

ROOKSDOWN REPORTER

Issue 7



Winter 2011

**Rooksdown Community Centre
Grand Opening on 11th December 2011**



Delivered by the Rooksdown Community Association

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the seventh edition of the Rooksdown Reporter, I hope you enjoy it. Do you have any issues, stories or advertisements for the next issue of the Rooksdown Reporter? If so, please get in touch you can email me on editor@rooksdowndownline.com

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

Visit the New Rooksdown Community Centre

- Occasional Rooksdown articles in the Gazette.
- There is also a website : www.rooksdowndownline.org.uk and now another one called rooksdowndownline.com
- Rooksdown is even on Facebook.

There are also notice boards around Rooksdown,



Note from the Editor - Jayne Lewis-Grey

First of all I would like to apologise for the lack of Rooksdown Reporters this year, unfortunately I have not had the spare time that has been needed to produce them. I think I have made up for it, with this bumper edition.

As you will see from the front cover of this edition the new Rooksdown Community Centre is going to be opened on Sunday 11th December at 2pm. We have a special guest Father Christmas opening the new Centre for us, and we would love to see you all there at the opening event. Due to the success of Santas Grotto last year there will be a repeat performance at the opening event. (Santa would love some home made Christmas Cards from children in Rooksdown.)

Rooksdown had a successful Summer Fayre this year and we hope to improve on it next year when we will have a hall, toilets and electricity. We are also planning to have a Diamond Jubilee Party on Tuesday 5th June and also an event to celebrate the Olympics. We need help and ideas for all of these events and can be contacted on committee@rooksdowndownline.com

Rookie Rabbit will also be at the opening event and is eager to show everyone his new home.

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.

ROOKSDOWN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Chairperson - Debbie Adlam

Dear Rooksdown Residents

As we move closer to the opening of the Community Centre I would like to say a huge thank you to all member of the Community Association (past and present) for everything they have done for the community. In past years we have seen the visitors at the Summer Fayre go up from about forty people to hundreds.

Christmas 2010 saw queues of people chatting away to residents they had not met before as they waited to see Father Christmas. Who could forget the Royal Wedding, where our children played happily together for the afternoon and chased a big white rabbit? All of these activities happened on fields or in a building that we borrowed for a day. Just imagine what the Community Association will be able to do when we can work from the Community Centre.

We would like to know what you want for your Community. Please call in at the Centre or come along to one of our meetings to have a chat about what you would like for Rooksdown. We look forward to seeing you all at the open day on the 11th of December.

The North Rural Health Visiting Team
are pleased to announce that there will be a

WELL BABY CLINIC - 0 – 4 years

at

Rooksdown Community Centre

This clinic will run on the 3rd Wednesday of each month only.
9.30 – 11.00



Please do not bring unwell babies to the clinic

ROOKSDOWN PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

Charles Miller

After so many years, our community facilities are finally in sight. Work on the Rooksdown Community Centre is well under way, with completion expected for 21st November. I would like to thank the Rooksdown Community Association for all their hard work preparing for this, and wish them every success with the new centre when it opens.

Once the Community Centre is open we plan to hold the Rooksdown Parish Council (RPC) meetings, and the annual Parish Meeting, there.

After several years of work by the Borough and County Councillors, remedial work has at last been done to stop the problems of flooding in Rooksdown Avenue. Having had several heavy rain storms during our "summer", it appears that this work has been successful with the problems massively reduced.

We have had a couple of meetings with the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) concerning the development of the old golf course site and how the Rooksdown Parish Council and local residents can have an input into the planning process, as we have had no input in the current building to date. The mood of the meetings was very positive and we will be having further meetings with the HCA, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council and the builders. We will report on developments and ensure that opportunities for local consultation are provided.

Looking forward (?) to the cold weather to come – the grit bins are in place and we already have some stocks of salt which will be put into the bins when we nearer to the winter. While not every road can be covered, the council's priority is to ensure that those roads most affected are kept clear this winter.

Charles



HAMPSHIRE HEALTHCARE CENTRE at Basingstoke Hospital
Easy access to a NHS nurse, doctor or dentist from 8am to 8pm
7 days a week.

Prebookable and same day treatment available. Appointments are not always necessary.

Tel: 01256 477720 www.hampshirehealthcarecentre.nhs.uk

ROOKSDOWN COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Stephen Reid

The Spinney

Karen Cherrett and I spoke at the Borough Council's Development Control Committee about our reservations regarding the outline planning application for the Spinney. There were two arguments being presented: the desire to see the land left as open space and the quality of the outline plans submitted. I was concerned about the outline plans for three main reasons. They show on-street parking that is probably insufficient. Houses with gardens appear to have no independent access to the rear, which means the wheelie bins have to be stored at the front - I think this is a bad idea in terms of developing an attractive street scene. And the layout seemed all wrong to me with the highest density housing being at the entrances to the site. I am hoping that, if the site is to be developed, the plans will be improved.

The Rooksdown Community Centre

I am delighted to see the Rooksdown Community Centre taking shape after such a long wait. I have been pleased to earmark some of my County Councillor devolved budget to help equip the centre. At the time of writing I have authorised a grant for tables and chairs in the foyer. Good luck to everyone concerned with this important venture - I look forward to seeing it opened.

Traffic Control

Plans are being drawn up for a 'rising bollard' traffic control to stop Rooksdown being used as a rat-run between the A339 and the A340. We are conscious that Rooksdown represents the 'back door' to the hospital for emergency vehicles, so a total barrier would be inappropriate, in case the A340 were to be blocked. I preferred the idea of a 'sump buster' that could be straddled by large vehicles but which would be a barrier for ordinary cars. However, this could cause damage to those cars and a rising bollard, triggered by ambulances, refuse collectors and buses was thought to be the better solution.

Wellington Terrace

I am pleased to report that the crossing of Wellington Terrace near to the bridge has been made safer. The road has been slightly narrowed where people cross, and signs have been improved.

Stephen

Blossom Day Nursery

Blossom Day Nursery will be a new childcare provision and is scheduled to open in January 2012 at the newly constructed Rooksdown Community Centre.

Our commitment is to provide a happy, secure and enabling environment for the growth and development of your child.

Our parent partnership is essential to our overall ethos of our setting, as well as our open door policy. We offer regular parent meetings to discuss the particular needs and the individual development of your child.

Blossom Day Nursery is committed to providing a high quality service in a safe, secure, flexible and stimulating learning environment, supporting the care and development of young children aged from birth to five years.

We promote an atmosphere of security and trust, where children will feel loved, valued, respected and confident. We aim to develop their potential, enabling them to become independent and to develop positive attitudes towards family, community and learning. Children will be treated as individuals and curriculum planning will be responsive to the needs and abilities of each child, recognising their race, gender, culture, disability, class and belief. We offer each child equal access to support, development and learning. Children are able to learn through play and will experience a wide range of activities both indoors and outdoors. Play includes both free play and adult led experiences.

Your child's care, welfare and education are paramount to our dedicated and experienced staff team who will strive to provide your child with a happy and rewarding nursery experience.

Come and meet us at one of our Open Days, (see opposite page) we will also be at the Rooksdown Community Centre Grand Opening on Sunday 11 December.

Tay & Mel



Opening January 2010 Blossom Day Nursery IN ROOKSDOWN COMMUNITY CENTRE

CHILDREN FROM AGES 3 MONTHS TO 5 YEARS

OPEN MONDAY TO FRIDAY 7.30am – 6.00pm

51 WEEKS OF THE YEAR

Web: www.blossomdaynursery.com

Tel: Tay – 07739 329518

MeI – 07876 751662



OPEN DAYS

- **Saturday 26th November in the Taylor Wimpy Sales Office, Peggs Way.**
- **Monday 12th December Stay and Play Sessions available during the day and the evenings**
- **Saturday 17th December 10am-2pm**
- **For more information and appointments please email: nursery@blossomdaynursery.com**

**We will also be at the Grand Opening of the
Rooksdown Community Centre on Sunday 11th December**

POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICER PCSO Keith Patchings

Firstly may I introduce myself, I am Keith Patching and I am employed as the Police Community Support Officer for Rookdown.

I started my role with Hampshire Constabulary in Feb 2007 and was stationed at Hook, before moving to Chineham in Feb 2009 after which I took up the post for Winklebury and Rooksdown in July this year. I work alongside PC Hoile and one of the core function of my role is to deal with anti-social behaviour and low level crimes to assist in freeing up Police Officers to deal with investigations and arresting criminals.

I patrol Rooksdown on cycle which allows me to cover all of the beat area quickly and quietly when needed. Since I arrived in Rooksdown I have been getting to know some of the residents and chatting about some of the concerns that the community have. I work closely with Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council and other organisations to address some of these concerns.

Since I have been here I have already worked to address concerns about the lack of youth provisions in the area. The Community Centre is well under way and a youth club is planned. This will be a welcomed facility for the community and I am looking forward to popping along to chat with the kids and to see what issues they have. I know a few residents have raised concerns about kids playing in the road with scooters, so I have been talking to the kids to remind them of the dangers of playing in or near to the road. I must say I have been impressed with how well they children have taken this message and I hope that they remember this advice especially now the nights are getting darker.

My role also allows me to visit victims of crime to ensure that they are aware of how their investigation is progressing, and giving crime prevention advice and putting people in touch with other organisations and groups who may be able to offer assistance or support.

I am more than happy for you to stop me in the street to talk to me or contact me via email

keith.patching@hampshire.pnn.police.uk

or leave a message for me by calling 0845 045 4545.

Keith



Rooksdown Youth Group Ages 11-18 years

The Rooksdown Community Centre is due to open soon, and within it will be a youth wing.

This will hold a Youth Group that will run on each Monday, Wednesday and Friday. It will be open to 11-18 year olds. The times from 19:00- 21:00 will be aimed at 11-15 year olds and 20:00-22:00 will be for 14-18 year olds.

There will be a small charge of 50p for attendance, but this will include free squash throughout the evening, as well as a piece of fruit for each young person. The use of all the equipment within the youth wing is also included.

During September , members of the Youth Team, which is made up mostly of volunteers, walked around Rooksdown , talking to the young people. The aim of these chats is for the team to get to know some of the young people in the area, and to find out what they'd like to see from the youth group, for example what equipment and games should be made available, and what other activities should be provided. Suggestions include music & sports evenings, careers advice sessions etc.

The Youth Group will be a drop in, where young people are free to come and go as they please. There will be a signing in and out sheet, so that the team know who is in the building in case of incident. An emergency contact form will also be needed for each young person; however there is no need for this form to be signed by a parent or guardian. Alongside this, each young person will be asked to sign a code of conduct agreement which will set out what is expected from both the young people and the youth team.

The Youth Team always welcome volunteers who would like to help at the events and activities. Volunteers need to be 18-years-old or over, and pass a CRB check, volunteers can offer to help as often as they please. For more information on volunteering, please contact the youth team via the following

Email address: yc@rooksdowndownline.com

Richard



WESSEX CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Pastor Bob Smith

Despite many problems and issues Wessex Christian Fellowship are working on moving into Park Hall. We are still in negotiations with Wimpey and it now looks very possible that we will occupy part of Park Hall and still be able to deliver community activity working alongside the Rooksdown Community Association. One of the main problems has been to raise the massive funds to completely transform Park Hall and the land that surrounds it. The value of land has dropped significantly over the past few years so the value of the existing church site has halved giving us less capital to develop Park Hall. So, by working with Wimpey, we can fund the project more easily and still deliver the required church based community activity. It has been a long road with many bends, I now hope we can see the end of our journey!



Bob

ROOKSDOWN NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Co-ordinator: Helen Ricketts

What is Neighbourhood Watch? Well in Rooksdown it is an initiative supported by Hampshire constabulary, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council and partners of the local Community Safety Forum. It aims to:

- Reduce crime and anti-social behaviour
- Reduce the opportunities for crime
- Help and reassure those who live in fear of crime
- Encourage neighbourliness and closer communities

Schemes can consist of regular meetings or may exist simply as email bulletins when there is information to share. The format will vary depending on your co-ordinator and where you live. Ideally co-ordinators will be updated by the police or local council but this usually only happens when there is something really serious to report. Some schemes also have signs indicating that the road is a Neighbourhood Watch area and some residents display a window sticker.

ROOKSDOWN NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Co-ordinator: Helen Ricketts

I as the Rooksdown Co-ordinator I also try and share more general information by email with all the co-ordinators in Rooksdown.

I'm pleased to say that several Rooksdown Neighbourhood Watch schemes are alive and kicking. Schemes exist in (there may even be more that I am not aware of): Highpath Way (1-43), English Wood, Canadian Way, Barron Place, Basswood Drive, Holies Court, Julius Close, Mill Road, Nightingale Gardens, Trenchmead Gardens & Vespasian Gardens.

There are a number of ways to participate:

- Join the scheme in your road,
- Look at the Rooksdown Neighbourhood Watch Page on Facebook,
- Set up a new scheme for your road.

Please let me know if you would like further information, have any ideas on how to improve Neighbourhood Watch locally or simply if you want to be added to my Rooksdown Distribution list. I'm happy to add anyone to my email list particularly if you don't have access to Facebook or don't have your own street scheme and your email addresses will always be hidden and never displayed.

The message that I had when I met with our new PCSO last week was that there are fewer break-ins that involve breaking into doors or windows. The popular crime at the moment is fishing through letterboxes for house or car keys or opening the front door with a coat hanger or similar through the front door. The owners only discover the crime the next day when the car or their wallet is missing.

Two messages from this - are do not leave any keys within reach of your front door and make sure that your front door is secured and cannot be opened through the letterbox.

Best Neighbourly Regards

Helen

Rooksdown Area Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator

Email: rooksdowneighbourhoodwatch@hotmail.co.uk



ROOKSDOWN COMMUNITY CENTRE MANAGER

Simon Bound

As a relatively new resident when I went to my first Parish Council meeting I must confess it was to investigate what was being done about the things that I thought needed to be sorted out (I am sure I am not alone on this one) and then out of sheer nosiness I went to find out what was happening at the Community Association meetings. In what is a relatively short period of time I am glad to say many things have changed for the better, although there is no denying some have progressed faster than others. The most exciting recent change has been the building of the Community Centre.

With the Centre opening just around the corner I don't want to beat about the bush, so I will come directly to point, there are lots of opportunities for you to get involved. So come and join in.

What is the role of a Volunteer, what can YOU do?

- Work on events and activities
- Help plan and implement community projects
- Get involved in the decision making process
- Or make tea and coffee at a coffee morning

How much time will you need to be will to give?

This depends on the type of volunteer activity you would like to get involved in. If you would like to be involved for just a particular activity due to take place you may volunteer just for the length of the event, or sign up for a regular activity like one of the Youth Club sessions.

What will I get in return for being a volunteer?

- Regular social contact
- New Skills
- Opportunities to meet new people
- Career/Job or personal reference for long term volunteers
- Gain experience useful for career development
- Contribute to the community (and find out what is going on)

There are many ways for volunteers to help out at the centre and a lot to gain from the experience of volunteering. Come and talk to other volunteers at the open day, complete the volunteer enquiry form on the website or drop in for a chat with me at the centre.

I look forward to meeting you.

Simon



SOUTHERN BAR SERVICES

ALL SIZES AND TYPES OF OCCASION CATERED FOR

Southern Bar Services is a professional company based near Basingstoke which operates mobile bar services, in the South of England, for all sizes of event from smaller gatherings such as family parties and weddings through to larger organised public events.

Our core area is local although we do also cover events across Hants, Berks, Wilts, Surrey and Sussex.

We have enough equipment and staff to operate many sites on the same day / evening so we have never yet had to disappoint anyone on the grounds of availability.

We are currently the preferred suppliers to a large number of local village halls such as Old Basing, Lychpit, Sherborne, Cliddesden and Sherfield who appreciate our high standards of service for their clients, which helps ensure that all their events are a success.

We offer a good range of products including draught lagers and bitter which we sell to our client's guests at pub prices. We also offer glass hire for weddings (table – glassware) and can accommodate most special requests such as arrival drinks and toasts at competitive rates.

Our staff are friendly and experienced and work quickly to ensure that there are no queues for people wanting to buy a drink.

We are delighted that Rooksdown Community has finally managed to establish its own facility and we look forward to working in partnership with the committee to ensure that all events run smoothly for the benefit of residents.

Tel: 01256 883106 / 07867 547696

E-mail : peter@southern-bar-services.fsbusiness.co.uk

Please Note

The Rooksdown Community Association have decided that rather than holding a licence for Alcohol for the Community Centre at present they would use Southern Bar Services Licence.

Single Event Licences are still able to be used and cost aprox £25.00 from BDBC, so if you want to sell your own alcohol at an event that you are holding then you are still able to. Please let us know and we will help you.

ROOKSDOWN COMMUNITY SAFETY PATROL OFFICER Dan White

Hello...from your **Community Safety Patrol Officer**, Dan White.

I am your new Community Safety Patrol Officer (CSPO) for the Rooksdown area. I have recently taken over from Sarah Ratcliff who has worked in the area for the past year & nine months and I would like to wish her luck in her new patrol area.

My role in Rooksdown Is to work closely with the community and partner agencies, such as the police and housing associations, to identify and tackle local issues, reducing crime, deterring anti-social behaviour and dealing with 'environmental' crimes, to make residents feel safer and happier about their neighbourhood.

I work closely with the police, with daily combined briefing meetings and shared information through innovative use of technology. As a patrolling officer I can use enforcement powers to tackle offences such as graffiti, littering, dog fouling or to confiscate alcohol from underage drinkers.

I hope to see as many of you as possible whilst on patrol around Rooksdown, but if you don't manage to see me, but would like to talk to me about any issues you may have, please contact me on **01256 845 700**
Or by email: safetypatrolservice@basinstoke.gov.uk

Dan



The New Rooksdown Co-op

The new manager of the Rooksdown Community Centre Simon approached the new Co-Op and they promised the following:

"A donation of £500 to the Community Centre (with the proviso that it is used for buying equipment for the youth club) They are also happy to pay for the goals, footballs and bibs. (In other words, an additional £250) They will arrange this as soon as the store opens."

They are also happy to:

- Supply fresh fruit in the Youth Club
- Contribute meat towards any BBQs that we have at community events
- Donate a hamper worth £100 that we can raffle (at least once a year)

ROOKSDOWN SHOPS Karen Cherrett

The co-operative
good with food

Co-op have applied to develop retail premises in Rooksdown

The application for change of opening hours was approved by Development Control on 14th Sept. I anticipated that some residents may have wished to speak at DC to raise their previously expressed concerns but no one attended. I made representation that the shops were much needed and that, whilst I understood resident concerns, I felt the retailer had worked with the council officers to reach what was considered an acceptable compromise.

Times on the planning application were:

07:00 – 19:00 Mon – Sat

09.30-16.00 Sun and public hols

The Management Charge on properties in the Limes Park Area of Rooksdown

Management charge – we were hopeful that the Parish Council would be able to form a management association and take on the role intended by the Homes and Communities Agency when it set in place the collection of monies for the charge (paid by only some residents of Rooksdown).

However after many months of discussions about how best to establish the trust and gain community access to the funds already held by a solicitor in the holding account, it became evident that Taylor Wimpey had in fact already set up a holding company and as such the Parish Council would have to take on the transfer of the existing management company.

In short the terms and conditions of the company and trust had already been set and conferred personal liability on its directors which was not acceptable to the members of the Parish Council who are willing and able but nonetheless volunteers. They could not see their own homes potentially put at risk as directors. The discussions have come to an end and we are now pressing the HCA to seek an alternative way of resolving the issue and passing the benefit of collected funds to the community – or as a last resort repaying it to residents

Karen

ROOKSDOWN COMMUNITY CENTRE VACANCY

Senior Youth Worker

(£9 per hour) 8 – 12 hours per week

Youth Worker

(£7.75 per hour) 8 – 12 hours per week

Rooksdown Community Association is looking for energetic & enthusiastic youth workers to create a new range of activities for young people in the Rooksdown area.

Based in the new Youth Wing at the Community Centre you will work closely with the Centre Development Manager and volunteer youth workers to make the Youth Wing a valuable community facility.

There is future opportunity to increase the number of hours per week by building a sustainable and self-funding provision.

These are three year fixed contract posts.

For an informal discussion, further information and an application pack please

Tel: 0844 330 5231 between 9am – 5pm Monday to Friday or

Email manager@rooksdowndownline.com

Closing date for applications:

Monday 21st November 2011



**This is what we have planned for the Community Centre so far, would you like to start a group or club?
Please call 08844 330 5231 or
email manager@rooksdowonline.com**

Mondays

Nursery
Youth Group 7pm-10pm
Monthly RCA Meetings
Monthly RPC Meetings

Tuesdays

Nursery
Pilates 6pm-7pm
Yoga 7pm-8pm

Wednesdays

Nursery
Health Visitor 9.30am
Community Coffee morning
10am-12
Youth Group 7pm-10pm
Beavers 6pm-7.15

Thursdays

Nursery
Slimming World 6.45pm-9.15pm

Fridays

Nursery
Youth Group 7pm-10pm
Cubs 6.30-8pm

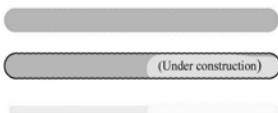
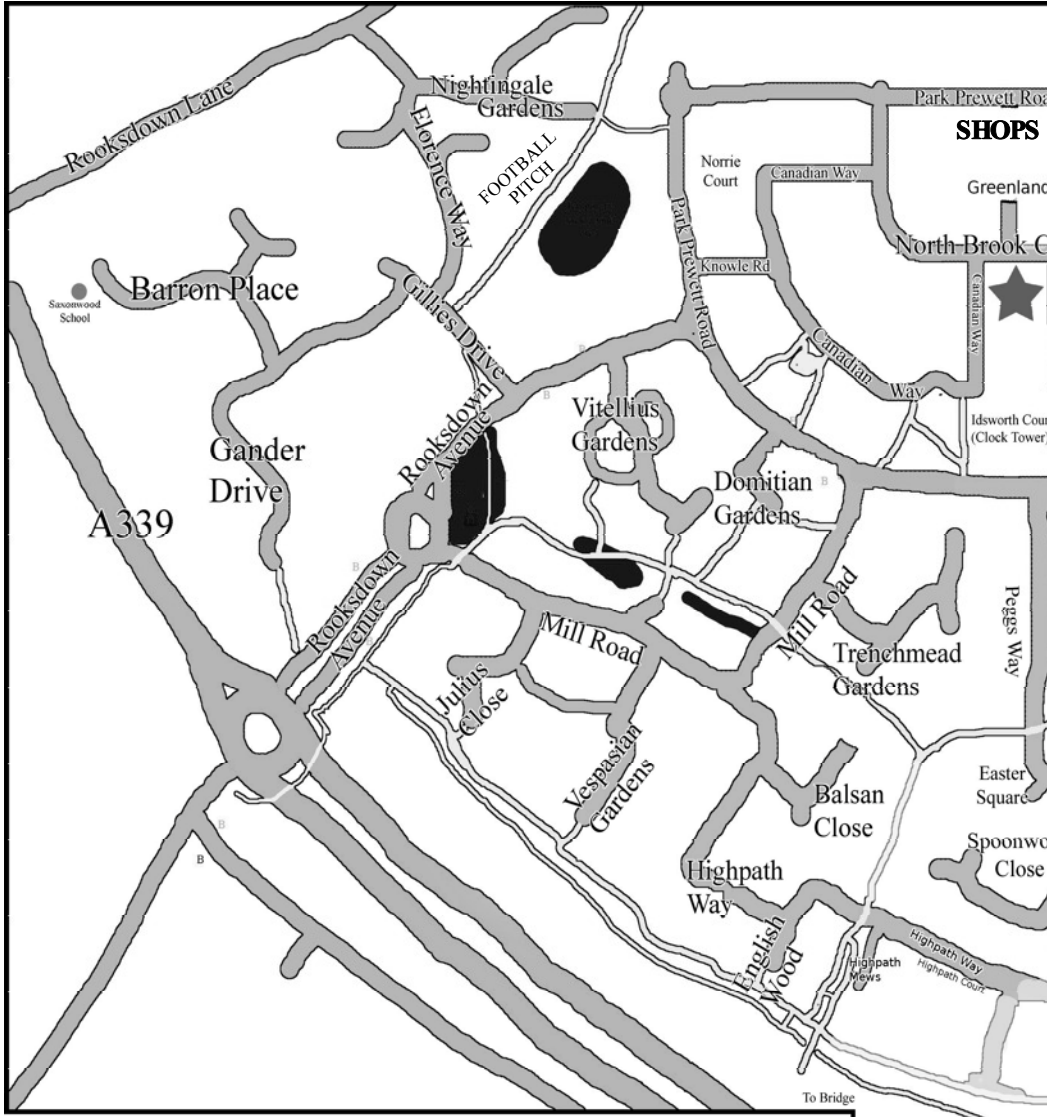
Saturdays

?

Do you have any ideas!

Sundays

Basingstoke Eagles Church 10-12pm
Service for all ages 4pm-5pm



A339 Newbury to Basingstoke
Local Roads
Main Footpaths / Cycleways

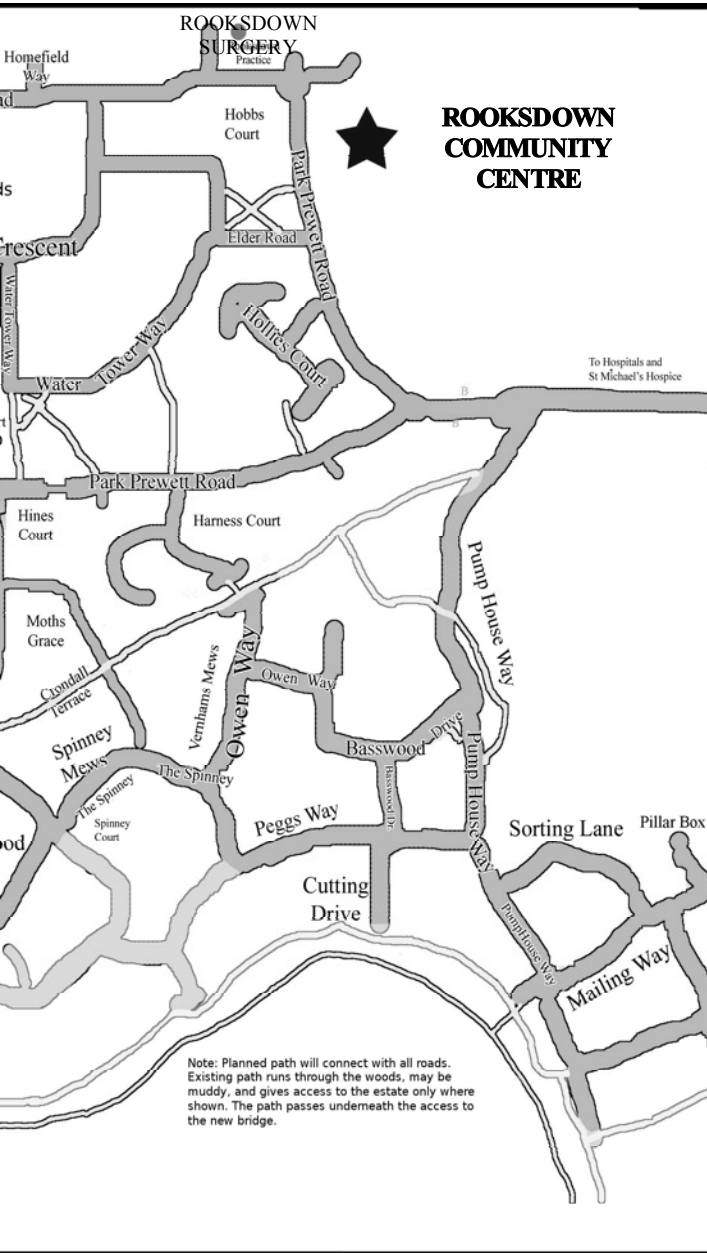


Site of proposed community centre



Site of Wessex Christian Fellowship church

Street Plan
 Rooksdown C



Note: Planned path will connect with all roads. Existing path runs through the woods, may be muddy, and gives access to the estate only where shown. The path passes underneath the access to the new bridge.



**ROOKSDOWN
COMMUNITY
CENTRE**

*The Parish of
Rooksdown
in the Borough of
Basingstoke and Deane
in the County of
Hampshire*



of Rooksdown
Community Association

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

B - Bus stop offering a frequent service to/from Basingstoke
(Monday to Saturday daytimes)

ROOKSDOWN—What is happening now?

The Future of the Main Hall, Park Prewett

The Main Hall is one of the last remaining buildings within the conservation area of the former Park Prewett Hospital site. Since the 'purchase' of the Core Conservation area of the hospital by Taylor Wimpey in 2005, the house builder has been looking for a viable use for the building in partnership with the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA).

Over the last few years the hall has been marketed on the basis that it remained a building exclusively for community use. A local Basingstoke Church had expressed an interest in taking it on as a centre for worship, youth and community work. However, the high cost of refurbishing the building, covered as it is by the conservation status of the area, has proved a stumbling block to taking this forward.

Taylor Wimpey are now carrying out feasibility studies into whether a mixed use for the building could be the solution. Converting the hall to apartments would generate sufficient returns to allow for the retention and refurbishment of part of the building for community uses. Taylor Wimpey welcome comments on this approach – see contact details below. A planning application for a mixed use scheme is not likely to be submitted until the second half of next year.

Please send you comments by e-mail or in writing to:

David Peycke Email: David.Peycke@taylorwimpey.com or
Taylor Wimpey West London, Stratfield House, Station Road, Hook,
RG27 9PQ.



Transfer of the open space and pocket parks on the Core Area

The HCA, Taylor Wimpey and Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (BDBC) are close to agreeing a transfer of the main areas of open space and small 'pocket parks' within the Core Conservation Area. The transfer of the open space and play areas to BDBC is one of the obligations under the planning approval. Taylor Wimpey completed works to the spaces and the Council are eager to take on ownership and management. All the parties hope this transfer can be completed within the next few months.

Demolition of the last 3 derelict NHS Villas next to the new Centre

In early August an application was submitted to Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council for permission to demolish the last three former derelict hospital villas. Recent criminal damage to the properties and a number of arson attacks in June and July prompted action by the Parish and Borough Councils, Taylor Wimpey and HCA to take steps to demolish the properties.

A previous attempt in September 2010 was aborted on finding a small number of bat roosts. Ecological surveys in July this year confirmed that the number of roosts is small and for relatively common (low status) Common Pipistrelle and Brown Long-eared bats. Alternative bat roosts will be provided to offset the loss of the buildings.

It is hoped that BDBC and Natural England will be able to approve the application so that the buildings can be demolished in time for the opening of the Community Centre. However, the clock is ticking as demolition must take place before the colder weather.

FUTURE ROOKSDOWN DEVELOPMENT

An Update on the Park Prewett Northern Area (former hospital golf course)

September sees the achievement of the next major milestone in the growth of the Rooksdown Parish.

This month, the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) will announce an agreement with local developers, David Wilson Homes (DWH), to progress development of the Park Prewett Northern Area. The HCA (formerly English Partnerships and the Housing Corporation), are owners of the Northern Area. This is last major allocated housing site which was part of the Park Prewett psychiatric hospital.

The 20 hectare site (including the Spinney and retained NHS properties) is earmarked for development in the Basingstoke Local Plan.

The HCA marketed the site last year through a competitive selection process using its Delivery Partner Panel – a panel of housebuilders, contractors, housing associations and developer consortia. David Wilson Homes Southern, based in Hungerford were selected as preferred bidder. Since their selection was confirmed in the spring the HCA and DWH have been working to conclude the legal agreement.

Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council have produced a design brief for the site which David Wilson Homes will need to meet. This sets out key principles which must be taken into account in devising a masterplan, such as provision of play areas, affordable housing, relationship with the Spinney etc.

Under the terms of the contract with the HCA, DWH will be required to work very closely with the local authority and Rooksdown Parish Council.

FUTURE ROOKSDOWN DEVELOPMENT

Kevin Bourner CONTINUED

Kevin Bourner, Head of Area for HCA said, "I am pleased to advise the residents of Rooksdown that the HCA has appointed David Wilson Homes to progress the development of the former golf course land. DWH has been selected following a competitive selection process. We recognise the natural beauty of the site and we look forward to working with the residents of Rooksdown, BDBC and DWH to create a high quality sustainable development. "

Consultation on a master plan for the whole site will commence in the autumn this year. Public exhibitions and residents newsletters are planned for the next 8-12 months to stimulate ideas for the site. David Wilson Homes (DWH) hope to be able to submit a planning application for consideration by BDBC next summer.

Paul Crispin, Managing Director of DWH said, "We are very pleased to have been chosen by the HCA as their development partner for Park Prewett Northern Area. David Wilson Homes has an established history of delivering high quality homes in Basingstoke and we look forward to producing a scheme that the local residents of Rooksdown Parish can be proud of. There will be a lot of consultation with local people and groups over the coming months, and it will be great to gain input to the scheme from the people that the development has the greatest impact on."

Kevin

For details on the allocation of the Northern Area site see D3.11 of the Basingstoke and Deane Borough Adopted Local Plan 2006-2011 (www.basingstoke.gov.uk)

Angela Rabess SAC Dip FHC

Foot Health Care Practitioner

Toe Nail cutting, Verrucae, Athlete's Foot,
Fungal Nail treatments and
Ingrown Toenail management

Clinic and domiciliary appointments available

For more details please call:
07939-211003



ROOKSDOWN BEAT POLICEMAN PC Ian Hoile

The new Rooksdown Community Centre is on schedule for opening on Sunday 11th December between 2pm and 4pm and I will be there for this historic event. Please come and talk to me if you have any concerns or questions regarding Policing in Rooksdown or just want to find out more about my role. I am looking forward to being able pop into the Community Centre to meet the various groups and events that will be held there. The construction of the Community Centre has been hindered by thefts and people trespassing on the site but these issues have now been resolved. The derelict villas (old hospital buildings) on the site are due for demolition and will hopefully have gone prior to this edition of the Reporter being published.

- Rooksdown has a low crime rate compared to other areas of Basingstoke but the expansion of housing will statistically increase the chances of crime occurring. As part of the Safer Neighbourhoods Team we will endeavour to reduce crime as much as possible. We are always reliant on the residents to assist us by being vigilant. Please report any suspicious behaviour or activity to the Police. If an incident causes you enough concern to be suspicious of it, then it is worthy of contacting us. Hampshire Constabulary has two non – emergency numbers which are 101 and 0845 0454545. Most calls to the Constabulary are made on these two numbers. In an emergency the 999 number should be used.

Ian

PARKING IN ROOKSDOWN - IF YOU HAVE A PARKING SPACE PLEASE USE IT!



Parking continues to be an issue in all areas of Rooksdown. It has been noticed that there are large vans, cars and lorries now parking on the paths and grass verges on various parts of the estate and blocking other drivers vision. Please park considerately and do not obstruct pavements or access to other properties.

Avoid parking close to junctions which can obscure the sight-lines and increase the risk of accidents between cars coming into and out of side-roads. There are a lot of children and people using pushchairs and disability scooters who are having to walk on the road around badly parked cars.

For all parking issues please contact your local Rooksdown PCSO Keith Patchings or your Community CSPO Dan White.

ROOKSDOWN BOROUGH COUNCILLOR

Karen Cherrett

I have lived at Rooksdowm for 10 years now and represented the area for 4 years as its Basingstoke and Deane Borough Councillor. In this time I have seen the development almost double in size and it continues to grow. There is always a lot to do to ensure that past development promises get delivered but we have an excellent team working for Rooksdowm: the Parish Council, Community Association and both County and Borough Councillors take a collective approach to identifying and resolving problems.

We rely on residents to report issues and tell us what the priorities for action are.....so please tell us using the contact details at the back of the Rooksdowm-Reporter.

I know that there is a lot of frustration about the time it takes to get what seems like simple things done. I share the frustration and know that Rooksdowm should have been completed years ago. Delays with land transfers and adoptions continue to get in the way of progress.

As a team we are working to make this community one that we can all be proud of: We have low levels of crime and nuisance behaviour - let's keep it that way by using Rooksdowm Neighbourhood Watch to share information (using the 101 number to report incidents) even if they seem minor at the time.

We also have a real opportunity when the Community Centre opens to do more as a community. The Centre will provide activities for residents of all ages – and I look forward to seeing you there. If you can help with the community centre, deliveries of newsletters or want to be more involved with your community and councillors please get in touch.

In the past 4 years we have:

- Completed highways adoptions of Balsan Close, English Wood, Highpath Way & Trenchmead Garden. We will use this experience to speed up street adoptions in Limes Park development area of Rooksdowm.
- Resisted development on Manydown as well as defeated plans for housing development at the Aldermaston Triangle and land adjoining the Spinney. These areas are still earmarked for development and together we will ensure Rooksdowm residents have a say in what happens.
- Forced remedial work in Rooksdowm Avenue to make it safer for pedestrians and road users e.g. removed developer flags, reduced signage, got rid of the pooling water and laid new pavements to the bus stops.

ROOKSDOWN BOROUGH COUNCILLOR

Karen Cherrett

- Had overhanging trees in the wooded areas cut back to reduce danger from falling branches and increase light levels
- Introduced our local street sweeper and litter picker as well as get more bins across the adopted areas of Rooksdown
- Installed traffic management bollards at Mill Road and planting in Barrons Place to prevent dangerous parking on corners

Activity for the future includes:

- Getting the Rooksdown Community Centre completed in November and opened in time for Christmas this year.
- Negotiating with Co-op retail to get our local shop to meet community needs without creating too much disruption to those living next door to it.
- Helping residents of Peggs Way and Easter Court in their application to keep additional parking spaces .
- Working with NHS, PCT and the local doctors to find a permanent solution to the temporary Rooksdown surgery buildings.
- Getting permanent solutions for traffic calming in Crondall Terrace and Moth's Grace.
- Finding a solution to the rat running in Park Prewett Road by re-installing the pinch point , rising bollard or bus gate.
- Continuing to press developers to bring forward plans to install street lighting in the occupied sections of the Limes Park Development in Rooksdown. Influencing and where needed, resisting the development of new planning applications to build in and around Rooksdown
- As you may know, Rooksdown's heritage on the site of Park Prewett hospital is something to be proud of. The recent unveiling of the plaque at the Water Tower commemorating the inspirational surgeons that used early plastic surgery here is just one example of long history in a modern development. The council's conservation team believe that creating a balance of old and new is essential in managing the development policy for Rooksdown. However there is one area of the past planning decision that seems to cause local tension – the Pavilions. Whilst the retention of these wooden shelters was intended for use and quiet enjoyment by residents they have to date been little more than a focus for vandalism and nuisance behaviour. A decision needs to be made next year on whether to fight for these structures.

Nicky Young

Consultant with the Pampered Chef

Ingredients

300g croissants (about 6-7 medium), cut into bite size pieces
 1 whole chocolate orange - coarsely chopped
 6 eggs
 550ml single cream
 140g plus 2 tablespoons caster sugar, divided
 3 teaspoons vanilla extract
 Melted plain chocolate (70% cocoa solids), to decorate (optional)

Method

Preheat oven to 180°C/fan 160°C/Gas 4. Lightly spray Pampered Chef Deep Dish Stone Baker (or other ceramic dish) with sunflower oil; set aside. Using a Knife, cut croissants into bite sized cubes; set aside. Coarsely chop chocolate using a Food Chopper; set aside. Whisk together eggs, cream, 140 g of the sugar and vanilla extract in a bowl using Whisk.

Place half of the croissant cubes into prepared baker; scatter with chopped chocolate and top with remaining croissant cubes. Carefully pour egg mixture evenly over croissants, scraping any remaining egg mixture into baker, let stand 10 minutes. Sprinkle top with remaining 2 table-spoons sugar.

Bake 30-35 minutes or until top is deep golden brown and egg mixture is set in centre. Remove from oven; stand 10 minutes before serving. Drizzle with melted chocolate, if desired. Cut into portions and serve. using Mini-Serving Spatula.

Serves 10-12 - Per serving, (serving 12): energy 1176 kJ/280 kcal; Protein 6.4 g; Carbohydrate 27 g; Fat 16.9 g; Saturated Fat 9 g; Fibre 0.6 g; Salt 0.4 g

Cook's Tip: Buttery croissants make this bread pudding-style dessert rich but with a light texture. The top of the pudding is sprinkled with sugar to form a lovely crunchy crust.

Nicky Young
Tel: 01256 429560 / 07941 351045
Nicky_young@ntlworld.com
www.pamperedchef.biz/nickyyoung

LAST Minute News

The Spinney Land:

Although the Spinney now has planning permission for 122 houses with 25% affordable housing. The housing layout and site design still have to be agreed by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council.

Barn Site:

A new planning proposal for mixed housing has just been submitted.

Unconfirmed News - Park Prewett Hall

It seems that an agreement might have been reached between developers and Christian Wessex Fellowship for mixed residential and Community use of the old Park Prewett Hall. Details of the scheme are still to be ironed out, but it is thought that the ground floor would be Church / Community use and the upper floor residential use.

Rooksdown Parish Council Meetings At Rooksdown Community Centre 7.30pm

Monday 28th November (Saxon Wood School) 7.30pm
 Monday 23 January 2012
 Monday 27th February 2012
 Monday 26th March 2012
 Monday 23rd April 2012

Rooksdown Community Association Meetings At Rooksdown Community Centre 7.30

Tuesday 15th November (at Saxon Wood School) 7.30pm
 RCA meetings will now change to a Monday Evening
 Monday 16 January 2012
 Monday 20th February 2012
 Monday 19th February 2012

ROOKSDOWN PARK

Parks and Open Spaces Development Officer

There is a Neighbourhood Play Area planned for the large open space to the east of the Core Area at Rooksdowm. I am still trying to secure transfer of the open space to the Council so that we are able to plan for the improvement of the open space and the play area. I hope to resolve this within the next month. After that we do have some funding already received from developers which is allocated to this project and I suspect that the way forward would be to implement the play area in phases as funding is available.

We will carry out consultations on a proposed design prior to drawing up final plans.

Parks and Open Spaces Development Officer (September 2011)



Beavers 6 – 8 yrs, Cubs 8 – 10 ½ yrs, Scouts 10 ½ - 14 yrs

Scouting offers challenge and adventure to 400,000 young people across the UK.

All this is made possible by the efforts of 100,000 voluntary adult leaders. With award winning training and one-to-one support, we make sure that each one of our volunteers gets to make best use of their skills and talents. It's something different from the norm, and that why a lot of people like it. In fact, it's what's made us the largest co-educational youth Movement in the country.

We need **YOU** to help us (Basingstoke West District Scouts) bring Scouting to Rooksdowm. Without Adult helpers Scouting would not happen. Adult helpers are required to volunteer so that the **NEW** group can open.

Meet us on 11th Dec at the Opening of the Community Centre

or call Peter Bench (District Commissioner) on 01256 474110 ,

Julie Jacobs (Assistant District Commissioner Beavers) on 01264 791683



scouts.org.uk or email dc@basingstokewestscoouts.org.uk, beavers@basingstokewestscoouts.org.uk

ROOKSDOWN, BEAVERS, CUBS & SCOUTS

Julie Jacobs

New Group starting in Rooksdown January 2012

Basingstoke West Scout District is planning on opening a new group in Rooksdown Community Centre in January 2012.

We are keen to recruit new Leaders to help run this Group. No experience necessary, just a care of the community and a chance to experience the Adventure.

Rooksdown Scout Group

Rooksdown Community Centre, Basingstoke, Hampshire.

Contact: Peter Bench (District Commissioner) 01256 474110

Email: dc@basingstokewestscouts.org.uk

www.basingstokewestscouts.org.uk

SAXON WOOD SCHOOL

Barron Place, Rooksdown

Saxon Wood Puds

2lbs £8.00

1lbs £5.00

1/4lbs £2.00



Saxon Wood School are selling their delicious Christmas Puddings again this year. The children have designed the labels but have not been involved with the cooking! They are made in Cumbria by a small firm (The Ultimate Food Company) and have won Gold medals in the Great Taste of Britain Awards.

They will be available for sale from the school office during the hours of 9 — 5 pm and the money raised will go towards buying equipment for our School for physically disabled children.

We do hope you will be able to support us by indulging.

We will have individual puds as well as the usual 1lbs and 2lbs.

VICE-CHAIRMAN ROOKSDOWN PARISH COUNCIL Colin Statham

Moths Grace – staggered railings have been agreed and Taylor Wimpy is to confirm whether design of the “hump” has been issued to HCC (raised at the development meeting). Taylor Wimpy advised that special surface treatment would be done at same time as areas of the Core to be done – imminent.

CO-OP Taylor Wimpy confirmed 9 month build period from grant of planning which was September 2011.

Barn area planning update Previous application withdrawn due to concerns over impact on trees. Taylor Wimpy currently revising the application not sure when this will be submitted.

Update on transfer of open space, pocket parks and the Spinney- Homes & Communities Agency advised that they and Taylor Wimpy had a number of meetings with Margaret McGrath of BDBC during May and June to define the Open Space (village green). HCA seeking to transfer as much open space as possible to avoid residual land ownership on the site which would confuse and frustrate both BDBC and HCA in the future.

RCA queried the condition of the village green / rough ground. They were advised that this was set out to the required condition as defined as ‘rough grass’. Bins and seating also provided to BDBC’s requirements. RPC advised bins not being emptied weekly and overflowing also bins set on fire and 2 now completely unusable. Complaints received by Rooksdown Parish Council and BDBC. Taylor Wimpy to investigate and confirm instructions to landscape contractor that they are to collect from bins weekly until BDBC adopt. Replacement bins would now be provided days before adoption.

Latest position on car parks Cllr. Cherrett had spoken to Planning Officers to request details of suitable (local) planning consultants who could deal with RPC on application. Key issue would be the proposed tree planting which was planned for the Peggs Way site. HCA requested the RPC write to HCA formally to request ownership of the car parks and submit details of the petition etc. TW also to advise on possible planning consultant.

VICE-CHAIRMAN ROOKSDOWN PARISH COUNCIL Colin Statham

Complaints ref. Harness Court development Left over street light will be removed imminently. HCA advised that they had corresponded with a resident on Moths Grace and confirmed that the reduction in hedge height (for the Harness Court scheme) was on Sentinel Housing Association's land, and not something which Taylor Wimpy or HCA could control. It has been confirmed the 'trees' are a beech hedge and Sentinel are supposed to maintain this as a hedge.

Site vehicles access over Peggs Way Taylor Wimpys construction site vehicles have been seen using Peggs Way/ Basswood Drive to access the southern area. This has happened 2-3 times and complaints made by local residents. Taylor Wimpy were surprised that anyone would use this route as less direct than they are expected to use. They advised us that they could not identify vehicles or drivers from vehicle registration plates and would need more details e.g company name on side of the vehicle and a description.

Complaints over opening of the footpath though Trenchmead Gardens Subsequent to the meeting Rooksdown Parish Council undertook a photographic survey providing evidence to HCA and TW have planned a walk about with Persimmon landscape team to sort this out.

The Saga of the Bus Gate/Sump Buster Continues

As most residents are aware we should have a bus gate /sump buster on Park Prewett Road where the pinch point is to stop the rat-running that is intolerable.

As a number of you know this should have been completed a while ago. The summary is that HCC now want installed a rising bollard system similar to what you see in Newbury. These are supposedly more reliable than what they once were but require all vehicles likely to use them to have transponders fitted. The only one HCC have has only been in operation for 9 months. The downsides to this are costs of both installing and arranging to fit the right buses and emergency vehicles with the transponders and the long term reliability. We will have to wait and see what happens next.

Colin

ROOKSDOWN COMMUNITY CENTRE

Room Hire Rates



Main Hall

Standard / For profit / RCA member

Monday – Friday	
08.00 – 18.00	£15 / hr £18 / hr £12 / hr
Sunday - Thursday	
18.00 – 24.00	£15 / hr £18 / hr £12 / hr
Friday – Saturday	
18.00 – 24.00	£25 / hr £30 / hr £20 / hr
Saturday – Sunday	
08.00 – 18.00	£15 / hr £18 / hr £12 / hr

Half Main Hall / YC

Standard / For profit / RCA member

Monday – Friday	
08.00 – 18.00	£10 / hr £12 / hr £8 / hr
Sunday - Thursday	
18.00 – 24.00	£10 / hr £12 / hr £8 / hr
Friday – Saturday	
18.00 – 24.00	£15 / hr £18 / hr £12 / hr
Saturday – Sunday	
08.00 – 18.00	£10 / hr £12 / hr £10 / hr

Meeting Room

Standard / For profit / RCA member

Monday – Sunday	
08.00 – 24.00	£10 / hr £12 / hr £8 / hr

Whole Night Rates

Standard / For profit / RCA member

(from 18.00 – 24.00)

Main Hall Sunday – Thursday	£45 / £54 / £36
Friday – Saturday	£100 / £120 / £80

ROOKSDOWN COMMUNITY CENTRE

How to Hire a room:

Accommodation may be hired by the hour. Charges vary by room, time of day and day of the week.

Any questions about booking and reservations can be made by:

Email: bookings@rooksdowndownonline.com

Telephone: 0844 330 5231

Room Dimensions:

Main Hall – 32ft x 46ft / 10m x 14m

Half Main Hall – 15ft x 32ft / 4.5m x 10m

Meeting Room – 17ft x 12ft / 5.3m x 3.6m

All dimensions are approximate as the rooms are not "square".

Please see our Standard Conditions of Hire for a full explanation of the terms of hire.

ROOKSDOWN COMMUNITY CENTRE

How to contact us

0844 330 5231 for all booking and general enquiries

bookings@rooksdowndownonline.com Booking enquiries for Community Centre

committee@rooksdowndownonline.com RCA Committee

manager@rooksdowndownonline.com Community Centre Manager

editor@rooksdowndownonline.com Rooksdowndown Reporter

membership@rooksdowndownonline.com Membership Enquiries

YC@rooksdowndownonline.com Rooksdowndown Youth Club

news@rooksdowndownonline.com
for putting news onto Facebook and rooksdowndownonline.com

classifieds@rooksdowndownonline.com
for putting classifieds on rooksdowndownonline.com

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
Borough Councillor	Karen Cherrett Email: cllr.karen.cherrett@basingstoke.gov.uk
County Councillor	Stephen Reid Tel: 01256 320860 Email: Stephen.reid@hants.gov.uk
Police	PC 2521 Ian Hoile Tel: 0845 045 4545 Rooksdowndown PCSO Keith Patchings
Neighbourhood Watch	rooksdowndownneighbourhoodwatch@hotmail.co.uk
Rooksdowndown Reporter	editor@rooksdowndownonline.com
Hampshire Healthcare Centre	Tel: 01256 477720
Rooksdowndown Pharmacy	Tel: 01256 320303
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
Graffiti & Fly Tipping	Tel: 01256 844844
Crimestoppers	Tel: 0800 555 111

Rooksdowndown Community Association:

Tel: 0844 330 5231 for all booking and general enquiries

Email: bookings@rooksdowndownonline.com

Our New Website: WWW.ROOKSDOWNONLINE.COM

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN PILATES OR YOGA?

Do you want to get back into shape? Do you want to feel calmer and more in control of your life?

Regular exercise will help you increase your:

- Strength & endurance for daily activities
- Metabolic rate, muscle definition and fat loss
- Energy and reduced fatigue



I am planning to start new classes at the **Rooksdown Community Centre** on **Tuesday evenings from 10th January 2012:**

6-7pm Pilates

7-8pm Yoga

If you are interested then please contact me on 07887 561919 or enquiries@marjorienewton.co.uk visit my website: marjorienewton.co.uk to find out about other classes I run in the Basingstoke area.

Marjorie Newton, qualified teacher of Yoga, Pilates, Tai Chi & Qigong.

ROOKSDOWN MEDICAL CENTRE

Park Prewett Road, Rooksdown, RG24 9RG

ROOKSDOWN DOCTORS SURGERY Tel:01256 399710

OPENING HOURS: Monday to Fridays 8.30am until 6pm

ROOKSDOWN PHARMACY Tel: 01256 320303

OPENING HOURS:

Mondays 8.00am until 7.30pm

Tuesday to Fridays 9.00 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.

HANTS DOC Tel: 01189 365592

6.30PM until 8am

NHS Direct: Tel: 0845 4547

24/7 to speak to a Nurse or Doctor

The Rooksdown Community Association would like
to Invite all the residents of
Rooksdown to the

**Grand Opening of the
Rooksdown Community Centre
Sunday 11 December 2011
From 2pm until 5pm**



There will be the Santa's Grotto, various craft stalls and refreshments. You will also be able to meet the people who will be holding classes, running the nursery and starting the new youth groups in the new Rooksdown Centre. Come along and join in the fun.

This is a FREE event, but there will be some items that are available for sale.

Rooksdown Community Association would like to thank the following people: Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council for building our new centre and also June Balcombe and Lucy Macmin for all of their help. The Rooksdown Parish Council for helping furnish the kitchen area and Stephen Reid, our County Councillor for his help in furnishing the Foyer. Thank you all very much.