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August 2026



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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

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

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

Deadline for September 2026 issue: 15 August

Editorial

Oakley Link is free to every house in Oakley and the surrounding villages, listed on the front page. This means that the only revenue we receive is from our advertisers. Thank you to you all; please continue or start to advertise (see below) knowing that you will reach across the whole area.

To our readers: please support our advertisers, by using the index on page 37 to find the right electrician / handyman / builder / plumber / decorator / hairdresser, etc. to meet your requirements. Most of our advertisers have been with us for many years.

Chris Wassell

Advertising in Link

Our next advertising year starts with the October issue. If you are interested in advertising your business with us, please send me an email at advertising@oakleylink.org.uk and I will send you our price list. For existing advertisers, I will be sending invitation letters in early August.

Bruce Wassell, Advertising Manager

CONTENTS

Village News	5,7
Gardening	7
Feature: Hampshire County Council	8,10
Ladies' Societies.....	10
Feature: News from Jolly Olly's	13
Health Matters	13,14
Fund Raising.....	15
Conservation	16,19
Young Oakley	19,20
Church News	21
Local News.....	21,22,25,26,28
Feature: The Final Lesson of Parenting.....	31
Freeads.....	31
Community	33
Feature: Pearls of Wisdom	34
Letters.....	34
Sport	35
Walking	36
Index of Advertisers	37
Information, Churches, Village Halls.....	38

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New volunteer drivers are always welcome

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

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Village





PARISH COUNCILLOR Chat Sessions

WITH OAKLEY AND DEANE PARISH COUNCIL

Your Parish. Your Voice. Let's chat!

Come along for an informal chat with your Parish Councillors. No agenda, just great conversations about our community.

MONTH	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
May	26th	7-8:00 PM	Barley Mow
June	30th	1-2:00 PM	Jolly Ollys
July	28th	7-8:00 PM	Barley Mow
August	25th	1-2:00 PM	Jolly Ollys
September	29th	7-8:00 PM	Barley Mow
October	27th	1-2:00 PM	Jolly Ollys
December	-	-	-
January	26th	1-2:00 PM	Jolly Ollys
February	23rd	7-8:00 PM	Barley Mow
March	30th	1-2:00 PM	Jolly Ollys
April	27th	7-8:00 PM	Barley Mow
May	25th	1-2:00 PM	Jolly Ollys

♥ We look forward to seeing you!



Have your say



Share ideas



Help shape our parish

For updates and news, visit our website and follow us on social media.

HOLIDAY@HOME

An event for senior residents of Oakley, Malshanger and Wootton St Lawrence.

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Tuesday 11th
Wednesday 12th
Thursday 13th

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Oakley Village Show 8 August 1:30 to 4:45 pm Oakley Infant School

In case you didn't know, by the time you read this, the show will be just days away.

It's too late to plant, and probably you've left it too late to paint or craft, but there's still time to put the oven on and get baking! Schedules with class lists are still available at ocaoakley.org.uk and Jolly Olly's.

We will be setting up tables in the hall and classrooms to display all your incredible entries and can't wait to see what you've been up to. One of the tables will showcase, "One I made earlier." This is for something that doesn't fit any of the classes but might inspire a class in the future. So, show us what you do! (Sadly, no prize for this one.)

Outside, we are geared up for music, entertainment, stalls and food, so you can look forward to a brilliant family afternoon. This year, we will be joined by Luke Murphy, MP, who will be opening the show for us.

Add in a raffle ticket incorporated in your entrance

programme (just £2 for adults) and you have a show worth supporting. We look forward to seeing you there.

Ann Davis on behalf of the committee.

PS Just one negative, I'm afraid. In line with Hampshire County Council policy, we have to say, "No Dogs on the school site."



A huge thank you to all who came to the TOPS Murder Mystery evening in June. As always, we are not sure who enjoyed it more, the cast or the audience!

In addition to having a fun evening, we made a profit of £200, which we were able to send to Sebastian's Action Trust. As one cast member said, "And I thought crime didn't pay!"

But the fun doesn't stop there! The tradition of the annual TOPS Oakley Pantomime marches on, so look out for details in the October Link

Ann Davis



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Thursday 11th June - Sunday 19th July

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Lunch with us

Beat those midweek blues with our wonderful lunch deal. Enjoy a selection of sandwiches, wraps and classics paired with a drink for just £12.50.



Outdoor functions & parties

Soak up the sunshine in our beautiful garden patio, now open for bookings. Whether you're planning a celebration, party or get-together, it's the perfect space to enjoy great food, drinks and good company.



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

www.barleymowatOakley.co.uk

Village



Oakley Manor Open Garden

A massive thank you to everyone who came to the open garden event at Oakley Manor on July 12. It was hot!

You raised over £800 for the Basil Fisher Foundation. Here are some examples of what your donations will provide:

- £10 4 pairs of undies
- £15 A night in a hostel
- £25 a winter sleeping bag
- £50 feeds 100 homeless friends
- £100 100 pairs of winter socks
- £250 10 Winter sleeping bags
- £500 feeds 1000 homeless friends

On behalf of everyone involved - thank you!

Barbara Bedford

Volunteers needed for Oakley Community SpeedWatch group

Community SpeedWatch is a locally driven initiative, supported by Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary, where members of the community monitor speeds of vehicles at specific locations using speed indication devices. The initiative allows the community to address the issue of speeding, making our roads safer by becoming actively involved in road safety and working in partnership.

We have a small core of volunteers and the equipment necessary to get started, but we need just a few more volunteers who are prepared to stand by the roadside and record the details of vehicles exceeding speed limits. This visibility will hopefully encourage drivers in our village to drive safely on our roads and gives people the chance to do something for their community. More volunteers are required as a minimum of three are required at each monitoring site.

Training is provided by Hampshire Constabulary



who oversee the activities, ensuring the predefined sites are safe to use. Prior to any monitoring sessions the coordinator notifies the police who confirm acceptance of the location and time.

If you feel you would like to help and join our group, please email me at

ian.sweetingham@sky.com and I will be in touch.

Ian Sweetingham

Report from the Parish Council

The Parish Council wishes everyone a happy and enjoyable summer. If you're out and about at Beach Park, you'll notice that the new pathway to the pump track benches has now been completed, making the area more accessible for everyone.

We're also delighted to announce that the dog field at Beach Park is now enclosed and complete. We do ask everyone to be considerate of other users, use the space responsibly, and help keep it clean and welcoming for all.

The Council will begin setting its budget for the year ahead this autumn, and we'd love to hear from you. If there are projects, improvements or local issues you'd like us to consider, please get in touch. You can also come and meet us at the ODPC stall at this year's Village Show on Saturday 8 August – we'd be delighted to have a chat.

Our next Councillors' Chat will be held at Jolly Olly's on 25 August, from 1 – 2 pm. It's an informal opportunity to meet your local councillors, ask questions, share ideas or simply say hello.

Our Coffee and Chat mornings continue every Thursday at Newfound Pavilion, from 10:30 am – 12:30 pm. Whether you're a regular or thinking of coming along for the first time, you'll be very welcome to join us for tea, biscuits and a friendly catch-up.

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

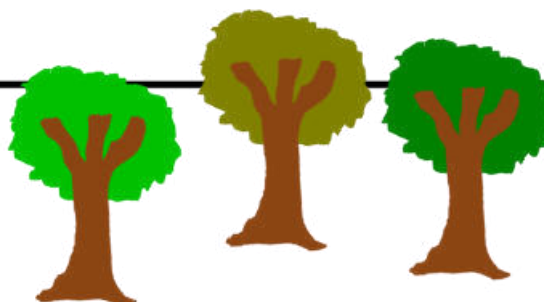


Gardening



Oakley Gardening Club

Oakley Gardening Club's August 3 meeting will be titled "Wildlife of the New Forest" by Brian Pettit. Visitors welcome - just come along. Meeting at St Leonard's Village Hall, Oakley starting at 7:30 pm. More information from Maureen on 780788.





Hampshire County Councillor Report Candovers Oakley and Overton Division

County Councillor Grants Scheme reopens

Hampshire County Council's County Councillor Grants Scheme reopened on 1 July. Each County Councillor has an annual budget of £5,000 to support worthwhile projects in their division, with grants generally available from £100 to £1,000. The scheme can support not-for-profit organisations and community groups, including youth and sports activities, village halls, social-support projects, environmental and outdoor initiatives and equipment such as defibrillators.

If you wish to apply as a community group, with a suitable project please review the guidance and contact me. Applications will be considered against the scheme criteria and the benefit they can provide to residents. Full details and the application form: hants.gov.uk/News/20260626MembersGrantsScheme

Have your say on the future of policing

The Government is considering significant changes to policing across England and Wales, including the possibility of merging existing police forces into larger regional organisations. These decisions could reshape policing in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight for many years. Policing works best when it understands and reflects the communities it serves.

Whether residents support locally focused policing, see advantages in larger forces or have concerns about accountability and local identity, it is important that Hampshire voices are heard before decisions are made. Complete the Police and Crime Commissioner's survey: survey.alchemer.eu/s3/91139326/Police-Force-Merger-Consultation-Have-your-say

Please help tackle hare coursing in rural Hampshire

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary has continued patrols and enforcement activity against hare coursing. This is not a harmless rural pastime: it involves trespass, damage to crops and land, intimidation of farmers and residents, and organised criminality.

Residents should report suspicious vehicles or activity, particularly groups entering fields with dogs, to the police. Call 999 where an offence is happening or there is an immediate risk; otherwise report through 101 or the police online reporting service. Vehicle registrations, descriptions and locations can be extremely helpful, but nobody should put themselves at risk to obtain them.



Connect to Work: a new employment route for people with social care needs

A dedicated route has opened into the Connect to Work programme for people receiving social care support. This is a practical opportunity for residents with learning disabilities, physical disabilities, mental-health needs or other complex barriers to receive tailored help into sustainable employment. Hampshire County Council has secured £18.7 million of national funding for the wider Connect to Work programme. Support is voluntary and individually tailored, and can include one-to-one help, training, job matching and continuing support for both the participant and the employer after work begins.

Employment is not simply about income. For many people it can provide independence, confidence, purpose and a stronger connection to their community. The right support can also help employers recruit and retain people whose abilities might otherwise be overlooked. Information and registration: prosperityhampshire.org.uk/connect-to-work

Summer Reading Challenge

Children across Hampshire are being invited to sign up for this year's Summer Reading Challenge as it returns to Hampshire Libraries from Saturday 11 July. The 2026 challenge is called Read to the Beat. Run nationally by The Reading Agency, this year's challenge is being delivered in partnership with Universal Music Group UK, using the theme of music to encourage children to read for pleasure over the summer holidays.

The Summer Reading Challenge is designed to keep children reading during the long summer break, when reading habits can easily dip without the routine of school. By taking part, children are encouraged to discover new books, build confidence and enjoy reading in a fun and relaxed way. In Hampshire, last year's challenge saw 17,815 children start, with 10,590 going on to complete it. Volunteers also played an important part, giving 5,931 hours of their time to support the programme in 2025, and more are welcome to get involved this year.

Libraries across the county will be welcoming children and families to take part, with staff and volunteers helping young readers get started, track their progress and enjoy everything the challenge has to offer over the summer. The challenge is free to join and open to children of all reading abilities. For more information about the challenge, families can visit hants.gov.uk/librariesandarchives/library or speak to staff at their local library.

(Continued on page 10)

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Feature



Hot weather and water safety

There was deeply distressing news from Testwood Lakes after a 15-year-old boy was reported missing while swimming on 24 June. A major multi-agency search followed, and Hampshire Police later confirmed that his body had been found. My thoughts remain with his family, friends and everyone affected by this tragedy.

The incident is a heartbreaking reminder that open water can be dangerous even in warm weather and even for confident swimmers. Parents and carers are encouraged to discuss the Water Safety Code with children and young people, including the "Float to Live" advice and the importance of calling 999

immediately in an emergency rather than entering the water to attempt a rescue. Hampshire Safeguarding Children Partnership advice: hampshirescp.org.uk/parents-and-carers/water-safety

Reporting Highway Problems

Links to report road issues are here:

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

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

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.

Juliet Henderson

Ladies Societies



Oakley Afternoon WI, June 2026

Members and guests enjoyed our WI's 46th birthday tea party this month. This was a huge success and enjoyed by everyone. The afternoon also included a Beetle Drive and there was a small amount of business. The two resolutions 'Accessible Public Toilets' and 'Action on Women's Homelessness' were passed with over 92% majority.

Our monthly meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of the month at 1:30 pm at East Oakley Village Hall (the Green Hut). Visitors are made most welcome at the meetings and are also invited to come along to the coffee mornings held at the Barley Mow on the last Monday of the month. For further information please email: oakleyaftsec@hampshirewi.org.uk

Janie Vickers

Oakley & Deane WI

Each July meeting the committee hands over the running of a meeting to a group of the members meeting. The theme of the group run meeting this year was teddy bears, as it was the centenary of Winnie the Pooh. Members were asked to bring a favourite childhood teddy bear; the oldest was over 80 years old. We all wore teddy ears, and the refreshments (jam sandwiches, biscuits and crisps) were all teddy shaped. The raffle prizes were all teddy related too, including a few pots of honey.

We heard from Caroline of Oakley Stitches about the Teddy Hospital they run. We also learnt how to draw Winnie the Pooh, and members of the group read out some lovely quotes from Winnie the Pooh books. It was a lovely, busy and entertaining evening, thank you to the group who organised it.

There were 4 theatre trips to sign up for and there was

a list for volunteers to make cakes and help at our cake stall at the village show.

Oakley & Deane entered in the Village Front Garden stall event by setting up in our President's front garden in The Vale and sold nearly new clothes, books, puzzles and bric-a-brac. We also had a Tombola and Raffle. We have had a stall now for a few years and it is a nice way to advertise our WI and to fundraise.

Oakley & Deane also have a walking group that meets on the last Sunday in the month and also on other days during the month when they can be fitted in. Recently they have been to the New Forrest and Whitchurch. We also have a Scrabble group that meets once a month. The eating of cake and drinking of tea is involved at this meeting.

Our next meeting, Mexico City - Sights and Customs by Barbara Wiseman is on Tuesday 11 August at 7:30 pm at Oakley Village Hall, Station Road, Oakley.

All women over 18 are always welcome at our meetings to see what we do and what events we organise. The entrance is free for your first 2 visits. You do not have to be able to make jam or cakes to join this WI. So if you are fed up with being indoors and feeling lonely, come along. It is a great way to make friends, promote women's views and problems. Future events and reports on past activities can be found on our website oakleydeanewi.weebly.com and on our facebook page [facebook.com/oakleyanddeaneWI](https://www.facebook.com/oakleyanddeaneWI). We can also be contacted by email oakleydeanewi@gmail.com

Barbara, on behalf of Oakley & Deane WI

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Feature



News From Jolly Olly's Coffee Shop

We've only gone and done it! By the time this newsletter reaches you, I anticipate that the sale of Jolly Olly's will have completed! Debbie Timms, the new business owner is a lovely lady with some great ideas about how to develop and grow Jolly Olly's. She is also very keen to keep the community feel of the shop and I know you will all get along famously! I would like to wish Debbie all the best for some fantastic fun filled times ahead. I have really loved my almost fifteen years at Jolly's, meeting you all and being a part of what I like to think of as The Olly's Family.

There is so much I could say at the close of this era but what I want to say most is a great big whopping THANK YOU! Team (past and present), landlords, suppliers and customers and everyone in between have all been so supportive, kind and helpful. You have made it my pleasure to run my little Coffee Shop in this BIG HEARTED village! I would also like to thank my family who have put up with smelling baking cakes which they are forbidden to eat



and been listening ears for me, when I have needed them most.

I plan to spend my partial retirement focussing on family and spending a bit more time on the things that I love to do but never seem to have the time! Some of you know that I am soon to become a published poet (with a very small publisher!) and I plan to spend much more time writing creatively for pleasure in the future. There will be drawing and gardening and researching my family tree and, of course, baking cakes that my husband will finally be allowed to eat!

I am not quite ready to give up work entirely and so a little part-time something somewhere is also part of the plan. At the weekends we are looking forward to a bit more impulsivity and intend to invest in a camper van so that we can spend more time closer to nature, drinking wine as the sun sets around us! Cheerio!

*Love and best wishes,
Jo*

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Find us on Facebook and Trip Advisor and Instagram

Health Matters



A New Dementia Hub For West Berkshire And North Hampshire

Almost every one of us has been touched by dementia – whether it's a parent, a partner, sibling, friend or neighbour. And with numbers set to increase significantly in this area a new initiative has been launched to help meet this challenge. The Dementia Hub will be a purpose-designed centre in the heart of our community, bringing together a wide range of dementia services under one roof, with the aim of enabling people with dementia in West Berkshire and north Hampshire to live as well as possible and providing better help and support to their family carers.

The Hub is to be built on land to the east of West Berkshire Community Hospital (subject to planning). Centred around a café and courtyard garden, it will incorporate the NHS Memory Assessment clinics, alongside support services including one-to-one 'wayfinding' to help guide individuals and their families at every stage, plus activities focussed on brain health and rehabilitation, access to dementia technology, complementary therapies, legal and welfare advice, as well as peer support and friendship.

Greenham Trust has now officially launched the £4 million fundraising campaign to build the Hub,

and is inviting donations via its giving platform, The Good Exchange. More than £1million of matched funding has already been secured through Greenham Trust and Englefield Charitable Trust, meaning that every pound raised will be matched, doubling the impact of your support.

The project has already attracted significant support from charitable funders. However, further fundraising is needed to help create this much-needed centre that will benefit thousands of people across West Berkshire and north Hampshire in the years ahead. If you are a local organisation or group which raises funds for charitable causes, please do consider supporting the appeal by making the Hub your chosen charity or fundraising cause. For more information contact:

Rob Daniels, Head of Grants, Greenham Trust
rob.daniels@greenhamtrust.com 01635 936370

James Wilcox, WBDH Project Lead,
james@westberksdementiahub.org 07972 058378.

Together, we can help create a lasting resource for local people affected by dementia.
www.westberksdementiahub.org

Catherine Haig



Coeliac UK North Hampshire Group Christmas Dinner

Time to plan ahead. We will be visiting the BCoT restaurant for our Christmas dinner in early December, date to be confirmed. It has been such a success with a full gluten free meal and with such attentive staff and management. The food is so well prepared, the quality and presentation surpassing most restaurants in the area. If you want to attend, please contact us (below).

Next meet-up

We do not have a meeting in August. The next meeting is on Saturday 19 September 10:30 to 12 at Waitrose café, Basing View.

Contacts:

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

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

Dave West



Watership Down Health
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Bowel Cancer Screening

Bowel Cancer Screening was introduced in the UK 20 years ago and since then has saved thousands of lives. Bowel screening aims to find cancer early or to find changes in your bowel that could lead to cancer before they are noticeable. If you are aged between 50 and 74, you will be sent a bowel screening at home test in the post. All the instructions are included on the box and just a tiny bit of poo can help find cancer early and when it is easiest to treat.

Please visit cancermatterswessex.nhs.uk/cancer-screening-and-prevention/screening-for-bowel-cancer for more information, videos and links to charities who can support you too.

GP Triage

As we continue to work with our new GP Triage software, we would like to thank all the patients who have given us constructive feedback. Rest assured that information is being shared with the developers to enable us to tailor the system for Watership Down Health and, most importantly, our patients. GP Triage is available from 7 Monday to Friday. Our reception team will continue to be available between 8 and 18:30 hrs Monday to Friday, for queries and other appointments e.g. nurse appointments, but we

encourage use of the online GP Triage service for those able to use it.

Advanced Notice: National Seasonal Flu & Autumn Covid-19 booster vaccinations Autumn 2026

Details of the seasonal flu and covid-19 vaccinations clinics will be on the practice website by the middle to the end of August. Please make sure we have current contact details including mobile telephone number, landline (if you have one) and email and we recommend that, if you use the NHS App, the notification feature is switched on.

NHS App Help Clinic

As of February 3, 2025, the NHS app is no longer accessible on older devices running iOS 13 and 14 and Android versions 6 and 7. Users on these older devices will need to access NHS App services through a web browser instead. We recommend keeping your device updated to the minimum supported version to ensure continued access to the NHS App. The NHS App help clinic run by the PPG will begin again in September 2026. The full newsletter is available on the Watership Down Health website.

Read Easy Support for Patients

Do you know anyone who needs help to read? Read Easy Basingstoke runs free, fun and confidential one-to-one coaching for adults who would like some support. To find out more, please contact basingstoke@readeasy.org.uk.

Heather Mann

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Fund Raising



Basingstoke And Deane Rotary Club

Christmas is a long way off... but it's not too soon to think about our Rotary Shoebox Appeal! We're delighted to share that we contributed nearly 900 shoeboxes towards the 20,455 sent from Wessex area last year. Thanks to everyone's kindness, these boxes were safely delivered for Christmas 2025 and brought joy to children in Ukraine, Romania, Moldova and Montenegro.

As we look ahead to Christmas 2026, it's time to start planning what can go into your shoebox—and you can begin collecting items now. Just a few items a week will fill your box. Items should be new, or as new, please. Ideas of what you can put in your box are: for playing - ball, skipping rope, small games, cards, dominoes, harmonicas/recorders, cars, small toys, cuddly toy. 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) Washing - soap, toothbrush, flannel, sponge. We ask for a financial contribution for each box for ever increasing transport cost. (TBA)

Please No – liquids, war toys or war books,



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batteries/operated items, sharp items, broken items, food or sweets, Large toys – large clothes or shoes, also nothing religious, political or racial.

Collect for either Boys or Girls, ages 1 - 3, 4 - 7, 8 - 11, 12 - 15. On Saturday, 5 September, we will be in Festival Place; come and pick up your free Christmas shoeboxes ready for you to fill with goodies for these special children. Start thinking now about getting your workplace, church, club, school, Scouts, Cubs, Brownies, Guides, or simply your own family involved.

Whether it's your children, grandchildren, or just you filling a box at home, every single effort makes a difference. By planning ahead, you'll help us make Christmas truly special for the children who receive these shoeboxes. It's your small act of kindness that creates a genuinely meaningful impact.

Lindy Richardson

Conservation



What's all the Buzz about in August?

It's all about the next generations and getting ready for winter! From early spring until midsummer, all three bee types have been very busy!

Solitary Bees: creating many egg cell nests and provisioning them for their young to pupate ready for next spring emergence.

Bumblebees: creating a viable nest colony to produce as many queens and drones for summer emergence for a mated queen to over winter.

Honeybees: building colony size and gathering as much nectar as possible for their winter honey store.

August is the pivotal month: Solitary Bees virtually disappear having completed their spring / early summer cycle of creating as many food provisioned egg chambers as possible. Bumblebee nests reach their lifecycle end. Honeybee queens are reducing their summer laying activities to transition into the laying of the Autumn/Winter brood survival colony.

Why are the bees starting to prepare for next year's generations? Solitary Bees evolved by not trying to survive the winter at all, but provision the next generation for spring emergence by creating food provisioned egg chambers. Bumblebees survived the repeating cold ice age periods by developing a warm furry coat so, even today, are limited to the more cooler temperate climates. Honeybees cluster like the Emperor Antarctica Penguins, protecting the queen and her winter brood by ensuring their queen is kept safe in the middle, with the worker bees taking turns on the colder edge of the cluster inside the hive. All

this takes lots of energy hence the need for plenty of honey stores. But survival also depends on creation of the next generations, and midsummer is when the Honeybee and Bumblebee both move their focus to creating plenty of drones [the males].

Some good news with our climate effects this year: The early spring conditions that benefited from a mild winter and plants flowering earlier than usual has been beneficial for Bumblebees. This has resulted in a double generation of Bumblebees. The photo shows a queen Buff-tailed Bumblebee and was taken on 8 June which means there is sufficient time for the queen to produce a second nest generation of Bumblebees. All very good news for the struggling Bumblebee population.



How you can help the bees in August: August is the time of maximum bee populations as 'the boys are back in town', hanging around waiting for the Queens. So more bees means they need plenty of food sources and this is where the huge lavender spike plants are a tremendous bonus and you get the rewards of being able to spot at waist high level the buzzing of the bees and seeing how their tongues dip into each flower to extract the nectar. And finally, don't forget the shallow basin of water with stone stepping stones...topping it up daily.

Barbara and Kenneth Robson on behalf CB400 Foundation charlesbutler400foundation.org.uk



Richard Edwards: solstice sunrise over Battledown

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Conservation



Oakley Woodlands Group

In June the Basingstoke and Deane Rangers visited Cowdown and St John's copses to carry out the annual planning walk round. The management cycle of the copses is based on a multiyear plan, eleven years in the case of Cowdown and eight years for St John's. This identifies the area that will be coppiced each year so that we cut sufficient hazel for healthy coppice but leave enough adjacent old growth for the wildlife to flourish.

The annual planning walk adds the detail to the long-term plan, and reviews what has, and has not worked well in the past. It considers such issues as should we plant more trees or reduce the tree density,



are there any invasive species that require removal and are there any large trees that require specialist work by contractors.

The details of the plan will be available on our stand at the Oakley Village Show. You can drop by and find out more about what we do and why we think it is worth looking after our local woods and wildlife.

Our other main activity in August will be strimming of the rides and open spaces. We do this to control the bramble and keep the open spaces for butterflies to flourish. All that is left is to get ready for next season. Regular work parties resume in September when we will be working in Cowdown.

Dates will be in the next copy of Link, or on our Facebook page Email: oakleywoodlands@gmail.com

Alan Merry

Young Oakley



Hello from St Leonard's Pre-School

This is my last article as the Manager of St Leonard's Pre-School. On 22 July I am retiring after working at the preschool for 24 years, five and a half as the manager. I have been very fortunate to have worked with an amazing team and so many supportive parents and their lovely children over the years. The new manager will be Silvia Brown, who is an experienced preschool manager in Winchester.

A big thank you to everyone who has supported the preschool over the year. We feel very cared for by the village.



We say goodbye and have a great time to all our

leavers who will be starting school in September.

The photos are from our visit by the fire brigade. The children were able to try on equipment, climb in the fire engine cab and squirt the hose, which was the highlight of the visit! The fire fighters spoke to the children



about their role and keeping safe.

We are open term time only, on Monday 9 am - 12 pm, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 9 am - 3 pm for children aged 2 - 4 years.

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

We look forward to hearing from you.

Caroline Edwards, St Leonard's Pre-School Manager



Young Oakley



News from Cranbourne

It's the end of another academic year at Cranbourne, and what an incredible year it's been! We've ended the summer term with a jam-packed calendar of events including school trips, our end of term disco and our annual Performing Arts month.

Year 9 have worked closely with students at our cluster primary schools to deliver a range of exciting sessions as part of the Cranbourne Aspire Diploma, from supporting Sports Days, encouraging healthy eating at the Fitness Café to inspiring their creativity with biscuit decorating and bracelet making. These sessions are an excellent opportunity for our students to gain confidence and improve their leadership skills. We're truly proud of how they've embodied our Cranbourne values and supported our local community.

We celebrated an evening of excellence at our Summer Rewards' Evening and students who achieved 1,500 House Points throughout their year visited Thorpe Park and Marwell Zoo as their reward. In recognition of our students' efforts to improve attendance, we've been drawing raffles throughout the final weeks of term, where students have been awarded prizes varying from Sony headphones, Bluetooth speakers and gift cards.

Year 8 enjoyed a trip to the Natural History Museum where they loved exploring the exhibits and learning lots about dinosaur fossils, how Earth was formed and the history of earthquakes and volcanoes!

They were especially delighted to discover the Cranbourne meteorite – our Cranbourne Community just got bigger!

If you are starting to think about the next steps in your child's educational journey, come and get a feel for what life at Cranbourne is all about at our Open Evening on Wednesday, 9 September - we'd love to welcome you to the Cranbourne Community! Full details can be found on our website and social media channels.

We're extremely proud of all the wonderful things our students have achieved over the course of this year and hope they are looking forward to a well-deserved rest over the holidays. When we return in September, building work will have commenced for our new school building. We're excited to move into the next stage of Cranbourne history!

Chloe-Mai Parfitt

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Cranbourne Open Evening

Wednesday 9 September 2026

5pm - 8pm

Wessex Close, Basingstoke, RG21 3NP
www.cranbourne.hants.sch.uk
01256 868 600

Challenge Creativity Community Care



Church News

Oakley

Methodist Church

Services at 10:30 am

August 2	Joint service at Oakley Junior School
August 9	Mr Peter Frank
August 16	Rev Dr Ruth Midcalf Communion
August 23	Mr Symon Turner
August 30	local arrangements

COFFEE MORNING

No coffee mornings during August

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www.bhbcircuit.org.uk/churches/oakley.html

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Local News



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Whitchurch Silk Mill – Summer Highlights

Whitchurch Silk Mill is delighted to welcome visitors this Summer, following a recent Visit England assessment that awarded the Mill an impressive 91% rating. As part of the Government's Great British Summer Savings Campaign, admission prices have been reduced for the season, making it an ideal time to explore this unique historic attraction.

The Mill is alive with activity during the school holidays, offering something for all ages. Visitors can experience the fascinating processes of silk production first-hand, from bobbin winding and ribbon finishing to weaving on our historic looms. Across the different floors, guests will discover both working production areas and an archive space showcasing aspects of the Mill's 210-year history. Tickets are valid for a full year, encouraging repeat visits to enjoy everything on offer.

The Mill Shop features a wide selection of gifts, with handcrafted silk scrunchies proving especially popular during the warmer weather. Both practical and elegant, silk is gentle on hair and ideal for keeping cool in Summer. Alongside these, visitors will find a variety of locally inspired gifts, including toys, books, honey, and silk products.

For those wishing to support the Mill more

closely, the Patron scheme offers a rewarding way to contribute to its work. With options starting from £3 per month or £30 annually, Patrons receive exclusive behind-the-scenes content, quarterly updates, and free entry to the Mill for a year.

Several special events are also planned. The Silk Production Tour, taking place on 8 August and 8 September, offers a unique behind-the-scenes experience with the weaving team in the Mill's authentic Victorian setting. Visitors can see the looms in action, hear the stories of past and present weavers, and gain a deeper understanding of this remarkable craft. Advance booking is essential.

Creative workshops led by local silversmith Lou Sargent also form part of the summer programme. On 24 August, participants can create their own silver stacking rings, with opportunities to personalise their designs. A second workshop on 14 September focuses on making a beautiful sea glass pendant. Both sessions take place in the Mill's café and include all materials, making them suitable for beginners as well as those with some experience.

Visitors are encouraged to book events in advance and to keep up to date with the latest news via the Mill's website and social media channels.

Sue Tapliss

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What is the u3a?

It is the "University of the Third Age". We are a lively organisation centred in the Overton area including members in Whitchurch and Oakley, for people no longer working full-time who want to keep learning.

In addition to the many interest groups, members are able to enjoy group trips out to events such as Newbury Races and venues such as Fort Nelson and Kelmscott Manor.

There's something for everyone!

Joining our u3a is easy, it costs just £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. <https://overton.u3asite.uk/> or email direct on infou3aoverton@gmail.com

If you aren't able to look online you would be welcome at one of the monthly talks (next meeting: 16th September, St. Mary's Hall, Overton at 10 am) where we can provide more details.

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Local News



Probus Hears About the Loss of American Colonies

The Mayor of Basingstoke, Cllr Jackie Tustain, was the guest of honour at the latest Probus Club meeting when she heard a talk by Dr Stephen Goss about the loss of the American colonies.

Two hundred and fifty years ago, on 4 July 1776, the thirteen British colonies along the eastern seaboard of North America declared their independence. Drafted principally by Thomas Jefferson, the Declaration of Independence asserted universal rights, most famously that “all men are created equal,” and laid the foundations



President Paul Klinger with Dr Stephen Goss



President Paul Klinger with Mayor Cllr Jackie Tustain

for the world’s first democratic republic.

The American war of independence emerged from tensions that had grown irreparable between Britain and its colonies. Disputes over taxation, representation and imperial authority fuelled resentment and a rising political identity. Protests escalated into a determined struggle for self-government. Foreign intervention added complexity: Dutch tea smuggling deprived Britain of tax revenue,

prompting the closure of Boston harbour. The Boston Tea Party in December 1773, became an act of defiance.

Britain viewed colonial resistance as a rejection of legitimate authority, while the colonists framed the conflict as liberty versus tyranny. The war widened into a seven-year international struggle. France, Spain and the Netherlands supported the colonists: Prussia and many native American nations sided with Britain, partly due to Britain’s policy of restricting westward expansion beyond the Mississippi. Opinion was

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Local News



divided on both sides of the Atlantic. Many Americans hesitated over rebellion, and many Britons questioned the cost of waging a distant war that soon stretched into the Caribbean, Mediterranean and even India.

George Washington, commanding the Continental Army, avoided large scale assaults, relying on skirmishes to wear down British forces. Battles such as Bunker Hill, Lexington, Concord, Germantown and the decisive victory at York Town – achieved with French military and naval support – secured independence. The 1783 Treaty of Paris, signed by Benjamin Franklin, John Adams and others, formally recognised the United States and established boundaries with British North America (Canada). Britain adopted a generous settlement, seeking profitable trade without the burden of government.

Paul Flint

A Summer Serenade That Entertained

Hampshire Harmony choir gave their last concert of the season, Summer Serenade, at The Costello School Basingstoke on the afternoon of Sunday, 12 July. Despite the clash with the Wimbledon finals and it being a very hot day, there was an enthusiastic audience of around a hundred who came out to support the choir and their charity of the year, St Michael's Hospice.

Some feedback from audience members was "It was my pleasure to be there. The choir was excellent and I am not surprised that you have won awards."

"My hubby said, 'It was the best performance I've ever seen from HH!'"

"We loved Skyfall"

"Totally excellent."

"Loved it."

If you are an adult who sings Soprano, Mezzo or Alto and you want to sing with a choir that is going places and which sings a wide range of musical genres in 3 part harmony or more, then start the September term by coming to our Free Open Evening at Carnival Hall Basingstoke on Monday, 7 September at 7:30 pm. Please book your place at hampshireharmony.org to ensure music will be available for you on the day. The first term will be preparing for 3 Christmas Concerts, 6, 13 and 20 December the one on 13th, being at The Tower of London.

See our website hampshireharmony.org to find out more about us; like and follow us on Facebook at Hampshire Harmony and/or



Instagram at [singwithhampshireharmony](https://www.instagram.com/singwithhampshireharmony)

Join our choir and become part of this welcoming team, which thrives under the skilled direction of singing teacher Clare Oliver, accompanied by Jonathan Hedgecock.

We are charity No: 1058910 and this year we are supporting St Michael's Hospice, charity No: 1002856.





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Basingstoke Art House Gallery Extends Successful Stay until September 2026

The Art House Gallery at Festival Place has become a thriving hub for creativity in Basingstoke, and following its strong public support, its residency has been extended until 30 September.

Located in the former GAP store on the upper level between the Apple Store and Costa Coffee, the gallery has transformed a vacant retail unit into a vibrant space celebrating local art and community engagement. Supported by the charity The Artist's Window, the initiative provides a platform for talented local artists to showcase their work while encouraging meaningful connections with visitors.

Since opening in April, the gallery has welcomed a steady flow of visitors, who have enjoyed exploring artwork created by more than 25 local artists. The collection includes original paintings, photography, handcrafted pieces and artisan crafts, alongside a range of affordable gifts such as prints, greetings cards, mugs, coasters and other creative keepsakes.

A unique feature of the gallery is that many of the exhibiting artists regularly volunteer in the space. This allows visitors to meet the artists, hear about their creative journeys and gain insight into the inspiration behind their work, creating a welcoming and personal experience.

The gallery has also supported the wider creative community by hosting exhibitions from Queen Mary's College students, the Annual Basingstoke Camera Club Exhibition and events as part of the Basingstoke Festival. One standout attraction was Emma Callow's interactive Light Lab, which invited visitors of all ages to explore creativity through hands-on activities. Alongside its exhibitions, the gallery continues to offer workshops and family-friendly events, helping make art accessible and enjoyable for everyone.

Alina Luchianov

Overton Choral Society

Overton Choral Society recently celebrated over 100 years of singing and were one of the first choirs to participate in the Winchester & County Music Festival, both in competitions and large Choral works. Under the baton of a succession of Miss Portals the Choral Society achieved great success and the last of the 5 daughters, Cecilia Hoare, was Musical Director at a time when OCS achieved many excellent passes at the Winchester & County Music Festival.

At our recent Summer Concert with afternoon tea (which was a sell-out) it was a great pleasure to be able to welcome Joanna Durham-Matthews, daughter of Cecilia, who shared her memories of her mother

and the links with OCS. Joanna was delighted to see the exhibition in St Mary's Hall which included a 1964 Hampshire Chronicle article on the W&CMF competition in which OCS featured heavily as, again, OCS were the overall champions with her mother as Musical Director. (About 20 years later, David Holland, as Musical Director, led OCS to victory once again as overall winners of the W&CMF contest).

We have had so many compliments about the concert, the variety of works sung, the lovely tea and the beautifully laid tables. It was a lesson in teamwork, the organisation was superb, even if members could not be with us on the day, they still contributed in some way. We really appreciated the feedback and the money raised will enable us to continue the good work that was put into forming OCS back in the 1920's by the Portal sisters. The W&CMF is now called Hampshire Choral Festival and the same 7 choirs participate now as they have for decades although there is no longer a competitive element in the festival. Our next concert will be in Romsey Abbey in May 2027 where we will be performing Charpentier's Te Deum, which we have not performed since 1999. OCS will resume on September 14 in St Mary's Hall at 7:45. Again, we would like to thank our Musical Director, Paul Timms, and all of our members who put so much hard work into a very busy 2025/26 season and to all who came to the Tea Concert.

Lyn Hardy, Chair, overtonshoralsoc@gmail.com

An Evening of Big Band Swing – Supporting Hampshire & Isle of Wight Air Ambulance

Clive Fortune Big Band invites you to An Evening of Big Band Swing, a vibrant night of live music in support of Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance.

Featuring a twenty-piece ensemble, two superb vocalists and special guests The Tonyx barbershop quartet. The concert promises an exhilarating celebration of swing classics performed with passion and polish.

The event takes place on Saturday 26 September at 7:30 pm at Queen Mary's College, Basingstoke. It's a relaxed, bring-your-own-drinks-and-nibbles evening — perfect for friends, families and anyone who loves great music. By joining us, you'll also be helping one of the region's most vital emergency services. As the charity explains, its advanced critical care team responds to up to 17 major incidents a day and relies entirely on community support to continue saving lives.

Find out more at

www.clivefortunebigband.org.uk and www.hiowaa.org. For tickets and full event details, please see the advert in this issue or visit our website.

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Feature



The Final Lesson of Parenting

For eighteen years, a parent's job is to prepare their child for independence. Yet when that independence begins to emerge, it can feel unexpectedly difficult to embrace. As a seventeen-year-old preparing to leave for university next year, I find myself standing between independence and reliance on my parents. Recently, my weekends have become less about family outings and more about evenings spent in town with friends. I am making decisions without consulting my parents first, returning home later than I once did, and gradually constructing a life that exists beyond my front door.

To me – and to many others my age – this feels entirely ordinary. To parents, however, I suspect it feels rather less so.

It is easy for teenagers to misinterpret parental concern as overprotectiveness. Equally, it is easy for parents to mistake independence for recklessness. In reality, both perspectives stem from the same place: uncertainty. For young people, the transition into adulthood does not happen overnight; instead, it arrives through a series of small negotiations. The

first evening out. The first journey alone. The first time nobody is checking whether you remembered your coat.

Responsibility cannot be taught exclusively through instruction; it must also be learned through experience. A young person who has never been trusted to navigate the world independently will eventually be expected to do so all at once. Perhaps this is why letting go matters: not because parents cease to care, but because trust itself is a form of care. Every extra inch of freedom represents a quiet expression of faith.

The following autumn, many students my age will leave home for university. Some parents will watch from the doorstep, some from the station platform, and some may accompany their children all the way there. Their children may appear to be moving away, but in truth they are carrying a lifetime of guidance with them.

Letting go is not the opposite of parenting; it is its final lesson.

Olivia Nash

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ACCA



What's on Where Guide (part 1) – A guide to activities & clubs for ageing adults in and around Basingstoke – provided by Home Instead, Basingstoke, who cannot take responsibility for any errors or amendments to activities listed.

Service/Event	When	Time	Venue	Phone	Email/website
Bingo	Daily	12:00 – 15:00	BuzzBingo, Basingstoke Leisure Park	01256 479200	basingsstoke.club@buzzbingo.com
Bowling (10 pin)	Daily	11:00 – 22:00	Hollywood Bowl, Basingstoke Leisure Park	0844 4770482	hollywoodbowl.co.uk/basingstoke
Bowling (10 pin)	Daily	09:30 – 19:00	Superbowl, Festival Place	01256 951952	basingsstoke@superbowl.co.uk
Bowls (Short Mat)	Thurs Sept - April	14:30 – 16:30	Chute Pavilion Sherborne St John	07970 182319	gw@welsby.org
Bowls Club	Contact for info	various	Fairfields Rd, Basingstoke	01256 473553	secretarybtbc@outlook.com
Cancer Support	By arrangement	By arrangement	Pink Place at The Orchard, White Hart Lane	07899 970841	info@thepinkplace.org.uk
Chair Yoga	Mondays	11:00 – 12:00	Vicky Watson, Sycamore Halls, Winklebury	01256 910108	vicky@infiniteharmony.co.uk
Chronic Pain Support Group	Thursdays monthly	13:00 – 14:00	Proteus Creation Space Basingstoke	01256 423869	office@bddf.org.uk
Coffee & Chat, Westside Community	Mon	10:00 – 11:30	Kings Café, Kings Rd, South Ham	01256 470665	seniorccwestside@outlook.com
Coffee Club, Chineham	Weekdays	10:00 – 12:00	The Well, Christ Church, Reading Rd, Chineham	01256 474280	groups@christchurchchineham.org.uk
Coffee Club, Oakley	Last Tuesday of month (not Aug)	10:30 – 12:00	Oakley Methodist Church	01256 323103	revclaire72@btinternet.com
Coffee Morning, Age Concern	Wednesdays	10:30 – 13:00	St Michael's Church Cottage, Basingstoke	01256 423874	info@ageconcernhampshire.org.uk
Coffee Morning, Mug & Biscuit	Tues, Wed, Thurs	10:00 – 13:30	St Andrews Methodist Church Western Way	07963 583506	lindahoe@hotmail.co.uk
Community Café, Brighton Hill	Wednesdays	10:00 – 12:00	Hill Rise Hall, Bach Close, Brighton Hill	01256 423855	info@neighbourcare.com
Community Café, Town Centre	Tuesdays	10:30 – 12:30	St Michael's Church Cottage, Basingstoke	01256 423855	info@neighbourcare.com
Community Café, Town Centre	Mon - Thurs	10:00 – 14:00	United Reformed Church London St, Basingstoke	01256 242152	urc.org.uk
Community Café, Tadley	Thursdays	14:15 – 16:15	Bishopswood Court, Hangar Rd, Tadley	01256 423855	info@neighbourcare.com
Craft / Games	Tuesdays	10:00 – 14:00	St Gabriels Church, Popley	07720 680403	francesca.wildash@mha.org
Craft Group	2 nd Fri of month	09:30 – 11:45	St Mary's Church, Goat Lane, Eastrop	01256 464249	info@stmarys-basingstoke.org.uk



Pearls of Wisdom

“A hallmark of wisdom is knowing when to grit and when to quit.”

Adam Grant, American author and professor

By far the best way to describe this pearl of wisdom is to give you a very recent example of something that happened to me in Miami of all places. It's a useful one because it can eliminate stress. And to me, anything that reduces stress is worth knowing. This is about the importance of being able to exit a situation when you think it's going badly wrong.

So, after getting off the Big Red Bus tour (highly recommended if you ever find yourself in Miami with a few hours to kill), I hailed a yellow cab. Rookie error. Note to self – never do that again.

I'd hailed a yellow cab with a taxi driver who had limited English and apparently an even more limited knowledge of the streets of Miami. Which, by the way, is based on a grid system which should supposedly make it easier to navigate. His cab was also making the kinds of noises you'd expect to hear if bits of it were about to fall off. The deal I'd struck with his “boss” was: drop me at the hotel, wait two minutes for me to grab my bags and then head off to the airport. Nice fare for him. Minimal hassle for me. Or so I thought.

As we got within a few blocks of the hotel, the driver handed me his phone to try to work out the last part of the journey as he'd got no idea where he was going. I'd given him the address but he wasn't even using Google Maps to navigate his way round. I handed the phone back to him, politely reminding him that I was the tourist and I was paying him to get me to the hotel. This was met with mild abuse and mutterings about how I was stressing him out. I finally recognised where we were and got us back to

the hotel. It was at that moment that I made the crucial decision to cut my losses. I didn't want this guy trying to get me to the airport to catch my flight to London. I looked at the meter. Seven dollars and fifty cents. So I handed him a ten-dollar bill, said, “Thank you, but I was getting out.”

This was followed by more abuse. Totally fine. I was glad to be out of the cab before the bumper fell off. I asked my friendly concierge to order me a taxi. Within ten minutes a large, shiny, black, air-conditioned people-carrier arrived, complete with a compartment full of bottles of iced water and a driver who loved British music from the sixties. So I arrived stress-free at Miami International Airport, having been treated to Gerry & The Pacemakers and The Beatles. Result.

Actionable advice

It takes courage to exit situations and relationships. It's far easier and more comfortable to stay with the way things are rather than pivot. But you need to be able to see ahead at what could happen if you continue down your chosen path. Mine was a rather minor example but it could apply to far more consequential situations, relationships or sets of circumstances.

And you need to trust your instincts. If something doesn't feel right and you don't like the look of what you're seeing ahead, don't stick with it because you “feel bad”. It's no good saying, “Oh, it'll be fine”. Because if your intuition is nagging you, there's a very good chance it won't be fine. You'll feel a lot worse if you end up in a stressful situation because you didn't cut your losses.

Susie Hall

Extract from *Sassy Godmother's Pearls of Wisdom* - 50 inspiring ways to navigate your life - Susie Hall (available on Amazon £12.99)

Letters

Dear Editor,

After over fifty years of running my band, the High Society Jazz Band, we are still playing though, due to creeping up to my 87th year, we have reduced our performances to once a month. We charge £12 for a ticket and attract seventy to eighty jazz loving folk but, with Wimbledon and World Cup activities, I did just wonder how much a ticket was to watch balls being knocked over the net.

OK, the history of the annual competition played over that immaculately prepared grass surface goes back much further than our efforts to entertain,

originally in smoke-filled jazz clubs. I would just point out at this stage that my trumpet player, Mike Henry, was for many years with Chris Barber and is probably the best player available today.

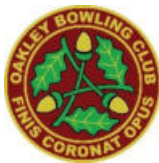
However I find that a ticket to watch two ladies hit fur covered balls at one another, to eventually, with luck, hold a very large gold plate, would cost you over £4000 and, to do the same for the men's final, believe it or not, over £7000. And this year you would be sitting in the blazing sunshine. At £12 a time for our concert, and you won't end up with sun-stroke, is not bad value.

Graeme Hewitt

Editor's note: in a follow-up e-mail, Graeme admitted that he had looked again at Wimbledon prices and found that many are much more reasonable, in the hundreds, not thousands of pounds.

Oakley Bowling Club News

We hosted the Hampshire match against Oxfordshire in the National Over 60s team cup. With our own Kay Kerley managing the



Sean Lassman suffered a similar fate in the Men's Singles but, perhaps the biggest disappointment, was Janie's Senior Four losing out in the quarter final by just one shot to the 2024 National Champions.

Team events saw our men lose to Kingsclere in the Hants and Berks Cup and our ladies to Basingstoke Town in the Thornbery Trophy. There was consolation for the ladies as they overcame Town in the Gazette Cup. Of our eleven league



team and Ric Newson playing, we were delighted that Hampshire came through to win by 25 shots and move into the quarter final.

teams the most successful are Oakley 'A' who top Division 1 of the Basingstoke Triples league, Oakley 'B' sitting second in Division 2 of the Fours league and the Kites, the runaway leaders in Division 4 of the Whitchurch League.

Our social programme stalls during this part of the season, but we had an evening trip on the Basingstoke Canal and, in the next few weeks, we have a day trip to Windsor, including a match at the Royal Household and our annual BBQ which, this year, will have a Caribbean theme.

We are always keen to attract new members. Information about the Club can be found at www.oakleybc.org.uk and, should you wish to try bowls,

phone Spencer on 07803 905887 or Diane on 01256 781465. They will be happy to show you the facilities and explain all we have to offer.

Spencer Kerley

As a Club we have had mixed results. Janie Vickers lost in the semi-final of the County Two Bowl Singles and Laura Butler lost out at Area Final stage in both the Singles and the Triples where she was accompanied by Angie Rowe and Sandra Lee.



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Walking



Oakley Ramblers

We have enjoyed several walks during June, making the most of the summer weather. First was a walk around Alresford and the River Arle. Walking by the river Arle took us past the 13th century Fulling Cottage and 1820's Eel House, then on to the Wayfarer's Walk and past the earthworks of the deserted medieval village of Abbotstone.



An unexpected rain shower didn't dampen our spirits as we continued back to Old Alresford, and to the Tiffin Tearooms for lunch.

Our second walk was a return trip from Oakley to the Holly Blue. We headed out of Oakley towards Bulls Bushes Copse, turned towards Pardown, and walked in the direction of Southwood Farm, and Chic Teak. We then took the wooded path, St James Way, towards Beggarwood and The Holly Blue where we had a tasty meal with excellent service. Following this we headed back to Oakley via the multiuser path.

Our final walk in June was from Oakley to



Overton. The walk took us past the Penguin Vineyard across the fields and down the Wayfarers Way into the village of Deane. We then joined the Jane Austen trail which has been marked and named after the 250th Jane Austen celebrations. On arriving in Overton we had lunch at the Honesty Café. Three members walked the return journey, whilst others caught the bus back to Oakley.

Oakley Ramblers is a friendly group which welcomes visitors. Our planned walks for August are Wednesday 12, Thursday 20, and Sunday 23. Details of our walks are published on our website a week before the walk, why not come along and try us out in 2026?

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

Corrine Thomas

Woodland Wellbeing Walks— August

Come and enjoy scenic walks around our local woods and fields. 2nd, 3rd & 4th Tuesdays.

Start Point for Walks: Tuesday,
11 August 10 am - Village Pond (Self-led)
Tuesday, 18 August 10 am - St John's Rd lay-by
Tuesday, 25 August 10 am - East Oakley Village Hall [aka The Green Hut] B

Other Details: Start time: 10 am Pace: gentle.
Duration: 1 hour approx. Routes: varied

B = Barbara led [07722 957057] R = Richard led [07549 021174]

Barbara Robson



Photo taken June 2023 by Ian Page

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LOCAL INFORMATION

Oakley Community Association

Secretary - Eve Askew - www.ocaoakley.org.uk
OCAoakley@live.co.uk

Councillors and Politicians

Member of Parliament, Basingstoke

Luke Murphy - luke.murphy.mp@parliament.uk
Belvedere House, Basing View, RG214HG 01256 587093

Parish Councillors

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

Parish Clerk: - Nicola Beere, Oakley & Deane Parish Council,
Newfound Sports Pavilion, RG23 7HH
clerk@oakleydeane-pc.gov.uk or 07983 500372

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

Borough Councillors

Marc Connor	
Cllr.Marc.Connor@basingstoke.gov.uk	01256 389093
Julian Jones	
Cllr.Julian.Jones@basingstoke.gov.uk	07946 475700
Alex Rowley	
Cllr.Alex.Rowley@basingstoke.gov.uk	01256 592443 07445 093986

County Councillor

Juliet Henderson - juliet.henderson@hants.gov.uk 862413

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The Cricket Club	Peter Houseman Field
Andover Road Village Hall	St. Leonard's Centre

Doctors' Surgery	0333 034 1033
Out of hours	111

Churches

Church of England

St Leonard's (Oakley)
St Lawrence (Wootton)
All Saints (Deane)
Website: www.stleonards-church.co.uk
Church Office: St Leonard's Centre
Rectory Road, Oakley
Tel 782724 09:00 - 13:00 weekdays
Rev'd Ben Kautzer 01256 420903
Contact for Deane - Deidre Cole 781495

Methodist

Chapel by the pond
Hill Road
Website: www.bhbccircuit.org.uk/churches/oakley.html
Rev'd Claire Simpson
revclaire73@btinternet.com
01256 323103

Roman Catholic

St Joseph's and
St Bedes
Website: www.stjosephsbasingstoke.org.uk
171a St Michael's Road Basingstoke,
RG22 6TY
Fr Paul Leonard

Community Church

Website: www.lifespringcommunitychurch.org
Or www.hopebasingstoke.org
St Luke's Hall Overton
Or Sarum Hill Centre, Basingstoke
Contact John and Wendy Thurston
780135

Village Shops

Annie's Oakley - Meon Road	
Cakes by Maze - Rectory Road	07349 888237
Coop - Oakley Lane	780857
Craft Kits N Bits - 4 Rowan Tree Road	020 3488 5499
Hair Beauty - Meon Road	780745
Honeysuckle Interiors - Meon Road	780831
Lara's Beauty Workshop - Meon Road	07726 207203
One Stop - Oakley Lane/ The Vale	780227
Geoff Aubrey & Sons Butcher - The Vale	373297
Jolly Olly's - Oakley Lane	782658
The Village Pharmacy - The Vale	782381

Oakley Scout Group

Contact TBD
oakley@bwds.org.uk

Oakley Girlguiding

Contact - Caroline Lloyd
c45lloyd@outlook.com

Village Halls

East Oakley Village Hall ("The 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 Leonard's Centre - Rectory Road	Contact: Church Office 782724

NOTE: If you wish to add an item or amend any entries, please send an email to:
john@oakleylink.org.uk Last amended 11th June 2026

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