



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

Overton Parish Council Meetings

- The main Parish Council meetings are held at 7.30pm in the Community Centre on the second Wednesday of each month. The next two will be on 14th April & 12th May.
Please note: Public Time is from 7.00pm to 7.30pm.
- Planning meetings are also held in the Community Centre at 7.30pm on the fourth Tuesday of each month.
The next will be on 27th 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.

Laverstoke and Freefolk Parish Council

The next Council Meeting will be on Tuesday 20th April at Freefolk and Laverstoke Village Hall. Public time is from 8.00pm to 8.15pm, when the council meeting commences. The council will be considering grant applications at this meeting. If any local organisation wishes to apply for a grant, please contact Rachel Abbott, Clerk to the Council, on 892584 or email laverstoke.clerk@btinternet.com for a grant application form. Please note that completed forms need to be returned by Tuesday 20th April.

Overton Parish Council Notes

From Laura Harley - Parish Clerk

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting for Overton will take place at 7.45pm on Thursday 27th May in St Luke's Hall.

It is hoped that a member of the Basingstoke and Deane Planning Department will give a talk on the ongoing Local Development Framework and how residents can get involved, as well as other presentations. For further information see the May edition of ON&V and the website.

Community Litter Pick

Following a number of complaints about litter around the village, the parish council is holding a Community Litter Pick on Sunday 25th April. Please meet at the Community Centre from 10.00am onwards to pick up litter pickers and bags and be assigned an area. It is intended to finish at about 1.00pm with refreshments being available throughout the morning. Remember to wear gloves and sturdy shoes.

Grant applications for 2010

Does your club/society require some funding for equipment or a project? If so, the parish council has some funds set aside for the financial year starting 1st April 2010. All you need to do is complete a simple application form and supply your latest set of accounts and a recent bank statement. Forms are available from the Clerk or on www.overtonvillage.com - first click "Parish Council" on the menu and then scroll down to the Grants section.

Moviola - a monthly film show in St Mary's Hall

For those who do not know, the Dorset Film Touring Company shows a monthly film in St Mary's Hall, always on Friday evening with doors opening at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start. Advance tickets cost £5.00 from Overton Fireplaces (£5.50 on the door). Beverages, including alcohol, and snacks are available for purchase before the show and during the interval. This is a great evening out - cheaper than Vue - and just a stroll away. The dates are 30th April, 21st May, 18th June and 16th July - look out for posters round Overton or visit the "Village Diary" on the website www.overtonvillage.com for further details of each film.

Planning Applications

Approved by Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council:
BDB/71562 - development of 2300m bespoke winery for the production and processing of wine including a wine storage area with external terrace, staff facilities, service yard, car parking facilities and landscaping at Laverstoke Park Farm
BDB/71332 - erection of farm building at Berrydown Farm
BDB/71649 - construction of atrium link between R&D and laboratory building and new access ramp to entrance to Overton Mill, Papermill Lane

Allotment News

The annual Allotment Holders' Meeting will be held at 6.30pm on Tuesday 27th April in the Community Centre, at which the annual rents will be due.

If you wish to give up your allotment, please let the Clerk know as there are now 33 people on the waiting list.

Overton Biodiversity Society (OBS)

A special feature by Ken MacKenzie, OBS Chairman

OBS was set up in 2004 with the aim of raising awareness of the wide range of wildlife found in the parish and helping to protect it through a range of community-based activities. We arrange regular public events - including talks on topics such as wildlife gardening, farming and wildlife, the wildlife of the River Test - as well as guided walks, bat evenings and fungal forays.

We have been working with Overton Parish Council (OPC) and the Heritage Lottery Fund to convert Little Meadow into a community wildlife garden and have produced guided walk leaflets highlighting the biodiversity which may be seen from some of the public rights of way in the Parish.

OBS has carried out a range of surveys of different species including hedgerows, veteran trees, water voles, ladybirds, woodlarks and is currently carrying out a survey of dormice. One of our main activities over the past year has been to produce a Biodiversity Action Plan for the parish. We have worked closely with OPC, Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council and Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust to produce this and we hope it will help to identify the major wildlife habitats and species found in the Parish and actions we could all take to help to maintain and enhance them.

On the practical conservation side - as well as our work in Little Meadow, we carry out work at Micheldever Scrubs ("The Chalkies") which is a *Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)* in the south of the parish.

We would very much welcome new members and if you would like to find out more about us please come along to one of our meetings (as diarised in ON&V) have a look at our website www.overton-biodiversity.org or *phone me or Jane MacKenzie on 771121*

Your next edition of Overton News & Views

The May edition will be published on Thursday 29th April and the "Overton Village Diary" will cover Overton events taking place between 16th May and 15th June.

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 Friday 16th April** 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: April tulips at The Vyne



**Overton Village Diary
of Events due to take place
between 16th April & 15th May**

The Parish Council Information Office in St Mary's Hall (right-hand set of double green doors) is open to the public on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9.00am to 12.00noon *every week* (with the exception of 14th & 15th April) with Parish Clerk Laura Harley in attendance.

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

Monday 19th April

PC Richard Baldwin's Police Surgery: From 12.00noon to 2.00pm in the Parish Office in St Mary's Hall.

Wednesday 21st April

Overton & District U3A (www.overtonu3a.org.uk) **monthly meeting:** 10.00am in St Mary's Hall when the talk will be *The Commonwealth War Graves Commission*. Refreshments will be available. Visitors are welcome for a charge of £3.00 - refundable if they then decide to join. For information *contact Jan Baker (773371) jan.baker2007@btinternet.com*

Friday 23rd April

Overton Folk Club - St George's day ceilidh: 8.00pm in St Mary's Hall (with bar). Dance the night away to the Kitty Bridges Band - a group from the Farnham area who have performed at Sidmouth International Folk festival last year. Tickets priced £6.00 will be available from the Fireplace Shop or ring me. All our events to date have been sell-outs so be sure to get them early. *From Tom Hanley (770384)*

Saturday 24th April

St Mary's Church Spring Fair: 9.30am in The Community Centre. All the usual stalls and raffle. Donations of cakes, biscuits, savouries, produce, plants and new unwanted gifts will be very welcome. Admission 50p including tea/coffee and biscuits. Proceeds to local charities. From The Mission Committee. *Enquiries to Jane Waldram (770444)*

Laverstoke and Freefolk Millennium Green Maintenance Day: meet at the Pond at 10.00am

Twisted Karaoke: 7.30pm in St Mary's Hall, with a welcome return by *Agent Funkateur*. As usual the format is simple - the band plays a selection of popular hits and audience members take turns to be lead vocalist. For more info and songlist visit www.myspace.com/twistedkaraoke Adult Tickets £8.00 (£7.00 concessions) from the Fireplace Shop or *Adrian (771883) or adrian@thebetterbutton.com*

Tuesday 27th April

Overton Home Producers' Market: (see feature article)

Saturday 1st May

Overton Museum Roadshow: (see feature article below)

Overton United Football Club are holding a reunion of officials, players and supporters and invite you to join them for this at 8.00pm in Overton Memorial Institute. Limited availability tickets will be issued on a first come, first pay basis - prices are £10.00 (£5.00 for over-70s and free for over-80s). Available from: Colin Phillimore, 61 Pond Close (771127 or 07887 778236) colin.phillimore@btinternet.com Don't forget to tell others about this special event.

Wednesday 5th May

Overton Folk Club Sing-around: 8.00pm in the Red Lion. (Our raffle at the Martin Carthy concert in March raised £100 which we are giving to the Haiti earthquake appeal.)

Tuesday 11th to Saturday 15th May

Overton Dramatic Society presents *The Farndale Murder Mystery*, a comedy by David McGillivray and Walter Zerlin Jnr, in St Mary's Hall, curtain up 7.30pm. Tickets £6.00 (£4.50 concessions) available from Overton Gallery, 20 High Street from Monday 12th April. *From Jillian Smith (770027)*

Overton Village Diary continues in next column

Overton Village Diary - continued from previous column

Thursday 13th May

Overton Garden Society: Our first garden visit is to Weir House. To attend garden visits, membership must be taken out first - for insurance reasons: we have cover through the RHS for all members. There is usually a small charge for garden visits to cover refreshments and/or charity donations. *Contact Bob or Kathy Gardner (770416)*

Saturday 15th May

Winchester & County Music Festival: Overton Choral Society joins with other Choral Societies to perform Rutter's Magnificat and Durufle's Requiem at 7.30pm in Romsey Abbey *Contact Lyn Hardy, Press Officer (397507)*

Overton Recreation Centre (ORC)

ORC congratulates prizewinners in the 12th March Draw: £1000 - Mrs Pam Dowling, £200 - William O'Donohoe, £100 each - Dave Alder, Mrs Caroline Loup and Mrs Irene Tungate. For the full list of all winners please see the ORC noticeboard on the wall near the Overton Library entrance.

Overton Museum Lives!

The Overton Museum Project is alive and well and seeking premises in Overton - but we need your help!

Although we already have a collection of items for display, we need to know what other items people might like to lend or donate - either to any future Overton Museum or to the small series of exhibitions planned for 2010/2011 - so we are holding a Museum Roadshow on Saturday 1st May from 10.00am to 12.00noon in St Luke's Hall.

This is an occasion when you could bring along your contribution so that we can build up a comprehensive list. We are not collecting items at this stage - merely photographing and cataloguing artefacts, photos, diaries, family trees... everything welcome that is of interest to Overton. Should you wish to leave anything with us please be sure to label it. For further information please *contact Peter Baker at The Fireplace Shop (770007)*

Overton Home Producers' Market

Further to our letter on page 3 of the March edition of ON&V we are pleased to announce the opening of our Overton Market on Tuesday 27th April in St Mary's Hall, from 10.00am to 12.00noon. Come along and join us and have a cup of tea or coffee and a piece of homemade cake, while browsing our stalls. We will start by selling plants, organic vegetables, free-range eggs, jams and preserves, cakes and savouries - and plenty of handmade crafts including cards, gift boxes and jewellery. Further produce may be added nearer the time. We hope to make this a weekly event - and with your support we can do this.

Further information *from Liz (770312) or Lindy (771191)*

Overton Community Association

We would like to say some big thank-yous for the recent transformation to the Community Centre forecourt, which no-one can have failed to notice.

Thank you to Overton Parish Council who gave us a grant for the tree work and to Basingstoke & Deane who did the planting beds. Together these changes have made a vast improvement to the centre of our village.

Unfortunately there was a recent accident near the big tree, so it has been fenced off for safety. We are going to have that area of paving completely re-laid, with kind help from HCC, so thank you to them as well. That will make it safe for the time being - but, as this is the third time we have had to make repairs here, if the tree's roots make the surface uneven again in the future, we will have to think about removing and replacing it with something smaller.

We have some exciting developments planned for later in the year which will be included in future editions of ON&V.

Paula Baker, Chair - Overton Community Association

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

Police appeal following robbery at the Co-op

Detectives are appealing for witnesses to an armed robbery at the Co-op in Winchester Street on Sunday 21st February. At around 10.55pm a man entered the shop and threatened two employees with a weapon. He then stole around £750 from the safe and left. Officers have released a CCTV image of the man they would like to speak to - he is described as: *White *Around 6ft tall *Medium build *Wearing a navy blue fleece, navy blue tracksuit bottoms, trainers and a balaclava *Carrying a rucksack.

Detective Constable Catherine Atherton, of Basingstoke CID, said: "The area would have been quiet at this time of evening but someone may have seen something. Were you at the shop just before the man entered or did you see him hanging around outside? We believe the offender took off his balaclava as soon as he left the shop and we want to hear from anyone who could identify him. This was an isolated incident and we would ask any witnesses or anyone with any information to contact us as soon as possible."

Can you help? Anyone with information is asked to contact Det Con Atherton at Basingstoke police station on 101 or call the Southern Crimestoppers charity anonymously on 0800 555 111 (Mini-Com users on 01962 875000) From outside Hampshire and I.O.W. please call 0845 045 45 45

Overton Beat Crime Statistics

I'm relieved to say that, apart from this Robbery - an extremely rare occurrence, especially for Overton - the Beat was generally quiet during February. Year to date reported crime figures are: January = 13 and February = 11 (compared to: 9 in 2009, 12 in 2008, 16 in 2007 and 11 in 2006) Total for 2010 to date = 24 (compared to 29 in 2009)

Glass Injury at Edward Kersley Playing Field

A parishioner reported recently that her three-year old son had to have 15 stitches in his face and will bear the scars for life after falling on a piece of broken glass embedded in the grass in this park.

Drinking alcohol and then smashing the bottle will not be tolerated - and if any individual is seen doing so they will face prosecution. The Edward Kersley Playing Field is one of a number of areas within the Village which have been designated under a DPPO - and, as such, the Police have the power to confiscate alcohol from anyone who they feel is acting or likely to act in an anti-social manner. I'm sure you'll agree that drinking alcohol in a children's play area and then littering the place is very anti-social and poses a danger to all the children who enjoy using the park.

I appeal to all local residents to report any kind of nuisance behaviour that may be occurring inside the park either to me or Sabrina by calling Hampshire Constabulary on 101.

Testbourne School News

One recent highlight was a visit by A Very Special Guest - the Headteacher of Mityana, our partner school in Uganda. The Reverend Canon Sserunjogi joined us for a wet, but wonderful, week - finding out more about Testbourne and the wider partnership, including visits to Whitchurch and St Mary Bourne Primary Schools. His warmth and integrity shone through and helped strengthen the understanding and bond between us.

(Testbourne School News continues in the next column)

(Testbourne School News - continued from previous column)

Could You Be A Governor? We currently have a vacancy for a Partnership Governor from the local community. If you are interested in finding out more about this valuable role please *contact Paul Welch, our Senior Finance Manager on 892061* From Hilary Jackson, Headteacher

www.OvertonPictures.com

The website's draft Annual Report & Accounts for 2009 has been placed in the village library and may be seen by asking the Librarian. In due course the accounts will be audited by the Auditor to the ORC. I would like to thank all of you who have supported us throughout the past year and to remind everybody that we are always pleased to receive more pictures - old, not so old and ones of the present day. If anybody would like to help with running the website, would you please *contact me - Tony Morris - on 770779* or Peter Baker in the Fireplace Shop.

Overton Library

The Hampshire House Sparrow Survey was recently launched and continues until June, as part of the Hampshire Bird Festival, to try and identify the cause of the dramatic decline of 62% in house sparrow numbers in the UK over the last 25 years. Hampshire residents are asked to make simple observations of sparrows in their gardens, local parks and workplaces - it's easy for me as they roost and nest around the Community Centre! You can access the survey form online at www.hants.gov.uk/housesparrow or you can collect/return forms here at the library.

During the school holiday there will be a competition here to colour a bird mask or a bird colouring sheet. Please ask the library staff. *Chris Vane, Library Supervisor*

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.

ON&V welcomes and thanks two new Distributors: Julie Bell (Overton Hill) and Margo Tinning (Foxdown Two).

Aiden Inker: Sadly, little Aiden lost his battle with Leukaemia and passed away on 24th January. We would like to thank everyone for the help and support we have been given over the last nine months. The many cards and words of comfort have been greatly appreciated. The incredible £2,527.48 donations received will be divided equally between Piam Brown Ward at Southampton General Hospital and Naomi House. *Karen, Zeb and Reece Inker*

The Barth Syndrome Trust: A huge thank you to everyone who supported our quiz evening on Saturday 27th February, when nine teams competed with friendly rivalry & banter! BST is indebted to Richard and Heather Oram (for their quiz-compiling expertise and ongoing help in preparing the suppers and setting up the room) to the Methodist Community (for allowing us to use their hall again) to the generous donors of raffle prizes and to some lovely local ladies for several very tasty pies which went down well! BST has been sent a cheque for £582.55. *Terri Allison*

From Jim Stickland, 35 The Green, Overton: I would like to thank all friends and relations who attended my recent 80th Birthday Party and gave so generously to the Naomi House Children's Hospice. The final total raised was £310

Overton Golf Club (formerly part of Overton Recreation Centre): I would like to thank all those members and guests who attended our Christmas Dinner and contributed so generously to our charity raffle. As in previous years, the £150 raised has now been donated equally among three local charities - Lordsfield Swimming Club, Darby & Joan Club and Kingfisher Trust. *Colin Webb, Club Captain*

(Letters to the Editor continue on page 4)

(Letters to the Editor - continued from page 3)

Douglas Berry: Thank you to everyone who attended dad's Celebration Service on 9th February at St Mary's Church and for your kind messages of sympathy to all the family. The donations in lieu of flowers raised £700 which is to be split between Berehill Residents' Fund and Kingfisher Day Centre, so that his friends at these two places can enjoy a day out, or a treat, on him.
Lesley Peters

Workbox Chicks: Our thanks to all who bought crème eggs - and to Eden Forest and Hobbs Hair for selling them. As a result, we have sent £566 to the Haiti Earthquake Appeal.
Christine Fields, Workbox Craft Group

Overton Community Centre: On 10th March, I and other Parish Councillors were subjected to a tirade of foul and abusive language in the Community Centre parking area. As we quite politely pointed out to the gentleman concerned (who was collecting his takeaway) I would just like to reiterate to him and all other villagers that the Community Centre parking area is "Private Property" and is for people using the Centre only. There are signs all around the parking area to this effect and no one else has "the (expletive deleted) right to use it".
David Llewellyn

Late News....

Art Classes with Stuart Campbell-Smith: A ten-week course starting Thursday 8th April from 1.15pm to 4.15pm at Overton Recreation Centre Pavilion in Bridge Street. This is an excellent opportunity to meet and learn together with like-minded people, as the class welcomes everyone - whether accomplished or total beginner. One-to-one guidance and help are provided by an experienced and published tutor. £65.00 for full course (£60.00 for the over-60s)
Contact Stuart on 322200 for all enquiries

The Lady Rosemary Portal Club for Retired Workers and their partners: As from April, the club will move to the Overton Memorial Institute for its meetings, which are held at 10.00am on the first Wednesday of each month.
Terry Robinson

Overton Dramatic Society's Spring Sale: Saturday 10th April from 10.00am to 12.00noon in St Mary's Hall. Tickets for The Farndale Murder Mystery (see **Village Diary** on page 2) will be on sale here for the first time.

Transport and Lighting News

From Brian Langer - OPC Transport and Lighting Representative

Transport - May Day holiday weekend services

Buses: Stagecoach 76/86 and Steventon Travel Services (STS) 74 and 56: Saturday 1st May - Saturday service. Sunday 2nd May and Monday 3rd May - Sunday service

Trains: Saturday 1st May and Monday 3rd May - Saturday service. Sunday 2nd May - Sunday service. However, no trains will run between Farnborough and Basingstoke on Sunday 2nd May until 12.45pm and there will be no trains from Basingstoke to/from Eastleigh throughout the weekend if travelling to Southampton, Bournemouth, Portsmouth etc.

Transport - buses: Steventon Travel Services (STS) have been delighted with the number of people using the recently-introduced service 56 (over 700 in February). However, the majority are using National Bus Passes

- and, under this system, the national reimbursement formula set out by central government means that STS are not receiving enough funds to make the service viable. At the time of writing (16th March) STS are considering withdrawing the service from mid-April, but this is not definite and some funding from other sources may be found. An update will be displayed on the public transport noticeboard in Kingsclere Road and via the local press.

Engineering works: These have become familiar to anyone travelling by rail - particularly at weekends. Details affecting South West Trains (SWT) are displayed weekly on Overton station platform with full details available on the SWT website for some time ahead.

Your chance to have your say

The next step in the Local Development Framework has just been published by the Borough Council. It sets out what Basingstoke & Deane sees as the "Key Themes" for the future. The document is available on the Borough's website or in the Library. It is open for consultation until 5.00pm on Monday 26th April and describes the main issues that need to be addressed from now until 2026 - such as the local economy, infrastructure and the environment. There is a section on rural areas which describes Overton as a "key settlement", along with Tadley and Whitchurch, which can meet the needs of smaller villages for facilities and services. It asks whether this approach is supported and then asks what level of development is appropriate. There are consultation forms in the Library or in the Community Centre. You can also submit your response on-line via the Borough website www.basingstoke.gov.uk following the link to "Focusing on our Future". **Whichever way you respond, please do it before the deadline shown above.**
Councillor Paula Baker

Hampshire Constabulary offers Safer Homes Advice

Shed and Garage Break-ins

- Sheds, outbuildings and garages are still being targeted in the rural area with several reports already this year. The offenders are mainly stealing gardening equipment.
- * Make sure your garage or shed is fitted with a good strong lock, padlock, door hinges or other security device.
 - * Ensure that glass in any windows to garages or sheds is secure and that you have window locks fitted if appropriate. You could consider putting up curtains to prevent anyone seeing the contents of your garage or shed.
 - * Do not store large quantities of valuables in your garage/shed. Consider other forms of storage.
 - * Large items can be padlocked together or you could sink a post into the garage/shed floor and padlock any items to it.
 - * If your garage is not in regular use, ensure that you visit it regularly to check for any signs of damage, or ask a neighbour or friend to keep an eye on it.
 - * If you rent your garage, check with your landlord for permission before making any changes to the property.
 - * Consider security lighting if appropriate.
 - * Check with your insurance company that you are covered for items stored in your garage/shed.
 - * Fit battery-operated shed alarms and mark your property to enable it to be returned if it is stolen but then recovered

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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