

ROOKSDOWN REPORTER

Issue 3

Autumn 2009



Brought to you by
Rooksdown
Parish Council

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the third edition of the
Rooksdown Reporter

Do you have any issues or stories you would like to be covered in the next Rooksdown Reporter? If so, please get in touch:
Contact us on if you would like to help, or advertise in the next issue
Email: editor@rooksdwn.org.uk

As well as the Rooksdown Reporter, there are a number of ways to find out what is happening in Rooksdown:

- There are regular Rooksdown News Articles in the Gazette done by Genni Dady.
- There is also a website : www.rooksdwn.org.uk

There are noticeboards around Rooksdown,

- Situated by the telephone box Gillies Drive,
- The side of the Community Hut next to Mill Road Park,
- Park Prewett Road next to the Medical Centre
- Mill Road pathway

NEXT ISSUE : Christmas 2009

Note from the Editor

We have asked for more information regarding the Community Centre and the building timescale, but were informed by the council that they don't have any further information at this time to share with the residents of Rooksdown.

I have also spoken to the Homes and Communities Agency and the builders; both were invited to comment on some of the issues the residents have, we have not received their response at time of going to print.

We have been informed that they are working to fix the lighting situation and that hopefully all will be on before the dark nights draw in.

DISCLAIMER

The views expressed in the Rooksdown Reporter are not necessarily those of the group. We do not accept liability nor warrant any product or service advertised in the Rooksdown Reporter.

ROOKSDOWNS YOUNG CHILDREN

Sue Lussenden

The summer is passing by quickly once again with a very mixed bag of weather, but the various Playschemes arranged have been well attended and not been affected by the weather too much thankfully. Not many families turned up for storytime on the green but those that did enjoyed the teddy bear stories and colouring in very much.

The Honeycomb children's centre is beginning to see a few more people from Rooksdown, and they will be holding a baby session from 8 September on Tuesdays from 10 to 11 to meet other local mums. They are also starting a much needed baby weighing and health visitor session again from 8 Sept on Tuesdays from 11 to 12. Whilst the centre is not on our doorstep remember it is aimed at Rooksdown, Winklebury and Buckskin families.

Some great news for those with children 0 – 5. A local mum has helped to organise Rooksdown's first toddler group. This will be held at the Sycamore Centre in Winklebury (5 mins over the new bridge) on Monday and Wednesday mornings at 10am and there will be a 'walking bus' leaving from Peggs way between 9.45 and 10am. This group can only be successful if people come along so please bring your little ones if you can and have a chance to meet some new neighbours with children.

Lastly, don't forget that children who turn 4 between 1 Sep 2009 and 31 Aug 2010 will need to apply for a school place by November 2009. Application forms can be collected from your chosen school or completed on line from September. Catchment infant schools for Rooksdown are Winklebury Infant and Castle Hill Infant Schools. For more information please contact the schools.

Castle Hill Junior School
Winklebury Junior School

Tel: 01256 473777
Tel: 01256 323244

Need a present for a baby or small child? Save a trip to the shops, I am your local stockist of Usborne childrens books and Sophie la giraffe gifts for babies. You can also earn free books by holding your own party in your home! Call sue on 01256 354445 or email: info@sckids.co.uk.

COUNCILLORS PAGE

Cllr Karen Cherrett

It has been a busy first half of 2009 for Rooksdown. The increasingly strong links between the Parish Council, Community Association and both County and Borough councillors really show that taking a collective approach to identifying and resolving problems is the best way forward. In the past six months alone we have managed to:

- Complete the outstanding highways adoptions of Balsan Close, English Wood, Highpath Way, Trenchmead Gardens and get the street lighting repaired
- Put the brakes on the development of Manydown as well as defeat the plans for intensive housing development at the Aldermaston Triangle. These areas are still earmarked for development and together we must ensure Rooksdown residents have a say in what happens to the land
- Get the unsightly flags at Rooksdown Avenue removed – we are still pursuing the enforcement notice on the remaining signage which is a potential hazard for pedestrians and road users.
- Get new permanent bus stops in Rooksdown which are better signed and increasingly used. I am still keen to get paving around the bus stops especially where the bus stops onto a grass verge.
- Ensure the overhanging trees behind Nightingale Gardens and Barron Place have been cut back and made safe.
- Introduce our local street sweeper and litter picker as well as get more bins across the adopted areas of Rooksdown
- Install traffic management bollards in Mill Road in an attempt to prevent dangerous parking on this corner
- Get developers to agree to fit traffic calming in Crondall Terrace and Moth's Grace (expected to be installed later this summer)
- Influence developers to bring forward plans to install street lighting columns in the occupied sections of Limes Park (with the aim of having areas lit before the end of British Summer Time)
- Held two public consultations on the design and development of the new community facility for Rooksdown – we hope to see the planning application progress this autumn and start building next year

COUNCILLORS PAGE

Cllr Karen Cherrett

I know for many of you it will still not seem that enough is happening or it is not happening quickly enough. As a resident I share your frustrations and rest assured that all of your local councillors and community representatives are regularly working to influence and cajole the land owners of Limes Park to do more to complete the development and improve the roads, paving and lighting whilst building continues. There has been a change of personnel within the government agency which acts as landowner for the Rooksdowm estate and we are seeing early signs that our frustration and impatience to complete the development is recognised and understood. Whilst I don't expect miracles, especially in the current economic climate, we are at least talking and trying to agree a way forward across all of the agencies involved.

To have your say or get involved in helping our community develop, please contact any of the councillors or community association representatives (details on the back page) or of course let me know how I can be of help.

ROOKSDOWN PETITION

It is clear that when Rooksdowm speaks with one voice we can raise the profile of the area and influence others to consider delivering on their promises. The radio and television coverage in the autumn and spring helped to focus on the adoption of roads and provision of street lighting long after letter writing, endless meetings and pleas for attention failed.

We are now seeing signs of progress but want to keep Rooksdowm in the spotlight so that the completion of this community remains a priority for the developers and their paymasters. The Parish Council and Community Association have a petition underway which we wish to present to the Homes and Communities Agency this autumn.

If you are interested in signing the petition or collecting signatures for your street please contact Jayne email: Jayne.grey@virgin.net phone 01256 811016 for details.

ROOKSDOWN PARISH COUNCIL

Charles Miller—Chairman

Rooksdown Parish Council meets on the fourth Monday of every month (except August and December) in the main hall at Saxonwood School, and all residents are welcome to attend.

Each meeting includes a public participation section during which residents are invited to raise any matters of concern to them.

Dates of forthcoming meetings will be found on the council's website, www.rooksdow.org.uk, along with minutes of past meetings.

The parish council has recently purchased two seats for the use of residents making use of the open space in the parish. They will be placed on the green by the Mill Road roundabout as soon as we obtain the necessary permissions for their installation. The parish council intends to purchase more seats in the future for other areas of the estate including a possible site on Peggs Way near the clock tower building;

if you would like to suggest a location where you feel a seat would be useful, please contact the parish clerk (see contact details page).

One of the significant issues affecting all areas of Rooksdown is parking. The parish council comments on the parking provision in plans for new development where it is considered inadequate but, unfortunately, there are pressures leading to a reduction in parking spaces and this will remain a problem. Residents are asked to park considerately and not to park too close to the junctions or park on corners and particularly not to obstruct pavements; sufficient space should always be left for access by people in wheelchairs and parents with prams or pushchairs.

MESSAGE FROM THE AMBULANCE SERVICE

We all carry our mobile phones with names and numbers stored in its memory. If we were to be involved in an accident or were taken ill, the people attending us would have our mobile phone but wouldn't know who to call. All you need to do is store the names of a contact person or persons under the name ICE, or even ICE1, ICE2 etc.

ROOKSDOWN BEAT PC 2521 Ian Hoile

Since the last article that I wrote for the Reporter things have changed a lot in Rooksdown. Despite the increase in residents the Crime Rate remains low. Despite this low Crime Rate we should continue to be vigilant and security conscious. There are numerous incidents of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) being reported all over Rooksdown. This can range from noise complaints, children playing in the street to minor damage. I would like to ask all parents of children to be mindful of ASB. Please make sure that you know where your children are, who they are with and most importantly what they are doing at all times. Often I speak to parents who have no idea what their children are getting up to.

Arson

Ironically on the day that I wrote this article there were a series of Arson Incidents in the Park Prewett Road and Pumphouse Way areas of Rooksdown. One of the incidents involved a wheelie bin being set alight and a piece of burning paper being put through a property's letterbox. Fortunately no one was injured in any of these incidents but the consequences could have been fatal. Hampshire Fire & Rescue and Hampshire Police are investigating these crimes and patrols are being increased. In order to prevent these kind of incidents please note the following advice.

- Please put your wheelie bins away where they cannot be tampered with. Besides being an arson target the bins are often used by Burglars to assist them climbing over fences or to gain access to flat roofs.
- Ensure that Flammable materials are stored in garages/sheds and that they are securely locked away. Try not to leave these materials outside for any longer than is necessary. These materials could include solvents, white spirit, petrol cans, BBQ fuel etc.

At this stage there are no descriptions of the offender(s) but I would ask you all to be extra vigilant and to report any suspicious incidents or behaviour to the Police immediately.

If you have any information regarding the incidents then please contact Hampshire Constabulary on 0845 0454545 or you can call Crime Stoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

ROOKSDOWN BEAT PC 2521 Ian Hoile

Beat Surgeries

I have been holding Beat Surgeries on a monthly basis since June. The dates and venues are advertised on the Hampshire Constabulary and Rooksdown Parish Council websites and posters are displayed on the Parish Council Notice Boards and in the Rooksdown Surgery. Despite being advertised they have not been well attended. Some people have said that they are somewhat old fashioned. I welcome your views on this issue so please feel free to contact me and let me know.

Finally I would also like to take this opportunity to introduce Tarren Porter who started as the PCSO for both Rooksdown and Winklebury at the beginning of August. Tarren worked as a PCSO in Hook prior to coming to Rooksdown and is very familiar with Neighbourhood Policing. He is looking forward to meeting as many residents as possible and to the new challenge of working in both Rooksdown and Winklebury. He can be contacted on 0845 0454545 or tarren.porter@hampshire.pnn.police.uk

PC 2521 Ian Hoile
0845 0454545
Ian.hoile@hampshire.pnn.police.uk

Rooksdown Police Surgery at SaxonWood School Car Park ,
13 Sept 2.30pm & 11 October at 2.30pm & 15 November at 10am &
6 December 2.30pm

Neighbourhood Watch

Several Neighbourhood Watch Schemes have been set up in Rooksdown and it is hoped that more schemes will follow . If you wish to join a scheme or set one up then please contact Paul Green on 0845 0454545 or email via the link below: www.hampshire.police.uk

**It is important that we all work together, and if you do notice anything suspicious please report it immediately by ringing 999.
For non-emergency calls, you can call 101 which puts you through to the Police control room.**

PLEASE DON'T LEAVE IT TO SOMEONE ELSE TO CALL.

COMMUNITY WARDENS

Sarah Ratcliff

As you may be aware, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council has now completed the Community Safety and Development Review. At the full council meeting on 16 July, Councillors agreed to the proposal to move from the current Community Warden service to a shared patrolling service with Hampshire County Council's ACSOs, and the creation of a new team of community development outreach workers.

One necessity in life is the ability to adapt to and make the most of change and we are certainly looking forward to the challenge of new roles and potentially working in new areas.

Community Wardens have really enjoyed working in Rooksdown. We have found it has been extremely rewarding and we have worked with some wonderful people. We'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has contributed to the Rooksdown community over the years and has helped to make it the great place it is. We will miss you all.

The new service will start in January 2010, but watch this space for news about that over the coming months.

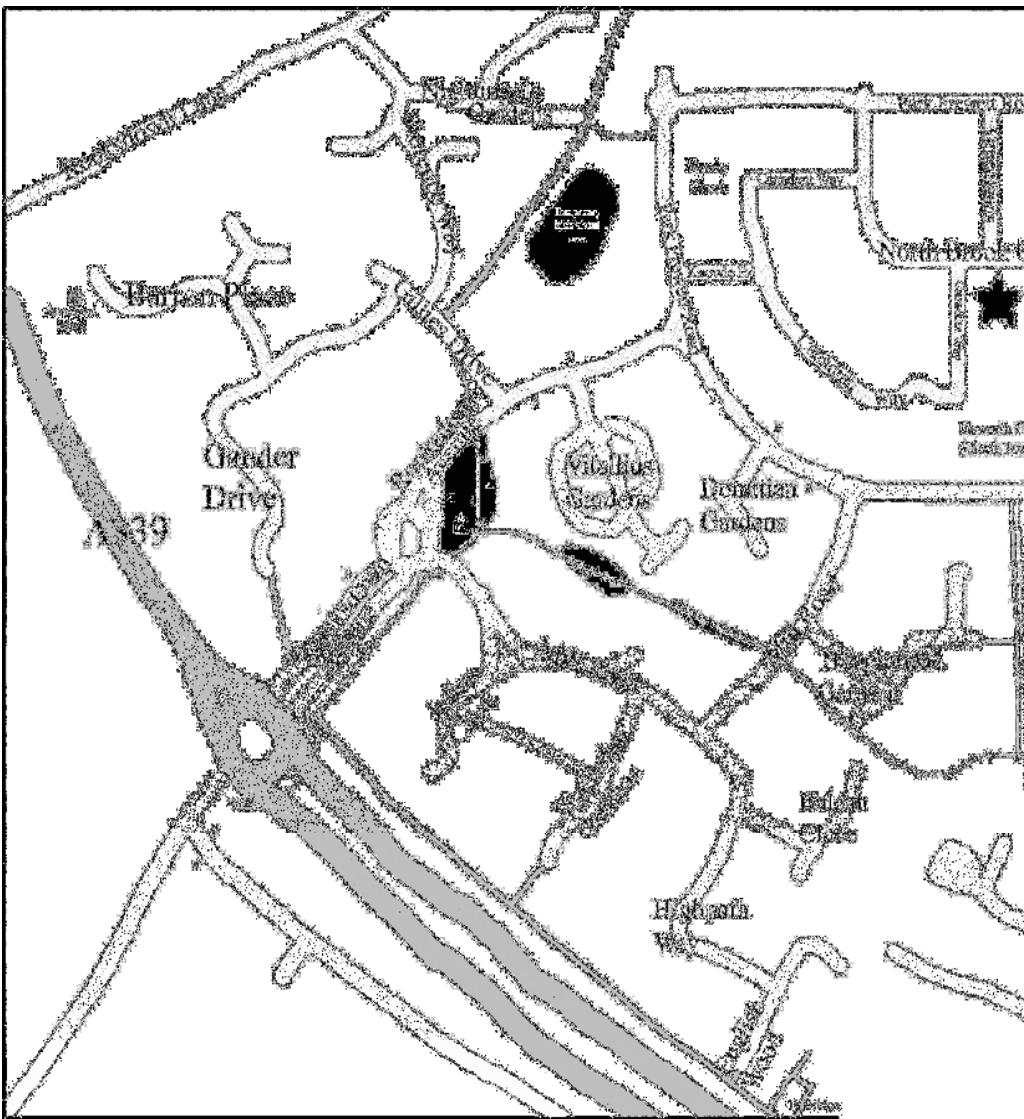
In the meantime, if you have concerns about anti-social behaviour call 101, Hampshire Constabulary's non emergency number or the council's community safety team on 01256 844844.

In an emergency always call 999.

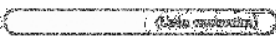
Best wishes

Sarah Ratcliff
Community Warden for Rooksdown

***We would like to thank the Community Wardens for all of their hardwork , for attending all of the Rooksdown Events and offering their experience and also their help with the Summer Playschemes especially the ones in the rain last year. You will be missed .
From the Community Association & Parish Council of Rooksdown***



A339 Newbury to Basingstoke



Local Roads



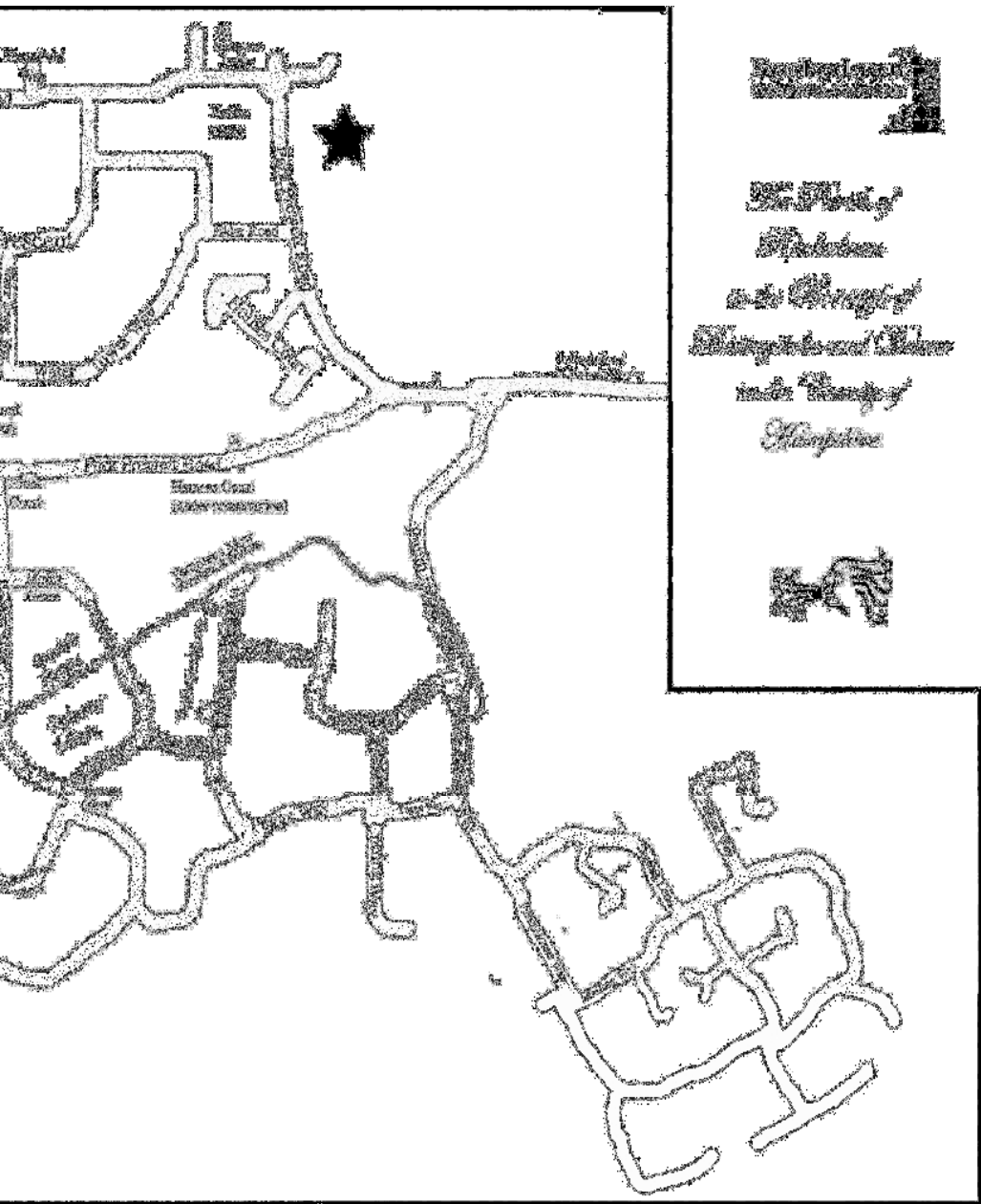
Main Footpaths / Cycleways



Site of proposed community centre



Site of Wesser Christian Fellowship church



B - Bus stop offering an infrequent service to/from Basingstoke

B - Bus stop offering a frequent service to/from Basingstoke
(includes the weekly system)

ROOKSDOWN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Chairman—Debbie Adlam

The Rooksdown Community Association was set up to bring the community together by organising events for residents to get involved with.

2009 has been another successful year for the Rooksdown Community Association. Still without a building we managed the usual outdoor events of the Woodland Walk and the Summer Fayre.

The Summer Fayre was attended by the Mayor and was also supported by other agencies such as Headway House, the Children's Centre, Winklebury Scouts and Den with his Fire Engine. The weather was good this year and we had our best turn out of residents yet.

Mill Road Green and the football area have also been used for events for the children. Wessex Christian Fellowship Church and Basingstoke Play Limited have put on weekly play sessions and Diana Barnes from the Library did a story time for the younger children, while the Community Wardens and Fort Hill School set up football sessions over the summer holidays.

We feel the main focus this year should be on encouraging more people to become involved in the community group. We hope that residents will feel that with the appointment of an architect and the consultations that we are finally moving closer to having our own community centre. This we hope will not only be an area to hold events but will become the heart of the community and will bring with it a greater community spirit throughout Rooksdown.

I would like to thank the group of faithful trustees who regularly support the Rooksdown Community Association. If you would like to know more about the group or future activities please contact us or attend one of our meetings.

Rooksdown Community Centre

The next Community Association Meeting is on Sept 8 at 7.30pm at SaxonWood School. Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council will be there with the revised plans for the Community Centre for you to view.

FIRE BRIGADE

Officer Ryan Thurman

Electric Blankets.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Each year 20 people are killed and over 250 injured in blanket fires.
- Faulty blankets cause more than 1,000 house fires a year.
- Research has shown that electric blankets ten years old (or older) still in use in homes in Britain are responsible for 99% of the fires caused by electric blankets.

YOU SHOULD CHECK OR REPLACE THE BLANKET IF:

- It displays the old BEAB* safety mark - a round symbol. The new sign is white capital letters on a black background).
- The fabric is worn or frayed.
- Remember, older blankets are much more likely to have one or more of these faults.
- There are scorch marks anywhere.
- The tie tapes (where originally fitted) are damaged or missing.
- The flex is worn or damaged.
- Any connections are loose.
- You are in any doubt.

BEFORE USING THE BLANKET:

- Always read and follow the instructions carefully.
- Older under-blankets, designed only for pre-heating, must be switched off and disconnected before getting into bed.
- Never use an under-blanket as an over-blanket.
- Make sure the under-blanket is kept flat. Tie it to the mattress where appropriate.
- Never use the blanket if it is wet or creased.
- Never switch it on to dry it out

The next electric blanket testing day at Basingstoke Fire Station is on Tuesday 20th October 2009.

**To book an appointment call 01962 833 358 or email:
electric.blankets@hants.gov.uk**

ROOKSDOWN ADVERTISING

INDOOR BOWLS

Try it!
You'll like it!
Come and meet us at our

Open Day
19 & 20 September
10am—1pm

It's friendly, it's fun
Open 7 days a week from 10am to
10pm. So the weather doesn't
matter and there's a time and place
for you – whatever you do in the rest
of your life.

So why not give it a try. Coaching is
free and bowls are supplied. Lots to
gain, nothing to lose.

Call us and we'll give you all the
information and help you need.

Loddon Vale Indoor Bowls,

Leisure Park
Churchill Way West, Basingstoke
RG22 6PG
Tel: 01256 356507
www.loddonvaleibc.co.uk
Email info@loddonvaleibc.co.uk

ROOKSDOWN'S MILKMAN

Dairy Crest will deliver your milk,
juice, potatoes, eggs and even
your Basingstoke Gazette. Why
not give them a call on
01256 321329

**For info on NHS Dentists in this
area phone
NHS Direct 0845 4647**

MH AUTOS

Unit 11 Vickers Business Centre
Priestly Road
Rooksdown
Servicing, MOTs and Pre MOT
Free collection & delivery
For a friendly and professional
service call
Mark 01256 467707 or
07879 638650

GREENWAYS NEWSAGENTS

We deliver newspapers direct to your
home. We deliver 7 days of the week.
Why not have that extra time cuddled
up in bed and let us do the running
around for you.

Winklebury Centre, Basingstoke,
Tel: 01256 328840
and ask for Barry or Jackie

RADIO BASINGSTOKE

Listen live 24 hours a day to your
local internet radio station.
www.radiobasingstoke.co.uk

We are looking for new presenters
and also for a reliable person to help
for a few hours a week with
programme scheduling etc.
No experience necessary, training
will be given

Tel Astrid:01256 810764

Email:

astrid@radiobasingstoke.co.uk or
lee@radiobasingstoke.co.uk

ROOKSDOWN ADVERTISING

ROOKSDOWN MEDICAL CENTRE

Park Prewett Road
Rooksdown
Basingstoke, RG24 9RG

DOCTORS SURGERY

Tel:01256 399710

OPENING HOURS:

Mondays 7.30am until 7.30pm
Tuesday to Fridays 8.00 until 6pm

ROOKSDOWN PHARMACY

Tel: 01256 320303

OPENING HOURS:

Mondays 7.30am until 7.30pm
Tuesday to Fridays 8.00 until 6pm
Saturdays 9.00am until 12.00

Rooksdown Pharmacy is a family run business, a husband and wife team that provide a friendly, efficient service to the local community with a personal touch.

Some of the services provided are:

- Blood Pressure screening
- Diabetes screening
- Cholesterol screening
- Stop Smoking Clinic

BASINGSTOKE PLAY LTD

Basingstoke Play Ltd (The Play Council) offer after school and holiday care for school age children

For more information ring:
01256 844847

BEAVERS,CUBS & SCOUTS

4th Basingstoke—Winklebury
At the Sycamore Centre
(open to girls and boys)

Beavers Tuesdays 6-7.15pm
Age 6 to 8yrs
Martin Potts 07948 730192

Cubs Wednesdays 6.30-8pm
Age 8 to 10 1/2 years
Ian Aherne 07867 988777

Scouts Tuesdays 7.30-9.30pm
Age 10 1/2 to 14 years
Julie Gray 07833 926231
Sam Martin 07763 675637

LMC CHILDMINDING

Fully trained childminder, with 8 years teaching experience, located in Rooksdown.

Places available 0-5years.

Flexible Hours to suit

Tel Lisa: 01256840701

or 07989 355142

Email:lmccchildminding@yahoo.co.uk

WEIGHTWATCHERS

Come along to WeightWatchers the only thing you have to lose is weight

Thurs 7pm Everest College, Popley

Tel Sallie: 07730 369279

www.weightwatchers.co.uk

ROOKSDOWN PARKING ISSUES

Cllr Karen Cherrett

Our roads in Rooksdowm were designed according to central government. planning guidance which uses narrow streets, blind corners, chicanes and right angled junctions to force traffic to drive slowly.

It doesn't always have the desired effect and is made even worse by the fact that the same planning rules only allow parking provision for, on average, 1.5 cars per household (assuming we will all simply give up the car and use alternative means of travel).

As a result, safe and sensible parking remains a growing issue across Rooksdowm. We cannot change the way the estate is laid out.....but we can work together as a community to park safely and responsibly so that all residents can use the footpaths and roads safely. In the meantime your councillors will work together to find ways to fund improvement of hot spots as well as try to change the way in which central government dictates planning on local communities in the future.

Highway Code Law 243

Do NOT stop or park opposite or within 10 meters (32 Feet) of a junction except in an authorised parking space.

ROOKSDOWN PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS AT 7.30 AT SAXONWOOD SCHOOL

Monday 28 September

Monday 26 October

Monday 23 November

FREE COLLECTIONS OF ELECTRICAL WASTE

For futher information

[Www.weecollect.it](http://www.weecollect.it)

Or Tel: 0871 2000 962

USEFUL ROOKSDOWN CONTACT DETAILS

Parish Council	www.rooksdowndown.org.uk Email: council@rooksdowndown.org.uk or rooksdowndownclerk@thedarleys.co.uk Tel: 01256 356701 Ron, Parish Clerk	
Community Association	www.rooksdowndown.org.uk/community Tel: 0771 7599819	
Borough Councillor	Karen Cherrett Email: cllr.karen.cherrett@basingstoke.gov.uk	
County Councillor	Stephen Reid Email: Stephen.reid@hants.gov.uk Tel: 01256 320860	
Police	Ian Hoile	Tel: 0845 045 4545
Neighbourhood Watch	Paul Green Email: paul.green@basingstoke.gov.uk	
Rooksdowndown Reporter	Editor@rooksdowndown.org.uk	
Graffiti & Fly Tipping	Tel: 01256 844844 (Please also email Parish Council & Karen Cherrett if possible)	
Member of Parliament	Maria Miller	Tel: 02072 195749
Hampshire County Council		Tel: 01962 841841
Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council		Tel: 01256 844844
Trading Standards Rapid Response		Tel: 01962 946232
Bus Enquiries (Basingstoke)		Tel: 01256 464501
North Hampshire Hospital		Tel: 01256 473202
Electricity Emergency		Tel: 0845 770 8090
Gas Emergency		Tel: 0800 111 999
Water Emergency		Tel: 0845 602 1724
Castle Hill Junior School		Tel: 01256 473777
Winklebury Junior School		Tel: 01256 323244
Library Van Information		Tel: 01256 844844
Community Fire Safety Dept		Tel: 02380 626809

WHATS ON

SEPTEMBER

Sunday 13th
2.30 to 4pm
Rooksdown Police Surgery, PC Ian Hoile
Saxonwood School Car Park

Sat 19/20th
10am to 1pm
Loddon Vale Indoor Bowls
Open Day

OCTOBER

Thursday 8th
Book Sale Castle Hill Junior School at 3pm

11th at 2pm
Rooksdown Police Surgery, PC Ian Hoile

Saturday 17th
NCT Nearly New Sale at BCOT at 1.45pm

Saturday 31st
Spooktakular Walk in aid of St
Michael's Hospice contact Pat 01256 848848

NOVEMBER

15th at 10am
Rooksdown Police Surgery, PC Ian Hoile

Thursday 26th
Christmas Fayre with Santa 3pm at
Castle Hill Junior School

DECEMBER

Sunday 6th
Rooksdown Police Surgery, PC Ian Hoile
&
Light up the Hospice
To sponsor a light in aid of St Michael's
Hospice contact Pat 01256 848848

Rooksdown Community Association Meetings 7.30 at

SaxonWood School

Tuesday 8 September

Tuesday 6 October

Tuesday 3 November

Tuesday 1 December

Tuesday 5 January

ROOKSDOWN KIDS ZONE

By Szylwia Parkinson

Why don't you make a funky pumpkin light from a pumpkin for Halloween this year!!!!



STEP 1: SELECT YOUR PERFECT PUMPKIN

STEP 2: CARVE YOUR PUMPKIN. CUT A HOLE IN THE TOP OF YOUR PUMPKIN WITH YOUR KNIFE AND SCOOP THE INSIDES OUT.

STEP 3: KEEP THE TOP OF THE PUMPKIN AND SET IT ASIDE; YOU WON'T USE THIS WHEN THE LIGHT IS ON.

STEP 4: AFTER YOU'VE SCOOPED YOUR PUMPKIN OUT, MAKE TWO EYES AND MOUTH. MAKE IT AS SPOOKY AS POSSIBLE.

STEP 5: PUT A CANDLE IN YOUR SPOOKY PUMPKIN AND LIGHT IT (ASK A GROWN UP TO LIGHT IT FOR YOU).

Enjoy your funky pumpkin!!!!

Always ask for your parents' permission. Never use a knife or matches without adult supervision.