

Newsletter: Spring/Summer 2026



Thank you for taking the time to read our bi-annual charity newsletter

We are delighted to share the latest updates on our ongoing mission to support mental health and wellbeing in our community.

We would like to say a heartfelt thank you to our incredible donors and volunteers - your support is the driving force behind Oakleaf, enabling us to offer essential services such as wellbeing activities, work-related training, employment support, and counselling to hundreds of clients every month.

Recently, we have been running a variety of wellbeing activities and workshops, including: Walking Club, Martial Movement, Upholstery, LGBTQ+ Support, Wellbeing Brunch, and more.

We also launched 'Open Door' - a weekly Friday evening drop-in service for 18-30-year-olds experiencing mental health challenges, with suicide prevention at its core.

The Guildford Safe Haven, based at our Oakleaf premises, remains a crucial resource for those experiencing mental health crises or emotional distress. This drop-in service, run in partnership with Catalyst and the NHS, is open from 6pm-11pm, 365 days a year.

We are proud to be delivering our five-year 'Path to Success' employment project, funded by The National Lottery Community Fund. In collaboration with Guildford Action, this initiative provides personalised employment training and mentoring to help clients take meaningful steps toward their career goals.

If you have any questions or feedback, we'd love to hear from you: info@oakleaf-enterprise.org.

Oakleaf team x



In this newsletter you can expect:

Oakleaf News

Fundraising Events

Client Stories

Our Impact

Mental Health Training



Clive Stone, Chief Executive

Oakleaf Contact Details

General queries:

info@oakleaf-enterprise.org

Client-related queries:

client-services@oakleaf-enterprise.org

Counselling-specific queries:

counselling@oakleaf-enterprise.org

Partnerships In Action

It's been a fantastic start to the year, and we're incredibly grateful for the generosity of our community.

We're proud to be in a three-year partnership with [guildford.games](https://www.guildfordgames.com) - supporting creativity, community and mental health across Guildford's thriving games industry. The collaboration saw Oakleaf named as the official partner for the 2026 g.g Festival, with 50% of all ticket sales donated to support our work. In February, the sold-out event raised an incredible £9,893.60 through ticket sales, raffles and donations, directly funding our mental health and wellbeing services. Oakleaf also presented the Outstanding Studio Culture Award, celebrating organisations that put people first.

In March, we were honoured to be charity partner for the Insurance Institute of Guildford's Annual Dinner, raising an incredible £15,028. We're thrilled to share that we have been chosen again as charity partner for 2026/27.

Charity of the Year partnerships like these provide vital, consistent support - helping us plan ahead, grow our services and reach more people across Surrey who need mental health support. If your organisation is considering a new charity partner, please get in touch with Chris: chriscrooker@oakleaf-enterprise.org.

Mental Health Leaders Network

Our network brings together Surrey businesses committed to improving workplace mental wellbeing. Membership includes events, training, practical resources, and expert speakers for employers and employees.

Members benefit from better performance, lower costs, stronger leadership, and reduced risk through earlier, smarter workplace responses. Recent topics include: Mental Health Strategy, Menopause, Understanding Counselling, and Guidance for Managers.

To learn more, email Chris: chriscrooker@oakleaf-enterprise.org. Membership fees support Oakleaf's charitable work.



Oakleaf's Annual Quiz Night

Our annual Quiz Night with a Hollywood theme was a great success! With 150 attendees, we raised over £7,300. A big thank you to Shanly Foundation for generously sponsoring the event, and to all 18 teams who took part - congratulations to our winners, Nobody Expects The Spanish Inquisition! We're so grateful to everyone who joined us, as well as the local Surrey businesses who donated raffle prizes. A special appreciation goes to our staff and volunteers for making the night happen.



Upcoming Fundraising Events



Thursday 21 May 2026

Wine Tasting Evening

Join us for a guided Wine Tasting Evening at Seasons Café, Guildford Cathedral in partnership with Kelly's Storage - including a sparkling reception, antipasti sharing boards, quiz, raffle and silent auction.



Anytime

Sky Dive for Mental Health

Are you an adrenaline junkie or simply want to challenge yourself? Take part in a 10,000 feet skydive organised by Skyline, where you'll freefall at 125mph. A once in a lifetime experience you'll never forget!



Sunday 13 September 2026

Bacchus Wine 10k

Take on a challenge and join Team Oakleaf at the Bacchus Wine 10K at Denbies Wine Estate. Set in the stunning Surrey Hills, this chip-timed event features English wine, live music, and a great atmosphere.



Anytime

Cups & Conversations

Bring colleagues together and support mental health in the workplace by hosting a coffee event in your office or virtually. You can also purchase Oakleaf-branded Coffee from Cotswold Coffee Collective.

All funds raised support Oakleaf and local mental health. To find out more, scan the QR codes or visit the 'Events' page on our website. For group bookings, contact Jane: janelton@oakleaf-enterprise.org.

Open Door Drop-In Service



Oakleaf's Open Door service is a weekly drop-in based in Guildford for 18–30 year olds experiencing mental health challenges, with suicide prevention at its core. Running from 6pm–10pm on Friday evenings, the service provides a safe, welcoming space to reduce isolation and access meaningful support.

Funded through the **Mental Health Scale Up Fund** and delivered in partnership with **Guildford Action, Hope Hub** and **Rent Start**, the project also includes an online Parents & Carers Support Group on Wednesday evenings, offering peer connection and practical guidance for families supporting young people in distress.

“Open Door is about creating a safe, non-judgemental space where young people and their families feel heard and supported. Together, we’re building connection, resilience and hope.” – Young Adult Support Worker

For more information about the service, please contact Nick: nickmoorby@oakleaf-enterprise.org.

Gardening



Oakleaf's Gardening service operates as a social enterprise, offering professional gardening services while providing work-related training opportunities for Oakleaf clients.

For over 20 years, our skilled horticulture team has served Surrey, handling gardens of all sizes, communal grounds, and commercial properties. **Our services include:**

- Regular maintenance, pruning, and grass cutting
- Plant advice, containers, hanging baskets, and garden clearance
- One-off jobs

If you would like to find out more or get a quote, please contact Beatrice: beatricecurtis@oakleaf-enterprise.org.

Leave a Lasting Gift for Oakleaf

Mental health challenges can affect anyone, and the right support at the right time can truly change lives. For over 29 years, we have walked alongside people in our community, offering a place to build confidence and reduce isolation; to belong.

A gift in your will is one of the most powerful ways to keep that support going.

Whatever its size, your legacy gift could help ensure that our community can access the care they deserve and **Oakleaf remains a beacon of hope** for years to come.

Gifts left in wills are typically exempt from Inheritance Tax, which can reduce the tax burden on your estate.

For a friendly conversation about leaving a legacy, please get in touch with Jamie: jamiekelly@oakleaf-enterprise.org.

Mental Health Training

We offer accredited Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training and bespoke mental health training and awareness sessions.

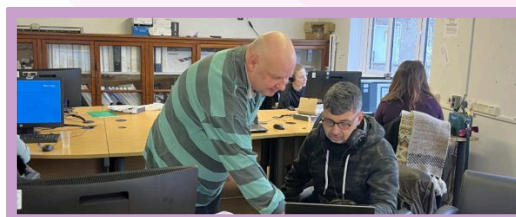
Our next 2-day Adult MHFA course will take place in June. Dates TBD.

'Path to Success' Employment Project

Oakleaf's five-year 'Path to Success' project, **funded by The National Lottery**, launched in 2024 to empower individuals facing mental health challenges. Led by experienced Employment Advisors, it provides vital skills, practical support and confidence-building to help clients move towards sustainable employment and achieve their personal goals.

As the project grows, we are expanding our partnerships with local organisations including **Dose of Nature, Andy's Man Club** and **ZeroCarbon**, broadening the range of opportunities and specialist support available to our clients. We are also strengthening our collaboration with **Guildford Action**, with a joint steering group planned to explore how we can work together to support even more people across our community.

Monthly guest speakers bring new insight and inspiration - recent sessions have included understanding and managing personal finances, an engaging introduction to the gaming development industry, and exploring roles, skills and training pathways. Clients will also be visiting RHS Wisley in May for a guided tour, learning about horticultural careers and training opportunities within the RHS and beyond.



Client Success Stories

SU first came to Oakleaf feeling anxious and lacking confidence. Today, they volunteer as a Peer-to-Peer Support Mentor across several Oakleaf services, have completed multiple online courses, and are excelling in a Level 2 Counselling qualification, growing in confidence and supporting others along the way.

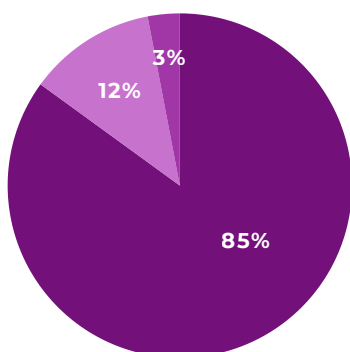
JS attended an Advice and Guidance session feeling, in their own words, **"at breaking point."** With immediate support from the team, practical funding was secured to remove key barriers to employment, enabling them to take up a part-time role and travel to work independently.

For more information about our Employment Support, please contact Tom: tommay@oakleaf-enterprise.org.

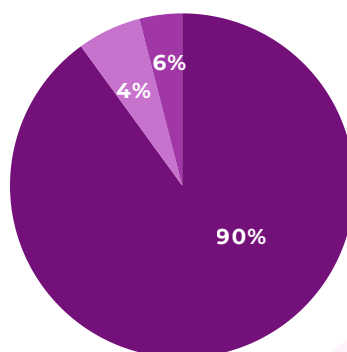
Client Satisfaction Survey

We recently conducted our January 2026 Client Satisfaction Survey, with 95 responses. It was great to see the positive impact Oakleaf has.

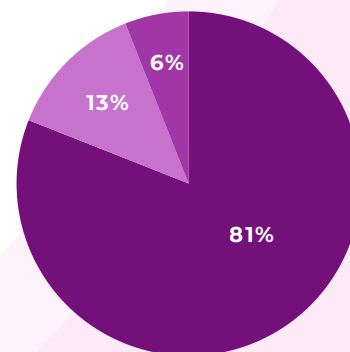
Agree Disagree
 Neither agree nor disagree



Oakleaf has helped me feel more confident



Oakleaf has helped me improve my mental wellbeing



Oakleaf had helped me feel less isolated

"Oakleaf has made a huge difference to my life. I plan to use all of the amazing skills I have learned so far to help others with their mental health." - **Oakleaf client**

"Oakleaf helps me build my confidence and self-esteem as well as become more social. I was isolated for many years so they have been a real lifeline." - **Oakleaf client**

Help Us Enter Our 30th Year Strong

Next year, **Oakleaf will celebrate 30 years** of supporting adults with mental health challenges, and its thanks to supporters like you that we've made it this far. Your generosity has helped hundreds of people rebuild confidence, reduce isolation, and avoid crisis. In 2024/25 alone, together we achieved:

- 4,172 attendances at wellbeing sessions, supporting 285 adults
- 2,059 counselling sessions, supporting 188 clients
- Employment support that helped 59 adults move into paid or voluntary work
- Nearly 1,900 Safe Haven crisis interventions for people who had nowhere else to turn

These numbers are more than statistics. They represent people's lives that have changed because Oakleaf was there at the moment it mattered most.

But as we approach our 30th year, we face more challenges. Operational costs are rising exponentially, and, like many charities, we are navigating a period of real financial uncertainty and added pressure.

Would you consider a monthly gift of £5, £10, or £20? These gifts ensure we can retain skilled staff, plan for the future, and respond quickly when someone is struggling.



Oakleaf Enterprise



Oakleaf



@Oakleaf_Enterprise

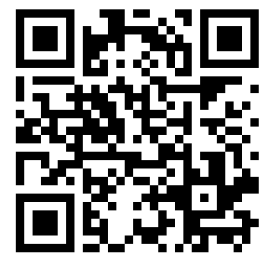
Thank you for reading!

We are thankful for all our supporters and will continue to do all we can to look after the wellbeing of the Oakleaf community.

If you would like to make a donation to Oakleaf and help fund vital mental health, employment and wellbeing support, scan the QR code below.

If you or someone you know needs support and is interested in becoming a client at Oakleaf, please visit www.oakleaf-enterprise.org/referral.

Watch this space - in the coming months we'll be launching a Mental Health Trends Survey in partnership with Surrey County Council to help us better understand the mental health landscape for our community.



SCAN QR CODE

www.oakleaf-enterprise.org

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Registered charity no: 1064524

Registered company no: 3388671