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May 2026



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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 June 2026 issue: 15 May

Editorial

Apologies for the incorrect phone number for Oakley Community Care last month, now corrected.

Chris Wassell

Bygone Oakley

News from the village 65 years ago, from May 1961 Link

It was noted that Miss Hansford had lived in the same house in the Parish all her life, 70 years. This was the keeper's cottage near Breach Farm.

Mr and Mrs G Smith were celebrating their Golden Wedding. They had lived at Battledown Farm for twenty years.

60 years ago, from May 1966 Link

The Rector, Kenneth Jackson, announced an appeal for £400,000 for Winchester Cathedral, which was much in need of repair.

Oakley Cub Pack were busy decorating egg boxes, and delivering them, each containing three eggs, to thirty-six elderly and lonely folks in the neighbourhood.

Thank you, Denis McMahon for this month's front page photo, taken in April 2025

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Oakley Community Care

Supporting your needs for transport to medical appointments

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

Wheelchair users must be able to transfer to the car unaided.

Oakley Community Care is made up of friendly volunteers who are unpaid. However a donation by the passenger to cover fuel and other costs is appreciated.

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

New volunteer drivers are always welcome

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

07376 574412

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

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Village Show



Oakley Village Show 8 August Vintage and Classic Vehicle Display

For the past 2 years I have organised a display of 1920/30s Austins from our local club. On both occasions we have included an Austin 7 celebrating its 100th birthday that year. As this is our village show I thought it would be nice this year to display the variety of interesting vehicles we have in the village. I have no idea how many of us in the village love driving or riding proper cars and bikes.



In order to assess the space needed I would like to get an idea of potential numbers. If you are interested

in displaying your vehicle, please email me with your vehicle details (gordonpuzey@gmail.com) and I will take it from there. We will be restricted for space and at the moment I am thinking pre 1970 but if you have something later of interest, please let me know. This is just an informal display - no judging - no prizes - just a fun afternoon and the opportunity to meet fellow enthusiasts. I will send those interested a copy of the Show Guidelines and an entry form. You will then receive an entry pass to display for admission to the show.

Gordon Puzey

The Show schedule is now on our website ocaoakley.org.uk and also hard copies available at Jolly Olly's.

Have you booked your stall? An opportunity to sell your goods or promote your village organisation. Enquiries to



hello@ocaoakley.org.uk
or phone 01256 781456.

The Show Committee



FRONT GARDEN STALLS

Saturday 13 June 2026

12 Noon to 4.00pm

Visit a wide range of stalls all around Oakley

Full details and booking form on www.ocaoakley.org.uk
Book your stall by Saturday 6 June 2026
 Village map available of stalls in the following week.

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www.barleymowoakley.co.uk

Village



Report from the Parish Council

The Parish Council will reconvene at its Annual General Meeting on 14 May at 7:30 pm; members of the public are welcome to attend. We will begin the new council year with the re-election of the Chairman and Vice Chairman as well as arranging working groups for various areas of the parish council. We look forward to a fresh start as we move into the new financial year and continue our work for the community.

Our next councillor chat session is at the Jolly Olly's café on Tuesday 12 May 1 – 2 pm.

We are pleased to report that installation of the new cricket nets at Newfound Sports Ground is scheduled to begin in early June. This project represents a valuable investment in local recreational facilities and will benefit residents of all ages.

The Council's waste management audit has now been completed. Following its findings, we are currently reviewing options to remove all open-top waste bins and replace them with closed units. This change aims to reduce litter dispersal, particularly in windy conditions, and improve the overall cleanliness of the village.

In addition, our bench audit has been finalised. Preparations are now underway for a programme of repainting, varnishing, and repairing benches

throughout the village to ensure they remain safe, functional, and visually appealing.

Finally, we are delighted to welcome our new handyman, Dave, to the team who joined us in April. We look forward to working with him as he supports the upkeep and maintenance of parish facilities.

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



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Parish Council
Coffee & Chat

Newfound Sports Pavilion

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10:30 am – 12:30 am

Enjoy refreshments with fellow community
members and take the opportunity to talk with
your parish council.



Cllr Juliet Henderson HCC Candovers Oakley and Overton Division Report

Fairer weather is thankfully with us so you will see many road repairs! Please continue to use online reporting via the HCC website or OurHants App.

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

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

Hampshire and the Solent Combined Authority confirmed

The legislation to create the New Hampshire & Solent Combined County Authority has now been laid before Parliament unlocking £1.3 billion of investment and giving us the powers we need to shape our own future. This is a huge step forward. For the first time, decisions on things like transport, skills, housing, regeneration, the environment and public safety will be made here, by local leaders who understand our communities not in Westminster. From this summer, the new Authority will begin taking on its responsibilities, with a Mayor elected in 2028. In the meantime, councils across Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton are working together to get everything ready so we can hit the ground running. For Hampshire, this is about unlocking our full potential:

- Better transport links,
- More opportunities for skills and good jobs,
- The right homes in the right places,
- Stronger support for our environment and local economy,
- A real chance to deliver long-term improvements for residents.

We need to make sure this investment delivers real, tangible benefits for the people and communities I represent. If you'd like to read more, the new HSCCA website is now live: hantsandsolent-ca.gov.uk.

Local Government Reorganisation Proposals

The Government has now made its decision on Local Government reorganisation for Hampshire.

Our job as a County Council is to work together to deliver whatever changes are required safely, effectively, and with as little risk as possible for the people we serve. My own take on this is that this is a top-down political decision and many communities across Hampshire are understandably worried. I will continue to listen to my residents and make sure their voices are heard. Many Residents have already described it as illogical, unwanted, hugely disruptive

and a carve-up that ignores local identity. People are rightly concerned about:

- Losing their local identity
- Disruption to schools, social care, highways and planning
- Higher council tax under a different authority
- Weaker representation for rural and semi-rural communities
- A rushed process driven by administrative convenience, not community need

Hampshire's Debt: What It Is, What It Isn't, and Why It Matters

You will hear a lot of talk about 'Council's Debt' in Hampshire. It's likely to be a theme as we run up to the election, so here's the simple picture for HCC.

Debt versus deficit: They're not the same

Debt is long-term borrowing for things like school buildings, roads and care facilities. Deficit is when the annual cost of running services is higher than the annual funding we receive. Hampshire's financial pressures come from increasing demand and funding issues, not from debt.

Hampshire's debt is low and falling

Our external debt is now £153 million, down from £162 million last year. To put that in context: Hampshire's gross budget is £3.3 billion, so our debt is only around 4.6% of total spending. Many councils carry hundreds of millions or even billions in borrowing. By private-sector standards, Hampshire's borrowing is extremely conservative. This is disciplined, responsible financial management.

What we actually borrow for:

Hampshire only borrows for long-term capital projects, not day-to-day services. That includes:

- New SEND units and specialist school places
- Modern social care facilities
- Highways and transport improvements, for example the Stubbington by-pass.

These are assets that last for decades and benefit residents across the county.

How this investment saves money:

Capital investment is one of the few ways we can reduce long-term running costs. SEND units in mainstream schools mean fewer expensive out-of-county placements and lower transport costs.

Modern care facilities reduce reliance on high-cost private placements and cut energy and maintenance bills. Better infrastructure prevents costly emergency repairs later. Borrowing for the right projects helps protect the revenue budget year after year. Hampshire is managing its finances responsibly and investing wisely to protect services for the future.

Juliet Henderson

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New 'Living Well in Later Life' Project Launches across Hampshire

A new five-year project aimed at helping older people stay active, independent and connected has officially launched across Hampshire.

Age Concern Hampshire has announced the start of its *Living Well in Later Life* project, supported by the National Lottery Community Fund, which will deliver a wide range of physical activity and wellbeing sessions in communities across the county. The initiative will see accessible and engaging activities rolled out at Age Concern Hampshire's Care and Wellbeing Centres, as well as local venues as part of the charity's wider social groups' offering. Sessions will focus on improving strength, balance and overall wellbeing, while also creating opportunities for social connection to help tackle loneliness and isolation.

As the programme gets underway, staff are already taking part in specialist training to support delivery of the sessions. Delivered in partnership with the British Gymnastics Foundation through the Love to Move programme, training is being completed across two cohorts and will be finalised by the end of April.

This investment in skills will enable staff to quickly put their learning into practice, supporting the delivery of safe, evidence-informed sessions that help improve strength, balance and confidence. By focusing on early intervention and prevention, the programme aims to support older people to remain active, independent and connected within their communities.

The sessions are designed to be inclusive and adaptable, welcoming people of all abilities. Whether participants are looking to build confidence in movement, improve mobility, or simply enjoy social interaction in a friendly environment, the programme aims to provide something for everyone.

Age Concern Hampshire says the project reflects growing recognition of the importance of physical activity and social connection in maintaining health and wellbeing in later life.

For more information about how to make a referral for an individual or to enquire about participating in sessions, contact Age Concern Hampshire at enquiries@ageconcernhampshire.org.uk or call 01962 868545.

Regular Activities at Oakley Village Halls

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

Mon	9:30 am	Pilates
	11:30 am	Workout to music
	2:15 pm	Badminton
	7:30 pm	Table Tennis (not in summer)
Tues	9:30 am	Marching
	2:15 pm	Badminton
	7:30 pm	WI or Yoga
Wed	10:30 am	Workout to music
	6:30 pm	Kick boxing
Thurs	8 pm	Badminton
Fri	9:30 am	Trinity Baby Class.
	6:30 pm	Yoga

East Oakley Village Hall (green hut), Hill Road

Monday	am	AVAILABLE
Monday	pm	Oakley Afternoon WI (3rd Monday of month)
Monday	eve	Oakley Stitchers (1st Monday of month)
Tuesday	am	AVAILABLE
Tuesday	pm	Art Class
Tuesday	eve	Basingstoke Air Rifle & Pistol Club
Wednesday	am	Coffee & Chat
Wednesday	pm	Speedy yoga

Wednesday	eve	AVAILABLE
Thursday	am	AVAILABLE
Thursday	pm	AVAILABLE
Thursday	eve	AVAILABLE
Friday	am	Chair Yoga
Friday	pm	AVAILABLE
Friday	eve	AVAILABLE
Saturday		Available for parties Occasional Jumble Sales
Sundays		Available for parties

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

St John's Centre, St Johns Road

Mon – Fri 9 am = 3:45 pm Acorns Nursery (term time only)
To hire contact 782724

St Leonard's Centre, Rectory Road

Weekday toddler groups (see ad on page 11).

A Community Café (10:30—12:30, 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month).

"Evergreen" group coffee morning, for those living on their own (1st Monday of the month 3—4:30 pm).

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Access to Appointments will be changing – a new approach

A smarter, faster way to reach your GP

Over the next month, we will be introducing an upgraded way for you to manage your medical needs: GP Triage. This simple online tool, accessed through the practice website (www.watershipdownhealth.com), is designed to make contacting us easier, reduce waiting times, and ensure your query reaches the right clinician or service straight away. Please note that any patients without electronic means will absolutely be able to call our Reception team who will complete the triage on their behalf. Nurse appointments will go through Reception as normal.

What does this mean for you?

You can use GP Triage whenever it is most convenient for you and the system will guide you through a short set of questions about your symptoms or request. The information you provide is then reviewed by a trained professional and directed to the most appropriate member of our team. This means faster responses, fewer delays, and a smoother experience for you. Whether you need medical advice, a prescription, or help with an administrative query, GP Triage will help the practice manage the community's needs more efficiently.

Safe, secure, and designed around your care

Your health and privacy remain our top priority and the triage system will not be replacing our clinicians. The information you provide will allow the practice to deliver the best possible care and will always be handled securely. By using GP Triage, you will get healthcare specifically suited to your needs and help us improve the overall quality of care we can offer. We will be going live with the new GP Triage system on 20 May. Please see below for videos of the new system available via YouTube.

How to Use GP Triage - For Patients (Short Version): youtube.com/watch?v=RlfpB47Xwx8

How to Use GP Triage - For Patients (Full Version): youtube.com/watch?v=6KuSKDoyETg

You will receive a text or email notification on the NHS App a few days before the launch. Please note that our Reception team will, as always, be available between 08:00 and 18:30 hrs Monday to Friday.

Covid spring booster update

Vaccinations will continue to be available until the 30 June 2026 for adults aged 75 and over, residents in

care homes and for older people and immunosuppressed patients. Patients are also able to call 119 until 29 June 2026 to book appointments at a range of community pharmacies.

Cervical Smear results

Please be aware that NHS England now has a 'Digital First' approach for patients to receive their results via the NHS App and we encourage all patients with the NHS app to switch their notifications on. If your results do not go through the app, you will receive a letter from NHS England, not your GP practice.

NHS App support drop-in clinic

The PPG will be offering support at a drop-in clinic for those who need help with the NHS app at the Oakley surgery on Tuesday, 26 May from 9 to 11 am.

Join Dementia Research

Every 3 minutes, someone in the UK develops dementia. There are many unanswered questions about the causes, prevention and treatment of dementia. Only research will help us to find these answers. This research is reliant on people like you volunteering to take part to make a difference. Join Dementia Research is a service which enables people to register their interest in national dementia research. It helps people with dementia, their carers or those who support them, and anyone over 18 interested in dementia research to make a difference and take part in vital research studies.

Once signed up, you will receive email notifications about studies you can take part in. There is no obligation to take part in any of the studies you are matched to. Watch this video: youtube.com/watch?v=bJi5eQbPmaA to find out more about how the service works and sign up today on the Join Dementia Research website joindementiaresearch.nihr.ac.uk Alternatively, click the 'Register by phone' button on the website or call one of our charity partners.

Heather Mann

Did You Know?

Usually when Watership Down need to contact you they will use smart phone messages or e-mail. However, if you would prefer to be contacted by phone, you can inform the Surgery, so that they can put a note on your patient record to that effect.

Coeliac UK North Hampshire Group

Cost of living on a gluten free diet

Today, too many people with coeliac disease are struggling to access the food they need to stay well.

Health Matters



The gluten free diet is the only treatment for coeliac disease, yet it costs significantly more. The cost-of-living crisis threatens to make this even worse. Coeliac UK research found that the cheapest gluten free loaf of bread is 6.1 times more expensive than the cheapest gluten containing loaf, gram for gram. The weekly food shop suitable for a gluten free diet can be as much as 35% more expensive. Almost 8 in 10 people struggled to afford gluten free products with those on the lowest incomes hit hardest by this additional cost.

And whilst NHS support on prescriptions remains in place in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, it is being removed in many areas of England. That's why Coeliac UK has launched its cost-of-living campaign on the website coeliac.org.uk/get-involved/campaign/ **Gluten free street food in Reading**

Visiting Reading? Nibsy's is a dedicated gluten-free coffee and cake trailer, serving up great hand-made gluten-free sweet and savoury things, with some dairy-free and plant based options too. They are in the forecourt of Reading railway station, south side, near the Three Guineas.

Next meet-up

Next meeting Wednesday 20 May 10:30am to 12:00 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

Dave West

A poster for the 'Big Wheel' event. At the top, it says 'St Michael's Hospice' with a logo. The main title is 'Big Wheel' in large white and yellow letters. Below that, it says 'Sunday 14 June 2026' and 'War Memorial Park, Basingstoke'. A sub-headline reads 'Join the Journey, Support the Cause'. There's a section 'Pick your distance' with a dashed line showing four options: 9.5 miles, 23 miles, 57 miles, and 78 miles. To the right, it says 'Little Wheels Children's Lap' and 'Pedal or scoot around the park!' with a yellow silhouette of a child on a bicycle. At the bottom left is a QR code with the text 'Scan the QR code to sign up now!'. At the bottom right, it says 'Find out more: stmichaelsospice.org.uk/big-wheel'. There are also small logos for 'FR' and 'REGULATOR' at the bottom left, and charity registration details at the bottom right.

Pause For Thought



I recently read an article that talked about the challenge of 'certainty'. It was written by the presenter of a BBC radio phone-in program who said that, over the years, he's noticed that people's level of certainty has increased. He observed that, more than ever before, people are absolutely certain that their opinion is correct.

The problem is exacerbated by wickedly clever algorithms online. For example, if two different people Google exactly the same words the results will be different depending on what the algorithm thinks those two individuals want to see. As such, personal opinions can be further reinforced.

It seems that the humility of looking at issues from differing perspectives, putting yourself in the shoes of others and being willing to change your mind has become a somewhat scarce commodity.

I enjoyed the movie "Dancing With Wolves". There is a scene in it where Chief Ten Bears is

listening to a wigwam full of Native Americans arguing about what to do about a serious matter threatening their tribe. The old chief doesn't say anything but just listens to impassioned argument from all sides. When everyone had finally had their say he quietly looked up and said "These are important matters. There is nothing to be gained by rushing into them. If we act without thinking, we may do the wrong thing. We will think on this and decide later." All the Native Americans then nodded to this sage old man. The bible agrees. It says: "Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry." (James 1).

I don't know about you, but I think the world would be a better place if people had the wisdom of Chief Ten Bears. And I'm absolutely certain that I'm 100% right about that!

Steve Rebbettes

Feature



“Bees! Hampshire’s Hive of History and Nature”

**Willis Museum Basingstoke Hampshire
Now open until 28 June 2026**

Charles Butler 400 Foundation and Willis Museum welcome you to our innovative and educational interactive nature and bee story exhibition bringing together beekeepers, schools and communities to share their love and experiences of all bees and pollinators. From humming gardens to mysterious hives, bees have lived alongside people for thousands of years, shaping our landscapes, livelihoods and imaginations.



Step inside an immersive ‘hive’ and experience sounds and sights of bees, enjoy hands-on activities and craft, understand the vital role bees play in our natural world, and marvel at the history of bees and beekeeping on display. Discover early evidence of beekeeping from Roman clay hive fragments found at Rockbourne in Hampshire, to medieval images that show how bees were kept and valued. These echoes of the past sit beside today’s discoveries about how bees live, pollinate and communicate - alongside St Ambrose of Milan, patron saint of beekeepers, candle makers, and bees.



At the heart of the exhibition is our local celebrity Beekeeper of 400 years ago: Charles Butler, vicar at Wootton St Lawrence. He is recognised as the Father of English Beekeepers: through his observations, capturing the sounds, behaviour and organisation of his bees, he was the first to confirm that the female queen bee and not the male drone was head of the bee colony. In 1623 Butler published “The Feminine Monarchie” which helped transform how people understood honeybees; and 400 years later it is still being used worldwide in teachings today!

What else is happening during the exhibition?

Bees! Bees! Hark to the Bees! 11 April to 21 May Charles Butler 400 Foundation is proud to introduce you to our own special complimentary exhibition on the first floor gallery where you can enjoy learning about the evolution of bee suits from bras, discover how Hampshire helped African beekeepers, look



inside a beehive and understand the importance of balancing homes developments with sustainable parkland & woods. On your way up you enjoy the colourful “swarm” of paper bees hovering over the stairwell, created by Inclusion School students!

World Bee Day school projects 22 May to 28 June

Great Binfields Primary School and Inclusion School Basingstoke will have been buzzing and creating craft during May to display in the first floor gallery for these 5 weeks. Their initiative will support Charles Butler 400Foundation’s focus on our environmental sustainability and a living testament to Butler’s legacy and influence. We want all bees and pollinators to thrive in the new and aspiring generations 400 years on! For more information please contact Ken Robson 07725 832964 and / or visit Charles Butler 400 Foundation charlesbutler400foundation.org.uk

Ken Robson

Church News



Oakley Methodist Church Celebrates its 160th Anniversary

This special event will take place the weekend of 13 and 14 June. We are aware that this is also the weekend of the Village's Garden Stall event. We are hoping that as you travel around the village on the Saturday, that you will find time to visit the Chapel where there will some displays by the groups who currently use the church during the week as well as photographs and items about the church's history. Light refreshments will be served, (price? a donation for charity).



A special Service to celebrate the Anniversary will be held on the Sunday morning, at 10:30am and will be followed by coffee /tea and birthday cake. More details will be available in the June issue of Link. Hope to see you there.

Eldwyth Stacey

Methodist Church coffee morning

All welcome at the Methodist Church coffee morning on Tuesday 12 May and Tuesday 26 May from

10:30am to 12 noon.

£1.50 for a bottomless cup of tea or coffee and biscuits.

Come and meet old friends and new. The charity for the year is Dementia UK. We look forward to welcoming the Woodland

Well-being walkers at the end of their walk.

Trish Kinchington

Oakley
Methodist Church
Services at 10:30 am

May 3	Mr Nick Klingaman
May 10	Mrs Rosie Greenhalgh
May 17	Rev John Dawson
May 24	Mrs Helen Watson Pentecost
May 31	Mrs Linda Hoe

COFFEE MORNING Tuesdays May 12 and 26
10:30 am to 12 noon £1-50

All welcome at the Chapel by the Pond
www.bhbcircuit.org.uk/churches/oakley.html

Gardening



Oakley Gardening Club

On Monday 13 April at our monthly meeting we welcomed the Head Gardener Michael Harvey from Mottisfont. His subject was "A Rose Garden Paradise" He was very passionate about his roses and started by giving the history from old roses to the modern-day roses.

Michael said that there are many different varieties. He began showing us some slides of the roses that they grow at Mottisfont Garden which looked stunning. He suggested that visitors should aim to visit on the last week of May to see the

roses at their best.

Members enjoyed the evening and also the questions and answers afterwards.

The Next meeting is on 11 May at St. Leonard's Centre, Oakley, at 7:30 pm. The Speaker is Pamela Holt, and her subject is " French Landscape Gardens". All visitors are very welcome and it will only cost £3, which will include the talk and refreshments. For



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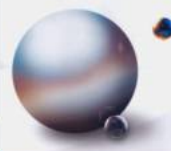
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Young Oakley



Hello from St Leonard's Preschool

Whoah! Horses will be galloping up and down. It is practice time for Sports Day. The children will be walking sideways and backwards, crawling through tunnels and going down slides, balancing beanbags on their heads and running as fast as they can! The preschool garage will be carrying out repairs on bikes, scooters and Little Tikes cars before giving them all a thorough bubbly wash with sponges, a rinse with watering cans and a polish with cloths. Our "Hungry Caterpillar" display.



We are open term time only on Monday 9 to 12 pm, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 9 am to 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 certainly had a Spring in our step last term when we made some yummy crispy cakes, long legged chickens and cute pop-up rabbits. We were even lucky enough to get a visit

from the Easter bunny! After a nice break with our families, we are excited for the Summer term for lots more opportunities to learn and play in the sunshine.

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.

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 shown remarkable dedication and commitment to their GCSE preparation, and we wish them lots of luck as they begin the exams season. We know they will make the Cranbourne Community very proud! We can't wait to celebrate all their achievements at their Leavers' Prom at the end of June, before they make the next steps in their educational journey.

Student Leadership elections are underway 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 for our school community and we're excited to see who will be chosen to represent our school as Head Students.

Our Inclusion and Cultural Diversity Ambassadors had the exciting opportunity to visit the Houses of Parliament, where they enjoyed a behind the scenes tour of the building. They learned lots about the history of Parliament, how it began and enjoyed gaining further insight into how our Government operates.



Young Oakley



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 careers including teaching, engineering, hospitality and retail and have returned to us with confidence and a sense of direction.

We're still looking for businesses and employers from a wide range of sectors to inspire our students at our annual Careers Fair on Tuesday 23 June. If you're interested in getting involved and supporting our learners, please contact Mrs Pope ona.pope@cranbourne.hants.sch.uk

Chloe-Mai Parfitt

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Conservation



Jubiloaks

Some of our recent working parties have been blessed with glorious spring sunshine. It has certainly brought out the woodland flowers in the Long Break section of the Oakley to Kempshott Multi-user path. The snowdrops and wild daffodils (*Narcissus pseudonarcissus*) may have flowered and faded but the white wood anemones and yellow primroses are still putting on a lovely display, and bluebells are making their appearance from early April.

We encourage our native wildflowers, but sometimes it is important to remove or control those plants that do not belong and those that take over large areas if left to their own devices. Now that flowers are opening, it is much easier to identify those that have no business growing along the path.

Although they are pretty, garden daffodils are not appropriate for our native woodlands and clumps have been dug up to stop them spreading. Likewise, the large Spanish bluebells near the St John's Road entrance. These non-native bluebells are common in many Oakley gardens, but they are a threat to our native bluebell woods as they readily hybridise and out compete 'the locals'.

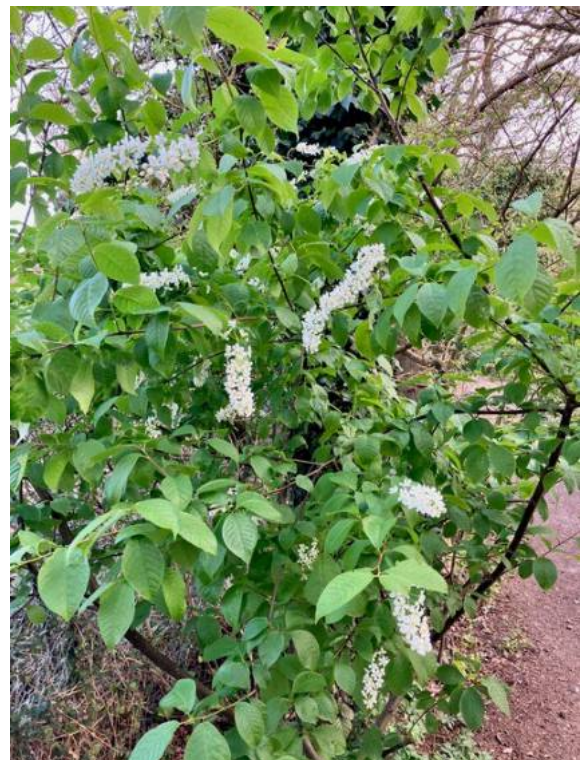
Some patches of sprawling bramble have also been cut back along the path edges to give the native flowers a little more room.

Two of our regular volunteers have also been working on the south side at the Oakley end of Long Break. They are bending over the growing hazel and hawthorn to start a 'layered hedge'. On the north side

you will see one of our Bird Cherry whips with scented white flowers. Our bird boxes are attracting the attention of blue tits and nut hatches. The return of bird song in the warmer spring weather is so welcome after a long, dark winter.

The Jubiloaks Team

jubiloaks.org.uk jubiloaks@btinternet.com



Conservation



Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust Spring's song in the sky

As winter fades and the countryside awakens, one of the most uplifting signs of spring is the song of the skylark. This small, streaky brown bird can often be heard long before it is seen, filling open fields and grasslands with a joyous, bubbling melody.

Skylarks (*Alauda arvensis*) are modest in appearance but extraordinary in behaviour – including their remarkable aerial song displays. Males rise high into the sky, sometimes hundreds of metres above the ground, singing continuously while hovering or slowly circling. These flights serve both to attract a mate and to mark a breeding area.



Skylark by John Bridges

Skylarks are omnivorous, feeding mainly on seeds, grains, and small invertebrates. In spring and summer, insects such as beetles, caterpillars, and spiders become a key part of their diet, providing protein for growing chicks. This reliance on open farmland,



Skylark by Amy Lewis

grassland, and heathland means that habitat loss and intensive agriculture can have a major impact on skylark populations. Research shows 66% of ground-nesting birds in the UK are in decline, highlighting the importance of protecting these delicate species.

These small, plump birds, are streaked brown and buff above, with pale underparts and a short crest that can be raised when the bird is alert. This colouring provides excellent camouflage among grasses, helping protect them from predators while nesting on the ground. Here, females build shallow nests hidden among grasses, laying three to four eggs. Chicks grow quickly and leave the nest within a couple of weeks, allowing some pairs to raise multiple broods during the season.

However, ground-nesting birds, such as skylarks, are particularly vulnerable to disturbance, for example from dogs. Birds perceive dogs as predators and when dogs roam freely they can trample nests. They may also scare adults and cause the birds to abandon their chicks and nests, leaving eggs and chicks cold and unprotected.

Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust is advising dog owners to help by keeping pets on short leads, especially from March through July when birds are breeding. By following this guidance, dog owners play a crucial role in ensuring skylarks and other spring wildlife continue to thrive.

The Trust works with farmers, landowners, and communities to protect open grasslands and farmland, helping skylarks perform their iconic song flights for generations to come.

To support local wildlife and to help give nature a wilder future, please consider becoming a member of Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust. For more information about joining the Trust

visit: hiwwt.org.uk/join-today or call the membership team on 01489 774408.

Helen Skelton-Smith

Oakley Woodlands Group

Why does The Oakley Woodlands Group exist? Its primary aim is to maintain two ancient woodlands as healthy coppice which is a special environment that supports a variety of fauna and flora.



Every winter volunteers regularly turn out to cut trees and make dead hedges, but that is only part of the story. The modern day is obsessed with metrics. If it is not measured, it does not

Conservation



exist! And this can be applied to the woods. Are we successful in conserving our regionally unique patches of alchemilla, or retaining our population of endangered dormice? Do we have a healthy population of songbirds, or bats? The only way to find out is to survey, and to survey you need surveyors. (You can see where this is going).

When you get the data, you need some way of storing it, so we are also looking for IT help on that front too. If anyone has the skills or is interested in finding out what is involved in surveying, then please get in touch with us via email. We will also be at the Oakley Village Show in August, and we love to chat. The results of surveys are not only interesting but are vital in ensuring that we continue to get support from the Borough, and in the future The North Hants Authority, that ensures the survival of these green spaces. Of course, they are not just green spaces as the fantastic display of bluebells in St John's Copse demonstrates. Email: oakleywoodlands@gmail.com.

Alan Merry



Feature



News From Jolly Olly's Coffee Shop

May is here! Time for a little sunshine and a restful hour sipping tea and nibbling on a homemade flapjack in our little back courtyard area?

Basingstoke Young Carers. We are currently fund raising for Basingstoke Young Carers. Pop your pennies in the collecting tin in exchange for a pre-loved book or handmade greetings card, produced by one of our customers. Bob Porter is also busing making one of his "press for pennies" models to display in the shop. Press the button, watch the model move and show your appreciation by making a voluntary donation. Cash preferred! Thank You!

Despite cost increases everywhere, we are doing our best to keep our prices as low as possible. You can still enjoy a coffee or mug of tea with us for just £3! Thank you to those who have recently responded



to our sign in the shop and paid by cash rather than card whenever possible. Cash is much less expensive to bank for us. By using it you are helping us to keep our prices lower.

Free Tea! As it is the "Merry, Merry Month of May" we thought it fitting to spread a little happiness! This month, we are offering "free tea between 2 and 3!" with every cake or sandwich purchased during this time.

Half Term Hols Let us pack you a picnic and head off for some outdoor fun! With every kid's lunch bag we will include an Outdoor Fun Ideas Sheet to help you enjoy the Sunshine in the Oakley area. Please see our Facebook page for more details.

Reminder, we will be closed for the Bank Holidays 4 and 25 May.

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Fund Raising



Basingstoke Deane

Rotary



Basingstoke Rotary Club – Hampshire hospitals charity

CTG monitoring machines

We launched our fundraising focus for this Rotary year in January. This important project is also the heart of our fundraising at the Festival of Transport. Partnering with Hampshire Hospitals Charity to buy one or more if possible, new Cardio Tomography machines (CTG) for the Maternity department at Basingstoke Hospital.



They play a vital role in monitoring pregnant women and women in labour and the health of their unborn child. The current machines are outdated and can't be upgraded, so replacing them with modern, data-rich, fully updatable equipment will make a real difference. These state-of-the-art machines will help make childbirth safer for local families.

We will also continue to support other local and some international charities. Become a Friend of Rotary. Have fun volunteering with us and help our local community.

Lindy Richardson



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Ladies Societies



Oakley Afternoon WI—March meeting

Janet the President welcomed members, and we had one visitor, Anna Gamble, who had been to one of our meetings previously. Instead of a speaker, Carol and Pat had organised an Easter Bonnet decorating activity. They provided some pretty coloured straw hats, Easter themed decorations, ribbons, etc, and members also brought along decorations to use. It was a very enjoyable activity with Terry's hat a surprise winner.

Following tea, the President explained the new NFWI Membership Eligibility rules, where WI membership is only open to women registered female at birth (biological women) who have reached the age

of majority. Members now must sign a new Membership Eligibility form confirming this, which was passed around at the meeting.

Old Basing WI have volunteered to host the first round of the Annual WI Quiz if enough of our local WIs can get teams together. The next coffee morning at the Barley Mow is on Monday 30 March at 11am. A board was passed around for members to put their names against any of the Mervyn's Tours this year and Janet Green will co-ordinate this at present.

The birthday posies and cards were given out and the raffle drawn. The meeting finished at 3:30 pm.

Ladies Societies



Oakley & Deane WI

On 14 April Oakley & Deane WI celebrated our WI's 108th birthday with a buffet, supplied by our members and birthday cake. Speaker Joyce Meader told us about Knitting for the Military, which was informative but also great fun, she brought along original knitting patterns from the time of the Boer War to WW2. Joyce also brought items she had knitted from these patterns, including khaki long johns, many styles of hats, mufflers (now known as scarves) and items for hospitals. We also had a competition for knitted hats, scarves and gloves which were then donated to go to Ukraine.



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

Our next meeting is on Tuesday, 12 May at 7:30 pm at Oakley Village Hall, Station Road, Oakley. This will be our Annual Meeting with a quiz and nibbles. We will also be voting on our WI Resolutions for this year.

Any ladies over 18 are always welcome at our meetings to see what we do and what events we organise. The entrance is free for your first 2 visits. You do not have to be able to make jam or cakes to join this WI.

Future events and reports on past activities can be found on our website oakleydeanewi.weebly.com and on our Facebook page facebook.com/oakleyanddeaneWI. We can also be contacted by email oakleydeanewi@gmail.com

Basingstoke Ladies Probus Club

The Elegant Avian Scavenger

If it wasn't for the fact that this area is so used to seeing this giant bird in our skies these days, the title 'Return of the Red Kite' might reference some miscreant in a spy service. However it was the title of the talk given to the Basingstoke Ladies Probus Club by Keith Bretton - writer, lecturer and occasional broadcaster and an absolute authority on the life and times of the Red Kite.

In medieval times the bird was very common over London but by 1875 - 1900 it was extinct in many



countries other than Wales and the north of Scotland. Its proliferation in Hampshire has been relatively recent but dramatic, given that in 1990 there were just 5 but, by 2020, this had increased to 4,031 and, by 2025, to a staggering 6,500.

This magnificently graceful bird of prey is unmistakable with its reddish-brown body, angled wings and deeply forked tail and is said to symbolize freedom and resurrection, while also representing successful ecological conservation and resilience. Notwithstanding its 1.5 m wingspan it is remarkably light at just 1 to 1.5 kg, the female - who can breed



from 2 yrs.old - being heavier than the male. Both are highly maneuverable and both can live up to 29 years of age if, as sadly happens, they have not been poisoned or shot.

Despite negative and inaccurate publicity, the kite is physically incapable of lifting heavy prey, including lambs or small children as has been suggested, as they cannot lift much more than a small rabbit or squirrel. What they are proficient in, however, is removing small items of clothing from a washing line with which to furnish the nest to add to the more commonly used material of sheep's wool. And that nest might have been previously the dwelling of another, as the kite will steal the nest of,

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Ladies Societies



for example, the crow or sparrowhawk. For food they will swoop down to grab food from both ground and water and have smartly learnt to follow tractors during harvesting, which can reap much upturned sustenance.

Keith, who started lecturing at age 15, is a keen world birder having seen nearly 9000 species in 123 countries. He has a particular passion for Africa and is Chair of the African Bird Club. In the UK he is heavily involved in bird monitoring in Hampshire, where he is Chair of the Hampshire Ornithological Society. He has been a Council Member of both the RSPB and British Trust for Ornithology.

The Club was delighted to host such an expert – in the words of one member who gave the Vote of Thanks, ‘In these days of political misery, the talk had been wonderfully entertaining’ – and she had stayed awake!

If interested to know more about BLPC membership and the upcoming program, contact: the Admin Secretary at reverendjane@hotmail.co.uk or on 07754 296994.

Annie Vicars

Rooksdown Revellers

Rooksdown Revellers WI mentally transported to Nepal

At the March meeting of the Revellers, Dave Thomas, a qualified walking instructor and mountaineer for 25 years, shared with the group his experiences of Nepal and his involvement with the charity Classroom in the Clouds. He described Nepal’s diverse culture, home to 123 ethnic groups and 123 languages spoken as a ‘1st language’. Of the population in excess of 30 million, 10% of them housed in the capital Kathmandu, the majority practice Hinduism followed by Buddhism and Islam.

He explained that Nepal is currently a republic although it is very corrupt and politically unstable. Interestingly, its flag is unique, being the only national flag which is neither square nor rectangular but two triangles instead.

To a rapt audience, Dave recounted his trek to Mera Peak - 6,476 meters - where guides, many of whom have summited Everest, lead climbs with minimal boasting. Sherpas, a mountain ethnic group, are integral to the expeditions, during which the main cook will produce 3-course lunches and dinners for up to 30 to 40 people using just 3 kerosene stoves, with the help of 4 ‘cook boys’ who subsequently pack it up, carrying all the equipment on their backs with loads of 30 kg although some porters



Himalayan Monal, national bird of Nepal - known as 'Daphe'

may carry up to 50 to 60 kg, as they are paid by weight. The yak, which cannot live below 3,000 meters, is vital for carrying equipment.

While the men are thus engaged on these trips, the women are left to farm for their living, growing rice and vegetables. Apparently in days of yore, all treks had western leaders now, however, they are Nepali. Dave highlighted concerns over glacial loss and potential water shortages by 2030. Additionally, he shared that many Sherpa men work abroad to support their families due to the dangers of climbing.

Using a video he also spoke passionately about his involvement with Classroom in the Clouds, a UK based charity which, despite a teacher absence of 25%, helps educate girls in Nepal, who often leave school after puberty due to lack of privacy. The charity builds earthquake-resistant schools, provides reusable period packs, and offers lessons on pregnancy and hygiene, plus training women as teachers to combat teacher shortages. The video – and the illuminating talk - left the group in a thoughtful silence.

Annie Vicars

Welcome Packs

Whether you've just moved in or are planning your move, we're so glad to have you join our community. As a small gesture, new residents receive a welcome letter from our Chairman and a jar of seasonal 'Community Kindness' jam, handmade by a local volunteer.

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Local News



Basingstoke Choral Society presents an evening of light and hope

When: Saturday 18 July 2026

Concert starts 7 pm

Where: All Saints Church Odiham

Conductor: Jordan Theis

Accompanied by piano and organ

We present an evening of inspirational music celebrating the hope and joy of community, featuring the radiant lyricism of Samuel Barber's *Sure on This Shining Night*, the heartfelt beauty of Mark Wilberg's *Amazing Grace*, selections from Aaron Copland's *Old American Songs*, the luminous serenity of Morten Lauridsen's *Lux Aeterna*, and the folk-inspired charm of Jacob Narverud's *Wild Mountain Thyme*, all part of a programme of works written or arranged by American composers.

Tickets: £20 under 18's free

A glass of wine or soft drink included in ticket price available from 6 pm

To book: basingstoke-choral.org.uk/summer26

Basingstoke Male Voice Choir Summer Concert

BMVC Summer Concert – Sounds of Summer

The choir has been hard at work learning a selection of new pieces, and we're excited to share them with you at our Sounds of Summer concert, alongside some much-loved favourites. This year, we're also delighted to be performing in a beautiful

new venue: All Saints Church, Southern Road, Basingstoke. Our programme includes stirring classics such as *Fields of Athenry* and *Myfanwy*, rousing favourites like *Song of the Jolly Roger* and *Morte Criste*, and a touch of the contemporary with selections from Coldplay's repertoire. We would love to see you on Saturday, 6 June. Tickets are £12 and available from TicketSource: ticketsource.co.uk/bmvc and there's no booking fee. Come and welcome the summer with us through song.

Malcolm Gallani

Overton Choral Society Summer Concert with Afternoon Tea

Enjoy a medley of choral favourites with a full afternoon tea to celebrate over 100 years of Overton Choral Society. Join us on 20 June at St Mary's Hall, Overton at 2:30 pm (doors open at 2 pm) for a relaxed concert of choral singing featuring classic and modern favourites.

A full afternoon tea is included in the ticket price of £15 and will be served during the interval. The summer concert celebrates over 100 years of Overton Choral Society. The proceeds from the concert will support us to put on our free events, such as our charity Christmas concert and to help us keep membership fees low so that the choir is accessible to all. We welcome additional donations on the day.

Lyn Hardy

SURE ON THIS SHINING NIGHT
LUX AETERNA
Samuel Barber
Morten Lauridsen
and other songs of LIGHT and HOPE
including:
Walk with Me Lord,
Wild Mountain Thyme,
Amazing Grace and
more

QR code

Saturday July 18th 2026 at 7pm
All Saints Church Odiham RG29 1LZ
Basingstoke Choral Society
Conductor Jordan Theis

Tickets including a glass of wine or soft drink: £20. Under 18's free
<https://www.basingstoke-choral.org.uk/summer26>

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Overton Choral Society presents
Summer Concert with afternoon tea
Celebrating over 100 years of our choir with a medley of classical favourites

Saturday 20 June 2026, 2.30pm. Doors open at 2pm
St Mary's Hall, Overton

Tickets
£15 per person
Ticket price includes a full afternoon tea
Admission by pre-booked ticket

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Whitchurch Silk Mill News

Flower Festival at the Mill: Call for Displays

Building on the success of our Open Gardens events, Whitchurch Silk Mill is delighted to announce its first Flower Festival, running 19 to 21 June 10:30 am to 5 pm daily. The festival will celebrate creativity, nature and our local community, and we invite gardeners, garden groups, makers and creative individuals to take part.

We're looking for floral installations or flower-inspired arrangements for display inside the Mill or in the grounds. These can be fresh, crafted, stitched, recycled, sculpted, anything imaginative and floral. Alongside the displays, there will be demonstrations and family activities throughout the weekend. To get involved, please contact Jess or Sue at info@whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk.

Heritage Craft Workshops

Discover the joy of learning a heritage skill with our hands-on craft workshops, led by talented makers and ideal for beginners or as a memorable gift.

Weave a Wall Hanging – 13 May, 10 am to 1 pm or 2 to 5 pm

Learn weaving techniques on Louet table-top looms and create your own wall hanging to take home. Suitable for beginners. £60.

Paper Pots and Paper Flowers – 28 May, 10:30 am

to 12:30 pm

A half-term family workshop inspired by the Flower Festival, using simple, sustainable materials. Children aged 5+ welcome (with adult help). £7.50 per person.

Beginner's Crochet Granny Squares – 13 June, 11 am to 2 pm

Learn the basics of crochet with qualified teacher Heather from Arthur's Craft Corner. All materials included. £45. Previous workshops sold out.

Special Events

Whitchurch Folk Festival – 9 May, 10:30 am to 5 pm

The Mill joins this lively town-wide celebration with folk music, workshops, crafts and family-friendly activities.

Silk Production Tour – 23 May, 11 am to 12 noon

An exclusive guided tour with our weaving team, exploring silk production in a Victorian setting. Booking essential. £25.

Tickets are available from the Mill Shop or via the Events page on our website. To stay up to date, follow us on social media or subscribe to our newsletter.

Contact: info@whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk | whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk | 01256 892065

Sue Tapliss

BMVC
Basingstoke Male Voice Choir

Sounds of Summer
A concert by the Basingstoke Male Voice Choir

7:30 pm on Saturday 6th June

All Saints Church, Southern Rd, RG21 3EA

Doors open at 7:00 pm

Tickets £12:00 from Ticket Source:
<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/bmvc>

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SHERLOCK HOLMES VERSUS JACK THE RIPPER

The reason they never caught Jack the Ripper was that detectives in Victorian London were simply not up to the job. So imagine if Sherlock Holmes had been around to investigate the case?

Actor and historian Tony Harris brings Conan Doyle's detective to life in this period murder mystery night.

Join us for this talk on
Wednesday 20 May at 10 a.m.
St Mary's Hall, Overton
Free to members - Non-members £3 on the door

Feature



Basingstoke Citizens Advice

Check if you can save money on oil, LPG, coal or wood to heat your home

Citizens Advice Basingstoke is an independent local charity providing free, confidential and impartial advice for local people. If you use oil, liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), coal or wood to heat your home, check below to see if you can save money.

If you use oil, it's worth getting at least 3 quotes from different suppliers, to compare prices and choose the best option for you. Get quotes from suppliers who are members of the UK and Ireland Fuel Distributors Association (UKIFDA). Member suppliers have to act professionally and treat you fairly. If they don't, you can complain: ukifda.org/find-a-distributor.

It's best to order when oil prices are cheaper, usually in summer and early autumn. It's usually also cheaper to get oil delivered in a few weeks' time instead of an urgent delivery. Before you order check for extra fees or service charges. You could put some money aside each month in a savings account to help spread the cost over a year. Make sure you have enough oil in the tank while you wait for deliveries, at least quarter of a tank. If the oil level gets too low, the system could get damaged and need expensive repairs. It might be cheaper to order a larger amount of oil, instead of several smaller orders. Check your tank to make sure you've got enough space for a larger amount of oil.

If you're 75 years old or over, and your supplier is a member of the UKIFDA, they should prioritise

deliveries to you. This is called the 'Cold Weather Priority Initiative'. You, or someone you live with, must be aged 75 or over. Your supplier should automatically add you to the 'Cold Weather Priority Initiative', but you should check you're on it. If you use more than one supplier, you'll need to check with each supplier. You might have to ask them to add you. You don't have to pay for this.

Check if your supplier is a UKIFDA member on the UKIFDA website: ukifda.org/find-a-distributor.

If you use coal or wood it's usually cheaper to buy your coal and wood in bulk. You might be able to find a better deal with another supplier - make sure you look around for deals regularly. You might also want to look into using different types of coal or wood. Some might be more energy efficient than others, which could save you money. You can check how to use your solid fuel heating system efficiently on the Solid Fuel Association website at solidfuel.co.uk/solid-fuel-energy-efficiency/. If you use alternative fuels such as oil, coal or wood to keep your home warm, you might be able to get extra help if you can't afford to buy fuel, please see more details on: citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/energy/energy-supply/get-help-paying-your-bills/help-with-bills-if-you-use-alternative-fuels/.

Anyone in need of help, whatever their enquiry involves, should call Advice Line free on 0800 2787829. For details of the weekly drop-in advice sessions across Basingstoke or if you would like to send in your enquiry online, please go to: cabasingstoke.org.uk. Registered charity no 900116.

Lucy Sweet

Free Ads



All entries should be sent in writing to Maureen Dallaway, by 15 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.

Vintage fishing rod, W B Clarke, Redditch, 2.2m length, cork handle, with vintage K P Morriffs TruSpin fixed spool reel, Ladybird Coarse Fishing book, useful plastic toolbox/fishing box and some bits and pieces. Ideal for coarse fishing. No obligation inspection welcome. Can deliver locally. £25 tel. 07879 467242.

Swatch® brand dangle/drop stud earrings. Purple colour star design, drop approx. 4.5cm, white metal - no hallmarks. No obligation inspection welcome. Can deliver locally. £15 tel. 07879 467242

Titan Hedge Trimmer mains model no TTB427GTM 400 watt no £25.00 Tel 07549021174
2 Sonic Dominators 12' 3.25 test curve **fishing rods** for £50 each or both for £95 . Only been used once so as brand new. I also have a **Canon battery charger for free and a Pop up fishing cradle for free**. Tel, No 01256 781823 or mobile, which has a bad signal, 0796 7772158,

4 White plastic **garden chairs**. Weathered but clean. **FREE** Telephone 07933 130564

Free petrol rotavator. Not used for some time so may need a little attention. Collection from Sainfoin Lane. Tel 07758371320

3 **Water Butts**. Free to collect Take all or just one, Oakley. 07554170727

Booster chair universal 25 - 36 kgs E2 used but in excellent condition £8. Tel. 07549021174

Walking



Oakley Ramblers

On a sunny Sunday in March, a group set off from the George & Dragon pub in Wolverton Townsend for a 4.5 mile walk. After a wet winter, it was no surprise that many paths were muddy, but recent sunshine had begun to dry things up. The route took us across



fields, though woods where daffodils were still in flower, across streams and along quiet lanes, until we finally arrived back at the pub in time for a pleasant Sunday lunch.

On a beautiful Wednesday, that felt more like



summer than April, a group of 11 walkers headed off into the Hampshire countryside. Spring was well represented by many wildflowers, abundant Blackthorn blossom, bird activity, including an early skylark, and fields of yellow rape.

We headed towards Jennie Green Lane in the direction of Medstead, turning towards Holt End and Bentworth with some great views. Walking mostly on footpaths & Byways, often tree lined, with some uphill sections to test our fitness there was lots of chat and camaraderie.

Approximately halfway we passed Bentworth Church, then after a short road section, we were back onto footpaths with panoramic views. After a circular 6 mile we headed to the Yew Tree for a drink and an



excellent lunch with good service.

Thanks to all who have made our walks so enjoyable.

Oakley Ramblers is a friendly group; we always welcome visitors who can try us out before joining. This month we start our Thursday evening summer walks; our planned walks for May are Wednesday 13, Thursday 21 and Sunday 24. 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.

Corrine Thomas

Woodland Wellbeing Walks - May

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, 12 May 10 am - Village Pond B

Tuesday, 19 May 10 am - St John's Rd lay-by, informal social self-led walk

Tuesday, 26 May 10 am - East Oakley Village Hall [aka The Green Hut] B

Other Details:

Start time: 10am

Pace: gentle

Duration: 1 hour approx.

Routes: varied.

B = Barbara led [07722 957057]



Oakley FC

Despite the inevitable challenges of a playing ground that seems to operate below sea level most of the year, leaving teams with plenty of games to catch up on, Oakley FC's youth teams from U7 to U17 are closing in on the end of the regular season and are looking forward to the summer tournaments - and in particular our very own Oakley 6-a-side Tournament. The club's showpiece annual event will bring over 175 teams from across the region to the village for two days of competition at the Peter Houseman ground over the late May bank holiday weekend.

As ever the club is indebted to the support of many parents, volunteers, local businesses and both Oakley schools in putting on what we hope will be another highly successful event. The club works hard to keep the disruption such an event brings to the village to a minimum, and the proceeds from the tournament all go back into the community - helping us keep playing fees amongst the lowest in the area and supporting Sebastian's Action Trust; last year the club donated £1,000 to the Trust's fantastic work in supporting the families of seriously ill children.

OFC is looking for a new volunteer treasurer, to be in place in time for the new season beginning in September. This post is essential to the proper running of the club and would be ideal for someone comfortable with basic accounting, able to spare 2 to 3 hours per week, and keen to enjoy that warm feeling of having given something back to the community. And when next summer's tournament comes around, they will also enjoy the warm feeling of unlimited access to the BBQ! Anyone interested should contact Scott Rawlings at club.chairman@oakleyfootball.club

Grayson Greening

Oakley Bowling Club News

The long winter ended with success for our indoor bowlers as the club lifted for the first time since 2007 the Moreton Cup, entry to



which is restricted to teams representing local outdoor clubs. A good win, in the semi-final, over the 2025 champions Cove, was followed by a comfortable win in the final against Andover. Buoyed by this success hopes were high that we might achieve a rare double by lifting the Ambler/Fuller trophy played at Loddon Vale. It was not to be as we lost to holders Aldermaston, in a close and tense final, on the very last end. There was disappointment too for our B team as they lost the 3rd/4th place play off.

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Sport



April saw too the end of our popular winter social programme, with the final few weeks featuring Musical Bingo, the Easter Draw and Janie's Alternative Raffle. Inevitably in summer the programme is more limited – we are so busy bowling – but we can look forward to the Barn Dance (with Fish and Chip supper) at Malshanger on 9 May, (tickets available), a Murder Mystery Night and a canal trip on the John Pinkerton.

Now that our green has reopened for the summer, we hope to attract some new people to the game. On page 36 is a poster about our Open Day on 23 May so why not pop up and have a go. No equipment needed, just wear flat soled shoes. If 23 May is inconvenient just call Norman on 07711 685772 or Diane on 01256 781465 and they will arrange for you to be met at the green, be shown our splendid facilities and made aware of our special bowling and social membership offers. More information about the Club can be found at www.oakleybc.org.uk

Spencer Kerley


Hampshire Choral Festival

Saturday 9th May 2026
 Thornden Hall, Chandler's Ford SO53 2DW
 7.30pm

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 Winchester City Festival Choir
Conducted by David Burgess

Tickets £20 [a booking fee may apply]

- From Thornden Hall booking office
- thorndenhallticketsolve.com/
- 023 8024 6555
- At the door
- or scan





RCN 295128
infoonline.org.uk/concerts

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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RG26 5GJ sales@oakleywindows.co.uk



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