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September 2026



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Wootton St Lawrence Community Magazine

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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 October 2026 issue: 15 September

Editorial

Congratulations to all involved with such a successful Village Show this year (see reports and photos on pages 20 and 21). Many people contribute, from the Committee, who are preparing through the year (starting in the previous Autumn) to the stallholders, exhibitors, performers, and those working on the day to set it all up and take it all down afterwards.

Many thanks to everyone who distributes Link every month. Some people have been going out in all weathers to provide you with your monthly village magazine for many years, even decades!

A reminder that the new advertising year for Link starts with the October issue. If you are an existing advertiser, you will have received an e-mail from Bruce, so don't forget to renew. If you would like to start advertising, see his details below.

A warm welcome to the new owner of Jolly Olly's Coffee Shop: Debbie Timms.

Chris Wassell

Thank you to Tiffany Wise for our front page photo from the Village Show

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

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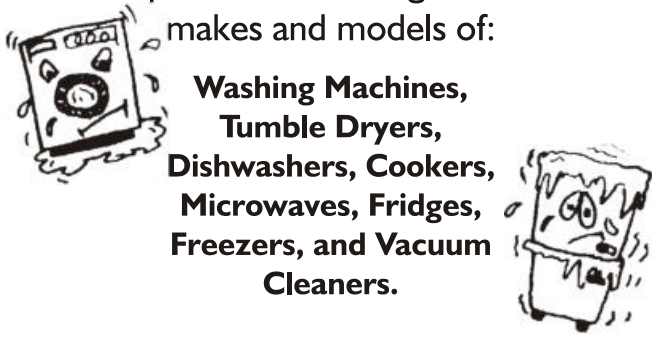
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MONTH	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
May	26th	7-8:00 PM	Barley Mow
June	30th	1-2:00 PM	Jolly Ollys
July	28th	7-8:00 PM	Barley Mow
August	25th	1-2:00 PM	Jolly Ollys
September	29th	7-8:00 PM	Barley Mow
October	27th	1-2:00 PM	Jolly Ollys
December	-	-	-
January	26th	1-2:00 PM	Jolly Ollys
February	23rd	7-8:00 PM	Barley Mow
March	30th	1-2:00 PM	Jolly Ollys
April	27th	7-8:00 PM	Barley Mow
May	25th	1-2:00 PM	Jolly Ollys

We look forward to seeing you!

Have your say | Share ideas | Help shape our parish

For updates and news, visit our website and follow us on social media.

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.

Our Oakley Community Market

Treats | Toys | Gifts | Arts & Crafts

Saturday, 19th September
 12 PM - 4 PM

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Follow us on social to see more of what we've got planned this season. @BarleyMowatOakley

www.barleymowatOakley.co.uk

Village



Report from the Parish Council

As we move towards the end of the summer, the Parish Council would like to thank all our local cricket teams for another busy season. We hope everyone has enjoyed their matches and has made good use of the new cricket nets, which we are pleased to see being enjoyed by players across the community.

The football pitches have been maintained and prepared for the new season, with our grounds team working hard to ensure the facilities are in excellent condition for local teams, training sessions and matches. We welcome the teams back and wish everyone a successful season.

A big thank you also goes to OCA for organising the Village Show. What a great turnout! We would like to thank everyone involved for all the planning, hard work and effort that went into making the day such a success. It was fantastic to see so many residents and visitors coming together to enjoy the event and celebrate our village community.

The Parish Council is also continuing to provide opportunities for residents to engage directly with their councillors. Monthly drop-in sessions at the Barley Mow Pub are being arranged, providing an informal setting where residents can ask questions, share ideas or raise any local concerns.

Our regular Coffee & Chat sessions at the Newfound Pavilion also continue every Thursday from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. These friendly, informal sessions provide residents with an opportunity to meet



others, enjoy a chat and raise any questions or suggestions with members of the community.

The Parish Council remains committed to maintaining Oakley's facilities and open spaces, supporting community wellbeing and ensuring that residents have opportunities to have their say on local matters. We would like to thank residents for their continued interest, involvement and support.

Our next Parish Council meeting will take place on Thursday 10 September at 7:30 pm at the Newfound Pavilion. Residents are very welcome to attend the meeting, hear about the work of the Parish Council and raise any matters they may wish to bring to our attention.

Kelly Green – Assistant Clerk
assistantclerk@oakleydeane-pc.gov.uk



**COFFEE &
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Ladies Societies



Oakley Afternoon WI

On 20 July 2026 Oakley Afternoon WI enjoyed a talk by Ruth Kerr entitled *Up at the Big House*. She gave a description of life at Glenhouse, an estate in the Scottish Borders owned by the famous Tennant family. Members were told of life in the house, the history of the family and the tragedies that befell them. Princess Margaret was a frequent visitor along with others including Lord Asquith and Oscar Wilde.

Members have enjoyed various outings with Mervyns Coaches this year including trips to Weymouth, Windsor and Bowood House and Gardens. Also planned is a theatre trip to see *Calendar Girls* and our annual Christmas lunch at Test Valley Golf Club on 9 December 2026.

There is a busy summer to look forward to as well with a garden party, running a stall at the village show and trips with Mervyns Coaches.

Our monthly meetings are held on the third Monday of the month at 1:30 pm at East Oakley Village Hall (the Green Hut). Visitors are made most welcome at the meetings and are also invited to come along to the coffee mornings held at the Barley Mow on the last Monday of the month.

The next meeting is on 21 September at East Oakley Village Hall (the green hut) at 1:30 pm and the speaker is Ann Orr who will give a talk on estate planning.

For further information please email:
oakleyaftsec@hampshirewi.org.uk

Janie Vickers

Ladies Societies



Oakley & Deane WI

Our August meeting was a talk on Mexico City - Sights and Customs. The Speaker was our own Secretary Barbara Wiseman. Barbara's



son lives in Mexico and so she has visited Mexico City. Barbara gave a lovely insight into some of the customs and some of the sights there. She talked about the food, including pictures of tortillas, crickets and worms amongst others.

Oakley & Deane had a cake stall at the Village Show on 8 August. We have had a stall now for a few years and it is a nice way to advertise our WI and fundraise. The Members made all the cakes which are very popular and sold out.

Oakley & Deane also have a walking group that meets the last Sunday in the month plus other days during the month when they can be fitted in. 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, Food and Nutrition by Tara Pestell is on 8 September 7:30 pm 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. The entrance is free for your first 2 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, 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](https://www.facebook.com/oakleyanddeaneWI). We can also be contacted by email oakleydeanewi@gmail.com



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Basingstoke Ladies Probus Club moves on through the next "Probus" year....

The Basingstoke Ladies Probus Club exists to bring together a group of people who aim to be friends and support each other in whatever way they are able. In so doing, the Club provides stimulation, interest and friendship to retired and semi-retired professional and business ladies through a programme of monthly meetings, offering the chance to meet new people with varied interests and experiences during their working lives, hear about subjects not otherwise encountered and, most importantly, enjoy each other's company. And with the creation of a theatre group, those with that interest have enjoyed several local productions. All this while also savouring the delights of an excellent lunch provided by BCoT's much-praised restaurant.

As with every year, this growing club of interesting retired and semi-retired ladies took a break from their monthly meetings through July and August, largely because their wonderful venue, the BCoT Restaurant, of course closed – everyone needs a break, even their fabulous kitchen and catering staff and students!

Apart from an enjoyable visit in July to observe – and even indulge in – the mental gymnastics required for Square Dancing, the programme of future speakers for the year '26-27 was finalised and is now confirmed as follows:

- 20 November '26 – Fiends and Felons – My Life with Crime
- 29 January '27 – The Saxophone, and My Life as an Army Musician
- 26 February '27 – Travels on a Narrowboat
- 19 March '27 – Dogs for Autism
- 30 April '27 – The Eye and Vision in Art
- 21 May '27 – We Had One of Those!
- 18 June '27 – Mystery Guests!
- July/August – Summer outing(s)
- 24 September '27 – Black Redcoats – The Corps of Colonial Marines 1814–16
- 22 October '27 – Our AGM – open to all members

Interested? Curious? Like to know more?

See retirement as the beginning of another chapter, not the end of an interesting life?

Do contact Admin Secretary, Jane Leese (reverendjane@hotmail.co.uk - 07754 296994) – you can be sure of a friendly chat with no obligation to go further - or perhaps a desire to discover more.

Annie Vicars

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Ladies Societies



Oakley Ladies

Oakley Ladies meet on the third Tuesday of each month at St Leonard's Centre, 7:30 pm - 9 pm. We are an informal, welcoming, friendly group who enjoy a variety of meetings – social, craft, talks, topical celebrations, games, Christmas meal out, a trip out and, of course, always a cuppa and cake! Business matters are kept to a minimum. The group is run by a committee, three of whom are new this year. We look forward to their bright ideas for future meetings!

September 15: Social evening with a fun game led by Marie.

October 20: *The symbolism of remembrance*, a talk.

November 17: An evening of Christmas craft

December: A Christmas meal out.

If this sounds like the group for you please contact Marie 07903368996 or Addie 07989844216 to arrange a taster visit. We look forward to welcoming you.

Addie Keenan



Affiliated to Hampshire County Federation of the WI

Growing vegetables – and friendships at the Rooksdawn

Revellers allotment

The Rooksdawn Revellers WI (RR) allotment began with a simple idea: why not turn a much-admired private allotment into a shared project where members could garden together, learn from one another and enjoy some time outdoors?

The idea came about following a meeting at the allotment of RR President Pauline, which also included a talk from the local beekeepers. Several members were keen to spend time helping Pauline with her plot, which she was considering giving up. The Council was approached, permission was ultimately obtained for Pauline to have 'co-workers', and the RR allotment was born.

Although the keys arrived late in the first year, the members still managed to produce beans, courgettes, butternut squash, tomatoes, onions, garlic and potatoes, alongside a huge crop from the existing Bramley apple tree. A polytunnel was an added bonus. The range of produce has also grown and now includes carrots, parsnips, beetroot, radishes, chard and several varieties of tomatoes.

Now seven members meet on Monday evenings, with a watering rota – currently permitted using watering cans filled from the troughs – and on alternate Saturday mornings for watering, weeding and generally catching up over tea and coffee. There have been some delicious rewards along the way: jam made from the allotment's fruit once provided the centrepiece for a cream tea with homemade scones!

The group's plans continue to grow too. A shed has been acquired, a greenhouse may soon be added, and the members are considering taking on further space to increase their crops.

But the allotment is about much more than growing vegetables. The regular sessions have helped strengthen friendships within the WI, while links with fellow allotment holders have resulted in gardening tips, ideas and surplus produce being happily exchanged.

The allotment even provided the venue for a RR barbecue in July. Members brought food to share, Pauline produced a highly original and safe barbecue stand, portable barbecues came into their own, (before the commencement of the ban), and everyone enjoyed a wonderful get-together.

Away from the hubbub of everyday life, the allotment has become a peaceful place to visit – particularly on a summer evening – to listen to the birds, enjoy the surroundings and recharge. For the Rooksdawn Revellers, it seems that while the vegetables are flourishing, so too are friendships.

The allotment is just one of the many sub-groups available to RR members. For more information, contact Pat at pat.dominey152@icloud.com.

Annie Vicars



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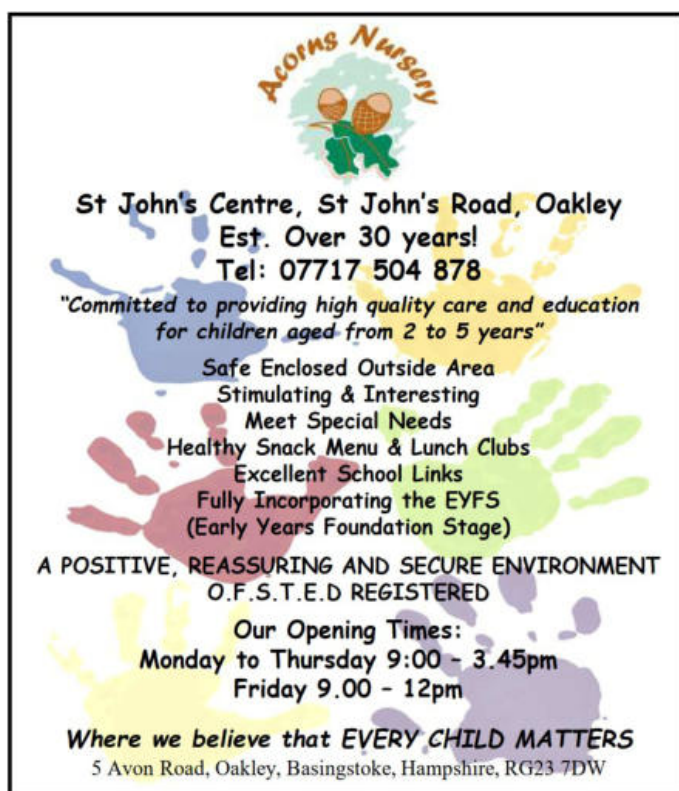
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Autumn Vaccination Clinics 2026

We will be holding vaccination clinics across Watership Down Health this autumn. If you are eligible for a flu vaccination, you will receive an invitation by SMS text message, via the NHS App or by email over the coming weeks. If you have not received your invitation by mid-September, please contact the practice to book an appointment. As our telephone lines are busiest during the morning, your assistance in calling after 2 pm would be appreciated.

We look forward to welcoming you to one of our clinics.

Flu Vaccination Clinics

Children aged 2–3 years and pregnant women:

Saturday 19 September 2026

From 8:30 am

Available at Overton Surgery and Kingsclere

Health Centre

Adults aged 65 years and over, and those aged 18 – 64 years in an eligible at-risk group:

Saturday 3 October 2026

Saturday 10 October 2026

Available at Overton Surgery and Kingsclere

Health Centre

Additional flu clinics will be held at Oakley Surgery from mid-October.

COVID-19 & Flu Vaccination Clinics

Adults aged 75 years and over:

Saturday 3 October 2026

Saturday 10 October 2026

Available at Overton Surgery and Kingsclere

Health Centre

Mental Health Update



GP triage

GP Triage, our online appointment and care request service, is available from 07:00 Monday to Friday. Our reception team will continue to be available between 08:00 – 18:30 hrs Monday to Friday, for all your other medical needs.

Please note that if you are unable to use the online system or do not have digital access, you can let the reception team know as they are best placed to help you.

The GP triage system can be accessed via our website by one patient at a time only at:

watershipdownhealth.com

Please see below for the up-to-date video of the upgraded system available via YouTube:

How to Use GP Triage - For Patients: youtube.com/watch?v=HQ-f_VmJUBA

Health kiosks

The Oakley surgery now has its own health kiosk which works the same way as the other kiosks in the practice. We encourage patients to use these for a range of health checks such as height, weight, blood pressure along with questionnaires for issues like asthma, mental health, etc. Please note that if the appropriate check is completed, the information goes directly into the patient's record and is saved ready for our clinical team to review. The kiosks are available during surgery hours, no booking needed.

Patient Participation Group - AGM

The Patient Participation Group will be holding their Annual General Meeting at the Overton surgery meeting room on Wednesday, 30 September at 5:30 pm. All patients in the practice are welcome to attend.

Did you know?

On Monday 3 August 2026, we received 639 telephone calls. 287 patients used our call back facility and 276 were successfully called back.

Heather Mann

Coeliac UK, North Hampshire Group

Gluten Free Heaven at Thread & Toast

Thread & Toast café at Blandy's Farm Malshanger now has all its delicious cakes as gluten free. None of those pre-packed tasteless little chocolate brownies, or flapjacks which are like chewing a piece of oily MDF. They have an amazing range featuring such beauties as blackberry and pistachio upside-down cake and Snickers cake dripping in chocolate. We tried lunch and there were GF options aplenty. Well worth a visit if you have food allergies or not and they are open every day of the week.

Christmas dinner date confirmed

Our annual Christmas dinner will be at BCoT on Thursday 3 December. The cost for three courses is £30.95 per person. You can reserve places by emailing northhampshire@coeliac.org.uk

Next meet-up

Next meeting Saturday 19 September 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 www.coeliac.org.uk/local-groups/north-hampshire

Dave West



Health & Independent Living Support, supporting thousands through summer months



Health & Independent Living Support (HILS) is stepping up support for older and vulnerable people during the heatwaves and further into the summer months, with staff across its services carrying out their usual wellbeing checks and providing practical assistance to help clients stay safe in the hot weather. HILS will be delivering nutritious meals to over 2,936 people over the next week.

Higher temperatures can pose significant health risks for older adults, people living with long-term health conditions and those who may be socially isolated. As a result, HILS teams are taking extra steps to ensure clients remain hydrated, comfortable and well-supported.

Every Meals on Wheels delivery includes a wellbeing check, allowing staff to assess a person's wellbeing and identify any concerns. If a client appears unwell or requires additional support, HILS can contact next of kin or other support networks where appropriate, helping to ensure help is provided quickly when needed.

To further support clients during the hot weather, Meals on Wheels drivers are wearing badges reminding customers that they can ask for help with making a drink. It is a simple initiative that encourages people to stay hydrated and reassures them that support is available. This commitment extends across the organisation, with all HILS staff who are visiting clients in their homes taking extra time to check on their wellbeing. Staff are encouraging people to drink regularly, stay cool and seek support if they are feeling unwell.

Sarah Wren, CEO at Health & Independent Living Support, said:

"The people we support are among those most at risk during periods of hot weather, so it's vital that we do everything we can to help them stay safe and well. Our teams are a trusted and familiar face, and those regular interactions allow us to identify when someone may need additional support. Whether it's carrying out a wellbeing check during a Meals on Wheels delivery, helping someone access a drink, checking that they are comfortable at home, or encouraging good hydration habits at our community hubs, our priority is making sure people remain healthy, safe and independent throughout the warmer weather. It's also important to remember that tea and coffee do help people stay hydrated, as do squash, milky drinks, ice lollies, and water-rich fruits and salads so, if someone doesn't like drinking water, they should drink what they enjoy."

Health & Independent Living Support is also encouraging family members, friends and neighbours to check in on older or vulnerable people during periods of extreme heat, ensuring they have access to drinks, cool environments and any support they need.

HILS is the UK's largest meals on wheels provider, and delivers a range of services throughout Hampshire, Hertfordshire, and West Sussex that allow older and vulnerable people to live at home independently for as long as possible. HILS services include hot, nutritious meals on wheels food delivered 365 days a year, as well as food for people following discharge from hospital to allow them to recover well at home. We also have our nutrition advice service to help prevent malnutrition.

For more information about Health & Independent Living Support and its services, visit www.hils-uk.org.

Rhianna Quenault

Gardening



Gardening Club August meeting

We welcomed wildlife photographer Brian Pettit to our August meeting, who talked about his experiences so far and showed us lovely photos and slides of *Wildlife of the New Forest*. He started with the snowdrops where insects were drinking the nectar and then went on to the primroses. Brian sits for hours waiting for the right moment and took photos/slides of all kinds of birds by the rivers and the wetlands areas. He also took young badgers coming

out of their setts for the first time. It was exciting to watch. Brian gave an excellent talk and with lots of humour ('ah' moments). A very good evening's entertainment.

Next month's meeting is on 7 September 2026 at St Leonard's Hall, Oakley, start time 7:30 pm. Our speaker is Souren Ala and he will be talking about *Persian Gardens*. All visitors are very welcome. For more information phone Maureen on 780788.

Diane Green



What's all the buzz about in September?

In our August article, we talked about how honey bees and bumblebees ensure the next season generation through production of queens and drones. However, there is a striking difference in the way they do this. The goal of the bumblebee queens is to mate, fatten up for winter hibernation, and start her own colony in the spring - there is no competitive rivalry as the current queen dies with her nest and worker bees soon after the new queens leave the nest to mate emerge from the nest, whereas the queen honeybee lives up to five years and any other queen is a "competitor". The existing queen will not kill her daughter but will leave the hive after laying several queen cells as part of the natural honeybee swarming behaviour.

Beekeepers manage this by splitting hives and creating a "false swarming". Either approach works as the colony is only queen-less for about three weeks. When the queens emerge from pupation it's a "stinging" fight to the death with only one victorious queen. She leaves the nest for a short period to mate with a drone, returning with enough sperm for up to a million eggs over a four-to-five-year period. She spends the rest of her life in the dark laying eggs and being kept and cared for by the worker bees.

The honeybee and bumblebee drones behave in similar ways, leaving the nest and hanging around together [similar to young unattached male human behaviour!] and it is not yet clear how the virgin queens know how or where to go to seek out these male gatherings. The only difference is that the honeybee queen emergence happens mid-summer whilst the bumblebee queen and drones nest departure usually happens late-summer.

What you can do to help: bumblebee queens need to fatten up to survive the winter, so consider ensuring



your garden includes some late summer autumn pollinator plants. You will be rewarded by the low buzzing hum of a queen feeding, as well as enjoying the masses of drones who hang around waiting for the queen!

Barbara and Kenneth Robson on behalf CB400 Foundation
[https://](https://www.charlesbutler400foundation.org.uk/)

www.charlesbutler400foundation.org.uk/

Basingstoke & Deane Recycling sites

There are recycling sites across the borough offering a wide variety of recycling options including textiles, footwear, foil and small (24cm x 50cm) waste electrical items (WEEE) and plastic pots, tubs, trays, tubes and cartons.

There are six council-owned recycling sites at:

- Brighton Hill Parade, Brighton Hill Centre
- Castons Car Park, New Road
- Overton Hill Car Park, Overton
- Popley Fields Community Centre, Carpenters Down
- The Fieldgate Centre, Kingsclere
- Winklebury Centre, Winklebury

New banks for mixed plastics

We have installed **temporary** recycling banks at our six council-owned recycling sites for mixed plastics.

Hampshire County Council is building a new sorting facility which will allow us to collect more recyclable items from homes including plastic pots, tubs, trays, tubes and cartons from 2028. Residents who want to recycle more now can use these banks in the meantime.

Yes please - you can put these clean and empty items into the mixed plastic recycling banks:

plastic pots including yoghurt pots, cosmetic and make-up containers and plants pots

plastic tubs used for ice cream, butter, margarine and other spreads

plastic trays including fruit and vegetable punnets or trays from meat, fish or microwaveable meals

food and drink cartons including Tetra Pak

plastic tubes used for toothpaste, cosmetics, make-up or hair conditioners

No thanks

rigid plastics like children's toys

plastic films including bags, liners, polythene and cling film

Compostable packaging



Conservation

Surveillance cameras are in place at our six sites across the borough

There are many other externally owned smaller recycling sites. Items must be put in the banks, do not leave **any** items on the ground or on top of the banks as this is classed as fly-tipping and you could be fined or prosecuted.

Batteries

Batteries can be returned to all large shops and supermarkets where batteries are bought.

A battery bin is located in the reception area of Council Offices, London Road, Basingstoke, RG21 4AH. You can deposit your used batteries during our opening hours Monday to Friday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm except on bank holidays.

Clothing

In addition to our recycling banks, donations of good quality items can be taken to a number of charity shops in the borough.

Household Waste and Recycling Centre (or tip)

There is one Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) in Basingstoke and Deane at Wade Road. You will need to register your vehicle and book an appointment to visit the tip.

The HWRC can accept a wider range of materials for recycling, including:

- garden waste
- small electrical items
- batteries
- light bulbs

Appointments can also be booked at any Household Waste Recycling Centre in Hampshire.



Oakley Woodlands Group

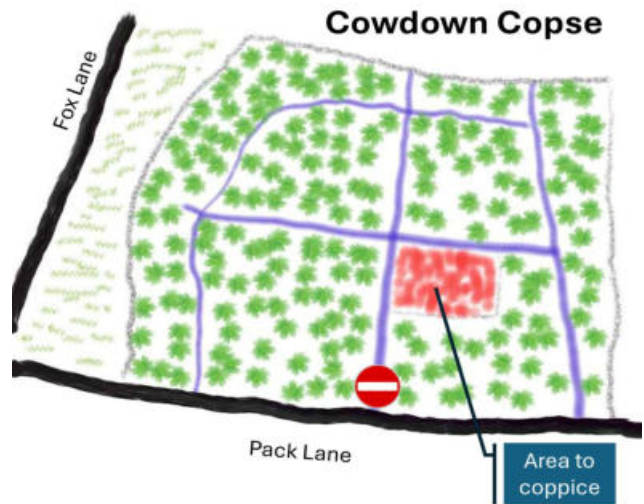
It's the dog days of summer, and the autumn beckons which means the OWGers are stirring from their summer slumbers and heading for the woods. The Oakley Woodland Group restarts its new

season of coppicing with work parties in Cowdown Copse. This work is vital to maintain the unique habitat of traditional hazel coppice that supports endangered species such as dormice.

Our first work party is on Wednesday 9 between ten and one o'clock. We would love to see you there, as many hands make light work. The work involves cutting down small trees and generally clearing the designated area, called a coupe, and securing the boundary with dead hedges and temporary fencing to protect the new growth.

The stumps of the cut hazel quickly resprout, but

*Eclipse of the sun, taken by Graeme Hewitt
Aug 12, 2026*



the extra light hitting the woodland floor for two or three years allows many other species of plants to grow up, which in turn supports insects that feed birds. Without the coppicing, low light levels inhibit the growth of these species and the biodiversity decreases.

So come along and see what we do. We work full flexitime, so you can do as little or as much as you like. We provide tools, training, biscuits and banter. You will find us in Cowdown Copse as shown in the diagram on the dates below. See you there!

Work party dates for September

Wednesday 9 and 23, Saturday 12 and 26. All work parties run 10h to 13h.

Email: oakleywoodlands@gmail.com

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Fund Raising

Macmillan coffee morning Friday 25 September 10:00 am to noon

I am once again hosting a Macmillan coffee morning in memory of my late wife Margaret. I am registered with Macmillan who were absolutely brilliant in the support they gave us during the last few months of my wife's life and I want to give something back.

It will be in my home in a cul-de-sac off Avon Road. If you don't know where I am just email me and I will send you details. If you can't make it but would like to donate anyway to such a worthy cause, just send me an email and I will send you the bank details.

The coffee morning email address is :
oakleymacmillan@outlook.com

Please do support this very worthy cause.

Peter Humphreys

Church News

Oakley Methodist Church

All welcome at the Methodist Church coffee morning on Tuesday 8 September and Tuesday 22 September 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 to be decided. We look forward to welcoming the woodland well-being walkers at the end of their walk.

Trish Kinchington

Oakley

Methodist Church

Services at 10:30 am

September 6	Rev Davis Jenkins
September 13	Sarah Whithorn
September 20	Rev Jackie Case Communion
	Harvest Festival
September 27	local arrangements

COFFEE MORNING Tuesdays September 8 and 22
10:30 am to 12 noon **£1-50**



**Berkshire & Hampshire Borders
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All welcome at the Chapel by the Pond
www.bhbcircuit.org.uk/churches/oakley.html



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18 Meon Road, Oakley, RG23 7AL

Registered charity 1063036 – Annie's Orphans.

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SEPTEMBER 2026 at Annie's Oakley

Look out for our great collection of Autumn and Winter clothing being filtered in from mid September!

New delivery of TOYS.

Some good items of school uniform at 50p per piece.

Our £1 rail is updated every week

Keep an eye on Calling Oakley and our weekly Facebook page for the latest news and great offers!!!

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!!!

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Running soon:

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1-3:30pm on Wednesdays from 16th Sep to 28th Oct 2026

For more info or to book a place, please contact Samantha Wake
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01256 781571

To find out more visit:
thebereavementjourney.org

Village Show



Oakley Village Show 2026

The best ever? Certainly, we recorded the highest ever attendance, and judging by the atmosphere, people really enjoyed themselves.

The show was opened by our MP, Luke Murphy, who then spent time visiting the wide variety of stalls, and viewing the stunning display of exhibits.

Once again, exhibitors did themselves proud. Gardeners were able to show some excellent examples of fruit, veg and flowers in spite of the challenging weather, and cooks braved the heat of the kitchen to produce some delicious cakes. (The apple and blueberry was very popular, attracting 8 entries!) In other categories, we again saw just how talented people are. Not everyone can win a



prize or certificate, so thank you to all those who took part.

Out on the field, we were entertained by the Basingstoke Silver Band, who brought an appropriate traditional sound to the show, and in the arena, we welcomed old and new faces with Nik Nak, the Pop Star Academy and Louise Wesley from LW



Fitness. It was a full afternoon, ending with a Tug of War, that might have been skewed slightly to the women, but nobody really cared!

A show, however, doesn't just happen. The committee works hard for months beforehand to co-



ordinate all that will happen on the day. But the show is only on paper until the faithful volunteers turn it into a live event. From posting signs to preparing judges' packs, setting out tables to putting up gazebos, manning the gate to keeping us safe, it is a huge undertaking, and we are truly grateful to each person who got stuck in.

Even then, the show is a non-event unless people come and support it, and this you did, with 1,000 of you buying programmes, which didn't include children. (The programme doubled as a raffle ticket, and we're pleased to say both prizes were claimed.) It was a brilliant turn out and made the show a memorable village event.

Ann Davis on behalf of the show committee



Village Show



Photos on pages 20 and 21 by Tiffany Wise

Oakley Village Show

The Oakley Village Show not only had some good weather on its side, but also a grand display of some beautiful cars, including one dark green Jaguar, many



years old, looking like it had just come off the production line. Every conceivable local club from Guides, Men's Shed, the Parish Council, crafts, an early birthday present for me in the form of whiskey-flavoured marmalade, to garden plants on display.

There was some great music from the Basingstoke Silver Band playing such popular tunes as Dolly Parton's *Nine to Five*. Youngsters put on a good show in the main ring and the ice cream man was simply inundated with queues running right across the grounds. We arrived early and by first going into the halls of vegetable displays, Lego presentations, cakes, crafts and photographs, we missed the opening by our Labour MP.

Towards the end of our visit, as we approached our final stroll, we could not resist the cake stall - Cakes by Maze. Not only does she live almost next door, but we were getting close to being last customers as most of her selections understandably were down to the last couple in the trays - but Maze, more AMAZING, simply delicious, I have never had cakes like it. My dad, bless him, would have been in seventh heaven - well, let's hope he is.

Late afternoon, towards the presentation of trophies and the tug o' war it seems that the attendance was more than anticipated as all tickets had been taken and the message was "Let them in for free then".

To all those who had spent part of the day before setting it all up must go tremendous thanks, it was

certainly a great success.

Graeme Hewitt

Oakley Show prizewinners



The Poem that won the Village Show Creative Writing class 71

The voice

O what I wouldn't give
to hear your voice just one more time.
Instead, when the sun slips away
and surrounding houses draw their curtains
I struggle on in noiseless solitude.
Open windows enable me to appreciate
the company of strangers outside
even eavesdropping their conversations.
But in time the footsteps cease
neighbours' chatter moves inside their homes
while I check for calls not missed
reread all my friends' posts
until my drooping eyelids yell for rest.

Upstairs the quiet
freezes my heart again
with no one to complain at
for toothpaste in the sink
the seat up on the toilet.
But it's the bedroom silence
which screams loudest
with the dust on the last book you read
in which I haven't turned a page
and your Armani-infused scarf
awaiting my embrace.

'Good night, darling,' I say
'Good night, darling,'
you don't reply.

Catherine Foster

Local News



Mr Flaherty's Private Theatricals

Mr. Flaherty's Private Theatricals is a local theatre group which will be performing Agatha Christie's *A Murder is Announced* on 12 to 14 November 2026 at Central Studio in Basingstoke:

When a curious newspaper advert announces the time and place of a murder, the quiet village of Chipping Cleghorn is thrown into chaos. What begins as a supposed joke quickly turns deadly, and it's up to the brilliantly perceptive Miss Marple to untangle a web of secrets, lies, and unexpected motives.

Full of sharp wit, suspense and classic Christie twists, this is a must-see mystery for newcomers and fans alike.

Join us for an evening of intrigue, atmosphere, and unforgettable storytelling at Central Studio, Queen Mary's College, Cliddesden Rd, Basingstoke RG21 3HF, 12 to 14 November 2026.

Tickets £15 from privatetheatricals.ticket-office.co.uk/#!/Events/from_date:07-11-2026/date:12-11-2026

Paul Davies

Overton Choral Society

After an extended season, we have now had a few weeks' rest and will be resuming rehearsals on September 14 in St Mary's Hall

at 7:45 pm. We now embark on our 2026/2027 season and, once again, it will be a busy one.

Some of our members are participating in Voices for Hospices in Thornden Hall, Chandler's Ford, on Sunday September 20. The proceeds from this performance of Sir Karl Jenkins' *The Armed Man* will benefit all the hospices in Hampshire. If you would like to hear this work, please ring 023 8024 6555 for tickets. We will be supporting St Michael's Hospice as usual at our Christmas concert. More about this next month.

OCS is part of BFoC (Basingstoke Festival of Choirs) and, as we are a new committee, things have become more active recently. We have several workshops and concerts in conjunction with them, dates to be finalised. The Mayor's Carol Service will be on December 5.

Our concert with other choirs of the Hampshire Choral Festival will be in Romsey Abbey on Saturday 15 May when we will perform Charpentier's *Te Deum* and Mozart's *Requiem* under the baton of David Burgess.

And to cap our 2026/27 season we are hoping to make a trip to Germany to sing with our friends, Sangerkreis Euskirchen, probably late May. This is open to all those who have friends in Euskirchen.

Lyn Hardy, Chair, overtonchoralsoc@gmail.com

Mr Flaherty's Private Theatricals Presents

A MURDER IS ANNOUNCED
BY AGATHA CHRISTIE
ADAPTED BY LESLIE DARBON

Central Studio
BASINGSTOKE

12 - 14 November 2026
Central Studio, QMC

Mr Flaherty's Private Theatricals Est. 2003

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Local News



Probus Club enjoys annual Summer pub lunch

Except for August 2020 during the Covid pandemic, the Probus Summer pub lunch has been held every year since 1996. It had been started by the then President David Carwardine, who had retired from a senior position at the Basingstoke fork truck manufacturer then known as Lansing Bagnall.

Each incoming president has been responsible for arranging this event where wives and lady friends are involved.

This year president Paul Klinger, a retired solicitor, had the responsibility of ensuring all guests received their specified lunch selections which was managed successfully by the staff at Barton's Mill in Old Basing. Situated under a large



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awning the setting allowed a gentle breeze to keep temperatures down to a comfortable level during the hot spell of weather.

For information about the Probus Club of Basingstoke see www.probusbasingstoke.club or email their secretary Andrew Barton on secretaryprobusbasingstoke@outlook.com or phone 07814 937202 for an informal chat.

Paul Flint

An Evening of Big Band Swing – Supporting Hampshire & Isle of Wight Air Ambulance

Clive Fortune Big Band invites you to An Evening of Big Band Swing, a vibrant night of live music in support of Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance. Featuring a twenty-piece ensemble, two superb vocalists and special guests The Tonyx barbershop quartet. The concert promises an exhilarating celebration of swing classics performed with passion and polish.

The event takes place on Saturday 26 September at 7:30 pm at Queen Mary's College, Basingstoke. It's a relaxed, bring-your-own-drinks-and-nibbles evening — perfect for friends, families and anyone who loves great music. By joining us, you'll also be helping one of the region's most vital emergency services. See www.clivefortunebigband.org.uk and www.hiowaa.org. For tickets and full event details, please see the advert (left) or visit our website.

Local News



Whitchurch Silk Mill

Autumn Festival, 23-25 October

Following the success of our flower festival this summer, we're excited to be planning an Autumn festival at the mill. Over three days, visitors can enjoy seasonal craft displays, workshops and family-friendly activities throughout our historic site.

Crowdfunder appeal: keep Britain's silk weaving heritage alive

This summer we launched a crowdfunder appeal to help secure the future of Whitchurch Silk Mill and protect one of the UK's rarest heritage crafts. Donations will support the maintenance of our historic looms and help us continue training future generations of silk weavers. We are one of the very few places in the country where traditional silk weaving skills are still practised every day.

As the UK's oldest working silk mill, we bring history to life through the sights and sounds of working Victorian machinery and the expertise of our weaving team. Income from visitors, retail sales and events helps support our work, but additional funding is vital if we are to preserve these irreplaceable skills for the future.

The crowdfunder appeal runs until 20 September. To support the campaign, visit: crowdfunder.co.uk/p/keep-britains-silk-weaving-heritage-alive.

Upcoming workshops and experiences

September offers several opportunities to learn new skills and discover more about the mill.

On 8 September, visitors can join our exclusive silk production tour, a behind-the-scenes experience exploring the weaving process and the stories of those who have worked at the mill. Booking is

essential.

Creative workshops during the month include a beginner's crochet workshop (12 September), a sea glass pendant workshop (14 September), a two-day beginner's weaving course (24 - 25 September), and a corn dolly workshop exploring a traditional rural craft (26 September). Full details and booking information are available on our website.

Could you help shape the future of the mill?

We are currently seeking a volunteer trustee with legal knowledge or experience to join our board. We welcome interest from people with legal expertise in the broadest sense, whether qualified professionals, trainees or those who have worked in legal environments.

Trustees help ensure that the charity remains well governed, sustainable and ambitious in its plans for the future. Previous trustee experience is not required, and we would be delighted to have an informal conversation with anyone interested in learning more.

For information about events, volunteering opportunities and the latest mill news, visit our website or contact us: 01256 892065, info@whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk, whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk

Sue Tapliss





The Story behind Crosswords

Crosswords aren't only about fun and killing time! Compiler and editor of crosswords, Susan Purcell talks about their history, tricks to solving them and why intelligence services are interested in them.

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Young Oakley



Hello from St Leonard's Preschool

Many of you will already know that Caroline, Lead Teacher and Manager at St Leonard's Preschool, has hung up her painting apron, closed her Nursery Rhymes piano tunes, and begun the wonderfully busy adventure of retirement.

As Caroline passes on the baton, I am delighted to be joining St Leonard's Preschool as Preschool Teacher and Team Leader. It is a privilege to become part of a preschool with such a strong reputation for *Learning through fun and friendship*, and I am excited to support the children and families of Oakley as they learn, grow and flourish.

This role feels especially meaningful to me. Twenty-two years ago, as newcomers to the village, St Leonard's Preschool was one of the first places where our family was welcomed and made to feel part of the community. Our youngest son began his learning journey here, gaining not only a love of learning but friendships that have lasted into adulthood. It is a wonderful reminder of the lasting impact these early years can have.

As I begin this new chapter, I look forward to getting to know the children, families and dedicated team who make St Leonard's such a special place. My

hope is to build on the excellent work already established, continuing to create a nurturing environment where children feel safe, valued and inspired to explore.

Alongside the wonderful practice already in place, I hope to bring fresh ideas that spark curiosity, encourage confidence and make the most of both our indoor and outdoor learning spaces.

I look forward to welcoming both new and returning families in September and to becoming part of this wonderful community. Together, we can continue to give every child the very best start to their learning journey.

Silvia Brown



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Pause For Thought



New Beginnings

There is something about September that feels like the real New Year. The garden begins to quieten, the mornings are a little fresher and, across the village, children set off in smart uniforms, carrying bags almost as big as they are.

For many, the start of a new school year brings the excitement of seeing friends after the summer holidays, sharing stories and discovering what the year ahead might hold. For some, it will be a very first day at school; for others, another step towards growing up and becoming more independent.

This September feels a little different for me personally. As well as welcoming children back to school, I will be watching my own son begin university. It is an exciting new chapter for him, full of possibilities, new friendships and challenges. But it also marks a new beginning for me. With all my children now at university or beyond, for the first time in many years the house will be noticeably quieter during term time.

There is excitement in that, but also a little sadness. We spend so many years preparing our children to become independent that it can be strange

when they actually do! We encourage them to step out with courage and make their own way — and then discover that we have to learn how to let them go.

Perhaps that is the thing about new beginnings: they rarely belong to just one person. One person's new beginning can create a new beginning for those around them too.

At our school we talk about three values: Courage, Respect and Grace. They are qualities we hope to nurture in our children, but they are just as important for us as adults. It takes courage to embrace change, respect to allow others to follow their own path and grace to accept that none of us gets everything right.

As a Christian, I find reassurance in the words of Lamentations: God's mercies are "new every morning". Each day offers the possibility of beginning again, whatever yesterday may have held.

So, as September unfolds, perhaps we can all embrace the gift of a fresh start. May we approach the months ahead with courage, kindness and hope, remembering that every new chapter begins with the grace of a new beginning.

Naomi Sworder

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HCC Candovers Oakley and Overton Councillor Report Juliet Henderson Councillor Grant Scheme

My devolved Budget is now open for applications. Please email me should you wish to apply. This is for community groups in my division.

M3 Junction 9 and M27 works

National Highways' M3 Junction 9 improvement scheme has required repeated overnight and full-weekend closures. The most significant change is the closure of the Junction 9 northbound entry slip road from 31 July until winter 2027. Three full-weekend closures were also announced for 31 July - 3 August, 21 - 24 August and 11 - 14 September, affecting the A34, A33, A272, Easton Lane and all Junction 9 slip roads.

These are National Highways works rather than Hampshire County Council works, but the diversion traffic affects Hampshire residents and local roads. Drivers should allow extra time and follow signed diversions rather than satnav routes through unsuitable villages.

On the M27, the temporary 50 mph restriction between Junctions 5 and 7 was removed, although final overnight activity and later verge and road-marking work continued during July and August.

Reporting Highway Problems

Links to report road issues are here:

Potholes: hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem/potholes

Tree/hedge problems: hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem/treehedge

Flooding/drainage issues: hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem/flooding

Pavement problems: hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem/paving

Broken or missing signs: hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem/brokensigns

Faulty street lights: hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem/streetlight

Faded or missing road markings: hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem/road-markings

Problems with rights of way: hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/rightsofway/reportaproblem

When reporting an issue, you'll be sent an email confirming a reference number for the report. If you would like me to follow this up for you then do please forward that message to me and I will chase for you.

Hampshire's water resources under pressure

After an exceptionally dry spring, reported rainfall is only 57% of the long-term average in March, 27% in April and 60% in May. A Temporary Use Ban

therefore came into force across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight on 10 July.

Residents were asked not to use hosepipes for watering gardens, washing cars, filling paddling pools or cleaning patios and other outdoor surfaces. Exemptions are available for some customers on the Priority Services Register and WaterSure scheme.

Local government reorganisation must protect adult social care

The Care Quality Commission's national report on adult social care should be a warning for Hampshire. It found that strong local leadership is central to people's care experience and highlighted risks around prevention, safeguarding, unpaid carers, assessments and young people's transition from children's to adult services.

Adult social care cannot simply be moved around an organisational chart. It depends on local knowledge, trusted relationships and clear accountability between councils, the NHS, care providers, voluntary organisations, carers, families and the people who draw on support. If reorganisation absorbs senior attention, drains capacity or disrupts care partnerships, older people, disabled people, unpaid carers and families will feel the consequences first.

Hampshire County Council has sought a full and transparent explanation of how and why the Government chose a five-unitary model, including the financial case. Before the county is locked into a new structure for decades, residents deserve evidence that it is financially sustainable and capable of protecting vital services.

The future of policing

The Government is considering significant changes to policing in England and Wales, including possible mergers into much larger regional organisations. Hampshire and the Isle of Wight contain distinct urban, rural, coastal and island communities. Effective policing depends on local knowledge, responsiveness and accountability. Larger and more remote structures risk weakening the voice of individual communities.

Police and Crime Commissioner Donna Jones launched a short consultation so residents could express their views before decisions are made which may reshape local policing for many years.

Juliet Henderson

Barry Hare

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What's on Where Guide (part 2) – A guide to activities & clubs for ageing adults in and around Basingstoke – provided by Home Instead, Basingstoke, who cannot take responsibility for any errors or amendments to activities listed.

Service/Event	When	Time	Venue	Phone	Email/website
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Crisis Support, Samaritans	daily	24 hrs	Telephone service	116 123	n/a
Day Care, Audleys Day Centre	By arrangement	By arrangement	Alton Rd, Cliddesden	01256 326404	info@audleycare.co.uk
Day Care, Newnham Court Resource Centre	By arrangement	By arrangement	Newnham Court, Barber Rd, Basingstoke	01256 403154	newmancourt@apexprinercare.co.uk
Day Care, Tadley Elderly Day Centre	By arrangement	By arrangement	Ambrose Allen Centre, 2 Franklin Ave, Tadley	07501 406573	info@tadleyelderlydaycare.co.uk
Dementia Support. Let's Sing for Memories	3 rd Wed of month	14:00 – 15:30	Home Instead at Milestones Museum, Basingstoke	01256 840660	community@basingstoke.homeinstead.co.uk
Exercise. Let's Move Seated Mobility	Tuesdays	14:00 – 15:30	Home Instead at The Village Hall, Sherfield on Loddon	01256 840660	community@basingstoke.homeinstead.co.uk
Exercise. Let's Move Seated Mobility	Wednesdays	10:30 – 12:00	Home Instead at The Village Hall, Silchester	01256 840660	community@basingstoke.homeinstead.co.uk
Foot Health	By arrangement	By arrangement	Mobile service – comes to you	07990 574679	mmarlowfoothealth@gmail.com
Handy person	By arrangement	By arrangement	Mobile service – comes to you	01256 423857	info@neighbourcare.com
Lunch Club, Eastrop	Alternate Weds	12:00 – 14:00	St Mary's Church, Goat Lane, Eastrop	01256 464249	info@stmarys-basingstoke.org.uk
Lunch Club, Popley	Thursdays	10:30 – 14:30	St Gabriels Church, Tewkesbury Close, Basingstoke	07720 680403	francesca.wildash@mha.org
Lunch Club, Popley Fields	1 st & 3 rd Thurs of month	10:00 – 14:30	Community Centre, Carpenters Down, Basingstoke	01256 423857	info@neighbourcare.com
Lunch Club, Sherfield on Loddon	Monday	10:30 – 14:30	Village Hall, Sherfield Green	01256 882534	admin@sherfieldvillagehall.co.uk
Lunch Club, Tadley	Tuesdays	10:00 – 13:00	Ambrose Allen Centre, 2 Franklin Ave, Tadley	07356 275534	tadleylunchclub@hotmail.com
Lunch Club, Westside	Monday	12:00 – 14:00	Kings Café, Kings Rd, South Ham	01256 470665	seniorccwestside@outlook.com
Memory Club, Viabes	Fridays	By arrangement	Community Centre, Harrow Way	01256 473634	office@viabes.org.uk
Memory Lounge, reminiscing 1960's	By arrangement	10:30 – 12:00	Milestones Museum, Leisure Park	01256 639550	milestonesmuseum@hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk

Letters

Miracles do happen

Sunday this week I asked my neighbour which dentist they used. It was many years ago that I last sat through a major extraction, and having been a war-time baby we were renowned for bad teeth, all down to the lack of medication, orange juice, milk and the rest. Playing clarinet, the embouchure of the mouth is quite critical and over the 50 years mine had ceased to be so.

During that Sunday evening I got in to an email conversation with a receptionist - oh, how things have changed - and to my surprise got an appointment for the following day at 12:30 pm. On the dot I was lying back in the dentist's chair and twenty minutes later I was on the way home having had my last two roots extracted. In this day and age that has to be a miracle, and on the NHS too!

Graeme Hewitt

Dear customers

Please note the changes in our business below:

With effect from 31 July 2026, Main Computer Systems Limited will cease trading. However, for your future computer repairs and servicing, we recommend:

Main Computers, 37 Kingsmill Road, Basingstoke, RG21 3JU

If you have any queries, please do contact us.

Regards

*Pardeep Seehra, www.laptopsrepair.co.uk,
pardeeps@maincomputers.net*

OAKLEY RAMBLERS 1976 - 2026

Are you are a current, or past, member?

Are you interested in becoming a member?

Oakley Ramblers Club committee warmly invite you to a

50th Anniversary Walk and Lunch

on

Sunday 13th September 2026

Barley Mow, Oakley

A walk of approx. 5 miles will set off from Barley Mow car park at 10.30, returning by 12.45.

Current and past members are all very welcome to join us for our celebratory lunch at the Barley Mow for a, mostly warm, buffet with cold salad at 12.45 for 13.00.

Cost of approx. £10-£14, to be confirmed at end August

For more details and to book a place please visit our website

www.oakleyramblers.org

We look forward to seeing you!

Free Ads

*All entries should be sent in writing to Maureen Dallaway, by **15 September 2026** 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*

Girls/Ladies bicycle found in alleyway next to Kennet Way park. Please call 077 699 78243.

Space Saver spare wheel & tyre Together with Jack & Tools. New & unused. Size: T 125/80 R 15 95 M For Kia Venga - May fit other models. Brand: Continental. 5 stud fitting. £40. Tel: 0797 474 0784

A large quantity of various grey & yellow **Lego blocks**, figures, bases and supportive pieces which includes, doors, window, horses & vehicles, etc. Now needing a new home. They fill 4 large food storage pots and come in multiple sizes. Free. Tel 07722 957057

John Lewis cake tins - set of 3 - Christmas/Autumn theme - unused. No obligation, inspection welcome. Can deliver locally. £15. tel. 07879 467242

Pheasant design **vintage bone china tea service** set. 34 items: small tea pot, serving plate, milk jug, sugar bowl, 12 tea cups, 12 saucers, 6 side plates. No obligation, inspection welcome. Can deliver locally. £35. tel. 07879 467242

Vintage Kennedy Space Centre tour brochure, 9 large cards and leaflet (brought back from visit to Florida in 1986) No obligation, inspection welcome. Can deliver locally. £10. tel. 07879 467242

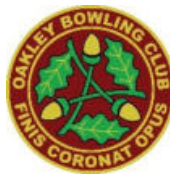
Ladies bike - needs some TLC £10 07758 371320

Universal car dog guard - hardly used £10 07758 371320

Oakley Bowling Club News

Congratulations to Sue Dixon and Janie Vickers who lifted the County Golden Pairs, a title they won previously in 2023. Oakley's successful run in County finals now extends back to 2017.

Success has come also in District Competitions. Steve Devonish and Rolf Denny will contest the Whitchurch and District Singles Final whilst Martin Vickers will feature in the Basingstoke and District Singles Final, the Pairs with Steve and the Two Bowl Triples with Steve and Sean Lassman. Laura Butler is in the North Hampshire Women's Two Bowl Final.



In team events, we have reached the quarter final of the County Mixed Top Club event and Oakley Ladies, in a thrilling finish, became the Ladies League Champions.

More good news is the receipt of a £500 grant from the Basingstoke and Deane Borough Councillors Grant Scheme that has enabled us to buy a new mower to cut the grass areas surrounding the green. Thanks go to our local councillors – Cllr Connor and Cllr Rowley – who supported us in being awarded the funding.

Bowls at Oakley is not just about competitive matches.

Throughout the summer we maintain our social bowling programme with friendly matches against local and not so local clubs. Recent highlights have been a trip to Windsor Great Park to play the Royal Household and a first visit from the Ilminster Club in Somerset. Our drives on Monday afternoon remain well supported and on Tuesday and Thursday we have begun our popular Yardstick Evenings,

Did watching the medal successes of our bowlers at the Commonwealth Games make you think about trying bowls? Then phone Spencer on 07803 905887 or Diane on 01256 781465. They will be happy to show you our facilities and explain all we have to offer. More information can be found at www.oakleybc.org.uk.

Spencer Kerley

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Walking



Oakley Ramblers

At the end of July we set off by bus to Whitchurch where we walked along the Test & Dever Way towards Longparish, passing the outskirts of Tufton. There were lots of opportunities to walk near the River Test, pausing to enjoy the peace and quiet and search for trout.

Walking at a steady pace we arrived in Longparish



where we stopped in the churchyard for a short break. Back on the route, we continued along a variety of paths before starting to hear traffic on the A303. However we soon headed away from this and back into the countryside en route to Picket Twenty, Andover. Arriving in Andover in good time, we enjoyed an ice cream before walking to the bus stop for the return journey to Oakley.

In mid-August we set off early to enjoy an eight-mile circular walk from Cheriton before the

temperatures soared. We walked through the village and on to a footpath which took us up to open fields and the Wayfarers Walk which we followed towards Hinton Ampner, passing the National Trust property and enjoying views across open countryside.

We headed on to Kilmeston where we joined the South Downs Way and met up with another walker who was on his way to the Boomtown festival. On reaching Holden Farm we stopped for a welcome break and refreshments before completing the final two miles back to Cheriton where we had drinks and lunch in the Flower Pots Inn.

Oakley Ramblers is a friendly group which welcomes visitors. Our planned walks for September are on the 6th, 9th and 27th, plus a special event on Sunday 13 September to celebrate our 50th anniversary to which all are invited. This event will be a walk of approximately five miles, followed by a buffet lunch at the Barley Mow. Visit our website to book.

Find us on Facebook or visit our website for more information about our walks and our anniversary event - www.oakleyramblers.org.

Corrine Thomas

Woodland wellbeing walks, September

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, 8 Sept 10 am - Pond ☉ B
Tuesday, 15 Sept 10 am - St John's Rd lay-by R
Tuesday, 22 Sept 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]

Barbara Robson



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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 Jeffries	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

Church of England

St Leonard's (Oakley)
St Lawrence (Wootton)
All Saints (Deane)
Website: 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
Contact for Deane - Deidre Cole 781495

Methodist

Chapel by the pond
Hill Road
Website: www.bhbccircuit.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
Jolly Olly's - 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 11th June 2026

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