

# Link

October 2026



Oakley & Deane

# FIREWORKS DISPLAY

**Sunday 1 November 2026**

**Newfound Sports Ground**

**4.30pm gates open - 6pm fireworks**

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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](http://oakleylink.org.uk)

Please e-mail copy to: [editor@oakleylink.org.uk](mailto:editor@oakleylink.org.uk)

or post to 8 Caithness Close, Oakley, RG23 7NG

**Deadline for November issue: 15 October**

### Editorial

Many thanks to our advertisers, both old and new, at the beginning of Link's advertising year. Also to Bruce for all his work in communicating with you all, designing your ad in some cases, and laying out the advertising pages. We still have space for more ads, so please contact Bruce if you would like to appear in Link.

Link is delivered to every house in Oakley and surrounding communities and most of the content is provided by local residents, so read with interest by fellow villagers (not produced by AI!).

Remember to purchase your tickets in advance (from 1 October) for Oakley's fireworks display on 1 November, see front cover for details.

*Chris Wassell*



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Supporting your needs for transport to  
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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 number 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.

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Oakley Community Care is a registered charity (no. 1141188)

|                       |                  |               |                                                                                  |
|-----------------------|------------------|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Editorial Team</b> | Chris Wassell    | 01256 781923  | <a href="mailto:editor@oakleylink.org.uk">editor@oakleylink.org.uk</a>           |
|                       | Maureen Dallaway | 01256 780788  | <a href="mailto:maureen@oakleylink.org.uk">maureen@oakleylink.org.uk</a>         |
|                       | Ann Davis        | 07810 316413  | <a href="mailto:anndavis48@hotmail.com">anndavis48@hotmail.com</a>               |
|                       | Christine Savage | 01256 780711  | <a href="mailto:christine@oakleylink.org.uk">christine@oakleylink.org.uk</a>     |
|                       | John Glasscock   | 07803 336962  | <a href="mailto:john@oakleylink.org.uk">john@oakleylink.org.uk</a>               |
|                       | Peter Hayman     | 07771 690639  | <a href="mailto:peter@oakleylink.org.uk">peter@oakleylink.org.uk</a>             |
| <b>Secretary</b>      | Murray Simmons   | 01256 782916  | <a href="mailto:murraysimmons@hotmail.com">murraysimmons@hotmail.com</a>         |
| <b>Advertising</b>    | Bruce Wassell    | 01256 781923  | <a href="mailto:advertising@oakleylink.org.uk">advertising@oakleylink.org.uk</a> |
| <b>Distribution</b>   | Paul Davis       | 07714 276 561 | <a href="mailto:paul@oakleylink.org.uk">paul@oakleylink.org.uk</a>               |
| <b>Finance</b>        | Paul Davis       | 07714 276 561 | <a href="mailto:paul@oakleylink.org.uk">paul@oakleylink.org.uk</a>               |



## Report from the Parish Council

**A**s we head into autumn, we would like to share some upcoming events and Parish Council updates with residents.

Looking ahead to November, the annual Oakley Community Association fireworks display will take place on Sunday 1 November at Newfound Sports Ground. This family-friendly event is a great opportunity for the community to come together and enjoy an evening of celebration. Gates will open at 4:30 pm, with the fireworks starting at 6 pm. Details regarding tickets will be shared directly by the Oakley Community Association.

The Oakley Act of Remembrance will take place on Sunday 8 November at 10:45 am at St. John's Garden of Remembrance. All are warmly invited to join us as we remember and honour those who have served. Refreshments will be available following the service.

Thank you to everyone who has submitted nominations for new bus shelters as part of the grant opportunity. Our councillors are looking into this further, and all nominations received are being considered. We will provide further updates as the project progresses.

We are also currently exploring ideas for outdoor gym and fitness equipment at Kennet Way Park, looking at different options that could benefit residents and encourage outdoor activity.

As we begin moving into the budget-setting process, we would welcome suggestions from the community. If there is anything you would like the Parish Council to consider for the coming year, please do get in touch and let us know.

Our weekly Coffee and Chat continues every Thursday from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm at Newfound Pavilion. Residents are welcome to drop in to speak with members of the Parish council or simply enjoy a drink and a chat with fellow members of the community.

Thank you for your continued support and involvement. Further updates will be shared through the Parish Council Facebook page and local noticeboards.

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

## TOPS ride again

It's that time of year when thoughts begin to turn to Christmas and, yes, Pantomime! (Oh yes, they do!) So, you will be pleased to know that TOPS (The Oakley Pantomime Society) are busy rehearsing (between glasses of wine) learning lines (fat chance!)



and generally gearing up for their next production, "Babes in Red Riding Hoods". If you haven't been to one of our spectacles before, now is the time to make up for lost time. Our regular supporters, (and yes, we do have them,) say Christmas starts with the TOPS Panto, so why not join them and get your Christmas off to a TOPS inspired flying start? See our poster on page 6.

*Ann Davis*

## Changes waste collections from October 2026

The Borough Council are updating how often your bins are collected to help meet national recycling targets and reduce waste going to landfill.

**What's changing?** From October, your **black/grey waste bin** will move to a **fortnightly collection**. This means your **rubbish bin will be collected one week and your recycling bin the next**. **Food waste collections stay weekly**.

### At a glance:

- **Food waste caddy** — Every week
- **Green recycling bin** — Every two weeks\*
- **Green glass box / red glass bin** — Every two weeks
- **Black/grey waste bin** — Every two weeks\*
- **Brown garden waste bin** (subscribers) — Every two weeks

\*Rubbish and recycling will be collected on **alternate weeks**.

**Your collection day may change.** You should have received **leaflets and calendars arriving in September** with your new dates. You'll also be able to check your collection day online from September.

**Why the change?** The Borough Council must halve the amount of waste we collect by 2042 and increase recycling from 30% to 65% by 2035. Over 40% of what currently goes into black/grey bins could be recycled using our kerbside services or local recycling sites.

The Borough Council now offer weekly food waste collections, fortnightly recycling and glass collections, a paid-for garden waste service, and six council-owned **recycling sites** for small electricals, textiles, footwear, foil and mixed plastics.

**Let's recycle more, waste less, and protect our borough for the future.**



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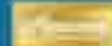
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**ST JOHN'S FIELD**  
**ST JOHN'S ROAD OAKLEY**

**FURTHER DETAILS INCLUDING HOW TO BOOK A STALL TO FOLLOW**



[www.oakley.org.uk](http://www.oakley.org.uk)

**TOPS**

The Oakley Pantomime Society presents

**Babes in Red Riding Hoods**

**Friday 4 December 7:30pm**  
**Saturday 5 December 2:30pm and 7:30pm**

Bring your own drinks  
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Tickets £8 (18 and under £6)  
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# Village



## BDDF Accessible Art Group

We are running our popular accessible art club held at Proteus Creation Space, Council Road, Basingstoke, RG21 3DH sessions are free and run from 10:30 am—12 pm (arrival from 10 am) Fun monthly meetings giving an ideal opportunity to meet new people and learn some new skills. Next session is Thursday 8th October. For more information please contact office@bddf.org.uk or call 01256 423869



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All Welcome

**PARISH COUNCILLOR Chat Sessions**  
WITH OAKLEY AND DEANE PARISH COUNCIL

Come along for an informal chat with your Parish Councillor. We spend just great conversations about our community.

| MONTH     | DATE | TIME      | LOCATION    |
|-----------|------|-----------|-------------|
| May       | 26th | 7-8.30 PM | Bailey Wood |
| June      | 26th | 1-2.30 PM | July 01st   |
| July      | 28th | 7-8.30 PM | Bailey Wood |
| August    | 25th | 1-2.30 PM | July 01st   |
| September | 28th | 7-8.30 PM | Bailey Wood |
| October   | 27th | 1-2.30 PM | July 01st   |
| December  | —    | —         | —           |
| January   | 26th | 1-2.30 PM | July 01st   |
| February  | 23rd | 7-8.30 PM | Bailey Wood |
| March     | 30th | 1-2.30 PM | July 01st   |
| April     | 27th | 7-8.30 PM | Bailey Wood |
| May       | 25th | 1-2.30 PM | July 01st   |

*We look forward to seeing you!*

Have your say | Share ideas | Help shape our future

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

# Pause For Thought



For our holiday this year, we went to the beautiful, (largely) unspoilt county of Northumberland, where we enjoyed the rolling countryside, the huge, unpopulated beaches and the open roads where we often found ourselves without another vehicle in sight. We also went to a number of English Heritage and National Trust properties – something we always love doing.

One property we particularly enjoyed was Cragside, a lovely house in fantastic gardens and a technological marvel of the Victorian era. The home of William Armstrong (of Vickers-Armstrong and other Armstrong business fame) it was the first house in the world (so we were told) to have electric lighting. From a young age Armstrong was fascinated by harnessing water power. He started with hydraulic systems in docks and moved on from there to build the swing bridge on the Tyne in Newcastle as well as the equipment to raise the roadway on Tower Bridge. He also used water power to generate the electricity

he needed, as well as to drive various other inventions within the house and beyond. A far-sighted and brilliant engineer, he created Cragside and its innovations, as well as building a business empire that would last well into the future.

The name of the estate gives a clue as to its location. As you see the house, it appears to grow out of a rocky crag, almost like an extension to the rock itself. As I saw the building, I was instantly reminded of Jesus' words about "a wise man who built his house on the rock". When the wind and rain came (as it certainly does in Northumberland!) the house stood firm because of its foundations. Armstrong was, it seems, a wise builder of his house.

Jesus began his word-picture with the words, "everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man ...". We may not be house builders, but we can all build our lives wisely if we choose to do so.

*John Thurston*

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## **Hampshire County Councillor Report Candovers, Oakley and Overton Division Children and Young People - A new three-year plan for SEND support**

**H**ampshire County Council and NHS Hampshire and Isle of Wight have developed a new three-year plan with parent and carer forums, schools, education settings, health and social-care professionals and voluntary organisations. The aim is that every child receives the right support at the right time, wherever they live in Hampshire.

The plan includes:

- Earlier access to locally based specialists, including educational psychologists, occupational therapists, speech and language therapists and specialist teachers.
- More SEND provision in mainstream schools and greater consistency from early years through to age 25.
- Investment in local provision so more children can attend school in their own communities.
- A stronger voice for children, parents and carers in shaping services and resolving issues earlier.

Government funding of £9 million will help launch the new Experts at Hand service, giving education settings faster access to specialist support and advice. The plan is an important starting point, but success must be measured by the real experiences and outcomes of children and families.

### **Results-day support through Hampshire Futures**

I wished everyone receiving A-level results well and shared Hampshire Futures advice for anyone whose results were not what they expected. A disappointing set of grades does not close off the future: careers advice, employment, apprenticeships and alternative routes remain available, and Plan B is still a plan. Careers information: [hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/hampshirefutures](https://hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/hampshirefutures)

### **Highways Information - New Forest wildfire and the A31 closure**

A vehicle fire near Poulner Hill on 9 August spread into the central reservation and surrounding New Forest heathland. The A31 was closed in both directions between the M27 and Ringwood while firefighters tackled the incident and National Highways assessed and repaired the road. More than 120 firefighters were involved during the response. A five-mile water pipeline supplied around 1,300 litres of water a minute, while police drones helped crews monitor hotspots and flare-ups.

After almost two weeks, the A31 reopened. The reopening was a major relief for residents, businesses and motorists. My sincere thanks go to Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service, the crews

who came from across the country, National Highways, Forestry England, the police, council teams, commoners, volunteers and everyone who supported the response.

### **County Councillor Grants Scheme reopens**

Hampshire County Council's County Councillor Grants Scheme reopened on 1 July. Each County Councillor has an annual budget of £5,000 to support worthwhile projects in their division, with grants generally available from £100 to £1,000. The scheme can support not-for-profit organisations and community groups, including youth and sports activities, village halls, social-support projects, environmental and outdoor initiatives and equipment such as defibrillators.

If you wish to apply as a community group, with a suitable project please review the guidance and contact me. Applications will be considered against the scheme criteria and the benefit they can provide to residents. Full details and the application form:

[hants.gov.uk/](https://hants.gov.uk/)

News/20260626MembersGrantsScheme.

*Juliet Henderson*

### **Plan for new councils withdrawn by government**

The government announced Monday 7 September that it has withdrawn its March decision on local government reorganisation in Hampshire. It said the move follows legal advice and will allow a review of the evidence, including how proposals align with the new government's ambitions.

Responding to the news, the Leader of Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council Cllr Paul Harvey said: "It is deeply disappointing the government has decided to withdraw its decision for local government reorganisation in Hampshire. Having asked councils and communities to invest time and effort in planning for significant change, it has now withdrawn a decision it made only 28 weeks ago. There is no excuse for the government's mishandling of this process.

"This announcement came without warning and we will carefully review the detail of the ministerial statement as we seek answers on what this means for the future of local councils.

"We believe in our proposal for North Hampshire because it gets the balance right. Close enough to be connected to our communities, but large enough to stay strong. Any proposal for a larger council covering more of Hampshire would be wrong for our area.

"Our focus will remain on protecting high-quality services for residents and securing a future council capable of delivering the modern, sustainable services that residents deserve. We will continue to stand up for our communities."

*Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council*

# Letters

## Dear Editor

Further to my photographs of the tractor I went to the trouble to find out exactly what was being achieved by its action by driving to Battle Down Farm - assuming they might be able to tell me what they were doing. There starts the saga.

It's a long drive turning left just before the railway bridge in Pack Lane, a very long single track road, half a mile or more, to some farm-like buildings but not a tractor in sight. All the barns are rented out to industrial companies and the only man we came across was painting steel girders and he was amazingly helpful, except that he told us that there was no-one there, even at the main farmhouse, who had anything to do with the farm. One big disappointment.

We turned to leave and, heading in our direction up this one lane track, was a very large lorry but, in front of us, about to be crushed, was a poorly pigeon. I leapt out of our car, held my hand up, in the hope that the lorry would stop, and then spent a short while trying to pick this pigeon up. It was capable of hopping but clearly in no fit state to fly. It was a scary moment, made worse by the fact another ten ton lorry was also heading our way. The driver of the first lorry descended from his cab, seeing the problem and gently cradled our poorly bird said, "I'm a country boy and it would seem that to put this pigeon out of

its misery would be the best solution." But even he did not have the heart, so he walked quite a distance, leaving his monster of a lorry, to find a hole in the hedge where he could leave our wounded bird to its own devices. All this because I was trying to find out



*A train races past as a field on the outskirts of the village gets it Autumnal rolling*

what that tractor in the field was doing.

I finally sent the photograph to Manydown Estate with a request for an explanation - but they haven't replied yet.

*Graeme Hewitt*



*Winner of Oakley's Best Allotment category from The Village Show in August - Plot 5 Canterbury Gardens - Tomasz Soga*

# Church News



## Methodist Church coffee morning

All welcome at the Methodist Church coffee morning on Tuesday 13 October and Tuesday 27 October from 10:30am 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.

*Tricia Kinchington*



Come light a candle, reflect and pray as we remember our loved ones by name

**Everyone Welcome**

Followed by tea & cakes in the St Leonard's Centre

St Leonard's Church & Centre  
Wentworth Road, Oakley RG23 7ED



## Feature



**W**ow—how time has flown since I took over Jolly Olly's on 1 August! A **huge thank you** to everyone, especially my

customers, for making me feel so welcome.

We've had some amazing weather this year, and lots more people have been getting out for a walk in the sunshine. Why not make Jolly Olly's the last stop on your afternoon stroll or ramble and treat yourself to a hot drink and a slice of cake?

Our **October special offer** is here! From 2 pm, enjoy a pot of tea or a regular coffee with cake for just £5.

During the **school half term**, we're planning a children's "Crafternoon" on Thursday 29 October, featuring a **Wizards Wand Workshop**. Places are limited, so book your little one in early to avoid disappointment.

Our **"Community Corner"** is still going strong in the coffee shop, with a variety of items for sale and all proceeds going to charity, including:

- Handmade knitted items for sale (all made by the knitting group who come and meet on a Saturday) – Any donations of wool gratefully received and can be

handed in at the coffee shop

- Handmade Cards
- Book Exchange

Are you part of a local club that meets regularly? Why not come and give us a try? I'm looking forward to meeting even more of you over the coming month.

*Debbie*

32 Oakley Lane, Oakley RG23 7JY (01256 782658)





## Repeat Prescriptions - Only order what you need

Approximately 2.5 million medicines are wasted annually across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight each year and you can play an important part in reducing this.

### Why is this important?

#### Stay Well

Unused medicines expire and may well become less effective leading to compromised care. Stockpiling medicines worsens drug shortages.

#### Stay Safe

Stockpiles of medicines kept at home can be dangerous for children and pets. Medicines are only prescribed for you and for safety's sake should not be shared with anyone else.

#### Stay Green

Only ordering what you need means that you are helping the environment because once medicines have left the pharmacy, they cannot be recycled or used by anyone else.

Any unused medication can be handed back to the pharmacy to be disposed of correctly. Just binning them at home means they can pollute our river and waterways.

## Only order what you need to tackle medicines waste

Repeat prescriptions can be managed through the NHS App but please check what you have at home before you order more. App requests may need up to 5 working days to be safely processed but if you don't have access to the app, you can still use paper prescriptions.

Our website also allows requesting repeat prescription (not to be used for acute/one-off requests): [watershipdownhealth.com/services/managing-your-health-online/online-forms/repeat-prescription-request/](http://watershipdownhealth.com/services/managing-your-health-online/online-forms/repeat-prescription-request/)

### Flu Update:

Please call the practice if you are eligible for a flu vaccination as we have some appointments left. You can also check the practice website or call 119 where you can find an appointment that will be most convenient to you.

### GP Triage

GP Triage is available from 07:00 Monday to Friday. On Bank Holidays, out of hours or on the four afternoon training sessions we have per year,

111 is the best option. Our reception team will continue to be available between 08:00 and 18:30 hrs Monday to Friday, for queries and other appointments should you not be able to access the practice online.

Please note if you do not have electronic means or are unable to manage digital solutions, do make this known to our reception team at the outset of all conversations 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](http://watershipdownhealth.com)

### NHS App Update

An NHS App help clinic run by the PPG will be held on 6 October 2026 at the Oakley Surgery, Sainfoin Lane, Oakley RG23 7HZ, 9 – 11 am for patients registered with Watership Down Health.

### Patient Survey

Please be aware that at our flu clinics on the 3 and 10 October 2026, members of the PPG will be assisting us with a short survey on our telephone system and website. We value any community feedback and your participation will be both gratefully received and very helpful.

The full newsletter is available at: [watershipdownhealth.com/surgery-information/](http://watershipdownhealth.com/surgery-information/)



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## Basingstoke and Area Ostomates support group

**D**espite Basingstoke hospital having an excellent reputation for gastroenterological surgery, Basingstoke itself has no support group for Ostomates. This means that many patients being discharged from Basingstoke Hospital having had a life-saving operation to give them a stoma due to cancer and other issues or (as in my case) just simple emergency surgery for a blood clot, receive little help or support.

This means that many of those who do not enjoy a support network of family and friends retreat into a life of isolation and seclusion. Withdrawing from society and all activities that we all take for granted and are basic part of human life. To try to redress this balance, I am attempting to set-up a self-help, face to face support group for Ostomates living within or

around Basingstoke.

This group is open to those with any type of stoma (Ileostomy, Colostomy & Urostomy) their partners and those who may be scheduled for such surgery in their future. We aim to be totally inclusive, providing a safe and relaxed environment that will allow open and honest discussion, exchange of tips, hints and personal experiences between fellow Ostomates, both recent and experienced.

At the moment we have no funding for this group and I am currently paying all its start-up expenses myself, until such time as funding can be obtained. For that to happen, I need to demonstrate that there is a need for such a group and, with over 80 Ostomates in the area, (according to Colostomy UK), I believe that there is.

***So, are you an Ostomate? Do you know someone who lives with an Ostomy pouch?***

Basingstoke now has its own Ostomates Support group. Meeting every third Thursday of the month between 16:00 and 18:30 at the Apollo Hotel, Aldermaston Road, Basingstoke. Anyone living with a Stoma, their partners/friends and those who may be facing such surgery in the future for reasons such as Bowel Cancer, Colitis, Crohn's, blood clots or other traumas are welcome. We offer free refreshments, regular presentations on related subjects, a raffle and even an occasional short (but very gentle) exercise session. For further information, follow us on Facebook, search for Basingstoke and Area Ostomates.

Derek Western

# YOU ARE NOT ALONE...

Join Our Local Ostomate Community

A WARM WELCOME AWAITS:

## BASINGSTOKE & AREA OSTOMATES SUPPORT GROUP

More than 200,000 people in the UK live with a stoma, yet many feel isolated, misunderstood, or dismissed. You often, degree and discomfort push Ostomates into withdrawing from social activities and community life.

**Are you an Ostomate, or do you know someone who is?**

A new face-to-face support group is now running in the Basingstoke area, offering a safe, friendly place for most ostomates, share experiences, and find support.

**MONTHLY MEETINGS**  
Every 3rd Thursday of the Month

**LOCATION**  
Apollo Hotel, The London Rooms

**DETAILS**  
Details shared in our Facebook group

**TIME**  
16:00 to 18:00

\* Please note, this is an inclusive and relaxed environment. There is no obligation to pay the full charges of the meetings.

**WHAT YOU WILL FIND:**

- A welcoming, inclusive space to talk openly
- Peer support from people who truly understand
- Refreshments
- Occasional presentations from product representatives

**WE WELCOME**  
all ostomates, partners, family members and those potentially requiring stoma surgery

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT:

Scan the QR code to visit our Facebook group and find out more.

Find us on **Facebook**  
Search: Basingstoke & Area Ostomates Support Group

**WANT TO KNOW MORE?**  
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# Health Matters



## Coeliac UK North Hampshire Group Basingstoke – Trampoline Park and Soft Play

Save the date for our next visit to Atmosphere trampoline park. More details to follow - please keep an eye on our social media (below) or contact us [northhampshire@coeliac.org.uk](mailto:northhampshire@coeliac.org.uk)

Sat 10 October Atmosphere Trampoline Park Basingstoke, Daneshill Industrial Estate, Rutherford Rd, Basingstoke RG24 8PD, UK.

## Basingstoke Children's Christmas Party

Save the date for our fantastic children's Christmas gluten free party with entertainer. Check Coeliac UK website or on our social channels for further

information including how to book your place. Sat 28 November 3 to 5 pm.

## Next meet-up

Next meeting Wednesday 21 October 10:30 to 12 noon at Waitrose café, Basing View

## Contacts:

To contact the Local North Hants Group, please email [northhampshire@coeliac.org.uk](mailto: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](http://coeliac.org.uk/local-groups/north-hampshire)

*Dave West*

# Young Oakley



## Testbourne Community School News

**O**n Thursday, 1 October, Testbourne Community School will welcome prospective students and their families to our annual Open Evening.

The event is an excellent opportunity to experience life at TCS, with teachers showcasing their curriculum areas and giving visitors an insight into

the exciting opportunities available across the school. From academic subjects to creative and practical disciplines, families will be able to see first-hand how learning comes to life at Testbourne.

Visitors will also have the chance to tour our facilities, meet staff, and learn more about the rich enrichment programme and pastoral support available to students.

A special thank you goes to our student prefects, who play a vital role in the evening. Acting as guides, they will help visitors navigate the school, answer questions, and share their own experiences of life at TCS.

Open Evening is always a highlight of the school calendar, and we look forward to welcoming families and helping them discover what makes Testbourne such a supportive, ambitious and successful school community.

info@stleonardschurch.org.uk', and '[www.sallysplaythetextiles.org.uk](http://www.sallysplaythetextiles.org.uk)'."/>



## Building Positive Relationships at St Leonard's Preschool

A new and fresh school year has begun, and the teachers and children at St Leonard's Preschool are eager to get started!

September is a particularly special time in an early years setting. We welcome children back after the summer break, reconnecting with families, and beginning new relationships with those joining us for the first time. At St Leonard's Preschool, the teaching team understands these relationships are at the heart of children's learning and development.

For our Key Persons, building these positive relationships begins with getting to know each child so they feel truly settled, understood and confident within the setting. Understanding the unique personalities, their likes and dislikes enables our Key Persons to strengthen the relationship, not just with the children, but with their parents too, a relationship that extends beyond the preschool environment. In turn, this helps the child to feel that the important adults in their life are connected and working together to support them.

As a newcomer to the setting, I have had the pleasure of watching the teaching team welcome their key children back after the summer holidays. It has been lovely to see the genuine delight in these reunions. Comments such as, "You are so much taller!", "Your hair has grown a lot!" or, "Where has your hair gone? You look so much bigger!" are met with giggles and proud smiles.

At St Leonard's Preschool, the whole teaching team will continue to nurture these strong connections with children and families throughout the year. Through warm welcomes, careful listening, shared knowledge and genuine interest in each child, we hope to create the positive relationships that give children the confidence to learn, grow and flourish.

And, perhaps most importantly, to know that they are seen, valued and welcomed just as they are.

*Silvia*

## News from Cranbourne

The Autumn Term is off to a fantastic start and our new Year 7 students are quickly embracing what it means to be a part of the Cranbourne Community!

If you've passed by the school site in the last few weeks, you will have noticed construction work for our new school building has begun. We're so excited to watch the progress and enter the next phase of Cranbourne's journey.

Our Student Ambassadors welcomed prospective parents and students to see Cranbourne in action at our Open Evening and Open Mornings in early

September. They expertly answered questions, gave tours around the site and helped our departments showcase everything we have to offer. Year 7 students Ava, Aislinn, Brody and Lexi-Mai bravely took to the stage at the Headteacher talks, sharing their experience so far and offering advice for Year 6.

We were delighted by



the impressive GCSE results obtained by our Year 11 cohort, with 60% of our students achieving 4+ in Maths and English. 11 subjects improved their 4+ pass rate this year, with 16 subjects improving their 7+ pass rate.

Among our top performers were Fatma (9999999998 Distinction), Lauren (99999987, Merit), Prapti (998888887, Distinction\*) and Adeola (988877776). We're extremely proud of their achievements

which pay testament to the tremendous effort shown by our Cranbourne Community.

The cast list for this year's school production of Matilda Jr has now been announced and rehearsals are underway. We can't wait to watch it all come together! Performances will take place in April 2027.

Preparations for our annual Cultural Diversity Evening on 16 October are in full swing as we prepare to celebrate all the cultures that make up our community.

Cranbourne Has Talent 2026 auditions have been taking place and we've once again been blown away by the support and encouragement our school community have been showing each other. Last year, Year 7 dance duo Leala and Jordan took home the trophy – who will take home the 2026 crown? We'll find out at the finals on 14 October!



# Gardening

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## Oakley Gardening Club

Oakley Gardening Club welcomed Souren Ala who spoke about Persian Gardens. He began by giving us the history and showing us slides on how gardens have evolved through the early years up to modern times and the different structures and shapes. Water was a problem which, over time, they solved. Most of our plants and shrubs come from Iran and the surrounding countries. They



made carpets which gave a story, painted on tiles and cloths.

It was an informative talk into the history of how gardens came about.

We welcome all visitors to the Gardening Club at St. Leonard Hall, 7:30 pm; our next meeting will be on Monday 5 October. Our speaker will be Gillian Taylor and her subject is "The wonder of the walled garden".

*Diane Green*

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# Conservation

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## Oakley Woodlands Group

We have now started our autumn schedule and I write this following our first work party coppicing in Cowdown copse. Our first task is to cut enough stakes to start making a dead hedge. This will

run around the area we are coppicing and will protect the new shoots.

It is a way of using the soft twiggy material, known as brash. Once we get two parallel rows of stakes we can put the brash into the space between them to form the hedge. On the first few days it all looks a bit chaotic, but as work progresses, we can coppice and put the brash straight into the hedge. This saves us handling material twice and keeps the site tidier.

Earlier, a few days before the work party, we carried out the annual strimming back of the brambles along the paths and rides. To be able to do this, volunteers have to be trained to an industry standard to use the equipment, with renewal of their permits every three years. Previously when doing this we have encountered several dog poo bags. It's the same effect as stuff hitting the fan!

This year, however, I'm pleased to say there were hardly any, and we just got splattered with blackberry juice. Much more pleasant. As ever, our work continues and we welcome new, or old, volunteers. Either email us at the address below or just drop by at one of the work parties. We are always happy to chat.

Work party dates for October. All work parties

run 10 h to 13 h. Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>.

Email: [oakleywoodlands@gmail.com](mailto:oakleywoodlands@gmail.com)

*Alan Merry*



# Conservation



## What's all the Buzz about in October?

**I**t's all about getting ready for winter for the honeybees and the bumblebees...with an active egg layer: the solitary ivy bee!

Queen bumblebees can live up to 12 months but spend up to half of their lives in a dormant state hibernating in a variety of places, from well-drained, soft soil, to leaf litter, hollow trees or inside tree bark. They use their legs to dig bumblebee-sized holes into the soil or other substrata and can excavate to a depth of

more than 10cm!

Garden hibernation sites for bumblebee queens will be covered in November. In contrast, honeybees are active inside their hive all winterfeeding on the honey produced throughout the summer. But their key



role switches from raising brood and gathering nectar to winter survival warming the winter cluster and raising the first spring colony. The

worker bee's life cycle increases to 3 to 4 months and to do this they are physiologically different! Unlike their short-lived summer sisters, winter bees accumulate enormous fat bodies -stores are fat but also reserves of a special protein similar to egg yolk protein that protects cells from oxidative damage support immunity and providing nutrients when the Queen starts laying again in spring which can be converted into brood food. In effect the worker winter bees become the protein bank for the future colony. Indeed, winter workers are the colonies investment in the future!

Populations of solitary bees are highest in the spring through to midsummer matching their emergence to their target nectar source. Until recently

that was it for solitary bees but a recent 2001 newcomer has changed that: the Ivy solitary bee emerging from its 10-11 months dormant pupae state with the Autumn Ivy flowers.



These flowers are rich in nectar and pollen and are a key autumn food source for all insects: stop quietly by a flowering ivy cluster and you will hear the buzz and see so many pollinators - honeybees and the solitary ivy bee in particular. They are similar in appearance with the ivy bee only a little bigger than the honeybee with ginger thoraxes and distinct striped abdomens. These bees nest in loose, light or sandy soil on southern-facing banks with ivy nearby for foraging and, although they are solitary bees (with no workers or social structure) usually close together in large nesting groups - these socially grouped nests have been particularly noticeable this year.

*Barbara Robson*

Mr Flaherty's Private Theatricals Presents

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# Local News



## Read Easy Basingstoke

Every adult that wants to learn to read, can! Many of us have been very fortunate when it comes to reading and, as adults, it is certainly something we take for granted. However, many adults are deeply embarrassed and ashamed by the fact that they struggle significantly with reading. They often harbour bad memories of school and would avoid returning to a classroom setting at all costs, where old feelings of failure could potentially be reawakened. The 'Skills for Life Survey' (Dept. BIS, 2011) identified that 2.4 million adults in England alone can barely read or cannot read at all. In Basingstoke and the local area, it is estimated that over 7,000 adults struggle to read and need support to improve their reading skills.

Ginny William-Ellis MBE spent many years as a literacy tutor and was responsible for running the Shannon Trust's prisoner-to-prisoner reading programme. Through this, she saw how a confidential, individual approach could encourage people to come forward for support and successfully learn to read. Ginny also became aware of the number of adults who struggle with even the most basic level of reading, not just in prisons, but across the population at large.

As a result, she realised that there was much more work to do and so, in 2010, she founded the very first Read Easy group. Today there are over 100 local groups set up and run by volunteers under the Read Easy banner. Read Easy Basingstoke was set up in July 2019. Read Easy since then has continued tirelessly to help adults to transform their lives by learning to read and strongly believes that 'every adult that wants to learn to read, can'. Read Easy groups at a local level achieve this by training volunteers to provide personalised, one-to-one reading coaching that is free and confidential, both in-person and online. Due to an expansion in Management Team members and volunteers, Read Easy Basingstoke wants to help more adults gain greater agency and autonomy over their own lives through better reading skills. If you know someone who could benefit from our services or would like to volunteer, we would love to hear from you.

*Christopher Baker*

## Overton Choral Society

OCS is part of BFoC (Basingstoke Festival of Choirs) and, now the new committee has become more proactive we are beginning to get more involved. The Mayor's Carol Service will be on December 5 and more tenors and basses are needed. This may be one of the last Mayoral Carol Concerts as the Mayoral position is being devolved from Borough and District Councils. OCS has been

proud to have been part of so many Borough Council events. We had appointed a new accompanist but Isabella has managed to obtain a scholarship to further her musical career so, once again, we are looking for an accompanist. If anyone has any suggestions please do contact us.

Our annual Christmas Carol concert will be on Monday 14 December in St Mary's Hall. There will be sing-a-long carols, some old favourites and some new. And, as promised, we will sing the Morten Lauridsen again as you all enjoyed it so much last year. Our charity will be St Michael's Hospice.

Our concert with three other choirs of the Hampshire Choral Festival will be in Romsey Abbey on Saturday 15 May 2027 when we will perform Charpentier's Te Deum and Mozart's Requiem under the baton of David Burgess. You don't have to be a singer to take part in these wonderful concerts. Help is always needed to organise and guide people to seating, etc. And the concert is free to helpers. We are in contact with our friends Sangkreis Euskirchen and, as soon as we have a positive date, we will open the trip up to those of you who have friends in Euskirchen.

*Lyn Hardy*





## Whitchurch Silk Mill

### Support Local in the Mill Shop

Many visitors are surprised by the range of items available in our Mill Shop, from books, toys and local honey to beautiful products made from our own Whitchurch silk. Every purchase, whether a small keepsake, Christmas gift, Membership or gift voucher, helps support the preservation of this unique working museum and the traditional skills that continue here today. As Christmas approaches, why not find something a little different while helping to secure the future of silk weaving in Whitchurch?

### UK Trademark Success

We are delighted to announce that our UK trademark application for the WS branding used on Mill-made gifts has been granted. This important milestone will help protect our products and strengthen the Mill's identity for years to come.

### Harvest and Heritage Festival

23 to 25 October, 10:30 am to 5 pm

Celebrate autumn with us at our Harvest and Heritage Festival. The Mill will be decorated with seasonal displays, while traditional craftspeople demonstrate heritage skills and share the stories behind their work. Visitors can meet artisans, learn about endangered crafts and enjoy a unique living heritage experience. Tickets are £10 per adult and are valid throughout the Festival. Annual passes are also valid.

### October Events

We have a varied programme of talks, tours and workshops this month.

On 14 October, Dr Carey Fleiner from the University of Winchester will present Spinning and Weaving in Myth and Fairy Tales, exploring how spinning and weaving feature in folklore and stories across Europe from Roman times to the Middle Ages.

Our popular Whitchurch Silk Production Tour on 13 October offers a rare behind-the-scenes look at silk weaving in an authentic Victorian setting, led by members of our weaving team. Advance booking is essential.

Creative workshop opportunities include weaving, Viking weave jewellery, silver ring making, crochet and silk painting. These hands-on sessions are suitable for a range of experience levels and provide a chance to learn traditional craft skills from expert tutors.

Families can also enjoy our Halloween Trick, Treat and Create Trail on 27 and 29 October, featuring activities, treats and seasonal fun around the Mill grounds. Pre-booking is recommended.

### Find Out More

Tickets for most events are available from the Mill Shop or via the Events page on our website. Keep up to date with the latest news by following us on social media or subscribing to our email newsletter.

*Sue Tapliss*

## Basingstoke Choral Society presents an evening with The Haydn brothers

When: Sunday 15 November 2026

Concert starts 7:30 pm

Where: The Anvil Basingstoke

Conductor: Jordan Theis

Orchestra: The Docklands Sinfonia

Programme:

Joseph Haydn Nelson Mass

Michael Haydn Requiem

To book: [anvilarts.org.uk/events/basingstoke-choral-society](http://anvilarts.org.uk/events/basingstoke-choral-society)

Joseph Haydn's glorious Nelson Mass is one of the finest choral works of the Classical era. Full of drama, beauty and exhilarating moments of triumph, it remains one of his most loved and uplifting masterpieces.

The programme also offers the rare chance to hear music by Michael Haydn, Joseph's younger brother. A gifted composer whose music was greatly valued by Mozart, Michael Haydn is rarely performed today, making this an opportunity to discover a beautiful and unjustly neglected work.

## Basingstoke Concert Band

presents

### Music for Christmas

Sunday 6 December 2026  
at 3.00pm

Queen Mary's College, Cliddesden Road,  
Basingstoke RG21 3HF

Feel the magic Hear the music  
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# Ladies Societies



## Oakley & Deane WI

At our September meeting we heard a very interesting talk on Food and Nutrition by Tara Pestell. We were told what to eat and drink and when. Also about the proteins and carbohydrates. Everyone was very interested and lots of questions were asked.

Oakley & Deane also have a walking group that meets once or twice a month, and 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 Tuesday 13 October at 7:30 pm at Oakley Village Hall, Station Road, Oakley, when Tamsin Regnes will be talking about 'Why would you do it like that (how different personality types affect our actions)'.

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, do 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](http://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](mailto:oakleydeanewi@gmail.com)

We look forward to seeing new faces at our meetings.

*Barbara, On behalf of Oakley & Deane WI*

## Rooksdown Revellers WI

'... doing WI their way'!

Every June, July & August the Rooksdown Revellers WI departs from the usual practice of a monthly meeting in the Sycamore Hall and take themselves off somewhere to enjoy an alternative activity on, hopefully, a mild and sunny evening. Sadly, extreme heat in June forced a cancellation of plans for health and safety reasons but, in July, as previously reported and prior to the ban on the

portable versions, we enjoyed a safe and delicious BBQ. August found us following a fascinating 'Jane Austen' related trail around Overton, finishing with, as can be seen, a fun evening - over some Italian refreshment'!

Yet more fun activity continued a few days later with an outing to Buckingham Palace to see the hugely popular exhibition, 'Queen Elizabeth II, Her Life in Style'. Featuring more than 300 items, many on display for the first time, this is the largest and most comprehensive exhibition of the late Queen's fashion ever mounted and includes a stunning collection of clothing, jewellery, hats, shoes and accessories. The group's fabulous day was topped off with - guess what? more Italian 'refreshment'! The Revellers know how to revel! If you'd like to tag along to something next year, talk to us about membership by contacting [pat.dominey152@icloud.com](mailto:pat.dominey152@icloud.com)

*Annie Vicars*



**Autumn Leaves**

A concert by the Basingstoke Male Voice Choir and the Kingsclere Singers

7:30 pm on Saturday 24th October

All Saints Church, Southern Rd, RG21 3EA

U2000 cover at 7:30 pm

Provision of 1200 Free Ticket Bookings

QR Code



# Local News



## Probus Club

The talk by Ian Worley to the Probus Club of Basingstoke, entitled "Charles Darwin," revealed how a series of coincidences shaped the life of the world-famous naturalist. Born in 1809 in Shrewsbury to a wealthy family, Darwin's early interest in plants was likely sparked by detailed diary-keeping in his family's large kitchen garden.



Despite poor academic performance at Shrewsbury School, Darwin was sent to Edinburgh University to study medicine but soon shifted to Cambridge to prepare for a clerical career. There, he excelled unexpectedly, ranking 10th out of 178 graduates in 1831. A friend at Cambridge informed him of an

unpaid naturalist position on the HMS Beagle's surveying expedition. Supported by his family's allowance and free of responsibilities, Darwin seized the opportunity.

The five-year voyage, beginning in 1831, took Darwin around the southern hemisphere. He made significant discoveries, including seashells on Cape Verde's escarpments, ancient bones in South America, and unique species like the Galapagos finches and giant tortoises. These findings challenged prevailing beliefs about the earth's creation.

After returning to England, Darwin married his cousin Emma Wedgwood and published several works on botany and zoology. His anonymously published 1844 book, which hinted at evolutionary theory, was poorly received. It wasn't until 1859, after years of persuasion, that Darwin published "On the Origin of Species," which sold out its first 1,250 copies immediately and sparked widespread scientific and public debate. Darwin's journey from academic failure to scientific pioneer highlights how chance and perseverance can shape history. He was honoured with burial in Westminster Abbey in 1882, cementing his legacy as one of the greatest scientists of all time. For more information, visit [probusbasingstoke.club](http://probusbasingstoke.club).

*Paul Flint*








Tony Harris  
presents  
"Margaret Thatcher"

Margaret Thatcher was not first female Prime Minister, and for some is regarded as the most divisive in history.

The IRA couldn't kill her; she won a war to save the Falklands and was once a scientist who helped improve the flow quality of ice cream.

Join us for this talk on  
Wednesday 24 October at 10 am  
St Mary's Hall, Overton  
Free to members. Non-members £2 at the door.

NELSON MASS

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Joseph Haydn

Michael Haydn

Basingstoke Choral Society

Docklands Sinfonia

Conductor Jordan Theis



Sunday November 15th 2026  
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# Community

## What's on Where Guide (part 3)

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. (See August & September Links for parts 1 & 2)

| Service/Event                 | When               | Time          | Venue                                          | Phone        | Email/website                                  |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|---------------|------------------------------------------------|--------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Milestones Museum             | Tues - Sun         | 10:00 – 16:45 | Milestones Museum, Leisure Park                | 01256 639550 | milestonesmuseum@hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk |
| Oakley Men's Shed             | Mondays, Thursdays | 9.30 - 12.30  | Scout Centre. St John's Piece, Oakley RG23 7JQ | 07870 380226 | oakleymensshed.com                             |
| Over 50's Support Age Concern | By arrangement     | various       | various                                        | 01962 868545 | enquires@ageconcernhampshire.org.uk            |
| Stroke Support (BASS/SAVG)    | Wednesdays         | 14:00 – 16:00 | Hill Rise Hall, Bach Close, Brighton Hill      | 07429 620459 | basingstoke-savg@stroke.org.uk                 |
| Transport Connect Basingstoke | By arrangement     | As required   | Bookable wheelchair accessible minibuses       | 01256 574401 | baingstoketransport@cfirst.org.uk              |

## Home Library Service available from Hampshire Libraries

**D**id you know that Hampshire County Council Libraries offer a free monthly service to anyone who finds it difficult to access a library due to ill-health, disability or caring responsibilities? The Home Library Service provides an opportunity for individuals to enjoy the pleasure of reading, even if they find it difficult to leave their homes.

The service can deliver a variety of library materials including books in standard and large print, audio books in various formats, and specialist items such as those from our Reminiscence Collection.

Specially recruited volunteers are matched to customers in their own communities and visit their homes each month.

This service can be a lifeline which enables access to reading, despite physical or other limitations, plus regular contact with a friendly volunteer. The

daughter of a customer recently told us “The HLS service .. is about so much more than reading...giving my elderly Mum much appreciated companionship.”

Applying for the service is easy. If you or someone you know would benefit from this service, you can enquire at your local library or online via the Hampshire Library website by selecting 'Access for All', then 'Home Library Service' and completing a short form. Applicants then receive a phone call to discuss their needs and preferences.

The service is adapted for each individual and ensures everyone has access to the library materials they enjoy.

[hants.gov.uk/librariesandarchives/library/services/access-for-all/homelibraryservice](http://hants.gov.uk/librariesandarchives/library/services/access-for-all/homelibraryservice)



## Free Ads

*All entries should be sent in writing to Maureen Dallaway, by **15 October** for inclusion in next month's Link. Entries may also be sent by e-mail to [freeads@oakleylink.org.uk](mailto:freeads@oakleylink.org.uk) Please include an address or telephone number*

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# Fund Raising

## Walking



### Woodland Wellbeing Walks

Come and enjoy scenic walks around our local woods and fields 2nd, 3rd & 4th Tuesdays finishing with a sociable cuppa at the Methodist Chapel

#### Start Point for Walks:

Tuesday, 13 Oct. 10 am - Pond (B)

Tuesday, 20 Oct. 10 am - St John's Rd lay-by (R)

Tuesday, 27 Oct. 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*

### Oakley Ramblers

On a balmy evening in August, a group of Oakley Ramblers set off from Kingsclere on a pleasant 4-mile walk. The easy terrain led them through fields, woods, a farmyard and traffic-free lane, and encompassed expansive views across the countryside. Particularly notable were the amazing cloud patterns and changing skies with a little rain resulting in a stunning rainbow. A fun evening followed in the newly re-opened Royal Oak at Ecchinswell, where our delicious food within minutes of our arrival.

On 24 August a 7.5-mile walk around Selborne began with going up the zigzag pathway and along Selborne Hanger before descending back into the village and on to Priory Farm. Walking up Honey Lane gave us beautiful views out across Oakhanger Stream valley before continuing along leafy pathways, sunken tree-lined roads and overgrown paths. We then walked along High Wood Hanger and back to the woods of Selborne Hill before descending the zigzag path to the cafe at Gilbert White's for refreshments.

On 6 September a group set off from the Yew Tree pub car park in Lower Wield to enjoy a 5-mile walk. We took a circular route across tracks and paths, taking in a section of the Ox Drove Way, passing through Bradley and following a section of the Three Castles Path before returning through the village of Lower Wield. We were blessed with a



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beautiful sunny day and enjoyed a hearty pub lunch sitting out at the Yew Tree afterwards.

13 September was a day of celebration for the Oakley Ramblers as we marked our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We did this with an enjoyable 5-mile walk around Oakley and finished with a warm welcome at the Barley Mow pub in the village where we had a buffet lunch and drink. We were delighted that two founding members along with other past and current members were able to join us to celebrate, share stories and recall happy memories.

Oakley Ramblers is a friendly group which welcomes visitors. Our planned walks for October are on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 25<sup>th</sup>.

Find us on Facebook or visit our website for more information about our walks and our anniversary event - [oakleyramblers.org](http://oakleyramblers.org).

*Corrine Thomas*

*(see photos on next page)*

# Walking



*Kingsclere on left, Lower Wield above* **Woodlan**

# Sport



## Oakley Bowling Club News

**W**hat looked likely to be a moderately successful season ended in spectacular fashion as we were crowned Hampshire's Mixed Top Club Champions - a title that had never been previously lifted by a Basingstoke Club. A victory by 3 disciplines to 2 in the semi-final against the Eastern Area Champions, Fareham, was followed by a nail-biting last bowl win against Boscombe Cliff. Congratulations to all fourteen players and the reserves who represented us so successfully throughout the season in this competition.

Success was not confined to the Top Club. In the



went on, with Steve Devonish, to win the Pairs and, with Steve and Sean Lassman, to finish runners up in the Two Bowl Triples. Our ladies also reached three finals in the North Hampshire Women's competitions with runners up spots for Laura Butler in the Two Bowl Singles, for Mary Varndell and Janie Vickers in the Pairs and for Diane Yarrall, Wendy Aherne, Sue Dixon and Janie in the Fours.

Bowls at Oakley is not just about competitive matches. Throughout the summer we have maintained our social bowling programme with friendly matches against local and not so local Clubs. Recently we were visited by the Essex North Countrymen, who have toured annually since 1946. Our drives on Monday afternoon were more popular than ever and, on Tuesday and Thursday, our Yardstick Evenings continue to attract good support.

Our new bowlers also took part recently in the Acorn Singles, an event designed for players with less than three years' experience. There was some excellent bowling with Colin Godfrey beating Wendy Aherne to lift the title.

The outdoor season is coming to a close but there is always something happening at Oakley so, if you are thinking 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 [oakleybc.org.uk](http://oakleybc.org.uk).

*Spencer Kerley*



Whitchurch and District Finals, Rolf Denny won the Blue-Ribbon event, the Singles, whilst Martin Vickers ensured the double for Oakley as he lifted the Basingstoke and District Singles title. Martin then

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## LOCAL INFORMATION

### Oakley Community Association

Secretary - Eve Askew - [www.ocaoakley.org.uk](http://www.ocaoakley.org.uk)  
OCAoakley@live.co.uk

### Councillors and Politicians

#### Member of Parliament, Basingstoke

Luke Murphy - [luke.murphy.mp@parliament.uk](mailto: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](mailto:clerk@oakleydeane-pc.gov.uk) or 07983 500372

**Assistant Clerk:** - Kelly Green  
[assistantclerk@oakleydeane-pc.gov.uk](mailto: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<br>07445 093986 |

#### County Councillor

Juliet Henderson - [juliet.henderson@hants.gov.uk](mailto:juliet.henderson@hants.gov.uk) 862413

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|---------------------------|----------------------|
| The Fox                   | The Barley Mow       |
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| The Cricket Club          | Peter Houseman Field |
| Andover Road Village Hall | St. Leonard's Centre |

|                         |               |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Doctors' Surgery</b> | 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](http://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.bhbccircuit.org.uk/churches/oakley.html](http://www.bhbccircuit.org.uk/churches/oakley.html)  
Rev'd Claire Simpson  
[revclaire73@btinternet.com](mailto:revclaire73@btinternet.com)  
01256 323103

### Roman Catholic

St Joseph's and  
St Bedes  
Website: [www.stjosephsbasingstoke.org.uk](http://www.stjosephsbasingstoke.org.uk)  
171a St Michael's Road Basingstoke,  
RG22 6TY  
Fr Paul Leonard

### Community Church

Website: [www.lifespringcommunitychurch.org](http://www.lifespringcommunitychurch.org)  
Or [www.hopebasingstoke.org](http://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](mailto:oakley@bwds.org.uk)

### Oakley Girlguiding

Contact - Caroline Lloyd  
[c45lloyd@outlook.com](mailto:c45lloyd@outlook.com)

## Village Halls

|                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| East Oakley Village Hall ("The Green Hut") - Hill Road | Booking Secretary 07788 423252 or email: <a href="mailto:booking@oakleygreenhut.co.uk">booking@oakleygreenhut.co.uk</a><br>Website: <a href="http://www.oakleygreenhut.co.uk">www.oakleygreenhut.co.uk</a> |
| 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](mailto:john@oakleylink.org.uk) Last amended 11 Sept 2026

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