Link

August 2025



SATURDAY 9TH AUGUST 2025

1:30pm
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August 2025



Link Magazine exists to be of service to the communities of Oakley, Deane, Newfound, Malshanger and Wootton St Lawrence. The sentiments expressed do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the editorial team. The editors take no responsibility for the accuracy of the contents of submissions.

With the exception of trade ads all other items for publication may be made free of charge. Please submit articles by the date given below for publication the month following. The *Link* editors reserve the right to decline or edit any contributions.

Link web-site oakleylink.org.uk

Please e-mail copy to: editor@oakleylink.org.uk or post to 8 Caithness Close, Oakley, RG23 7NG Deadline for September 2025 issue: 10 August

Editorial

This month's Link has become a celebration of the 250 years since the birth of the author, Jane Austen, in our neighbouring village of Steventon. On page 19 we have a walk around the area she would have know so well for the first 25 years of her life, thanks to Barbara Robson, and some photos from the special walk she led on 15 July, on pages 35 and 36.

On pages 20 and 21 there are some photos from Steventon's Jane Austen Country Fair, held on 6 July, with special guest Dr Lucy Worsley. Thank you to the organisers for kindly allowing us to use the pictures.

Steventon residents, along with Basingstoke Heritage Society, also arranged an excellent historical exhibition: Jane Austen in North Hampshire, which I saw on 13 July. Part of the display is due to be set up again in The Discovery Centre in Basingstoke during July. Also, during Steventon's celebrations, an Art Exhibition & Flower Festival were held at St Nicholas Church, Steventon, where Jane's father was Rector. Watch out for more Jane Austen themed events throughout the year, see visit-hampshire.co.uk/whatson/jane-austens-250 for more information.

Chris Wassell

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Oakley Community Care is a Registered Charity (No. 1141330)

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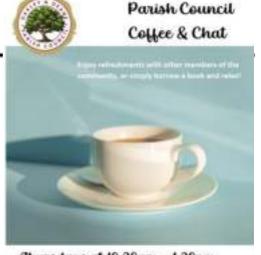
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Village



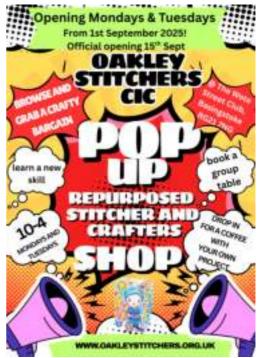


Thursdays at 10:30am — 1.30pm Reviewed Sports Providen

144 year inner we star have been because of the stop in hours?

Westersdays 89:30-32:30 — trevlaged facility

Thursdays 10.80-1.30 - Newfound Paviline







Photos taken at Front Garden Stalls event on 21 June. The bridge table, which attracted a bit of interest, and the bridge band (The Bridge Tones) playing in John Glasscock's front garden.



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Your Local Cats Protection Branch Needs You!!

Basingstoke Cats Protection is currently inundated with cats on our waiting list who we so desperately want to help... but with all our current foster homes full of felines there is little we can do.

We are looking for fosterers in the Basingstoke area, either indoor or in an outdoor enclosure which is provided by Cats Protection (approximate size 13ft x 4ft or 4m x 1.2m). Full training will be provided and all expenses are covered by Cats Protection – food, litter, bedding and electricity.

Fostering is an incredible experience guaranteed to give you an extreme sense of joy, achievement and pride. The days spent in a loving foster home make the world of difference for our cats and kittens, setting them up for a lifetime of happiness

PLEASE consider opening your home and heart to a cat in need; if you cannot foster, please spread the word to anyone who may be able to help us.

If you're interested in finding out more, please contact Lynne at

welfareteamleader@basingstoke.cats.org.uk or call our enquiries line on 01256584544.



Village

Oakley Village Show 9 August, Oakley Infant School

fter a year of planning, it's time to get the Oakley Show up and running. So, a quick recap...



The Inside Bit (Classes)

You've left it too late to grow fruit and veg, or enter the writing classes, but there is still time to bake, put finishing touches to your art and craft, or you might already have taken a photograph that would fit one of the class titles. And if none of the classes appeals but you have made something which might inspire others or prompt us to include in next year's show, then put it on our *One I Made Earlier* table.

The Outside Bit

Plenty to see and do here, with commercial and charity stalls, food and drink and entertainment in the arena. There's live music to give the show its traditional appeal plus the amazing Bubbles Man and demonstrations from local groups. There is even a rumour that we might have more than one tug in the "Tug of war".

Entry is £2 for adults but your numbered programme enters you for the draw where you could win £100 or a stunning hamper. (All proceeds help to keep the show financially self-sufficient.)

If you have never been to a show before, we encourage you to come along to a great family day out, where you can meet others in the village and enjoy being part of our brilliant Oakley community.

So, that's about it, (other than a little reminder that we cannot allow dogs on school grounds). Any questions, please email anndavis48@hotmail.com. We look forward to seeing you.

Ann Davis on behalf of the show committee







Come along and share ideas to improve wellbeing

We are a collaboration of existing Oakley groups, individuals and organisations that support our village community.

We actively cooperate, coming together to share ideas, empowering each other and our village.

We aim to improve wellbeing across all ages and social groups within our village community.

We come together as community members to build a common platform to enable residents to connect better with each other and the various activities that take place in our village.

Time commitment is minimal as we meet every two months. We don't run large projects but rather share and pool ideas to build unity and cooperation between us.

Want to know more? Do you want to get involved?

We would love to hear from you - email us here: oakleywellbeingforum@gmail.com



Feature 🏋 🥻

Oakley Stitchers

ell, here we are again, with another update from your Oakley Stitchers CIC. On 1 September we will be having a soft opening of our pop up shop at the Wote Street Club from 10 - 4, to offer everyone the opportunity to purchase repurposed yarn, fabric, craft materials, serviced sewing machines, haberdashery... etc

Or just pop in for a coffee and a chat while tempting yourself to that item, you just hadn't realised you needed yet ;-) We will have tables that can be booked if you would like to meet up with friends or a group. We will be officially opening on 15 September at 11 am, hopefully when we will be a little more organised and know what we're doing a little better.

We are also opening our 9th Community Group in Old Basing/Lychpitt fortnightly on a Tues from 10 -12 at the Pavillion tea rooms starting on 9 September.

As you can see.. we have been busier and busier with items created by our amazing volunteers flowing through HQ at lightning speed! Last year we sent out over 56,000 items to individuals,

organisations and many departments in the 27 hospitals around the UK we currently support. This has helped 10's

of 1000's of people everywhere to just feel that little better at a difficult time.

We are always looking for volunteers for a variety of roles from knocker stuffing to sewing blanket squares together to creating our angel gowns and running groups, admin, fundraising and workshops... to name a few. With the shop opening, we are looking for committed volunteers to come in and help support us to get established and raise funding by helping to filling a gap in Basingstoke's High Street for stitchers and crafters.

If you haven't been to the Wote Street Club before please pop in to see how much they offer there for anyone. No membership is needed so do come and say 'Hi', enjoy an evening out with a live band, comedy nights or enjoy the events and organisations who use the facilities there. Short stay Parking available at the central car park by the Mayflower Chinese.

Caroline Worley, Founding Director, Oakley Stitchers CIC oakleystitchers@yahoo.com To send a donation directly oakleystitchers.org.uk 01256 423 801 / 07359 632 363 (A message can be left if we are not in the office.)

to us please find us on paypal. Thank you for your support.

Ladies Societies



Oakley Afternoon WI

The meeting in June was to celebrate the 45th birthday of our WI. The President, Janet, opened the meeting by welcoming all the members and invited guests from other local WIs.

The speaker for the afternoon was Debbie Reavell from the Basingstoke Heritage Society and her talk was entitled A Walk Through Time. She spoke about the history of Basingstoke from the Bronze Age through to the modern town we have today. We learned many interesting facts about Basingstoke including the facts that there has been a market on Wednesdays since 1214 and that Stoke means a Settlement.

Janet then invited Rosemary to cut the lovely Anniversary cake and we all enjoyed cake and tea. The cakes were made by two of our members, Jean and Janet. There was the monthly raffle followed by the presentation of birthday flowers.

Our meetings are on the third Monday of the month at East Oakley Village Hall (the green hut). Visitors are most welcome to come along and also to come to the coffee mornings held at the Barley Mow on the last Monday of the month.

Further details from Janet on 01256 782734.

Janie Vickers

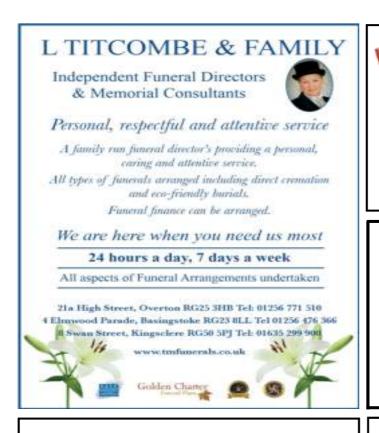
Oakley & Deane WI

he July meeting of Oakley and Deane WI was very unusual. A group of members other than the committee arranged it. The theme was Alice in Wonderland in Oakley and it was a mixture of a quiz and a game. We were in teams of six and we had to solve clues, one at a time, with a map of Oakley. It took over an hour and was very cleverly devised. The group provided special refreshments.

Names were taken for a visit to the Dome for lunch.

Our President collected sponsorship money for her Race for Life which she did the day after her garage and garden had been used for Garden Stalls. Help is needed for our cake stall at the village show next month.

Next month's meeting on August 12 is a quiz show about TV. All welcome at Andover Road Village Hall. Website oakleydeanewi.weebly.com Jean Freeman







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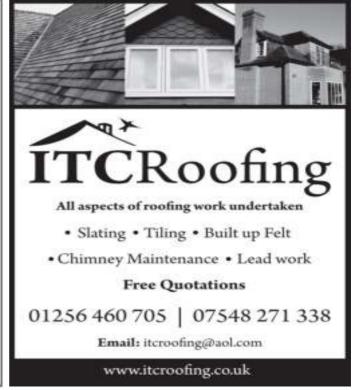
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Health Matters



Coeliac UK North Hampshire Group Events: Meal and Canal Walk

Twelve of our group met for lunch at The Mill House at North Warnborough on Saturday 14 June for a delicious gluten free meal. It is part of a small chain of pub restaurants that are all gluten free accredited. There was a great range of food for everyone. This was followed by a leisurely walk along the Basingstoke Canal past Odiham Castle. The Mill House lists a number of walks and maps for its customers to explore.

Oakley Front Garden Stalls

We would like to thank all those who stopped by for cakes and drinks or bought plants and books from our stall. There were gluten free and non GF cakes on offer and at least two groups came around for a second bite, so well done for those who baked the cakes and made drinks. We raised £300 for Coeliac UK. Also, a big shout out for local employer MacMillan Distribution Ltd for donating a pack of books.

Next meeting

We do not have a meeting scheduled for August. **Contacts:**

To contact the Local North Hants Group, please email northhampshire@coeliac.org.uk

Join our Facebook page Coeliac UK North
Hampshire Local Group, or see our events on the
North Hampshire Coeliac UK website page
www.coeliac.org.uk/local-groups/north-hampshire

Dave West



Protecting Our Children - One Jab at a Time

You may have seen the recent news about falling childhood vaccination rates across the UK. At Watership Down Health, we are supported by parents and have a strong uptake locally, but we know there's always more we can do to keep our little ones safe.

☐ If your child is due or overdue any of their routine vaccinations — or if you're just unsure — we're here to help. If you need an appointment later in the day, please ask.

☐ Give us a call or check your childrens' immunisation records on the NHS App and book any outstanding vaccines. Every appointment makes a difference in protecting not just your child, but the whole community.

GP Connect

By 1 October 2025, your GP practice, Watership Down Health, will be required by the Department of Health & Social Care and NHS England to ensure the following two functions are enabled in GP Connect:

The first function allows "read only" access to patients' care records maintained by the GP Practice by other NHS commissioned providers, for the purposes of direct patient care. "Read only" access for providers of private healthcare will also be allowed but only in cases where the private provider obtains explicit permission from the patient to access their NHS GP care record, and they are providing direct care to the patient.

The second function allows Community Pharmacy registered professionals to send consultation summaries into the GP practice workflow or GP Connect Update Record.

Please be advised that Watership Down Health will be activating these two functions. In all cases, where a Community Pharmacy/third party sends consultation summaries to the GP practice, if patients have any queries with this information, they will need to approach the Community Pharmacy who initiated the correspondence in the first instance.

Any queries regarding this policy will need to be raised with gpconnect@nhs.net rather than the GP practice itself.

Flu and Covid-19 Seasonal Vaccination Programme: Autumn/Winter 2025/26

Patients eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine in autumn/winter 2025/26 are:

Residents in a care home for older adults.

All adults aged 75 years and over.

Persons aged 6 months and over who are immunosuppressed, as defined in tables 3 and 4 of the

COVID-19 chapter of the Green Book As stated in the National Flu Immunisation Programme letter, flu vaccination dates for eligible patients are as follows:

- Pregnant women and all eligible children will start from 1st September 2025. For school aged cohorts, vaccination in schools should be completed by 12 December 2025 with further catch-up opportunities as appropriate.
- All other adult flu cohorts will start from 1 October 2025 and will run until the 31 March 2026 with the majority of the vaccinations to be completed by November 2025 to provide the best possible protection going into winter.

The COVID-19 programme will run from 1 October 2025 to 31 Jan 2026. However, the majority of COVID-19 vaccinations should be completed by 19 December 2025.

Heather Mann

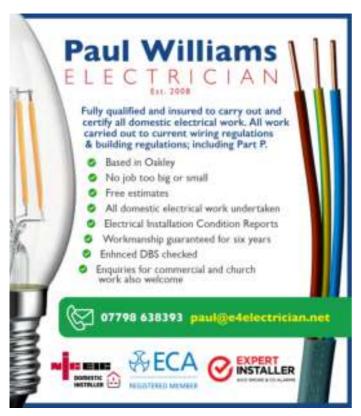




















Gardening 答

Oakley Gardening Club

Our July meeting was a members only visiting three village gardens. It was a very enjoyable evening and we were then treated to refreshments at the last garden.

Our next club meeting in on Monday 4 August in

St Leonard's Church Hall starting at 7:30. Our speaker is Geoff Hawkins who will be talking about Herbaceous Borders. Visitors very welcome. Refreshments included. More information from Maureen Dallaway on 780788

Feature 🏋



Juliet Henderson Candovers Oakley and Overton HCC July Report Decisions due this summer on future services

From older adults' day services to school transport and planned road maintenance,

this summer will see key decisions made on the future of some important County Council services delivered to Hampshire residents after April 2026: hants.gov.uk/News/20250606FSCscrutinydates

Bookings open for Hampshire's Holiday Activities and Food summer programme

Hampshire County Council's popular Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme is back for the 2025 summer holidays – and eligible families can now browse and book free places for their children at local schemes across the county: hants.gov.uk/ News/20250609HAFsummer

HCC reviews early options for councils of the

HCC is assessing four potential options for local government across Hampshire and the Solent as it closes in on identifying the best way of delivering simpler, stronger and secure councils in the future under Government plans to shake up councils across the country: hants.gov.uk/

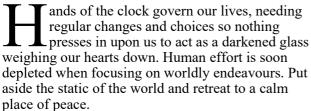
News/20250616LGRoptions

Go-ahead given for introduction of Hampshirewide food waste recycling

Plans to enable Hampshire residents to recycle household food waste from April 2026 have been confirmed. HCC has agreed to progress with arrangements that will see food waste from Hampshire households recycled through anaerobic digestion: hants.gov.uk/

News/20250623Foodwasterecyclying Juliet Henderson

Pause For Thought 🥞



All around us bees are busy collecting pollen and nectar to deposit in hexagonal cells in the hive which they make and where the queen bee lays her eggs. So amazing and incredible! The end result of all this activity is pure golden honey which is poured into glass jars for our enjoyment.

However, for their protection, bees inflict a sting, causing pain and misery. These need to be removed as soon as possible.

Stinging words, once spoken, cannot be taken back. Alternatively, pleasant words are as a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and health to the bones. Kind words can be short and easy to speak, and their echoes are truly endless, deeply comforting,

encouraging and calming. Remember that in quietness and confidence shall be your strength.

After rain has fallen, sunshine follows with rainbows appearing in the sky, in the shape of an arch, showing a sequence of seven colours red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet, reflecting the sun's rays. When a second rainbow appears, the colours are in reverse order. Also, when astronauts travel in a spaceship they see a complete rainbow circle. Catch sight of rainbows, because they soon fade away.

There is an ebb and flow to life. The phases of the moon, in the night sky, dictate the sea tides. Stars appear in a celestial body as luminous radiating points in the night sky.

The sun is the star which the earth revolves around giving warmth and light. During the annual four seasons the sun rises and sets at different times. Beautiful sunrises and sunsets take our breath away.

Diana Berwick, a resident in Oakley

Feature 🏋 🤋



News From Jolly Olly's Coffee Shop

Farewell

Sad news... Kieron worked his last day with us back in July. The team have loved working with him and we will miss him hugely but wish him well.

Good news.... Maddy is coming back to lend a hand until she leaves for university in September.

Bread

As well as continuing with our Friday sourdough bread deliveries, we now order a selection of breads to sell on Saturdays from The Street Bake House.

Book Club

Our next book will be *In Order to Live* by Yeonmi Park. This is a true story about a 13 year old girl who risked her life when she and her family fled North Korea. I have a copy of the book, if anyone would like to borrow it. Comments will be invited on our Facebook page from Monday 8 September.

Happy Holidays

If you are away on a holiday or a day trip this summer, Jolly Olly and his family would love to join you. They have the travel bug, as you will see from the photographs displayed in the shop.

Celebrate your achievements!

Have you run a marathon, learnt to tie your shoe laces or won a poetry competition? Bring us a photograph and we will celebrate with you by putting it up on our community achievements board for all to see.

Monday Opening

We will be opening on Mondays **from 11 August to 15 September** after which time I will consider the viability of training and employing a new staff

member to allow this to continue. Please look out for updates on our Facebook and Instagram pages.

Best wishes from the team at Jolly Olly's Coffee Shop 32 Oakley Lane, Oakley RG23 7JY (Tel

Find us on Facebook, Instagram and Trip Advisor

01256 782658)



What did I come in here for?

What did I come in here for?
I had it here just then,
I turned around and it had gone.
Now I can't find it again.
Oh here it is, to my surprise
and just a little shock, it
Turned up unexpectedly
Laid doggo in my pocket.

Who's that bloke approaching, I've plumb forgot his name, But I do know him from somewhere,

The embarrassment the shame. What does it begin with, ABCDE?

Of course there's still a fighting chance.

He won't remember me.
P'raps I'll duck into a doorway
And find some sort of cover
Then he puts a hand on my
shoulder and says, "Hello, my....
brother!"

Of course I use my mobile, Do you think I'm dumb? Just ain't no good at texting 'Cos I've got arthritic thumbs. Can't you speak more clearly? Aids for my ears I'm fearing. I like to have the telly loud, But there's nowt wrong with my hearing!

We must get out to walk more, But there's an issue 'cos, The pavement's in a bad state, Not as even as it was. Get those walking boots on, C'mon let's get a grip, But if we end up horizontal, Could be a painful trip.

Now while I'm being frank my love, my driving is just fine,

It ain't my fault they alter those lane markings all the time.

And when it comes to parking, I find a space and bingo

We spend the next half hour trying to fathom Ringo.

Trying to don a pant is fun, can't lift a leg moreover,

My balance could be suspect
I could easily topple over!

A visit to the dentist is upsetting that's the truth, When she says, you seem to

have,

More amalgam here than tooth.

And you're not brushing correctly.

Your gnashers would be smarter,

If you took a little more trouble,

There may not be so much tartar.

I know I'm healthy doctor But getting old's a fag. Some bits are malfunctioning and others prone to sag.

With all this medication I guess it should be said,

These days, it takes an hour and a half just to get ready for bed.

I guess I'd better go now Still stood there in the hall. What did I come out here for? I really can't recall.

Barry Mundy

Conservation @



Oakley Woodlands Group

he woods are a place to find many interesting things.
Nibbled hazel nuts left over from a dormouse's lunch, or an unusual fungus perhaps, but some things indicate the presence of

humans. As we coppice and clear areas, we have found a number of interesting and sometimes surprising things.

A large cog wheel indicated the presence of large machinery at some time in the past, possibly to process the harvested timber. A Victorian penny, that raised the hopes of the finder thinking they had found a Roman coin, until someone piped up, "I used to pay my school bus fare with those". Such pennies were in circulation until decimalisation in 1971, so it could have been dropped any time up to then.

Sometimes something darker turns up, like a gun.



It was found in the base of some hazel, and was completed caked in mud. It was an automatic pistol, and the magazine was missing. Google identified it as a Colt automatic of circa 1918 vintage. More concerning was the machete we found. This had been recently hidden in a pile of



chippings, presumably with the intention of being retrieved at a later date. Both the gun and knife were handed over to the police in Basingstoke.

Our winter coppicing will be starting in September, so look out for dates in next month's Link. We will have a stand at the village show, so do drop in to see us. We like to chat, and maybe we can persuade you to volunteer.

Email: oakleywoodlands@gmail.com

Alan Merry

Jane Austen in flowers outside St Nicholas Church in Steventon, part of the Flower Festival and Art Exhibition celebrating 250 years since her birth



Fund Raising

Thank you to all the people who supported the fundraising and bought plants from the table in the Vale or just added a donation. I have been able to send £53 off to the Stroke Association. This money

Moonlight
Walk

Saturday 27 September 2025
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Mary Fee



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Church News

Oakley Methodist Church

There will be no coffee mornings in August at the Methodist Church. We will resume again on 9 September.

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Feature

Opportunity to enjoy a Jane Austin local walk experience around Steventon

well-known local event has been the 250 year celebrations of Jane Austen's birth [1775 at Steventon Rectory]. The celebrations have taken many forms, the highlight being the Steventon Jane Austen Fayre on 6 July (See photos on next 2 pages). Overton have created Jane Austen walk trails, but these focus on Overton rather than the immediate pathways Jane would have regularly walked to visit the closest neighbouring 'gentry homes' - Deane and Ashe.

We walked these routes as part of Oakley Woodland Wellbeing Walks in July (see photos on page 35 &36). To enable you to also enjoy the local footpaths and homes that Jane would have walked to pay her social visits, here are the maps and some information of Jane's connections

with Ashe and Deane. The pathways and views, apart from the railway track and sound of trains and occasional road traffic, will have hardly changed from Jane Austen's walking experiences. It will be easy for you to imagine yourself walking 'alongside Jane' seeing the same rural landscape and the lie of the lane that her eyes would have seen as she walked to the two notable homes of the local families she would have regularly visited.

So I do encourage you to give these walks a go, using this marked footpath map which give distance guidelines for three walk options, all starting from Steventon Church. The most straightforward is the longest at 6.3 miles, being a circuit. The shorter walks give you the option to wall to Deane House and Ashe House on separate days but do require pre-arranged transport to collect you.

What is special about Deane and Ashe? Jane's parents, the Reverend George Austen and Cassandra Austen, lived in the Deane parsonage for four years after their marriage, where their first three children were born. The parsonage was located near Deane Church, and the family also had ties to the nearby village of Ashe. While the original buildings are no longer standing, the area holds significance as the setting for a period of the Austen family's life.

And it is Ashe House where Jane met the man she clearly had strong feelings for. Writing to her sister



Cassandra: "you scold me so much in the nice long letter which I have this moment received from you, that I am almost afraid to tell you how my Irish friend and I behaved. Imagine to yourself everything most profligate and shocking in the way of dancing and sitting down together. I can expose myself, however, only once more, because he leaves the country soon after next Friday, on which day we are to have a dance at Ashe after all. He is very gentlemanlike, good-looking pleasant young man, I assure you."

The Irish friend was Tom Leroy whom she met in December 1795. He had moved to London to study law and was spending the Christmas holidays with his uncle and aunt who lived at Ashe House. Their relationship was not supported 'due to the penniless status of the would be lovers'. However, Tom had good prospects and progressed his legal career, becoming Lord Chief Justice of Ireland.

Barbara Robson

See next page for sketch of the other gentry homes in the Oakley vicinity Jane would have similarly visited, illustrating well how close Oakley is to the Jane Austen pathways and social circuit. This image is from the special 250 year celebration tea towel designed by Rachel Chessman and can be purchased for £10 contacting Marilyn at wrights@flyingpiano.plus.com All profits go to St Nicholas Church, Steventon.

Jane Austen Regency Country Fair Pump Field, Steventon, Sunday 6th July 2025













Photos of Country Fair kindly supplied by Carrie Lees



LINK magazine

Young Oakley 🛭



Hello from St Leonard's Pre-School

t the end of a busy end of term we said goodbye to our leavers -. Ava, Ally, Alani, Danny, Elissa, Frances, Lydia, George, Nehan, Nevan, Samson, Thomas, Orla, Joshua, Rose, Sienna, Isabelle, Amar, Reuben, Taimur and Viggo. We wish them well and look forward to hearing how they are getting

In September, the pre-school will be 50 years old! It opened in September 1975. We are having a celebration at St Leonard's Centre on Saturday 27 September from 2 to 4 pm. If you have been involved with the pre-school at all you are warmly invited to join us.

We are also using it as an open day so, if you want to know more about the pre-school, please join us. We will have toys and activities for children and there will be face painting, cake and refreshments. Even if you can only pop in, please come and say hello. If you have any photos that you would be happy for us to include in a display for the event please get in touch.

If you would like to know more about the pre-school, please contact us on 07772 378265, or email preschool@oww.church, or look at our website stleonards-pre-school.co.uk.We look forward to hearing from you.

Caroline Edwards, St Leonard's Pre-School Manager

Oakley Brownies

n Friday 27 June Oakley brownies and guides along with Winklebury guides headed off to Thirtover campsite near Newbury for a weekend of fun under canvas! This was our second



annual brownie camp in tents and we hope to continue every year in the future. During the weekend we completed our "explore the outdoors" badge completing activities such as a sensory obstacle course, decorating bird

OTH Anniversary Celebration Saturday St Leonards Centre Rectory Road, Oakley RG23 7ED Everyone is welcome - past, present and future families! www.stleonants-preschool.co.uk

> houses, identifying different tree species and completing artwork from leaf rubbings and collages as well as making our own weather instruments. We also experienced cooking our lunch in patrols on fires and had some delicious hotdogs and chocolate bananas.

The weekend gave us glorious sunshine and Brown Owl treated us to some ice lollies when it got a bit too hot. The girls had a fantastic time playing together, practising their circus skills and got involved in all of their chores, even cleaning the



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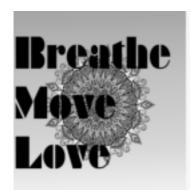
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Young Oakley



bathroom. On
Saturday night we
enjoyed an extra-large
campfire with very
enthusiastic singing
from all the girls and
we rounded the
weekend off with a
trip to the local park.
All the brownies and
their leaders went



To find out about joining the Oakley Scout Group, please email oakley@bwds.org.uk Helen Meyer

BEASTLY25

I went to BEASTLY25 with my Scout Group and had lots of fun.

There were so many activities to do like climbing, making bracelets, zorb balls, archery, rifle shooting and so many other things. There was also entertainment on the stage including a welcome celebration, a promise renewal and Basingstoke Gang Show giving a performance from their last show. It was a great experience and would love to go again next year for another fun day.

By Eloise

home on Sunday tired and happy, looking forward to many more years of camping fun!

Oakley brownies are pleased to announce that we have a few spaces for new brownies (aged 7) to join us from September. If you are interested please go to girlguiding.org.uk and click "register a child". Make sure to select Oakley brownies when prompted. Places will be allocated on a first come first served basis. If spaces are filled your daughter will be placed on a waiting list.

Oakley and Overton Girlguiding are also welcoming new volunteers. If you are interested in joining our team in any capacity please go to girlguiding.org.uk and click on "volunteer".

Lucy Rayden

Oakley Scout Group Beaver Sleepover

e all arrived at the Scout Hut with our sleeping bags, roll mats and teddies. First, we made Father's Day cards and



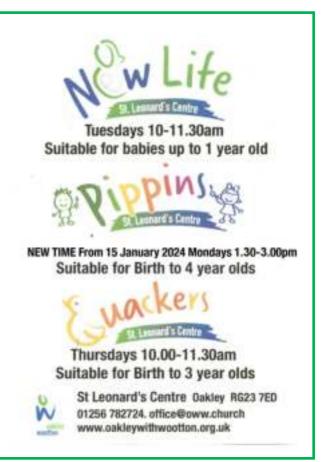
puppets. One of the cards was a superhero theme. Next, we made special keyrings where you cut out a special piece of plastic, then we put our hand print on them and you put them in the oven and they shrank and we turned them into keyrings. Next it was teatime.

We played with Lego while waiting for half of the Beavers to make their toasties and then we swapped. Then we played with Lego while we waited for the leaders to set up the movie. Just before the film we had hot chocolate.

We set out our roll mats and sleeping bags and watched the movie *Minions*. It was great! Then it was time for bed after brushing our teeth. In the morning we had breakfast and we had to wash up after ourselves. We played some games, then we went outside in the park to play and then it was time to go home. The leaders did an excellent job, thank you for organising.

By Joseph

BEASTLY25 was held at Dummer Down Farm and was a really fun experience for everyone who attended. BEASTLY is Basingstoke's biggest Scouting and Guiding multi-activity day where participants can try out a whole range of activities, welcoming young people aged four through to 17. BEASTLY26 is already in the planning and due to be



Young Oakley



held on 9 May 2026.

To find out about joining the Oakley Scout Group, please email oakley@bwds.org.uk

Helen Meyer

News from Cranbourne

It's hard to believe we've reached the end of another academic year here at Cranbourne, and what a year it's been! We've ended the summer term with a jam-packed roster of school trips, sporting events and our annual performing arts month. We celebrated an evening of excellence at our summer rewards' evening and students who achieved 1.250 house points.



students who achieved 1,250 house points throughout their year visited Thorpe Park and Marwell Zoo as their reward.

Year 8 embarked on a residential trip to Runways End in Aldershot, where they spent three days getting stuck in with a variety of exciting activities including canoeing, rock climbing and archery. They had a fantastic time away where they embraced new experiences, showed tremendous teamwork and improved their confidence.

Students immersed themselves in the world of the arts during performing arts month, where they took part in dance workshops with the incredible Autin Dance Theatre and Grange Festival, participated in the Basingstoke Festival opening parade alongside Scratch Built Productions and learned more about

careers in the industry with Anvil Arts.

We had an impressive run of events throughout the month where our students wowed us with their hard work and dedication. They courageously took to the stage in a variety of performances, showcasing their talents for the Cranbourne community and we couldn't be prouder! The cast for our next school play *Guys and Dolls Jr* has been announced and we're excited to get stuck in to rehearsals when we return in September.

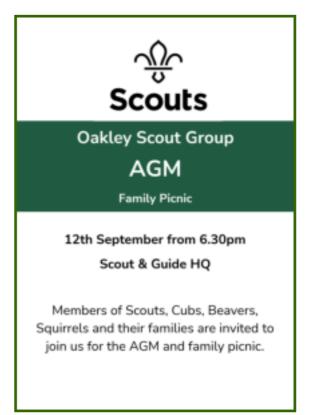
Day of sport saw students compete in various sports events including tug of war, field events and the swimming gala to earn points for their house. It was a fantastic way to end the year, watching our students show incredible enthusiasm, sportsmanship and embrace their house spirit.

If you are starting to think about the next steps in your child's educational journey, come and get a feel for what life at Cranbourne is all about at our open evening on Wednesday 10 September - we'd love to welcome you to the Cranbourne Community!

We hope all of our students have a wonderful, well -deserved rest over the summer break and we look forward to welcoming you back in September.

Chloe-Mai Parfitt





Graham Brown

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Local News



Volunteers needed to support social groups

ge Concern Hampshire is seeking dedicated volunteers to support the expansion of its community social groups. Volunteers play a crucial role in facilitating activities, providing companionship and creating a welcoming environment for participants. Those interested in making a positive impact to communities in Basingstoke, Whitchurch, Kingsclere, Totton, Fordingbridge and Ringwood should get in touch by calling Kate Harrison on 07501 553230 or by visiting the website for more information:

ageconcernhampshire.org.uk/job/basingstoke-social-group-volunteer-sng/

Each social group offers a variety of engaging activities designed to promote movement, social interaction and mental stimulation with weekly activities including games, entertainment sessions and informative talks. These activities create a supportive environment where individuals can share knowledge, experiences and mutual interests, all while building connections and developing new friendships to improve their overall health and wellbeing.

Kate Harrison, the Volunteer Coordinator at Age Concern Hampshire, emphasised the importance of volunteers to the success of their social groups. She stated, "Volunteers are essential in leading activities, offering companionship and creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere for participants. We encourage anyone eager to make a positive difference to consider joining our volunteer team."

Sarah Jacobs

What is the u3a?

I t is the "University of the Third Age". We are a



lively organisation centred in the Overton area, including members in Whitchurch and Oakley, for people no longer working full-time who want to keep learning. There is no minimum age and no requirement for qualifications. Our aim is to have fun, make friends, stay fit and exercise the mind. Our u3a branch has over 30 interest groups and over 200 members.



Our interest/study groups are run by members e.g. languages, crafts, history, games, lunch clubs and gardens. There are monthly talks which are held on the third Wednesday of each month, in St Mary's Hall, Overton at 10 am. Next meeting: 17 September.

Joining our u3a is easy. It costs just £15 a



Everyone is welcoming and friendly. Take a look at our webpage for information on talks, outings, groups and how to apply for membership. https://overton.u3asite.uk/ or email direct on infou3aoverton@gmail.com

If you aren't able to look online you would be welcome at one of the monthly talks where we can provide more details.









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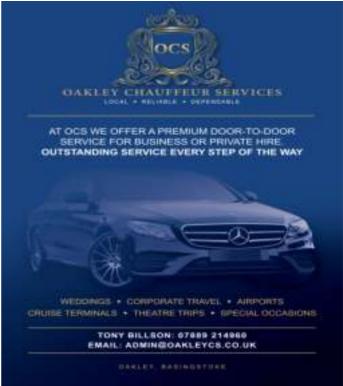
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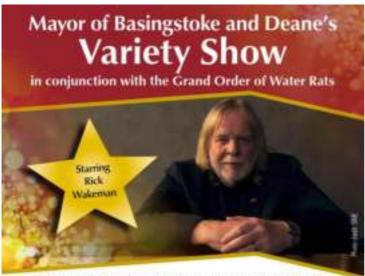
Local News

Whitchurch Silk Mill Successful Open Gardens Event

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who opened their gardens and to the 365 visitors who joined us for June's Open Gardens event. We're thrilled to share that the day raised an impressive £4,600 through ticket sales, plant stalls and tea and cake. Returning visitors appreciated seeing how the gardens had evolved since 2023, while newcomers were impressed by the creativity and variety. One guest remarked on the beauty and imaginative design, as well as how fascinating it was to glimpse behind familiar houses. The event was a great success—mark your calendars for the next Open Gardens on Sunday 13 June 2027! Interested in taking part? Please email us at info@whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk.

More Fundraising Highlights

Our summer raffle, drawn during Open Gardens, raised £1,400, thanks to all who bought or sold tickets and donated prizes. Our stint at the Rotations charity shop brought in over £1,600, and the Spring Fayre in May raised nearly £900. We're grateful to everyone who contributed time, goods and enthusiasm.



Join the Mayor of Basingstoke and Deane Cllr Colin Phillimore for an evening of entertainment raising funds for the Mayor's Charity Appeal and The Grand Order of Water Rats.

Performers include comedy ventriloquist Steve Hewlett, magician Mark Shortland, Marina's School of Dance.

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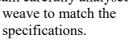




Fundraising is vital to preserving Whitchurch Silk Mill and the endangered heritage skills it represents. Visitor income alone isn't enough, so we rely on events and your generous support. Our volunteer fundraising team works tirelessly, but it's your involvement that makes the difference. Whether you visit, shop, donate, or spread the word, you help keep the Mill alive. Monthly donations, even small ones, provide steady support and help us plan. You can donate via the "Support Us" button on our website or set up a standing order. Email us for details.

George Washington Suit Project

We're excited to be weaving silk for a replica of a suit worn by George Washington, commissioned by a university in New York. The yarn has arrived and been prepared for weaving. Using images of the original fabric, our team carefully analysed the





Upcoming Events

Exhibition: *Fascination of Trees* by Jen Best 23 July – 7 September

Textile artist Jen Best showcases her natureinspired work, especially trees, through knitting, crochet and buttons. Free with Mill admission.

Silk Production Tour

16 September, 11 am - 12 pm Go behind the scenes of Victorian silk production, see the looms in action and hear stories of past and present weavers. Tickets £25, online booking only.

Michaelmas Fayre

28 September, 10:30 am – 4 pm Enjoy artisan food, crafts, family activities and competitions for best autumn-themed Victoria sponge and biggest pumpkin. Free entry; donations welcome.

Stay Connected

Tickets for events are available at the Mill Shop or online via our "What's On" page. Follow us on social media or subscribe to our newsletter to stay updated.

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Local News

Double chains of office with mayoral visit to Probus Club

he Worshipful, The Mayor of Basingstoke & Deane, Cllr Colin Phillimore, was the guest of honour at the first meeting of the new season of the Probus Club of Basingstoke, which is entering its 46th year of activity.



Before lunch the mayor outlined his background, growing up in Whitchurch and attending Basingstoke's Queen Mary's grammar school, his first job at aged 16 at the Basingstoke headquarters of AA on £7 per week and then 40 years in accountancy in the motor trade.



Cllr Phillimore has been the ward councillor for Whitchurch for ten years and has nominated the Whitchurch Community swimming pool as one of his mayoral charities, even though a non-swimmer, and St Michael's Hospice, which needs £15,000 a day to cover its costs.

The Probus Club was pleased to make a donation towards the mayor's charity appeal.

The other guest at this meeting was speaker Jackie Dimmock who reminisced about her lengthy career as a WPC in the Hampshire Police Force. She gave many examples of her experiences, some serious, others amusing, in a varying service in scenes of crime, working with children's services and for many years as a schools' liaison officer.

The Probus Club of Basingstoke is a club for retired men who had some management experience in the professions or business, hence the acronym Probus. Interested? Then see www.probusbasingstoke.club for more information or phone their secretary Andrew Barton for an informal

chat on 07814 937202.

Paul Flint



Free Ads



All entries should be sent in writing to Maureen Dallaway, by **10** August for inclusion in next month's Link. Entries may also be sent by e-mail to freeads@oakleylink.org.uk Please include an address or telephone number.

2 boxes (18 tiles) of Wickes heavy duty beige **floor tiles** – 330 mm x 330 mm x 7.8 mm (13"x13") to cover approx. 2 square metres - Free - Tel 07443923265

5 **demijohns** for wine (1 gallon each) and 1 unopened packet of wine bottle corks - £25 - Tel 07443923265

Men's British Eagle racing bicycle - 26" wheels old - rideable but in need of servicing and/or repair -Free - Tel 07443923265

433 artificial coals for flame gas fire - £10 - Tel 07443923265

New Bristan Club H & C chrome basin taps - £15 - Tel 07443923265

New Moderna Deck Mixer chrome tap for kitchen sink - £20 - Tel 07443923265

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Deal mono kitchen basin mixer tap - never used -£25 - Tel 07443923265

Metro H & C bath taps - never used - £15 - Tel 07443923265

Vintage marbles, 47 in total, mixed designs, approx sizes range from 15 mm to 17 mm, mostly high gloss finish, but one appears to have a matt effect. Much loved toys in the late 1960s and 1970s, so there is some damage. No obligation; inspection welcome. Can deliver locally. £20 - tel. 07879 467242.

Blue Mountain pottery pair of rearing horses, beautiful turquoise teal coloring with lovely high gloss finish, approx. 9" high - made in Ontario, Canada (no longer in production). No obligation; inspection welcome. Can deliver locally. £25 - tel. 07879 467242.

Car dog guard. Money, if sold goes to charity -Tel. 01256780178

5 foot cleaver metal suitcase ramp. Money, if sold goes to charity - Tel. 01256780178

Feature 🟋

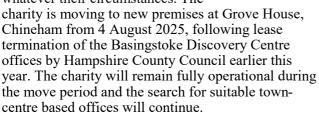


citizens

advice

Citizens Advice Basingstoke Office Move – Summer 2025

itizens Advice Basingstoke is an independent local charity providing free, confidential and impartial advice for people, whatever their circumstances. The



Anyone wishing to speak to an adviser should contact Citizens Advice Basingstoke on the free telephone Advice Line 0808 2787829, Monday to Friday, 9 am to 4 pm. Alternatively, an online enquiry form can be submitted via www.cabasingstoke.org.uk/email

For those without phone or internet access, dropin services are available as below; please note that there may be a wait so do arrive early and these are subject to availability: Oakridge Hall 4 All in Oakridge on Mondays from 9 am to 1:30 pm;



The Ridgeway Centre in Buckskin on Tuesdays from 9:30 am to 12:30 Basingstoke pm; the Discovery Centre, town centre, (please go to library reception desk) on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm; Popley Fields Community

Centre in Popley on Fridays from 9:30 am to 12:30

If you would like to support the charity with their office move costs, you can donate to: donate.giveasyoulive.com/charity/ thebasingstokecablimited and any amount, however big or small, will be much appreciated.

Cheques may also be sent for the attention of the Chief Executive Officer, Citizens Advice Basingstoke, Grove House, Lutyens Close, Chineham, Basingstoke RG24 8AG or you can get in touch on: comms@basingstokecab.org.uk.

Registered charity no 900116. www.cabasingstoke.org.uk

Lucy Sweet

Walking 💃

Oakley Ramblers

On 11 June, six walkers and a dog completed a **Oakley Ramblers**

n 11 June, six walkers and a dog completed a circular six-mile walk from Cliddesden to Ellisfield.

Firstly, along the old track of the Basingstoke and Alton Light Railway line, then the perimeter of fields and through shady woodland where we saw a very large and unusual fungus. Reaching Ellisfield we skirted around St Martin's Church, before heading across fields to Green Lane and

then over to Farleigh Wallop. After stopping to admire the work of a local sculptor we continued back to Cliddesden, glimpsing distant views of Basingstoke as we went.



Cliddesden & Ellisfield

which brought us out onto Spearywell Road and back to the start point. We visited Mottisfont Abbey for tea

and cake, followed by a visit to the Rose Garden.

Oakley Ramblers is a friendly and sociable group and always welcome visitors who can try us out before joining. Our planned walk dates for August are Wednesday 13, an evening walk on Thursday 21 and Sunday 24 August. Find us on Facebook or visit our website for more information. www.oakleyramblers.org.

Corrine Thomas



Cliddesden through fields to Farleigh Wallop

On Thursday 19 June, five walkers left Oakley for a Midsummer Walk to North Waltham. A further five members met us at the pub. We enjoyed a meal at the Fox and then four members began the return walk to Oakley. We walked across fields at the back of Oakley Hall noting several muntjac, a hare and two deer, to reach the top of the hill leading down to St Leonard's, finishing in Oakley by 10:15 pm.

Our final walk in June was a circular walk around the Mottisfont estate. We set off through Spearywell Woods to the River Dun and saw trout jumping to catch flies. We then crossed several fields and paused for a break on Hatt Hill. Continuing, we traced the west boundary around Mottisfont Abbey and then through Queensmeadow, Clapgate, and Great Copse

Woodland Wellbeing Walks -August

Come and enjoy scenic walks around our local woods and fields

○ Finishing with a sociable cuppa @ 70 Hill Road ○





Walking



Start Point for Walks:

Tuesday, 12 Aug @ 10 am - Village Pond.

⊘ B

Tuesday, 19 Aug @ 10 am - St John's Rd

lay-by. R

Tuesday, 26 Aug @ 10 am - East Oakley Village Hall [aka The Green Hut] ② B

Other Details:

Start time: 10 am Pace: gentle

Duration: 1 hour approx

Routes: varied

B = walk led by Barbara [07722]

757057]

R = walk led by Richard [07549]

021174]

Photos of Deane Church (previous page) and Ashe House (below) taken on the Jane Austen Special walk on 15 July



Sport





Oakley Bowling Club News

In the hottest of seasons, there have been mixed fortunes for Oakley players. In County Championships there were three last bowl defeats in Area Finals, but Alice Lovett, in the Two Bowl

Singles and Janie Vickers, Sue Dixon and Alice, in



the Triples, have qualified for the County quarter finals. There was also success for Carol Phillips and Laura Butler (pictured) who have reached the last 32 nationally in the Foundation Pairs.

Success in national

team events eluded us and our league teams have not set the world on fire, although Oakley A are currently riding high, five points clear, at the top of the Basingstoke and District Premier Division. Oakley Monarchs are challenging near the top of the Stan Hardman League.

Our weekend friendly matches attract good support, especially from those beginning in bowls. We have recently enjoyed matches against Burghfield, Longmeadow and Odiham and are looking forward to a visit by the Royal Household team.

For our one-day competitions - the Drawn Triples

- the weather was fortunately much cooler than had

forecast. It was good that four of our new members, who joined this season, took part and there was some excellent

been



bowling. In the final Lesley Dumelow, Richard Waters and Steve Devonish came out on top against Marion Bringes, Peter Pearce and Janie Vickers.

Despite the hectic bowling activity, we found time to socialise, with members letting their hair down at a Retro Games Night at which Dave and Liz Cosgrove led us through our favourite games from the past, like Play Your Cards Right, Spot the TV Intro and Karaoke Bingo. With Graham providing a lovely supper it was, yet again, a thoroughly enjoyable fun evening.

For more information on our activities, visit our website oakleybc.org.uk or call Spencer on 01256 780418 or Diane on 01256 781465.

Spencer Kerley

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Joiner 27

Russell Clark Carpenter and

Joiner 4

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Oakley Carpets & Furniture 11

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Party Line 32

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Green 'n' Tidy Gardens 23

Lawnmaster 39

Oakley Lawn Cutting 11

SW Contract Services 18

The Green Room 17

Trees & Hedges 11

TreeScene 32

Gifts

Solo Mia 17

Graphic Design

Eley Designs 24

Hairdressing

Hair Beauty 6

Lorna Goodall 4

Health Care Services

cf foot clinic 23 Clear Ears 6

ItalDent 39

Oakley Osteopathic Clinic 18

Square One 39

Heating and Plumbing

Services

Catlin Plumbing & Heating 40

Mark Smith Plumbing

and Heating 6

NJP Heating Services 12

Oakley Gas & Heating 9

Paul Baker Plumbing &

Heating 9

W G Shenton Plumbing

& Heating 24

Home Improvements

Access4Lofts

N. Hampshire 32

Field & Field 6

Home Maintenance

James Mccombie

Renovation 32

Oakley Handyman Services 23

Property Care 18

Locksmith

CNG Locksmith Services 15

Man and Van Service

Need A Van 4

Memorial Masonry

Haven Memorials 4

Nurseries and Playgroups

Acorns Nursery 12

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St Leonard's Playschool 11

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Aaron Ford Decorating and

Home Projects 18

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& Decorating 32

Haynes of Oakley painter

and decorator 23

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LOCAL INFORMATION

Oakley Community Association

Secretary - Eve Askew, www.ocaoakley.org.uk,

OCAoakley@live.co.uk

Councillors & Politicians

Member of Parliament, Basingstoke

Luke Murphy - <u>luke.murphy.mp@parliament.uk</u> 07946 617981

47 Winchester Street, Basingstoke, RG21 7EF

Parish Councillors:

Fred Bullions

Vaughn Burns

Dave Condliffe

Ken Crafer

Ian Ellison

Trevor Green (Vice Chair)

Amanda Hayman

Gary McAllister (Chair)

Alex Rowley

Parish Clerk: Nicola Beere, 1 Station Road, Oakley

07983 500372 clerk@oakleydeane-pc.gov.uk or

Assistant Clerk: Kelly Green

Finance Assistant: Stephanie Scantlebury

Borough Councillors:

Paul Gaskell Cllr.Paul.Gaskell@basingstoke.gov.uk 07812 894479

07305 123671 Hannah Golding

cllr.hannah.golding@basingstoke.gov.uk

Julian Jones Cllr.Julian.Jones@basingstoke.gov.uk 0794 6475700

County Councillor: Juliet Henderson

juliet.henderson@hants.gov.uk 862413

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Health (111 or 999 in emergency)

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The Green Hut (Hill Road)

The Infant School,

The Cricket Club

Peter Houseman Field.

Doctors' Surgery 0333 034 1033

Out of hours call

CHURCHES

The guidelines for social activities are subject to change; for more infor-

mation use the contact details below.

Church of England Website:

St Leonards (Oakley) St Lawrence (Wootton) All Saints (Deane)

www.oakleywithwootton.org.uk Church Office: St Leonard's Centre,

Rectory Rd, Oakley

Tel 782724 9:00 am -1:00 pm weekdays

office@oww.church

Revd Ben Kautzer ben@oww.church

01256 420903

Contacts for Deane:

Deidre Coles - Warden Tel 781495

YouTube channel: Search St Leonard's Church Oakley for Church@Home and Kids@Home services.

Methodist Website:

Chapel by the pond https://www.bhbcircuit.org.uk/

churches/oakley.html

Hill Road adjacent to the village pond

in East Oakley Revd Claire Simpson revclaire72@btinternet.com

Tel: 01256 323103

Roman Catholic Website:

St Joseph's and www.stjosephsbasingstoke.org.uk St Bede's 171a St Michael's Rd, Basingstoke,

RG22 6TY Fr Paul Leonard,

Parish Office -Tel: 323595

office@stjosephsbasingstoke.org.uk

Community Church Websites:

www.lifespringcommunitychurch.org

or www.hopebasingstoke.org St. Luke's Hall Overton or Sarum Hill Centre, Sarum Hill,

Basingstoke Contact: John and Wendy Thurston

(780135)

or Paul and Ann Davis (782769)

Village Shops

Coop - Oakley Lane 780857

Craft Kits N Bits, 4 Rowan Tree Road 020 3488 5499

One Stop - Oakley lane 780227

V&B Butchers in the Vale 780323

Village Café, Jolly Olly's Oakley Lane 782658

Village Pharmacy in the Vale 782381

TBD Oakley Scout Group

oakley@bwds.org.uk

Caroline Lloyd Oakley Girlguiding

c45lloyd@outlook.com

VILLAGE HALLS

St. John's Centre - St. John's Road

East Oakley Village Hall ("Green Hut") - Hill Road Booking Secretary 07788 423252 or email: booking@oakleygreenhut.co.uk

111

Website: www.oakleygreenhut.co.uk Contact Church Office: 782724

Contact: 781229 Oakley Village Hall - Andover Road

Contact Church Office: 782724 St Leonards Centre - Rectory Road

> **NOTE:** If you wish to add an item or correct any entries, please send an email to: john@oakleylink.org.uk Last amended: 15/5/2025

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