



Oakley Newsletter



Autumn 2013

Number 56



Front Cover

The Old School

Lovell Road.

Drawing in pen and ink
by the artist Terry Youngman.

The Oakley Newsletter

is published quarterly by Oakley
Parish Council and delivered by
parish councillors free to every
house in Oakley – about
1,000 copies.

Opinions and information

in the Newsletter, both text and
adverts, may not be endorsed by
the Editor or the Parish Council.

Next issue

Final copy date for the
winter issue is 15th November.
The publishing date is 1st December.

Advertising rates

Quarter page: £15

Half page: £30

Whole page: £60

Four consecutive quarter page adverts:
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Loose inserts, any size up to A4: £60
Please send cheques to the Editor, but
payable to Oakley Parish Council.

New Editor from Autumn 2013

Bill Chalker

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(Hi Kids - Find 16 of me!)

[Editors Note : I was relaxed about
taking this on until I read Pat's vote
of thanks and I now appreciate the
mantle I have assumed—now where
is my Book of English Grammar?]

Parish Council News

Autumn 2013

By JANE WALKER (Chair)

Carnival

Thank you to the organisers of this
year's carnival. A lot of work goes
into preparing for the day, but I'm
sure the number of people who
came along would be testament to
the enjoyment it gives to every-
one.

Speed cameras

The parish council has decided to
use some of our unallocated re-
serves to buy average speed cam-
eras to cover the outside of the vil-
lage. They will operate in a similar
way to those in Milton Ernest and
we are currently investigating the
most effective positions for the
cameras to be sited. We hope that
this will act as a deterrent for
those people who currently use our
village as a rat run and a race
track. Signs will be erected before
the cameras become operational
as we want it to be a deterrent
rather than a money raising scheme.
We will not be trying to catch resi-
dents out.

Neighbourhood Development plan

Several years ago the whole village
took part in some way in preparing
Oakley's Local plan. As a result a
huge number of improvements were
made in the village such as; the
knockabout football pitch and older
age group equipment on the green,
the allotments, the tennis court, the
Village Directory, Linch Furlong and
the affordable homes for local resi-
dents on the Furlong. It also helped
us to resist major development in
other parts of the village and so was
very important as a way of shaping
the village for the future. The vast
majority of the "actions" are now
complete and it is time to look for-
ward to what we would like to see
happen to Oakley in the next 10
years.

Continued on page 3

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The Local plan is now called a Neighbourhood development plan and when complete, this will become part of the Borough Council's overall plan for the area. Several Parish councillors have agreed to form a working group to help lead the work that needs to be done but they will also need other local people to help them. If you would like to be involved in any way we would be very pleased to hear from you. Please either contact Pat Olney or the clerk, Ann Paice on 346366 or email maea@paice31.fsnet.co.uk.

Grass over growing footways

Thank you to everyone who has cut back the grass over-growing the pavements near their house. It makes the village look much tidier. We have now agreed to pay for a contractor to cut back the grass on communal verges starting with the paths around the Green.

If you see an area that you think is particularly bad or if you are elderly and you are not able to do this yourself, please let Ann Paice know and we will schedule it in for when funds allow.

Cars blocking pavements

The police have advised us that if you see a vehicle continually blocking a pavement so that a wheel chair or buggy cannot go past, they will take action. They need a photograph of the car blocking the path, with the number plate showing so that the owner can be identified.

Please note they will not take action against cars simply parked on the verges. Enforcement of this is the responsibility of the Borough council who will send out their number plate recognition cars if there is a persistent problem.

Litter picker

Thank you to Jake Walker who has done a great job of keeping our village clear of litter over the last two years. It is a difficult job, especially around the edge of the village where frequent fast food wrappers suggest that people are driving through the village and throwing their litter out of the car. Jake will be going to university in October and we have a new litter picker starting work. Look out for Mark picking litter around the village and if you see any particularly bad areas please let Ann Paice know so that she can ask Mark to clear them.

Jane Walker

A Huge Thank you to Barry Holmes

Barry has retired from editing the Oakley Parish Council Newsletter after 4 years of sterling work.

When Robin, the former editor became ill he gave much thought as to who would undertake this role. After much consideration he suggested Barry to Jane, the Chairwoman of the Parish Council. They agreed that if Barry was willing then he would be an excellent choice.

This was for many reasons. One was his clear understanding of English grammar; he was an editor of manuscripts before he retired. Two, he is very careful to get things correct and the page layout looking good and third he would bring his own style with witty comments and additions to the newsletter.

Barry agreed to take on the role and undertook training from Robin. Barry was the first to agree that he needed training on how to set out the newsletter using the computer. What he did not know was that he had to keep up with Robin's exacting standards and also increasing ill health. Barry did this with patience and humour and two newsletters were jointly produced. Thank you Barry.

I am so pleased to say that Barry did fulfil Robin's hopes and produced excellent newsletters. He persuaded Terry Youngman to draw village scenes for the front cover - a brilliant choice to follow on from Robin's front covers. His added contributions often made me laugh. I am hoping he will continue with these as Bill Chalker takes over.

Oakley Parish Council wish along with me to record their thanks for all Barry's hard work over the four years. Thank you to Barry and Sue, his wife, who also lived with the magazine four times a year.

Cllr Pat Olney

[Editors Note : Terry has agreed to continue to illuminate our future covers]

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DOES Oakley want a village hall?

The committee that helps to organize the running of the village hall has been doing so for many years. Some of them, understandably, would like to stand down, but with no-one prepared to take their place they feel morally bound to continue.

We have asked several times for new volunteers to come and help, but to no avail. The 'work' is not arduous, and we do not bite! A few fresh minds could make the experience of hiring the hall even better than it is. So I ask again, does Oakley want a village hall?

Where would mums (sometimes dads, sometimes grandparents), go on a Monday morning, for a chat and a cup of tea whilst their small charges safely play with all sorts of exciting toys?

Many girls love to dance. They can do this thanks to a delightful young lady who puts them through their paces on Mondays and Thursdays.

The erstwhile ladies who make up the W.I. need a meeting place.

Carpet bowlers do not live in large houses so the hall is vital to them (why not give this gentle sport a try one Wednesday evening?)

Pilates, shiatsu followers, dieters and martial arts also want a bit of space to do their thing, as do the delightful little Rainbows.

Care in the Community Service make our hall a central meeting point for some of our less advantaged members of society.

A lot of other groups also use the hall for their gatherings, folk dancing is more popular than you would think.

When it is cold and often wet, what a super place to have a party; plenty of room and we allow bouncy castles to be hired. Disco parties are the 'in thing' it seems for newly arrived teenagers, but no smoke machines thank you.

Most of these activities happen in the large hall. The committee room as well as hosting meetings has also been a sewing room and music practice venue.

These are just some of the things that can happen because Oakley has a village hall.

The committee meets just once a month to deal with whatever needs to be done so it is not too taxing nor time consuming. If you feel you can spare a little time to keep the hall going (if we all desert and no-one comes to help then the hall will eventually be sold) telephone 07788 796996, leave your name and telephone details, someone will give you a return call.

So I ask again, does Oakley **want** a village hall? –it certainly **needs** one.

Jean Weston, lettings secretary.



**COMMITTEE MEMBERS
NEEDED NOW**

Borough Council News

by Cllr Pat Olney

Midland Main Line Electrification by 2017

Please your help is needed!!

The Link Road between the Western Bypass and Sainsbury's Roundabout needs to be operational before Bromham Road Bridge is reconstructed.

The good news is that the line is to be electrified for the more efficient movement of freight and passengers.

14 bridges over the line are affected.

The two that affect us as householders are Bromham Road Bridge in Bedford and Hartops Bridge that goes from Station Road to Railway Cottages in Oakley and is a footpath to Clapham. Both need to be higher.

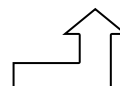
The Bromham Road Bridge as you know takes an enormous amount of traffic. The Link Road from Branston Way and Sainsbury's roundabout is not yet in place. This requires Network Rail to construct a bridge over the railway to enable this Link Road to happen.

The Mayor and the Chief Executive have told Network Rail that the Bromham Road Bridge cannot be reconstructed until the Link Road is in place. This is because the alternative routes into and around the town will be so congested that traffic will come either to a standstill or will be unacceptably delayed.

Bromham Road Bridge will take approximately 26 weeks to dismantle and reconstruct to allow the electrification wires enough head room.

Bromham and Oakley have been the alternative western bypass for many years. We all know the significant delays at the Oakley River Bridges. The delays will be much worse not only for Oakley but traffic will also start filtering around and through Stevington and Pavenham. This will mean extra traffic at Oakley Crossroads, on Pavenham Road and Highfield Road. These roads already have a large amount of traffic in the rush hour.

How can you help?



Continued on page 5

Please **write** or **email** the Mayor of Bedford, Dave Hodgson and Philip Simpkins, Chief Executive, Bedford Borough Council. Your thoughts will give them an in depth insight into the problems everyone faces if Network Rail do not build the Link Road Rail Bridge before reconstructing Bromham Road Bridge.

Your emails and letters will help them to progress the link road asap when negotiating with Network Rail.

The effect on and around Oakley if the Bromham Road Bridge is developed without the Link Road will mean.....

Some thoughts :-

- ◆ Huge delays at Oakley Bridges. Traffic already at peak times is right back to the T-junction with the Bromham/Stevington Road and back to Lovell Road Oakley.
- ◆ Two schools are in Oakley. Buses and cars with school children access the River Bridges and Oakley Crossroads. Children also walk along and cross Lovell Road, High Street, Church Lane, Station Road and Oakley Crossroads. This will mean increased danger for our children.
- ◆ Increased danger for residents.
- ◆ Even more costly road repair bills for our already rural, narrow C roads.

Please add your own thoughts on the problems you already experience which will be increased if the Link Road is not in place before Bromham Road Bridge is reconstructed.

Emails are; dave.hodgson@bedford.gov.uk; philip.simpkins@bedford.gov.uk. The address in each case is Bedford Borough Council, Borough Hall, Cauldwell Street, Bedford. MK42 9AP. If you wish to contact Network Rail direct, their telephone number is 08457114141

A group of residents are already in discussion with the Borough about the problems concerning the access on Hartop Bridge and will keep the residents informed when information becomes available in the autumn.

ACT NOW



Temporary Closure of Footpaths The path from Pavenham Road towards the Railway Bridge and onto the A6 and Browns Wood will be closed from September the 4th to the 4th October for the laying of the High Voltage cable and the removal of electricity poles. Linch Furlong will remain open but not the footpath by the river.

The path from Pavenham Road towards the Railway Bridge and onto the A6 and Browns Wood will be closed from September the 4th to the 4th October for the laying of the High Voltage cable and the removal of electricity poles. Linch Furlong will remain open but not the footpath by the river.

The alternative route to the river, to Browns Wood and the A6 is via the footpath in Highfield Road, grid reference - A2 at OS-GRTLO1325408.

Recycling

You can now keep your bottle tops on your wine bottles when disposing of the bottles in the bottle bank. After drinking the wine first I hasten to add!

Planning

The Applications and Designation Plan to 2021 is now the relevant planning policy for Bedford Borough. Development in Oakley will now be in accordance with that plan. I am glad to say that both the Inspector and the Borough Council agreed that the plan as submitted by Oakley Parish Council is sound and all new planning applications should be decided within this framework until 2021.

The settlement boundary is to remain as published and the land behind the houses in the High Street towards Pavenham should not be developed within this time frame.

Neighbourhood Planning

What will happen after 2021? The Parish Council wishes to set up a group to look at a future plan for Oakley.

The group comprises myself and parish councillors who will investigate how to progress the plan. The group wish residents to be involved as well. All residents will be consulted as ideas come forward.

Those residents who remember our last Village Plan will know that because everyone was involved, the Borough listened and incorporated the village views into the 2021 Allocation and Designations Plan. We will let you know how to be involved in the next newsletter.

Cllr Pat Olney

Farm and Country – Autumn 2013

By John Saunders, College Farm

Yesterday was one of the hottest days of the year. What a contrast, we had nearly twelve months of wet and cold weather and now the weather is the warmest for years.

At the end of February we were thinking we would have to re-sow a lot of the crops especially the rape, but now they have come round and look a reasonable crop, although we did lose one field of rape. When we combine the yields and quality will tell the whole story. We did combine thirty acres of winter barley on 17th July which yielded approximately three tons per acre which was very satisfactory considering the season. With all this dry weather it is making the ground crack which is good for the arable farmers, not so good for the ground nesting birds as their chicks fall down the cracks.

We had a very good silage and hay time this year considering the awful spring. The silage grass yielded well, but is more expensive to harvest as we have to wrap it in plastic which is more costly due to the price of oil. This last fortnight a lot of hay has been made as the weather has been perfect.

Once harvest is over another country tradition starts which is ferreting, this is a good way of controlling the rabbit population as they can soon devastate the crops.

Countrymen go ferreting on a Saturday afternoon or Sunday morning when they do not have to go to work. Ferrets are used on a set of burrows to flush out the rabbits into nets which are placed over the holes and then pegged down to hold the rabbit when they run into them. Usually the ferrets have a beeper fitted to a collar so if they decide to stay down the hole at least you have some idea where the ferrets are, so you can dig them out.

Some people run them on a long line so they do not lose them if they run away. Years ago the village relied on rabbits to feed their large families, but just after the war when myxomatosis came and devastated the rabbit population everybody stopped eating them. Now there is a demand for good clean rabbits from farmers' markets. Another way of catching rabbits is using a long net. This net would be placed along the edge of a field when it was dark. The rabbits would be out in the field and several men would walk the field and drive the rabbits into the net.

This way you could catch a lot of rabbits in a short space of time. Some people would not approve of these methods but if rabbits were eating all the vegetables in their garden they would soon change their minds.

I have written about Chinese lanterns before but recently a farmer in Buckinghamshire lost two Guernsey heifers through eating the wire in them. The NFU (National Farmers Union) and the CLA (Country Landowner Association) are working very hard to get the government to ban them. If you deposit litter anywhere you receive a fine. These are no different and they are very dangerous to farm animals!

Fortunately St Swithens was a dry day which means a good chance of a dry harvest.

John Saunders

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Browns Wood and Judges Spinney Friends Group - Summer and Autumn 2013

In the sometimes intense heat of the last few weeks the woods have provided a beautiful cool, green oasis in which to walk and enjoy the birdsong and other sounds of nature. The grasslands have been full of wildflowers and beautiful butterflies fluttering from flower to flower.

June saw a guided walk around Judges Spinney led by Ed Burnett, Bedford Borough's Countryside Sites Officer. He shared his enthusiasm for the site, its history, its wildlife and of the need to manage the wood to preserve this little known gem for future generations. For the children on the guided walk the highlight was the discovery of a badger's skull and pieces of its backbone. For the adults it was perhaps the numerous bee orchids growing in the small piece of grassland adjacent to the wood which was planted up with saplings when the bypass was landscaped.

The next task on **Sunday 22nd September** 2pm – 4pm will be work on the large meadow at Browns Wood. There will be a combination of more seed bombing, wildflower plug planting and some maintenance on the Jubilee Hedge which was planted last year. **Families and volunteers of all ages are welcome to join us.**

If you are interested in becoming a Friend of Browns Wood and Judges Spinney and would like to be kept informed of events and practical tasks please contact Jane Moore (Country Park Ranger) on 01234 21182 or prioryrangers@bedford.gov.uk.

If you have any comments on the sites – or suggestions about what can be done to improve them please send them in.

If you are interested in the future of Browns Wood and Judges Spinney but aren't able to help out on practical tasks we also need people to help publicise the tasks/events taking place at the sites and to help in organising and running the group.

Jane Moore (Priory Park Ranger)

TEAS IN THE CHURCH

Come along to St Mary's Oakley on Sunday's between 3.30pm to 5.00pm.

Refreshments

will be available 

until Sunday 29th September

Enjoy a delicious home made tea, with plenty of tea or coffee or a cold drink, all for only £2 per person.

As a finale
1st Oakley Brownies
will host
the last Sunday Tea of 2013
on Sunday 29th September

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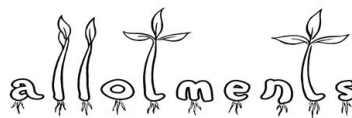
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Oakley Allotments



An old friend once told me that he hated chiming clocks. He said that it was bad enough that you could hear them tick your life away, never mind the marking of the quarters and hours just to rub it in. So it seems to be with the seasons at the allotments as we are about to enter the fourth year of their existence.

Excuse me a moment whilst I indulge in repeating that - **the fourth year!** I really cannot believe how the time has passed as it seems like only yesterday that we marked-out the ground after its initial clearing.

How diverse those years have been too, with such a range of weather that we've bounced between success and failure to dramatic degrees.

On the whole the allotments are doing very well. The site was subjected to a Sunday working-party some weeks ago and paths and vacant plots were strimmed, mown and variously attended-to. We had also intended to trim hedges back but decided that it would be inappropriate to do so as there could well be birds still nesting. Hedge cutting will have to wait until later in the year.

I have acquired some strimmers, a mower and a small tiller, which will be available for general use at the field. To house these items I have built a shed at one end of the water harvester after removing one container.

We are also looking forward to getting a slightly larger shed which has been donated to us for community use at the site. One of our tenants has arranged to line-out the shed and make it more secure for a modest sum of money. This shed will also be used as an additional water harvester, so it's admirably multi-purpose.

Possibly discouraged by a difficult year last year and this year's hard start, we have lost some tenants and seen a few down-size from full to half-plots. This has meant that we have some ground lying unused and with no waiting-list.

Neglected plots cause problems for the developed plots as they lead to the spread of weed seeds around the entire site - it really is an uphill struggle as it is.

It would be good to be able to reserve the site solely for Oakley residents but we have had enquiries from Pavenham residents. Would it be better to let to them in too rather than see ground going to weeds? If you have any ideas or suggestions then please let me know - I will be attending the next parish council meeting in September.

If you would like an allotment in Oakley at our small and friendly field then please contact me. Autumn is a good time to start work on the allotment as the soil can usually be worked more easily and it is possible to plant late peas and over-wintering vegetables such as broad beans and Japanese onions.

Steve Nicholas

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Joshua
Orphan & Community Care
Local News : Fund raising by Jacky Mould has totalled £200. Anybody willing to help by offering a coffee morning would be welcome to keep funds flowing.
Malawi News : Joshua is delighted to have had 5 groups of volunteers this summer. The teams built up the walls for the assembly hall and the latrine blocks on the site, hand mixing cement and learning to lay bricks, completing one long wall in one day! They also spent time at the local feeding centre, helping the local ladies and playing with the children.
Find out more at
www.joshuainmalawi.org.uk/

AMIGO

I was very pleased that the coach trip to Spitalfields that took place on Tuesday 25th June was a great success. We were met at Christ Church, Spitalfields by our excellent guide, Charlie de Wet. He kept us enthralled by telling us the history of that part of London including the story of the Huguenots who settled in Spitalfields following persecution in France in the 17th Century. After admiring the baroque splendour of Christ Church, designed by Nicholas Hawksmoor and considered to be his masterpiece, we were led around Spitalfields by Charlie. He gave us a truly fascinating account of many buildings that we passed by and of the lives spent by generations of immigrants who lived in the area. An excellent lunch was laid on for us at "The Water Poet" pub which set aside their VIP room for us. After lunch a visit to Dennis Sever's house at 18 Folgate Street was arranged.

This was a very strange experience as the impression is given that the rooms have only just been vacated by people who lived in the house from the 17th to the 19th centuries. An opportunity to explore the area including Spitalfields market was available before the coach left to take us back to Oakley. It is hoped to arrange another coach trip to a different part of London next year with Charlie as our guide.

On Tuesday 23rd July a guided tour of the Harrold-Odell Country Park took place led by Janet Monro, a Park Ranger who led us through parts of the Country Park that most of us had never seen before.

It was a fascinating walk with Janet giving us the benefit of her knowledge of the wild life, trees and plants we came across. After the walk we sat down to a very good picnic.

The 2013/14 session will begin on Tuesday 24th September with an illustrated talk given by Pat Olney on her recent visit to Burma to be held at Oakley Methodist Church at 8.00 p.m.

An illustrated talk given by Gerry Sansom from the CPRE (Council for the Preservation of Rural Britain) on protecting Bedfordshire's rural landscape through working with the Planning System will be held at Oakley Methodist Church on Tuesday 22nd October beginning at 8.00 p.m.

An evening with Frank Batt, a local poet who has written poems about Bedfordshire will be held at Oakley Methodist Church on Tuesday 26th November beginning at 8.00 p.m.

In December carols will be sung at the Bedford Arms in Oakley. Unlike other months, this is not held on the fourth Tuesday of the month. The proposed date is Wednesday the 18th December beginning at 8.00 p.m. Further details will appear in the December issue.

.....

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OAKLEY CARNIVAL 2013

Didn't we have a lovely day! We hope you enjoyed it as much as we did, we couldn't have asked for more: the pulling together of a great community, most things going to plan and the glorious sunshine. There was a fantastic turnout for the procession led by the Town Cryer, who later officially opened the Carnival. The King & Queen, Sam Bedford & Mia Thomas, looked fabulous in their open top car. We were entertained throughout the afternoon with some brilliant performances in and out of the arena.

King & Queen



Dog Show Winner



We would like to thank absolutely **EVERYONE** who contributed and supported a great Carnival day, to everyone that came and enjoyed themselves

- all the talented children who rehearsed so hard and performed so well in the heat
- all the people involved in the procession and making the floats
- village groups including the scouts for the loan of their kit, stall holders, sponsors, raffle & tombola donors, Oakley Sports and Social Club, everyone who helped set up on the day
- the Village Hall Committee, Parish Council, Neil Walker for his great announcing, those that helped with the sound system, the security guards,
- the villagers who coped with any disruptions
- sponsors & advertisers, people that contributed to the programme, the Village Schools, the Post Office, Scarecrow makers

ALL the volunteers that made it happen.

This year's event raised approximately £2,000, in addition to the £1,600 from Race Night in October 2012.

All the money raised goes to our village clubs, so in some way or another the majority of villagers benefit. If your village club/organisation would like to request a donation from the fund, please email Sue Wren by the end of September at aces.wren@btinternet.com and we will allocate funds by the end of October.

2013 Winners...Well Done to Everyone!

Ladies Tug of War

A spectacular challenge from Team Denise, but they didn't manage to take the title from the very proud reigning champions, Oakley Netball Team.

Best Procession Float

All the floats looked amazing and such an effort was put in to them. Rev. Jacqueline Owen judged Oakley Brownies as the winner.



Favourite Scarecrow

Oakley Pre-School was voted as the favourite for their fantastic display of Mr Blooms Nursery from CBeebies.



2nd place Scarecrow

The WI came 2nd for their beautiful display of a ladies country life.

Scarecrow Trail Child Winners (drawn from correct entries) - Hannah & Lauren

Scarecrow Trail Adult Winners (drawn from correct entries) - The Walker family

Here's looking forward to 2015....



SCARECROW SUNDAY

Wasn't the carnival hot, both in temperature and in content? And did you follow up Saturday with a stroll round the village on Sunday to look at the scarecrows? No? you missed some excellent works of art.

Two years ago, Julia Nicholas and I won the Best Scarecrow Competition, but there was not a lot of opposition. How times have changed, and much for the better, as those of you who braved the heat would surely agree.

There were 16 official entries, with an extra scarecrow entered by the inhabitants of 17, Hunts Path; this one needs a special mention as I thought it was beautifully crafted (if you peeped behind the hedge you would have understood this remark).

I felt that the creations were much better made than in previous years. Oakley Women's Institute was a lovely, detailed tableau even down to knitted fairy cakes on the table.

Clearly time and thought had been given to this year's entries. Perhaps next time there will be many more entries rather than one here and another a fair distance away. Lots of villages have scarecrow trails and there are many people who put on a display. As the Carnival goes from strength to strength let our scarecrow trail do likewise in number. The models are fun to make, especially if done with a friend or two - or get the whole family involved.

Well done to everybody who entered, may you, and many others, do it all again in two years time.

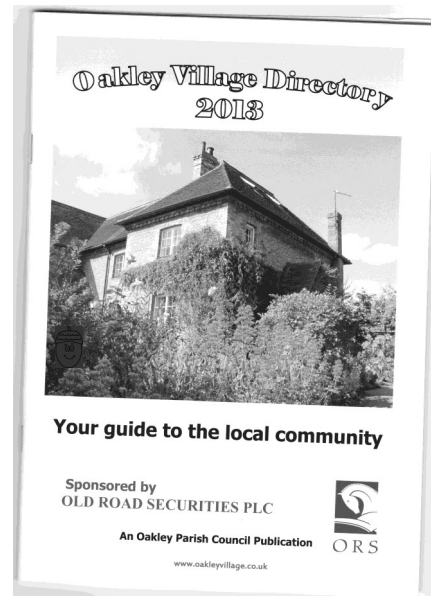
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Oakley Village Directory 2014 edition

As we will shortly be starting work on the 2014 Village directory, I wanted to give you a background to it.

The directory promotes businesses based in Oakley, businesses of Oakley residents and clubs and societies in Oakley.

The directory is distributed in January to every household in Oakley (around 1000) and it is a great way to promote your business or club. You can take a listing in the directory free of charge.

If you want to place an advert then rates are very reasonable – in fact they haven't increased in 7 years! For businesses a full page advert is £50, £25 for a half page and £12.50 for a quarter page. For club adverts our prices are half the above.

All proceeds raised from the Village Directory are used within the Village. We have spent money on the orchard and the Linch Furlong sculptures amongst other things.

With people seeking to support local businesses appearing in the Oakley Village Directory is a very cost effective way of letting others know you are here. If you want to join a club then the directory promotes a wide range of options for children and adults.

If you want to find out more then please email me at sarafardon@yahoo.co.uk, or call me on 824516.

Sara Fardon

Oakley Methodist Church

Bedfordshire! As a child I always believed the way here lay through a steep climb up a wooden staircase, but apparently the A14 from Ipswich equally well transports a pilgrim to this magical county! It's wonderful to finally have a chance to discover the real-life Bedfordshire – its towns and villages and most of all, its people.

August has been a whirlwind of boxes and packing tape, but finally we are in view of being installed in the manse in beautiful Oakley! I feel very privileged to be stationed as a probationary Methodist minister to Oakley, along with Clapham, Park Road (Bedford) and Sharnbrook. I look forward to meeting all of you and sharing a new journey together.

Our move to Bedford brings me closer to my roots. I grew up in Rugby, finding a rich inheritance of faith in Market Place Methodist Church, before moving to Suffolk as professional librarian at Sudbury Upper School. As my children started school I became a primary school teaching assistant, during which time I began ministerial training.

AJ comes from Basildon originally but has spent many years in Ipswich, where we met. An experienced teaching assistant, AJ leaves her job in a special school to utilise her talents organising Gill and the rest of the household – without doubt an equally challenging role!

Gill's daughter, Alison, is preparing to begin her A levels at Sharnbrook Sixth Form and her son, Matt, is keen to make the most of the proximity of Santa Pod and Silverstone.

It is good to be among you and we thank God for the road that has brought us here. Do stop and introduce yourselves to us when you see us – we will be very pleased to meet you.

Rev Gill Baalham & family



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The summer evenings brought good numbers to Youth Club, often with between twenty and thirty members attending. We are looking forward to seeing members both old and new when Youth Club resumes after the summer break on 13th September.

We welcome teenagers aged between 12-16 to the Old School on Friday nights in term time between 8pm and 10pm. As the evenings draw in, the Old School offers a warm environment to relax in. As well as the main hall we have a small room upstairs where you can sit and chat. We also have a good range of equipment including games consoles, a table tennis table and table football. Cooking and puzzles for prizes are also regular events at Youth Club.

We are very grateful for the help we have had from volunteers who give up a Friday night to make Youth Club possible. At the end of last term we were sad to say good-bye to two regular helpers, Di and Clair. Di is starting teacher training as a German teacher and Clair is doing an MA in English Literature in Luton.

To fill the gap they have left we are looking for new helpers. It is an excellent way of gaining experience of working with young people and several of our helpers have gone on to become teachers, one is training to be a counsellor and another a youth worker.

If you would like to help, you do not need to commit to every week and you can choose Fridays convenient to you. If you might be interested in helping, please feel free to contact me, Lindsay,

on 07779 329285

or oakleyyouth-club@yahoo.co.uk.

Lindsay Saunders

Volunteers needed
Friday nights

www.oakleyit.co.uk help@oakleyit.co.uk 07401 250 118

PETANQUE (BOULES)

Like to play Petanque?

| | |
|--|--|
| WHERE? | Oakley Sports & Social Club Church Lane, Oakley |
| WHEN | Anytime, all year round (Weather permitting!) |
| DO I NEED MY OWN BOULES? | No, they are available from the clubhouse during club opening hours |
| DO I NEED TO BE A MEMBER OF THE SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB? | Yes, Annual cost only £5 Apply at Club or via website: http://oakleyssc.com/membership/ |
| CAN I BRING GUESTS TO PLAY? | Yes, but they must be signed in at the Club House |
| HOW DO I PLAY? | A guide is available in the Club House or from the internet: http://oakleyssc.com |
| HOW MANY CAN PLAY? | From 2 to 12 players (singles, doubles, triples) Space is available for two games at once |
| IF ARE YOU INTERESTED IN PLAYING REGULARLY AND FORMING A PETANQUE CLUB, PLEASE CONTACT: Richard Baily Tel: 01234 823251 Email: richard.baily@btopenworld.com Oakley Sports & Social Club Tel: 01234 824977 For general enquiries, email: info@oakleyssc.com | |



Oakley Educational Foundation

This Foundation exists to assist young people between the ages of 16 and 25, who live in the Parish, with grants towards the cost of books and tools, etc. in furtherance of their education.

Applications are accepted in the months of May and November and must be accompanied by receipts of purchase. Application forms can be obtained from the Clerk, Louise Tunley.

For further information, or for an application form, please contact Louise Tunley on 07917 462213, by post at 19 Goldington Road, Bedford, MK40 3JY or by email at louise_tunley@yahoo.co.uk.

A letter from Revd Linda

During the summer months we have been focusing on Pilgrimage, whether it be at home or away. For those who have never been to the Holy Land there is an opportunity to join the Archdeacons' of Bedford and Hertford as we celebrate the centenary of the Diocese of St. Albans with a once in a lifetime pilgrimage to the Holy Land in August 2014. Further details www.stalbanspilgrimages.org.uk or ring 01727 818135.

In the meantime let us continue to build up our spiritual lives where we are. The Lord's Prayer was the subject for a Sunday during July and I focused on it when on retreat recently. I thought it worth looking back and reflecting on this prayer which is perhaps over familiar and a prayer we say with little thought! When you pray the prayer at home each day think of it in this way:

Our Father - we come into relationship with God, we need him and we long for him to be close to us.

Holy is thy name - we come with praise and thanksgiving and recognise God's power.

Your Kingdom Come thy will be done - do we really seek God's will for us?

Give us this day our daily bread - we bring our needs before God.

Forgive us our sins - we express our need of forgiveness and desire to be forgiving.

Lead us not into temptation- we ask for strength and protection.

Deliver us from evil - help us to be pure and holy in our thoughts and actions.

Perhaps the greatest encouragement we can find in the relationship of prayer is the knowledge that God himself is relationship. The God we pray to is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. When we pray we enter into that relationship of love which is the very nature of God. When we pray we are caught up in the community of prayer which is something much bigger than ourselves, for to be with God is a wonderful experience. It is always helpful to pray with others, when we feel empathy somehow we feel closer to Our Lord.



Michael Ramsey wrote this:

'To be with God wondering, that is adoration

To be with God gratefully, that is thanksgiving

To be ashamed, that is contrition

To be with others in our heart, that is intercession

The secret is the quest of God's presence

Thy face Lord will I seek'.

(Be still and know pp73-4)

Numbers 6:24-26

The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you;
the Lord turn his face toward you
and give you peace.

All blessings.

Revd. Linda

Concert by

OUSE VALLEY SINGERS

Conductor: Janet Welsh

Saturday 28th September

7:30 pm

Oakley Methodist Church

Tickets £7:00, includes refreshments.

Tickets available from -

Sue Plant, tel 01234 314229,

Jane Walker, tel 07952 879587

or at the door.

Proceeds will be split between the Karibuni Trust and improved facilities at the church for Oakley Pre-School.

OAKLEY WI

Steve's Snippet No.6

We meet at the Village Hall on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm and would be happy to welcome you too.

Tuesday 10th SEPTEMBER



Mick Boyce has been a guide at Rockingham Castle for a number of years. His talk is illustrated with slides showing the interior of the Castle, pictures, furniture and view of the garden.

It includes a history of the Castle, why it was built, its ownership by the Kings of England from 1070 and by the Watson family who have lived there since 1544.

Tuesday 8th OCTOBER

Have you ever wondered why some people get right up your nose? Judy Oliver has a few theories about that and other things. All will be made clear in her talk entitled "Colourful Personalities".

Tuesday 12th NOVEMBER

We are delighted to welcome back Mike Leonard whose School Holiday Fiascos were so entertaining. This time he will be regaling us with tales of his "Sadistic Safari" in South Africa.

Tuesday 10th DECEMBER

Out for the evening to enjoy a Christmas menu!

Theatre trips, walks, lunches and coach trips are regular features enjoyed by members.

For further information tel: 823788 or 407460

Anne McNab

When we were kids (a time I vaguely remember aided by some old monochrome photographs) we were regaled by many a television campaign aimed at preserving our lives and health.

Television was relatively new and limited in its scope so there was more room for this sort of programming. Also, I guess, the populace of those times was more receptive to being talked-at and even patronised. Humans were perhaps still seen as an endangered species in those post-war years so anything to preserve life was valued. Accountants will also add that reduction of costs incurred repairing broken pedestrians would also be a powerful motive.

A major campaign told us to "wear something light at night" when walking on or near roadways and we were instructed to walk on the side of the road facing oncoming traffic at all times.

Not all countries agree with this rule and insist that one should walk on the side of the road with the direction of traffic - this is more intuitive but not as safe.

Facing oncoming traffic means that you can see, as well as hear, approaching vehicles. It also gives a good margin of safety for judging the oncoming drivers' intentions or level of attention, giving the target pedestrian time to hurl themselves into a handy ditch or hedge! (Or, less dramatically, step off the road).

It is also more difficult for a driver to mow down a fellow human being when they can see their face rather than an amorphous faceless shape - it's something deep-seated in our social brains apparently...

Steve Nicholas



Oakley Pre-school news



Once again the summer term seemed to rush away with us. It's always a busy term for the children who are leaving us to start at school and this year we were lucky enough to have beautiful, sunny weather to ensure that none of the end of term events were postponed or cancelled. We held our annual picnic at the river, sports day, pets afternoon, visits to Oakley Lower school and our end of term celebration concert. This was particularly sad for the staff as we also said goodbye to one of our members who had been with us for many years; first as a mum and then as a pre-school assistant, Fay Meehan. Fay is emigrating to Canada and I hope that, if she has gone already when this newsletter comes out, she will look it up on the web site to see how much we will miss her and her family.

Although she couldn't make the concert, we also had to say good bye to Reverend Jacqueline as she leaves to go to another parish. Jacqueline has been involved with pre-school since she arrived in Oakley. She visited us to read stories to the children and to talk to them about events happening in the church, as well as helping out at our Christmas concerts. We all wish her luck and thank her for her help over the last few years.

For the children starting at "Big" school it's an exciting time and we wish them all luck in their new classes.

We are still fund raising at every opportunity, in order to see our plans for an extension and new toilets realised. The outline plans are currently with the Borough council for pre-planning advice. Once they have been formally submitted we will make them available to everyone, to show what we hope to do with the help of the church.

Until we have our extension, places at pre-school are limited to 24 per session. This means that we fill up very quickly and already we have very few morning sessions available for this year. If you would like a place for your child at pre-school please contact me as soon as possible so that their name can be added to our waiting list. Priority is given to children living or cared for in Oakley.

Please contact Jane Walker by telephone on 826542 during term time or email oakleypreschool@btconnect.com.

Please see our web site at www.oakleypreschool.org.uk for more information.

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OAKLEY GARDENING CLUB

Oakley Gardening Club had a very successful summer including an outing to Waterperry Gardens in Oxfordshire, that was voted quite a success and held a meeting at Susan Young's lovely garden at Stevington. We were given an exclusive look at Chris and Carol Kilroys' amazing garden, that is literally just four years old, followed by delicious sandwiches and bubbly supplied by our hosts!

We had a super 'members gardens' evening. We started at Pat Olney's hidden garden, which was in its usual splendour, then took in the allotments (highly recommended if you haven't been to see what goes on...) on to Judy Ayres super garden, ending finally at Vanda's lovely hideaway. Then off to Dorothy's for drinks and nibbles!

So, if that doesn't inspire you to come and join us, whatever will?

Our programme of meetings with speakers starts on 16th September, 7.45pm at the Methodist Church Hall, with Jim Buttress, a former Superintendent of the Royal Parks... should be excellent!

Our AGM will be at the November meeting this year, instead of the usual October meeting.

Please do come along - we are a very friendly club and there is a warm welcome awaiting.

See you there!

Dorothy Hendry – Chair

Tel: (822523)

2013:

September 16th

October 21st

November 18th


2014:

January 20th

February 17th (annual dinner)

March 17th

April 14th



Get fit whilst socialising at
Oakley badminton club 😊

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

7:30-9PM

LINCROFT SCHOOL

For further details call Alyn Walker –
01234 824530 or 07557 441206



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Katie Bociek BSc (Hons) Ost

Katie Bociek is the principal osteopath at The Orchard Osteopathy Clinic and has become a specialist in her field treating; knee, hip and back problems. She graduated with a first class honours degree in 2011 and has since developed her expertise from her clinic in Oakley.

Katie also treats a wide range of other musculo-skeletal problems including neck pain, shoulder problems and sports injuries with pleasing results.

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Follow up appointment: £30

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<http://oakleyssc.com>

OPENING TIMES

Monday - Friday 3.00pm - 11.00pm

Saturday - 12.00 - 11.00pm

Sunday - 12.00pm - 10.30pm

Forthcoming Events

21st September Boules (Pétanque) Open Day Rules Pierre la Tour

29th September Club Stewards Birthday (Mick) Live band all welcome
2.00pm - 8.pm

We would like to congratulate the Carnival Committee for all their hard work to promote and put on a very successful Oakley Carnival 2013. Special thanks to the OSSC Committee for their sterling work throughout the day to ensure the smooth running of the club, the cleanliness of the club house, the field and generally helping carnival goers throughout the event. Thank you to the club stewards and their staff for a successful day and their hard work in keeping the carnival fuelled with drinks and catering.

We now have a fully functional Boules (Pétanque) pitch as you enter the club's premises. The Motor Cycle Club will be fielding a team in the very near future and we would like to encourage everyone to sample and enjoy the art of Boules (traditional clothing optional). We would like to invite all to attend the open day on the 21st September 2013 to gain an understanding of the game. Boules sets can be hired from behind the bar with a returnable deposit of £10.00 for the use.

The tennis courts at the club are proving to be a great success this year. Please ensure you book via the bar for your hour session to avoid disappointment when turning up to play. A key for the courts can be purchased from the Club Steward at a cost of £5.00. It is imperative that everyone books the courts to allow all to use the facility fairly. We would ask that all litter is taken away with you when you have finished playing.

We are in the process of renewing the courts' nets and I would like to add a special note of gratitude to Club members Heather and Rade for their generous donation of £100.00 towards the new nets. This benefits all who use the tennis courts.

Join us @ <http://oakleyssc.com/membership/>