



Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2026

As we reflect on the past year, I would like to begin by recognising the incredible community spirit that makes Oakley such a special place to live. Oakley Community Association exists to bring people together, support community initiatives, and help ensure that Oakley remains a strong, welcoming and vibrant village for residents of all ages.

One of the important responsibilities we undertake is the management of our seven community defibrillators located around the village. These devices can quite literally save lives, and I would like to thank the volunteers who carry out the monthly checks to ensure they are always ready if needed. Maintaining the defibrillators is an ongoing commitment, with replacement pads and batteries representing a significant cost. We therefore continue to use a proportion of the funds raised through our annual Fireworks Display to supplement the defibrillator fund and ensure these life-saving devices remain available throughout Oakley.

Our programme of community events remains at the heart of what we do. Over the past year we have organised and supported a range of activities including the Easter Egg Hunt, Front Garden Stalls, community picnics, the Village Show and, of course, the Fireworks Display. These events provide opportunities for neighbours to meet, friendships to grow, and new residents to feel part of village life.

Looking ahead, there will be new responsibilities for organisations such as ours. As larger events become subject to the requirements of Martyn's Law, we will need to ensure that appropriate measures are in place to comply with the legislation and continue delivering events safely. While this will involve additional planning and preparation, we are committed to meeting these obligations so that residents can continue to enjoy our events with confidence.

None of our activities would be possible without our volunteers. Every event relies on people giving their time and energy, often behind the scenes, to plan, organise, set up, steward, sell tickets, run stalls and clear away afterwards. On behalf of the trustees and the wider community, I would like to offer our sincere thanks to everyone who has volunteered during the year.

We are always happy to welcome new volunteers. We recognise that people lead busy lives and may not be able to commit regularly. However, even helping with a specific task or a single event can make a real difference. If you would like to get involved, please do speak to us - we are always grateful for additional support.

I would also like to recognise and thank our nine trustees. Between them they bring a wealth of experience, professional skills and local knowledge, along with strong links to many of the other organisations and groups that contribute to village life. Their commitment helps ensure that the Oakley Community Association remains well governed, financially responsible and focused on delivering benefits for the community.

Thank you for your continued support of the Oakley Community Association. Together we are helping to maintain and grow the strong community spirit that makes Oakley such a wonderful place to live.

Kristofor Bettridge, Chair