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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.

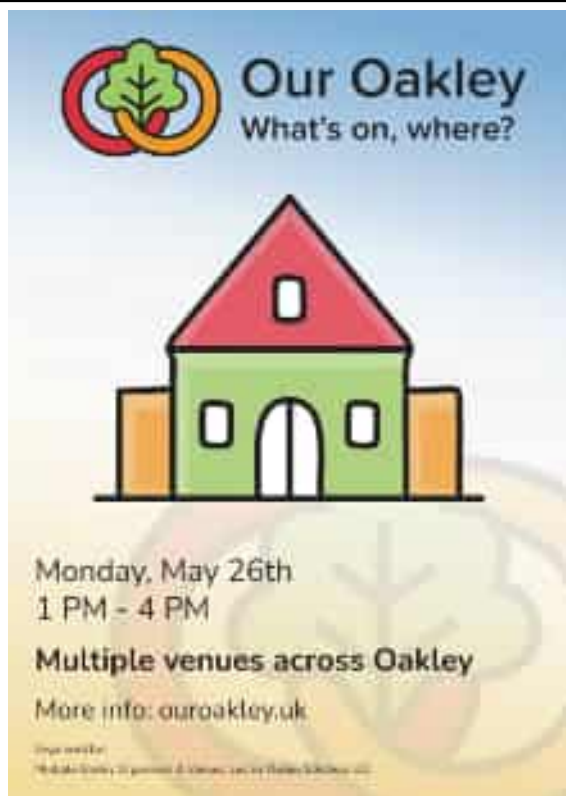
With the exception of trade ads all other items for publication may be made free of charge. Please submit articles by the date given below for publication the month following. The **Link** editors reserve the right to decline or edit any contributions.

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

**Deadline for June 2025 issue: 10 May**



### CONTENTS

Village News .....	4,5,7,8
Feature: News from Jolly Olly's .....	8
Feature: Citizens' Advice Bureau .....	10
Feature: Hampshire County Council .....	10
Fund Raising.....	10
Bygone Oakley .....	13
Local News.....	13,14,22,25,26,28
Young Oakley .....	14,15,16
Church News .....	19
Gardening .....	19
Conservation .....	20,21
Health Matters .....	28,31
Ladies' Societies.....	31
Pause for Thought .....	31
Feature: Age Concern.....	33
Sport .....	34,35
Freeads.....	34
Walking .....	36
Index of Advertisers .....	37
Information, Churches, Village Halls.....	38

### Oakley Community Care

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 and prescription collection. Wheel chair 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.

*New volunteer drivers always welcome*

**Please give us a call, we may be able to make life easier for you.**

**07376 574412**

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

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Presents:

## Murder Between the Lines

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2025 8-00pm  
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Can you read between the lines to discover who, why and when this dastardly crime was committed?

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# Village



## Parish Council Coffee & Chat

Enjoy refreshments with other members of the community at Wootton St Lawrence & Oakley



Thursdays at 10:30am – 1.30pm

Newfound Sports Pavilion

Did you know we also have Parish Council office in the pavilion

Wednesday 10:00-12:30 – Newfound Pavilion  
Thursday 10:30-1.30 – Newfound Pavilion

## HOLIDAY@HOME

An event for Senior Residents of  
Oakley and Wootton St Lawrence  
**Celebrating Jane Austen**

**10.00am-4.00pm**

**Tuesday 29 July**  
**Wednesday 30 July**  
**Thursday 31 July**

**Venue:**  
St Leonard's  
Centre  
Rectory  
Road  
Oakley

For more information contact: 01235 741111 or 01235 741112

### Holiday at Home

Following on from Oakley's first Holiday at Home last year, we will be doing our second one this summer over three days 29, 30 and 31 July – at St Leonard's Centre in the village.

This year our theme will (loosely) be Jane Austen, as we celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her birth. We will be filling the three days with a variety of



## An Evening of Musical Entertainment with Ooh Mama Ladies Choir & Basingstoke Male Voice Choir



St Lawrence Church, Wootton St Lawrence RG23 8PE

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2023, 7.30pm. Doors open 6.30pm

Complimentary refreshments

Proceeds towards St Lawrence for Our Time Improvement project

Tickets £15. Available from:

<https://musicaleveningstlawrence2023.eventbrite.co.uk>

## Oakley Stitchers & Crafters destash event

Visit our pop up outlet event to help  
us raise vital funds Large range  
crafting, sewing, crocheting and  
knitting materials available.  
Tea, coffee and cake also available.

**12-4.30**

**25 & 26<sup>th</sup> May 25**  
The Green Hut 74 Hill Rd  
Oakley, Basingstoke  
RG23 7JJ

To book a table on the 25<sup>th</sup> only  
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activities including quizzes, crafts, games and entertainment. Each day there will be a lunch, and tea and cakes will be served in the afternoon.

So, if you are a senior who may not go on so many holidays as you once did and would enjoy a three-day interlude with friends, or if you know of someone who might like to come along, please get an application form from the church office. Transport to and from the venue will be provided by Community Care for anyone who needs it.

Hope to see you there!

*Alwyn Brenchley, Katey Butler and Diane Taylor*





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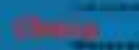
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## Report of the Parish Council Meeting – April 2025

**O**n 23 April at the Junior School the Parish Council held its Annual Parish Meeting (APM), joined by representatives from the Hampshire Police, Watership Down Heath, the Borough Council and Hampshire Council including guest speaker Cllr. Paul Harvey BDBC Independent Forum Leader, on *Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation*. Visit [basingstoke.gov.uk/future-councils](https://basingstoke.gov.uk/future-councils) to learn more.

During the meeting members of the Council were also keen to hear from the community regarding ideas on how our Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) should be spent. The Council announced its plans to renovate the Beach Park pump track this year, which has been welcomed and has been supported by a local BMX youth group.

Unfortunately, it was also announced that the village has seen a huge increase in litter on our streets/hedgerows and fly tipping in our village waste bins, which is unacceptable. Our two litter wardens work extremely hard all year round in all weather conditions to empty our bins and keep our lovely village clean; please support them and dispose of unwanted waste sensibly and correctly. Thank you.

The Council would like to thank residents for attending our recent APM. If you were unable to and would like to speak to the Clerk, our public drop-in office hours are on Thursdays 10:30 am – 1:30 pm in the Newfound Pavillion during Coffee & Chat. However, if this is not suitable, please get in touch to arrange an appointment.

The next Parish Council meeting is on 8 May at 7:30 pm in the Newfound Pavillion. All residents are welcome.

Nicola Beere – Parish Clerk, [www.oakleydeane-pc.gov.uk](http://www.oakleydeane-pc.gov.uk), [clerk@oakleydeane-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@oakleydeane-pc.gov.uk) / 07983 500372

## Oakley Village Show, 9 August, 1:30 pm, Oakley Infants School

**T**he sun is shining, the flowers are beginning to bloom, which means summer is on its way.

And with summer comes the village show. The committee has been beavering away, making all the initial preparations and now, it's over to you to get involved.

By now, we hope you will have seen the schedules, which list all the classes, entry dates, (which vary, according to class) and rules. If not, you can find them outside Jolly Olly's and in the butcher's or online at [ocaoakley.org.uk](http://ocaoakley.org.uk). There is something for



everyone to have a go at and, as always, we encourage you to have some fun by entering. If you're unsure how it works, email us on [anndavis48@hotmail.com](mailto:anndavis48@hotmail.com).

In addition to the show classes, there is opportunity to have a stall, which can be to sell goods, raise money for a charity or simply advertise your organisation. With over 1,000 people coming through the gate, it's a great way to put yourself on the Oakley map. If you are interested, email Eve on [eveaskew@btinternet.com](mailto:eveaskew@btinternet.com).

As for the day, itself, there will be music and family entertainment plus food and drink which, with everything else going on, is probably all you need for a good summer afternoon out.

And, finally, none of this happens without a lot of hard work, especially on the day so, if you can give a couple of hours, either in the morning, or at the end of the afternoon, when we are on our knees, we would be delighted! Email either Eve or me.

And last but not least, we omitted from the schedule the fact that no dogs are allowed at the show. (This is in accordance with Hampshire County Council Regulations.) We will continue to remind people, as we want to avoid disappointment on the day.

Ann Davis on behalf of the  
show committee





# Village




**COULD YOU BE A PARISH COUNCILLOR?**

Not for you? If you know someone who would make a good Councillor encourage them to get in touch!

**What does the Parish Council do?**

- Represents the local community
- Delivers services to meet local needs
- Strives to improve the quality of life for residents
- Local authority closest to the electorate

Becoming a Parish Councillor is a chance to make a positive difference for people in your local area.

To find out more about becoming a Parish Councillor email [clerk@oakleydeane-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@oakleydeane-pc.gov.uk) or call 07983 500372

# Feature



## News From Jolly Olly's Coffee Shop

Here comes the Summer!  
Happy days!

### VE DAY

We are marking the end of WW2 by celebrating with a little nostalgia! During the week commencing 8 May we will be selling a range of 1940s themed food and drink: from rock cakes to jam tarts, homemade lemonade and more! The bunting will be out and we'll be holding a prize draw in aid of Help for Heroes, the prizes for which have been kindly donated, by local resident, David. Many thanks to him!

### Chatty Cafe

Liz will be here from 1 am to 3 pm on Wednesday 7 May. Everyone is welcome to come along. If the day is warm, I plan on setting up outside so that you can enjoy the sunshine!

### Book Club

Thank you to everyone who joined in with our recently established Community Read and online Book Club. "A Bit of a Stretch" stimulated lots of interesting conversation. In the light of this, I have decided to suggest another book for reading. Given

that we are remembering the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day this month, "The Nightingale" by Kirstin Hannah, would seem a very appropriate read! The novel is set in France and tells the story of two sisters living through the circumstances that they find themselves in during WW2. Comments will be invited on our Facebook page on 7 July, so you will have plenty of time to get reading!

### THANK YOU!

You may have heard that, back in March, we had a break in at Jolly Olly's. I keep no money on the premises and nothing was taken. However, the cost of closure and repairs was obviously a blow. I would like to say a heartfelt thankyou to everyone who offered support in so many ways. As always, the people of Oakley and surrounding areas have been fantastic and reminded me again of why it is such a privilege to be a part of this great community. Thank you!

We look forward to seeing you soon.

Best wishes from The Team at Jolly Olly's Coffee Shop

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

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- change payments on your endowment policy

The cost of living crisis is making it hard to find new mortgage deals at the moment and you may not be able to save money by making changes to your mortgage. Remember to take a look at your household budget regularly to see if you can save money in other ways.

If you've already missed mortgage payments you must act quickly to stop yourself from falling into debt. If your lender thinks you're not dealing with your debt, they'll take action through the courts and this could lead to you losing your home.

Look at your household budget to check what money you have coming in and how much you're spending. You might be able to save money on your home insurance by switching to cheaper mortgage protection, buildings or contents insurance.

You can find more information here: [citizensadvice.org.uk/debt-and-money/mortgage-problems](https://citizensadvice.org.uk/debt-and-money/mortgage-problems).



Basingstoke

If you don't have enough money to live on, you might be able to get benefits or help from a government grant. You might also be able to get help with bills like your council tax, you can find more information here:

[citizensadvice.org.uk/debt-and-money](https://citizensadvice.org.uk/debt-and-money)

Citizens Advice Basingstoke is an independent local charity relying on volunteers and funds raised to provide free, confidential and impartial advice, whatever the enquiry involves. To talk to an adviser please call Adviceline free on 0808 278 7829, Monday to Friday, 9 am to 4 pm. We are here to help.

Registered charity no 900116.

[www.cabasingstoke.org.uk](https://www.cabasingstoke.org.uk)



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Registered charity 1063036 – Annie's Orphans.

Monday to Saturday 10 am – 4 pm

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Keep an eye on our Facebook page and Calling Oakley for the latest news of our great, weekly offers and our Half Price Days.

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

**CASH ONLY, NO CARDS**

## Cllr Juliet Henderson - Candovers Oakley and Overton Division

### Future Services Consultation- runs until 7 May

Hampshire County Council Future Services Consultation – Spring 2025 | About the Council | Hampshire County Council

The service change proposals outlined within this consultation would contribute around £9.9 million in total towards closing Hampshire County Council's budget gap, while ensuring that the council can continue to meet the statutory duties which it is required by law to carry out.

### You can read more about each proposal:

Proposal: Older Adults' Day Services | About the Council | Hampshire County Council

Proposal: Planned Highway Maintenance | About the Council | Hampshire County Council

Proposal: Post-16 Transport Services | About the Council | Hampshire County Council

Proposed changes to the School Transport and Post-16 Transport services | About the Council | Hampshire County Council



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# Bygone Oakley



## 60 Years Ago in Oakley, from Link, May 1965

It was announced that the Church Fete would be held at The Well House, Church Oakley, by kind permission of Sir Marshall and Lady Warmington.

Oakley Cricket Club were giving an opportunity to newcomers to the district and young players to join them at Oakley Park for a coaching session, organized by Hampshire County cricketers Brian Timms and Danny Livingstone. Oakley and District Table Tennis club, which had started 7 years before, reported an average attendance at the weekly club of 30 boys and girls.

The April Meeting of Wootton WI had been an outing by bus to the Potteries at Wrecclesham, where they had been given a conducted tour and were shown the 'age-old potter's craft'. (*Editor's note: This still*

*exists and is now named Farnham Pottery)*

## 50 Years Ago in Oakley, from Link, May 1975

An article entitled *In or Out?* discussed the Common Market in advance of a vote on continuing membership.

Oakley Methodist Church had needed to re-roof their premises and were busy raising the £350 to pay for it. They would have a stall at the Charity Market in Basingstoke in the hope of raising a good amount.

Braving the snowy weather, many friends had come to St Leonard's Church on Maundy Thursday to hear Stainer's *Crucifixion* sung by an augmented choir. It was conducted by Ryan Lee, with soloists Leslie Graddon and Noel Grover, with their duet *Oh! 'Twas love*, being reported as especially fine.

# Local News



## Summer starts here with the return of Basingstoke Festival for 2025

Start your summer with Basingstoke's award-winning free annual celebration of art, culture, heritage, community and outdoor arts. Join Basingstoke Festival over three weekends from Friday 20 June to Sunday 6 July as they fill the streets with creativity and energy. Performances will pop-up in Basingstoke town centre and other locations across the borough and will be free to watch.

Immerse yourself in the magic of live performances, whether you want to pack up a picnic and enjoy a whole day of entertainment or pop by for a performance or two, join the team to discover new artists and celebrate the creative spirit of Basingstoke.

The opening parade will set the scene of this year's festival with a green, sustainability and inclusivity theme. Pop by an 'eco-zone', alongside a programme of new acts and some familiar Festival favourites who will explore environmental and nature themes in their shows. Expect performances 'blooming' with fun, energy and the weird, the wacky and the wonderful.

Basingstoke Festival brings together the best of Basingstoke's local talent alongside national artists who have performed across the globe. Whether you're seeking inspiration, entertainment, or simply a captivating experience, Basingstoke Festival promises something for the most inquisitive minds with large scale installations, street theatre, circus, dance and other activities to take part in.

Keep an eye on the Basingstoke Festival social

channels and [BasingstokeFestival.co.uk](https://BasingstokeFestival.co.uk) for programme announcements.

Becky Harris





**"KISS ME GOODNIGHT, SERGEANT MAJOR"**

D-Day was the Allied Invasion which led to Victory in World War Two

Running up Sword Beach with his Sten gun was Sgt George Harris who was mentioned in dispatches twice for bravery on the Longest Day.



Now his proud son Tony - one of our favourite speakers - tells this story and other anecdotes from his Dad's 33 year military career.

With artefacts and personal possessions, Tony will appear as a Sgt Major asking us all to stand by your beds and kiss me goodnight!

Join us for this talk on  
Wednesday 21 May at 10 a.m.  
St Mary's Hall, Overton

Free to members - Non-members £3 on the door



## May half-term fun at Basingstoke Leisure Park

**L**ooking for family fun this May half-term? Basingstoke Leisure Park has it all! Step into the shoes of a detective and follow the clues around Milestones Museum in an exciting family-friendly adventure this school holiday. For water-based thrills, head to Basingstoke Aquadrome where the lagoon pool, exciting flumes, and thrilling rapids await.

Thrill-seekers will love the adrenaline rush at iFLY Indoor Skydiving, an unforgettable experience for all ages. You can also catch the latest blockbuster movies at Odeon Cinema or challenge your friends and family to a game of bowling at Hollywood Bowl.

After all that excitement, refuel with a bite to eat at one of the many on-site restaurants - McDonald's, KFC, Costa, and The Spruce Goose. With ample free parking and a wide range of activities for the whole family, Basingstoke Leisure Park is the ideal place to spend your May half-term. Plan your visit today at [basingstokeleisurepark.co.uk](http://basingstokeleisurepark.co.uk)

*Gemma Bowditch, Senior Place Marketing Officer,  
Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council*

## New Local Support Service Launched for Young People

**Y**oung people in and around Oakley can now access a brand-new support service, launched by youth charity Step by Step.

Thanks to funding from Basingstoke Local Children's Partnership and Sovereign Network Group's Positive Pathways Fund, Step by Step is now offering face-to-face support sessions from The Orchard in Basingstoke—just a short journey from Oakley.

This new service is part of the charity's Launch programme, which provides early intervention and tailored help to young people aged 11 to 25. Whether they're struggling with mental health, housing concerns, or need guidance with education or employment, Launch offers one-to-one and group support designed to build confidence, independence, and brighter futures.

Local schools—including Bishop Challoner Catholic Secondary School and The Costello School—can refer students; any youth group can also refer. The service is also open to self-referrals, meaning any young person or family can get in touch directly.

Debbie Moreton, Chief Executive at Step by Step, said, "This new service enables us to reach more young people earlier, providing the support they need before problems become crises."

The Launch team is now delivering group sessions

on topics like self-esteem, wellbeing, and employability, and offers vital support for care leavers and unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, who often face extra challenges without strong support networks.

Step by Step is encouraging local residents, businesses, and community groups in Oakley to help spread the word. If you know a young person who could benefit—or if you'd like to support the service—you can find out more at [stepbystep.org.uk/basing-heroes](http://stepbystep.org.uk/basing-heroes).



## Home-Start Basingstoke & Deane Celebrates Prestigious King's Award

**L**ocal family support charity *Home-Start Basingstoke & Deane* proudly celebrated its recent achievement of The King's Award for Voluntary Service at a special presentation event held at Oakridge Hall for All on 10 April.

The charity was honoured with the UK's highest award for voluntary led groups – often described as the MBE for charities. The event brought together supporters, staff, volunteers, and civic leaders to mark this remarkable milestone in their journey working with families across the borough.

The official award presentation was conducted by Nigel Atkinson Esq, HM Lord-Lieutenant of Hampshire, who presented the prestigious crystal award and certificate on behalf of His Majesty The King and spoke warmly about the impact of staff and volunteers on the lives of local families. Guests at the event included the High Sheriff of Hampshire Mrs Susan Elton, The Mayor and Mayoress of Basingstoke Councillor Dan Putty and Marie-Noelle Stephen Putty and Patron of Home-Start Basingstoke and Deane, The Earl of Malmesbury.

Only four charities in Hampshire received The King's Award this year, making this a proud moment for both the charity and the wider Basingstoke community. "This award is a testament to the dedication of our incredible volunteers, who give their time and care to help families through challenging times," said Bethan Rixson, Operations Manager at Home-Start Basingstoke & Deane.

The event included a heartfelt expression of thanks to the dedicated volunteers and staff, recognising their unwavering commitment to working alongside families with young children. Their hard work plays a vital role in tackling isolation, empowering parents, improving wellbeing, and helping build brighter futures. Attendees enjoyed refreshments following the presentation, generously sponsored by Sovereign Network Group and Tesco Chineham, whose support made the day even more memorable.





## Cuckoo Meadow

Spring has sprung at Cuckoo Meadow and the children loved



learning about insects in gardens, so much so that this topic lasted longer than expected! We also showed appreciation for our amazing Mummies on Mother's Day with these stunning pictures on cards!



We held our Easter raffle and some lucky winners took these beautiful hampers home.

To celebrate Easter, we made these yummy crispy egg cakes and the children enjoyed an



## Hello from St Leonard's Pre-School

"But he was still hungry!" We will be reading and acting out the story of *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*. The children will be eating the fruit that the caterpillar nibbled through on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. To get the experience of being in a cocoon they will have the opportunity to wiggle in and out of sleeping bags.

We will be printing caterpillars with paint and corks to make repeating patterns. The children will also be making some beautiful symmetrical butterflies and using coloured scarves to fly around like



butterflies, to music.

Another book we will be having a focus week on will be *The Three Little Pigs*. The children will select items to pack into cases and rucksacks, e.g. clothes, toothbrushes and toothpaste, cuddly toy, wellies.

They will be building homes from different materials for puppets to fit in and bigger homes for the children to sit in. The children will be learning the refrain, "Little pig, little



exhilarating egg hunt thanks to a special visit from the Easter Bunny!  
*Georgia Hawken, Cuckoo Meadow Pre-School Secretary*

**About Cuckoo Meadow Pre-School:** We are a small and friendly pre-school located in the Rathbone Pavilion of North Waltham. The children who attend come from many areas including Oakley, Dummer, Hatch Warren, Kempshott

and Beggarwood. They all agree that the location and wonderful, caring staff mean it is more than worth the short journey. **To find out more, please contact Jo or Fiona on 01256 398 172.**





pig. let me come in!" "No, no, not by the hair on my chinny chin chin. I will not let you in!"

If you would like to know more about the preschool, please contact us on 07772 378265 or email [preschool@oww.church](mailto:preschool@oww.church), or look at our website [stleonards-preschool.co.uk](http://stleonards-preschool.co.uk).

We look forward to hearing from you.

*Caroline Edwards*

## Oakley Scout Group Group Camp Fire

My son attends Oakley St Lawrence Cubs and has been a member for about 18 months. On Friday, 28 March, the Beavers, Cubs and Scout groups held a Family Campfire evening at Oakley Scout Hut. My husband and I attended with my son. The atmosphere felt relaxed and it was great to see lots of families there to support their children. I had never attended an event like this before and it was lovely evening. Families brought blankets and chairs and cosied around the fire pit which was lit by the pack leaders. Each group of children performed for the families which included songs and comedy sketches. There was lots of family participation which was a lot of fun. It was so nice to see what my son does at Cubs and to join in with the songs! Hotdogs and hot chocolate were provided and a delightful evening was had by all!

*By Joe's Mum, Emma*

On Friday evening we had an Oakley Scout Group campfire. Our leader Baloo lit the fire outside the Scout hut in a metal fire pit using lots of wood. The Beavers, Scouts and all of the Cubs from my pack came along with our leaders and we brought our families too. I took my Mum and Dad. Each section did different performances and skits. I really liked the Beaver one, it made me laugh. We sang lots of funny songs with different actions. My Dad said he remembered some of the same songs from when he was a Cub in the village as well. Some of our leaders had special campfire blankets with lots of badges on. We also had hotdogs and hot chocolate! As well as the campfire we played some games together too. It was quite cold but I had good fun.

*By Joe*

**For more details on joining the Oakley Scout Group, please**



**email [oakley@bwds.org.uk](mailto:oakley@bwds.org.uk)**

## News from Cranbourne

It's hard to believe we've already arrived at the Summer term and are quickly approaching the end of the academic year! Students enjoyed a relaxing Easter break and have returned to Cranbourne well rested ready for the busy weeks ahead.

Our Year 11s have been working extremely hard to prepare for the GCSE exams and their dedication and commitment has truly been remarkable to watch. We wish them lots of luck and know they will do the Cranbourne Community very proud. We're looking forward to celebrating their time at Cranbourne at their Leavers' Prom at the end of June before they make the next steps in their educational journey.

Year 10 got their first taste of the world of work at the end of April, where they spent a week away from school on their work experience placements. Students gained an insight into a variety of career fields including teaching, engineering, hospitality and retail and have returned to us with confidence and a sense of direction.

We're in the midst of our Student Leadership elections, with Year 10 students delivering their campaign speeches to the rest of the school in the hopes of securing their vote. They have impressed us all with their future visions and ideas for our school community and we are excited to see who Cranbourne chooses to elect as our Head Students.

Year 9 students had the opportunity to visit Reading University where they explored the campus, participated in a Q&A session with the student ambassadors and attended a lecture. The trip allowed students to gain insight into university life and begin thinking about their future aspirations and career paths. Ms Corrigan is busy preparing for our upcoming Spanish trip, where students will be visiting Barcelona and Costa Brava, learning about the culture and participating in a variety of water sport activities. We're sure they will have a fantastic time and can't wait to hear all about their adventures!





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# Church News



## Oakley Methodist Church

Services at 10:30 am

May 4	Rev Claire Simpson
May 11	Rev Barbara McIntivey
May 18	Rev David Jenkins Communion
May 25	local arrangements with John Dawson

**COFFEE MORNING**    Tuesdays May 13 & 27  
 10:30 am to 12 noon    £1

The Chapel by the Pond

## Methodist Church coffee morning

All welcome at the Methodist Church coffee morning on Tuesday 13 May and Tuesday 27 May from 10:30 am to noon. £1 for a bottomless cup of tea or coffee and biscuits. Come and meet old friends and new. The charity for the year from September 2024 is St Michael's Hospice. We look forward to welcoming the Woodland well-being walkers at the end of their walk.

\*\*\*\*\*

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# Gardening



## Oakley Gardening Club

The Gardening Club welcomed to their April meeting Fred Swift who gave a very interesting presentation on the Wiltshire Beekeepers.

He talked about the complicated lives of the working bees and how the weather plays an important

part, and also the dangers they face in their daily routine. Fred showed us photos which he passed around to the members, showing the different

markings on the bees so we can identify them. Fred brought along an impressive display of products that were made from the honey that we could purchase. It was an enjoyable night.

The competition was *An Arrangement of Spring Flowers from your Garden*; the winner was Diane Green, second Maureen Dallaway and third was Sherry Edmondson.

*Diane Green*





## Oakley Woodlands Group

Cowdown and St John's  
copses are  
thought to  
be ancient  
woodland, but  
what does that

mean and how do we know? Ancient woodland are areas that have been continuously wooded since at least 1600, which is when the maps began to have some level of accuracy. It does not mean that the trees are 400 years old, just that there have been trees there all that time. In our woods the main trees are oak and hazel, although several other species can also be found. The oaks are about 150 to 200 years old and were probably planted as a crop as the copses were commercially worked into the 1960s. Indeed, at that time St John's was three times the size it is now.

In the absence of records, there are indications of the ancient status of woods, in the form of the flowers found there. These indicator species are usually plants that spread slowly, thus their presence in large numbers suggests they have had a long residency. Bluebells are one of these markers and, by the time you read this, there should be a good show in both copses, but especially Cowdown. Another is the wood anemone, a small white flower which is currently carpeting St John's. Other species include primrose and dog's mercury, which are well established in both

woods. This is a great time to take a walk on the wood side, to misquote Lou Reed. Just remember the



*Bluebells in St John's Copse, May 2020*

inhabitants like a bit of privacy as they go about nest building and rearing their young. It is also the tick season, so do take care.

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

*Alan Merry*

## The vanishing call of Britain's lapwing

Spring in the British countryside once echoed with the distinctive, trilling call of the northern lapwing (*Vanellus Vanellus*), a striking black-and-white bird with a shimmering green back and a wispy crest. Also known as the peewit - after its haunting call - lapwings were once a common sight, but today their numbers are in serious decline.

Lapwings are an unmistakable part of the UK's natural heritage. Their dramatic, tumbling flight displays in early spring are a spectacle, as males perform acrobatic dives to impress potential mates. But while they may be bold in the air, they are incredibly vulnerable on the ground.

As ground-nesting birds, lapwings lay their well-camouflaged eggs in simple scrapes in mud or sand, on short grassland and arable land. This makes them highly susceptible to disturbance from people, livestock, and, crucially, off-lead dogs. A single frightened bird taking flight may not seem particularly noticeable but, if lapwings are repeatedly disturbed, they abandon their nests - leaving eggs or chicks exposed to predators and the elements.

Habitat loss has already pushed lapwing numbers into steep decline. Since 1967, the UK population has decreased by 55 per cent, earning them Red List status as a species of conservation concern. Loss of





# Conservation



until late summer, we can help protect vulnerable birds and other species. Small changes in our behaviour can make a big difference, ensuring that future generations can continue to enjoy the sights and sounds of nature in our beautiful landscapes.

For more information on lapwings and how to help protect ground-nesting birds, visit [hiwwt.org.uk/news/paws-thought-dog-owners-urged-play-their-part-protecting-wildlife](http://hiwwt.org.uk/news/paws-thought-dog-owners-urged-play-their-part-protecting-wildlife)

mixed farming, spring coppicing and the intensification of grassland management have all contributed to their struggles.

Many nature reserves managed by Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust provide nesting areas for various species of ground nesting birds, including Testwood Lakes Nature Reserve, near Southampton, which is home to breeding lapwings.

As a nation of dog lovers, we all want to enjoy the great outdoors with our furry companions. But we must also remember that we share these spaces with wildlife that depends on them for survival.

One of the biggest challenges is how difficult these nests can be to spot, even for trained eyes, in open locations where you would expect to see them. Their natural camouflage makes them blend seamlessly into their surroundings, increasing the risk of accidental disturbance.

By keeping dogs close by and under control during the ground-nesting bird season, which lasts from now



*Photos of lapwings by Mark Hamblin*



## ***Which One Is Real?***

*Photo of a Grey Heron on the thatched roof near the pond.*

*Barbara Evans*

# Local News



## Probus Club Hear About HMS Broadsword in the Falklands War

Charlie Threlfall was a 19-year-old Sub Lieutenant in the Royal Navy aboard HMS Broadsword, then the latest design of Type 22 frigate, during the Falklands War in 1982. He detailed the ship's mission, and the challenges faced in the conflict.

Initially HMS Broadsword was set for a goodwill tour of ten countries but, following the invasion of the Falklands Islands by Argentina on 2 April 1982, they

the sinking of six British war ships. Sixteen other war ships suffered damage.

They had been positioned in San Carlos Water where they were attacked by fast jets coming across country and were sent out to sea with HMS Coventry, which was struck with three 500lb bombs. Broadsword rescued 170 sailors. They narrowly escaped destruction themselves when a 1000lb bomb struck their vessel 10 feet above the water line, travelled upwards before emerging through the flight deck, where it took off the nose of a Lynx helicopter, and bounced overboard without exploding.

HMS Broadsword was a guided missile frigate, with a displacement of 4,500 tons and with a crew of 235 but did not have traditional gun batteries. The latest thinking of naval warfare was that guided missiles were the future: they could be locked on a target without fail. It was discovered that the four launchers of the Exocet missiles carried by HMS Broadsword could not be reloaded at sea.

There were other lessons learned through this conflict that were ultimately incorporated into naval practice. Having the correct missiles and numerous life-



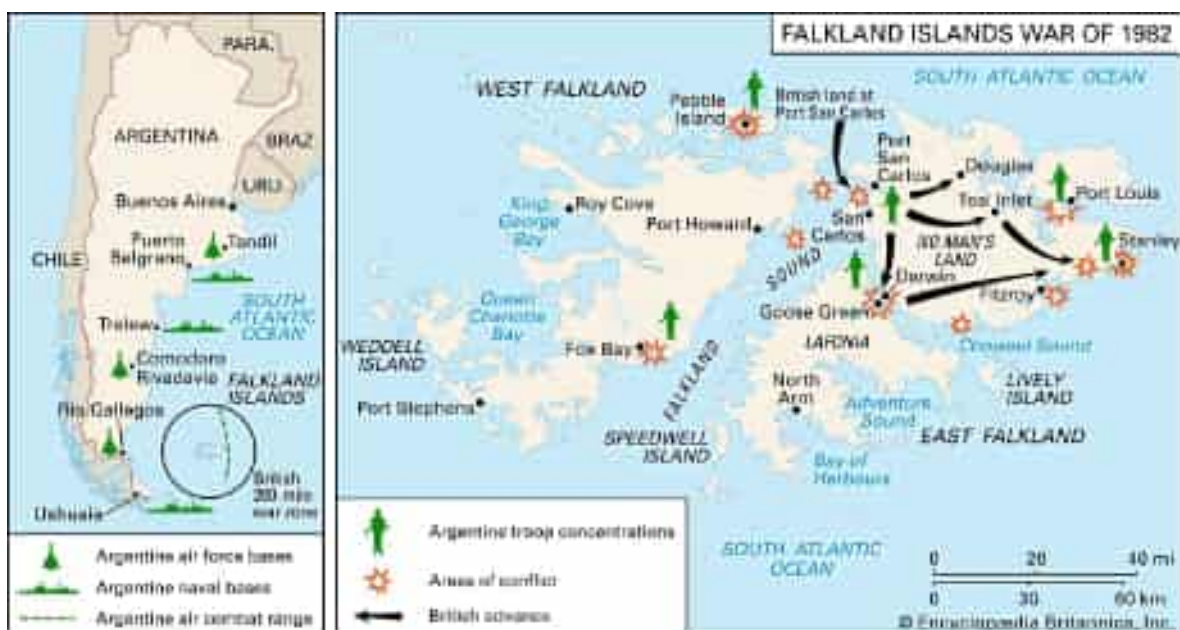
sailed from Gibraltar on 5 April, to the South Atlantic joining a fleet to confront the invaders.

The crew endured long hours with little sleep during the conflict and faced attacks that resulted in

threatening experiences ultimately enhanced sailors' safety.

Charlie Threlfall is one of the few members of *The Bomb Alley Survivors Club*.

See [probusbasingstoke.club](http://probusbasingstoke.club) for more information.





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**Celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Jane Austen's birth**  
**at the Steventon Regency Country Fair, Hampshire**  
**Fair headlined by Lucy Worsley OBE and 'Mr Wickham' actor Adrian Lukis**  
**Sunday 6 July 10 am – 4 pm, Pump Field, Steventon**



**O**n Sunday 6 July 2025 the historic and picturesque village of Steventon, Hampshire, will host the Jane Austen Regency Country Fair, celebrating the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Jane Austen's birth. Jane Austen was born on 16 December 1775 in the very location where the Fair will be held.

With Regency attire actively encouraged (but not compulsory!), the field will be turned into a classical countryside scene with performances by the Hampshire Regency Dancers and Mayfly Morris. There will be demonstrations of country arts and crafts as well as Jane Austen themed talks and performances and fete games, food, drinks and stalls.

Special guests include historian, author and TV presenter Lucy Worsley OBE who will be giving talks, book signings and Q&As. Lucy says of the celebrations, "I am honoured and delighted to join Steventon in hosting this important event to celebrate the birth of Jane Austen. To be in the field where Jane's imagination was established and inspired will be a significant, enjoyable and memorable event."

Adrian Lukis – known to Austen aficionados as Mr Wickam in the 1995 BBC adaptation of *Pride & Prejudice* – will also be attending and participating in Q&As with fair goers. Adrian says of the event, "Jane Austen has held a special place in my heart since I was lucky enough to play the dishonourable cad Mr George Wickam. I look forward to meeting like-minded fans to reminisce and enjoy some light hearted Regency nostalgia in a beautiful setting."

Tamsin Raymond, Steventon village resident and Fair committee lead says, "It is said that Jane spent the most tranquil days of her life here in Steventon – which led her to write three of her seven novels in this very village (*Sense and Sensibility* 1811, *Pride and Prejudice* 1813 and *Northanger Abbey* 1817). We look forward to celebrating Jane in an unchanged location where established fans and Jane newbies alike can talk with historians and actors, enjoy a few Regency pursuits and games, treat themselves to food and drink and soak up the atmosphere of a bygone era."

The fair will be held in Pump Field, where Jane's childhood home Steventon Rectory once stood before it was tragically demolished in 1824. The field still

looks on to the private homes of who would have been Jane's neighbours – and the church bells of St Nicholas, where Jane's father was Rector – will chime across the fields of a landscape unchanged since Jane's writing.

Tickets available at [ticketlab.co.uk/promoter/jacountryfair](http://ticketlab.co.uk/promoter/jacountryfair)

£12 per person; Family tickets (2 adults and 3 children) £30; Children under 5 attend for free

Entry will be by ticket only in advance or on the door. Free parking and disabled parking available on site. No dogs allowed apart from assistance dogs

**Join us for our next lecture: 21 May 2025**

**Alphonse Mucha and the Creative Process**

**Lecturer Charles Harris**

**Y**ou may not have heard of the artist, Alphonse Mucha, but you are very likely to recognise many of his most popular pieces. Certainly, his images as posters, adorned many a student room during the 70's & 80's. Lecturer, Charles Harris remarks, "Alphonse Mucha quite literally wrote the book of Art Nouveau". Everything that is best about the style, elaborate ornamentation with themes from nature, fine draftsmanship, idealized feminine subjects, use of symbolism and allegory, flourished through him at the highest level.



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Our Society Visits and Tours for Summer 2025  
 Gertrude Jekyll Garden  
 Chawton House & Gardens with lunch  
 Jewels of the Loire Valley France – 5-day holiday



## Overton Choral Society

**D**on't miss getting your tickets for the Hampshire Choral Festival event on Sunday, May 11 at The Anvil. We will be performing Verdi's Requiem and The Life of Universal Song by Derek Beck. John Sutton will be conducting his final concert: John is well known to singers and musicians as he has been instrumental in arranging, producing and conducting Voices for Hospices since its inception. The Requiem is a stirring work and we are looking to perform it at our very best under the baton of John Sutton. Overton Choral Society is one of the choirs that sing under the banner of the Hampshire Choral Festival.

There will be a collection for Hampshire Hospices (both card and cash) and St Michael's Hospice will be one of those collecting. As many will know, hospices do not get Government support and St Michael's is struggling to meet its expenditure so please give as much as you can. St Michaels Hospice is our favoured charity and we are pleased to support it once again.

Tickets are already for sale at the Anvil Box Office. [box.office@anvilarts.org.uk](mailto:box.office@anvilarts.org.uk)

We are pleased to say that we will be singing in the Overton Music Festival on Saturday, 7 June. This will be a much lighter selection than normal so we will soon start practicing this repertoire.

We would like to encourage younger singers to join us. Four of our members celebrate their 80<sup>th</sup> birthdays this year and, although they are in good voice, we are aware that this may not always be so, especially in the higher registers. Please email us if you would like to have a go at singing some serious works (very good training for a career in music).

*Lyn Hardy, Chair*

## CarFest 2025

**C**arFest 2025 is about to get even bigger, bolder, and more electrifying! More stars, more sparkle, and more showstopping moments are coming your way this August Bank Holiday weekend (Aug 22 - 24) at Laverstoke Park Farm, Hampshire.

The latest wave of artists joining the lineup includes **Busted**, **Kim Wilde**, **Squeeze**, and **Sam Ryder**, adding even more magic to an already jaw-dropping bill with **Rita Ora**, **Travis**, **Madness**, and **Tom Walker**.

Prepare for a weekend of unforgettable performances, packed with feel-good anthems, epic singalongs, and high-energy sets. From **Busted's** chart-toppers to **Sam Ryder's** Eurovision brilliance, the Main Stage will be



bursting with energy all weekend long!

But that's just the start—CarFest is a celebration like no other, with **KidsFest**, **FoodFest**, **SpaFest**, **StarFest**, and so much more. It's the ultimate family festival, packed with everything you need for an unforgettable summer weekend.

Tickets are on sale now at [carfest.org](http://carfest.org) – don't miss the ultimate summer celebration!

## Whitchurch Silk Mill: May 2025 Highlights

**E**ssential Fundraising Success: Whitchurch Silk Mill recently raised an impressive £12,000 through the Arts for Impact campaign in March. Donations were doubled by charity champions, turning £5,000 into £10,000 and, with gift aid, the total reached £12,000. This vital fundraising supports events, restoration, and the mill's operations.

**Shop Highlights:** Peter Pilgrim's popular neon stripe design scarves are back in the shop, alongside beautiful bookmarks made from the mill's silk ribbons.

**Driveway Project:** Starting on May 7, local firm Kieron Beattie will begin a three-week driveway project. The mill will remain open, with access via the Winchester Road car park.

## Upcoming Workshops and Events

**Weave a Wall Hanging Workshops:** May 7 (10:30 am to 1:30 pm) and May 16 (1 to 4 pm). Suitable for beginners, these workshops offer hands-on weaving experience. Tickets are £60 per person.

**A Day in the Life of a Regency Lady:** May 13, 7 to 8:30 pm. Sophie Andrews will demonstrate Regency-era clothing and daily routines. Tickets are £15 per person.

**Spring Fayre:** May 26, 10:30 am to 4 pm. A family-friendly event with local food, children's crafts, and fun activities. Entry is free.

**One-day Weaving Course for Intermediate Learners:** June 4, 10 am to 5 pm. Learn advanced weaving techniques. Tickets are £100 per person.

**Horsehair Tales:** June 10, 7 to 8:30 pm. John Miners will discuss the history of John Boyd Textiles. Tickets are £15 per person.

**Open Gardens:** June 22, 1 to 5 pm. Visit over twenty private gardens in Whitchurch. Tickets are available from the mill.

**Regency Picnic:** June 28, 3 to 7 pm. Celebrate Jane Austen's 250th birthday with a Regency-themed picnic. Tickets are limited.

## Exhibition

**Riches to Ribbons Exhibition:** Until July 20 explore the history of silk ribbon weaving in celebration of Jane Austen's 250th birthday. Entry is included with mill admission.



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# Local News

## Connor Selby—Live at Basingstoke Blues Club

Date: Saturday 17 May 2025; Time: 8 pm  
Venue: Central Studio, Queen Mary's College,  
Basingstoke, RG21 3HF

Tickets: £10, available online at  
basingstokeblues.co.uk or on the door subject to  
availability

Young troubadour Connor Selby signed to  
Provogue Records in December 2022 and has  
released his major label debut, the self titled Connor  
Selby to critical acclaim. One of the brightest talents

on the UK blues scene. He has been voted “Young  
Artist of the Year” at the UK Blues Awards for three  
consecutive years (2020, 2021, 2022) and he already  
has an impressive venue checklist, including  
Wembley Stadium, where he opened for The Who in  
July 2019 and has since gone on to play Hyde Park,  
London, with Pearl Jam, Stereophonics and Johnny  
Marr in the summer of 2022. Connor has also had a  
productive 2023 touring the UK as the opening act for  
Blues and Rock Luminaries Robert Cray and Beth  
Hart. Connor also embarked on a headline tour in  
October of 2023.

# Health Matters



## Covid Vaccine Programme

**T**he NHS national booking system is open for  
spring Covid-19 vaccination bookings, for  
those eligible, who can book appointments  
until 17 June 2025. Eligibility for a spring vaccination  
is similar to previous years but those with a weakened  
immune system are now eligible from 6 months  
instead of 5 years.

Following JCVI (Joint Council on Vaccination and  
Immunisation) advice, this spring's eligible cohorts  
include:

- Adults aged 75 years and over by 30 June 2025
- Residents in care homes for older adults
- Individuals aged 6 months and over who are  
immunosuppressed

Anyone eligible can book a vaccine appointment  
via the NHS.UK website or by calling 119 for free,  
with parents or carers able to book a Covid-19  
vaccination for children under 16 on their behalf.  
Eligible people aged 16 and over can also use the  
NHS App to book an appointment.

This year there are thousands of appointments  
available every day across the country including at  
pharmacies and GP practices. Some areas also offer  
convenient walk-in options, with a list of available  
walk-in sites online. [nhs.uk/nhs-services/vaccination-  
and-booking-services/find-a-walk-in-covid-19-  
vaccination-site](https://nhs.uk/nhs-services/vaccination-and-booking-services/find-a-walk-in-covid-19-vaccination-site)

We often get asked why we invite patients who

have previously declined. The NHS England ‘rules’  
do not allow us to permanently decline a patient from  
a vaccination programme as patients may change their  
minds at a future point. When we can we do allow  
patients to decline from the invitation sent.

## Health Kiosk at Kingsclere

Following the successful trial of a Health Kiosk at  
Overton Surgery, we have been successful in getting  
funding for a second at Kingsclere. All patients with a  
current registration at Watership Down Health are  
welcome to use either of our Health Kiosks.

The Health Kiosk is available from 8 am in the  
morning to 6:20 pm at night (to allow the checks and  
information to be transferred into the clinic system)  
and is situated in the waiting rooms at Kingsclere and  
Overton. The Health Kiosk will record a range of  
information including height, weight, blood pressure  
as well as a number of Health Questionnaires being  
included.

The Health Kiosk transfers any data directly into  
our clinical system so there is no need to hand in print  
outs of BPs etc as the data securely comes into our  
clinical system. Full information and a short and long  
video are available on our Web Site at:

[watershipdownhealth.com/wellbeing/health-kiosk/](https://watershipdownhealth.com/wellbeing/health-kiosk/)

If any queries, please message us via our Web  
Site. We are grateful to our Commissioners for their  
support with the funding of the second Health Kiosk.

## Hay Fever

Hay fever is usually worse between late March and  
September, especially when it's warm, humid and  
windy. This is when the pollen count is at its highest.  
Community Pharmacies will be able to supply a range  
of over-the-counter medicines to help manage  
symptoms. The NHS has helpful information at:

[nhs.uk/conditions/hay-fever/](https://nhs.uk/conditions/hay-fever/)



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# Health Matters



## Coeliac UK North Hampshire Group Coeliac Awareness Month

**F**ind out more about Coeliac disease and see if it affects you with articles and real-life case studies at [coeliac.org.uk/awareness-month-2025](http://coeliac.org.uk/awareness-month-2025).

1 in 100 people have coeliac disease, but only 36% of people are diagnosed in the UK, which leaves a staggering 64% living undiagnosed, often with debilitating symptoms. Find out if you or your child should be tested for coeliac disease - a serious lifelong autoimmune condition - in just two minutes. Is it coeliac disease? Coeliac UK has a free online self

-assessment on the above awareness web page.

Next group meeting Saturday 21 May in Waitrose cafe in Basingstoke between 10:30 and 12. If you haven't joined us before, look out for at least one member of our committee wearing a bright orange Coeliac UK top.

### 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)

## Ladies Societies



### Oakley and Deane WI

**T**he 107<sup>th</sup> birthday of Oakley and Deane WI was marked with a celebration meeting to which members from other Institutes were invited. Music was provided by Jonathan Woodhouse, an ex- army musician. He played familiar tunes on his clarinet, tenor and soprano saxophones such as "Stranger on the Shore," and "Skyfall". He showed pictures of the Life Guards which he had been in for 26 years marching in their wonderful golden uniform.



A competition was held for a birthday badge which was won by our Secretary, Barbara. A buffet was provided by members and a cake was cut.

A craft afternoon and tea had been held on the previous Saturday at the hall. There is a Jumble Sale on 26 April. Next month's meeting is our Annual Meeting on 13 May so a good time to join for the year.

Website [oakleydeanewi.weebly.com](http://oakleydeanewi.weebly.com)

*Jean Freeman*

## Pause For Thought



**I** love to look at the expressions on people's faces in the photographs of the celebrations of VE Day 1945. Looking closely, you can see those laughing, singing, dancing people are not just posing. There is real joy and happiness in their expressions. Young people can be young again. The weight of responsibility is lifting for a short while. Better times are coming and celebrations are spontaneous. They dare to dream of a time when service men and women will be coming home, families will be reunited and the World, freed from oppression and tyranny, will be a better place.

Listening to the recorded memories on the BBC Archive, you hear so many stories of VE Day. Particularly in the towns and cities that had suffered so much in the Blitz, people put tables and chairs outside, drag pianos into the streets (for there must be

singing and dancing) and food and drink magically appears! There must have been many a sore head the next day. Despite all they'd gone through, all their losses, for a short time, they were joyful in a way denied for almost 6 years. Many had paid a high price during the War to give us the freedoms that we have enjoyed for so long.

And yet, it was those war weary people who dared to keep their dreams and build a New World. As Churches held Thanksgiving Services, remembering the fallen, they didn't forget to pray for peace. Their experiences had shown them that, while freedom has to be fought for, only in peace can such dreams be realised. Seeing all that's been achieved in the last 80 years, perhaps to pray for peace once again is a good idea.

*Jeanne Johnson*

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[james@wellermackrill.co.uk](mailto:james@wellermackrill.co.uk)

ACCA





## Volunteers needed to support new Social Groups

Age Concern Hampshire is seeking dedicated volunteers to support the expansion of its community social groups. Volunteers play a crucial role in facilitating activities, providing companionship, and creating a welcoming environment for participants. Those interested in making a positive impact to communities in Basingstoke, Overton, Whitchurch & Kingsclere should get in touch by calling Kate Harrison on 07501 553230 or by visiting the website for more information [ageconcernhampshire.org.uk/job/basingstoke-social-group-volunteer-sng/](http://ageconcernhampshire.org.uk/job/basingstoke-social-group-volunteer-sng/)

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

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

For media enquiries, please email Sarah Jacobs, Marketing Manager at Age Concern Hampshire: [marketing@ageconcernhampshire.org.uk](mailto:marketing@ageconcernhampshire.org.uk)

## £40K for 40 Years fundraising campaign to commemorate the Ruby Anniversary for local independent charity

Age Concern Hampshire (ACH) proudly marks a significant milestone in 2025, celebrating 40 years of dedicated service to older people across the county. To recognise this remarkable achievement, the charity has launched the £40k for 40 Years fundraising campaign in February 2025, an ambitious initiative aimed at raising £40,000 through 40 community-led events.

Since its founding in 1985, Age Concern Hampshire has been committed to enhancing the lives



of older people by offering essential services, engaging activities, and dedicated dementia support. To ensure this crucial work continues, the organisation is urging communities and businesses to get involved, whether through fundraising or by becoming a Corporate Sponsor. Every contribution helps make a meaningful difference in the lives of those who need it most.

The independent registered charity has created comprehensive fundraising

packs to help participants plan and deliver successful events. These resources provide guidance on selecting the right event, using effective promotional materials and assets, and maximising donations. An A-Z Fundraising Guide is also available to inspire creative fundraising ideas. To ensure smooth event planning, participants are asked to complete an Event Planning Form to capture all essential details.

Contributions from fundraising events can be made through the charity's dedicated JustGiving page, where UK taxpayers can also boost their donations by 25% at no extra cost through Gift Aid. To celebrate community involvement, supporters are encouraged to share event photos and updates with the charity, helping to inspire others and highlight the impact of their efforts.

*"As we celebrate 40 years of supporting older people across Hampshire, we're inviting individuals, community groups, and businesses to get involved in this special campaign," said Brogan Rehill, Head of Fundraising and Volunteer Services at Age Concern Hampshire. "Every contribution, big or small, helps us continue making a difference for years to come".*

For more information, or to get involved, please contact Age Concern Hampshire's Marketing & Fundraising Team at [supporters@ageconcernhampshire.org.uk](mailto:supporters@ageconcernhampshire.org.uk) or visit their website at [ageconcernhampshire.org.uk/ach-40k-for-40-years-fundraising-campaign/](http://ageconcernhampshire.org.uk/ach-40k-for-40-years-fundraising-campaign/).

*Founded in 1985, Age Concern Hampshire provide services to the older community of Hampshire. The charity currently deliver support at their Care & Wellbeing centres throughout the county, as well as Foot Care clinics, Help at Home, Information via their Information Hub, Hospital to Home Services, Community Information Volunteer Services and a variety of other activities.*



## Oakley Football Club

As the football season draws to a close we can reflect on another satisfying year across all age groups in the North Hampshire league. Whilst trophies appear to be out of reach this time around, at every competitive level our teams continue to punch above their weight - it might be hard to believe given all the house-building underway that Oakley has half the youth population of Hatch Warren and Tadley, and a tenth that of Andover and Newbury.

The U18 Greens are just off the top of the U18 Premier Division but running out of games to catch up; the U14 Yellows and Greens lie 4<sup>th</sup> in the Premier and First divisions respectively; the U16 Yellows, U15 Raptors, U13 Raiders and Lightning and U12 Panthers and Lions are all mid-table in their divisions.

Preparations are well underway for the season (Continued on page 35)

## Free Ads

All entries should be sent in writing to Maureen Dallaway by **10 May** 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.

Staedtler Ascola 662 A3 **table-top drawing board** with sliding rule. No obligation inspection welcome. Can deliver locally. £10. Tel 07879 467242.

Artist's proof print "**Bearmen of the Board**" signed by the artist Sue Willis - delightful depiction of six teddy bears as board members, sitting at a table with agendas, pens, etc; print size is approx 25 cm high x 53 cm wide; moulded wooden frame size is approx 40 cm high x 67.5 cm wide. No obligation inspection welcome. Can deliver locally. £60. tel. 07879 467242.

12 piece **Noritake fine China dinner service** in Green Hill, consisting of tea set, serving plates, vegetable server, etc, excellent condition, rarely used, £300, or nearest offer. Please email **vikkiwaring@yahoo.co.uk** for any further information.

2L **Tefal Blendforce blender** 600W brand new in box unwanted gift £35, Tel 07933139564

## Looking for a social cycling club that caters for all levels?

## Welcome to the Hatch Warren & Beggarwood Cycle Club

### ABOUT US

We are a community cycling club based in the Hatch Warren and Beggarwood area of Basingstoke.

The club's motto is "Come Ride With Us," and we hope you do. We are working to be as inclusive as possible and encourage you to join in.

We offer rides for different abilities, so whether you are a beginner or a seasoned rider, you are welcome to join us. We ride every Saturday at 9 a.m. starting from St Mark's School on Dumbley Road.

So, if you want to get fit, ride with like-minded individuals, and see the Hampshire countryside, please get in touch. We would love to welcome you on our next ride.

Our membership year starts on the 1st of April and finishes on the 31st of March. This year's membership fee is £10.

If you'd like to try the club before committing to membership, please come to a ride and introduce yourself. We won't ask you to fully sign up as a member until you've cycled with us three times.

Ottlite crafters **floor standing light and magnifier**—brand new—£35. Tel 07933130564

**FREE—2 square framed maps of Oakley.** One from 1880 (reproduction) and 1 from possibly 1990. Can be delivered to Oakley. Please email **hammell.elaine@g.mail.com** if you are interested.

**Small electric cement mixer.** Hardly used £80 o.n.o Tel 782388 Buyer collects

**John Lewis Grey Sofa bed.** Excellent condition £50. Buyer collects Tel 01256 780021

**MORETTA Tan Leather country walking boots** brand new never been worn size 5, £80 call 07732806933 / 01256 780997

**Large Fish tank.** Length 104 cm, Height 54 cm, Depth 47 cm, plus stand and some fish. **FREE** Tel 07988717356

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Iconic **Ikea Stockholm easy chair.** Faded but clean. Covers easily available on line 27" high 16" depth. Free, buyer collects. Tel 07957442048.



# Sport



finale - the Oakley 6-a-side Tournament, the club's showpiece annual event. The tournament, held over 24 - 25 May, brings over 150 teams from across the region to the Peter Houseman Ground for two days of competition for kids from 6 to 16.

As ever the club is grateful for the support of many parents, volunteers, local businesses and both Oakley schools in putting on what we hope will be another highly successful event.

We work hard to keep the disruption such an event brings to the village to a minimum, liaising with local authorities to get visitors into and out of the village as efficiently as possible, ideally whilst spending a few quid in our local amenities along the way. The proceeds help us keep playing fees amongst the lowest in the area and also to support Sebastian's Action Trust: last year the club donated £1,000 to the Trust's work supporting the families of seriously ill children.



## Oakley Bowling Club News

The winter ended with a flurry of social events and with the excellent news that Club member Alice Lovett had finished runner up in a second National championships, this time the Two Bowl Singles. What an achievement for a young lady who turned 21 only in April. Who says bowls is an old people's game?

The summer season is now under way and, in preparation for it, we have completely refurbished the inside of the pavilion with new tables, funded by a grant from County Councillor Juliet Henderson, and new carpets, partly funded from a Basingstoke and Deane grant, authorised by local councillor Julian Jones.

As normal we have an extensive competitive and friendly programme that keeps our members active. On 24 May, we shall be having an OPEN Day to encourage local visitors to come and see our facilities and will allow our members formally to celebrate the improvement to our pavilion. We are always on the look out for new members to join our friendly Club so, if you cannot make that date, just phone our secretaries Spencer on 01256 780418 or Diane on 01256 781465 and they will be only too happy to arrange for someone to meet you at the green and show you the ropes. All you need bring with you is a pair of flat shoes – all other equipment is provided. There is no charge for the Open Day, nor for visits arranged through our secretaries. Should you seek



membership, reduced subscription rates are available for the first year as well as discounted clothing. Alternatively, you can book a rink for play via: [play-bowls.com/clubprofile/oakley-bowling-club](http://play-bowls.com/clubprofile/oakley-bowling-club)



### Oakley Bowling Club

**Invites you to come and try bowls at our picturesque club on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> May as part of our Big Bowls Weekend**

**10.00am till 4.00pm**

**Bowling or Social memberships available.**



**Malshanger - RG23 7EY**

**[www.oakleybc.org.uk](http://www.oakleybc.org.uk)**



# Walking



## Woodland Wellbeing Walks - May

Come and enjoy scenic walks around our local woods and fields, finishing with a sociable cuppa at the Methodist Chapel.



### Start Point for Walks:

- Tuesday, 13 May @ 10 am - Village Pond. B
- Tuesday, 20 May @ 10 am - St John's Rd lay-by. R
- Tuesday, 27 May @ 10 am - East Oakley Village Hall [aka The Green Hut] B

### Other Details:

Pace: gentle

Duration: 1 hour approx.

Routes: varied.

B = walk led by Barbara [07722 757057]

R = walk led by Richard [07549 021174]

beautiful views across fishing lakes and countryside near the Kennet & Avon Canal, with field & wooded paths, some road walking (unavoidable with so much water round) and the last 4 miles along the towpath, after a tasty lunch at the Aldermaston Wharf tearoom.

Oakley Ramblers is a friendly and very sociable group; we love meeting new people who enjoy the outdoors and always welcome visitors who can try us out before joining. In May we will start our evening



## OAKLEY RAMBLERS

**O**akley ramblers enjoyed two walks in March: the first was 5 miles setting off from Overton Hill CP to enjoy a circular walk, via Flashetts and then uphill to cross the railway heading towards The Harrow Way. We were rewarded with dry, partly sunny weather, minimal mud, some great views and an absence of traffic noise.

Leaving The Harrow Way, we wandered down a wooded path towards Southington and spent a few minutes enjoying the clear water of the Test with ducks, daffodils coming into bloom and a single trout. After crossing the B3400, we headed up Vinns Lane, following a footpath, then a quiet road to complete our circular walk. A feeling of satisfaction after a great walk in excellent company.

The second walk on Sunday, 23 March, enjoyed by 7 walkers, was 10 miles from Theale bridge via Aldermaston Wharf. Despite a slightly overcast start we enjoyed

walks alongside our usual 2 walks a month. The dates for the walks will be Wednesday 14 May, in the afternoon, an evening walk on Thursday 15 May, and a longer walk on Sunday 25 May. Find us on Facebook, or visit our website for more information. [oakleyramblers.org](http://oakleyramblers.org).

*Corrine Thomas*





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## LOCAL INFORMATION

### Oakley Community Association

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

### Councillors & Politicians

#### Member of Parliament, Basingstoke

Luke Murphy - [luke.murphy.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:luke.murphy.mp@parliament.uk) 07946 617981  
47 Winchester Street, Basingstoke, RG21 7EF

#### Parish Councillors:

Fred Bullions  
Vaughn Burns  
Dave Condliffe  
Ken Crafer  
Ian Ellison  
Trevor Green (Vice Chair)  
Amanda Hayman  
Gary McAllister (Chair)  
Alex Rowley

**Parish Clerk :** Nicola Beere, 1 Station Road, Oakley  
[clerk@oakleydeane-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@oakleydeane-pc.gov.uk) or 07983 500372

#### Deputy Clerk:

#### Borough Councillors:

Paul Gaskell [Cllr.Paul.Gaskell@basingstoke.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.Paul.Gaskell@basingstoke.gov.uk) 07812 894479  
Hannah Golding 07305 123671  
[cllr.hannah.golding@basingstoke.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.hannah.golding@basingstoke.gov.uk)  
Julian Jones [Cllr.Julian.Jones@basingstoke.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.Julian.Jones@basingstoke.gov.uk) 0794 6475700

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

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The Cricket Club  
Peter Houseman Field.

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Out of hours call 111

## CHURCHES

*The guidelines for social activities are subject to change; for more information use the contact details below.*

### Church of England

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

#### Website:

[www.oakleywithwootton.org.uk](http://www.oakleywithwootton.org.uk)  
**Church Office:** St Leonard's Centre,  
Rectory Rd, Oakley  
Tel 782724 9:00 am -1:00 pm week-days  
[office@oww.church](mailto:office@oww.church)  
Revd Ben Kautzer [ben@oww.church](mailto:ben@oww.church)  
01256 420903  
Contacts for Deane:  
Deidre Coles - Warden Tel 781495

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

### Methodist

Chapel by the pond

#### Website:

<https://www.bhbcircuit.org.uk/churches/oakley.html>  
Hill Road adjacent to the village pond in East Oakley  
Revd Claire Simpson  
[revclaire72@btinternet.com](mailto:revclaire72@btinternet.com)  
Tel: 01256 323103

### Roman Catholic

St Joseph's and  
St Bede's

#### Website:

[www.stjosephsbasingstoke.org.uk](http://www.stjosephsbasingstoke.org.uk)  
171a St Michael's Rd, Basingstoke, RG22 6TY  
Fr Paul Leonard,  
Parish Office -Tel: 323595  
[office@stjosephsbasingstoke.org.uk](mailto:office@stjosephsbasingstoke.org.uk)

### Community Church

#### Websites:

[www.lifespringcommunitychurch.org](http://www.lifespringcommunitychurch.org)  
or [www.hopebasingstoke.org](http://www.hopebasingstoke.org)  
St. Luke's Hall Overton  
or Sarum Hill Centre, Sarum Hill, Basingstoke  
Contact: John and Wendy Thurston (780135)  
or Paul and Ann Davis (782769)

## Village Shops

Coop - Oakley Lane	780857
Craft Kits N Bits, 4 Rowan Tree Road	020 3488 5499
One Stop - Oakley lane	780227
V&B Butchers in the Vale	780323
Village Café, Jolly Olly's Oakley Lane	782658
Village Pharmacy in the Vale	782381

### Oakley Scout Group

David Foster-Key (781097)

[oakley@bwds.org.uk](mailto:oakley@bwds.org.uk)

### Oakley Girlguiding

Caroline Lloyd

[c45lloyd@outlook.com](mailto:c45lloyd@outlook.com)

## VILLAGE HALLS

East Oakley Village Hall ("Green Hut") - Hill Road

Booking Secretary 07788 423252 or email: [booking@oakleygreenhut.co.uk](mailto:booking@oakleygreenhut.co.uk)  
Website: [www.oakleygreenhut.co.uk](http://www.oakleygreenhut.co.uk)

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

Contact Church Office: 782724

Oakley Village Hall - Andover Road

Contact: 781229

St Leonards Centre - Rectory Road

Contact Church Office: 782724

**NOTE:** If you wish to add an item or correct any entries, please send an email to: [john@oakleylink.org.uk](mailto:john@oakleylink.org.uk) Last amended: 12/42025



## What's coming up this Spring at the Barley Mow...

### May Bank Holidays

3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> May & 24<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> May  
Make the most of the May Bank Holiday weekends, bring your friends and family to celebrate the long weekends in style. Whether you're here for the delicious food, or just to relax with a drink, we've got something for everyone!

### Functions

Our function space is the perfect place to host your next special event. Ideal for birthdays, family reunions, corporate events and more. Enjoy the privacy of your own space to enjoy with family and friends no matter what the occasion. Our team are on hand to make your experience special from start to finish.



### Lunch & a drink for £11

Available 12-5pm Mon-Fri  
Join us midweek and get lunch and a drink for £11. Choose from a tasty selection of pub classics, sandwiches and wraps along with a choice of beer, cider, wine or a soft drink for just £11



Barley Mow (Oakley Lane) | Basildon | B122 7JZ | 01268 610 615

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

[www.barleymowpub.co.uk](http://www.barleymowpub.co.uk)

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