

# Link

May 2024

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

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

**Link** web-site [oakleylink.org.uk](http://oakleylink.org.uk)

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

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

**Deadline for June issue: 10 May**

## Editorial

There are wonderful displays of bluebells in Oakley woods at the time of writing. We are lucky to have Bull's Bushes, Pardown, Well's, Jeffery's, Small's, St John's and Cowdown Copses, all within the village boundaries. Going a little further, we've seen swathes of bluebells in Micheldever Woods and around Ibworth.

*Chris Wassell*



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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.

*New volunteer drivers are always welcome*

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

**01256 781660**

Oakley Community Care is a registered charity (no. 1141280)

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# Village



# FRONT GARDEN STALLS

**Saturday 22 June 2024**

**12 Noon to 4.00pm**

Visit a wide range of stalls all around Oakley

Full details and booking form on [www.oakley.org.uk](http://www.oakley.org.uk)

**Book your stall by Saturday 15 June 2024**

Village map available of stalls in the following week



## Coffee Morning

### Alternate Tuesdays

All welcome

"Bottomless" cup of coffee or tea, and biscuits

Second and fourth Tuesday of each month

10:30 am–12 noon

Come and meet friends old and new at the Chapel by the Pond.

**£1**

**Oakley Methodist Church**

## Parish Council Coffee & Chat

Bring refreshments with other members of the community, or simply borrow a book and relax!



**Thursdays at 10:30am – 1.30pm**  
**Newfound Sports Pavilion**

Parish Council Office Drop-in Hours  
Wednesdays 10:00-12:00 - Newfound Pavilion  
Thursdays 10:30-1.30 - Newfound Pavilion

## Save the date

### Wootton St Lawrence Fete and Dog Show

Craft stalls, refreshments, games, dog competitions.  
Fun for all the family

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2024 12-4pm**



We would welcome more stallholders, also offers of help on the day on stalls, setting up, parking etc.

Please contact Teresa: [teresabatesrgn@aol.com](mailto:teresabatesrgn@aol.com)



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## Oakley Village Show 10 August 2024 1:30 pm

If you are someone who has never been to an Oakley Show, can we encourage you to get involved and come along this year? With about 1,000 punters streaming through the gates, it's quite an event, and we would definitely say it has the "E" factor! Firstly, there are the



**Exhibits:** Every year, we are delighted to see so many people enter the various classes. There are those who manage to produce outstanding examples, and those who just love to enter for the fun of it. We like to think there is something for everyone, so don't be shy. You can find the schedule on the OCA website, (oaoakley.org.uk) and hard copies should be available at V and B butchers and Jolly Olly's. It gives you the list of classes and entry forms with closing dates and any rules.

**Entertainment:** We've really gone all out this year and are delighted to welcome back the John Glasscock Jazz Band and Bubbles Man (both of whom performed a Titanic act last year, by carrying on despite a relentless deluge!) We also have the Basingstoke Tae Kwan-do Club, the Sing Now Choir and the Garston Gallopers Morris Dancers. It will be an action-packed arena!

**Enterprises:** As always, there will be stalls to support, both commercial and charity. And if you get peckish or thirsty, there will be an assortment of drinks and food to purchase.

**Entry:** Believe it or not, you get all of that for £2, (children are even free!) and your entry programme enters you for a draw to win £100 or a luxury Parish Council Hamper.



We hope all that encourages you to put the date in your diary! Any questions, feel free to email [anndavis48@hotmail.com](mailto:anndavis48@hotmail.com)

*Ann Davis on behalf of the committee*



**COFFEE & CHAT**  
Every Wednesday  
10 am—12 noon

East Oakley Village Hall (Green Hut),  
Hill Road

50p for tea or coffee, including free refill  
and biscuit

10p for a piece of cake

All welcome

## Summerdown Tours

Here at Summerdown we've been growing, harvesting and distilling our very own Black Mitcham peppermint for almost three decades, all from our family farm in the Hampshire countryside.



Due to popular demand we're now opening up our farm gates to welcome guests for tours. Bookings are now open for our 2024 small group tours - all curated so you can come behind the scenes and step into our peppermint playground for wildlife, insects and flowers to experience the magic of Summerdown whilst hearing from the team and our expert partners.

There's something for everyone whether you're interested in hearing more about the peppermint itself; how we distil our experience oil; the bird, bee and wildlife on the farm; how our oils can be used in aromatherapy or even understanding the psychological benefits of peppermint.

Here are the dates of the tours so far. Some are filling up quickly so we may add more, but for now the dates for the tours and experiences are:

Monday 20 May - Bee experience

Wednesday 22 May - Summerdown Farm tour

Wednesday 12 June - Peppermint and lavender essential oils tour

Friday 21 June - Uplifting properties of peppermint tour and talk


Friday 19 July - Harvest and distillation tour

Please see the "Tours" section of [www.summerdown.com](http://www.summerdown.com) for more details of how to book.

For any enquiries please feel free to call the Summerdown team on 01256 675105.

We look forward to welcoming you soon.

*Laura Thomas, Welcome Manager*



Oakley Scout and Guides Premises Management Committee

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Will take place at the Oakley Scout and Guide Centre  
At 6.30pm on Thursday 20 June 2024.  
All are welcome.

# Village



## Report of the Parish Council Meeting – April 2024

The Parish Council hopes everyone had an enjoyable Easter. Thanks to the

Oakley Community Association for a great fun, if soggy, Easter egg hunt!

The Parish Council has been informed by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council about two further installments from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) that relates to the development at Station Road. £125,730.83 is due to be paid shortly, and £125,730.82 due in October. The Parish Council will be reaching out to the community to listen to your ideas, but please get in touch if you have any thoughts. There is a set of criteria on how CIL money can be used which can be read in the ‘Community Infrastructure Levy. A Guide for Parish and Town Council’: [basingstoke.gov.uk/content/doclib/4157.pdf](http://basingstoke.gov.uk/content/doclib/4157.pdf) or contact the Clerk for a print out.

One area where CIL money can be spent is to enhance play areas and the Parish Council is currently gathering quotes to install a metal football goal in Avon Road play park and a spinning bowl in Beach Park. The hope is installation will start in May. Research is also under way to improve the BMX track.

On 18 May there will be a family fun nature trail taking place to mark the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of local walks that were awarded 1<sup>st</sup> prize by the Hampshire Wildlife Trust. Come and join us from 10 am at the pond where there will be family activities, refreshments, and guided walks.

The Parish Council has part-time staff vacancies:



### VACANCY

#### Deputy Clerk

The Parish Council is looking for a Deputy Clerk who has an interest in helping people in the community. You must have good organisational and administrative skills and be able to use your own initiative.

Approx 15 hours per week, covering office hours on Wednesday and Thursday mornings, and Thursday evening meetings at Newfound. The remainder of the hours can be done from home.

#### Responsibilities

- Clerking planning meetings (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of the month)
- Preparing agendas and minutes for planning meetings
- Advise the Council on planning matters
- Produce planning and Council meeting reports to The Link
- Attend & contribute to Parish Council meetings (2<sup>nd</sup> Thursdays of the month)
- Update website and social media
- Carry out pavilion checks once a week
- Update the Parish Council database
- Attend training courses as required
- Assist the Clerk as required

Salary will be paid in accordance with experience and in line with the National Joint Council Salary Scale rates.

If you would like to find out more about the role please contact the Clerk, Nicola Beere: [clerk@oakleydeane-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@oakleydeane-pc.gov.uk) / 07983 500372

For more information on the Parish Council visit [www.oakleydeane-pc.gov.uk](http://www.oakleydeane-pc.gov.uk)

Deputy Clerk and a litter warden, deadline for applications is the end of May. For further information please contact the Clerk, Nicola Beere.

The drop-in office hours are:

Wednesdays 9:00 – 12:00 and Thursdays 10:30 – 1:30 – Newfound Pavilion

Thursdays 10:30 – 1:30 – Coffee & Chat, Newfound Pavilion

However, if these are not suitable, please get in touch to arrange an appointment.

### VACANCY

#### Litter Warden

The Parish Council is looking for a part time Litter Warden to empty the village litter bins and pick up any litter in the road and open spaces of their allocated round.

Approximately 16 hours a week, including 4 weeks holiday pay.

Working days and times are flexible.

Equipment and protective clothing will be provided.

If you would like to find out more about the role please contact the Clerk, Nicola Beere: [clerk@oakleydeane-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@oakleydeane-pc.gov.uk) / 07983 500372

For more information on the Parish Council visit [www.oakleydeane-pc.gov.uk](http://www.oakleydeane-pc.gov.uk)

The next Parish Council meeting is on 9 May. All residents are welcome.

*Helen Meyer – Deputy Parish Clerk*  
[www.oakleydeane-pc.gov.uk](http://www.oakleydeane-pc.gov.uk),  
[clerk@oakleydeane-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@oakleydeane-pc.gov.uk) / 07983 500372

**Note:** Report of planning applications and decisions can be found on the Link web-site: [oakleylink.org.uk](http://oakleylink.org.uk)



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## Hampshire County Councillor Report April - Candovers Oakley and Overton Division

### Highways Information

**\*\*Additional road repairs funded by HS2\*\***

The Government's cancellation of HS2 resulted in local councils being given additional funding to bring forward road repairs in this financial year and in each of the next 11 years.

Hampshire was awarded £4.22 million last year and this which has meant we are able to bring forward additional road improvement schemes into this year's programme.

You can read the full list here: [hants.gov.uk/News](https://hants.gov.uk/News)

I don't have dates for this work as yet but it will undoubtedly be before the autumn. I will of course advertise the dates well ahead of time.

### Reporting Highway Problems

Links to report road issues are here:

Potholes: [hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/potholes](https://hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/potholes)

Tree/hedge problems: [hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/treehedge](https://hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/treehedge)

Flooding/drainage issues: [hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/flooding](https://hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/flooding)

Pavement problems: [hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/paving](https://hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/paving)

Problems with rights of way:

[hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/rightsofway/reportaproblem](https://hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/rightsofway/reportaproblem)

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

For full details of the route improvements and to start planning your next journey, glide over to [hants.gov.uk/transport/publictransport/timetables](https://hants.gov.uk/transport/publictransport/timetables) and [myjourneyhampshire.com](https://myjourneyhampshire.com). Footpaths/Rights of Way and bluebells

I thought it might be helpful therefore to share this with you. The Hampshire County Council website has a copy of the definitive map, which shows you in detail all of the byways, bridleways and public footpaths in the county.

The map can be accessed here: [hants.gov.uk/rightsofwaydefinitivemap/](https://hants.gov.uk/rightsofwaydefinitivemap/)



## Changes Coming to Hampshire County Council Offices

Hampshire County Council is set to review proposals this week aimed at reducing office accommodation across the county. This move is all about consolidating staff into fewer buildings and saving those precious pennies on running costs.

What's the plan? The strategy will roll out over the coming years, focusing on adapting to changing work patterns and making sure the council's facilities are up to snuff. With many staff working remotely or directly in the community (think local services like social care for our vulnerable neighbours), it's clear that the way we work is evolving.

This isn't just about cutting costs. It's about ensuring access to public services remains robust for everyone in Hampshire. From libraries to register offices, no public service closures are on the table—just smarter use of the space we have.

This is all about staying efficient, effective, and, most importantly, close to the community's heart. While some staff might see changes in their work locations, the goal is to keep everything running smoothly without a hitch to services or the public.

### News for Hampshire Bus Travellers

Thanks to a £4.2 million boost from the Government's Bus Service Improvement Partnership, our local bus operators Stagecoach South, Go South Coast, and First Solent are supercharging their services.

What's New?

Enhanced Services: 15 Hampshire bus routes are set to enjoy more day and evening services.

This funding magic stems from Hampshire's £7.2 million slice of the DfT's Bus Service Improvement Plan Plus treasure. It's our ticket not just to saving existing routes from cuts but also adding more frequent services across the board.

From May onwards by Stagecoach:

- Buses between Newbury, Kingsclere and Basingstoke will run later into the evening and on Sundays for the first time, as well as more frequently at weekday peak times. These changes are in partnership with West Berkshire Council.

- Service 76 between Andover, Whitchurch and Basingstoke will improve to every 30 minutes, Monday to Saturday daytime.

These changes will be delivered alongside other planned commercial improvements to

Stagecoach bus services across Hampshire over the coming months.

*Juliet Henderson, [Juliet.Henderson@hants.gov.uk](mailto:Juliet.Henderson@hants.gov.uk)*



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## News From Jolly Olly's Coffee Shop

**H**i All, we are still here! At the time of writing, things are moving forward with the sale of Jolly Olly's but we have no completion dates yet. Please keep a look out on our facebook page if you are interested in any updates.

So...let's carry on as normal for the moment!

### Lions

Great news! Customers of Jolly Olly's raised just over £86 for the Basingstoke Lions by purchasing numbers for the Easter prize draw. The egg was won by our regular customer, Sue Newson.

Congratulations to Sue and many thanks to all who donated.

### World Laughter Day Friday 3 May

We love this idea! Please come in on Friday 3 May and share your favourite joke with us. In return we will share a joke with you! Share the smiles by posting a joke

on our facebook page too. The more the merrier (literally!).



Kids (and adults) will also be invited to decorate a smiley face biscuit and make a donation to "The Laughter Specialists" whose mission is, "To support vulnerable children and their families to overcome some difficult times. Laughter and fun are essential to our overall health and well-being and we work tirelessly to provide this to those who need it the most."

You can find out more about some of the fabulous work that they do by searching [thelaughterspecialists.co.uk](http://thelaughterspecialists.co.uk).

May is also, "National share a story month" and so it seems fitting that the sale of second-hand books should also be a source of fundraising for this worthy cause during the month of May.

### Eurovision

Jolly Olly is a big fan! This year, Sweden are hosting and so we're going all out with Swedish style specials. Smoked salmon, Swedish meatballs, rye bread and pickles are all strong candidates to feature... The cogs are whirring on that one!

Best wishes from Jo at Jolly Olly's Coffee Shop  
32 Oakley Lane, Oakley RG23 7JY (Tel 01256 782658)

Find us on Facebook, Trip Advisor and at [www.jollyollys.co.uk](http://www.jollyollys.co.uk)

## Ladies Societies

### Oakley Afternoon WI

**O**ur April meeting was held on Monday 15 April, where we welcomed a talk from Keith Betton on 'Red Kites'. Keith is the chair of the anthology society with over 2,000 members in Hampshire, of which 80 members are under the age of 18. Kites were first introduced at Malshanger in 2006.

They nest between March/April and usually have up to three eggs; they like to line the nest with sheep's wool or perhaps a tea towel or other material that they find lying around. They start breeding at two and half years old and can live till they are 29 years old. They will steal food from other birds, but they prefer to eat roadkill; during late summer tractors working the fields will disturb food for them. Kites will not attack a dog, lamb or small child.

The last known pair to have mated in Hampshire was 1856 before becoming extinct. 1989 was the start of birds being re-introduced from Spain and Germany in the Chilterns and now we have a very healthy population thriving in Hampshire.

On 20 May we will welcome a talk from 'Home

start' and afterwards we will hold our AGM where we will vote for our new president, as our current president has come to the end of her term in office.

We meet on the third Monday of the month at East Oakley Hall, Hill Road at 1:30 pm. For more information please contact our secretary Janet 01256 782734.

Carole Morley, Press Officer

Note: A report of Afternoon WI's March meeting can be found on page 19

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## King Henry VIII

Tony Harris is a professional comedian, raconteur and actor who specialises in historical talks with a hysterical twist. Tony returns to us by popular acclaim following his wonderful presentation of Winston Churchill, to give us a portrayal of Henry VIII.

Join us on  
Wednesday 15 May at 10 a.m.  
St Mary's Hall, Overton  
Free to members - Non-members £3 on the door



## PPG Newsletter May 2024

### Health Kiosk

A health kiosk has been installed at Overton Surgery. All patients with a current registration at Watership Down Health are welcome to use it. The Health Kiosk is available from 8 am to 6:20 pm (to allow the checks and information to be transferred into the clinic system) and is situated in the waiting room.

The health kiosk will record a range of information including height, weight and blood pressure as well as a number of health questionnaires being included. The health kiosk transfers any data directly into our clinical system so there is no need to hand in print outs of BPs, etc as the data securely comes into our clinical system. Full information and a short and long video are available on our website at:

[watershipdownhealth.com/digitalpractice/wellbeing-centre/health-kiosk/](http://watershipdownhealth.com/digitalpractice/wellbeing-centre/health-kiosk/)

If any queries, please message us via our website. We are grateful to the Friends of Watership Down Health for their support with the funding of the health kiosk.

### FeNO (fractional exhaled nitric oxide) & Asthma

WDH is very lucky to be able to offer FeNO testing for patients who may have asthma. FeNO stands for Fractional expired Nitric oxide. Nitric oxide is produced in the lungs when they are exposed to something that triggers an allergic reaction, such as pollens, house dust mite, etc. This will only happen in patients who are susceptible. The trigger causes inflammation in the lungs which, in turn, produces an excess of Nitric oxide.

Your clinician will decide whether a FeNO test would be appropriate. FeNO testing is not suitable for everyone. The test can be affected by caffeine, vigorous exercise, smoking and green leafy vegetables. You will be advised to avoid these things for up to four hours before the test.

If you have been given an inhaler, you should not be using this on the day of the test. If you have had a chest infection which required antibiotics or have taken steroids in the last four weeks you would not be able to have this test as the results would be inaccurate for diagnosis.

### Andover minor injuries clinic

Opening hours

Appointments: 8:15 am – 6 pm Monday to Friday

Walk-in service: 8:15 am – 4 pm Monday to Friday (inc. bank holidays)

The Andover minor injuries clinic offers a walk-in service. However patients are strongly advised to call 111 to arrange an appointment, as appointments take priority over walk-ins. This will reduce the likelihood of long wait periods. The clinic is run by a range of expert staff that can now see more patients that need same-day medical care, if this is the right area for your care. Andover minor injuries clinic does not treat illnesses and ailments - please contact 111 or your GP.

Treatment at the clinic includes:

- treating minor head injuries, facial and eye injuries, foreign body removal, fractures, bites,
- minor burns, wound assessment and closure.

There is an X-ray facility on site (if required) Monday to Friday from 9 am to 5 pm, excluding bank holidays.

Members of the public who access NHS 111 may also be directed to their local pharmacist or GP.

Outside clinic opening times, you can continue to access care and advice via NHS 111 online and – in an emergency – by calling 999.

Urgent and emergency cases will continue to be directed to the emergency department (A&E) in either Basingstoke or Winchester.

*Brian Elkins*

### Mental health and wellbeing

**W**e are finally out of winter and the longer summer days are ahead. However, for some people, the seasons do not stop the challenges that anxiety brings with it.

Alleviating anxiety can sometimes feel as difficult as living with the anxiety. You may have seen the article in a recent Link issue about the wonderful work carried out by Andover Mind and this is just one resource at your fingertips.

I am a Mental Health First Aider (MHFA) and attended the talk at St Leonard's a couple of years ago where some of our local residents openly shared their struggles and challenges, and I would love to be able to help the residents of Oakley as best I can.

Breathing techniques can work wonders alongside visualisation to calm you in the moment. You can try inhaling through your nose for four seconds, holding for four seconds and exhaling through your mouth for eight seconds (while looking at a flickering candle flame can also help). This technique focuses your mind on the counting (and the candle) so it's hard to think about anything else!

Alternatively, you may prefer box breathing. I like to visualise a square as I do this. Counting to four,



# Health Matters



inhale through your nose, drawing an imaginary horizontal line from left to right. Continue by exhaling for four and imagine the line continuing down. Inhale again for four, mentally drawing the line from right to left; then finish by exhaling for four and picturing the line going up to meet the start point.

Mental Health First Aiders are not just here to help

with anxiety. I can support with other conditions such as depression or suicidal thoughts. If you are interested in learning more about anxiety-aid techniques, or how I can support you as a MHFA, please contact me at [lauren@companion-health.com](mailto:lauren@companion-health.com).

*Lauren Eames*

## Church News

### Oakley Methodist Church

All are welcome at the Methodist Church coffee morning on Tuesdays 14 and 28 May at 10:30 am to noon. £1 for a bottomless cup of tea or coffee. Proceeds to the Red Cross. Come and meet old

friends and new. We look forward to welcoming the Woodland Well-being Walkers at the end of their walk.

**Oakley Methodist Church**

Service each Sunday at 10:30 am  
(unless otherwise stated)

May 5	Mr Tony Bell
May 12	Mr Stephen Appiah
May 19	Mr John Smith
May 26	Mr Terry Rowell

Coffee mornings—Tuesdays May 14 and 28  
10:30 am to 12 noon, £1

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Exploring the big questions of faith through the hymns we love  
11am | 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the Month | St Leonard's Church, Oakley

Join us for a short service of music, prayer and conversation about some of the most transformational hymns ever written. This peaceful & reflective time is open to everyone! Light refreshments will be available across the road at the St Leonard's Centre both before and after the service (from 10:30am to 12:30pm). If you have any questions, please contact the Church Office on 01256 782724 or email [office@oww.church](mailto:office@oww.church) or [anna@oww.church](mailto:anna@oww.church)



*View of flood water at Deane by Brian Perryman March 2024*

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## Pause for thought

I am fascinated by first names, what they mean and why they were chosen. A favourite name or a special meaning? Maybe a family name passed down through the generations. Sometimes we are named after someone admired. Names go in and out of fashion and there can be all sorts of reasons. As Juliet says in Shakespeare's play *Romeo and Juliet*, "What's in a name?"

While our family names were probably not chosen for having a special meaning, we include "Flowerlike", "Honeybee", "A Pearl", "Strong Woman", "One whose intellect is like a spear", "The Lord is my Judge" and "Wealthy and Powerful One" - names originating from Greek, Spanish, Gaelic, Hebrew and Teutonic. It's no wonder family get togethers can sometimes be so "interesting"!

Names are important in the Bible too. Often names are changed as people change following their encounters with God but sometimes it is the significance of their name simply being spoken. In John's Gospel, Mary Magdalene, distressed, grieving and unaware that Jesus has risen from the dead, mistakes Jesus for the gardener until he says her name "Mary". There are many Marys in the Bible but when Jesus speaks Mary Magdalene's name, she responds, knowing in that moment who he really is.

What about your name? Do you realise that, even if you have a popular name, shared with many people, your name is in fact unique? Why? Because there has never been a "you" before and there will never be again. That is the way God made you and when Jesus died on the Cross, he died for each one of us and rose again to give us eternal life.

He knows us, he loves us and, like Mary, he calls each one of us by name - now that is a Pause for Thought indeed!

*Jeanne Johnson*

## Afternoon WI

At our March meeting, we welcomed a talk from Mitch Lloyd from Petra Jewellery. Petra's was established by Mitch's mother in 1979 at the Viables, after she graduated top of her goldsmith's apprenticeship course in Germany. It was one of the first businesses to open at the Viables Craft Centre. After 40 years of experience looking after people's treasured memories and creating new ones, Mitch followed in her family tradition of a career in the Army before joining the family business. Mitch now runs the contemporary showroom and on-site workshop from the Cottage in the main courtyard. They run many courses for people to come and learn

about different stones and also workshops for children, helping customers to design their own items and re-design treasured family pieces.

Members attended the HCFWI Spring Council meeting at the Guildhall in Winchester where we enjoyed a fascinating insight into the costumes for *Strictly Come Dancing* and a talk entitled *Neurodiversity is a superpower* by Anna Matthews.

We meet on the third Monday of the month at 1:30 pm at East Oakley Village Hall, Hill Road. For further information please call our secretary Janet on 01256 782734.

20 May AGM and talk by Home-start.

*Carole Morley, Press Officer*

## Oakley and Deane WI

106 years said the birthday cakes for the celebration of Oakley and Deane WI this month. We were joined by friends from other Institutes in the area to eat, drink and listen to Jackie Dimmock. She served 30 years as a police officer and is a brilliant speaker, illustrating her talk with handmade mini quilts that she has made herself. She recommends the police for making good mates and meeting a lot of people. Life is so different from the 80s for a woman police officer now. She does worry how backs will stand up to all the gear they carry now. This first talk was about her start on the Isle of Wight and we look forward to the next one in Basingstoke at a later date.

The Kirby silver salver was won by Sally Warner for a flower arrangement. Arrangements were made for the jumble sale this month, a canal trip, a walk around Christchurch and the quiz next month.

Hampshire events are making glass fusion suncatchers, a pasta masterclass, a willow craft butterfly and a photography walk in Portsmouth.

14 May will be the Annual Meeting at Andover Road Village Hall at 7:30 pm. New members are very welcome at the start of this new year.

[facebook.com/oakleyanddeaneWI](https://facebook.com/oakleyanddeaneWI)

*Jean Freeman*



# Conservation



## Oakley Woodlands Group

The end of the season! The volunteers of the Oakley Woodlands Group have hung up their tools for the summer after giving over 800 volunteer hours to maintaining Cowdown and St

John's copse. We almost managed to complete our target. The area in Cowdown was finished, but time ran out in St John's and one small area near the railway line escaped the axe.

We stop cutting in March as the breeding season gets underway, which lasts through to August. At this time of year the wildlife is especially vulnerable, so



we ask that dog walkers keep their dogs on leads when in the woods during this period.

We finished off our work in April by erecting the temporary fencing to keep deer away from the succulent new shoots sprouting from the coppiced hazel. The fencing in St John's will be especially noticeable this season, being close to the road. We know it is not the prettiest sight in the woods, but it has proven to be necessary and should be taken down after two or three years.

The presence of deer is not just evident from the nibbled shoots, but they star on our trail cam videos which we post on our Facebook page. Recent highlights include a badger snuffling out a worm, a red

kite having lunch and an owl just being an owl. During the summer, the group will, in conjunction with BDBC, plan the work for next winter. This will start again in September, when new volunteers will be welcome. We provide tools, training and biscuits.

*Alan Merry,*

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



## Jubiloaks

At this time of year a walk through the Oakley to Kempshott multi-user path rewards you with a wealth of blossom and wild flowers.

The photo shows one of the first flowering cherries at Battledown. The year started with snowdrops, wild daffodils, celandines and catkins and moved on to primroses, then wood anemones and Dog's Mercury. By the time of reading the bluebells and Solomon's Seal will be in full flower.

Soon you may spot the elusive white helleborine!

*The Jubiloaks team,*

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## Oakley Gardening Club

Oakley Gardening Club welcomed Marina Christopher from Phoenix Perennial Plants.

She gave a talk and a lovely demonstration on how to sow seeds, make cuttings, and divide perennials. This was an excellent professional presentation enjoyed by all.

*Diane Green*

The Winners of our monthly competition for no more than five daffodils in a vase were

1<sup>st</sup> Margaret Merryfield

2<sup>nd</sup> Joy Vickers

3<sup>rd</sup> Sally Warner

Next meeting is on 6 May; the talk will be from the guys from Worthy Earth in Dummer and the competition will be *A single flower from your garden in a vase.*

If you would like to join us, you would be most welcome. Contact Maureen Dallaway on 780788 for more information.

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# Walking



## Oakley Ramblers

### OAKLEY RAMBLERS

The wettest March in forty years was a challenge for British walkers!

However, 12 hardy Oakley Ramblers found a sunny day between the storms to enjoy a five mile walk in the countryside. They set off from the aptly named Mucklands Lane through fields and woodland paths taking in puddles and glorious mud along the way. There was a brief stop in pretty Bentworth village before heading down into Lower Wield for a much-enjoyed lunch at the Yew Tree Pub.

We welcome new walkers!

See our website and Facebook page -- do get in touch if you have any queries

<https://oakleyramblers.org/>

## Family Fun Nature Trail

Join us 18<sup>th</sup> May 2024 – 10am at the Pond



To celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of seven walks awarded 1<sup>st</sup> prize in 1994 by the Hampshire Wildlife Trust

To book a place on the walks, please contact [clerk@oakleydeane-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@oakleydeane-pc.gov.uk) / 07983 500372

10.00am Unveiling of restored Nature Trail board

10.15am First guided walk will leave

Check in with our walk leaders, pick up a walking route and spotter sheet

Guided walks will leave every 30 minutes

Passers-by welcome to join the activities

- Enjoy refreshments at the Methodist Church
- Browse around nature information tables before or after the Walk
- Learn how to encourage biodiversity in your garden
- Join in family activities

After the walk, come back to the Pond to collect your certificate and goodie bag!



To book a place on the walks please email [clerk@oakleydeane-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@oakleydeane-pc.gov.uk), with the subject line 'Nature Walk' or call 07983 500 372

# Letters



## Oakley Woodland Wellbeing Walks for May



Tuesday, 14 May @ 10 am from village pond RG23 7HP [walk lead Barbara]  
Tuesday, 21 May @ 10 am from war graves lay-by, St John's Road [walk lead

Richard]

Tuesday, 28 May @ 10 am from East Oakley Village Hall [aka 'Green Hut'] RG23 7JJ [walk lead Barbara]  
All walks will be at a moderate pace for approximately one hour along local woodland and field footpaths. Plenty of choice for Wellbeing Walks in May as again Richard is leading an extra walk for the third Tuesday. We hope the rainy months are now well past with these May walks full of sunshine and

warmth and Oakley woods and hedgerows dressed in their best green foliage finery!

Barbara's walks end with social cuppa @ Methodist Chapel Coffee Morning.

All welcome.

*Barbara Robson 07722 957057 /  
Richard Baxter 07549 021174*

## Thank you, Oakley!

Whilst walking our dog, Bolly, Peter fell at the top of Pardown and cut his head. Thank you to the car drivers who stopped and people who came out of their houses - we were overwhelmed with the kindness freely given whilst we waited for the ambulance.

So we have both recently had a spell in hospital and would like to say THANK YOU to everyone for offers of help with dog walking, shopping, etc.

We are thankfully on the mend now and are hoping, once the weather improves, to be out and about around the village.

Kind regards to all.

*Peter and Val Clarke*



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# Young Oakley



*Spring in Well's Copse, Oakley, April 2024, by Barbara Robson*

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## Hello from St Leonard's Pre-School

In the merry month of May we are looking forward to a splashing time at pre-school. We are going to have a week on water. The children will be sorting objects into those that float and those that sink. We will have icebergs in the water tray for the boats to sail carefully around and for the penguins to jump off. The children will be learning about why it is important to drink water. They will be doing some experiments with water, adding cooking oil and washing up liquid to see what happens. They will also be making water fountains with drainpipes and mixing colours in water. We will be using water pipettes to see who can fire the furthest and water pumps to see who can pump the most water. The children will have races between teams to see which team can fill the bucket first. There will also be the opportunity to jump and splash in water!

Stomp! Stomp! Stomp! Watch out the dinosaurs are about! We will also have a dinosaur focus week. The children will be naming and drawing dinosaurs. They will be making dinosaur footprints in the paint. We will be creating dinosaur environments for the dinosaurs to explore with tyres, camouflage nets, planks of wood, homemade trees, bushes and shelters. The children will be making clay dinosaurs and creating a story about their dinosaur.

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

We look forward to hearing from you.

*Caroline Edwards, Manager*

## Hello from Cuckoo Meadow

Another jam-packed month it's been for the children! We can't believe that Easter is over and we're now looking ahead to the summer term. We had a hilarious visit to preschool from the Easter Bunny, who was spotted in the playground by the children – and met with lots of giggles and laughter. She delivered eggs to the children which they took home, along with some lovely easter chocolate crispy cakes they made themselves. The cakes were decorated beautifully.

The children also made a wonderful range of Easter crafts and did lots of Easter drawings/paintings to take home proudly to show off. They have also continued to learn about different shapes and are encouraged to use the shapes they've learnt in their craft work.

We've also been outside on the playground lots more this month, riding the bikes and scooters,



drawing with big colourful pavement chinks and having great fun digging in the free-standing sandpit. We just need the mud to dry up, and we'll be able to get out onto the Meadow for more fun in the coming weeks.

*Laura Reed, Cuckoo Meadow Pre-School Secretary*

**About Cuckoo Meadow Pre-School:** We are a small, friendly, pre-school located in the Rathbone Pavilion, North Waltham. The children who attend come from within the village and the surrounding areas including Oakley, Dummer, Hatch Warren, Kempshott and Beggarwood and all agree 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 398172.**



## Oakley Infant School

This term we are pleased to be starting the school journey for the next cohort of children whom we welcome to the Oakley Infant School community in September 2024. Places were allocated by the local authority in mid-April and we are looking forward to getting to know the new families and welcoming back some familiar faces with siblings joining us next September. There will be many events held during the summer term, some information for parents and some for your child to get to know the school. Please make sure you have popped into school with the correct paperwork and given us up to date contact information so we can make sure you are always kept in the loop.

As always life at Oakley Infant School is busy with the children learning about a variety of topics including the Titanic, the United Kingdom and Everyday Heroes. We are looking forward to welcoming parents into school to tell the children about the variety of jobs they do as well as the Year Two children going on their school trip to Sea City museum in Southampton to strengthen their knowledge of the Titanic.

Towards the end of May we will be holding our safety fortnight with visitors coming in to talk to the children about being safe. We are always pleased to welcome representatives from the Police, Network Rail and the Fire Service. We will also be taking part in Hampshire's Walk to School Week from 20 May, so look out for the children who will be encouraged to walk, run, skip, scoot or cycle to school encouraging good, healthy habits and keeping car pollution away from the school.

Fingers crossed for good weather!

*Niamh Hutchings, Headteacher*



Graham Brown

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## Basingstoke Male Voice Choir – 60 years old

2024 sees the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Basingstoke Male Voice Choir. The choir was the brainchild of Idris 'Taffy' Roberts – a local police traffic cop who managed to recruit a hardcore of singers by fair means and foul! The first rehearsal took place in April 1964 in Coombehurst school which then existed in Basingstoke.

Over the years the choir managed to attract more members and, at its peak in the mid 80's, the choir numbered almost 100 choristers. During the next 60 years the choir performed at various Welsh eisteddfodau, gave numerous concerts, appeared on TV with Harry Secombe as well as touring Canada, the USA and the Netherlands. During that period, the choir also raised thousands of pounds for local good causes including St Michael's Hospice, the Camrose centre, the Samaritans and Parkinson's Society to name but a few.

Sadly, our numbers have declined over the years, but the choir is still alive and well and rehearses every Tuesday evening at 7:30 pm at the Moose Centre. You're most welcome to come along and listen, and maybe join us for the next 60 years!

To celebrate our anniversary we shall be staging a celebratory concert at Church Cottage (adjacent to St Michael's Church) in Basingstoke on June 29. We'd love to see as many of you as possible – entry will cost £10 and any profit will be donated to local charity.

Tickets can be obtained from the following weblink [www.ticketsource.co.uk/bmvc](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/bmvc).

## Overton Choral Society

March was a very busy month for our Music Director and members. As well as rehearsing for the Hampshire Choral Festival performance in Romsey Abbey on 18 May, we held a workshop on 16 March, sang at Overton Parish Council AGM on 20 March and then performed the works we had rehearsed at the workshop in a fundraising concert in Upper Clatford on 23 March.

We would like to thank Adam Turner who accompanied us at the workshop so professionally. Bearing in mind what we would be singing in Romsey and at All Saints Church, Upper Clatford, we rehearsed the Fauré *Requiem*, the *Cantique* and *The Mother did Weep* from Jenkins' *Stabat Mater*. We were joined by some members of the Anna Valley Choir with whom we sang later that week in Upper Clatford.

We are very grateful to Overton Parish Council for inviting us to perform once again at their Annual Parish Meeting. Our German friends from Euskirchen

will be singing at the Sheep Fair and we hope that everyone will make them welcome. They are a very friendly crowd who love to join in at all social gatherings.

On Saturday 23 March we joined the Anna Valley Choir to sing a variety of music, concluding with the Fauré *Requiem* to raise money for All Saints Church, Upper Clatford. We would like to thank Revd Teresa Townsend, the parishioners and the choir for entertaining us so royally and for their friendship.

Tickets for the concert in Romsey Abbey are now available from [ticketsource.co.uk/musicinromsey](http://ticketsource.co.uk/musicinromsey) or the Romsey visitor information centre.

Lyn Hardy



## Basingstoke Civil Service Retirement Fellowship

There were 48 members at the meeting held on 3 April and they were welcomed by the Chairman,

David Cowling. The Secretary, Tony Brazier, reminded members of the forthcoming trip to Arundel Castle on 18 April, the visit to Savill gardens on 23 May and the afternoon tea at BCoT on 20 June.

Our speaker this month was Daniel Cowling who is Headteacher at Oak Wood School in Hillingdon and had previously visited us to tell us about the challenges of turning round a failing school. This time he spoke about, not only the challenges facing leaders in education, but in any environment where priorities and expectations were constantly changing due to political pressures or other factors. He told us about those who had inspired him and gave examples of the ideals that they and he had aspired to in trying to be a good leader. Above all he emphasised the need to do the best possible in any given situation and to listen and learn, while being compassionate at all times when dealing with other people, whatever the circumstances.

Our next meeting is on 1 May when our guest speaker will be a representative from Thrive, The Gardening for Health Charity, to talk about their work.

The group meets on the first Wednesday of the month at the Brookvale Village Hall from 10 am to 12 noon and all retired Civil Servants and their relatives and friends are welcome. Further details about the group and information about the meetings and trips can be obtained by contacting

[csrfbasingstoke@gmail.com](mailto:csrfbasingstoke@gmail.com) or 07715 640171.

David Cowling



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# Local News



## Did you see the Mill on ITV News in March?

ITV News came to the Mill to film for a feature on ribbon-making, showing some of the techniques involved in this endangered craft, and interviews with Weaver/Tackler Shannon Bye and Mill Director Sue Tapliss. The six-minute feature was broadcast on 11 March, and it's already been evident that the Mill's profile has been raised as a result. The full clip is on ITVX at [itv.com/watch/news/oldest-working-silk-mill-at-whitchurch-receives-cash-boost-to-protect-an-endangered-craft/dpxd7r2](http://itv.com/watch/news/oldest-working-silk-mill-at-whitchurch-receives-cash-boost-to-protect-an-endangered-craft/dpxd7r2). We have a new screen in the Welcome Building which has been showing footage of ribbon weaving and production, and will feature other techniques too, and we hope that seeing the working inside the Mill will encourage more café users to cross the threshold into the Mill building and see our fascinating historic machinery and many information panels.

## National Mills Weekend 2024, 11 – 12 May, 10:30 am – 5 pm

In celebration of the engineers and millwrights who built and now restore and maintain Whitchurch Silk Mill, Nigel Spender of G & H Spender Engineering, a historic Basingstoke company specialising in industrial heritage conservation and restoration, will be here to talk to visitors about the many crafts used during his company's recent conservation of the Mill's Grade Two\* listed Georgian waterwheel, and the historic craft of millwrighting. Included with admission fee or annual pass.

## 10,000 years of textiles, 15 May, 7 – 8:30 pm

Spinners and Dyers talk. Angela Pawlyn, a member of the Oxford and Kennet Valley Guilds of Weavers Spinners and Dyers, will show examples of preserved textiles. Weaving spindles and loom weights can survive for thousands of years, but it's rare for textiles to last that long. Most of what we know about ancient weaving is in the form of pictorial evidence. Angela will explain how ancient equipment evolved into the looms seen today at the Mill. Tickets £15. Doors open at 6:30 pm and tea and coffee will be available for a donation.

## Weftival textiles festival, 5 – 6 July

Join us for our second Weftival event at which you can meet a community of textile and weaving professionals and learn about diverse types of weaving and textiles. There will be talks, demonstrations, production tours, a weaving exhibition and pre-bookable workshops.

Tickets for the workshops, and further details, are available on our website. Please note that annual passes cannot be used for this event.

*Sue Tapliss*

## What is the u3a?

It is the "University of the Third Age". We are a lively organisation in the Overton area, including Whitchurch, for people who are no longer working full-time and want to keep learning. There is no minimum age and no requirement for qualifications. Our aim is to have fun, make friends, stay fit and exercise the mind.

Our u3a branch has over 30 interest groups and about 200 members. Nationally there are over 1000 u3as with over 430,000 members.

Our interest/study groups are run by members e.g. languages, crafts, history, games, lunch clubs and gardens. There are monthly talks which are held on the third Wednesday of each month, in St Mary's Hall, Overton at 10 am.

Joining the group is easy. It costs £15 a year. Everyone is welcoming and friendly! Take a look at our webpage for information on talks, outings, groups and how to apply for membership. [u3asites.org.uk/overton/home](http://u3asites.org.uk/overton/home) or email direct on [infou3aoverton@gmail.com](mailto:infou3aoverton@gmail.com)

If you aren't able to look online you would be welcome at one of the monthly talks where we can provide more details.

*Adrian, (for u3a Overton)*





in association with the Basingstoke Railway Social Club  
Milton Approach, Basingstoke RG21 9RH  
presents

## Saturday 18th May

# Thomas Heppell Band

Thomas Heppell is taking the UK (and soon to be European) blues scene by storm, having already played iconic venues such as Ronnie Scott's & sharing the limelight with acts such as Alice Armstrong, Connor Selby, Brive Rival and The Cinelli Brothers. Thomas has captivated audiences with his blend of Blues, Jazz, and Rock & Roll, both as a solo artist and with his dynamic 3-piece band. His music is a foot-tapping homage to classic tunes peppered with his own innovative compositions, promising an unforgettable live performance that resonates with the heart of blues tradition.

An award-nominated artist, Thomas has been recognised for his exceptional talent with nominations for Young Blues Artist, Emerging Blues Artist, and Acoustic Blues Artist in the UK Blues Awards. His Debut album was released at the end of last year, selling out at its launch gig and receiving much airplay from Planet Rock & BBC. Don't miss this opportunity to catch Thomas on his way to the top!

All welcome - from 10 till late. £10 cash on the door. Licensed bar and low prices. Profits to Brain Tumour Research - Charity number 1163487.

**Picture dates:** -

Sign up to our newsletter to be kept informed of future gigs, follow the Basingstoke Blues Club BBC3 Facebook page or full details at [www.basingstokebluesclub.co.uk](http://www.basingstokebluesclub.co.uk)

17th September - 'Thehowl', a musical tribute to The Turtles

18th October, 19th November, 7th December - bands to be announced soon.

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ACCA





## Probus Hears About WWII SOE Training at Beaulieu

Visitors to the National Motor Museum at Beaulieu in the New Forest may have spotted a building close to Palace House which is a museum about the training that took place in WWII for the SOE.

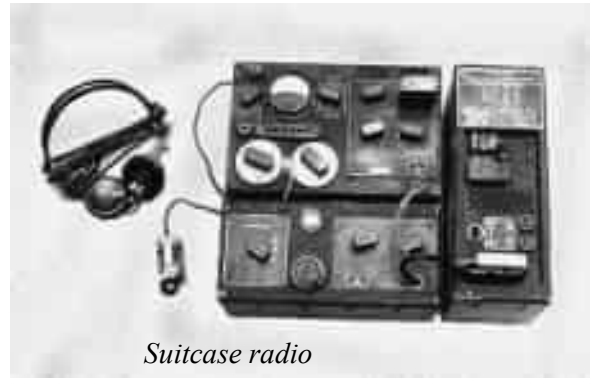


The Special Operations Executive was the subject of the latest talk at the Probus Club of Basingstoke by speaker Nick Saunders who is a part time archivist at the Royal Hampshire Regiment Museum in Winchester.

The SOE was set up in 1940 on the instructions of Prime Minister Winston Churchill to “Set Europe ablaze” by conducting espionage, sabotage and reconnaissance in German occupied Europe and to aid local resistance movements. While the SOE had its headquarters in Baker Street, London, all training took place around the country.

The organisation generated different unofficial names, *The Baker Street Irregulars*, *Churchill's Secret Army*, *Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare* with the most apt *Stately 'omes of England* as many country houses and private estates were requisitioned. Several such large properties existed around the Beaulieu estate and served as training bases specialising in the dark arts of guerilla activities.

Burglary, silent killing, parachute skills, radios, morse code and weapons training were the main



*Suitcase radio*

courses. It was imperative that their agents had a good knowledge of a particular country and that their language skills were sufficient to pass as a native. Although 13,000 agents underwent training, which included 3,000 at the Beaulieu Finishing School, there were many women who undertook the same training and had volunteered to assume roles in German occupied countries.

The Germans knew about what was happening at Beaulieu and named it *The Gangster School*. Among the 175 staff at Beaulieu were Guy Burgess and Kim Philby, who later absconded to Russia; they taught mind games to undermine German morale.

The agents dropped into occupied countries should not be compared to the fictional TV series *'Allo 'Allo!* as many were captured, tortured and executed.

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

*Paul Flint*



*Recently the local starlings have been making themselves more apparent than usual. This photo shows part of a large flock (or murmuration) that seemed to start around Bulls Bushes before flying towards Pardown. They then made a steep left turn towards Barn Lane before heading back towards Bulls Bushes. Several thousand in number. I have just read that the starlings are on the RSPB red list for concern.*  
*John Oakley*

# Feature

## A new name for Basingstoke family support charity

A charity that provides valuable one-to-one and group support to families with young children in Basingstoke is undergoing a name change. From 1 April Home-Start North West Hampshire will be known as **Home-Start Basingstoke and Deane**.

The reason for the change is to make it easier to attract volunteers, and families who can benefit, by being clearer about the reach of the charity and its services across the borough.

The charity has provided invaluable support and friendship to families with pre-school children for almost 20 years. Their aim is to create a welcoming and nurturing community, ensuring every young child receives the best start in life.

Jools Anderson, Director of Operations at the charity explains, "The name change aims to provide clearer identification for families and referrers within our catchment area. If families pay council tax to Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, they fall within our catchment."

"We hope that our new name will remove the potential for misunderstanding given the proximity to another charity (Home-Start Hampshire) which confusingly does not cover families in the Basingstoke and Deane area."

Home-Start Basingstoke and Deane can be contacted via their new email address [info@hsbd.org.uk](mailto:info@hsbd.org.uk) and details of support services and groups for young families can be found at [www.homestart-basingstokedeane.org.uk](http://www.homestart-basingstokedeane.org.uk) and on their Facebook page.

*Jools Anderson*



*(Left) Bethan Rixson Volunteer Co-ordinator, (Right) Anna Chiappetta Office Manager.*

*Children attending our Wellbeing Circle with their parents, the group helps parents manage their own wellbeing needs through peer support whilst also providing opportunities for children to learn through play.*

## Free Ads

All entries should be sent in writing to Maureen Dallaway, by **10 May 2024** for inclusion in next month's Link. Entries may also be sent by e-mail to [freeads@oakleylink.org.uk](mailto:freeads@oakleylink.org.uk) Please include an address or telephone number.

**Twist & Shape. Exercise machine** complete with instructions good condition £60, Tel 01256 780134

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<http://www.basingstokemvc.org.uk>





## Oakley Bowling Club News

**O**ur second open day will take place on Saturday 25 May. Join us any time between 10 am and 4 pm and try our wonderful game. All you need is a pair of flat shoes or trainers. We will provide everything else. If you cannot make that day, just give us a call and we will arrange to meet you at the club.



Visitors will be able to see all the improvements that have been made during the close season. There are new windows and doors in the pavilion and solar panels are about to be installed in the roof, thanks to a grant of £7,867 from the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, a central pillar of the Levelling Up agenda which provides £2.6 billion of funding for local investment by March 2025.

The club has also been fortunate to receive a grant of £774 from local charity the Four Lanes Trust, which enabled us to purchase a larger fridge/freezer which trebles our storage capacity for catering.



These grants are much appreciated but we also value the work of our volunteers who maintain the green throughout the year and of those who rallied round in April and carried out the many tasks – power washing, painting, etc – which enable the club to provide one of the best facilities in Hampshire.

April tends to be a slow bowling month as members wind up their indoor seasons and prepare for the greater challenges outdoors. Not, however, for Alice Lovett. Alice, representing Loddon Vale, lifted four Hampshire titles in April including, for a third



time, the County Singles. Let us hope similar success comes to members this summer.

Information about the Club can be found on our website [www.oakleybc.org.uk](http://www.oakleybc.org.uk). Alternatively, phone Spencer on 01256 780418 or Diane on 01256 781465.

*Spencer Kerley*

## Oakley Football Club

**U**pdates from the football club seem to spend far more time reminding us all about the weather we've endured than was ever intended, but there's no escaping the fact that it's rained a lot recently. Between late November and March matches had to be postponed for waterlogged pitches on eight matchday weekends out of 12; consequently, there remains quite a bit of the season still to go.

When play has been possible our teams continue to do very well. U17 Yellows, U15 Thunder and U14 Hawks are all well-placed in their respective age-



*U15 Thunder team*

group Premier Divisions, being close to the top with games in hand. The U15 Thunder are also through to the League Cup final in May, where victory would be a fitting sign-off for their long-time coach, Sam Pitter.

The U12 Lightning are also on the verge of promotion from Division 1. Hopefully we'll see them in Premier Division action next season.

Preparations are well under way for the Oakley six-a-side tournament, the club's showpiece annual event that brings over 150 teams from across the region to the village for two days of competition. As ever, the tournament will be on the bank holiday weekend – 25 - 26 May – at the Peter Houseman ground, and 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.

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**LOCAL INFORMATION****Oakley Community Association**

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

**Councillors & Politicians****Member of Parliament, NW Hampshire**

Kit Malthouse, 01264 401401  
 E-mail: [kit.malthouse.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:kit.malthouse.mp@parliament.uk)  
 Address: 2 Church Close, Andover SP10 1DP

**Parish Councillors:**

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 Vaughn Burns  
 Dave Condliffe  
 Ian Ellison  
 Trevor Green  
 Amanda Hayman (Vice Chair)  
 Gary McAllister  
 Alex Rowley (Chair)  
 Linda Wain

**Parish Clerk :** Nicola Beere, 1 Station Road, Oakley

[clerk@oakleydeane-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@oakleydeane-pc.gov.uk) or 07983 500372

**Deputy Clerk:** Helen Meyer 07951 415229  
[deputyclerk@oakleydeane-pc.gov.uk](mailto:deputyclerk@oakleydeane-pc.gov.uk)

**Borough Councillors:**

Paul Gaskell [Cllr.Paul.Gaskell@basingstoke.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.Paul.Gaskell@basingstoke.gov.uk) 07812 894479  
 Hannah Golding 07305 123671  
[cllr.hannah.golding@basingstoke.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.hannah.golding@basingstoke.gov.uk)  
 Diane Taylor, [cllr.diane.taylor@basingstoke.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.diane.taylor@basingstoke.gov.uk) 781081

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 St Lawrence (Wootton)  
 All Saints (Deane)

**Website:**  
[www.oakleywithwootton.org.uk](http://www.oakleywithwootton.org.uk)  
**Church Office:** St Leonard's Centre,  
 Rectory Rd, Oakley  
 Tel 782724 9:00 am -1:00 pm week-days  
[office@oww.church](mailto:office@oww.church)  
 Revd Ben Kautzer [ben@oww.church](mailto:ben@oww.church)  
 01256 420903  
 Contacts for Deane:  
 Geoff Law - Treasurer Tel 780160  
 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:**  
[www.basingstokereadingmethodists.uk/churches/oakley](http://www.basingstokereadingmethodists.uk/churches/oakley)  
 Hill Road adjacent to the village pond in East Oakley  
 Revd Claire Simpson  
[revclaire72@btinternet.com](mailto:revclaire72@btinternet.com)  
 Tel: 01256 323103

**Roman Catholic**  
 St Joseph's and  
 St Bede's

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

**Community Church**

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

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**Oakley Scout Group**

David Foster-Key (781097)  
[oakley@bwds.org.uk](mailto:oakley@bwds.org.uk)

**Oakley Girlguiding**

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

**VILLAGE HALLS**

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

Contact: Booking Secretary on 780802 [booking@oakleygreenhut.co.uk](mailto:booking@oakleygreenhut.co.uk)  
[www.oakleygreenhut.co.uk](http://www.oakleygreenhut.co.uk)

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

Contact Church Office: 782724

Oakley Village Hall - Andover Road

Contact: 781229

St Leonards Centre - Rectory Road

Contact Church Office: 782724

**NOTE:** If you wish to add an item or correct any entries, please send an email to: [john@oakleylink.org.uk](mailto:john@oakleylink.org.uk) Last amended: 15/3/2024



## What's coming up this season...

### Garden Space

As we head into our favourite season of the year when the sun starts to shine and we can sit outside with a pint in hand, we look forward to having you in our beer garden where you can enjoy our seasonal dishes, perfectly paired with our drinks from the garden bar.



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### New Menu

#### Coming 29<sup>th</sup> May

With the arrival of our new food menu launching in late May, you can expect new dishes & offers to see you through the summer months. We're already looking forward to cooking up some seasonal flavours!



### Bank Holiday Weekends

#### 4th - 6th May & 25th - 27th May

Join us for the long May Bank Holiday weekends. Sit back and relax with some of our delicious new dishes.

Our schedule of events is complemented perfectly with our range of real ales and craft beers on tap, along with marvellous wines & cocktails. See you in the beer garden (with a pint in hand).



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



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