

Overton News & Views



www.overtonvillage.com

Information and Comment on Village Activities

April 2009

Issued by Overton Parish Council and distributed to Overton and Ashe, Laverstoke and Freefolk

* **Stop Press** * PC Baldwin's next Police Surgery will be earlier than provisionally listed in March ON&V. It will now be on Monday 6th April between 12noon and 2.00pm in the Parish Office at St Mary's Hall.

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 8th April.

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 28th April. 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.

Parish Council Grants

Calling all Overton Clubs and Societies. Does your club or society require a grant for an item of equipment, a day out or another specific project? If so, the parish council has £3,000.00 set aside to give in grants during the financial year from 1st April 2009. Please contact the Clerk for a simple application form which needs to be completed and returned (with a copy of your latest bank statement and set of accounts) by the deadline of 30th June, for consideration at the parish council meeting on 8th July.

The 2009 Annual Parish Meeting

This will take place on Wednesday 20th May in St Mary's Hall. Please arrive from 7.15pm onwards to enjoy a drink in the St Mary's Hall Garden - the meeting will commence at 7.45pm and concentrate on traffic and parking issues relevant to Overton. The evening will be rounded off with refreshments provided by Overton WI.

Local mail delivery office to close on 5th May?

Royal Mail says it will close the Delivery Office in Whitchurch on 5th May and transfer the work to Priestley Road on the northern outskirts of Basingstoke. It says "Any customers unable to collect mail from Basingstoke Delivery Office can arrange re-delivery to their home address, at a mutually convenient time and date, either online or by telephoning the number on the card notifying them we have an item for them. Alternatively customers can arrange to collect items from a local participating Post Office for a nominal fee." But the Overton Sub-Postmaster has written "We have no space in the Post Office fortress unit - and my retail colleagues likewise have insufficient space for a secure parcel storage facility. I have to conclude that we are not able to assist on this occasion, but I hope something else is forthcoming which supports community needs." Overton and Whitchurch people campaigned together four years ago and defeated a similar proposal to close this delivery office. Now we face the same challenge again in 2009. Together we can stop this - join the campaign to keep our local delivery office. See www.thirdclassmail.co.uk

From Jacky Lessware - Overton Parish Councillor

Forthcoming Events In & Around Overton Celebrate Easter.....

Palm Sunday 5th April:

Donkey Procession (with Overton Churches Together) will start at the top of Sapley Lane at 10.00am, followed by a service at the Community Centre at 11.00am.

Passion Reading (with Overton Dramatic Society) in St Mary's Church at 6.30pm.

Easter Sunday 12th April:

New this year! *Easter Egg Service* at 4.00pm, with an Egg Hunt - and the return of those cheeky puppets, Penny and Bruce.

Full details of our Easter services can be found in *The Test* magazine and on posters in the village.

Naomi House Children's Hospice

We invite children and families to take part in a giant fund-raising Easter Egg Hunt from 2.00pm to 5.00pm on Easter Sunday, 12th April, at Highclere Castle.

Once again, Lord and Lady Carnarvon have kindly allowed us to hold the event in the castle grounds - and it promises to be a great family day out, as we will be providing lots of yummy goodies and a prize for every child taking part. There will also be an Easter Bonnet Competition.

Naomi House is your local children's hospice, providing care and support for children who are life-limited and, sadly, will not live into adulthood.

We provide respite, terminal and bereavement care to over 300 children and families each year. We receive less than 10% government funding so therefore have to rely on the generosity of the communities we serve to raise £2.5 million a year to keep the hospice open.

We also recently launched a £12 million appeal to build jacksplace@naomihouse - a new hospice for teenagers and young people.

From Grazia Rispoli, Community Fundraiser

(01962) 843513 www.naomihouse.org.uk

St Mary's Church

Our Spring Fair will be held at 9.30am on Saturday 25th April in the Community Centre. There will be all the usual stalls and a raffle. Donations and gifts of cakes, savouries and produce are most welcome.

50p admission includes coffee. Proceeds to local charities.

Enquiries to Jane Waldram (770444)

Overton Methodist Church

Home-made goodies galore will be served at our 3-course Delicious Daffodil Supper at 6.30pm on Saturday 25th April, in the back hall of the chapel.

This year it is in aid of Cancer Research and WaterAid. Raffle prizes will be gratefully received.

Tickets, still at last year's price of £8.50, are available from Ikebana Flower Shop, Executive Dry Cleaners and Jane MacKenzie (771121)

Thank you for all the support this special event has had over the past seven years. Last year we raised £661.00 ...!!

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

This month's cover photo is of primroses in woods at Ashe

Laverstoke and Freefolk Parish Council

The next Parish Council meeting is on Thursday 23rd April from 8.15pm, with public time from 8.00pm.

The Parish council will be considering grant requests at this meeting and requests - in writing 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

Police News - Beat Update

From PC3909 Richard Baldwin Parish Beat Officer since 2005 PCSO James Dalton left us on 13th February to take up a position as a Police Constable with the Hampshire Constabulary. Can I take this opportunity to thank James for his help and wish him every success in his new career. His successor will be joining the beat shortly.

Thursday 26th February was a day of contrasting emotions when I attended the funeral of Kim Sherman (our lollipop lady) in the morning and then was a judge for a talent competition at Overton Primary School in the evening. Kim's funeral was well attended by family and friends from Overton and she will be fondly remembered by all who knew her. She would have loved the talent competition which had a wealth of talented youngsters entertaining the packed audience. The judging of such a keenly-contested show was *very* difficult, as everyone deserved much praise and the parents can be immensely proud of their offspring.

Beat Crime Statistics. I am pleased to say we had a very "low crime" month in February, with only nine reported cases following the busy start to the year. (Nine crimes matches our lowest ever monthly total in my tenure as the Parish Beat Officer).

The 2009 Year-to-date reported crime figures for the Overton Beat Area are:

January - 20 x reported crimes and **February** - 9 x reported crimes (compared to 12 x crimes in 2008 and 16 in 2007).

Boqus Callers - Distraction: At around 8.00pm on Thursday 12th March 2 x males tricked their way into an elderly Overton resident's home and stole a small amount of money. If anyone saw anything suspicious in the Village at that time, please contact me or Hampshire Police on the numbers below. Please be mindful of unexpected visitors and, if you have elderly relatives, friends, or neighbours, please take time to advise them of this incident.

Stop - are you expecting anyone to call on you? Do you know the person at the door? Don't be misled by what appear to be genuine reasons for calling on you.

Check - A genuine caller will carry identification and will be happy to wait outside while you check it. Remember to source your own number for the company they are claiming to be from: don't accept a number from the caller.

Chain - fit a door chain or spy hole so you can speak to callers or check who they are, without opening the door. Contact the police if you turn anyone away from your home because they could not provide you with a genuine reason for calling, or you are suspicious of callers in your area.

Contact Details:

My work mobile number is 07776 172303

If I'm busy, or off-duty, you will be automatically transferred to the Police Control Room (0845 045 45 45) where you can leave a message for me or report any matters to the Police Operator. Alternatively you can Email me on richard.baldwin@hampshire.pnn.police.uk

Overton's Community Wardens are Richard Tozer and Lucy Gaitskell (845508) or you can Email them at community.wardens@basingstoke.gov.uk

Remember - in the event of an Emergency - Call 999

Overton Scarecrow Festival

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

Are you wanting to get involved? Here are some ways:

Stalls and Activities: We suggest you book your stall or fund-raising activity by 30th April. Contact Adrian Gibbons for a booking form (771749)

Scarecrow Making Workshop: At the Recreation Centre from 9.30am - 1.00pm on Saturday 18th April. Adults and children welcome. Learn how to make a great scarecrow.

Open Mike Sessions: Calling individuals, bands and groups for an opportunity on Saturday 18th July and Sunday 19th July to display your talents to a wider audience: Contact John Mooney to book your slot (07787 750835)

For more general information about the Scarecrow Festival contact *Steve Williams* (770434)

Overton Activities - Regular Reports**St Mary's Hall Overton**

A Watercolour Workshop course, costing £20.00, will be held from 10.00am to 4.00pm on Saturday 25th April and participants can experiment with different techniques, including layering, washes and colour mixing.

Contact Laura on 01962 774296 for further details.

Film Nights - "*Slumdog Millionaire*" (15) will be shown at 7.30pm on Friday 1st May. This is bound to be popular, so make sure you pre-book! "*Australia*" (12A) will be shown at 7.30pm on Friday 15th May. Tickets for both films are £5.00 in advance from The Fireplace Shop (£5.50 on the door, if still available). Refreshments available for purchase
Ensemble Champagne - A string quartet aiming to provide an engaging and relaxed evening of classical music on Friday 8th May at 7.30pm. Tickets are available at The Fireplace Shop at £7.00 (£5.00 for children) - to include a glass of "champagne" (not for the children).

Overton Biodiversity Society (OBS)

We will be holding our annual OBS Family Picnic and May Fun Day from 12noon on Saturday 2nd May in Little Meadow (just past the cemetery on Kingsclere Road). It is always fun, with plenty of children's wildlife activities, music, juggling and Maypole Dancing! Bring some money for Fairtrade refreshments and, of course, your own picnic (and chairs if a blanket on the ground is not your scene!) An afternoon for all ages who enjoy a good community event. More details on posters later on.

From Jane MacKenzie (771121)

Overton Choral Society (OCS)

Rehearsals are now taking place for OCS's participation in the Winchester and County Music Festival on Saturday 9th May in Winchester Cathedral. Tickets are on sale either through the ticket office in Winchester or from OCS member Anna. For more information on the works being performed, or joining OCS, please contact *Lyn Hardy* on 397507 or Email lyn_hardy@hotmail.com

We send our very best wishes to Cynthia Kemp, our longest serving member: we will miss both her and her dedication.

Overton Dramatic Society (ODS)

We will be holding our Spring Bazaar from 10.00am to 12noon on Saturday 9th May in St Mary's Hall.

The Entrance fee is 50p which includes tea or coffee.

There will be many stalls - and advance tickets will be on sale at £6.50 (£5.50 concessions) for **The Full Monty** musical, which is being performed nightly at 7.30pm from Tuesday 9th to Saturday 13th June, also in St Mary's Hall.

(From 11th May onwards, show tickets will be on sale during normal business hours at The Faraway Tree, High Street.)

From Jill Smith (770027)

Overton Activities - Regular Reports (cont)

Overton Folk Club

We are looking forward to the next meeting on the evening of Wednesday 6th May in St Mary's Hall, when we have booked the duo **Belshazzar's Feast**.

They are difficult to describe, but Radio 2 presenter Mike Harding says of them "Their music is breathtaking and wickedly inventive and the between-tunes interchange as intelligent and hilarious as the music".

It will be an event not to be missed. Tickets are just £5.00 from The Fireplace Shop or ring **Tom Hanley** on 770384 or Email overtonfolkclub@hotmail.co.uk

Overton Garden Society (OGS)

Existing and would-be members are welcome at 7.45pm for 8.00pm on Thursday 9th April at the Community Centre. Our guest, Sandy Worth from Water Meadows Nursery, will be speaking on **A Passion for Poppies**.

The following meeting on Thursday 14th May will be the first in our series of garden visits, which run through until September. Do join us!

From Greta Dixon - Chairman

Overton Library

Starting on Tuesday 14th April we are having a sale of DVDs and books, to make more space for new stock.

From Chris Vane, Library Supervisor

christine.vane@hants.gov.uk

Overton Pre-School

The Playgroup recently underwent the Hampshire County Council Early Education Childcare Unit Evaluation, which resulted in the grant of another "Outstanding" award. This is good news and further evidence of the continued hard work, high standards and creativity of our dedicated staff.

Please phone Amanda on 770370 for further details

From Anouska Colledge

Overton C of E Primary School

The return from half-term holiday was marked with a very special evening of Overton's Got Talent. The children who passed class auditions had the opportunity to share their talents with parents, friends and staff. The judges faced a difficult task but chose Dylan Crawte as Key Stage 2 winner (for performing his own song with his guitar) and Thierry Duncombe as Key Stage 1 winner (for an impressive break-dancing display).

Parents have had the opportunity to come into school this term for Class Assemblies. These give the children the opportunity to work together as a team and share their learning experiences with their families.

Drama Club has started this term and is very well attended. Enthusiastic performances of dance and drama are usually given to parents at the end of each session.

Maypole Dancing has started again and it is hoped that the children will perform at MayFest in Winchester.

We also look forward to the forthcoming Easter production.

From Debbie Dennison - Parent Governor

Overton Recreation Centre (ORC)

ORC congratulates these winners in the draw held on Friday 13th March. The £1000 prize was won by Oliver Bennett of Whitchurch, the £200 prize by Stuart Williams of Overton and the prizes of £100 by Ria Watson, Mark Rosier and Stuart Savory, all of Overton.

A reminder that ORC will hold its Annual Meeting at 8.05pm on Monday 27th April at The Bridge Street Pavilion, when the inspected accounts for 2008 and the Trustees' Report will be presented.

From Colin Parker (771038)

Overton & District U3A

On Wednesday 18th February we enjoyed a talk by David Sullivan, now of Hurstbourne Tarrant, who spoke to us very amusingly about his experiences as a shepherd.

At our next meeting, on Wednesday 15th April at 10.00am in St Mary's Hall, we welcome Overton farmer, James Crosbie-Dawson, who will talk about **Life on the Farm**.

These monthly meetings - on the third Wednesday each month - are free to members: for a small charge of £3.00 visitors are always welcome. Refreshments are available for everyone at 50p each. For further information, contact **Diana Goodwin** (771855) or Email dianaw@tesco.net

Testbourne School News

A 60-strong team took our entry into this year's Global Rock Challenge competition to Bournemouth, where they won high praise from the judges and two awards, one for Community Support and one for the stage crew, who have been nominated to go forward for a national award.

Our Magistrates' Court Mock Trial team repeated their success of two years ago when they won the Basingstoke area competition. They will be going forward to the regional finals in Southampton in May.

A brand-new challenge has been our submission to the Schools' Community Challenge from the Leader of Hampshire County Council, Ken Thornber.

Our submission for a local community radio, broadcasting on-line for a few hours a week from Testbourne, has been selected to go forward to a Dragons' Den type final in July. The winners will receive £1000.00 to put their idea into practice. If you look at our website at www.testbourne.hants.sch.uk you could add your views too. We would love to hear from you.

Year 11 pupils now have just three weeks left in school before they start their study leave on 14th May.

Parents received their offer letters at the beginning of March for places for Year 7 in September. We are pleased to be able to report that we are again oversubscribed with a short waiting list for places.

From Teresa Reynolds - Governor

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

Thanks from The Barth Syndrome Trust (BST)

We would like to thank everyone who helped with the organisation and/or who supported the **Fun Quiz Evening** on Saturday 7th March. Special thanks to the Methodist community for allowing us to use their Hall for the sixth consecutive year and for donating £100.00 from the proceeds of their very popular charity coffee mornings. The room was packed to capacity and a great evening of taxing and brain teasing was enjoyed by all - and, overall, BST was given a total £652.00 from the event.

We will be holding a **Bric-a-Brac / Nearly-New Sale** on Saturday 2nd May, at East Oakley Village Hall, starting at 2.00pm. This includes a tombola, home-made cake sale, raffle, book sale and lots of bargains. Donations of goods for sale or raffle prizes etc would be very gratefully accepted - I could collect them from you.

From Terri Allison (781905)

Cynthia Kemp

Many people have been asking after Cynthia, having missed seeing her and her bike around the village.

Cynthia had an accident before Christmas, injuring her hip. After several months in hospital in Basingstoke, she has now moved to a nursing home close to her brother in Bicester.

From Sue Smale

Overtonpictures.com

This is your community website, which is now two years old. We have about 1800 pictures on view, but we want more! So, if you have any pictures of the past - or are a keen photographer and would like to help record the present day - we would be pleased to hear from you.

A copy of the accounts for our second year has been placed in Overton Library and may be seen by asking at the desk. We are self-funding, raising money by doing repairs and enhancements to old photographs, reprints from old prints, slides and negatives; copies of pictures on the website and photo greetings cards. A selection of the cards is available at Traidcraft at the Methodist Church every other Saturday morning, or you may order cards showing pictures of your choice.

I would like to thank the many people who have helped to make the website a success and I am sure we will continue to grow and improve. We have lots of new material to add and ideas for further development. If you haven't ever seen the website, look us up and be amazed. On the other hand, if you haven't seen it since it first opened, it's time you paid another visit to see the changes. Please telephone me for further information.

From Tony Morris (770779)

Little Tots Montessori Nursery School

Little Tots (at the ORC Pavilion in Bridge Street) is enjoying a very busy term with 7 new children and their families joining us, giving us the highest numbers on the register since our opening four years ago. We have also had cause for celebration with our recent Ofsted report giving us outstanding in 7 areas and strong in the remaining 7 areas.

We hope next term's weather will allow us to make more use of our outside learning area. Our project will involve posting letters to different countries and exploring the other cultures. We always welcome visitors who would like to know more about the Montessori method and our school.

Kim Sherman

Grateful thanks to everyone who went to Kim's funeral on 26th February. It was comforting to see so many come to say farewell. Thank you for all the cards, flowers and donations totalling £335.00 for Macmillan cancer care.

From Yvonne Fry (Kim's mum) Abbotts Ann

Reading Overton's Story in the Graveyard

I'm currently working on a dissertation in pursuit of a Master of Arts degree. I've passed the "new" graveyard at Overton on a regular basis for six years now, on my way to visit my supervisor in connection with my work as a counsellor/psychotherapist, specialising in bereavement therapy. My eye is always caught by the colours on the graves, which remind me of what encouraged me to stop and walk around the glorious and mysterious garden.

My first visit was in the depths of winter: even then, colour flooded the graveyard - colour which seemed not to fade as Spring approached. I was also fascinated by the variety of floral arrangements on the graves, but was even more intrigued by the additions of so many other items, creating tableaux that tell the continuing stories of both the inhabitants and the carers of the graves. I have since (This article continues in the next column)

learned so much about many of the graveyard's inhabitants, from chats with kindly local Overton residents. It is important to me to assure you all that I approach each visit with reverence and respect. If any readers feel able to share more stories or recollections about the graveyard, I would be most interested and grateful: it would add to the value of my study - and your village's recorded history. It will be my pleasure to place a copy of my dissertation, when it is completed, with the Overton Parish Council.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about my study and I will do my best to answer them. In the meantime, if you notice "a lady with a camera and notebook" in the graveyard during 2009, it may well be me, so please say "hello". I look forward to meeting you!

From Roz Cawley, Autumn Cottage, Penwood, Near Newbury, Berks. RG20 9EN

Email roz@delamici.demon.co.uk (Tel: 01635 254212)

Sewage Problems

Once again there appear to have been some instances of sewage coming up in people's houses and gardens.

Clearly, this is most unpleasant and the Parish Council wishes to put pressure on Southern Water to carry out proper maintenance and upgrades. To do this effectively, we need good evidence. If you have had this particular problem - or you have it in the future - please let OPC know with brief details: when, where, how much - and perhaps weather conditions, as there have been suggestions that it is related to heavy rainfall. Please write or Email to the Parish Clerk, or ring me on 773108

From Tom Ridler - Overton Parish Councillor

Highways & Transport News *From Brian Langer*

Highways

B3400 High Street/Red Lion Lane junction - Closure

Please see the Insert in this edition of ON&V - and refer to local press articles and village notice boards for updates.

Transport

Easter weekend - Trains There are engineering works throughout the weekend (10th - 13th April inclusive) in the Wimbledon area, resulting in diversion of services to and from London Waterloo and longer journey times. In principle, South West Trains will operate a Saturday service on 10th, 11th and 13th April and a Sunday service on 12th April. Please check with the Southwest Trains' website on www.southwesttrains.co.uk or phone 08457 48 49 50

Easter weekend - Buses Stagecoach Bus will operate a Sunday service on 10th, 12th and 13th April and a Saturday service on 11th April.

May Day holiday 4th May - Trains and Buses South West Trains are expected to operate a Saturday service on the Bank Holiday Monday, whereas Stagecoach Bus is expected to operate a Sunday service.

The next (May 2009) edition of *Overton News & Views* will be published on Friday 1st May and will cover events taking place up to mid-June
The deadline for contributions is Thursday 16th April
 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 Highways and Transport Representative
Mark Attwell	770472	David Llewellyn	773004
Peter Baker	770007	Tom Ridler	773108
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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A grey rectangular box containing the text 'Community Innovations Team' in a bold, sans-serif font. To the left of the text are three overlapping hexagonal shapes.

As people get older, many things they take for granted can become more difficult. Getting out and about, getting jobs done and getting by can be increasingly challenging. For many older people, having a little bit of support to get those everyday things done can help them stay independent and remain an active member of the community in which they live.

Hampshire County Council, the Primary Care Trust and local Councils for Voluntary Services have launched an innovative project aimed at supporting older people who are beginning to lose their independence and linking them back into their local community. Bringing together a team from health services, the voluntary sector and adult services the project can provide advice and support on a range of health and care issues as well as information on local activities such as lunch clubs, shopping trips and interest groups.

A Community Innovations Team has been set up in Basingstoke and Deane, serving the town, Overton and Oakley. Working with GP surgeries and community organisations the team can provide a home visit to talk things through and suggest ways of making life easier. These might range from home adaptations, information on lunch clubs or social activities. A member of the team can make the arrangements to put support in place and then keep in touch to enable it to happen.

If you or someone you know is beginning to find things more difficult and would benefit from some support, the Basingstoke Community Innovations Team would be happy to hear from you.

Please contact Rachel Hall or Lisa Beadle on (01256) 810532 or use this link

<http://www3.hants.gov.uk/adult-services/aboutas/structure/community-innovations.htm>

or the link that is available from the Overton Village website <http://www.overtonvillage.com>

Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council's debt-guru appointed

Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council's Specialist Housing Adviser is now in post, offering hard-headed, practical solutions to help people survive the economic downturn. Mark Fisher has been appointed to the new role, which is an 18 month post set up in response to the number of vulnerable people experiencing difficulties in the current financial climate.

Based in the housing service, Mark will coordinate specialist debt and money advice services for owner-occupiers facing homelessness as a result of debt and mortgage arrears. A key part of Mark's role will also be to coordinate and promote the range of advice and support being delivered by partner organisations across the borough. He will develop homelessness prevention and mortgage rescue packages working closely with partners, housing providers and mortgage lenders - and will work on a project to stop local people being exploited by loan sharks

Mark, 48, has been a case worker in the housing advice team since June 2008. He has a broad background in manufacturing and business management. He said: "There is no one stereotypical person being affected by the current financial climate. All types of different people have been hit hard. I am not going to judge anyone. I am here to help. But, anyone facing a debt situation must confront it head-on. They should approach the council as soon as they get into difficulties. Early intervention can make such a massive difference to how the situation develops. It is all about getting early advice from the right people.

I can offer people both reassurance and firm, clear, realistic, practical advice. I can explain what steps to take to resolve the situation. There is no one "quick-fix" solution. Every situation is different, but you can get your health and sanity back again. There is always a route out of debt, but there is always a cost too. It may be that you lose your home, some of your equity, or that you get listed as a debtor. Nonetheless, you can survive. I can give people a roadmap out of debt that suits their individual situation."

Phone (01256) 845301 to book an appointment with Mark Fisher

Overton Pedestrian Improvements

Work to improve pedestrian access to the school, shops and rail station at four locations around Overton is due to commence from the end of March 2009.

These works are:

- improved informal crossing from Red Lion Lane to Bridge Street
- addition of informal crossing outside Town Mill Retirement Homes on Kingsclere Road
- addition of informal crossing to footpath no.5 to the school on Kingsclere Road
- installation of additional footway on the south-east side of Station Road

This scheme, costing £90,000, is due to start at the end of March and is scheduled to last eight weeks (subject to weather conditions). The contractor is Dyer and Butler.

The improvements to the footway at Red Lion Lane junction will necessitate the closure of the B3400 at this point for one Sunday in this period. **(See also Footnote below)**. Diversion routes as agreed by the police will be put in place with appropriate signing for motorists. The one-way restrictions in the most northerly section of Red Lion Lane will be removed for this day to allow access to the Red Lion public house and the properties located there.

The works intend to provide an increased sense of pedestrian security with the additional section of footway and heightened visibility to drivers at several road crossing locations in the highway network. The aim is to improve conditions for vulnerable road users, especially school children and the mobility-impaired, on key routes to the primary school and village retail centre.

The selection of measures was identified following consultation with Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, Overton Parish Council, Overton Village Primary School, the parish church, public transport operators and the police.

The works will be followed later in the year by a further scheme providing a pedestrian phase in the village traffic lights, a package of improvements around the primary school and a number of other footway works. It is envisaged that this will take place during the summer holidays.

Further press releases will be issued prior to commencement of this second scheme.

If you have any questions regarding improvement works in Overton, please call or Email Tom Robison in the Traffic and Transport Team on (01256) 776138 or tom.robison@hants.gov.uk

If your enquiry is outside office hours, please contact 0845 8504422

***Footnote from Brian Langer
(Overton Parish Council Highways and Transport Representative)***

The date will **probably** be Sunday 19th April - subject to suitable weather conditions for the type of work that is to be done. This includes widening of the pavement outside the Gun Shop to improve sight lines for those crossing from Red Lion Lane to Bridge Street - and is just one of the works resulting from developers' contributions relating to the Overton Hill development.

It is not yet clear how the bus schedules will alter, but no buses will be able to work west of the Community Centre while the closure is in place.