Link

November 2026

Oakley, Deane, Newfound, Malshanger and Wootton St Lawrence Community Magazine

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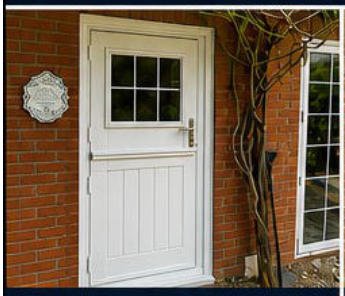

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Link Magazine exists to be of service to the communities of Oakley, Deane, Newfound, Malshanger and Wootton St Lawrence. The sentiments expressed do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the editorial team. The editors take no responsibility for 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 December issue: 15 November

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Editorial

Producing Link has presented us with a few challenges this month. Firstly, Microsoft decided to withdraw the software that we've been using for years, Publisher. Consequently I've used just Word, which is not totally suitable for this sort of task. Hence there may be some small differences between styles on the pages, as I try to get to grip with this, for which I apologise.

Secondly, we've been swamped with material for November Link, which does include information about some events to take place in December. Due to lack of space, I've had to hold these over until December Link, apart from those near the beginning of the month.

Please, in order to allow us to include as many individual items as possible, please try to limit your text to about 300 words. Otherwise, there's a possibility that I may have to condense your contribution to make some space for other people or organisations.

Thank you for your understanding and patience.

An advance warning: the deadline for January Link will be 8 December, instead of the usual 15th of the month.

Chris Wassell

Oakley Community Care

Supporting your needs for transport to medical appointments

We offer transport by car to anyone in need, mainly for visits to doctors, hospital appointments, dental appointments and the like. Wheelchair users must be able to transfer to the car unaided. Oakley Community Care is made up of friendly volunteers who are unpaid. However a donation by the passenger to cover fuel and other costs is appreciated.

We also have a limited numbers of wheelchairs available for loan.

New volunteer drivers are always welcome

Please give us a call. We may be able to make life easier for you.

07376 574412

Oakley Community Care is a registered charity (no. 1141330)

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Report from the Parish Council

The Parish Council would like to thank everyone who shared their feedback via social media and email regarding nominations for bus stops to be considered for the bus shelter grant. Your input is greatly appreciated. The Council has now submitted its request and will keep residents updated as the process progresses.

Remembrance Sunday – 8 November

The Remembrance Sunday Service will take place on Sunday 8 November at 10:45 am at St John's Garden of Remembrance. All residents are welcome to attend as we come together to remember and honour those who have served.

Outdoor Gym Equipment – Kennet Way Park

The Parish Council is continuing to explore the possibility of installing outdoor gym equipment at Kennet Way Park. We would welcome feedback, ideas and suggestions from residents to help us understand what facilities the community would find most beneficial.

Christmas Fayre – 28 November

The Christmas Fayre will take place on Saturday 28 November, from 12 pm to 2 pm, on St John's Field. The Parish Council will have a stall, and we look forward to seeing residents there enjoying the festive celebrations together.

Have Your Say – Budget Setting

As we approach the budget-setting process, the Parish Council would like to hear from residents about any issues, ideas or projects they feel should be considered. If there is anything you would like to raise, please get in touch with Nicola, the Parish Clerk, at clerk@oakleydeane-pc.gov.uk. Your feedback helps us understand local priorities and make informed decisions for our community.

Thank you for your continued support and involvement in our community. Your feedback and participation are invaluable in helping the Parish Council represent local residents and shape the future of our parish.

Kelly Perkins – Assistant Clerk

Don't forget Oakley & Deane Firework Display, Sunday 1 November, Newfound Sports Ground. Gates open at 4:30 pm, fireworks at 6 pm. Tickets from OutSavvy; no tickets available on the night

EAST OAKLEY VILLAGE HALL
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Will be held in the hall
(the green hut, in Hill Road)
on
Monday 23rd November 2026
at 7.00pm

All hall users and interested Oakley residents welcome.

We continue to need additional committee members who are prepared to get involved in the running of the Hall.

If you are interested, please come to the AGM or you can contact Barbara on 0797 999 0520 or email treasurer@oakleygreenhut.co.uk before the date of the AGM.

Summerdown Farm

Summerdown is a family-run, predominantly arable farm just four miles west of Basingstoke. We also grow and distil lavender, camomile and spearmint and the finest Black Mitcham Peppermint oil, which is then infused into our range of teas, chocolates and body, bath and home products.

We're offering a small range of events running up to Christmas and will be hosting further opportunities to visit the farm in the new year from table centre piece decorating to private dining experiences.

Laura Thomas

Happy 60th Birthday to these girls – photo of the netball team from Link February 1993, which had been taken at Oakley Junior School in 1977

Paul Williams
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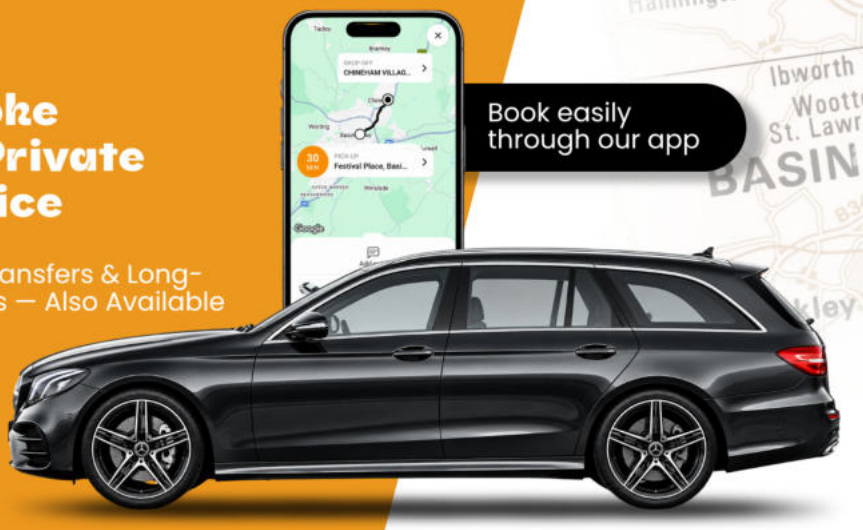

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Village

Oakley Act of Remembrance
8 November 2026 at 10.45 am
St John's Garden of Remembrance
Lest We Forget

Summerdown
Shop direct from the farm at
The Little Barn Pop Up
Thursdays 10 am - 12 noon
19th & 26th Nov
3rd, 10th & 17th Dec
The Little Barn, Summerdown, Malshanger, RG23 7EX
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Coffee Morning
Alternate Tuesdays
All welcome
"Bottomless" cup of coffee or tea, and biscuits
Second and fourth Tuesday of each month
10:30 am–12 noon
Come and meet friends old and new at the Chapel by the Pond.
£1-50
Oakley Methodist Church

COFFEE &
CHAT MORNINGS
Every Wednesday
10 am – 12 noon
at
East Oakley Village Hall, the Green Hut, Hill Road
Coffee or Tea (incl refills) plus cake or biscuits £1
All Welcome

Advent Gallery
St Leonard's is thrilled to host a community gallery event exploring Advent themes of waiting | longing | encounter
We warmly invite contributions from local artists of any age or ability to the St Leonard's Advent Gallery event.
[from 7pm on Thursday 10th Dec at the St Leonard's Centre]
Any medium is welcome – paintings, photography, sculpture, textiles, music, poetry, and more.
All contributions must be submitted by Sunday 6th Dec.
To submit your artwork or for more information, please contact Samantha Wake (office@oowv.church).

Parish Council
Coffee & Chat
Newfound Sports Pavilion
Every Thursday
10:30 am – 12:30 pm
Enjoy refreshments with fellow community members and take the opportunity to talk with your parish council.

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A thank you that will help Age Concern Hampshire support more older people

A generous £10,000 donation to Age Concern Hampshire has highlighted the lasting difference that practical support can make to supporting other older people and their families across Hampshire. The donation was made anonymously by a husband whose wife received support from Age Concern Hampshire's free form-filling service last year, when her health was deteriorating. With the help of an Age Concern Hampshire volunteer, the couple discovered they were entitled to benefits they had not previously realised they could claim. The additional financial support made a real difference to them as the wife's health declined.

After she passed away her husband wanted to give something back to Age Concern Hampshire in recognition of the free support they received. The donation will help Age Concern Hampshire support more older people to access the practical services and support they need, including its free form-filling service. The husband told the charity that the help they received had made a real difference during a particularly difficult period, and that he wanted his donation to help Age Concern Hampshire continue supporting other older people and families across Hampshire.

Age Concern Hampshire provides a range of practical and social support to help older people live well and remain independent, connected and confident in their communities. Its information and advice service, including form-filling, can help older people and their families understand what support they may be entitled to and navigate what can sometimes feel like a complicated system. People can use Age Concern Hampshire's free service for support in filling in forms such as Attendance Allowance, PIP, Pension Credit and Blue Badge applications.

The charity relies on donations, fundraising and the generosity of its supporters to help continue this work. For more information, visit Make a donation - Age Concern Hampshire.

Lucy Wheeler

Regular Activities at Village Halls

Andover Road Village Hall {opposite Beech Park) (contact 781229)

Mon	9:30 am	Pilates
	11:30 am	Workout to music
	2:15 pm	Badminton
	7:30 pm	Table Tennis
Tues	9:30 am	Marching
	2:15 pm	Badminton
	7:30 pm	WI or Yoga
Wed	10:30 am	Workout to music
	6:30 pm	Kick boxing
Thurs	8 pm	Badminton
Fri	9:30 am	Trinity Baby Class.
	6:30 pm	Yoga

East Oakley Village Hall (green hut), Hill Road

Monday	am	AVAILABLE
Monday	pm	Oakley Afternoon WI (3rd Monday of month)
Monday	eve	Oakley Stitchers (1st Monday of mth)
Tuesday	am	AVAILABLE
Tuesday	pm	Art Class
Tuesday	eve	Basingstoke Air Rifle & Pistol Club
Wednesday	am	Coffee & Chat
Wednesday	pm	Speedy yoga
Wednesday	eve	AVAILABLE
Thursday	am	AVAILABLE
Thursday	pm	AVAILABLE
Thursday	eve	AVAILABLE
Friday	am	Chair Yoga
Friday	pm	AVAILABLE
Friday	eve	AVAILABLE
Saturday	Available for parties; Occasional Jumble Sales	
Sundays	Available for parties	

For details of any of the bookings or to book the hall phone 07788 423252, email booking@oakleygreenhut.co.uk or treasurer@oakleygreenhut.co.uk Web site oakleygreenhut.co.uk/

St John's Centre, St Johns Road
Mon – Fri 9 am - 3:45 pm Acorns Nursery (term time)
To hire contact 782724

St Leonard's Centre, Rectory Road
Weekday toddler groups (see ad on page 17).
A Community Café (10:30—12:30, 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month).
"Evergreen" group coffee morning, for those living on their own (1st Monday of the month 3—4:30 pm).
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HCC Report Cllr Juliet Henderson Candovers Oakley and Overton Division

Highways Information
M3 Junction 9 closures
National Highways has moved traffic onto the new roundabout at M3 Junction 9 and is beginning the next phase of work, including demolition of the old bridges and further improvements to the northbound exit slip road.
The key dates currently advised are:
• 9 pm Friday 6 November to 6 am Monday 9 November—full M3 closure in both directions between junctions 8 and 9 for demolition of the southern bridge. Please allow extra time, follow the signed diversion routes and check the latest information before travelling. National Highways advises drivers not to rely on satnavs during closures because they may direct vehicles onto unsuitable roads or back towards closed sections.

Local Government Reorganisation - Government withdraws its Hampshire decision
On 7 September, the Government withdrew its decision on local government reorganisation in Hampshire and the Solent and ordered a review. This was the best possible outcome at this stage and gives councils the opportunity to start again with proper time, evidence and financial analysis.
Hampshire County Council had launched Judicial Review proceedings because the Government had not provided satisfactory answers about the evidence behind the decision or the financial sustainability of the proposed new councils. The earlier proposals also risked splitting established communities, including the New Forest, and transferring major areas of growth and business-rate income between authorities.This does not mean that nothing should change. It means that whatever comes next comes next must be properly costed, financially sustainable and command much broader support.

Who pays for the abandoned process?
Councils across Hampshire were required to work to Government deadlines, incurring legal, consultancy and implementation costs and diverting many hours of senior officer time from service improvement and financial sustainability work.
We have asked the County Council to establish the full cost of the process to Hampshire and to call on Government to reimburse councils. Every pound unnecessarily spent on a process that has now been withdrawn is a pound that cannot be spent on services residents rely upon.

Hampshire and the Solent Combined County Authority
In its first weeks, the new Combined County Authority has been putting in place the foundations for regional collaboration across Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton.
The initial work has focused on:
• Developing a Local Growth Plan that builds on the region's strengths and supports future investment.
• Preparing a Strategic Skills Plan ahead of taking on devolved adult-skills responsibilities.
• Establishing the boards, committees and partnerships needed for transparent, joined-up decision-making.
• Listening to residents, businesses and partners about local priorities and where regional action can add most value.
By working across boundaries, the Authority can give our region a stronger voice and improve access to jobs, skills, transport, housing and opportunity. Early discussions have included long-term youth unemployment and how to ensure that growth benefits residents, communities and businesses across the whole region.

Hampshire County Council's Finances
Hampshire County Council acted early. Over the past year, we delivered £95 million in savings, with a further £40 million of efficiencies built into this year's budget. That work enabled us to set a lawful, balanced £3.3 billion budget and manage this year's pressures without seeking exceptional permission to borrow or use capital resources for day-to-day costs.
That does not mean everything is fine. This year's budget relies on £108.5 million from reserves—almost twice the amount used last year—and those reserves can only be spent once. School transport costs, particularly for children with special educational needs and disabilities, have risen from £43 million to £83 million in four years, while demand for adult social care continues to increase.
In 2025/26 Hampshire received £91 per resident in general Government funding, compared with an English average of £205. The new funding formula reduces support by £10.9 million this year and by £42.9 million annually by 2028/29. We will continue to press for a fair, long-term settlement that protects essential services without exhausting reserves or placing an ever-greater burden on local taxpayers.

Devolved Budget
Local community groups can apply to my devolved Budget using this link.
Please let me know if you plan to apply or have applied. More details are available here:
County Councillor grant application notes | Hampshire County Council

Church News

Oakley Methodist Church

All welcome at the Methodist Church coffee morning on Tuesday 10 November and Tuesday 24 November from 10:30 am to 12 noon. £1.50 for a bottomless cup of tea or coffee and biscuits. Come and meet old friends and new. The charity for the year is the Wellington and Dummer Riding for the Disabled. We look forward to welcoming the Woodland well-being walkers at the end of their walk.

Trish Kinchington

The Chosen Early Access night

St. Leonard's Church wants to invite you to an exclusive opportunity to have early access of The Chosen Season 6, Episode 1 ahead of the general release. Picking up right at the moment of Jesus' arrest in the Garden, Episode 601 leads viewers through the first steps of the journey to the cross. We will be hosting the pre-view at the St. Leonard's Centre on Wednesday, 4 November at 7 pm.

Samantha Wake, Church Administrator

All Saints Deane

Carol Service at All Saints Deane
Sunday 6 December 6 at 6 pm

The Carol Service is one of the major festivals celebrated at Deane Church.

Do try to come along, there will be the opportunity to share a festive drink after the service.

Fund Raising

Mind Andover

A Quiz is being held on
Friday 27 November
Starting at 7:30 pm doors open 7 pm
At St Leonard's Centre, Oakley
In aid of Andover Mind

£10 per person
Teams of up to six people.
Raffle (cash only)
Bring your own snacks and drinks (alcohol is permitted)
To book your place/ team contact Angela Day
angela.day@andovermind.org.uk

Andover Mind covers Basingstoke and Deane plus other areas close by offering help and support to those with mental health problems.
Stronger Minds brighter futures For better mental health

annie's orphans

ANNIE'S Oakley Charity Shop

18 Meon Road, Oakley, RG23 7AL

Registered charity 1063036 – Annie's Orphans.

Monday to Saturday 10 am – 4 pm

NOVEMBER 2026 at Annie's Oakley

Christmas comes to Annie's Oakley on Monday 2 November!! HO! HO! HO!

We have Cards, Candles and Crafts, Decorations, Glitter and Gifts, Jigsaws and Jumpers. Lights and Linen, Slippers galore. We have all things Christmas at bargain prices!!

Come and buy some Christmas Raffle tickets!

Keep an eye on Calling Oakley and our weekly Facebook page for the latest news and great offers which are probably not Christmas related!

We welcome donations – please bring them into the shop. If you have large items, please discuss with staff before unloading your car!

Because of new restrictions from our Recycling company and reduction in bin collections , PLEASE, be prepared for our staff questioning some of your donations. Just remember WE ARE NOT THE TIP!!!

CASH ONLY, NO CARDS

OAKLEY METHODIST CHURCH CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Cakes
Christmas Gifts
Cards
Paperback Books & Jigsaws

SATURDAY
14th
NOVEMBER
10:00am - 12:00noon

Supporting local charities; - including 'The Bluebells', Blood Cancer UK and St. Michael's Hospice

The Bluebells Sebastian's Action Trust
Blood cancer UK
St Michael's Hospice

Drop in for tea/coffee and a mince pie
At the chapel by the pond

Proceeds to Church funds

Take part in our
Reindeer Run

Sign up now!

Alton
Sunday 29 November
The Market Square

Basingstoke
Sunday 13 December
Festival Place

Put on your antlers and walk, dash, dance and prance along the sponsored 3K Reindeer Run route to support St. Michael's Hospice.

Find out more at stmichaelshospice.org.uk

FUNDRAISING REGULATOR

HAMPSHIRE MEDICAL FUND 2026 Christmas Fair

at Barnsgrove, Hampshire

Carefully curated artisan stalls, boutique retailers and luxury lifestyle brands

Thursday 12th November
16.00 - 21.00
- Candover Brook Sparkling Wine Reception
- Delicious Supper by Barnsgrove
- Guest Speaker – Author Tabitha Webb
- Seasonal & Party Styling Workshop with Thea Coley Style
- Festive Children's Choir Performance

Friday 13th November
9.30 -16.00
- Delicious Food & Seasonal Refreshments
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Feature

A New Name, a Fresh Look and Plenty Happening at! The Rusty Acorn Café

It's been a busy couple of months getting settled into life running the village coffee shop, and I'm delighted to share a few updates!

You may have noticed a little change when passing by. The outside has had a fresh coat of paint, and we've officially changed the name from **Jolly Olly's to The Rusty Acorn Café!** I hope you like the new look. Next on the list is a little redecoration inside, so watch this space for further updates!

New opening hours to try!

From the beginning of November, we're trialling extended opening hours until **4:30 pm, Wednesday to Friday**. Whether you fancy catching up with friends over a coffee and cake, enjoying a relaxing afternoon snack, or meeting up with other parents while the children are busy at after-school clubs, why not pop in? We'd love to see you!

Something sweet for the little ones

We're now selling bags of pick 'n' mix sweets for just 50p — a great excuse for an after-school treat! And, of course, what could be better on a chilly afternoon than a delicious hot chocolate topped with cream and marshmallows?

Get creative this Christmas

We're planning another of our popular **"Crafternoons" in December**, this time with a festive Christmas theme. It's a lovely opportunity to get creative and enjoy some seasonal fun. More details will be announced soon, so keep an eye out!

Handmade with love, raising money for charity

Our lovely local knitting group meets at the café every Saturday afternoon from 2 pm, and they have some beautiful hand-knitted items for sale, including cosy blankets, little jumpers for children and small toys. All proceeds go to charity. Why not pop in, have a browse and say hello to the knitters? You might find a perfect handmade gift while supporting a good cause.

Love books? Try our book exchange!

We also have a book exchange at the café. Simply bring along a book you've enjoyed, choose another to take away, and leave a small donation for charity. It's a wonderful way to discover your next read while helping others at the same time.

There are local artist paintings hanging on our walls for sale - have you seen them?.

There's always something happening at The Rusty Acorn Café, whether you're popping in for your favourite drink, meeting friends, treating the children or simply looking for a friendly place to relax.

We look forward to welcoming you soon!

Debbie

Health Matters

Hampshire Medical Fund Christmas Fair : 12 - 13 November 2026

Get ahead with your Christmas preparations at the Hampshire Medical Fund Christmas Fair on 12 - 13 November, kindly hosted by private members' club Barnsgrove, near Basingstoke, RG29 1GF.

Please join us for a carefully curated shopping experience featuring a brilliant array of artisan stalls, boutique retailers and luxury lifestyle brands in this stunning venue. Delicious food will be available in Barnsgove's beautiful Palmers Bar on both days, plus some fantastic complimentary speaker talks, a local children's choir performance and a Candover Brook Sparkling Wine reception on Thursday evening.

A Christmas Fair with a difference. Tickets from £8 (when purchased in advance). 12 November 16:00 – 21:00. 13 November 9:30 – 16:00. See online for more details.

The Hampshire Medical Fund is a charity which buys cutting-edge medical equipment, that is not otherwise affordable on NHS budgets, for the NHS hospitals in Basingstoke, Winchester and Andover. Visit *hampshiremedicalfund.org/events* for more information or tickets.

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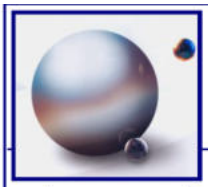

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Flu/Covid Update

Thank you to the Patient Participation Group members who have helped at our Flu clinics over the Autumn. We have seen good uptake of appointments and lower 'Did Not Attend' rates than previous years. For anyone who still wishes to have a Covid or Flu vaccination, please call 119 where you can find an appointment that will be most convenient to you.

GP Triage

We are grateful for all the patient feedback regarding the new system and have made several updates to streamline the triage process. Our reception team will continue to be available between 08:00 – 18:30 hrs Monday to Friday for all queries and other appointments should you not be able to access the practice online. For requirements on Bank Holidays, out of hours needs and on practice training days, please call 111.

Please note if you do not have electronic means or are unable to manage digital access, let our reception team know when you call and they will be happy to help.

The GP Triage system can be accessed via our website by one patient at a time only at:
watershipdownhealth.com

NHS App Update

If you need help with the NHS app, Hampshire County Council has organised a morning of support at the Basingstoke Discovery Centre in Festival Place. *Everyday digital skills using the NHS app* is on 25 November 2026 from 9:45 am and places are free, but need to booked at:
shop.hants.gove.uk//collections/digital-skills
You can also go to Hampshire County Council shop page and then select the *Adult Learning and Skills* tab.

What is Proxy Access?

Proxy access allows you to choose a trusted person to help you look after your health needs. This person will have access to some of your medical information, allowing them to assist with online appointments and repeat prescriptions, but only with your permission. Proxy access is there to help people who may find it hard to manage their healthcare on their own, like a child who will need a parent or care-giver to manage on-going medication requirements or an elderly patient who may need assistance.

If the patient is able to be involved in their medical care, they will be able to choose who and how much access is given to their medical records and then the GP practice will further check that proxy access is safe and right for the patient. If you feel that proxy access may help a child or loved one manage their healthcare better, please ring Reception on 0333 034 1033 for the proxy access form.

The full version of this newsletter is available on the Watership Down Health page.

Heather Mann

Coeliac UK North Hampshire Group

A major step forward for clearer, safer food labelling

For the first time, a definition of coeliac disease has been included in the main international standard for general food labelling developed by Codex Alimentarius, the UN-backed international programme that sets global food standards. The guidelines need to be considered by regulators across the UK and understood and implemented consistently by businesses.

They establish several important principles:
"*May contain*" labelling should be based on risk. Businesses should use a precautionary statement only when a risk assessment shows that it is needed.
Coeliac disease and wheat allergy should be treated differently. The new guidelines recognise that they are different conditions and therefore use separate reference doses in risk assessment.
Gluten free products should not carry contradictory warnings. The guidelines make clear that a product should not be labelled both "gluten free" and "may contain wheat, barley or rye".
These are significant steps towards clearer and more consistent food labelling. Together, they formally recognise that the needs of people with coeliac disease are different from those of people with a wheat allergy.

Next meet-up

Next meeting Sat 21 November 2026 10:30 - 12:00 at Waitrose café, Basing View

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
coeliac.org.uk/local-groups/north-hampshire

Dave West

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News from Cranbourne

It's hard to believe we're now well into the Autumn term and the countdown to Christmas has begun! We're delighted to once again be supporting the Rotary Christmas Shoebox Appeal this year, led by our student leadership team as part of their social action project.

The first half term was jampacked with events, exciting trips and enriching opportunities for our students to get involved in. Year 11 History students visited Porchester Castle, those studying Geography conducted research at Chichester Harbour and a group of six students participated in the Model United Nations conference at Calthorpe Park School.

On Friday 16 October we hosted our annual Cultural Diversity Evening, which was an excellent chance to come together and celebrate our student's cultural heritage and what makes us who we are.

Cranbourne Has Talent saw our fantastic finalists take to the stage with unwavering confidence and was an evening full of incredible performances. Congratulations to Olivia for taking home the 2026 crown!

Our Careers Fair took place on Wednesday 21 October, where we welcomed more than 30 local exhibitors from a wide range of sectors to talk to our students about their industries and the pathways that led them there. Our students have been inspired to begin thinking about their options for life beyond Cranbourne.

On Tuesday 29 September we were excited to host a groundbreaking ceremony to commemorate the start of construction work for our new school site. Representatives from the Department for Education, Hampshire County Council and GRAHAM came together with Cranbourne staff and students to reflect on the process so far.

This project has been three years in the making and to finally see those plans becoming reality is a proud and hopeful moment. This is a school for our students, their families and for the wider community that supports us.

Chloe-Mai Parfitt

Testbourne Community School

The start of the academic year has seen Testbourne Community School welcome a large number of prospective students and families through its Open Evening and Open Mornings. The response from families has been overwhelmingly positive, with many visitors commenting on the calm and hard-working ethos around the school, expressing how they can really see our Testbourne Way in action. They expressed how much of a warm welcome they received from both staff and students. Our student prefects played a key role throughout the events, acting as guides, answering questions and helping families gain a genuine insight into daily life at Testbourne.

The events also provided an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of our Class of 2026, whose examination results reflected the high standards across the school. Sixteen subjects saw over 75% of students achieve Grades 9-4, while 82% achieved Grade 9-4 in English Language and 79% achieved Grade 9-4 in Mathematics. Students achieved 228 Grades 8 and 9 across all subjects, with nine subjects placing in the top 25% nationally for attainment. We are so proud of our Class of 2026 and wish them well.

We would like to thank all families who visited, and everyone involved in making these events such a success. We look forward to welcoming many of our future Testbourne students in the years ahead.

Matt Turner

St Leonard's Preschool

Autumn's in the air

You can feel it when Autumn begins to make its presence known. There's something different about the light, and the trees are putting on a spectacular show of colour…

Yellow… red… brown…orange…

Orange is such a wonderful colour!

At St Leonard's Preschool, children and teachers have been exploring the world around them, noticing the colours changing as Autumn gently settles in. First, we observe. Then, we get our hands busy! We explore leaves, conkers, acorns and pumpkins. We pick them up, feel them, collect them and pack them into bags, envelopes, baskets and boxes. We carry them around, discovering their different shapes, sizes, weights and textures. Pumpkins are heavy! Some are so big, they are slippery, others bumpy, and some are wonderfully smooth. There's so much to discover when we look closely and explore with our senses.

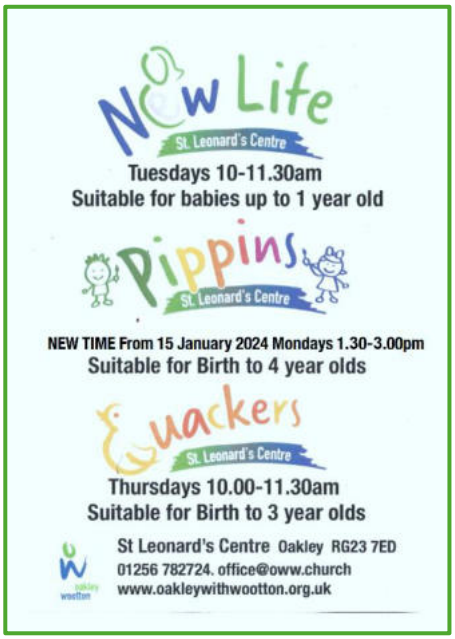
And then… it's time for a little colour magic!

Out come the paints, and we begin experimenting. What happens when we mix two primary colours together? A big dollop of yellow, a few drops of red, a good stir… and suddenly…

"WOW! How did that happen?"

Eyes open wide, faces light up, and a magical transformation unfolds before us. Yellow and red become orange! We've created something completely new, inspired by the beautiful colours appearing around us.

We'll be using plenty of paint and painting reams of paper, but the real value isn't in the finished product. It's in the process: the exploring, experimenting, discovering and creating. It's in asking questions, trying things out and wondering, "What happens if…?"



As early years pedagogues, our role is to nurture children's natural curiosity, encouraging them to discover the world through joyful, hands-on experiences. Every little exploration helps build connections, develop understanding and support growing minds.

Autumn is a wonderful time to explore the world around us!

So, pull on your wellies, take a walk on the wild side, collect some leaves and conkers, and get ready for a few wonderful surprises. You never know what might inspire your next big *WOW!*

Silvia Brown

YMCA Fairthorne Group is calling for support ahead of their Young Carers Festival for 2027

Every year YMCA Fairthorne Group welcomes close to 1000 Young Carers from across the UK to its Fairthorne Manor site. The Young Carers Festival is a unique event dedicated to celebrating, supporting, and empowering young people who take on caring responsibilities within their families. For many it is a chance to connect with others who share similar experiences, and to create memories and build relationships that can have a lasting positive impact. Ahead of its 27th year, YMCA is calling for support ahead of the Young Carers Festival.

In order to make the festival more accessible, YMCA Fairthorne Group is also seeking support from individuals and businesses who want to help in creating joy, fun, and memories that have a lasting impact on Young Carers.

For further information please visit ymca-fg.org

Ross Owen

Woodland wellbeing walks - November

Come and enjoy scenic walks around our local woods and fields.

2nd, 3rd & 4th Tuesdays

Finishing with a sociable cuppa @ Methodist Chapel

Start Point for Walks:

Tuesday, 10 Nov 10 am - Pond B

Tuesday, 17 Nov 10 am - St John's Rd lay-by R

Tuesday, 24 Nov 10 am - East Oakley Village Hall [aka The Green Hut] B

Other Details:

Start time: 10 am

Pace: gentle

Duration: 1 hour approx

Routes: varied

B = Barbara led [07722 957057] R = Richard led [07549 021174]

Oakley Ramblers

On 27 September, a group of ramblers headed over to Hungerford for a day of walking. We started our day with a 7-mile circular walk which began in Hungerford High Street and headed past the primary school on to Hungerford common. We crossed country fields and lanes to Kintbury, then walked alongside the church towards the Kennett & Avon Canal. We then returned to Hungerford along the canal, spotting a kingfisher next to the canal as we walked. Following a delicious lunch at Eliane's, three of the group walked back to the canal, this time heading the other way towards Bedwyn for a shorter 5-mile walk. After passing three locks, we left the canal and walked across fields to Standen Manor, after which we turned back towards Hungerford, arriving in Hungerford just as a steady drizzle started to fall.

On October 14 we are planning a local walk from Oakley to Overton to visit Thread & Toast at their new location. More on this walk next month.

Oakley Ramblers is a friendly and sociable group; and always welcome visitors who can try us out before joining. We walk twice a month; our walks are varied in length and usually within 30 - 40 minutes' drive of Oakley. If you want to get outside more and meet some new people, why not come along and try us out. Our planned walks for November are Wednesday 11th, and Sunday 22nd. Details of our walks are published on our website a week before the walk. Why not come along and try us out in 2026?

Find us on Facebook or visit our website for more information. www.oakleyramblers.org.

Corrine Thomas

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Conservation

Oakley Woodlands Group

The copses that OWG look after are ancient woodlands meaning they have been woodlands since at least 1600. Not only a place of life and abundance but also death and mystery, especially at this time of year. The fading light of autumn can make the interior of the wood dark, and the earthy damp smell of fungi feasting on decaying wood adds to the halloween aura.

It is no wonder that trees and fungi have long been associated with folklore. The classic symbol of witches, the flying broom, is a humble besom made from a shaft of hazel and a brush of birch twigs. Magic wands are created from blackthorn and holly, both hard dense woods found in the copses. A staff of buckthorn was believed to be protection against evil spirits, and was probably useful for warding off more earthly dangers too!

Another protector was the rowan tree and sprigs of its twigs were hung above doors. Oak groves were revered by ancient druids, and druid means 'oak man'. Hawthorn is another tree associated with good or evil, and there are dire warnings against taking its flowers indoors. Fungi have long been associated with fairies, from the rings of mushrooms to scarlet elf cups used as drinking vessels by woodland elves.

In Cowdown copse, you won't find any elves or witches, and probably no druids, but you might come across some OWGers, members of the Oakley Woodlands Group busy with the winter maintenance. If you want to see what we are up to, and maybe help out, drop by one of our regular work parties. Just remember, we are the ones without the pointy hats!

Work party dates for November. All work parties run 10h to 13h. Wednesday 4th and 18th, Saturday 7th and 21st.

Email: oakleywoodlands@gmail.com
Alan Merry

What's all the Buzz about in November?

In my September and October articles, I talked about the bees getting ready for winter and preparing for Spring activity. For November, my focus is how to help pollinators survive the winter. Key areas are autumn garden management: how much to cut, clear & rake and the autumn planting for next spring's pollinator food. There are many things we can do and these changes can also benefit other wildlife who also need a suitable undisturbed habitat for their winter dormancy period.

The bumblebee goes into full hibernation, but many other insects like butterflies and mammals like hedgehogs go more into our dormancy status and to survive the winter, all need to have built up fat reserves and find a secure place to rest.

To achieve this, having a slightly messy garden with nooks and crannies is the ideal. By all means keep a tidy clear lawn but hidden corners are ideal for leaves and other garden cuttings to be left.

So what garden planting should we be thinking about? The bumble and solitary bees emerge in the Spring with one thing in mind: they need food to recover and get ready for the next generation. The bumblebee queens need to 'plump' up their dry, shrivelled fertilised eggs. With milder winters, spring flowers are appearing earlier, so bees could be emerging even as early as late January. So do think about having herbaceous plants like hellebore, lungwort, primrose and the early bulbs of snowdrops, crocus, spring iris and hyacinths as well as the usual daffodils.

Barbara and Kenneth Robson on behalf CB400 Foundation, charlesbutler400foundation.org.uk

Jubiloaks

Our volunteers have continued with both dead and live hedging along the Long Break boundary by the fields. We have also worked in King's Orchard following a request from Oakley & Deane Parish Council who own the small patch of land by the footpath to the Drive. Volunteers have now planted the three native trees funded by the parish, with adjacent residents offering to keep the water bags topped up through the next year. The trees are native (one hawthorn and two rowan) and single flowering for pollinators with the added benefit of colourful Autumn leaves.

Eve Askew, The Jubiloaks Team, www.jubiloaks.org.uk, jubiloaks@btinternet.com

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Ladies Societies

Oakley Afternoon WI (September)

21 September saw members of Oakley Afternoon WI start their new Autumn program with a talk from Ann Orr on *Estate planning for your financial future*. It is extremely important to have a will in place which is up to date. Ann went on to speak about inheritance and care home fees and how we can help ourselves in this case. When choosing executors for a will, choose people younger than yourself and living in this country. Power of Attorney should be in place before mental capacity, e.g. stroke, heart attack, is affected. A very interesting and thought-provoking talk.

Thank you to everyone who supported our bottle stall at the Oakley Show. Twelve members joined Meryn's Coach trip to Cheddar and Wells, and we are looking forward to seeing the Christmas lights at Hever Castle, and some members will join Oakley Gardening Club on an outing to Wisley to see the Autumn colours.

August saw members enjoy our annual garden party in Carole's garden with lots of chat, tea and cakes.

Our monthly meetings are held on the third Monday of the month at 1:30 pm, East Oakley Village Hall, Hill Road. Visitors are made most welcome.

October Report

19 October saw Oakley Afternoon WI welcome Jane Middleton with her talk 'Pole to Pole'. At the age of four Jane knew that she wished to travel the world. Jane took a cruise to the Arctic Circle, which has four very different regions. The Northwest Passage is now passible all year round due to climate change.

Antarctica is a land mass covered with snow and ice, and The Arctic is an ice shelf. What happens in the Poles affects us all, with wilder weather, disrupted food chains, communities at risk. In Svalbard you are not allowed to pass the Polar bear sign without a rattle. There is a university and seed bank there where people come to study. Greenland has beautiful icebergs. Jane saw polar bears, walrus, seals, whales, puffins, penguins, Arctic turns, gulls and snow buntings, the only songbird in the Arctic. Tourism is welcomed but very well controlled.

We now look forward to our Christmas celebrations, Christmas lunch, Hever Castle at Christmas, Calendar Girls at the theatre.

We will join Oakley and Deane WI in a wreath for Remembrance Sunday.

16 November we will welcome back Steve Here –P & O story – Fun and Facts.

14 December at 1:30 pm will be our Christmas party.

We meet on the last Monday of each month for coffee and chat at 11 am at the Barley Mow and our meetings are held on the third Monday at East Oakley Village Hall, Hill Road at 1:30 pm.

We would like to wish all our friends and readers a very Happy Christmas and Happy peaceful 2027 and we look forward to meeting new ladies in January.

Carole Morley, Press Officer

Oakley & Deane WI

At our October meeting the Speaker was Tamsin Regnes whose talk was titled *Why would you do it like that: how different personality types affect our actions*. It was very interesting. We heard why some people like to be prepared well in advance and others do things at the last possible moment.

Names and menu choices were taken for our Christmas meal and details given of Hampshire WI events which members could book to go to.

Oakley & Deane also have a walking group that meets for one or two walks a month. We also have a Scrabble group that meets once a month. The eating of cake and drinking of tea is involved at this meeting.

Our next meeting is on 10 November at 7:30 pm, when Alison Hoyland will tell us about *The power of style*. The meeting is at Oakley Village Hall, Station Road, Oakley.

All women over 18 are always welcome at our meetings to see what we do and what events we organise. Entrance is free for your first two visits. You do not have to be able to make jam or cakes to join this WI. So, if you are fed up with being indoors and feeling lonely, come along. It is a great way to make friends and promote women's views and problems. Future events and reports on past activities can be found on our website oakleydeanewi.weebly.com and on our Facebook page facebook.com/oakleyanddeaneWI. We can also be contacted by email oakleydeanewi@gmail.com
We look forward to seeing new faces at our meetings.

Barbara, on behalf of Oakley & Deane WI

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Ladies Societies

Hampshire County Federation of the WI

From bowler hats to body armour: Rooksdown Revellers discover 20 years of policing history

During the September meeting of the Rooksdown Revellers WI (RRWI), members were captivated by guest speaker and retired WPC Jackie Dimmock, who reflected on the dramatic shifts in law enforcement since entering the service in 1982.

Her 20-year career spanned urban and rural beats, the Child Protection Unit, and roles as a Scenes of Crime Officer. Starting with three months of training and a three-month mentorship, her initial deployment to the Isle of Wight involved extensive foot patrols and cultivating community ties in local bakeries and tea shops.

Looking ahead, the "Revellers revel on!" with an exciting schedule of upcoming group events. Future plans include group trips to Bletchley Park, the Hovercraft Museum, and the Bayeux Tapestry at the Reading Museum (British Museum fully booked), and a post-Christmas meal. There will be more!
Like to join us? For more information, contact Pat Dominey at pat.dominey152@icloud.com

Annie Vicars

Basingstoke Ladies Probus Club

Soaring beyond boundaries:
RAF veteran reveals tales of pioneering female aviators

The Basingstoke Ladies' Probus opened their autumn season with a riveting presentation by Andy Richardson, a Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society and former Cold War RAF Avro Vulcan crew member. Richardson drew from his 18-year military career and senior aerospace marketing roles at Boeing and McDonnell Douglas to recount the triumphs, grit and ultimate sacrifices of aviation's greatest female icons.

Each month members of this Ladies' Probus Club are treated to a similarly fascinating speaker, prior to a 2-course delicious lunch in BCoT's excellent restaurant. If this piques your interest, contact the Admin Secretary - reverendjane@hotmail.co.uk - 07754 296994. We'd love to tell you more!

Annie Vicars

Gardening

Oakley Gardening Club

We had a lovely return visit from Gillian Taylor. This time her talk was about The wonder of a walled garden. Gillian began by showing us some of the tools she uses to help her hands and back. She went on to show us slides of the different ways of growing fruit and flowers within the wall, and how you can make different structures which give space to grow a flower bed in front of the wall. Gillian finished by showing us glass houses of all sizes and heights, and raised beds for vegetables. It was an enjoyable evening understanding how walled gardening works and how to make space in your own garden.

Our next meeting is on 2 November at St Leonard's Hall at 7:30 pm. Our speaker (Carol Watson) will be talking about Flowers from home and abroad. Visitors always welcome. More information from Maureen Dallaway on 01256 780788.

Pause for Thought

It can change our hearts when we stop looking at people with the labels the world suggests and start seeing them as God's creation – just as we are.

I heard a 'Postman' on the television say his job was the best job ever because he gave everyone a 'Smile' and 'Hello' whilst walking his rounds each day.

There is power in a simple 'Smile' and 'Hello'. In a lonely world, being acknowledged by another person can be a profound ministry.

I have the card below propped up in my kitchen window, which I look at every morning as a reminder. THINK before you speak – is it…..

Helpful?
Inspiring?
Necessary?
Kind?

Paul says in Colossians 4:6 Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

Marilyn Scott

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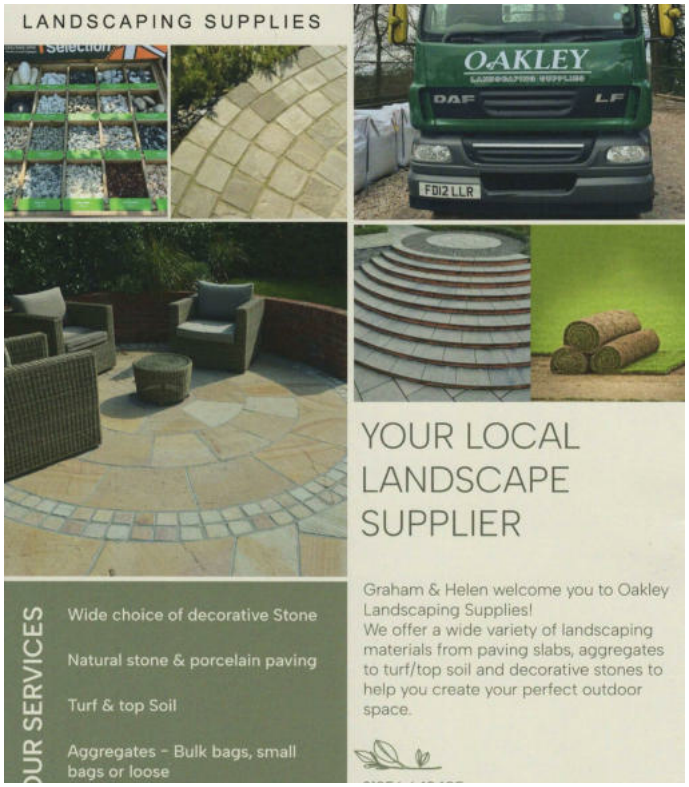
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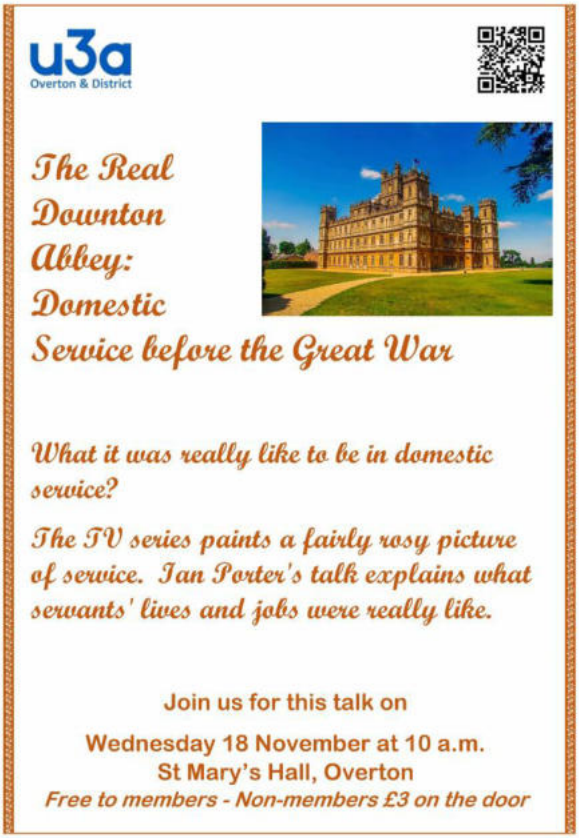
Carols for a Cause 2026
A Festive Carol Concert
in aid of the Charity
Forever Singing
Wednesday December 9th at 7.30pm
Queen Mary's College RG21 3HF
Basingstoke Choral Society
Conductor Jordan Theis
Pianist Mark Kinkaid
Tickets: Adults £10
Under 18's £2.50
For more details see our website:
www.basingstoke-choral.org.uk
BCS is a registered Charity No: 1202484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The Real Downton Abbey: Domestic Service before the Great War
What it was really like to be in domestic service?
The TV series paints a fairly rosy picture of service. Ian Porter's talk explains what servants' lives and jobs were really like.
Join us for this talk on
Wednesday 18 November at 10 a.m.
St Mary's Hall, Overton
Free to members - Non-members £3 on the door

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Advent Overture
A concert of Christmas and seasonal music sung by the Basingstoke Male Voice Choir
7:30 pm on Saturday 5th December
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Andover Chamber Choir

Andover Chamber Choir invites you to celebrate the festive season with *Let Heaven and Nature Sing*, a traditional Christmas concert inspired by nature. From evergreen boughs and winter blooms to the stillness of midwinter, this year's concert by Andover Chamber Choir weaves together the Christmas story with themes of creation and nature, capturing both the quiet beauty and joyful warmth of Christmastide. Seasonal readings complement the music, offering thoughtful reflections on how the natural world responds to the Nativity.

With its blend of ancient and contemporary works, the programme offers a welcome moment of light, celebration and reflection in the heart of winter.

The concert takes place at 7:30 pm, Saturday 19 December, at St Mary's Church, Andover. Tickets are £15 on the door or £12 in advance from The Lights (in person and online) or through choir members. Under 16s are admitted free, and ticket prices include seasonal refreshments.

Proceeds are in aid of The Countess of Brecknock Hospice, Andover. For more information, visit andoverchamberchoir.org.uk.

Veronica Bacon

Overton Choral Society

We would like to encourage young musicians to join us. For full-time students who would like to gain experience in singing we offer an extremely low subscription. For those who would like to experience accompaniment work we will pay an honorarium commensurate with ability. We are at the moment practising items for our Christmas carol concert and after Christmas we will be rehearsing Charpentier's *Te Deum* and Mozart's *Requiem*.

For former singers who would like to join us for either the carol concert or the performance in Romsey in May, please do get in touch.

overtonchoralsoc@gmail.com, Lyn Hardy, Chair

OVERTON CHORAL SOCIETY &
OVERTON SINFONIA
CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT
Monday 14 December
St Mary's Hall, Overton
Bucket collection for St Michael's Hospice
Refreshments

Basingstoke Choral Society presents a festive charity concert

Celebrate the festive season with Basingstoke Choral Society at a special Christmas concert in support of local charity Forever Singing. The concert will offer a wonderful opportunity to enjoy the uplifting sound of a large choir at Christmas, while supporting a local charity that uses the power of singing to make a real difference to people's lives.

Tickets are £10 adults, £2.50 under 18s with a retiring collection held during the evening in aid of Forever Singing**.**

Forever Singing is a Basingstoke-based charity supporting adults living with cognitive, physical and mental health challenges through the joy and benefits of singing. The charity runs a memory choir and provides interactive singing sessions for community groups, creating welcoming spaces where people can come together, make connections and enjoy music.

Event Details
Date**:** Wednesday 9 December Time**:** 7:30 pm
Venue: Queen Mary's College, Cliddesden Road, Basingstoke RG21 3HF
Tickets: tiny.cc/bcscarols

Jackie Humphries

Hampshire Harmony is back!

Hampshire Harmony is an award-winning, upper voice choir, which sings in three-part harmony. The choir has been established for over 60 years and was known for many years as Basingstoke Ladies' Choir.

Our first concert of the term is 7 November at Queen Mary's College where we shall perform alongside Basingstoke Silver Band and the BSB Cavaliers and Tadley Concert Brass Band. You will be in for a night of excellent entertainment if you come along.

Our next appearance will be when we sing at the Light up a Life Service, for St Michael's Hospice on Sunday 6 December at St Joseph's Church, St Michael's Rd, Basingstoke RG22 6TY The hospice is the charity for which we are raising funds throughout the year.

On Sunday 13 December, the choir will be appearing throughout the day at The Tower of London. Along with other choirs from across the country, we shall sing at different locations at the Tower, in order to bring the Christmas spirit to the public.

Sunday 20 December is our own Christmas concert, *Glow,* at 2 pm at Queen Mary's College, Cliddesden Road, Basingstoke. Again we shall be raising funds for St Michael's Hospice. Do come along. You are bound to enjoy the Christmas songs.

For more information about the choir or any of our performances, please visit our website hampshireharmony.org.

Margaret Allen

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Probus Club

Saving a Crashed Pilot's Life with a Garden Implement

What began as an ordinary working day for David Stiles ended with an act of courage that helped save the life of a pilot trapped in a crashed aircraft.

The incident occurred on 7 December 1968 at the College of Air Training at Hamble Aerodrome in Hampshire. It had been established to train civilian pilots for the expanding airlines BOAC and BEA, providing intensive instruction for school leavers and university graduates with no previous flying experience.

The centre operated a sizeable fleet of training aircraft and maintained exceptionally high standards. David worked there as a radar and instrumentation engineer and, like several colleagues, also served as an auxiliary firefighter when emergencies arose.

Shortly after midday, the airfield siren sounded. A de Havilland Chipmunk on approach had collided with another Chipmunk. One aircraft, damaged but still controllable, landed safely. The whereabouts of the second aircraft, however, were unknown.

David and fellow responders rushed to the suspected crash site near the village school. Behind a nearby bungalow, they discovered the missing aircraft upside down in a garden. The pilot was unconscious, suspended by his harness, while fuel from damaged wing tanks leaked towards the engine.

With fire a real danger, there was no time to wait for foam equipment. The aircraft's sliding canopy was pinned shut against the ground. David and a colleague lifted the damaged tail, but it was not enough. Looking around, David spotted a sturdy clothesline prop, a forked wooden support used in gardens. Using it as a makeshift brace, they gradually raised the fuselage high enough to free the canopy.

After opening it, they released the harness, allowing the pilot to drop safely onto the ground before pulling him clear of the wreckage. Moments later, the local fire brigade arrived and covered the aircraft with foam.

Had it been wartime the response may have been different with some citation, but in this instance the fully recovered pilot returned presenting David and the fireman each with a bottle of Teacher's whisky for their heroic actions in saving his life.

See probusbasingstoke.club for more information.

Paul Flint

Whitchurch Silk Mill

New solstice silks and a fresh look for Christmas

This autumn, visitors to the Mill can enjoy our beautiful new solstice silk displays in the café and explore our refreshed shop. Looking for Christmas gifts? There's a good variety in the shop, or you can buy gift vouchers for admission, events and workshops, the café and shop

The longest yarn 'remembrance cascades'

From 4 – 29 November the Mill will host Remembrance Cascades, an installation by The Longest Yarn, commemorating the stories, sacrifice and shared experiences of the Second World War. Crafted flowers and Allied flags will form each of the five-metre cascades. Free with admission.

Elf on a shelf: a crafty Christmas trail, 5 December, 10:30 am – 12 noon or 1:30 – 3 pm

Make your way along the trail and find ten elf-themed activities for the whole family, then collect your chocolatey reward at the end. Buy a child's ticket and one grown-up joins the adventure free. Tickets £7.50 per person, including an Elf on the Shelf trail sheet, all craft supplies, a set of elf ears and dairy or Free From* treat bags.

Sea glass pendant workshop, 2 November, 10:30 am – 1:30 pm

Lou Sargent will be returning to the Mill to teach how to make make a unique piece of jewellery from a piece of coloured sea glass. All materials and tools provided. Suitable for beginners and those with some experience, but participants must be 16+. Tickets £85 per person must be booked in advance from Sea Glass Pendant Workshop Tickets, via Eventbrite.

Weave a wall hanging, 5 or 7 Nov, 10 am – 1 pm

This workshop is a relaxed and inspiring introduction to the art of weaving on a Louët table-top loom. You'll create a wall hanging to take home with you. All materials provided. Perfect for beginners. Tickets £60 per person.

Whitchurch silk production tour, 10 November, 11 am – 12 midday

This exclusive guided tour with our weaving team takes you behind the scenes of silk production. Tour duration is approximately one hour. Booking in advance is essential. Tickets £25 per person.

Darning workshop, 13 November, 11 am – 1 pm

Give your clothing a new lease of life by learning how to darn. You'll be given an overview of the different types of mending and be guided step by step through rebuilding and mending a hole. All tools provided. Tickets £35 per person.

You'll find more information about our workshops in the Events page of our website. Tickets for our events are generally available from the Mill Shop or from our website. Contact: info@whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk – whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk – 01256 892065.

Sue Tapliss

Local News

Basingstoke Choral Society presents a festive charity concert

Celebrate the festive season with Basingstoke Choral Society at a special Christmas concert in support of local charity Forever Singing. The concert will offer a wonderful opportunity to enjoy the uplifting sound of a large choir at Christmas, while supporting a local charity that uses the power of singing to make a real difference to people's lives.

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Event Details

Date**:** Wednesday 9 December Time**:** 7:30 pm
Venue: Queen Mary's College, Cliddesden Road, Basingstoke RG21 3HF
Tickets: tiny.cc/bcscarols

Jackie Humphries

Free Ads

All entries should be sent in writing to Maureen Dallaway by 15 November for inclusion in next months Link. Entries may also be sent by e-mail to freeads@oakleylink.org.uk. . Please include an address or telephone number.

Various film **DVD's** for collection. Free. Over 30, including: Jason Bourne, Downton Abbey, Casino Royale, Gladiator, Shawshank Redemption and many more. Tel. 07974740784.

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Golf trolley with battery and charger, in good condition £150. Tel. 01256 780683

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Sport

Oakley Bowling Club News

Club Finals Day saw Martin Vickers become the sixth person in the last six years to win the Open Singles with Bob Goodyear lifting the men's title and Sue Dixon retaining her Ladies' crown. Sean Lassman retained the Two-Bowl title with Janie Vickers and Sean Lassman winning the Pairs. Our final one-day competition event saw a first title for Sue Beckell and Peter Galer as they teamed up with Sue Dixon and Ted Trantum to win the Fours.

September saw President Diane Yarrall take 45 members on tour to Dawlish, staying at the superb Langstone Cliff hotel. We played matches against Dawlish Marina, Bitton Park, Dawlish Bowling Club and, on our way home, Amesbury. The trophy for the best result on tour was won by Hugh Aherne, with that for the most misdemeanours being shared by Hugh and Ric Newson. Fund raising on tour means we shall be adding £315 to our annual donation to St Michael's Hospice.

On return there was time for a candlelight bowls evening, and we finished the season with the President vs Vice President's match. After that, we undertook the many tasks

necessary to ensure a tip top green for 2027. Ditch mats were jet washed and dried, the green scarified, hollow-cored, slit, seeded and six tonnes of top dressing applied. Most of this work was completed by the contractors over a four-hour period. We dread to think how long it might have taken if members still had carried out this work themselves. Well done John Yarrall who oversaw everything.

Winter sees some members playing at the local indoor clubs whilst others participate in our twice-weekly short mat sessions. We also have an active social programme. More information can be found at oakleybc.org. or by calling Spencer on 07803 905887 or Diane on 01256 781465.

Spencer Kerley

Oakley Tennis Club

Our tennis tournament took place on Sunday 6 September. It was well supported by both members and visitors. The new terrace was the perfect place to watch the tennis and take refreshments in front of our newly refurbished and painted club house. The raffle was as popular as ever. We raised a donation of £150 for St Michael's Hospice as well as some happy prizewinners. Many thanks go to The Barley Mow, Geoff Aubrey & Sons Family Butcher, Jolly Olly's, our local supermarkets Co-op and OneStop, plus Joc Sports Therapies for their generous donations. We couldn't have done the raffle without you!

Some EXCITING News - we now have **pickleball** at the club, set up on two courts. If you have not heard of it before, pickleball is a fast growing paddle sport that combines elements of tennis, badminton and table tennis that can be played as singles, much like tennis, but we tend to play in doubles so more people can be involved. It takes place on Tuesdays at 5 pm and Wednesdays at 2 pm. Paddles and balls are available to use from the clubhouse. Please come along and join us, if you would like to give it a try for the first time, are curious to see what it's all about or can already play, we would love to welcome you.

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- L Titcombe & Family 9
- Spencer & Peyton 28

Garden Services
- Goslings Garden & Fencing 22
- Green 'n' Tidy Gardens 21
- SW Contract Services 16
- The Green Room 14
- Trees & Hedges 25

Hairdressing
- Hair Beauty 35

Health Care Services
- cf foot clinic 21
- Clear Ears 7
- ItalDent 36
- Oakley Osteopathic Clinic16
- Square One 35
- Tempera Health & Wellness Clinic 35

Heating and Plumbing Services
- Catlin Plumbing & Heating 36
- Mark Smith Plumbing and Heating 5
- NJP Heating Services 32
- Oakley Gas & Heating 7
- W G Shenton Plumbing & Heating 33

Home Improvements
- Oakley Tiling 23

Home Maintenance
- James Mccombie Renovation 22
- Property Care 16

Locksmith
- CNG Locksmith Services 9

Nurseries and Playgroups
- St Leonard's Playschool 25
- The Barn Nursery 5

Painters & Decorators
- Barry Hare Painting & Decorating 7
- Haynes of Oakley painter and decorator 21
- PSC Decorating Services 9

Pest Control
- Pest Response Ltd. 32

Pet Services & Supplies
- Paws at Home Ltd. 16

Plastering
- Nick Goodall Plastering 32

Private Carers & Cleaners
- Champion Care 16

Removal Services
- World Range Move Ltd 9

Roofing Contractors
- ITC Roofing 22
- JB Roofing 21

Soft Furnishings
- Honeysuckle Interiors 21

Taxis
- Basingstoke HB Cars 5
- Oakley Chauffeur Services 35
- Totally Airports 9

Water Softeners
- AMS Mayfair Ltd. 7
- SoftFX Water Softners 32

Will Writer
- Whitchurch Wills 32

Windows & Conservatories
- Hayward Glass and Glazing 21
- Oakley Windows 2

LOCAL INFORMATION

Oakley Community Association

Secretary - Eve Askew - www.ocaoakley.org.uk
OCAoakley@live.co.uk

Councillors and Politicians

Member of Parliament, Basingstoke

Luke Murphy - luke.murphy.mp@parliament.uk
Belvedere House, Basing View, RG214HG 01256 587093

Parish Councillors

Gary McAllister - Chair	Trevor Green - Vice Chair
Dave Condliffe	Ken Crafer
Sherrie De Kiguchi	Ian Ellison
Jayne Grant	Amanda Hayman
Carl Jeffreys	Vince Kitley
Steve Neems	Alex Rowley

Parish Clerk: - Nicola Beere, Oakley & Deane Parish Council, Newfound Sports Pavilion, RG23 7HH
clerk@oakleydeane-pc.gov.uk or 07983 500372
Assistant Clerk: - Kelly Green
assistantclerk@oakleydeane-pc.gov.uk

Borough Councillors

Marc Connor
Cllr.Marc.Connor@basingstoke.gov.uk 01256 389093
Julian Jones
Cllr.Julian.Jones@basingstoke.gov.uk 07946 475700
Alex Rowley
Cllr.Alex.Rowley@basingstoke.gov.uk 01256 592443
07445 093986

County Councillor

Juliet Henderson - juliet.henderson@hants.gov.uk 862413

Estate Agents

Brockenhurst Estate Agents, 6 Rectory Road 700280

Police - 101 or 999 in an emergency

Gas Emergencies 0800 111 999

Health - 111 or 999 in an emergency

Defibrillators (Call 999 first) located at:

The Fox	The Barley Mow
The Green Hut (Hill Road)	The Infant School
The Cricket Club	Peter Houseman Field
Andover Road Village Hall	St. Leonard's Centre

Doctors' Surgery 0333 034 1033
Out of hours 111

Churches	Website:
Church of England St Leonard's (Oakley) St Lawrence (Wootton) All Saints (Deane)	www.stleonards-church.co.uk **Church Office**: St Leonard's Centre Rectory Road, Oakley Tel 782724 09:00 - 13:00 weekdays Rev'd Ben Kautzer 01256 420903
Methodist Chapel by the pond Hill Road	Website: www.bhbcircuit.org.uk/churches/oakley.html Revd Claire Simpson revclaire73@btinternet.com 01256 323103
Roman Catholic St Joseph's and St Bedes	Website: www.stjosephsbasingstoke.org.uk 171a St Michael's Road Basingstoke, RG22 6TY Fr Paul Leonard
Community Church	Website: www.lifespringcommunitychurch.org Or www.hopebasingstoke.org St Luke's Hall Overton Or Sarum Hill Centre, Basingstoke Contact John and Wendy Thurston 780135

Village Shops

Annie's Oakley - Meon Road	
Cakes by Maze - Rectory Road	07349 888237
Coop - Oakley Lane	780857
Craft Kits N Bits - 4 Rowan Tree Road	020 3488 5499
Hair Beauty - Meon Road	780745
Honeysuckle Interiors - Meon Road	780831
Lara's Beauty Workshop - Meon Road	07726 207203
One Stop - Oakley Lane/ The Vale	780227
Geoff Aubrey & Sons Butcher - The Vale	373297
The Rusty Acorn Café - Oakley Lane	782658
The Village Pharmacy - The Vale	782381

Oakley Scout Group	Contact TBD oakley@bwds.org uk
Oakley Girlguiding	Contact - Caroline Lloyd c45lloyd@outlook.com

Village Halls

East Oakley Village Hall ("The Green Hut") - Hill Road	Booking Secretary 07788 423252 or email: booking@oakleygreenhut.co.uk Website: www.oakleygreenhut.co.uk
St John's Centre - St John's Road	Contact: Church Office 782724
Oakley Village Hall - Andover Road	Contact: 781229
St Leonard's Centre - Rectory Road	Contact: Church Office 782724

NOTE: If you wish to add an item or amend any entries, please send an email to:
john@oakleylink.org.uk Last amended 17 Oct 2026

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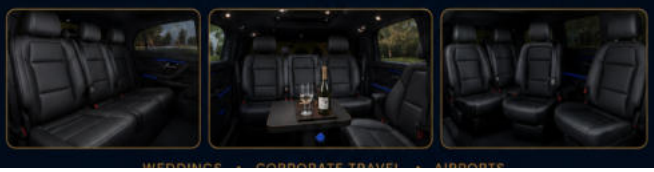

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