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LIVE - *life* - BETTER

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

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

Link web-site oakleylink.org.uk

Please e-mail copy to: editor@oakleylink.org.uk

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

Deadline for May 2026 issue: 15 April

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Editorial

Link is 65 years old this month!

It was started in April 1961 as 'a monthly magazine for church and village' and then covered Church Oakley and Wootton St Lawrence. Its editor was Mr E A G Cook, who lived in Winchester Road, Basingstoke, and the Rector at that time was Rev K H Jackson, of The Vicarage in Wootton St Lawrence. The cost was sixpence monthly or five shillings per annum.

Useful information inside: timetables for buses between Clay Pits, East Oakley and Barge, Basingstoke (Wilts & Dorset Motor Services Limited) and trains between Basingstoke and Waterloo (British Railways). There were also details of church services at the Parish Church, St John's and Wootton St Lawrence.

Amongst much church news there was a single page of News from the Villages, including Oakley and Deane Women's Institute, Oakley and Wootton sports clubs (Lawn Tennis, Cricket and Table Tennis), The Good Companions Club, for men and women over sixty, 1st Oakley Brownies Pack, Oakley and District Horticultural Society, and Church Oakley and Wootton St Lawrence Young Wives Group.

Chris Wassell

Oakley Community Care

Supporting your needs for transport to medical appointments

We offer transport by car to anyone in need, mainly for visits to doctors, hospital appointments, dental appointments and the like.

Wheelchair users must be able to transfer to the car unaided. Oakley Community Care is made up of friendly volunteers who are unpaid. However a donation by the passenger to cover fuel and other costs is appreciated.

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

New volunteer drivers are always welcome

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

01256 781660

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

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Report from the Parish Council

The Parish Council would like to invite residents to the Annual Parish Meeting on Wednesday 22 April at 7 pm, taking place at Oakley Junior School. This is a great opportunity for the community to come together, hear updates on local matters and ask questions about issues that affect the parish. We are pleased to welcome a number of guest visitors this year, including representatives from Watership Down Health, the local Police, and other organisations who support our community.

A big thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the recent parish survey. The survey is now closed, and councillors are currently reviewing the responses. The feedback provided will help guide future priorities and initiatives for the parish, and we appreciate residents sharing their views.

We would also like to remind residents that there are currently vacancies available on the parish allotments. If you have been considering growing your own fruit and vegetables, this could be a great opportunity to get involved. For more information or to request an allotment, please contact the Parish Clerk at clerk@oakleydeane-pc.gov.uk.

Finally, the Council would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our long-serving councillor Fred, who is stepping down after 14 years of dedicated service to the parish. Fred has been a valued member of the Council, and his knowledge, commitment, and experience have contributed greatly to our work and to the local community. He will be very much missed, and we wish him all the very best for the future.

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



COFFEE & CHAT MORNINGS

Every Wednesday

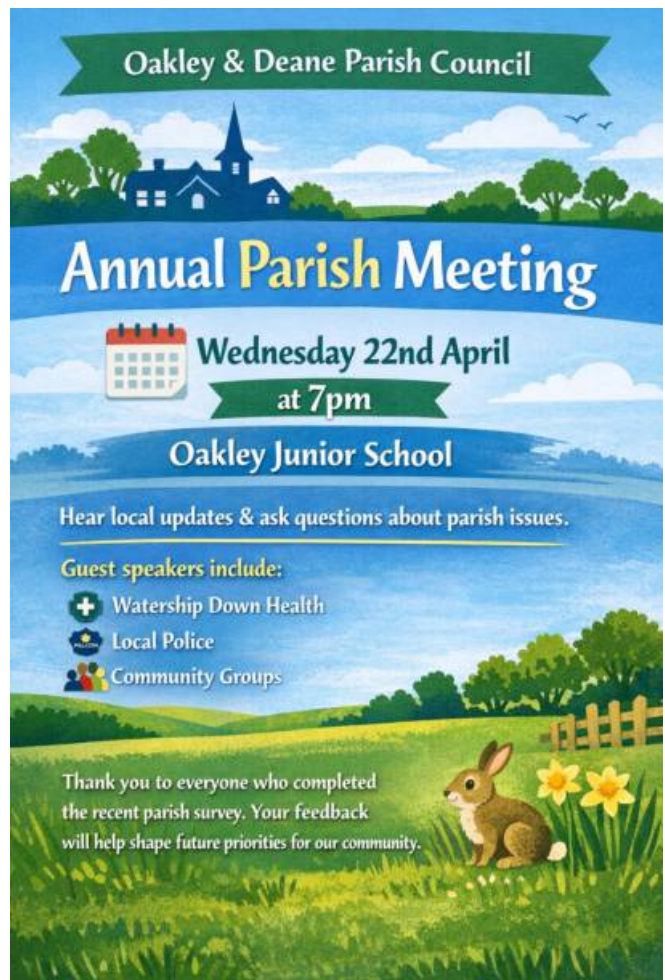
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at

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Lunch with us

Beat those midweek blues with our wonderful lunch deal. Enjoy a selection of sandwiches, wraps and classics paired with a drink for just £12.



Mother's Day

Sunday 15th March

Bring the family together to celebrate Mum with our three-course menu for £33 full of roasts with all the trimmings, and all your favourite dishes. Book your spot now.



Easter Weekend

3rd-6th April

Join us this long weekend for a beautiful Easter surrounded by friends and family. We've got a three-course set menu for the Easter Sunday featuring lamb rump for the special occasion. Plus, we've got the perfect spot to gather the group all weekend long with a pint in hand.



Barley Mow | Oakley Lane | Basingstoke | RG23 7JZ | 01256 636 635

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

www.barleymowatOakley.co.uk



Murder by Moonlight

June 6, 8 pm

Having had a runaway success

with our Christmas panto, (not too many people ran away) TOPS are treading the boards again with a brand-new murder mystery, *Murder by Moonlight*. The evening provides you with the opportunity to test your sleuthing skills and prove yourself to be the new "Vera" or "Morse." It works like this. We perform the first act during which, not surprisingly, someone on stage gets murdered.

During the interval, you can employ your little grey cells to work out whodunnit and relax with some nibbles, (provided by us,) and drinks, (provided by you), after which all will be revealed in the second act.

It makes for a fun evening, and you can take it as seriously as you want. (We don't take it very seriously...)

For details and booking, see our poster on page 5.

Or if you have any questions, (apart from who the culprit is) email me on anndavis48@hotmail.com or ring 07810316413

Ann Davis

Oakley Village Show 8 August

Last month, we encouraged all you budding writers to get tapping on your keyboards, and this month, it's a shout-out for those who are green fingered.

The full list of classes for fruit and vegetables can be found in the schedule which is on the OCA website (ocaoakley.org.uk) and available in hard copy from Jolly Olly's and we hope you will enjoy planting and growing in readiness for that.

The other way to get involved is to enter the container class. Last year, we did this differently by giving people the chance to use identical containers, which makes for an even playing field and gives people a chance to use their imagination as well as their growing skills. This worked very well, so we are repeating it this year.

So, how does it work? Collect your container and pay your entry fee (50p) as follows:

- From Newfound Pavilion on Thursdays, between 10:30 am and 1:30 pm during April and May.
- Or from OCA Easter Egg Hunt table at the Barley Mow on 3 April between 10:30 am and 2 pm.
- Or Ring 01256 781456 if you can do neither of the above.

(Check the schedule for future reference.)

As regards other aspects of the show, plans are still being clarified, but we are looking forward to a full afternoon which will suit all ages. Look out for updates in the next couple of months.


Ann Davis on behalf of the committee



TOPS
The Oakley Pantomime Society
Presents:

Murder by Moonlight

Saturday 6th. June 2026 8-00pm.
Andover Road Village Hall



Can you fathom clues to discover by whom, why and how this chilling crime was committed?

£8-00 to include light refreshments
(bring your own drinks)

Tickets available from Murray Simmons
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Alternate Tuesdays

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Covid Spring booster update

Vaccinations will be offered from 13 April to 30 June for adults aged 75 and over, residents in care homes for older people and immunosuppressed patients. We have a Covid clinic on Saturday 25 April, but it has limited capacity. Patients are also able to call 119 between 7 April and 29 June to book appointments at a range of community pharmacies.

Access to appointments will be changing – a new approach

A smarter, faster way to reach your GP
Over the next few months, we will be introducing a new, upgraded way for you to access our medical centre: GP triage. This simple online tool will help you get the right care more quickly by guiding you through a short set of questions about your symptoms or request. It is designed to make contacting us easier, reduce waiting times and ensure your query reaches the right clinician or service straight away.

What does this mean for you?

Instead of waiting on the phone or trying to find the right appointment type, you will be able to submit your request online via our website. The system reviews the information you provide and directs it to the most appropriate member of our team. This means faster responses, fewer delays and a smoother experience for everyone. Whether you need medical advice, a prescription or help with an administrative query, GP triage will help us manage demand more efficiently.

Safe, secure and designed around your care

Your health and privacy remain our top priority. The triage system will not replace our clinicians, instead it will free up more appointments with them. Every request will be reviewed by a trained professional, and the information you share will be handled securely. By using GP triage, you will help to reduce phone congestion and improve the overall quality of care we can offer.

A further update will be provided when the new system goes live. The PPG will be offering support at a drop-in clinic for those who need help with the NHS app at the Overton surgery on Tuesday, 21 April from 9 – 11 am.

Heather Mann

Coeliac UK North Hampshire Group Allergy & Free-From Show NEC 9 – 10 May

Tickets now available online for £10
The Allergy & Free-From Show is the only dedicated health show focused on the free-from market in the UK. If you lead a free-from lifestyle due to medical needs or lifestyle preferences, this is the show for you!

Do you live with allergies, intolerances, coeliac disease, hay fever or eczema living “free from” gluten, wheat, eggs, nuts or dairy, or need to avoid dust mites, latex or any other material? If so, visit The Allergy & Free-From Show. You can shop hundreds of free-from food, drink, health and lifestyle products, services and events.

Imported “Dubai style” chocolate poses risk to people with coeliac disease

These products may pose a risk to people with coeliac disease, food allergies and intolerances, due to unclear, unreliable or non-compliant ingredient labelling. The Food Standards Agency (FSA) has highlighted that some of these imported chocolates, often sold online or through local or specialist retailers, do not meet UK food labelling standards. This means they might:

- Lack a full ingredients list
- Fail to clearly highlight allergens
- Contain additives or colours not permitted in the UK

In addition, Dubai-style chocolate usually contains kadayfi (or kataifi), a shredded wheat-based pastry. As this is a gluten-containing ingredient, these products are not suitable for a gluten-free diet. If you have purchased this type of chocolate and are unsure of its safety, the FSA is advising that you do not consume it.

North Hampshire AGM

We will be incorporating our AGM into this social event so if you have any thoughts about things you would like the group to do or would like to get involved, please do come along.

Next meet-up

Next meeting Saturday 25 April 10:30 – 12 noon at Waitrose café, Basing View.

Contacts:

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

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

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Community

Oakley Community Care 2026 AGM

I am pleased to give notice and invite all our drivers and their partners, our friends and associates, to join us for our **AGM on Wednesday 22 April 2026 commencing 2:30 pm** at the Oakley Village Hall, Andover Road, Oakley, RG23 7HA.

This will be followed by a cream tea, and plenty of time to socialise with friends and colleagues.

A separate invitation will go out to drivers and other members of OCC to respond to but the AGM is open to all residents of Oakley and the immediate neighbourhood.

In order for us to ensure we have sufficient refreshments available it would be helpful if anyone who is not currently involved with OCC but wishes to attend could let us know by **Monday 13 April 2026** by calling 07376 574412 or email oakleycare@hotmail.co.uk. Please also advise of any dietary requirements.

I do hope you can make it as we would like as many of you as possible to make it an enjoyable event again. I look forward to seeing you there.

If you are unable to attend but are interested in helping the residents of the village, we are always looking for more drivers and co-ordinators. We are also looking for more people to join our Committee. Please call the telephone number above for more information if you feel you may be able to help us.

Roy Yeoman, Chairman - Oakley Community Care

Oakley Community Care

Appeal from Oakley Community Care: we are a registered charity and offer transport by car to anyone in need in and around Oakley, mainly for visits to doctors and hospital appointments. We are made up of friendly volunteers who are unpaid. However a fuel payment of 45 pence per mile can be paid.

Unfortunately many of our drivers are now approaching 80 and over and, to be able to carry on with this service, we need more volunteer drivers. You only have to take on trips which suit your free time and as many times a month as you wish to do.

Appointments are usually between Mondays and Fridays, daytime. If you feel you can help, please give us a call on 07376 574412.

Roy Yeoman





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basingstoke.foodbank.org.uk
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Locations

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 Church Cottage, RG21 7QW
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Tadley
 Tadley Common Methodist,
 Newchurch Road, RG26 4HN
 10.30-12.30 **Tuesdays**

Winklebury
 Church of the Good Shepherd,
 Winklebury Centre, RG23 8BU
 12.30-2.30 **Tuesdays**

Brighton Hill
 Basingstoke Baptist Church,
 Gersahwin Road, RG22 4HL
 10.30-12.30 **Wednesdays**

Sarum Hill
 Hope Community Church,
 Sarum Hill, RG21 5SR
 10.30-12.30 **Thursdays**

Buckskin
 Buckskin Church,
 Chiltern Way, RG22 5BB
 10.30-12.30 **Fridays**

Popley
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Feature



News from Jolly Olly's coffee shop

Happy Easter to you all! May the Easter Bunny provide in abundance!

Supporting Local Businesses

This month, we have extended our range of Summerdown Mint Products for sale at Jolly Olly's. I have been blown away by the taste of their products and find it very difficult to leave the bars on the counter alone and available for my customers to buy. The chocolate makes perfect gifts or, even better, treat yourself... you know you are worth it!



We also support The Street Bakehouse and sell their breads here on Saturdays. The Weli Deli provide their tasty sourdough bread for us on Fridays. All bread is freshly baked and absolutely delicious! You will often find "specials"

on our board in the shop which showcase the bread. My favourite is our homemade mackerel paté with buttered toast.

Things to do in Oakley (before you stop by for your cuppa at Jolly's)

There is plenty to keep you active.

If you fancy a stroll from Kempshott, we have some nice routes written out for you to pick up from the shop and there are lots of options for walks from the village too.

The BMX track at Beach Park in Oakley was recently renovated and has proved very popular. It reopened in November following a council-led project, with the updated design shaped by input from local young BMX riders.

We are cyclist-, walker- and dog-friendly at Jolly Olly's and so do come down for a spot of lunch or a cup of tea after you have made the most of all that is to offer in the great outdoors here. And don't forget, we are now open on Mondays.

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

Find us on Facebook and Trip Advisor and Instagram

Feature



Candovers Oakley and Overton HCC Councillor report from Juliet Henderson

Tackling fly-tipping: stronger national powers to back up Hampshire's tough approach

As many of you will know, I am infuriated by fly-tipping and have championed a 'no excuses' approach to investigation of the crime. Therefore, I very much welcome this week's announcement from Government setting out new guidance to help councils crack down even harder on fly-tipping. With 1.26 million incidents recorded across England last year, this is a crime that damages our countryside, costs taxpayers money and frustrates communities who take pride in where they live.

Hampshire already has an excellent track record for prosecuting offenders, naming and shaming those responsible and seizing vehicles used in waste crime. These new national measures will strengthen our hand even further.

The guidance gives councils clear instructions on how to identify, seize and, where appropriate, crush vehicles used to dump waste. It also encourages the use of CCTV, drones and ANPR to catch offenders in the act and sets out how councils can take stronger cases to court and secure convictions against vehicle owners.

National figures show councils seized 139 vehicles

last year and carried out 572,000 enforcement actions — an 8% increase — including 69,000 fixed penalty notices. The direction of travel is clear: tougher enforcement, more prosecutions and greater transparency about those who blight our communities.

For Hampshire residents, this means even more robust action against those who think they can dump waste and get away with it. Every prosecution, every seized vehicle and every offender publicly held to account helps protect our countryside and keeps our communities cleaner and safer. I'll continue to champion strong enforcement and ensure Hampshire remains at the forefront of tackling waste crime.

Our Roads

There at last seems to be an end in sight to the incessant rain. This, plus the warmer weather increasing the road surface temperature means proper road repairs can resume, of which there are very many to be undertaken.

Here's the latest update.

Highways Information

The brutal truth about Hampshire's potholes – and why we can't just "spend more"

Hampshire's roads have taken an absolute battering this winter. Weeks of relentless rain and violent freeze-thaw cycles have ripped open the



surface across the county. Potholes are appearing faster than crews can fill them.

Here's the blunt truth:

The Scale of the Problem

We simply don't have the money to maintain the roads to the standard we all want.

Cost to bring roads up to the standard I'd want: £600 million

Highways budget this year: £60 million
£540 million shortfall

No amount of "efficiency" fills a gap like that.

Why the Money isn't there

Social care and education costs are exploding — and Hampshire is hit harder than most:

- By 2030, nearly 5% of residents will be over 80
- More children with Special Educational Needs than average
- Rising demand for disability support

These services are legally required. If someone qualifies, we must provide care.

Why Repairs Feel Slow

Here's how the system actually works:

1. Every report triggers an inspection — councillors and residents use the same system.
2. Safety defects come first — A-roads and B-roads before residential streets and country lanes.
3. Temporary repairs are often unavoidable — asphalt won't bond in cold, wet weather.
4. Permanent repairs take 7× longer — so crews make more locations safe first.
5. Non-safety defects are queued — tackled when weather and resources allow.

And yes — some temporary repairs fail in this weather. If they do, please re-report them.

Why This Winter has been so Brutal

We've had 156% of our average January rainfall
February's average rainfall was exceeded in the first week alone

Repeated freeze-thaw cycles

Some potholes appear overnight. Others worsen within hours.

The National Picture

Hampshire faces a £500m highways funding gap
Government funding this year: £30m

We matched it — still nowhere near enough

Only a tiny fraction of road tax and fuel duty goes to road maintenance

Hampshire's roads are better than many neighbours, but roads across the South East — and even motorways — are in dire condition.

This is a national crisis, not a local failing.

What We're Doing Right Now

We've secured extra resources:

- More Jet/Dragon Patchers

- Extra patching gangs (started 12 Jan, more added end of Jan)

- More drainage jetting machines
- A dedicated flooding response team
- Extra white-lining crews

Temporary infills will be used where needed to keep roads safe. Permanent repairs will follow when conditions improve.

We're funding this by using underspends in other areas.

What's Coming Next

We're reshaping the 2026/27 budget to move every possible penny into road maintenance — likely £10m extra for summer repairs.

And we've launched plans for a lane-rental disruption charge:

Companies pay a daily fee for roadworks on key routes

Encourages shorter, better-planned works

Could raise up to £5m a year for road maintenance

How you can help

Please report potholes — especially worsening ones — via the official system:

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

Accurate locations and photos help enormously.

And thanks to you for your patience, it's a very difficult situation and we are doing our absolute best.

Reporting Problems

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Cllr Juliet Henderson

*Editor's note: A fuller version of this report, including **Government's New Schools White Paper: What it Means for Hampshire's Children with SEND** can be found on Link's web-site under Current Issue / Extra Link articles*

Young Oakley



Hello from St Leonard's Pre-school



Can you hear that? Bells, drums xylophones! It is music week at St Leonard's.

The children will explore a wide range of instruments to make loud and soft sounds. They will be playing different rhythms and playing fast and slow. To music they will dance with scarves and flags. Listening to music the children will make marks on a roll of paper.

Watch out for explosions at St Leonard's as we have a volcano week. We will be making volcanoes erupt, with plenty of larva. If you look carefully some dinosaurs will be joining in.

We are open term time only on Monday 9 am - 12 pm, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 9 am - 3 pm.

If you would like to know more about the preschool, please contact us on 07772378265 or email preschool@oww.church or look at our website stleonards-preschool.co.uk

We look forward to hearing from you.

Caroline Edwards, St Leonard's Pre-School Manager

Cuckoo Meadow Pre-School

We had a fun winter making bird feeders, celebrating Chinese New Year (with an in-house restaurant, dressing up and dragon dancing!) and sharing the love around Valentine's Day.

However, we are really enjoying getting outside more to ride our bikes and even paint in the sunshine. Let's hope a certain bunny visits us... Happy Easter!



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.

Oakley Scout Group Cubs

At Cubs we have lots of fun each week and play lots of games.



We always try to do our best and we make a promise to do that at the start of each pack meeting.

We learn new skills such as first aid and knot tying. I enjoyed using a compass to read a map.

Last year I went to cub camp and did caving which was a bit scary but fun. I also got to go to an activity day called "Beastly" where there were lots of fun inflatables. I also did axe throwing and archery. We get to go to "Beastly" again this year and I'm really looking forward to it.

By William P.

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Young Oakley



If you have any questions about Oakley Scout Group or want to join, we would love to hear from you, please email oakley@bwds.org.uk

Helen Meyer



News from Cranbourne

It's been a jam-packed few weeks at Cranbourne, filled with parents' evenings, school trips and award celebrations.

As we approach the start of exam season, our Year 10 and 11 students are working extremely hard to prepare,

sitting their mock exams with a positive attitude, maturity and showing exemplary behaviour.

Our Year 11 music students had the chance to record their GSCE ensemble performances in the recording studios at QMC. It was a fantastic opportunity for them to experience the technical side of music production, what facilities are on offer at the college and hearing their finished tracks gave them a real confidence boost!

At the end of March, our annual Dutch exchange trip took place when our students met

their pen-pals from our twinned school, Lodewijk College in South Holland. We were delighted to welcome students to spend a day at Cranbourne, getting to know each other, learning each other's history and getting competitive in various sports activities. The next day, they headed to Oxford for ice skating, explored the sites Oxford has to offer and spent the afternoon shopping and socialising. It was fantastic to watch the students finally meet face to face and enjoy their time together.

We celebrated the success of our students at Spring Rewards Evening, when we recognised their achievements and reflected on their progress so far this year. Six of our students won the Headteacher's Award for their contributions to our school community in their role as young interpreters.

On 18 March we hosted our new Year 7 Parents' Evening, when we had the opportunity to meet our new intake and introduce them to our school. We've had a record-breaking number of applications for our new cohort and are excited to be welcoming them to the Cranbourne community in September.

Chloe-Mai Parfitt



Alpacas in Oakley, March 2026

AGES 2-10YRS

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Ladies Societies



Oakley & Deane WI

We held our March meeting on the 10th and had a very interesting and fun speaker from Guide Dogs for the Blind, Tom McNulty. He brought his guide dog Toby with



him. It was also Toby's birthday that week. Tom spoke about living with sight loss and the benefits of having a guide dog by giving us an overview of his life before and after sight loss

and of sight loss with a guide dog.

After the speaker we had our usual tea, coffee and biscuits and caught up with each others' news until the President carried on the meeting with the planning of events for this year which includes selling at the front garden stalls on 13 June and a cake stall at the village show on 8 August.

Our activity afternoon with cream tea was a great success and we all managed to produce a lovely table decoration after which we tucked into the very nice cream tea with sandwiches, scones and cake. Not one of which was made by any of the members so a real treat for members.

25 of us had a lovely lunch at the Barley Mow one Tuesday taking advantage of their £12 for a meal and a drink. Another opportunity to get together informally. We have had meals out in the evening as well so working members can join in as well.

Oakley & Deane WI also have a walking group that usually meets the last Sunday in the month plus other days during the month when they can be fitted in and a Scrabble group that meets once a month.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 14 April at 7:30 pm at Oakley Village Hall, Station Road, Oakley. This will be Oakley & Deane WI's 108th Birthday

and our speaker will be Joyce Meader talking about Knitting for the Military. We have had Joyce speak to us before and expect this to be another funny and interesting talk.

We are going to have a competition for our members to knit hats, scarves and gloves which will be donated to Camrose, for the homeless and, of course, we will have a birthday cake to celebrate 108 years of our WI.

Any ladies over 18 are always welcome at our meetings to see what we do at meetings 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.

Future events and reports on past activities can be found on our website oakleydeanewi.weebly.com and on our facebook page [facebook.com/oakleyanddeaneWI](https://www.facebook.com/oakleyanddeaneWI). We can also be contacted by email oakleydeanewi@gmail.com

Barbara, on behalf of Oakley & Deane WI

Do look at our website <http://oakleydeanewi.weebly.com/>



Affiliated to Hampshire County Federation of the WI

Happy birthday to the Revellers!

The revelling Rookdown Revellers WI saw in their ninth birthday this month with some "at home" fun in their usual venue of Sycamore Hall, through a programme devised by their committee.

Proceedings began with the usual friendly chatter and welcome to some visitors from other branches and then progressed to a fascinating talk by one of the members – a theatre nurse at the North Hampshire Hospital of many years' service and experience. They were shown – and inducted – into exactly what is contained within a theatre pack, its preparation, the purpose of each instrument and its cleaning and storage in readiness for the next use; different for each operation of course. In this case the members will always think carefully if considering a toenail extraction!

After copious amounts of cake – a birthday model included of course - the group was launched into a memory game. (Those of some years may remember the tv show *Take Your Pick* – this was a static version.) A table full of much miscellany, all of it very small, was shown for a couple of minutes, then pencils and paper issued to all and a limited time given in which to write down however many of the 34

Ladies Societies



items could be recalled... 27 was the worthy winner!

And as it was a special month for this WI, several members extended their fun by trooping off to see the fabulous *Let's Glow* event in the War Memorial Park.... picture shows some happy troopers!

If this kind of revellery appeals, contact pat.dominey152@icloud.com

Annie
Vicars



Church News



3 April | **The Oakley Pond** | 10am

a time for reflection & prayer
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~ Churches Together in Oakley ~



Church News



Oakley Methodist Church

All welcome at the Methodist Church coffee morning on Tuesday 14 April and 28 April from 10:30 am to 12 noon. £1.50 for a bottomless cup of tea or coffee and biscuits. Come and meet old friends

and new. The charity for the year is Dementia UK. We look forward to welcoming the Woodland Well-being Walkers at the end of their walk.

Trish Kinchington

Oakley

Methodist Church

April 5 Terry Rowell **Easter Sunday**

April 12 local arrangements

April 19 Rev Claire Simpson **Communion**

April 26 Symon Turner

Services at 10:30 am

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RISEN

GOOD FRIDAY AT THE POND
Friday 3 April | 10am
@ Oakley Methodist Chapel

GOOD FRIDAY REFLECTIONS
Friday 3 April | 12noon
@ St Leonard's Church, Oakley

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE
Sunday 5 April | 6am
@ St John's Garden of Remembrance

EASTER COMMUNION
Sunday 5 April | 9am
@ Wootton St Lawrence

FAMILY EASTER CELEBRATION
Sunday 5 April | 10:30am
@ St Leonard's Church, Oakley

Letters

Kickboxercise


Hello Oakley


My name is Louise Wesley, and I'm new to Oakley! I'm a fully qualified personal trainer and kickboxercise instructor and I'm passionate about helping local residents keep fit, feel strong and stay happy.



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As I'm new to the area, I currently have good availability — so now's a great time to get started 

If you'd like to book a session or find out more, please email me at:

 louisewesley1@gmail.com

I'd love to help as many people as possible on their fitness journey. Hope to see you soon!

Louise Wesley

Dear Editor

I went to one of the open meetings about the Manydown development here on the outskirts of Basingstoke, which I claim has not been given sufficient planning consideration,

one enormous disaster about to unfold and with major implications. There will be no gas available. The entire site will be all electric, just for starters.

Currently sewage is being pumped into the river Test and I asked what plans had been made regarding adding the “output” from a further 3500 new homes. The response I got was a shrug of the shoulders. “That’s down to Thames Water”, I was told, who have proved over years they are unable to cope and have been fined millions of pounds in the process.

Before a single home is built, this has to be the biggest issue, and to build a sewerage works capable of coping with today’s waste could take several years. There is no way the beautiful Test, which rises just across the road from this development, should be turned into a drain.

A further issue I raised was, is adequate parking being allowed? 3500 houses with three cars to a home now average, and a very recent problem of family members, married with children and unable to cope financially, being forced to come home and live with Mum and Dad, adding their cars to the property. The response was that there are plans for a five meter wide cycle lane alongside the main road and the further response, I was told “The Netherlands love of bikes.”

I could not believe what I was hearing. Having spent over ten years with my band in Breda, I pointed out that roads in Holland are like billiard tables, beautifully flat, free of potholes, and their country has no hills. No, a further statement from the Manydown moguls is the belief that cars will be phased out and we will pop down to the shop on our bike.

These are thoughts of minds behind this new development. Are we in the 2026 century or 1900's - might penny farthings be coming back?

Graeme Hewitt The Vale Oakley



Bluebells in St John's Copse, May 2020, Brian Perryman

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Conservation



Oakley Woodlands Group
Coppicing work is now finished for the season, with no more scheduled work parties until next September when we will start all over again. Although we have erected a dead hedge

around the current work areas, we still have to put up



temporary fencing to deter deer. We know that both roe and muntjac deer visit the woods and they will eat any new shoots they find. To ensure that we get regrowth of the new coppice we have to put up the fencing for a couple of years. We know it is a bit unsightly, but it is the most effective method we have found.

Although we have stopped work parties, we have not stopped work. During the summer there will be surveys of flowers and animals, planning for next year, brushcutting the paths and rides and participation in the village show. The Oakley Woodlands group puts a lot of effort into maintaining the woods for wild life but we also welcome the not so wild life (residents) to come and enjoy these wonderful habitats, but please, during the nesting season keep dogs on leads whilst in the woods.

*Email: oakleywoodlands@gmail.com
Alan Merry*

Atlantic salmon's long journey back to the River Itchen

Atlantic salmon have one of the most remarkable life cycles in the natural world. Born in the clean gravels of rivers like the River Itchen, these powerful fish travel thousands of miles across the Atlantic Ocean before returning, often years later, to the very same stretch of river where they began life.

For thousands of years this migration has been part of the natural rhythm of the Itchen. Each year young salmon head out to sea, growing to adulthood in the North Atlantic before navigating their way back to the chalk streams of southern England. Their return is one of nature's most extraordinary journeys, guided by instinct and an ability to detect the unique chemical signature of their home river.

Atlantic salmon are among the most recognisable fish in British rivers. Adults returning from the sea are powerful, streamlined fish with silvery flanks, dark speckles along their backs and a forked tail built for



Atlantic Salmon, Linda Pitkin_2020VISION

endurance swimming. Some can grow over a metre long. During the spawning season their appearance changes as they adapt to freshwater, often darkening in colour while males can develop a distinctive hooked jaw.

After returning from the ocean in winter, females dig shallow depressions in clean gravel known as redds, where they lay thousands of eggs. Redds appear as lighter patches of gravel with a shallow dip and mound. The eggs remain buried in the gravel until they hatch in late spring. However, these nests are fragile and easily damaged by disturbance in the river such as wading, wild swimming, paddling, and dogs entering the water. Any activity that disturbs the riverbed can crush the eggs or compact the gravel around them, cutting off the oxygen they need to survive. Members of the public can help protect this

Conservation



vulnerable stage in the salmon's life cycle by keeping to the riverbanks and staying out of the River Itchen.

Atlantic salmon are uniquely adapted to their home rivers. Chalk stream salmon populations are genetically distinct, shaped over thousands of years by the conditions of the rivers they return to. The River Itchen is one of only six chalk streams in England that still supports wild Atlantic salmon.

However, their numbers have fallen dramatically. In 2022, just 133 adult salmon were recorded returning to spawn, and numbers remain critically low. This decline has prompted conservation organisations, including Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, to launch the Itchen Salmon Delivery Plan, a coordinated effort to restore habitats, improve water quality and remove barriers to migration.

For more information about this iconic species, please visit the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust website: hiwwt.org.uk/news/urgent-action-launched-save-endangered-atlantic-salmon

Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust manages nature reserves, including those which the River Itchen flow through. If you would like to help support the Trust's conservation work to help species including the Atlantic salmon, please consider joining the Trust as a member from £2.25 a month. Membership includes Wild Magazine three times a year. Visit: hiwwt.org.uk/join-today or call 01489 774408.

Helen Skelton-Smith, Communications Officer

Work begins to declare Old Down a local nature reserve

Work is now underway to make Old Down in Basingstoke the borough's newest local nature reserve.

The process was kick-started on Tuesday 10 March when Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council's Cabinet agreed to put land at Old Down at the top of its priority list for this status. The decision follows a pledge in December by the council's Cabinet to move towards securing this environmental protection for this much-loved green space.

Old Down, in southern Basingstoke, is already designated as a site of importance for nature conservation. The council's rangers and grounds maintenance teams work with the Old Down Wildlife Group and Natural Basingstoke to manage its wildflower



meadows, trees and thicket to encourage biodiversity.

Declaring land at Old Down as a local nature reserve would further protect it for habitat restoration and biodiversity while seeing it managed in a way that would encourage local communities to enjoy the area and learn about its wildlife. People would still be able to use Old Down for everyday activities, including dog walking, running and cycling.

The process to declare land as a local nature reserve usually takes about 18 months. It involves consulting with Natural England and nearby residents and groups to gather their views before a decision is made whether to give an area this status.

Cabinet Member for Climate and Ecological Emergency Cllr Chris Tomblin said: "Starting this work is a positive step towards giving Old Down the additional long-term protection it deserves in a way that benefits local people and our wildlife. As it follows soon after our decision last month to make Little Pen Wood, in the Highclere area, a local nature reserve, it highlights our commitment to work quickly to safeguard more of the borough's important natural habitats now and for the future."

Protecting and enhancing the natural environment is a priority for the council, supporting its 2021 ecological emergency pledge and the biodiversity strategy it adopted two years ago.

There's more information about Basingstoke and Deane's 11 local nature reserves at www.basingstoke.gov.uk/local-nature-reserves

Old Down was designated a site of importance for nature conservation (SINC) in recognition of its chalk grassland habitat that supports notable species such as the small blue butterfly and the small heath butterfly. Its status also reflects its social value to nearby communities.

Old Down

A green space to the south of Gabriel Park accessed by foot from Firecrest Road and with a small car park next to the community building at the end of Kempshott Lane. It is mostly managed for wildlife conservation, particularly chalk grassland species, but

also contains a play area for younger children. There are paths through the site, which connect to the wider footpath network, as well as seating and interpretation. The green space is managed in partnership with the Old Down and Beggarwood Wildlife Group.

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Local News



Whitchurch Silk Mill News

Spring is always a special time at Whitchurch Silk Mill, and this year is no exception. With the arrival of longer days and brighter weather, we're enjoying the sense of renewal across our historic site and looking forward to sharing a busy programme of events, workshops, and opportunities for our community to get involved.

Call for Flower Festival Displays

Following the great success of our Open Gardens events, we are delighted to be launching our very first Flower Festival from 19–21 June 2026, open daily from 10.30 am–5 pm. This new celebration of creativity, nature and local talent will fill the Mill and its riverside grounds with floral-inspired displays of every kind.

We are inviting gardeners, makers, and creative individuals of all ages to help us create something truly special, from imaginative crafted arrangements to fresh flowers, stitched or sculpted pieces, or contributions to a large installation that will cascade from the top of the Mill down to the lawn. If you would like to take part, please get in touch with Jess or Sue at info@whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk. Further information is available on our website.

News from the Mill Team

We're pleased to welcome Leonie, our new Trainee Weaver, who is already settling into the

day-to-day rhythm of life in the weaving shed. Under the guidance of our Heritage Weaving Manager and Weaver Tackler, she will learn every stage of the process, from winding and warping to threading and finishing. We're equally delighted to have Sam, a local college student, join us once a week for the next two years as part of his T Level in business administration. Supporting the next generation of craftspeople and heritage workers is central to our mission, and we're thrilled to offer both Leonie and Sam hands-on experience at the Mill.

Heritage Craft Workshops

If you're looking to try something new this spring, our programme of craft workshops offers the chance to learn a traditional skill in a relaxed and friendly environment. Highlights this month include a Viking Weave Jewellery Workshop (11 April), a two-day beginner's weaving course (17–18 April), a practical Darning Workshop (25 April), and our always-popular Silk Production Tour (28 April). We're also offering an Intermediate Weaving Course on 29 April for those ready to take the next step. Full details and booking are available via our website.

What's On This Spring

The Whitchurch Folk Festival returns on 9 May, and we're excited to host a range of performances, workshops and activities within the Mill grounds. Looking further ahead, on 11 June, tailor Philip De Paola joins us online to discuss his recreation of George Washington's 1789 suit — made with silk woven here at the Mill.

For tickets, updates and more information, please visit www.whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk, call 01256 892065, or follow us on social media. We look forward to welcoming you to the Mill this spring.


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www.andoverchamberchoir.org.uk

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Local News



Probus hears “the pen is mightier”

Nigel Thorley, guest speaker at the Probus Club of Basingstoke, talked about the evolution of writing instruments. 3,000 years ago, the Egyptians wrote on papyrus using shaped reeds dipped into ink. These simple tools were eventually replaced by quills - strong bird's feathers



slit at the tip to allow ink to flow smoothly. A major shift came in 1801 with the accidental invention of blotting paper, which replaced the

sand traditionally sprinkled over wet ink. By the mid-1850s, metal nibs for dip pens had been refined and Birmingham became a global centre of production, with one company employing 2,000 workers.

Dip pens remained in schools into the 1950s, when desks held ceramic inkwells refilled daily by the coveted “ink monitor.” Today, steel nibs are mostly used by artists and calligraphers.

Early models of fountain pens were metal, but the invention of Bakelite in 1907 transformed manufacturing. In 1921, Parker introduced the iconic Duofold, followed by Quink, a quick-drying,



Eisenhower, May 7 Surrender holding Parker 51 | Photo Courtesy: National Archives and Records Administration

fountain-pen-friendly ink.


Parker dominated advertising in the 1930s, and in 1941 launched the “Parker 51,” named to mark the firm’s 51st anniversary and that it was ten years ahead of its rivals. It boasted eight patents and a lifetime guarantee. Its fame grew when General Eisenhower held up two Parker 51s after signing the documents ending the Second World War.

The ballpoint pen reshaped everyday writing. Hungarian inventor László Bíró and his brother developed a thicker, fast-drying ink that didn’t smudge. 30,000 were ordered by the RAF because fountain pens leaked at altitude. After 1945, mass production in the United States led to explosive sales, with 30,000 sold in the first week at a New York store. Once priced at \$12.50, the ballpoint soon became an inexpensive, disposable staple.

Parker continues producing fountain pens, rollerballs, and propelling pencils, now marketed as luxury items that remain sought-after on auction sites.

For more information about the Probus Club of Basingstoke, visit their website probusbasingstoke.club or contact the secretary on 07814 937202 for an informal chat.

Paul Flint

 Hampshire Choral Festival

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Local News



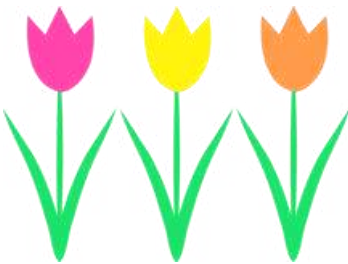
Thine be the glory

Andover Chamber Choir celebrates the spring season with their concert, *Thine be the Glory: Choral Favourites for an Eastertide Celebration*. While Easter Sunday may have passed, the 50 days of Eastertide are in full flow, and the choir's latest programme is designed to keep that flame of joy burning bright. "Easter Sunday is the start of a whole season of celebration and renewal," says Musical Director, Lucy Hole. "I wanted a programme that captures the feeling of spring arriving and the continued joy and importance of the resurrection."

The concert aims to showcase the diverse textures of the Easter story - from quiet moments of individual devotion to the rousing collective joy of full choir and organ. The programme features choral favourites and organ classics, celebrating composers who have defined the British choral tradition. These include Vaughan Williams' *O clap your hands*, Widor's *Toccata*, the world-famous *Hallelujah Chorus* and the iconic hymn from which the concert takes its name, Handel's *Thine be the Glory*.

The concert takes place at 7:30 pm Saturday, 18 April at St Michael and All Angels' Church, West Andover, SP10 3BB. Tickets are £15 on the door or £12 in advance from The Lights (in person and online) or through choir members. Under 16s are admitted free. Interval refreshments included in ticket price. Proceeds are in aid of Andover Young Carers, providing vital support and respite to young carers in

Andover and the surrounding areas.
Veronica Bacon



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At their shows you can expect well crafted original songs, combined with carefully selected covers, played 'Backbone style'. And you can find their recordings on all the usual streaming platforms, including 'Backbone Live', released at the start of 2025.

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Local News



Hampshire Medical Fund

Local charity, Hampshire Medical Fund, invites you to *Celebration of Spring* at the beautiful hospital of St Cross, Winchester, on Wednesday 29 April. Set in one of Winchester's most historic and atmospheric venues, this uplifting evening, organised in association with Savills, starts with a drinks and canapés reception followed by an inspiring programme of live music.

The evening features the dynamic Oscar Ellis Quartet, a group of outstanding young musicians from two of London's leading conservatoires. Inspired by jazz legends Miles Davis and John Coltrane, their performances promise a combination of classic jazz moments with skilled improvised solos. Also performing are Cantores Episcopi, Winchester College's acclaimed close-harmony group, known for their polished a cappella performances, as well as Farleigh School's talented Senior Jazz Bands, 5 ft 6 and Sub Zero, whose lively repertoire ranges from traditional jazz to favourites from the Great American Songbook.

Tickets include drinks and canapés with proceeds supporting the Hampshire Medical Fund's work funding cutting-edge medical equipment for local NHS hospitals. Tickets available at hampshiremedicalfund.org

Caroline Laird

Overton Choral Society



We are rehearsing for the Hampshire Choral Festival on 9 May 2026 at Thornden Hall, Chandlers Ford, when we will sing Rossini *Petite Messe Solennelle*. We will be joined by Botley Choir and Winchester City Festival Choir.

Tickets are available from thorndenhall.ticketsolve.com, or 023 8024 6555.


The following week the other choirs of the Hampshire Choral Festival will be singing Durufle's *Requiem* and Haydn's *Nelson Mass* at Romsey Abbey.

We are also rehearsing a wedding and our Summer Tea Concert for which there will be more information shortly. Book the date in your diaries now. Saturday 20 June at 3 pm This will be held in St Mary's Hall, Overton.

Lyn Hardy, Chair, overtonchoralsoc@gmail.com



Theatre in Shakespeare's London



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Walking



Oakley Ramblers

On 22 February several members of the group caught the bus into Basingstoke where we met others and a total of 10 set off to walk the Basing Trail. This was an interesting and varied six-mile circular route around Basingstoke. We



started in War Memorial Park and set off towards Black Dam ponds followed by Crabtree Plantation and the Bolton Arch. We continued to Old Basing village passing through the area where the Basingstoke Canal once ran. We headed back into Basingstoke centre via Eastrop Park and enjoyed a welcome lunch at Willows Coffee House in Church Street. A small group then walked the five miles back to Oakley via Worting.

On 11 March a group enjoyed an eight-mile circular walk, starting at Cliddesden on a bright spring morning. The route took us south along the path of the old Basingstoke Alton railway before

turning west toward Ellisfield. At Ellisfield we were lucky to come across the weekly coffee and cake morning at the village hall where some welcome, tasty refreshments were taken.

We then continued across fields and through woodland to Farleigh Wallop before returning to Cliddesden. The route followed a mix of open fields and woodland and it's great to see the trails drying out after the wet winter. Spring is arriving with the daffodils coming into full bloom and lots of birdsong in the air.

Oakley Ramblers is a friendly group; we always welcome visitors who can try us out before joining. Our planned walks for April are on Wednesday 8 and Sunday 26. Details of our walks are published on our website a week before the walk takes place, why not come along and try us out in 2026?

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

Woodland Wellbeing Walks, April

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

2nd, 3rd & 4th

Tuesdays

☉ Finishing with a sociable cuppa @ Methodist Chapel ☉



Start Point for Walks:

Tuesday, 14th April 10 am - Village Pond ☉ B
Tuesday, 21st April 10 am - St John's Rd lay-by R
Tuesday, 28th April 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]



Sport



Oakley Bowling Club News

Would you like to try bowls?
We shall be having an open day on 23 May, but you need not wait until then before having a go. Our green reopens on 18 April and after that date why



not pay us a visit? Just call Norman on 07711 685772 or Diane on 01256 781465 and they will arrange for you to be shown our splendid facilities.

No equipment needed, just wear flat-soled shoes. Before you know it, you will be putting up your first bowls. We will make you aware of our special bowling and social membership offers. We cater for all. For years we have been the most competitive local club, but we pride ourselves that we cater just as much for the members who wish only to play socially with friends and family - oakleybc.org.uk provides information about the club.

Oakley teams reached the semi-finals of the team competitions for outdoor clubs, hosted by the local

indoor clubs. At Longmeadow, in the Moreton Cup, we topped our group and face a tough match against Cove, the 2025 Champions. At Loddon Vale, in the Ambler/Fuller Trophy our A team won their group and, with the B team finishing second in their group, they will meet in the semi, guaranteeing Oakley a runner-up spot.

Our twice-weekly short mat sessions are well supported, as are our Friday social evenings. Each week has a different theme. Recently we have staged bingo, a curry night and a Mr and Mrs evening. We have played a friendly at Newbury, and 28 Oakley bowlers had a very enjoyable break at the Dorset Bowls Resort. From a bowling perspective, it was not one of our more successful tours but Wendy Aherne, Linda Smith, Di Yarrall and Sue Dixon were the



highest rink in the Ladies vs Gents match.

Spencer Kerley

Free Ads



All entries should be sent in writing to Maureen Dallaway, by **15 April 2026** for inclusion in next month's Link. Entries may also be sent by e-mail to freeads@oakleylink.org.uk Please include an address or telephone number.

Free. 8 man tent and some camping equipment. Not used for some time. Collection from Deane. Tel: 07484336986

Free VHS video tapes. Music & films. Including Madonna, Dire Straits, Queen, Wham, Status Quo and many more. Plus some unused blank tapes. Free for collection. Tel: 0797 474 0784

A selection of **well used gardening equipment.**

Tools, netting, pots, canes, hose. Free to collect. Oakley. 07930380081

Superior Dog Beds: Suit Gol. Ret./Labrador size dog. Orvis Bolster Style Dog Bed VGC £20 (over £200 new) Orvis Deep Dog Bed VGC £30 (over £300 new) Tel: 01256 782242

Portable Mini Exerciser: under desk or top of table pedal exerciser for legs or arms with LCD display and 'mat' supplied. New, unused, but box removed. [See: www.fksports.co.uk/products/portable-mini-exercise-bike-under-desk-bike-pedal-exerciser-with-lcd] Costs £39.99 (2026) - Offers £20. Contact: 073 842 987 60

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Local News



Borough council pledges continued support for Citizens Advice

Residents facing money worries, housing issues and other challenges will continue to benefit from free and confidential advice, following a package of support from the borough council.

As part of its strategic partner grants programme, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council has agreed to provide £201,000 of grant funding each year for the next two years to Citizens Advice Basingstoke for its core advice services.

Alongside this funding, the council has agreed to extend funding for a £54,000 pilot drop-in service for residents to get the support they need in community centres in Oakridge, Popley and Buckskin.

In the first seven months of trialling this new drop-in service, the team supported local residents with 799 issues ranging from debt, access to benefits, housing and legal, helping people access almost £55,000 of additional income to support them and their families.

In the same period, the charity's day to day service provided help with 13,332 issues allowing residents to access £1.7 million of extra income.

Between July and December 2025, the Tadley team helped residents with 2,599 issues, supporting people to access £1.5 million of extra income.

As well as its day-to-day service, the team hosts a drop-in service for residents at Kingsclere Village Club, in George Street, between 10am and 1pm every other Tuesday. The team is also partnering with local schools to provide dedicated support for families. They can be contacted through schools or directly by calling [0808 278 7987](tel:08082787987) or emailing admin@catadley.org

The council is also continuing to work with Citizens Advice Basingstoke to help them secure a new permanent town centre base after the charity's relocation from Basingstoke Discovery Centre.

For more information about the support Citizens Advice Basingstoke and Tadley provides, visit www.cabasingstoke.org.uk and www.catadley.org

LOCAL INFORMATION

Oakley Community Association

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

OCAoakley@live.co.uk

Councillors & Politicians

Member of Parliament, Basingstoke

Luke Murphy - luke.murphy.mp@parliament.uk 01256587093

Belvedere House, Basing View, RG21 4HG

Parish Councillors:

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

Parish Clerk : Nicola Beere, Oakley & Deane Parish Council, Newfound Sports Pavilion RG23 7HH

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

Assistant Clerk: Kelly Green

assistantclerk@oakleydeane-pc.gov.uk

Borough Councillors:

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

Hannah Golding 07305 123671

cllr.hannah.golding@basingstoke.gov.uk

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

County Councillor: Juliet Henderson

juliet.henderson@hants.gov.uk 862413

Estate Agents

Brockenhurst Estate Agents, 6 Rectory Rd 700280

Police - 101 or 999 in an emergency

Gas Emergencies 0800 111 999

Health (111 or 999 in emergency)

Defibrillators (Call 999 first) are located at:

The Fox

The Barley Mow

The Green Hut (Hill Road)

The Infant School,

The Cricket Club

Peter Houseman Field.

The Andover Road Village Hall

The St Leonard's Centre

Doctors' Surgery 0333 034 1033

Out of hours call 111

CHURCHES

Church of England
St Leonards (Oakley)
St Lawrence (Wootton)
All Saints (Deane)

Website: <https://www.stleonards-church.co.uk/>

Church Office: St Leonard's Centre,
Rectory Rd, Oakley
Tel 782724 9:00 am -1:00 pm weekdays
office@oww.church
Revd Ben Kautzer ben@oww.church
01256 420903
Contacts for Deane:
Deidre Coles - Warden Tel 781495

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

Methodist
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
Tel: 01256 323103

Roman Catholic
St Joseph's and
St Bede's

Website:
www.stjosephsbasingstoke.org.uk
171a St Michael's Rd, Basingstoke, RG22 6TY
Fr Paul Leonard,
Parish Office -Tel: 323595
office@stjosephsbasingstoke.org.uk

Community Church

Websites:
www.lifespringcommunitychurch.org
or www.hopebasingstoke.org
St. Luke's Hall Overton
or Sarum Hill Centre, Sarum Hill, Basingstoke
Contact: John and Wendy Thurston (780135) or
Paul and Ann Davis (07810316413)

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	780227
Geoff Aubrey and Sons - Butcher - The Vale	01256 373297
Village Café, Jolly Olly's - Oakley Lane	782658
Village Pharmacy - The Vale	782381

Oakley Scout Group

TBD

oakley@bwds.org.uk

Oakley Girlguiding

Caroline Lloyd

c451lloyd@outlook.com

VILLAGE HALLS

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

Booking Secretary 07788 423252 or email: booking@oakleygreenhut.co.uk

Website: www.oakleygreenhut.co.uk

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

Contact Church Office: 782724

Oakley Village Hall - Andover Road

Contact: 781229

St 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 Last amended: 14/3/2026

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