

Overton News & Views



Information and Comment on Village Activities - issued by Overton Parish Council and distributed to Overton and Ashe, Laverstoke and Freefolk www.OvertonVillage.com March 2010

Overton Parish Council Meetings

The main Parish Council meetings are held at 7.30pm on the second Wednesday of each month in the Community Centre. The next will be on 10th March.
Please note: Public Time is from 7.00pm to 7.30pm.

Simon Christian of B&DBC will attend this meeting to talk about the new Community Development Officer Service that is now being offered - see feature article below.

Planning meetings are also held in the Community Centre at 7.30pm on the fourth Tuesday of each month.

The next will be on 23rd 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.

Overton Parish Council Notes

From Laura Harley - Parish Clerk

Parish Council Information Office open to public

Parish Clerk Laura Harley will be in the Office between 9.00am and 12.00noon on Wednesdays and Thursdays. It is in St Mary's Hall (the right-hand set of double green doors).

Snow clearance

The parish council would like to thank all shopkeepers and householders who cleared the pavements in front of their properties during the recent snowy weather.

In the event that we have more snow, it would be great if we can have a concerted effort at least to clear the pavements in the centre of the village. If paths are cleared shortly after snow has fallen, it is easy to remove.

Please note that both the borough and county councils have confirmed that people cannot be sued by someone slipping on a cleared path.

New Community Development Officer (CDO) team

Focusing on helping local communities to find their own solutions to issues, the new CDO team aims to get people more involved and will work with residents and local groups to make their neighbourhoods even better places to live.

Introduced in January by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, they will work across the borough, spending the majority of their time based in the communities they cover. Their first priority will be finding ways of addressing gaps in community activities that have already been identified, but they are also encouraging residents who have ideas about community projects which benefit their local area to get in touch with their local CDO.

Simon Christian will be the contact for Overton and Laverstoke via the contact centre (844844) Mobile (07775 413236) or Email: simon.christian@basingstoke.gov.uk

Hampshire Trading Standards Service

It has come to our attention that a crime research company is telephoning Hampshire residents, claiming to be authorised to carry out research on crime in the area and offering a security company to visit and survey properties for security purposes, ie burglar and smoke alarms.

It has been suggested that high pressure selling takes place and often they offer the equipment "free" - but only if customers sign up to a costly monitoring agreement. Other incidents claim installation costs are extremely high. Please be on your guard about this type of cold caller, either over the telephone or on your doorstep.

(This article continues in the next column)

(This article is continued from the previous column)

If you have already arranged for a visit by a salesman and/or require any assistance concerning this or similar cold calling matters, please do not hesitate to contact our Quick Response Team on 01962 833666

Hampshire Trading Standards Service operates an approved trader scheme called **Buy With Confidence** which includes security companies. Information about this scheme is available online at www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk or by telephone from Consumer Direct on 08454 04 05 06

From Community Projects Team Hampshire County Council Trading Standards Service, Montgomery House, Monarch Way, Winchester, Hampshire SO22 5PW

Tel: 01962 833620 E-mail: doorstep.crime@hants.gov.uk

The Test Magazine - special feature by Rev Ian Smale

For several decades *The Test* has been an institution in Overton and Laverstoke. When Nigel Cumming came to be Rector, he brought publishing experience and lifted the standard of content and production to a new level. Now Anne Holt, the current editor, never fails to produce something just short of a monthly masterpiece.

So, if you aren't a regular subscriber to *The Test*, what is it and why should you read it? It's a colourful magazine produced monthly by the church for the whole community. It's full of news and pictures of village life, informative, challenging or inspiring articles of interest to local people. There are notes from me as "Rector", usually information about the charities and missions that we support and some family tips from the Mothers' Union. We are always delighted to get pictures and reports of village events. Photos are a big feature and I always look forward to seeing the front cover - they would make lovely wall displays.

In the next few issues we hope to publish stories of hope - for example from someone who was widowed at a young age. And from Liz, who became a single mum when her husband left her. And from Nich and Diana, who received the knock on the door to tell them that their son James had died. How did they all cope?

Mixed in with these are stories from local church people and others, a record of baptisms, weddings and funerals and "Village Life" - features from village organisations.

The adverts are also one of the benefits of *The Test* providing a great resource for almost all that we need to function - plumbers, electricians, motoring... in fact from Architects to Wine Merchants (no Y or Z suppliers yet!).

If you would like to join the approximately 850 existing subscribers please contact Janet Marsh, 35 Poyntz Road (770543) If you would like to contribute articles or photos, please contact Anne Holt, 3 Alexander Road, (770394) or Email: anne@anneholt.plus.com

Your next edition of Overton News & Views

The April edition will be published on Thursday 25th March and the "Overton Village Diary" will cover Overton events taking place between 16th April and 15th May.

Space is at a premium, so please send contributions to reach the Editor, Chris Penney, as early as possible before the final deadline of 12.00noon Tuesday 16th March

preferably by Email plus WORD attachment to

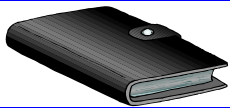
OvertonNewsViews@aol.com

or typed to 7 Batten's Avenue, Overton, RG25 3NL

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 picture: Ready for lambing on 10th/11th April



Overton Village Diary
Events due to take place between
16th March and 15th April

Wednesday 17th March

Overton & District U3A Monthly Meeting: St Mary's Hall at 10.00am with guest speaker Alix Booth on A History of Punch & Judy. *Contact Jan Baker on 773371 or Email jan.baker2007@btinternet.com*

Overton Society Open Meeting: Community Centre at 8.00pm with guest speakers Brian Wheeler and Colin Parker who will give us a potted history of our unique village facility Overton Recreation Centre - Past, Present and Future and will update us on their exciting plans. All are welcome. Light refreshments will be served. but there is a £2.00 charge for non-members to cover costs. *Sue Carter*

Thursday 18th March

Overton Biodiversity Society: Community Centre at 7.30pm for a (brief!) AGM followed by an illustrated talk on orchids by Overton enthusiast Julian Aburrow, who will describe characteristics of this fascinating group of plants. We will also have copies of our recently finished OBS Action Plan for Overton as well as displays on some of our other activities over the last year and plans for the coming year. Refreshments, including the renowned OBS home-made cakes, will finish what should be an enjoyable evening! New members will be very welcome.

Ken MacKenzie, OBS Chairman

Friday 19th March

Overton School Association: Fund-raising Quiz Night in St Mary's Hall at 7.30pm. Watch for posters around Overton!

Saturday 20th March

Overton Choral Society - French Choral Music: With The Dever Singers and Voices from local choirs, plus Overton Sinfonia - at our annual Come and Sing in St Mary's Church at 7.30pm. *Contact Lyn Hardy on 397507*

Friday 26th March

Ladies' Pamper Night: Ladies - come and enjoy another evening of pampering and indulgence in St Mary's Hall from 7.30pm! Start with a complimentary glass of wine or juice and then enjoy browsing the stalls specially picked for your delectation! Also foot, shoulder and Indian head massages, tarot card readings, manicures, mini-facials, reflexology taster sessions, shoes galore and accessories, Overton Deli and Fruity Foods luxury taster tables! Cheese, wine and refreshments will be available throughout the evening. Tickets (£5.00) from Overton Fireplaces. All profits to the Motor Neurone Disease Association - Reg. Charity No 294354 For more information please *Contact Maggs on 771457*

Sunday 28th March

Laverstoke and Freefolk Millennium Green Maintenance: Meet in the MG Car Park at 2.00pm. Please come and help. Everyone welcome! *For details call Gill Baker 893075*

Palm Sunday 28th March

Donkey Procession: Starts 10.00am at top of Sapley Lane.
Churches Together Palm Sunday Service: 11.00am outside Community Centre.

Passion Service: 6.30pm St Mary's Church, including ODS members with a dramatic reading of Good Friday's events.

Monday 29th March

Overton Museum Project AGM: Community Centre, 7.30pm Please come along to hear our plans. *Liz Lewis, Secretary*

Maundy Thursday 1st April

Holy Communion: 7.30pm in St Mary's Church Upper Room.

Good Friday 2nd April

Overton Churches: Meet 10.45am Methodist Church and march down to St Mary's for a Good Friday all-age service.
In the steps of the Saviour: 2.00pm St Mary's. One hour focusing on Christ's cross in pictures, words & hymns.

Easter Saturday 3rd April

Music Showcase: St Mary's Hall at 7.30pm with some of the best local musicians performing and raising funds for Testbourne's Uganda trip. Please come and show your support and enjoy a wonderful evening. Tickets at £5.00 adults / £1.00 under-16s are available from the Fireplace Shop, from Rhian Bendall on 771494 or on the door.

Easter Sunday 4th April

Holy Communion BCP: 8.00am St Mary's Church, Overton
Family Communion: (with choir) 10.00am at Laverstoke
All-Age Parish Communion: (with band) 11.00am St Mary's
Easter Egg Family Service: 4.00pm St Mary's (half-hour child-friendly service plus Easter Egg hunt.

Easter Festival Praise: (with choir) 6.30pm St Mary's Church
There will also be services at the Community Church, the Methodist Church and the Catholic Church in Overton

Wednesday 7th April

Overton Folk Club Meeting: Red Lion at 8.00pm with guest Sarah Morgan (postponed from January due to the bad weather). Sarah normally performs on the folk circuit in a trio, so this is a rare chance to catch her on her own. For further details please *Contact Tom Hanley on 770384*

Thursday 8th April

Overton Garden Society Meeting: Overton Community Centre at 8.00pm, with guest speaker Sally Burr (gardener at The Vyne and a Basingstoke in Bloom judge) on Growing Flowers for Cutting. New members and guests are always welcome. Our garden visits for members begin in May - details to follow. *Kathy Gardner*

Saturday 10th & Sunday 11th April

NSPCC 2-day Lambing Event: 12.00noon - 5.00pm each day at Northington Farm, The Lynch (off Southington Lane) Overton, with the kind permission of James and Jackie Crosbie-Dawson. Admission £3.00 (children under 12 free) to raise funds for the NSPCC. Come and enjoy an afternoon on the farm and see new-born lambs. Wellington boots recommended. Refreshments will be available.

For further information telephone 770078 or 773054
NB: The Crosbie-Dawsons and the NSPCC draw to the attention of visitors the fact that disease can be transferred between animals and humans. Any contact is at visitors' own risk and neither accepts liability for any illness or accidents which may occur.

Sunday 11th April

The North End and East Woodhay Branch of the NSPCC and the Friends of St Mary's, Kingsclere are together holding a **Charity Car Boot Sale** at White Hill (1.8 miles south of Kingsclere, on the B3051 road towards Whitchurch). All profits will go to the two charities.

If anyone is interested in booking a selling pitch, phone 01635 253562 or Email countrybootsale@googlemail.com

Monday 12th April

Overton Recreation Centre (ORC) Annual Meeting: Bridge Street Pavilion at 8.05pm. The Accounts and Trustees' Report for Jan-Dec 2009 will be presented, together with future plans and current developments for the Charity. *Contact Colin Parker on 771038*

Laverstoke and Freefolk Parish Council

The next meeting will be on Thursday 18th March at Portals Sports & Social Club. Public time is from 8.00pm to 8.15pm, when the Council meeting commences.

The council will be considering grant applications at its meeting in April.

If any local organisation wishes to apply, please contact Rachel Abbott, Clerk to the Council, for an application form on 892584 or Email laverstoke.clerk@btinternet.com

Completed forms need to be received back by Wednesday 21st April.

Overton Police - Beat Update

From PC3909 Richard Baldwin, Parish Beat Officer

Mobile: 07776 172303 Police Control Room: 0845 045 45 45

Email richard.baldwin@hampshire.pnn.police.uk

Overton's Police Community Support Officer is Sabrina Smith

Email sabrina.smith@hampshire.pnn.police.uk

Remember - in the event of an Emergency - Call 999

(For all non-emergency calls you can now call 101)

The Overton Beat area extends to Polhampton Lodge (B3051) to the North, Ashe to the East, Freefolk to the West & Coxford Down (A303) to the South

My Next Police Surgery is on Monday 8th March from 12.00noon to 2.00pm in the Parish Office in St Mary's Hall.

The Rural Mobile Police Office visits Overton Community Centre Forecourt *every* Tuesday from 2.30pm to 4.30pm with Station Enquiry Officer Stewart Packham.

Crimes: I'm sure you'll agree January was quite a month. The wintry weather conditions certainly assisted with a reduction in the level of criminal acts on the beat. Like other rural villages, Overton suffers from what I would call "insurgent criminal activity" whereby the criminal fraternity travel into our area and commit offences, but the near Arctic conditions seem to have put paid to this, so there are positives to come from several inches of snow - only 13 x reported crimes for the whole of the beat area.

Overton Village Website: For those of you who "surf the net" the Village website has regular news updates from me. The Police section on the Forum has attracted over 56,000 views since I started subscribing back in 2006.

Why not pay a visit to www.overtonvillage.com/forums

Overton Business Association (OBA)

www.overtonbusiness.com

OBA will be celebrating its 10th birthday this year. After the AGM on Tuesday 2nd March, the new committee will be looking at ways to celebrate this milestone anniversary.

Visitors are always welcome at our meetings on the first Tuesday of alternate months at 7.30pm in The Honey Pot Restaurant in Winchester Street. For further information please *contact Chairman Keith Green on 770907*

Overton Tennis Club

We recently had floodlights fitted to our two courts, which have extended play for club nights and matches. Regular club evenings are at 6.00pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays weekly from 30th March. You are very welcome to come and try us out a couple of times before joining. For further details please *contact Bob Pallister on 770643*

New!!! Adult Ballroom and Latin Dance

Already established at Overton Primary School, teaching the children, I can now offer a 10-week course of classes there for adults, 7.30pm to 8.30pm on Thursdays from 11th March. Come on your own, with friends or with a partner have fun and learn to dance.... For more info *contact Julie on 07709 721594 or Email julieanneale@yahoo.co.uk*

Overton Library

We have just taken delivery of a new Circulating Collection called **Mystery in History**. Any of you who read historical crime might be interested in this. We also have an Energy Saving monitor available for 2-week loan: it will help you to monitor your usage to save electricity and money - and lower your carbon footprint. Please ask for more details. Our Book Sale continues and next month we'll be adding Playstation games at £1.00 *Chris Vane, Library Supervisor*

Overton Recreation Centre (ORC)

ORC congratulates prizewinners in the 12th February Draw: £1000 - Derick Mirfin, £200 - Dave Ross, £100 - Mrs Beryl Beckett (all from Overton), £100 each - Simon Scott (Hatch Warren) and Peter Foster (Farnborough).

Overton Rainbows, Brownies and Guides

If you would like your child(ren) to join, here are the latest details and contacts.

Rainbows is for 5 year olds and meets from 4.45pm - 5.45pm on Thursday evenings. *Heather on 770828*

Brownie Packs: There are two in Overton for 7 year olds. 2nd Overton meets from 5.30pm - 7.00pm on Tuesday evenings while 1st Overton meets from 6.00pm - 7.30pm on Thursdays. *Michelle on 770454*

1st Overton Guides is for 10½ year olds. *Karen on 771116*

Letters to The Editor

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

Help for Haiti: At the special gig on Saturday 6th February in St Mary's Hall, we were raising funds to be donated to the **DEC Haiti Earthquake Appeal** and we had a brilliant night of live music from The Wyverns and Sideways Down.

Thanks to the great turnout and the enthusiasm of everyone on the night, we raised an unprecedented figure: a stunning £2,255 will be donated to the DEC Appeal Fund.

We're so grateful for the generosity of those who donated the fantastic array of prizes - the raffle and auction we held on the night together raised over £700 of the total. Also, of course, thanks go to the bands for the great music, to the many helpers - and to everyone who came down, enjoyed the night and dug so deep! We're really grateful for your support. Thank you again! *Paul & Becci Larkham*

Testbourne pupils' Helping Hand for Haiti: Thanks to a Mufti Day and a tremendous response to our collection, we expect to be sending nearly £900 off to the **Save the Children Fund Haiti Appeal**. *Hilary Jackson, Headteacher*

Dear Readers: How the memory fades! One year on and The "running bug" has bitten again. I'm running the London Marathon again (on Sunday 25th April), but this time as "The King" no, not Richard III Elvis

Please support the **Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Society** by sponsoring me as I help raise funds for the Society which relies on voluntary income to provide vital services to those affected by MS and is constantly striving, both nationally and locally, to improve the lives of people with MS and their friends and family.

I have set up an online Fundraising page where one can make donations using a credit or debit card. You can go to this link to access the webpage or alternatively visit me at my Police Surgery in St Mary's Hall.

<http://beatms.mssociety.org.uk/netcommunity/BaldersRunForMS>

Thank you. Kind Regards. *Richard Baldwin (aka Elvis)*

Overton School Association: Thank you to The Co-op and all who bought our raffle tickets before Christmas - we are delighted to have raised £475 to support Golden Time Cooking for another year. Now, if you would like to be involved - or can help in any way - with our School Summer Fête on Saturday 26th June, please *contact Emma Payne, Chairman, on 771883 or Email elpayne@talktalk.net*

? Overton Home Producers' Market ? Several Overton residents have asked if we could organise a weekly market in Overton - similar to the one we run in the Gill Nethercott Centre in Whitchurch on Friday mornings. We would be pleased to do this, but we need your help - volunteers to help with teas/coffees and run some of the stalls, please. If you are interested and/or would like further information - or maybe you have a product you make yourself - please *contact Liz on 770312 or Lindy on 771191*

(Letters to The Editor continue on page 4)

(Letters to The Editor continued from page 3)

Dog fouling on and around the Overton Hill estate:

I appeal to all dog owners who walk their dogs - please, please, clear up after you. It is a lovely area to walk but is marred by all the dog fouling which occurs every day.

It has now become a virtual minefield where you have to watch every step - and in summer children will play here. There is nothing worse than getting covered in dog excrement, so take a plastic bag and pick up - it takes two seconds and there are plenty of bins around. My friend and I clear up after irresponsible dog owners as often as three times every day. If we did not do this, I dread to think what the area would be like. *Mrs G Pragnell, Overton Hill*

Geoff Pyle: Elizabeth, David, Robert and Rachel would like to thank family and friends for attending Geoff's funeral service at St Mary's Church on 20th January. The kind messages of sympathy for the very sad loss of Geoff, after his long illness, are very much appreciated. The £450 donations received will be divided between Overton Surgery and The Elderly at Parklands Hospital. *Elizabeth Pyle*

2nd Overton Brownies: We owe some big thank yous! Last September was the start of our Girl Guiding Centenary and we felt that it would be a good idea to fundraise for a canine companion dog. They are amazing and are trained to give disabled people the independence to live on their own in their own home. We raised the £500 needed to buy a puppy (that will be called "Overton") by holding a sponsored walk round the village and a cake & coffee morning - and we sang carols in the Co-op where we were treated to a party (thank you to the staff)! Thanks also to Caroline and Jade in the Hair Studio who kindly sold my hand-made greetings cards which raised the final £80.

Also thank you to the Overton Parish Council (£400) and The Co-op (£800) for donating towards some new tables for the Scouting and Guiding units to use at Town Meadow hut.

Michelle Le Warne - Brown Owl

RHS Competition Success: Many thanks to everyone who voted on-line in this competition to design a garden to commemorate the 2012 Olympics. Our grand-daughter Hannah's design was the winner in the children's section.

From two very proud grandparents. *Betty and Pat Mackrill*

Kingfisher Day Centre: We would like to take this opportunity to say farewell and thank you to Dick Hudson, who has been a valuable and committed volunteer and bus escort for 16 years. He was also a Trustee for several years and we wish him well in his well-deserved retirement.

We are now urgently seeking bus escorts for Monday and Wednesday afternoons. Training will be given. It takes approximately 1 - 2 hours to assist our drivers to collect our clients from the Centre and return them to their own homes in St Mary Bourne, Whitchurch, Overton and surrounding villages. We also have a vacancy for a paid Care Assistant to work on Fridays from 9.30am to 3.30pm. We need someone with some flexibility to cover other staff holidays. If you can help us in any way, please contact us on 893333 or Email kingfisherdaycentre@btinternet.com

(This letter continues in the next column)

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or call into the centre to see the work we do - all visitors are welcome. Our opening hours are Mon, Wed, Thurs or Friday between 9.00am and 3.30pm. If you would like more information about the Day Centre please visit our website. www.kingfisherdaycentre.org.uk *Julia Cobb, Manager*

HART Wildlife Rescue Update

As announced in November 2009 ON&V, HART's plans for a new hospital have taken a major step forward with the signing of a 20 year lease on premises at Lower Soldridge Farm Business Park, Medstead, near Alton - a 970 sq ft building and an adjoining acre of land. Having already secured planning approval, the contractor has been appointed and construction work will commence soon: hopefully the hospital will open in May.

A full-time manager has been appointed and has started work in the existing premises. Additional clinical staff are being recruited, with the aim that they will be able to get involved in the development and transition from Overton.

HART is the only wildlife rescue facility in Hampshire, so the new location - centrally located and close to the A31 - will be ideally placed to serve this huge catchment area. The move to the new hospital will allow HART to meet all the demand and to develop in areas such as education, research and development of herbal remedies.

www.hartwildlife.org.uk HART Wildlife Rescue, Registered Charity No 1066760 16 Dellands, Overton, RG25 3LB Telephone 770438 Email: help@hartwildlife.fsnet.co.uk

Transport and Lighting News

From Brian Langer - OPC Transport and Lighting Representative

Transport - buses

Recently introduced service 56: STS have made some changes to schedules, after six weeks of operation. Clockwise services to Kingsclere, Tadley, the NH hospital and Basingstoke now leave Overton Hill at 0703 (NS), 1008, 1128, 1308, 1428, 1708 and 1728 (NS) with stops at the church and Foxdown two and three minutes later.

Anticlockwise services to Oakley, Basingstoke, the hospital, Tadley and Kingsclere leave Overton church at: 0735 (NS), 1025, 1145, 1325, 1445, 1725 and 1845 (NS) and Overton Hill two minutes later. Revised timetables are displayed in the transport noticeboard and can be had from the library. (NS=Not Saturdays. No services run Sundays/Bank Holidays.)

Transport - Easter services

Buses: Stagecoach 76/86 and Steventon Travel Services 74 and 56: Easter Sat. (3rd) Sat. service. Good Friday (2nd) Easter Sunday (4th) Bank Hol. Monday (5th) - all Sun. service.

Trains: Good Friday (2nd) Easter Sat. (3rd) Bank Hol. Monday (5th) - all Sat. service. Easter Sunday (4th) - Sun. service.

However, please note that no trains will run between Woking and Basingstoke on the 2nd, 3rd and 5th April, or between Woking and Andover (including Overton) on 4th April. Replacement buses will be provided.

Street lighting

Phone 0845 603 5633 to report faults, listing lamp column number, street details and emphasising Overton (which is classed as "Basingstoke Rural" on the HCC system).

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	Peter Baker	770007	Byways and Rights of Way Representative
Mark Attwell	770472	Brian Langer	770848	Public Transport and Street Lighting Representative
Tony Leach	772020	Tom Ridler	773108	Highways Representative
Jacky Lessware	773043	Paula Baker	771219	(also Borough Councillor)
David Llewellyn	773004	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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