

September 2025



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LIVE-life-BETTER



September 2025

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

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

Link web-site oakleylink.org.uk

Please e-mail copy to: editor@oakleylink.org.uk or post to 8 Caithness Close, Oakley, RG23 7NG Deadline for October 2025 issue: 10 September

Editorial

Congratulations to everyone involved in making the **Village Show** in August such a success. See report from Ann Davis and photos from Eve Askew on pages 20 and 21.

A reminder that the **Scouts AGM** and picnic is on 12 Sept from 6:30 pm at Scout & Guide HQ.

Community invited to share their views on golf facility relocation proposals (see letter on page 10)

In January, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council's Cabinet took a decision to progress further investigation work on plans to relocate facilities currently at Basingstoke Golf Centre to Down Grange.

The community will get an opportunity to find out more and share their views during a drop-in session between **3 pm and 8 pm on Wednesday 10 September** at St Mark's Church, Homesteads Road, Basingstoke, RG22 5LQ.

For more information, visit basingstoke.gov.uk/golf-centre-future

Front cover photo: July 2025 harvest at Summerdown, Malshanger by Tim Beere

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

New volunteer drivers always welcome

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

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

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Village

Our Oakley – A New Way to Connect Our Community

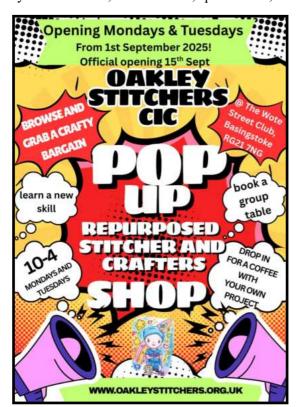
arlier this year, I launched Our Oakley – a simple, online way for our community to share what's going on and make it easier for people to get involved.

When you visit ouroakley.uk, you'll find a friendly welcome, a search box where you can look up events, venues, or organisers, and links to browse or view the full calendar. Upcoming events are listed clearly, and you can click any one to see full details — including where it's happening, who's running it, and how to take part.

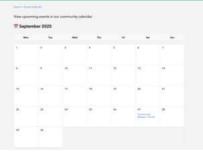


The Our Oakley homepage – search for events, venues, or organisers and see what's happening in our village

Current organisers include OCA, Parish Council, Oakley with Wootton, Oakley Neighbourhood Watch, Oakley Stitchers CIC, local schools, sports clubs, The







The Our Oakley calendar – your one-stop place for upcoming village events.

Barley Mow, and Craft Kits N Bits – with more joining all the time. The calendar also shows our third Our Oakley Community Market coming up on Saturday 27 September at 12 pm – an example of how the site can help promote village events.

If you run a group, club, venue, or local business, you can sign up to list your events at ouroakley.uk/ admin/signup. It's free to use, and you'll be able to update your own listings whenever you like.

Our Oakley is part of my wider Our Area idea - a way to bring communities together and give them the tools to share, connect, and thrive.

A huge thank you to Oakley Community Association, Oakley and Deane Parish Council, Oakley with Wootton, and the early test organisers who helped shape the site with their feedback.

Alex Rowley

For any questions or ideas: 6 01256 592443

alex@alexrowley.uk





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Basingstoke Cats Protection is currently inundated with cats on our waiting list who we so desperately want to help... but with all our current foster homes full of felines there is little we can do.

We are looking for fosterers in the Basingstoke area, either indoor or in an outdoor enclosure which is provided by Cats Protection (approximate size 13ft x 4ft or 4m x 1.2m). Full training will be provided and all expenses are covered by Cats Protection – food, litter, bedding and electricity.

Fostering is an incredible experience guaranteed to give you an extreme sense of joy, achievement and pride. The days spent in a loving foster home make the world of difference for our cats and kittens, setting them up for a lifetime of happiness

PLEASE consider opening your home and heart to a cat in need; if you cannot foster, please spread the word to anyone who may be able to help us.

If you're interested in finding out more, please contact Lynne at

welfareteamleader@basingstoke.cats.org.uk

or call our enquiries line on 01256 584544.



Village

Report from the Parish Council

he Parish Council is pleased to provide residents with an update on recent developments and projects across Oakley.

At Beach Park, we've completed upgrades to improve safety and enjoyment for local families. A new roundabout has been installed, and new bark surfacing now surrounds the play equipment, creating a softer and safer environment for children. Construction of the long-awaited BMX pump track is progressing well. Once complete, it will offer an exciting, purpose-built space for riders of all ages and abilities. We look forward to announcing a grand opening date soon!

Elsewhere, the football pitches have been prepared for the upcoming season. Our grounds team are working hard to ensure the facilities are in excellent condition as we welcome new and existing teams back for training and matches in the coming weeks.

We're pleased to announce that local councillors will be holding monthly drop-in sessions for residents to share their views, ask questions, or raise any local concerns. These informal sessions will take place at the Barley Mow Pub, dates to be confirmed soon. It's a great opportunity to engage directly with your councillors in a relaxed, friendly setting. No appointment needed—just drop in!

As part of our ongoing commitment to accessibility and communication, the Parish Council hosts regular drop-in sessions at the Newfound Pavilion every Thursday from 10:30 am to 1:30 pm for Coffee & Chat— a relaxed and informal session where you can meet fellow residents, raise questions, or simply enjoy a friendly catch-up.

The Council remains committed to enhancing life in Oakley, maintaining our open spaces, and

supporting community wellbeing. We thank residents for their ongoing engagement and look forward to sharing further updates as our projects progress. Our next Parish Council meeting is 11 September at 7:30 pm in the Newfound Pavilion, residents are welcome to join us.

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

Oak Lodge Recognition

ongratulations to Oak Lodge and Oak Lodge volunteer Karen Pearn who are both finalists in the categories 'Residential Home of the Year' and 'Care Volunteer Hero' at the Hampshire Care Awards. The awards celebrate compassion, professionalism, and the power of great care in Hampshire, and will take place on Thursday 18 September at the Hilton Hotel in Southampton. Good luck and fingers crossed!

Oak Lodge is an 'Outstanding' (rating since 2016) care home on a beautiful 300-acre Hampshire estate, providing exceptional hospitality, person-centred care and a unique 'all-inclusive' offering



including massage therapies - spinal flow and reflexology. Manager Grace inspires her devoted team of long-serving employees, always prioritising residents' wellbeing.

"I truly witnessed (visiting most days) in a totally transparent way, the devotion and love of the carers towards him...all the lovely staff were so friendly and caring to me, providing invaluable practical and emotional help."



Thursdays at 10:30am — 1.30pm Newfound Sports Pavilion

Did you know we also have Parish Council office drop in hours?

Wednesdays 09:30-12:30 – Newfound Pavillon

Thursdays 10:30-1:30 – Newfound Pavillon





Village

Every day, our home is filled with laughter, celebrations, and meaningful experiences; cultural days, themed parties, classic car events, floristry workshops, trips out, choir, musical entertainers and visiting animals – even monkeys and penguins! "Enabling Dad to try new things for the first time at 99 – like meeting Alpacas!" "How impressed I was by the efforts everyone had made to make Mother's Day a special day...empty fizz bottles, scattering of wonderful spring hats and the happy buzz of residents clutching the thoughtful party bags and cards were a sure sign of a good party!"

Creating a supportive environment which nurtures individual hobbies and social connections through community engagement ('Arts in Care Homes') and intergenerational activities (Memory Box Project). No birthdays and special announcements go unnoticed with thoughtful gifts and special touches – we even held our first wedding this year!

"Every time we see her, she tells us how lucky she is to be in such a lovely home and looked after by such caring people...the care is exceptional."

Emma Zovich

Ladies Societies



Oakley Afternoon WI July Meeting

t our meeting this month the speaker was Mr Neil Francis. Neil works for the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

The title of his talk was *They Make Good Sandwiches*, and he discussed the role that women play. There were approximately three million women involved in the last war and they worked in factories, on the land and in the armed forces. Many were in the WRENS, WAAFS and ATS. It is interesting to note that Queen Elizabeth II was member of the ATS. The biggest voluntary organisation in WWII was the WVS.

Many women also joined civilian services and were involved in driving buses, working in the Fire Services and on the land. Women were involved in WWII in so many ways. There was an interesting question and answer session after the talk, and the vote of thanks was given by Janet.

This was followed by tea and cakes.

Forthcoming events include the Oakley Show and the annual Afternoon Tea Party.

There was a reminder that coffee mornings at the Barley Mow are on the last Monday of the month, and our monthly meetings are held at the Green Hut on Hill Road on the third Monday of the month (except August) at 1:30 pm and visitors

are always welcome to come along.

Janie Vickers

Oakley Ladies

akley Ladies are a friendly, relaxed group who meet on the third Tuesday of the month at St Leonard's Centre, 7:30 – 9 pm.

If you think you might like to join us please ring Celia on 01256780039 or Marie on 07903368996 for more information and come along for a taster meeting.

Our programme for this season, is as follows.....

September: A social evening with a quiz

October: A talk 'Preparing to meet Mr Hitler' November: A talk 'From German schoolboy to British

Commando'

December: A Christmas meal at BCoT restaurant January: 'Who dun it?' – 50th anniversary of

Agatha Christie's death February: A Wellbeing talk March: An Easter craft evening

April: To be confirmed June: An afternoon outing to be confirmed

July: Our AGM and supper at St Leonard's Centre

Addie Keenan



OAKLEY & DEANE WI

Charity No 299043

We are holding a

Vintage & Jumble Sale

On Saturday 25th October 2025 At East Oakley Village hall (the Green Hut), Hill Road, Oakley. RG23 7JJ

> Doors open 1.45pm Entrance fee 50p for adults

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Feature **

News From Jolly Olly's Coffee Shop Farewell

e are very sorry to be saying farewell to both Hannah and Maddison who have been such huge assets to the Jolly Olly's Team. They will be sorely missed but we wish them every success and happiness in the new and exciting next steps in their lives as they head off to University.

Back to School Special - Wednesday, 3 September

Why not join us after school for a much needed refuel? We will be open for an extra half an hour and giving away a FREE kid's mini bake with every adult drink purchased.

Thank You!

Thank you to Elena Durrant, who completed her work experience with us last month. It has been lovely to have her on the Team. We wish her luck in completing the Duke of Edingburgh Award that she has be working towards.

Bread

As well as continuing with our Friday sourdough

bread deliveries, we now order a selection of breads to sell on Saturdays from The Street Bake House.

Book Club

Our book is *In Order to Live* by Yeonmi Park which is a true story about a young girl who risked her life when she and her family fled North Korea. I have a copy of the book, if anyone would like to borrow it. Comments will be invited on our Facebook page from Monday, 8 September.

Monday Opening

We will be opening on Mondays **from 11 August to 15 September** after which time I will consider the viability of training and employing a new staff member to allow this to continue.

Please look out for updates on our Facebook and Instagram pages.

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

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

Find us on Facebook, Instagram and Trip Advisor

Letters 6



Dear Editor

Save Down Grange

Basingstoke Borough Council are planning to build a golf course, a crazy golf and a driving range facility on Down Grange – this will be the end of the park as we know it.

The council have decided they want to stop the public, sports clubs, and nature, from using significant areas of Down Grange in the safe and harmonious way they do today. All in favour of golfers.

The area of Down Grange ear marked for the golf course is used by thousands of people annually – from the elderly enjoying a stroll to young BMX track riders. It is used freely, safely, and in complete cooperation.

This space is also used as a training ground for hundreds of members of the Basingstoke and Mid Hants Athletics Club, a Disc Golf club, cyclists, footballers, picnickers, and walkers, to name a few. Plus, it hosts endless wildlife and bears the uninterrupted beauty of the original 19th century gardens.

The council's plans to build a car park, a crazy golf and driving range facility will not just significantly destroy nature, but could impact the safety and wellbeing of the existing Down Grange sports clubs and residents.

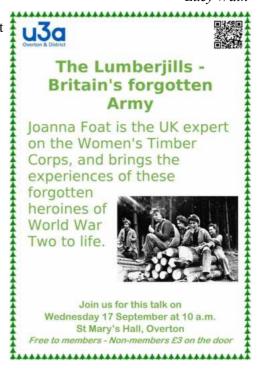
There is no statutory requirement for the council to relocate the golf centre due to the Great Wolf Resort,

and there are other pay-as-you play golf facilities in the area for beginners. The council have not provided a justification for the facility or for choosing Down Grange. And the cost will be over £1 million of our money.



Lucy Wain

To show your support please sign the petition by using the QR code above.
Thank you!





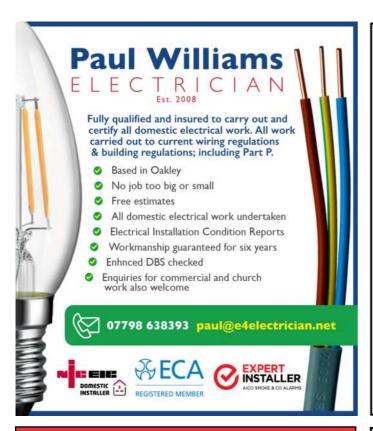
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Health Matters

Development of the Watership Down Health website

We are developing our website in line with NHS best practice and patient feedback. When accessing any of our web forms, there is now the option to sign in using an NHS login. The benefit for patients is that many of the fields will then be auto populated by the verified information in your NHS login, saving time and mis-keying.

What happens if I need to update my email or mobile telephone number on the NHS App/Login?

There has to be an exact match with the email/mobile that is used for NHS login and that which we have on your medical record. Without an exact match, the NHS App/login to your GP Practice will not work. Change of Address and moving outside of the Watership Down Health boundary area

It is very important that the Practice has your up-to -date address, email address and telephone number(s) for you. Not updating these details, may mean that you will miss out on screening invitations or notifications from Primary Care Support England about your registration. If you are not sure whether a new address is still within the boundary area, there is a postcode checker on our website at:

watershipdownhealth.com/services/new-patients/ Also the NHS have a very helpful *Find a GP* service, for a search by your postcode to find your nearest GP Practice. nhs.uk/service-search/find-a-gp

Please note that, due to high patient numbers and the volume of building that is on-going and planned within the Practice boundary, we are not able to keep patients on when they move outside the boundary.

NHS App Notifications

To enable notifications in the NHS App, open the app, navigate to "More," then "Account and settings," and finally "Manage notifications." Toggle on the option to "Send me notifications about new messages." Ensure notifications are also enabled in your device's settings.

The Patient Participation Group for Watership Down Health will hold their AGM on 8 October at St Mary's Church Rooms at 5 pm.

The PPG is a group of volunteers who are patients of the practice and who meet once every two months with the following points as our guiding aims:

- To develop the relationship between the Practice and its patients and to assist the Practice in continuing to improve its provision of healthcare whilst ensuring that patients are at the heart of decision making.
- To work collaboratively and positively with the practice to improve services and facilities for patients and to act as a sounding board for practice staff on issues affecting patients.



- To build two-way communication and cooperation between the practice and patients, other individuals and organisations in healthcare, and the wider community to the mutual benefit of all.
- To act as a representative group to support the practice and influence local provision of health and social care.

The AGM is open to all patients of the practice who would like to help us meet these objectives so your attendance and questions are welcome. Please email Heather Bronks on hmann204@hotmail.com if you would like to attend the AGM.

Coeliac UK North Hampshire Group Good News for Coeliacs

Currently the only way to be diagnosed with coeliac disease is to continue to eat the very thing that could be making you ill, gluten. This puts many people off getting a medical diagnosis for coeliac disease. Finding a less invasive diagnostic test is one of our top ten research priorities. A recent breakthrough is now bringing us a step closer.

A team of researchers in Australia have developed a blood test that can spot coeliac disease without gluten having to be in the diet. The research shows that immune cells from people with coeliac disease react to gluten in a controlled laboratory setting. This means it can identify people with coeliac disease, even those on a gluten free diet.

Looking for somebody to talk to?

If you're recently diagnosed with coeliac disease and would like to speak to somebody else with the condition, or if you are supporting your child through their diagnosis and adjustment to a gluten free diet, Member2Member would be perfect for you. We can connect you with our established and experienced members who offer a listening ear, kind words and support for as little or as long as you need it. To apply please complete our online website form or email member2member@coeliac.org.uk.

Next meeting

Next group meeting in the Waitrose cafe in Basingstoke on Saturday 20 September between 10:30 and 12. If you haven't joined us before, look out for at least one member of our committee wearing a bright orange Coeliac UK top.

Contacts:

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

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

Health Matters



New Defibrillators for Oakley Venues

Earlier this year, Oakley Gardening Club suggested that they would like to see a defibrillator at one of our local community venues. I agreed that it was a great idea – and one that could make a real difference in an emergency – so I began looking into what might be involved.

Working with Oakley and Deane Parish Council and Oakley Community Association, we looked at how to fund and maintain new units. I then spoke with the teams at the St Leonard's Centre and Oakley Village Hall to see if they would be interested in hosting them. Both venues agreed that it was something they wanted to do.

Funding for the project has come from the Parish Council's Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds – money from development in Oakley. CIL grants are available to groups and organisations to support local infrastructure. If you have an idea for a project, you can contact the Parish Clerk at clerk@oakleydeane-pc.gov.uk or email me at alex@alexrowley.uk for support.

I'm especially grateful to the group who first suggested this idea, to the St Leonard's Centre and Oakley Village Hall for so willingly agreeing to host the defibrillators, to Nicola Beere (Parish Clerk) and Eve Askew (OCA Secretary) for their help in making it happen, and to Paul Williams, whose expertise as the electrician will ensure they are installed and ready to use.

Alex Rowley
For any questions or ideas: **6** 01256 592443 |

⊠ alex@alexrowley.uk

Love to Move

Love to Move is a friendly, seated exercise programme which helps older people to move and function better. It integrates easy movements with cognitive stimulation and social interaction activities. It helps the left and right sides of the brain to process information independently, which improves function, co-ordination and the ability to carry out activities of

daily living more independently.

It is designed to be a fun session and uses popular music and song of our own era.

Love to Move is not a regular exercise class. Each element of the programme has a purpose and



is carefully choreographed with appropriate music, Each exercise is selected to work on different parts of the body but, most importantly, on different parts of the brain.

Love to Move was developed by the British Gymnastics Foundation, the charity arm of British Gymnastics, to bring real improvements to the lives of people and communities most in need, and to provide a programme of movement to help older people to engage in a fun and meaningful activity which has a positive effect on their lives.

Research carried out by Age UK found that improvements were noted in individuals when the session was repeated weekly. Benefits could sometimes be seen after one or two sessions, however most impact was found after participants had taken part for three or four months.

Love to Move begins in Oakley on Tuesday mornings 10:30-11:30 am on 9 September at The Green Hut in Hill Road. Please contact Sue Hill on 07768324869 for more details.

Sue Hill

Forever Singing Memory Choir

Forever Singing Memory Choir is a new group here in Basingstoke. The choir has been developed because a small group of people who all sing in local choirs have done some volunteering in a community service for people living with dementia and have seen firsthand the remarkable impact of singing! Happy smiling faces, people singing along – some of whom no longer have great capacity to chat due to the progression of their condition.

This experience led to a lot of research about the power of singing for people with dementia and discovered that there is a great deal of research available to provide evidence of the positive impact of singing on mood, communication and memory, reduced anxiety and isolation and that these impacts can be felt both for the person living with the condition and their family and friends around them.

Health Matters



What's more the positive impact of singing has been recognised in managing other conditions like Parkinson's disease and a whole range of mental health issues – IT'S OFFICIAL, singing is good for us all!



Forever Singing is setting up a choir in Basingstoke which is open to people living with health challenges and people who may find the demands of other choirs too great – and the choir is open to carers, family and friends too. The choir will

be fun, relaxing and rewarding, a chance to meet other people and hopefully will also have opportunities to perform. No-one needs to be able to read music but if you do, that's great too.

The first choir session will be on Tuesday 9 September, 2 pm to 3:30 pm, although please arrive from 1:45 pm to give yourself plenty of time to get your bearings and settle in! The choir will be held at Rucstall Community Centre, Holbein Close, Basingstoke, RG21 3QN.

Tea/coffee and biscuits will be provided. There is no charge although if you wish to make a small donation to running costs then that will be much appreciated so that we can keep this going for a long time to come.

You can find out more by looking at our developing website foreversinginguk.weebly.com/memory-choir.html or you can just email us at: foreversinginguk@gmail.com and ask questions or to let us know you are coming!

David Woods

Young Oakley









Young Oakley



Oakley Scout Group



Scout Camp
On Friday 11 July the Oakley
Scouts headed out for an
action-packed camping
weekend in the scenic New
Forest, The Scouts arrived on a

very warm Friday evening and began to pitch tents and set up camp. We then set off on a trek across the fields, just in time for sunset, to then return to hot dogs and hot chocolate, before heading off to bed.

After an early wake-up, due to some unwanted noise (not mentioning any names), the Scouts set about making a nice, cooked breakfast as we would need this for the busy day ahead. Once the chaotic washing up was complete, the group set off to the first activity, the obstacle course.

The course included high walls to climb over, low tunnels and lots more. After some tiring time-trials and challenges, we headed back to refuel with a crucial biscuit break, before the archery range. We took a few practice shots before the competitive tournament began. The winner was declared and it was then time for wraps and snacks back at the campsite.

After lunch the Scouts headed off to tackle their last activity of the day - Aero Ball - basketball on a trampoline! A little free time and wide games followed before we headed back for a campfire with the all-important s'mores.

The next day we had one more activity to face - the kayaks. Once we were all geared up with helmets and buoyancy aids, we were tipped into the pond and began to play some games and all got wet. It was now time to pack the site away. The camp was finished with lunch and the Scouts headed home, exhausted.

By Jake

To find out about joining the Oakley Scout Group, please email oakley@bwds.org.uk

Basingstoke West Girlguides

Basingstoke West Girlguides, rangers, young leaders and leaders joined Winklebury guides at the start of the summer holidays for our annual camp. The theme of the camp was traditional guide camp which saw the girls building their own washing up stands (that stayed up the whole camp!) and cooking their lunches on fires.

On the campsite they also practiced using semaphore and Morse code to send messages and use compass bearings to create a string and peg picture. This year we had animal themed patrols and the girls competed for points for whoever was most helpful and enthusiastic about camp chores, they embraced this

wholeheartedly and also enjoyed patrol tasks to get extra points including a traditional campfire skit.

Our campsite at PACCAR Scout site was conveniently placed for a trip on the train to London Zoo!



We had a fantastic day out, highlights being a seethrough butterfly, baby gorillas and an up-close encounter with a sleepy sloth; many of us also braved the spider enclosure and, at the end of the long day, we had a delicious (and very non-traditional) takeaway pizza followed by a huge campfire! The site also offered some great activities and our girls



participated in the crate challenge and zipwire, which was great fun, as well as a nature walk, where we found centipedes and a frog.

All the girls and leaders had such a great time, new friendships were made, and we spent the last evening planning for our further adventures over the next year which we can't wait to get stuck into.

Oakley Brownies are pleased to announce that we have a few spaces for new brownies (aged 7) to join us from September. If you are interested please go to girlguiding.org.uk and click "register a child". Make sure to select Oakley brownies when prompted. Places will be allocated on a first come first served basis. If

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Young Oakley



spaces are filled your daughter will be placed on a waiting list.

Oakley and Overton Girlguiding are also welcoming new volunteers, if you are interested in joining our team in any capacity please go to girlguiding.org.uk and click on "volunteer".

Lucy Poulter

Hello from St Leonard's Pre-School

In September 2025 St Leonard's Pre-School turns fifty! The Rev John Litton asked Janet Barnett and Liz Emery to set up a playgroup in St Leonard's Centre. Following an article in Link to gauge the demand, the playgroup opened in September 1975. Parents were charged 35p for a morning session and the staff were paid £1 a day. After Janet Barnet, Gillian Eves was manager for thirty years until December 2020.

We are celebrating at St Leonard's Centre on Saturday, 27 September from 2 to 4 pm. If you have been involved with preschool at all you are warmly



invited to ioin us. If you would like to know more about St Leonard's Pre-School you are also very welcome. We will have toys and activities for children and there will be

face painting, cake and refreshments, as well as photos to look at.

We look forward to seeing you!

If you would like to know more about the preschool, please contact us on 07772 378265, or email preschool@oww.church or look at our website stleonards-pre-school.co.uk.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Caroline Edwards, St Leonard's Pre-School

Manager



Oakley Scout Group

Jumble Sale

Saturday 11th October

East Oakley Village Hall (Green Hut) Hill Road RG23 7JJ

Doors open 1:45pm

Entrance fee for adults: 50p

Donations accepted at the hall from 10:00am on the morning of the sale



Village Show 🎇

Oakley Village Show 2025

They say, "The show must go on" and it certainly did!

9 August saw Oakley Infant School teeming with people and activity.

In the hall there were some amazing exhibits, ranging from mechanical Lego, depicting the multi-user path and railway

line to the tiniest of flower arrangements. In between, there were delicious looking cakes, strange looking vegetables, stunning artwork and so much more. For years people, mostly from the village, show just how creative and talented they are, and this year was no exception. (The list of trophy winners is on the OCA website.)

Outside, in the arena, there was so much to see, with demonstrations from Basingstoke Tae Kwondo, Workout2Music, as well as Bubbles Man, who kept us all entertained with... very large bubbles! The John Glasscock Jazz Band gave the occasion its traditional flavour, along with some impressive vintage cars. And, if that weren't enough there were stalls to suit everyone, from snuggly cats to crazy golf, honey to WI cakes.

The afternoon ended with the draw for the lucky programme* (see below) the presentation of prizes and tug of war. It has to be said that the children were more keen on this than the adults, but it was still good fun.

Of course, the show doesn't just happen, and we want to thank all those who put in so much time especially on the day, transporting everything, putting it up, and taking it all down again. We also want to thank Niamh Hutchings and her staff for making the school available to us. Finally, we want to thank all of you who turned up and queued patiently to support this village event.

Ann Davis on behalf of the show committee



Oakley's best residential container: winner: Annie Fowler



Oakley's best commercial container: winner V&B Butchers

*At the time of writing, the draw prizes have not been collected. The lucky programme numbers are 489 and 429. Please email me if you still have one of these programmes. (anndavis48@hotmail.com)



Show Prizes for classes 73, 74 & 75: Allotments & Flower Displays:



Oakley's best allotment 2025 - winner Tomasz Soga

Village Show 🎇



Bubbles, by Graeme Hewitt



100th birthday for this Austin 7



WorkOut2Music dancers



Tae Kwon-do ready to perform



John Glasscock's Jazz Band

Local News



An invitation to join Hampshire Harmony

o you like to sing? Maybe you sing in the car, in the shower or just around the house. Maybe you have previously sung with a group and want to get back to singing after a few years. That's how a lot of us came to join Hampshire Harmony and now our singing is going from strength to strength.

Come and join us at our Free Open Evening on Monday 29 September at Carnival Hall.

We are a vibrant, energetic and forward-looking upper voice choir, singing a range of diverse songs from folk and musical theatre to sacred and pop in 3part harmony. Our fantastic MD, Clare Oliver, has taught singing for over 30 years and she brings out the Big Band Concert in aid of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance

live Fortune Big Band's "An Evening of Big Band Swing" in aid of Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance promises to be an exciting event in support of an extremely deserving cause. The audience will be treated to a range of songs and sounds of the big band genre, plus performances from special guests The Tonyx, female barbershop quartet. The event takes place on Saturday 25 October at 7:30 pm at Queen Mary's College, Basingstoke. Bring your own drinks and nibbles!

Established sixteen years ago, Clive Fortune Big Band is a twenty-piece group of accomplished and

> enthusiastic local musicians, including two talented vocalists, the expert guidance of Musical Director and trombonist Clive at bebigband.org.uk Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance relies entirely on the



generosity of the community to fund its amazing work, bringing hospital-level care to emergencies when every minute counts. Whether at the roadside, bedside, or beach, they are a patient's last and best chance of survival and recovery. Find out more at hiowaa.org

For further event details, including how to buy tickets, please see our advert on page 35 of this issue. Clive Fortune



best in the choir, leading us in a sympathetic manner, to attain her high standards.

Highlights of our 2024-2025 season were, singing at the Tower of London, winning two cups at the Fareham Festival and achieving an outstanding award. We sang twice at the Anvil this year, plus gave concerts at the United Reformed Church in Basingstoke and at The Costello School.

This year we shall build on our reputation, and we have been invited to be part of the Over 55's Forum Variety Show 27 September at Queen Mary's College. We shall be giving our own early Christmas concert on November 29 and the Mayor has asked us to sing at his Carol Concert on December 6. Next year should bring another Festival appearance and summer concert as well as other events.

Although we have charitable status ourselves, we support other charities too. This year, we are working to raise funds for local cancer charity, The Pink Place. Donations can be made via our web page.

September 29 is the best time to join us, when we start rehearsals for Christmas. Our next recruitment date will be January 5 but you can contact us at any time. Please register on the website before you come along, so that we can have music ready for you. We look forward to welcoming any new, prospective members.

Margaret Allen

Basingstoke Amateur Theatre Society (BATS)

ounded in 1958, BATS is a self-funded, not-for -profit amateur theatrical group that is run by volunteers who share a passion for musical theatre – whether on-stage or working behind the scenes. Over the years, BATS has established a reputation for staging musical theatre productions that are of an exceptional standard, using talent from in and around Basingstoke. (Read about us on BATS website: bats.net/)

Our next production is *Come From Away:* One small town. One big story. Infinite heart. Set in the days following 9/11, Come From Away tells how 7,000 stranded passengers were welcomed by the people of Gander, Newfoundland, It's a powerful, uplifting reminder of kindness in the face of tragedy and how strangers become family.

The production is on from 18 to 22 of November at The Haymarket Theatre.

Jemma Doherty

Tony Haynes



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Local News



Mencap's Green Fingers Receives Masonic Donation

he Easter holiday break-in of the woodworking shed at Mencap's Green Fingers extensive site at the Elizabeth Road allotments in South Ham, when thieves got away with £5,000 worth of wood working tools and equipment, was well publicised. Tim Knight, CEO of Green Fingers, explained, "Inflation has pushed equipment replacement costs above the insured value, but generous public donations of equipment and funds have provided strong support".

The 105 years old Elvetham Masonic Lodge, that operates out of the Basingstoke Masonic Centre in Victoria Street at the Top of Town, has donated £500 to Green Fingers as part of its annual giving to local charities and good causes.

Green Fingers, which supports 40 adults each week with learning disabilities through horticultural and woodworking activities, has long relied on community goodwill. The woodworking activities include the manufacture of bird tables, stools, troughs and garden ornaments which are sold, producing an income of around £4,000 each year.

The Green Fingers site is part of Mencap's overall activities around Basingstoke that includes gardening in the community, one to one support and some leisure services. Tim Knight says that, with these activities, Mencap reaches around 500 people each week but is concerned that this is a small percentage of an estimated 4,000 people in Basingstoke, many of whom could benefit from their support services.

Paul Flint

Overton Choral Society

A reminder that we resume on Monday, 8 September, St Mary's Hall, Overton, 7:45 *Lyn, Overton Choral Chairperson, overtonchoralsoc@gmail.com*

Celebrating Craft, Heritage, and Community at Whitchurch Silk Mill Workshops That Inspire

Looking for a thoughtful gift or a creative escape? The Mill's hands-on workshops are a wonderful way to learn new skills, explore your creativity, and enjoy time with others. Suitable for both beginners and experienced crafters, these sessions are led by talented instructors who bring passion and expertise to each class. Gift cards are also available.

210 Years of History

This year marks an incredible 210 years since the Mill was built. Originally not a silk mill, it was transformed in 1817 by silk merchant William Maddick. To celebrate this milestone, the Mill has

Basingstoke Blues Club presents Rexfest

Sat 20 Sept 2025, from midday, featuring: Rag & Moan Men; Ruthless Blues, John Walsh, Blues Cruise, Sam Paine, Jimmy Regal and The Royals, Richard Clarke

> Central Studios, Queen Mary's College, Basingstoke, RG21 3HF

Buy tickets online www.basingstokeblues.co.uk £30 earlybird / £35 Standard (excludes booking fee)

relaunched loom 10 after extensive conservation. It's now weaving a limited-edition silk called A Final Strike, designed by Lucina Carlos of London Metropolitan University. Join the celebration on 8 October, 5 – 7 pm. Tickets (£25) include a welcome drink, Mill exploration, chats with weavers and conservation experts.

Daily Guided Tours

Daily tours at 11 am and 2 pm are part of the admission price (or free with annual ticket). Led by knowledgeable Stewards and Guides, these tours offer insights into the Mill's workings and history.

Art Exhibition: From Where I'm Standing

From 13 September to 30 November, the Mill hosts an exhibition by photographer Daniel Norwood. His work captures the quiet revelations of nature through daily observations along Hampshire rivers. Entry is free with Mill admission.

Behind-the-Scenes Silk Production Tour

On 16 September, 11 am - 12 noon, visitors can enjoy a special guided tour of silk production in the Mill's authentic Victorian setting. Watch the looms in action, and hear stories of past and present weavers. Tickets are £25 and must be booked in advance. For tickets and details, visit

www.whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk, call 01256 892065, or email info@whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk



Gardening 🐃



Oakley Gardening Club

ur monthly meeting for August was welcoming Geoff Hawkins back to talk to us on Herbaceous plants. Geoff opened his talk by explaining what an herbaceous plant is and how to

care for it. Geoff went on to show us slides of beautiful famous gardens and illustrated the right plant in the right place to give good effect with colours, shapes, and sizes. It was a very informative and interesting talk. We learned much that can be used to make the most of our gardens.

Our next meeting is



on Monday 1 September at 7:30 pm at Leonard's Hall, where we will

welcome Marina Christopher to talk about Autumn Perennials. Visitors always



welcome. Contact Maureen Dallaway on 780788 for more information.

Diane Green

Church News



Methodist Church coffee morning

All welcome at the Methodist Church coffee morning on Tuesday 9 September and Tuesday 23 September from 10:30 am to 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 from September 2025 is Dementia UK. We look forward to welcoming the Woodland Well-being



walkers at the end of their walk.

Patricia Kinchington

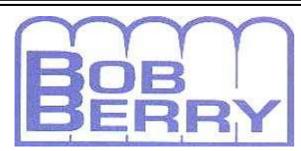


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Feature 🏋 🤻

Basingstoke and Villages Unite – Take a Stand **Against Youth Homelessness**

n Friday, 10 October 2025, you can take a stand against youth homelessness by joining Step by Step's annual Sleep Out at Farnborough Business Park.

Here in Basingstoke and the surrounding villages of Oakley, Deane, Malshanger and Wootton St Lawrence, too many young people aged 11–25 are facing homelessness or housing crisis. This includes care leavers with nowhere to turn after leaving the care system, as well as those affected by family breakdowns, abuse, sofa surfing or even sleeping rough. Many are navigating these challenges alone, without the stability or support that most of us take for granted.

Step by Step works to change that. From the Orchard community hub in Basingstoke, young people can access our Launch service in person, receiving vital support, advice and guidance. We also provide safe homes through Supported Accommodation in South Ham, as well as Supported Lodgings and Fostering with amazing individuals and families who, with our full support, welcome young people into their own homes. These options offer stability and the opportunity to build a brighter future.

The Sleep Out is your chance to be part of that change. Participants swap their bed for a sleeping bag for one night, raising funds and awareness to ensure these services remain available. The event will feature live music, inspiring stories from young people who have been supported by Step by Step, and a warm sense of community.

Lydia, who became homeless at 16 after losing

both parents, says, "Without Step by Step, I can imagine my life going completely differently. The stability and support they gave me changed everything." Sarah, a previous Sleep Out attendee, adds, "I would absolutely encourage others to get involved. Taking part and seeing the difference it makes to young people is truly rewarding."

By taking part, you will raise sponsorship for your heroic action, have fun, and send a powerful message that no young person should have to face homelessness alone.

Register now at www.stepbystep.org.uk/sleepout or call **01252 346100**.



Stop Press

Toddle About LIVE! - a one-day, feelgood celebration of local parenting life, jampacked with things to do, try, and discover.

Event: Toddle About LIVE!

Date/Time: Saturday 13 September 2025,

10 am - 3 pm

Venue: Sherfield School, Sherfield on

Loddon, Hook RG27 0HU

Tickets: The event is expected to draw hundreds of families from across the region and it won't break the bank for you to join in the fun: entry is free when families register online at toddle.fun/live, or just £2 per family on the door.

Pause For Thought



volunteer at the Junior School to help at the Prayer Space which takes place every term; a team of helpers and planners do a great job preparing it and 'manning' it. For me it is a privilege and joy. A special place is created where the children can go to have space to think and to pray, to be creative and to take part in several activities.

One of those activities is to make a card suitable for the season. They are given some examples of what could be written inside, but many of the children write their own thoughts, wishes and prayers.

The cards are later delivered to homes in Oakley. I am always humbled and blessed by some of the messages..."Know you are special and loved"...."May God go with you always"...."I hope you have a lovely

summer" "God will be your friend" are some messages that I remember.

Sometimes, as adults, I think we make things too complicated. God doesn't need well worked out 'designer' prayers. Simple prayers from the heart are wholly acceptable to Him. The children who come to Prayer Space 'say it as it is' and so often that is beautiful.

As adults we are moved and pleased when children come to us and talk and share their ideas, their worries, their excitements. God loves it when we talk to Him and that is what prayer is - sharing our worries and joys with Him. It helps us and it pleases Him.

Thelma Rich







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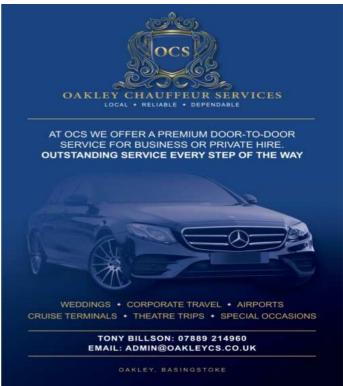
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Fund Raising

Macmillan Coffee morning 10 - 12 Friday 26 September

am hosting again a coffee morning in aid of the Macmillan Cancer Charity on the day of their national coffee mornings event. They were wonderfully helpful in the last few months of my late wife's life and I feel I want to give something back. It will be in my bungalow in a cul-de-sac off Avon Road. If you are interested in attending or just donating, please contact me by email at oakleymacmillan@outlook.com

I will then send further details. The money raised will go towards funding Macmillan nurses, providing cancer information, operating their support line and doing whatever it takes to help people living with cancer to live life as fully as they can.

Please do get in touch.

Peter Humphreys

Hampshire Medical Fund Art Show

At Pinglestone Barn in Old Alresford 22 to 25 September 2025 – 10 am to 5 pm Art lovers are invited to an exhibition and sale of Contemporary Art, Sculpture and Ceramics at the Hampshire Medical Fund Art Show 2025 from 22 to 25 September (10 am to 5 pm) at the stunning Pinglestone Barn in Old Alresford. This show will feature work from a wide range of talented





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We are looking for Volunteers to support families in the Community,

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Contact us:-

Tel: 01256 242500 Email: info@hsbd.org.uk Website: www.homestart-basingstokedeane.org.uk

Volunteers benefit from 25 hours training over 4 weeks starting 2nd October 2025 @9:30am-2pm
(A DBS Check will be completed during the Course).

BECAUSE CHILDHOOD CAN'T WAIT!



ANNIE'S Oakley Charity Shop

18 Meon Road, Oakley, RG23 7AL

Registered charity 1063036 - Annie's Orphans.

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

artists, all of whom are generously donating a percentage of their sales to the Hampshire Medical Fund. Light bites and refreshments will be served throughout the day (included in the ticket price).

Tickets cost from £20. To book tickets visit: www.hampshiremedicalfund.org/events

Location: Pinglestone Barn, Old Alresford, Hampshire, SO24 9TB

All funds raised will go towards purchasing the BD CatoTM Medication Workflow Solution for the Cancer Services Unit at Basingstoke Hospital—a critical piece of equipment costing £79,903. It will replace outdated manual processes with automated, paperless workflows, ensuring greater accuracy and efficiency, to enhance patient care, improve outcomes, reduce errors, cut costs and optimise efficiency.

The Hampshire Medical Fund was founded by the late Earl of Carnarvon in 1981 and continues to play a vital role in funding state-of-the-art medical equipment for Basingstoke, Winchester and Andover hospitals—equipment not covered by NHS budgets. Over the past decade alone, the charity has funded more than 165 pieces of equipment totalling over £5 million.

Jo McGivern, Marketing and Communication Manager

Barry Hare

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Fund Raising



Basingstoke and Deane Rotary Rotary Christmas Shoebox Appeal

e will be in Festival Place on Saturday 6
September handing out shoeboxes ready for you to fill with presents for deprived children. A reminder of what you can put in your shoebox - for-

Playing - ball, skipping rope, small games, cards, dominoes, harmonicas/recorders, cars, small toys, cuddly toy

Washing - soap, toothbrush, flannel, sponge Writing - pens, pencils, sharpener, notebook, colouring book, puzzle book

Wearing – hat, gloves, scarf, socks, hair accessories, jewellery (items need to be new or in good/as new condition)

PLEASE NO – liquids, no war toys or books, batteries operated items, sharp items, broken items, food or sweets. NO large toys, clothes or shoes. Nothing religious, political or racial.

Fill a box for either:-

Boys or Girls, ages 1-3, 4-7, 8-11, 12-15.

We ask for a £2 donation towards transport costs, please attach £2 to your box with Sellotape. We

supply the boxes, On 6 September as above or pick up your new boxes and drop off your filled boxes at the venues below:

Oakley Carpets, Andover Rd, Basingstoke RG23 7HA



Parnell, Jordy & Harvey, Estate Agent, 5 Winchester Street, Overton, RG25 3HR

Whitchurch Silk Mill, RG28 7AL

Christmas Shoeboxes go to children in Romania, Montenegro, and Moldova. Some boxes will hopefully go to Ukrainian, via Poland, for refugees/ displaced children there.

Free Ads



All entries should be sent in writing to Maureen Dallaway, by <u>10 September</u> 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.

JVC 32" LED TV HD ready, Freeview, HDMI with stand, iInstruction manual & remote control. £45 Tel: 07974740784

Mobility walker - as new (used once). For details see on Amazon: 'Vive' Mobility Rollator priced at £164.99. Blue. Will accept £80. Tel evenings or text daytime: 07814 720833

Facebook Portal. New - still boxed. 10 inch display £70. Tel evenings or text daytime: 07814 720833

His and Hers cycles purchased at Basing Cycles, used for a few years occasionally, kept undercover. Need some tlc £70 each. Will separate. Tel: 780785

Brands New Vango Taiga 600XL Airbeam Tent, carpet & footprint awning groundsheets with all package. We never used it & never opened it for personal health reason. Bought it from SK Camping Leisure. £800 for all package. Buyer collect from Chineham. 07752414821 text only please

2 boxes (18 tiles) of Wickes heavy duty beige **floor tiles** – 330 mm x 330 mm x 7.8 mm (13" x 13") to cover approx 2 square metres - Free - Tel 07443923265

5 **demijohns** for wine (1 gallon each) and 1 unopened packet of wine bottle corks - £25 - Tel 07443923265

Men's British Eagle racing bicycle - 26" wheels - old - rideable but in need of servicing and/or repair - Free Tel 07443923265

33 artificial coals for flame gas fire - £10 Tel 07443923265

New Bristan Club H & C chrome basin taps - £15 - Tel 07443923265

New Moderna Deck Mixer chrome tap for kitchen sink - £20 - Tel 07443923265

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Metro H & C bath taps - never used - £15 Tel 07443923265

Conservation



Oakley Woodlands Group

and to refuel on biscuits.

eptember already! That means the start of the coppicing season for Oakley Woodlands Group. As always, we will be starting in Cowdown Copse on Pack Lane and then moving on to St John's Copse in St John's Road in January. As Cowdown is the bigger of the two woods, we allocate more work parties to it. The work parties run from 10 am until 1 pm on two Wednesdays and two Saturdays each month. We have a break at half time for a chat

The work consists of cutting down the hazel trees in a given area and creating a dead hedge around the perimeter with the cut material. We also recover traditional products such as pea sticks and bean poles. Any larger trees that need to be felled are dealt with by The Council Rangers Team who are able to use chainsaws. We will also be surveying the hazel to determine if it is the optimum density to support our resident dormice, which are a threatened species. The area to coppice is in the northwest corner of the wood and includes a substantial abandoned clay pit.

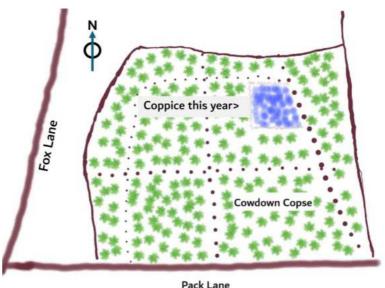
So, where is all this description of woodland toil taking us: We want your help! We need volunteers to help out to keep our

woods thriving. You do not need to come to every work party, or even to be there for the whole session. We provide tools and training, and often sunshine too. Why not come along to see us at a work party to see what we do and have a chat. Time it right and we might share our biscuits. You can then decide if becoming an OWGer is for you, or you can email at the address below if you have any questions.

Work party dates for September: Saturday 6 and 20, Wednesday 10 and 24. 10 am to 1 pm.

Email: oakleywoodlands@gmail.com

Alan Merry



Sport



Oakley Football Club

akley's teams are gearing up for the new football season. Whilst we say goodbye to our U18s – best of luck in your studies and careers, lads - we welcome our newest future stars in the next edition of U7s. Any parents of a U7 player interested in coaching are very welcome to reach out to Scott Rawlings to find out more.

The previous season wrapped up with two traditional events - our annual 6-a-side tournament and OFC's awards day. Over 150 teams from across Hants and Berkshire joined the May Bank Holiday tournament. Well done to all our teams for playing their part, and in particular our trophy winners - U14 Yellows (Cup finalists), U8 Greens (Plate winners) and U11 Hurricanes (Plate finalists). And a huge thank you to the organising committee and the dozens of parents who volunteered their time on the weekend itself to ensure things ran as well as they did - the

event got a lot of positive feedback from attendees, including Luke Murphy MP! We also raised another £1,000 for Sebastian's Action Trust, who support the families of seriously ill children.

The awards day in July gave us a chance to gather together as a whole club to recognise the achievements across every age group and to hand out individual awards to those who've had a stellar season.



Sport



Since then, coaching staff have been registering returning and new players, ensuring they are up to date with their FA badges and their safeguarding and welfare checks, and reading every training manual from Pep 'tika-taka' Guardiola to Graham 'can you not knock it?' Taylor.



Then there's the small matter of distributing new kits for 50% of our teams, usually in size 'this will do you at least two seasons', plus hundreds of new balls, cones, portable goals and other equipment. Let's get the season underway!

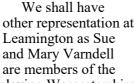
Grayson Greening

Oakley Bowling Club News

n outside competitions leading to the national finals, it has been a season where results at the latter stages have generally not gone the Club's way.



Alice Lovett qualified for the Nationals in the Junior Singles and Pairs, maintaining the Club's proud record of having a representative at Leamington for the last ten years. However, she lost at semi-final stage in the Two Bowl Singles and, with Sue Dixon and Janie Vickers. missed out in the Triples.



Hampshire team that will be playing Worcestershire in the semi-final of the new County Over 60s competition. Janie and Ric Newson are travelling

In other competitions, Sue and Janie missed out on regaining the County Golden Girls title losing to Ringwood at semi-final stage; defeats at this stage have been very much the story of the season. We lost to Basingstoke Town in both the men's Hants and Berks cup and the ladies' Gazette Cup and members missed out in the Whitchurch Singles and the Whitchurch Triples.

Ric did, however, break the trend by reaching

the final of the Whitchurch Over 60s Singles and we are guaranteed a finalist in the Whitchurch Open Pairs.

Our eleven league teams have had a mixed season. Oakley "A" lead the Basingstoke Premier Division. Oakley Monarchs have reached the play offs in the Stan Hardman League. In the Whitchurch League, Oakley Kites have a chance of promotion from Division 4 but Oakley Buzzards, seem destined for relegation from Division 1.

Weekend friendlies continue to attract good support. We have recently enjoyed matches against Three Mile Cross, the Royal Household and

Social activities have had to take a back seat this month, but we are looking forward to our annual BBQ and the club tour to Somerset.

For more information on our activities, visit our website oakleybc.org.uk or call Spencer on 01256 780418 or Diane on 01256 781465.

Spencer Kerley



Walking 💃

Woodland Wellbeing Walks - September

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



Start Point for Walks:

Tuesday, 9 Sept @ 10 am - Village Pond. B Tuesday, 16 Sept @ 10 am - St John's Rd lay-by. R Tuesday, 23 Sept @ 10 am - East Oakley Village Hall [aka The Green Hut] B

Other Details:

Start time: 10 am Pace: gentle

Duration: 1 hour approx.

Routes: Varied.

B = walk led by Barbara [07722 757057] R = walk led by Richard [07549 021174]

Oakley Ramblers

n 9 July, a sunny afternoon, 2 walkers set off for a circular walk from Upton Grey via Weston Patrick, walking through beautiful countryside on a mix of footpaths, byways and very quiet roads. With some fantastic views across Hampshire countryside, past beautiful houses and with a few sections of forest bathing, we met no-one during our walk. The countryside was looking very dry with wheat crops nearing time for harvesting and early blackberries already ripening. Arriving back in Upton Grey after 2 hours, we enjoyed a rest stop in the excellent, well stocked, Village shop & cafe.

On Thursday, 17 July some club members braved the potentially bad weather report to take a walk in the Silchester area. Luckily the weather stayed dry for

the entire walk which had a forest theme. We began the walk in Pamber Forest where the ground was still very dry despite the recent heavy rain. We then crossed into the Beynon Enclosure, passing Kiln Pond with its many ducks. A thoroughly enjoyable walk that we completed with a refreshing drink in the Calleva Arms.

On 27 July, 7 intrepid walkers enjoyed a pleasant and gentle stroll through fields and woods in comfortable conditions. Not dwelling too much on the dormant (as in, very sadly, deceased) feline which we were able, indirectly, to reunite with its owner, the



rest of the walk passed uneventfully – more plank bridges than ever seen before on 1 walk - culminating in a very passable meal at the Kingsclere Bel & Dragon.

Oakley Ramblers is a friendly and sociable group; and always welcome visitors who can try us out before joining. Our planned walk dates for September are Wednesday 10, an evening walk on Thursday 18, and Sunday 28 September.

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

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The Green Room 17 Trees & Hedges 11

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Gifts

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Hairdressing

Hair Beauty 6 Lorna Goodall 4

Health Care Services

cf foot clinic 23

Clear Ears 6

ItalDent 39

Oakley Osteopathic Clinic 18

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and Heating 6

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Paul Baker Plumbing &

Heating 9

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& Heating 24

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LOCAL INFORMATION

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

OCAoakley@live.co.uk

Councillors & Politicians

Member of Parliament, Basingstoke

Luke Murphy - luke.murphy.mp@parliament.uk 07946 617981

47 Winchester Street, Basingstoke, RG21 7EF

Parish Councillors:

Fred Bullions

Vaughn Burns

Dave Condliffe

Ken Crafer

Ian Ellison

Trevor Green (Vice Chair)

Amanda Hayman

Gary McAllister (Chair)

Alex Rowley

Parish Clerk: Nicola Beere, 1 Station Road, Oakley

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

Assistant Clerk: Kelly Green

Finance Assistant: Stephanie Scantlebury

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

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The Fox

The Barley Mow

The Green Hut (Hill Road)

The Infant School,

The Cricket Club

Peter Houseman Field.

Doctors' Surgery 0333 034 1033

Out of hours call

CHURCHES

Church of England Website:

St Leonards (Oakley) www.oakleywithwootton.org.uk
St Lawrence (Wootton) Church Office: St Leonard's Centre,

All Saints (Deane) Rectory Rd, Oakley

Tel 782724 9:00 am -1:00 pm week-

days

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 Website:

Chapel by the pond 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 Website:

St Joseph's and www.stjosephsbasingstoke.org.uk St Bede's 171a St Michael's Rd, Basingstoke,

RG22 6TY Fr Paul Leonard,

Parish Office -Tel: 323595

office@stjosephsbasingstoke.org.uk

Community Church Websites:

www. life spring community church.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 (782769)

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

Honeysuckle Interiors - Meon Road 780831 Lara's Beauty Workshop - Meon Road 07726 207203

One Stop - Oakley Lane 780227

V&B Butchers - The Vale 780323 Village Café, Jolly Olly's - Oakley Lane 782658

Village Care, Jolly Olly's - Oakley Lane /82658

Village Pharmacy - The Vale 782381

Oakley Scout Group TBD

oakley@bwds.org.uk

Oakley Girlguiding Caroline Lloyd

c45lloyd@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: 14/8/2025

What's coming up this Summer at the Barley Mow...

Our Evening Set Menu

Join us from 5pm, Monday to Thursday, and get three courses for £21.50 or two courses for £16.50. Whether it's our handmade steak & ale pie that takes your fancy, or our indulgent apple & raspberry crumble served with vanilla ice cream or custard, we've got dishes for everyone.



Lunch & a drink for £11

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



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2 for £12 Cocktails

Whether you're catching up with friends, celebrating a special occasion or simply unwinding after a long day, our cocktail list provides the perfect pit stop. What's more, you can enjoy two of our non-alcoholic cocktails for just £10.



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.

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