Owen will be talking to us about **Lasting Powers of Attorney**.

For a small charge of £3.00 visitors are always welcome. Refreshments are available for everyone at 50p each.

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

Letters to the Editor

Please note that Letters submitted anonymously will not be considered, although names may occasionally be withheld at the discretion of the Editor, who reserves the right not to print articles without giving a reason

In Thanks - From Ian Lamb

Following the tragic and devastating loss of my beloved wife Celia on 9th January, this is my way of thanking all who took the time to send me their kind cards, thoughts and letters of condolence. Although not yet, I will take time to re-read every one of them and take solace from the resounding message of love and respect.

Celia had Motor Neurone Disease for approximately two years and, throughout her illness, never sought any life-extending treatments. This was a sign of her courage and determination - traits that she applied to the way she lived her life, building a very successful dog grooming business following some unlucky breaks in the job market after our move to Overton in July 2001.

I also feel humbled and touched by the kind words conveyed by those who have talked to me in passing, following Celia's death. Throughout her illness, her medical care has been excellent, being supported by the **Motor Neurone Disease Association (MNDA)** and **St Michael's Hospice**. To this end, would anyone wishing to make a kind donation to either of these worthy charities please send them via me at 24 Southington, Overton.

From: Name and Address supplied (south Overton)

I write in the hope that you will print this letter so that I can publicly make three big "thank you"s to people who unfortunately I do not know personally.

First - thanks to the inconsiderate person who allowed their horse to empty what appeared to be the entire contents of its bowels all over the **footpath** - not even the road !!! - in Sapley Lane, around midday on Saturday 24th January. Many dog owners have been slated for a lesser mess. Perhaps you should carry a bin liner with you....

Secondly, thanks to the owner/driver of a green Honda, who, kindly parked across the **whole pavement** the same day - forcing pedestrians into the road in order to pass by. If consideration is too much to hope for, how about some good old-fashioned common sense???? Trying to teach two toddlers that they should not walk down the middle of the road is made more difficult by incompetence like this.

(This Letter continues on page 4)

My final - and perhaps the biggest of all - thanks go to the low-life who broke into our caravan, in Overton, on that same night. We don't have a luxurious lifestyle and our caravan is very precious to us, as it allows us to take our children away now and again - something we could not afford if we had to pay hotel bills. The credit crunch is difficult for all of us, but we don't all stoop so low. Perhaps these opportunists should try to picture the look on a 4 year old's face when they realise that something they look forward to so much is jeopardised by other people - who perhaps also live in our village community?

From: Name and Address supplied (Overton)

I would just like to mention the recent crimes of house break-ins and stealing of caravans during January. **What is happening to our village?!** Just to warn everyone in Overton to be aware of strangers and to make sure they have enough security. I had my caravan stolen during the early hours of Friday 23rd January. My husband and I were asleep and didn't hear a sound. Even the dog next door, which is usually aware of any sudden noise, didn't bark. It is very upsetting and worrying for the victims. Yes, hopefully we have insurance but that's not the point: our personal lives have been invaded - and some victims become afraid to enter their own homes in case they have been targeted again.

Highways & Transport News *From Brian Langer*

C29 Overton to A303/Micheldever Road. Work should be well under way on the major repairs to this road when this edition is distributed. There is much else wrong with this road which the parish council is taking up, yet again, with the county council.

Road salting and salt bins. The snowy weather in February, plus the alternating freeze then melt, has caused severe deterioration to many parts of the area's road network. Although the parish council will take up specific pothole etc problems with the county, you are urged to contact **0845 603 5633** and report problems direct to HCC Customer Services so that your complaint is individually recorded. The parish council will be undertaking an audit of grit bins so that an assessment of the provision of extra ones can be made. The parish has to fund their purchase but the county pays for the grit they put in them.

B3400. The puzzling inconsistencies in speed limits from Andover right through to Basingstoke has been a source of concern to the parish council for years. The matter will yet again be raised with the county council.

There were several accidents on this road in recent weeks, some related to weather conditions, some not. The county council has advised that it hopes, before the end of March, to have re-marked all centre line and edge of carriageway markings and replaced all "cats' eyes" on the national speed limit section between Overton and Laverstoke.

Meet the local bus and train management - Open Forum
An opportunity to hear presentations from and to quiz the local management about services, fares, equipment etc will arise in March when two meetings will be held as follows:
(This Article continues in the next column)

Buses Meeting: Pete Robinson, Operations Manager Stagecoach at Andover and Richard Tyldesley, Assistant Operations Manager Stagecoach Basingstoke will be at the Community Centre from 9.30am to 11.30am on Saturday 14th March. The Andover depot supplies most of the buses used on routes 76/86. Cllr Anna McNair Scott, county councillor for the Candovers ward which includes Overton, hopes to be at that meeting. The county council funds the three mornings a week "around the village" service 74.

The subsidised weekday evenings and all Sunday services on routes 76/86 (paid for by the borough council), as well as service 74 will all be up for re-tendering shortly, so make your views known.

Trains Meeting: Craig Josey, Area Manager West of England, South West Trains (covering Overton to Exeter) and Michael Hedderly, Rail Officer Hampshire County Council will be at the Community Centre from 7.00pm to 9.00pm on Wednesday 18th March.

This meeting has been timed to help London commuters, attend but all rail users are welcome.

Late News

Hampshire Farmers' Markets (HFM) are looking ahead in celebration of their 10th anniversary, which will encompass new events and food festivals across the county throughout 2009, in addition to their regular markets held in Alton (now every month), Andover, Odiham, Winchester, Southsea, Petersfield, Romsey, Chandlers Ford and Hythe.

HFM will be a major attraction at local food festivals including Alton (9th May and 12th July), Petersfield (7th June) Southsea (19th July), Odiham (31st Aug), Andover (20th Sept) and a month-long Hampshire Food Festival throughout July.

New for 2009... HFM will also run at The Watercress Festival, Alresford (17th May) and The Hampshire Harvest Weekend at Winchester Cathedral (3rd and 4th Oct).

A free flyer - detailing all 2009 dates and locations - is available at all the markets, or call **01420 588671** for a copy, or visit www.hampshirefarmersmarkets.co.uk

Flashetts Footpath

The parish council has received a report that a fence at the Station Road end of the Flashetts path has been sawn in half deliberately - probably to allow access for horses.

Hampshire County Council has asked us to state that the Flashetts path is a **footpath only** and is **not** accessible to horses or bicycles. Rights of Way Officer, Matthew Beal, has asked that members of the public report the use of the footpath by horse riders and that any damage/problems on this, or other paths within the parish, be reported either to the call centre on **0845 6035636** or via the website <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/row-online-maps>

The next (April 2009) edition of **Overton News & Views** will be published on Friday 27th March and will cover events taking place up to mid-May
The deadline for contributions is Monday 16th March
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

<i>For problems or comments about Overton Parish Council matters, please contact:</i>			
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	Tom Ridler	
Tony Leach	772020	Paula Baker	771219 (also Borough Councillor)
Jacky Lessware	773043	Ian Tilbury	771429 (also Borough Councillor)
Clerk to the Council is Laura Harley, Oak Tree Lodge, Roundwood, Micheldever, Winchester, Hants. SO21 3BA Tel: 771919 Email opc@overtonvillage.com			
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