



Autumn 2016 Number 68



#### Front Cover Oakley Church by 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 23rd November 2016. The publishing date is 1st December.

#### Advertising rates

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#### Printers

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Hello Children look out for 8 more



### Autumn 2016

#### By PAUL PHILLIPS (Chair)

It is unbelievable that as I write my contribution to the newsletter it is mid August , the summer is rushing by and we are preparing for the Autumn Newsletter. The weather today has been absolutely incredible and I hope that everyone has had a super Summer. Enough of the pre-amble so let's get on with the business.

#### Bedfordshire Day 28 November .

#### Luke Blackstaffe

[ luke@friendsofbedfordshire.org.uk] wrote to Oakley Parish Council some while ago as follows;-

'I am writing on behalf of friends of Bedfordshire Society. One of our main goals is to promote Bedfordshire Day, an annual celebration of our County. We were hoping you too would like to get involved. Bedfordshire Day falls annually on 28 November. However we realise this is not always practical and that often events will take place over the nearest weekend. This year we are looking at 26/27 November as the best alternative dates.

There is no set involvement with Bedfordshire Day as we want it to grow organically into a date that everyone knows and celebrates. Last year some people displayed the County flag across their town/village while others went further and put on events to celebrate in style. Is this something you would be happy to get involved in?

We were hoping that nearer to the time you would at least be able to put a note about Bedfordshire Day in your Newsletter to help promote the day or indeed something that might encourage your local residents to take part as well."

The Parish Council decided that we would not participate this year, but bring the day to the notice of all residents through this Newsletter. If any resident is interested in getting further involved, then I am sure there would be no problem in contacting Luke direct.

#### Village Entrance signs

We are still working on the new signs to be inserted in the stonework at each of the access points to the village.

Continued on page 3

#### OAKLEY PARISH COUN-CIL

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I would also like to say a huge thank you to the person who cleaned the Oakley sign at the Village Cross Roads. It was my intention to clean it, but was delighted to find that someone had saved me the trouble. Thank you.

#### Village Planting

The planting around the village that has been taken on by Elspeth Dando and Leo Jones is lovely and is a credit to them. Unfortunately there has been damage on no less than two occasions to the bed in Lovell Road. It is difficult to determine how the damage was caused, but it may have been done by a dog. I would urge everyone to protect these beds , acknowledging the hard work by Elspeth and Leo, but appreciated by many and undoubtedly they do enhance the appearance of OUR village.

#### **Dog Fouling**

It seems to me that there has been a definite increase in dog fouling around the village particularly in the High Street and Highfield Road. Why this happens I don't really know, but the fact that it is School holidays does make me wonder!!!!! **Please please please clean up after your dog** and do not be one of those people who couldn't care! The Phantom Sprayer is still highlighting the dog mess; offenders could be identified next.

#### **Nuisance Motor Cyclists**

Two or more male motor cyclists are terrorising residents by their reckless motor cycling on our village roads. They seem to find it fun to drive at extreme speed and at the same time do 'wheelies' irrespective of who, or what is about. One of these days they could well run out of luck, but my concern is that if they do, might some innocent person also be involved. God forbid! The Police are as anxious as we are to identify these individuals with a view to stopping this outrageous reckless behaviour.

Please spread the word and should anyone know the identity of these individuals or witness such behaviour please obtain whatever evidence you are able to safely, including date, time, location and pass it on to the Police or provide the information to me, Ann, Parish Council Clerk or any other Parish Council member.

I am pleased to report that following these recent incidents a team of six police officers spent two hours in the village from 1.30pm to 3.30pm on Monday 15 August. They brought their mobile Police Office to The Green, gave Crime Prevention advice where necessary, did speed enforcement in the High Street and Highfield Road and monitored HGV movements in Pavenham Road. We hope that this visit was the first of more to come.

#### Proposed 3G Pitch and Relocation of Playing Field at Lincroft School.

The Parish Council has reviewed its position on the proposed 3 G Pitch and the site for the playing field.

Our statement reads as follows;

Following the exhibition by the consultants DLP Planning on 13th May 2016, which set out the proposals to relocate the playing field, reroute Station Road and develop the adjacent land, the Parish Council has reviewed its position on the 3G pitch and the site for the Playing Field. A copy of the proposed plan for the site is attached to this statement.



#### <u>3G Pitch</u>

Council has agreed to continue to oppose the 3G pitch because of the noise, traffic and parking objections which have been raised and which we understand, represent the majority of residents' views. Council's visit to the 3G pitch at Redborne School has reinforced the decision that Lincroft is an unsuitable site for a 3G pitch. The Redborne pitch is much further away from housing, has better access and planting and bunds have been put in place to reduce the noise and light pollution. The current Lincroft proposal does not take account of the restricted accesses to Oakley or lack of parking space and does not include screening to reduce noise and light levels.

#### Relocation of the Playing Field

Council has also agreed to continue to oppose the proposal to relocate the Playing Field as set out in the Borough Council's Call for Sites i.e. funded by the building of 250 dwellings adjacent to the new Playing Field. Residents who responded to the Neighbourhood Plan questionnaire wanted the proposed site to remain as open green space and considered 20 - 50 new dwellings as the appropriate level of growth to avoid overwhelming the existing village. Housing numbers were not discussed at the May exhibition and traffic lights at/ on the bridges were put forward as a solution to the access problems but these have previously been rejected by residents. The current proposal does not address the school parking on roads adjacent to Station Road or the narrow roads and footways throughout the village, would increase the number of houses affected by traffic congestion, parking and noise from the Field and 3G pitch and does not reflect the views of the majority of residents.

The statement has been published on the Village web site and displayed on the Parish Council notice board at the Post Office.

### Annual Christmas Tree Lights Switch On and Carols

If we follow the usual pattern the annual Christmas Tree Lights switch on and Carols will take place at St Mary's Church on Saturday 3 December 2016. Please note this on your calendar and confirmation will follow nearer the time on the village web site and Parish Council notice board. The publication of the Winter edition of the Newsletter is likely to be after this date.

Once again thank you for reading my ramblings and thank you for your support. As usual a huge thank you to The Editor Bill Chalker for his consistent hard work in producing such a quality publication. I wish everyone a very enjoyable Christmas and a Very Happy New Year. Paul Phillips.



### Open Gallery 1st October 11an - tpm

You are invited to LJ Creative Studios next Open Gallery - please come along and view my latest paintings, photographs and cards.

#### Colleze farm, Lovell Road, Oakley, Bedford MK13 7RX



ljcreativestudios.com

PAINTINGS PHOTOGRAPHY PET PORTRAITS



#### Borough Council News by Cllr Pat Olney



#### **Speed cameras**

in Oakley will be operational in, Lovell Road, Church Lane, Station road and Pavenham Road Oakley from the Ist of September 2016. I am pleased to say that since the white lines appeared by the cameras the majority of people have kept to speed limit in Oakley. This was confirmed when the police did a speed check in the village. Thank you to everyone who have made Oakley a much safer place.

#### **Bedford Borough Consultation**

This consultation will ask whether pensioners and disabled pass holders should pay £1.00 for an early journey on the buses. The consultation is open for everybody and will run until 5th October 2016. Please go to www.bedford.gov.uk/ earlytravel to give me your thoughts.

#### **Bedford Borough Local Plan to 2035**

The Borough Council expect the first draft for consultation to be ready in February 2017. The planning officers have been carefully analysing all the proposals that were put forward in the call for sites earlier this year.

Two sites that will particularly affect our villages are the proposed 6,000 at Twinwoods over 2 adjacent sites and 2,500 at the Colworth Unilever site at Sharnbrook. These are being carefully considered as to their sustainability and the impact on the road system and the wider area of the great Ouse Valley north of Bedford.

### Bedford Hospital and the wider Health Service in Bedford Borough

The review has been restarted and now includes the Luton and Dunstable hospital as well as Milton Keynes Hospital. This is part of the Health Transformation process now put forward by the National Health Service. It will look at the way that the Bedford Health Service and the Social Services can work together and pool budgets. I do hope the patients and their carers will not lose out in the draft plan that will be put forward for consultation. I do believe it can work but only if the patients' and their carers' physical and mental health are central in this draft.

#### A level Results

Congratulations to Bedford pupils. The pupils at the Bedford Borough schools achieved 99.3% A+ to E results. It is good send off for their future career whether they are to apply for apprenticeships, work based training, vocational training or university. If you are looking for work please contact the Job Hub which gives advice and assistance in getting that job. The telephone number is 01234 223510.



#### The Higgins

The next exhibition from the 15th October is going to be a real treat. It is **Picasso and the Masters of Print.** All 7 Picasso prints owned by the Higgins Trust will be on display. Each one shows a different method of printing that Picasso mastered. Other great print artists will be on display including Rembrandt, Matisse, Warhol and Hockney. There will be a programme of gallery tours, talks and workshops. The present Exhibition is also wonderful. If you have not been please go on the Higgins website and see what talks and gallery tours are available. They are of a high standard and I for one have learned so much about the techniques that the artist used and where they got their ideas.



#### Heritage Weekend Sept 10/11th

Here is a chance to find out more about Bedford Borough's Heritage at The Higgins, Bromham Mill, The Moot Hall at Elstow ,Foster Hill Cemetery and Bedfordshire Archives at Borough Hall. Please check the websites.

> Pat Olney Tel. 01234 824384 email pat.olney@btopenworld.com,

[ Editors Note - Picasso Prints are representative rather than those on show at The Higgins ]

#### Farming and Country — Autumn 2016

#### **By John Saunders**

Despite the mild winter and cold spring in March & April when it looked as though hardly anything would grow, May & June saw a tremendous growth in grass, hedges, trees and crops. The 20th July saw the first crops combined which looked a very good crop until it was harvested. The samples of grain were very poor and thin. You need a bold grain with plenty of flour in it but everybody's crops are the same this year which is probably due to the mild winter, cold spring and a wet summer with a lack of sunshine. The rape crop seems to be the same.

Early August the wheat was ready to harvest and this was a better quality and yield. The wheat is either feed wheat used for animal feed for pigs, poultry and cattle etc. or milling wheat which is used for bread making, biscuits or Weetabix. The Weetabix factory being close by at Wellingborough buys most of its wheat locally within a 30 mile radius.

The hay and silage crops have been good due to the wet May & June but most people are cutting their hay at the end of July which is a lot later than usual. Listening to the news the other day they were talking about parents wanting to take their children to work in the summer holidays as the playschools were closed. It reminds me of my younger days, when father was a market gardener, and housewives came to the farm to pick peas, potatoes and fruit. They all brought their children in prams and pushchairs and the children all played in the fields.

Nowadays, with large machinery in the fields, health and safety would have their say. Generally the health and safety do a good job although they do go over the top with some of their ideas. When I was farming we had an inspection on all the machinery to make sure the moving parts were all guarded but they never seemed to be concerned about the Friesian bull which we had in those days or whether we had him in a proper pen. Even today several people are killed each year by mainly dairy bulls such as Friesians, Ayrshires or Jerseys which you always had to be careful with. The beef bulls are not so dangerous.

I have decided this will be my last article for the village newsletter as I have been doing this long enough. If there is anybody else who would like to write something on country matters please contact the editor Bill Chalker.

I will just finish by saying you could survive without your car, mobile phones, televisions and computers probably but you would not survive very long without food and water.

John Saunders



#### John Saunders

Writer of the Farming and Country Articles for the Oakley Newsletter



I am sure everyone is like me and looks forward to John's articles about farming and country life in the magazine.

Sadly he has decided to hang up his pen and will no longer be submitting articles. The one in this magazine will be his last one.

On behalf of you all, I wish to thank John for his very informative articles. They are always interesting whether about farming in the past or like the last one explaining about why farmers kept cows in especially during wet weather. I particularly enjoyed the way the farm was tidied up for the family wedding. The same thing happens when we have visitors and the house gets a spring clean but a farm - wow some task!

Thank you so much John, take a rest and enjoy the beautiful view from your house.

Pat Olney

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#### **Oakley Neighbourhood Plan Report**

Great News - The policies that will shape the village to 2035 are ready for your comments. Consultation late October/early November 2016

The draft policies are now in place and will be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting on the 6th of September. They have also been sent to the Borough Planners for their comments.

All the policies have been based on your comments whether at public meetings or from the questionnaire.

These will then be available on the Parish website after the Parish Council have considered them at the meeting of 6th September.

#### Please can you come to the next consultation

This one is for everyone to make sure that these policies do reflect your hopes and wishes for our village.

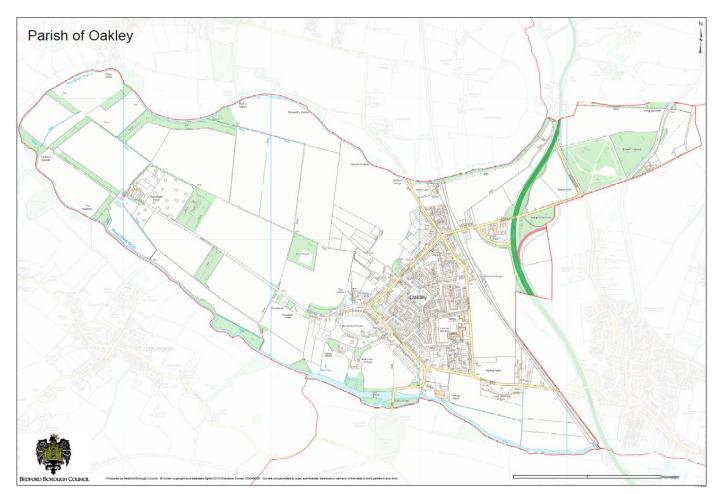
We would like as many people as possible to attend. Remember it is your village and the policies will shape any planning application that is put forward in the village.

The consultation is scheduled for late October/early November 2016. It will be in the Village Hall on a Sunday. Please look out for the date on the village notice boards and please come along to the display.

In the meantime you can look on the parish website and contact the Ann Paice the parish clerk by email with your comments.

I wish to thank the group for all their hard work in putting these policies together. They are a great team

Pat Olney



**Oakley Youth Club** is up and running at the Old School, Oakley. Two new youth leaders Courtney and Hannah have developed an exciting programme of events.

Last term at Oakley Youth Club we had a fantastic time enjoying the weather and spending most of the Friday evenings outdoors with the youth participating in bonfire building, playing football and chilling out with their mates.

We would like to invite all 12-16 year olds down to Oakley Old School on Friday evening during term time from 7:30pm-9:30pm to join in the fun.

Entry is £1 and bring some small change for the tuck shop if you wish.

Oakley Youth Club will be up and running for the Autumn term from Friday 9th September. Cut this out and bring it along for free entry.

#### More about Courtney and Hannah

Hannah is a keen football player and can carry out a mean tackle, so watch out everyone.

Courtney is a shopaholic, she has so many handbags she can't count them all.

Both of them are looking forward to seeing you at the Youth Club.

If you would like more information then contact

Courtney on 07731652539 or Hannah on 07593613551 or



#### Like us on Facebook

## **CAN YOU HELP?**

#### Oakley Youth Club is an active and engaging club open to young people on a Friday night.

We have two fabulous youth workers in Courtney and Hannah who run the group each week and Carol Sudnik, myself and Nick Saunders act as chair, secretary and treasurer. After setting up the Youth Club 10 years ago Carol Sudnik has decided to step down. As secretary I am seeking some support to help to run the club.

I am responsible for sorting out the insurance, organisation, and Nick holds the cheque book - so what is your role?

With Courtney and Hannah on duty each week we'd like you to join us at our monthly meetings to manage the club, review attendance, help develop the group and attend the club on an occasional basis to support Courtney and Hannah.

Providing a relaxed environment for young people to chill out on a Friday night the youth club has welcomed many young people over the years and we would love to welcome someone new into our team to help.

To get involved with this engaging group please contact Sara Fardon to sarafardon@yahoo.co.uk or 824516.

#### **Oakley Rural Day Centre**

Oakley Rural Day Centre was established in 1998 and we are still going from strength to strength. Our elderly clients look forward every week to enjoying a fun packed day in a safe and friendly environment. The day starts at 10 o'clock with clients arriving for tea and toast and a catch up with their friends about their previous week. We offer a wide variety of mentally and physically stimulating activities. Mark, our Activities Organiser, is very musically orien-tated so you will frequently hear our clients enjoying a good old fashioned sing a long and very often a few will be up and dancing around the hall. Weather permitting we go for short walks in the village or just sit in the beautiful peaceful garden which surrounds the Old School.



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Angela our cook always prepares a delicious two course freshly cooked lunch with seasonal vegetables and locally sourced meat. A traditional roast lunch with apple crumble and custard is always a favourite. We hold an Environmental Health Food Rating 5 and cater for various dietary needs.

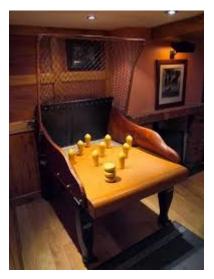
Oakley Rural is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10am to 3pm. If you know of any elderly person who feels lonely or isolated and would perhaps like to come and join in the fun, or if you would like to become a volunteer and can spare 3 hours a week to provide assistance and friendship, please give the Day Centre a call on 07733 227374



#### AMIGO

The coach trip to Rochester that took place on the 30th June was a success. A total of 35 people left Oakley Village Hall at 8,00 a.m. and arrived at the Huguenot Museum at about 10.30 a.m. After being given a talk and a guided tour the party left the museum for lunch at the Cathedral Tea Rooms. Some members of the group were able to have a look around the cathedral before the party left for a visit to Restoration House. This is a Tudor mansion that became the inspiration for "Satis House" the home of Miss Havisham in the novel "Great Expectations" by Charles Dickens. Guided tours were arranged of the House including an opportunity to explore the delightful gardens. After tea , coffee and cakes the group left Rochester at 4.45 p.m.

The 2015/16 season finished with an evening ramble led by John Dixon on the 28th July around Priory Country Park. After a pleasant walk the group called into the "Beefeater Inn" for a drink before returning home.



The new Amigo session will get off to a lively start with a **game of Skittles** at the Bedford Arms, Souldrop on Tuesday 27th September beginning at 7.30 p.m. As usual a buffet will be available at the cost of £6.00 a head payable in cash on the night. The buffet will consist of a variety of sandwiches with chips. If you wish to come please let John Dixon know by Tuesday 20th September and let him know if you want the buffet. John's telephone number is 01234 824959 and e-mail address is jwdixon30@gmail.com.

An illustrated talk entitled **"Have I found the mad preacher in the family"** to be given by Noel Evans on one of his ancestors promises to be an entertaining evening at Oakley Methodist Church on Tuesday 25th October beginning at 8.00 p.m.



An **evening of poetry** will take place on Tuesday 22nd November at Oakley Methodist Church beginning at 8.00 p.m.



A traditional evening of **carol singing** and the use of **hand bells** will take place at the Bedford Arms, Oakley on Tuesday 20th December beginning at 8.00 p.m.

Arrangements are in hand for activities for the new year with the showing of a feature film, a quiz and a possible coach trip in July. A program will be available as soon as possible.

John Dixon



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This picture highlights the irresponsible behaviour of users of our village bottle bank at the rear of The Bedford Arms. Please take your bottles elsewhere if the bottle bank is full as those left outside the skip will not be collected . Someone else will have to clear them up. Whoever was responsible for this I hope you have a guilty conscience. The responsible thing to do would be to report the full bottle bank to a member or Clerk of the Parish Council. [See Page 2 for contacts]

Paul Phillips.



### **Guiding in North Beds**

It has been a very busy and exciting term for Rainbows (aged 5-7 years), Brownies (aged 7 -10 years) and Guides (10 - 14+) and their leaders and helpers, in and around Oakley.

In order to gain their Queen's 90th birthday badges Oakley Brownies have made clay faces of The Queen and sprayed them silver, they enjoyed tasting their edible jewellery and made a family tree for the Royal Family. They finished the term with a red, white and blue party.

Oakley Rainbows have completed their Seasons badge and enjoyed exploring the outdoor environment with a nature hunt. They also loved decorating cupcakes and making a healthy fruit salad. They celebrated the summer holidays with a day spent at Priory Marina – the pond dipping proved to be a great success!

The Guides have enjoyed archery, swimming and a cook out. Some of the Guides are attending The Games Summer camp where they will be taking part in potholing, pioneering, hikes, campfires and a trip to the aqua park, as well as a visit to The Elisabeth Curtis Riding for the disabled stables

Not wanting to be left out the leaders and helpers celebrated the summer weather with their own Chat and Chill session at Harrold Country Park.

All the units in North Beds are looking forward to the new term. Some groups are taking part in a sponsored Bridge walk around the river in Bedford and all have lots of exciting adventures planned. We always encourage new young members to join in the fun and new leaders and helpers are welcomed to ensure we can continue to provide such great experiences.

For more information please e-mail Jane on div.nbeds@bedsguiding.org.uk or visit www.bedsguiding.org.uk

Jane Thompson, Acting District Commissioner

### **LOVERS** – still going strong after 6 years! (Ladies of Oakley vaguely energetic rambling society)



Every first and third Friday for the last six years, the ladies of Oakley have ventured out on walks in and around Bedfordshire and tested the food at local pubs and garden centres. We have encountered much wildlife including alpacas in Stevington and the larger animals at Woburn Safari Park, not mention numerous red kites and other birds of prey.

Occasionally, when we venture further afield, partners are invited to join us and we have enjoyed guided walks in London, a punt trip in Cambridge and more recently a midsummer evening guided tour of Bedford Park, which was followed by a supper.



We always meet at Oakley Village Hall to arrange the car sharing and leave promptly at 10.00am to drive to our lunch venue where we place our orders prior to doing the walk. Walks are from 3-5 miles long and all members of Lovers receive the programme of walks in advance. Members are encouraged to take a turn at leading a walk and nobody minds if we end up turning round. Map reading skills are not a prerequisite!

We walk in all weathers although some ladies only turn up when it is dry.



Over the next couple of months the programme of walks includes Turvey, Elstow, The Forest Centre at Marston Moretaine, and Woughton on the Green in Milton Keynes. We will also have a Xmas walk and lunch in December.

It's an excellent way of meeting and making new friends in the village whilst getting some gentle exercise. If you would like to join us, or to find out more, please email:

ann.baily@btopenworld.com



#### A letter from Revd Linda

"I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward calling of God in Christ Jesus". (Philippians 3:14). Though righteousness is God's gift Christians are not relieved of the obligation of serious effort. The "goal" alludes to the finishing post in Greek foot races. The prize is God's heavenly call to share God's glory.

As I write the Olympic Games at Rio are well under way. It does not seem five minutes since we hosted the 2012 Games at which Tom Daley won a bronze medal. After a number of ups and downs and after much effort and the help of a new coach he has won another Bronze Medal. It hasn't been easy: he lacked motivation after an injury three years ago, and was on the verge of giving up diving altogether. He lost his nerve completely until he found an alternative way of doing a twister dive which has become known as the 'Firework'. Even those with natural talent have to make a serious effort.



The records of the first Olympic Games go back to 776 BCE, although the Games existed before this. The Greek style Olympic Games ended long ago but the Olympic Games themselves were revived in 1896 by Baron de Coubertin, a French aristocrat. The 1908 Olympic Games were originally scheduled to be hosted by Rome, but the 1906 eruption of Mount Vesuvius caused the Games to be relocated to London. These Games were better organized and for the first time included an opening ceremony, yet they were marred by politics and nationalism.

The modern games are very different from the Classical ones although the Games still try to promote peace and understanding between countries. Olympism is defined on the Olympics website as: 'A philosophy of life, exalting and combining in a balanced whole the qualities of body, will and mind. Blending sport with culture and education Olympism seeks to create a way of life based on the joy found in effort, the educational value of good example and respect for universal fundamental ethical principles'.

Thomas Bach, the president of the International Olympic Committee said in Rio before the games began: 'The main symbol for this is the Olympic Village where athletes who will be competing against each other live peacefully Certainly at a time when divisions together.' exist between peoples and nations the games this year will be an important reminder of the hopes and dreams many have for peace and harmony in the world. It is hoped that the 2016 Games will send a message of unity, respect and tolerance to the world. It is good that in a very diverse world 206 nations will take part and it is hoped that they will compete with each other respectfully and in peace.

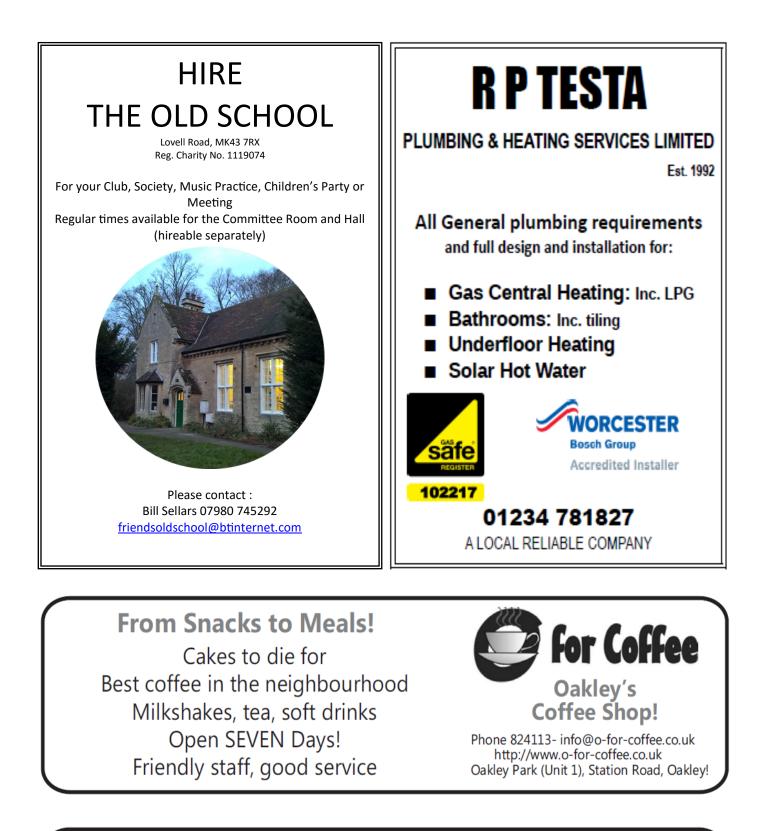


Christians believe that they are involved in a sort of relay race. This isn't a race to see who is the fastest. It is a relay team carrying an important message: a royal message from Jesus the King of Kings. The message carried by Christians is the news of God's love for all people. We are commanded to share this love and promote peace in our nation and throughout the world.



The 1981 film Chariots of Fire was based on the success of Eric Liddell who won a Gold Medal in the 400 metres in the 1924 Paris Olympics. He ran not for crowds, not for country, not for fame, not for glory - He ran for God.

Revd Linda





Phone 824983 - info@tudorrosepatchwork.co.uk http://www.tudorrosepatchwork.co.uk Oakley Park (Unit 1), Station Road, Oakley! We're friendly and very helpful! We run all kinds of workshops and clubs! We have a great selection of knitting yarns We have a huge range of cotton fabrics as well as other types of fabric

### Oakley Allotments



I have been looking back over past years' reports to see how different the seasons have been. It is hard to remember what previous years brought to the allotments as they are so different and now number guite a few. I know that each year brings its own surprises and disappointments - all part of following could have concluded either way... the enjoyment of working an allotment.

Enjoyment is not a word I would have chosen earlier this year though. It was cold and wet and nothing but the grasses and some weeds were showing much promise. What we did manage to plant was often regarded as a gift by the slugs. It was frustrating that controlling the rampant grass growth was diverting us from other work on the allotment. It remained wet for so long that the water was only turned on in July.

Eventually, the weather warmed slightly and the grasses had achieved their purpose, which was to set seed as soon as possible. After that their growth slowed and it became easier to deal with them. There was a moment early in the season when I was close to throwing in the towel but a few long days of work brought encouraging progress.

Now things have been happening as they should for a few weeks and, although the cold start to the season has set some plants back so that they will not produce well this year (squashes being one example) others have thrived. Sweetcorn and fennel are much improved on last year's results.

Strawberries were prolific in late May but suffered from mildew. Gooseberries were fewer in number than last year. Now the cultivated blackberry is doing very well, as it usually does, and I suspect that its wild ancestry has given it the hardiness to respond to poor conditions.

I found a few old broad beans in the shed and sowed them in a small area of spare ground they grew into reasonable plants and produced a few usable pods. As it became drier in recent weeks and I was not able to water them, they died off but the experiment has been worthwhile.

We have someone interested in taking on our one free half-plot allotment and another half-plot is due to be vacated soon by one of our foundertenants. There is no waiting-list. A few allotments have been allocated to Pavenham residents due to lack of applicants from Oakley. As ever, if you fancy the enjoyable challenge of an allotment then please contact me.

#### **Steve's Snippet No.21**

Have you ever had one of those moments when your well-controlled life suddenly takes an unexpected turn for the worse?

A sequence of events can suddenly take place as if choreographed by the director of a farce and they are certainly not chaotic - the results can vary from disastrous to highly entertaining. The



Dashcams are a fairly new and valuable addition to a motorist's arsenal of self-protective equipment. Crash-for-cash and other incidents have made them a valuable asset in proving liability, as I also found after a minor collision I was involved in last year; the camera video proved it was not (entirely) my fault.

A colleague of mine usually goes about equipped with a portable dashcam, particularly when he collects and delivers customers' cars. His camera is a small weighty item and is quite easily placed on a car's dash on a wad of anti-slip foam mesh to hold it in position. A quick and easy solution which is usually very effective.

On this particular morning he placed the camera in position and drove off. The day was warm and so he opened both front windows. As he approached a fairly tight bend he slowed to negotiate the bend and noticed that his usually secure camera was starting to slide along the top of the dash, and it didn't slow down. In fact, it slid the length of the dash and disappeared out of the open window.

Still, never mind, the camera was a shockresistant type and might easily survive such a mishap... except that a car passing in the opposite direction ran over the camera, testing its durability to destruction.

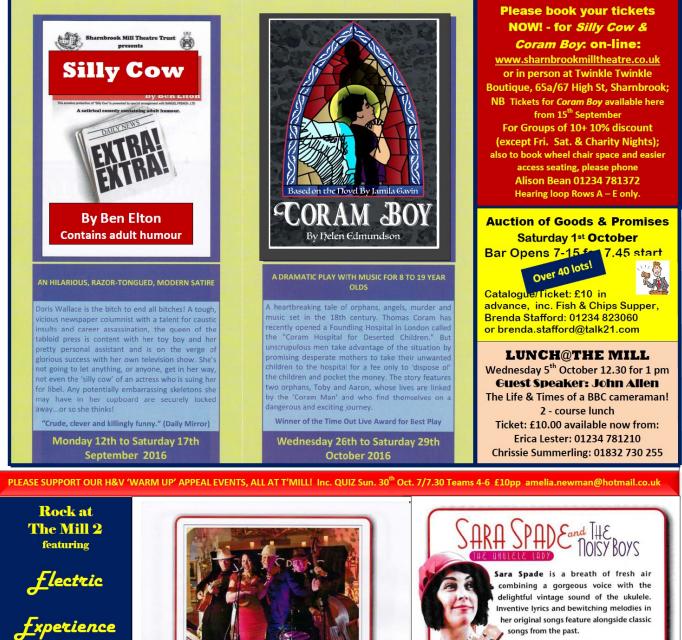
Steve Nicholas

Steve Nicholas



### Welcome to the multi-award winning Sharnbrook Mill Theatre

Patrons: Joanna David and Hugh Laurie : Registered Charity 242164



8 pm Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> November Tickets £10 **Unreserved seats** 

**On-line** sharnbrookmilltheatre.co.uk

or in person at Twinkle Twinkle Boutique 65a/67 High Street, Sharnbrook

> or from Roger Wiltshire 07704 700785





With Jonny Gee on Double Bass and Jonny Mattock on Snare Drum Sara Spade's foot-tapping mix of vintage classics and her retro-swing ukulele originals have uplifted audiences of thousands across the age spectrum from youthful Camp Bestival to a WW2 reunion party at Birmingham City Hall. She has played on BBC1 and BBC2, appeared at numerous festivals including at Althorp, given concerts at The Stables and abroad and has a residency at a Belgravia jazz dive.

'Beautiful face, beautiful music' BBC1 Radio DJ Rob Da Bank



The new water source heat pump installation heating the auditorium has now been commissioned and is operational This is phase1 of the Sharnbrook Mill Theatre's ambitious project to install a green-energy based heating and ventilating system at the Mill. The cost of this, the costliest phase, was around £175,000 and could only be completed thanks to the generosity of some of the Mill's Governors who have given interest free loans. This event will help to bridge the approximately £40,000 shortfall.

SLEEPING BEAUTY Traditional pantomime 10-18 Dec. 7.30 (Not 13) Mat's 10, 17 & 18 2.30 £11/13 Book early! www.sharnbrookmilltheatre.co.uk



The Great Oakley Bake Off! Again. . .

Having seen so many people have such a great time in 2015, we thought that we should do it all over again. So in June this year we held our very own Bake Off competition, again, with the snappy working title, the Great Oakley Bake Off ! And, once again, it exceeded all expectations.

Sara Glennie provided the lioness's share of the planning and organisational effort and the cakes with their creators came along in their hordes. If anything the variety and quality benefitted from the confidence and technical expertise gained by the bakers from the first Bake Off. The more distinctive looking, but no less pleasing eating, included a rainbow cake and another with a garden scene that included charmingly crafted toadstools.

There are lots of thanks needed. First and foremost, a great big thank you to all the Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, and Parents, who impressed everyone with their remarkable and delicious cake-making abilities. The variety of flavours was even wider than before.

Next, a special thank you to Councillor Pat Olney who graced the proceedings as chief judge, ably assisted by Councillor Jane Walker, and also by Roz Gray, Chair of the Governors at Oakley Lower School. It was most kind and generous of them to spare the time for a local event such as ours. We were very grateful to welcome them to make the difficult decisions of selecting the best from the great. Thank you.

To all those people who came along to sample the wide range of cakes, biscuits, buns and flans all washed down with tea, coffee and a range of drinks for the younger tasters. Thank you for attending and enjoying those gorgeous cakes. It was clear that you found it a most pleasurably self-indulgent afternoon. Just what was wanted.

To those Group Members and Parents who turned up to setup for the event a big thank you for your help in making it all run so smoothly. And especially to Sara Glennie, without her enthusiasm not only would both the Bake Off not have happened, but also those young bakers would not have realised just what they could achieve.

We did raise some welcome money, all of which will be put to good use supporting the activities of the Oakley Scout Group. Earlier in the year we were able to renew the floor, with the Bake Off being the first major event on it. If you wish to add your help to our fundraising in any way then, please contact the new OSG Chair Steve Lawson at osgchair@outlook.com.

Jon Abbott, Group Scout Leader, and his team of Leaders and Adult Helpers will be providing a wide range of fun and challenging activities for boy and girl Members between the ages of 6 to 14 this Autumn term. The Scouting programme provided for the Sections is a mix of badge work, games, themed evenings, visits and weekend activities. So, if you are the parent or guardian of a child between the ages of 6 and 14 who may be interested in joining Oakley Scout Group, the relevant contact numbers are below.

Beavers	6 - 8 year olds	Wednesdays	18:15-19:30	phone Karen	07918 181815
Cubs	8 - 10.5 year olds	Thursdays	18:30-20:00	phone Arran	07526 653178
Scouts	10.5 - 14 year olds	Tuesdays	19:00-20:30	phone Dean	07854 312255

#### **Steve's Snippet No.22**

(More the start of a serialised adventure...)

With a sudden yearning for the open road and adventure north of the border I volunteered to meet my friend, Dennis, as he completed the challenge of cycling All Four Points, for three charities.

Dennis plans a charity event nearly every year. Some of them involve other people, such as a novel 24-hour beach volleyball competition held at Hastingsbury School in 2004 (tonnes of sand, donated and delivered by a local company created a large beach, afterwards used by the school to condition the playing fields) . Some of them are solo efforts with quite a few Land's End to John O'Groats trips, one year's being a 10-week-long walk.

Over the years this man has raised well over  $\pounds 500,000$  for various charities.

All Four Points (over 2,000 miles, depending upon the route taken) involves visiting the most southerly (Lizard, Cornwall), easterly (Lowestoft Ness), westerly (Ardnamurchan Point, Scotland) and northerly (Dunnet Head, Scotland) points on the British mainland by some challenging means. In Dennis's case that was cycling - in mine, the last two points, using my small campervan and a folding bike.

Dennis allowed 3 weeks to complete the challenge and I planned to explore some of Scotland on my way to pick him and his bicycle up from John O'Groats. I had never been that far in to Scotland before and this was a bit of an excuse to indulge in the trip whilst helping Dennis in his worthy venture.

I set off at midday on a Wednesday and headed for Kielder Water, which Julia and I had visited some years ago. The choice was somewhat random but I intended to avoid motorways as much as possible and chose Kielder in the hope of seeing its famous night-time dark-skies. I arrived at my destination in the late evening having accidentally skirted the centre of Durham, an old haunt of mine while a close friend had pursued his PhD there, so quite a nostalgia-trip and appropriate to the tone of the entire journey.



As I arrived at Kielder Water the evening was still light and I had the opportunity to take a few photographs from various locations. As I prepared my evening meal clouds rolled in on a freshening breeze and the onset of rain suggested that the dark skies would remain obscured-skies for the night. I packed up and headed for Glasgow with the aim of spending the night as close as possible to the wonderful Loch Lomond so that I could, hopefully, wake to views across the loch next day.

I was looking forward to this trip especially because it is possible to wild-camp in Scotland in many locations. I was anticipating a sense of freedom that is hard to explain to anyone who has never back-packed or set-off with a van and no plan - well, maybe the sketch of a plan.

The adventure intensified as I arrived at roadworks on the outskirts of Glasgow at midnight in the dark and the pouring rain. The road-crews obviously had a wicked sense of humour as the diversions led me round in circles with no obvious route out. Fortunately I was not tired and on the second circuit of the diversion system (possible 3 miles) I chose the least obvious route and headed off to another closed stretch of motorway - it looked like I was due to spend a few days in Glasgow at this rate!

It all worked out eventually and I arrived at Loch Lomond at about 1 o'clock in the morning. Venturing in to a lay-by off the main road I discovered a haven for tourers - the lay-by consisted of a through-road with secluded parking areas off to either side at intervals. I parked, drew the curtains and climbed in to bed at 1:15am. I slept quite well. The next day was to give me the opportunity to help someone else and was rewarding in more ways than one...

To be continued...

Steve Nicholas



**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.

### OAKLEY SHOW Reminder Sunday 18th SEPTEMBER

I hope that this newsletter is delivered in time for you to get your entries for the show delivered to me. They need to be posted through my door along with the appropriate fee by Saturday 11th. My address is 10 Grenidge Way; and I do have some spare copies should you have misplaced yours.

I have spoken to several people who say they are putting in an entry and as it is said "Actions speak louder than words", so I hope that this is so.

There will be trophies to take home. So far our sponsors are:



Paul White (he has paid for the printing) Mr. and Mrs. Noel Steel No. 3 Emporium (have you been in there yet?), Milton Ernest Garden Centre, Oakley Gardening Club Mrs. Pat Olney Mrs. Denise Hookham Oakley Village hall.

Thank you, Jean Weston

If you do not want to enter please come along and see what other members of the village have achieved.

Then perhaps next year....?



#### Congratulations for a Hole in One



Congratulations to Elva Lewes of Oakley for her hole in one on the 8th Hole at the Pavenham Golf Club from her fellow players Cynthia Pike



#### **Oakley Pre-school News**



PUT THIS on YOUR CALENDARI

show is being held at Oakley Village Hall on 18th November. Proceeds from the sale of raffle tickets will be donated to the pre-school.

We will also be holding a **Crafty Christmas Afternoon** again this term, which is open to all ages. Look out for posters on the village notice boards, with details, nearer the time.

#### Admissions

If you would like to register your child for a place at pre-school, please contact us on 01234 826452. Or by email: grow@oakleypreschool.org.uk

Follow us on Facebook to keep up with our latest news and events.

For information on funding you can contact the Family Information Service 0800 023 2057

Sally Martiello

At pre-school we managed another successful transition for all our children moving on to lower schools. We wish them all well on the next part of their educational journey.

Over the summer the pre-school playroom has been decorated by members of the Methodist Church ready for the new term. Our pre-school committee also organised park visits for the children, so that they could all continue to meet up on a weekly basis over the summer holidays. These have been well attended and enjoyed by parents and children alike.

We will be welcoming fifteen new starters in September and some of our morning sessions are already full.



#### **Fundraising and Community events**

This year we are the chosen charity for the Pure Heart **Fashion Show** Grand Raffle. The fashion

#### MESSY CHURCH

Come along and join in the fun at Messy Church. Messy Church takes place every Thursday at St Mary's during term time 10am to 12oclock for children up to 5 years old with their parents /carers . A light lunch is served of fresh fruit with a drink and biscuits , with coffee or tea and biscuits for the adults.

PLENTY OF TOYS.

CRAFTS [SOME MESSY].

PAINTING.

PLAYDOH

STORIES AND SONGS







### Come and enjoy

A FAMILY HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICE



involving children from FOOTPRINTS OAKLEY METHODIST CHURCH Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October at 10.30 a.m.

Harvest Gifts given to the Food Bank



The Sower





All families very welcome





#### FOOTPRINTS

starts again for children aged 4+

on Tuesday 20th September

from 4.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.

#### at OAKLEY METHODIST CHURCH

**FOOTPRINTS** is a Christian based Churches Together activity, and meets every Tuesday during term time.

It meets in **Junior and Senior Groups,** and explores the Christian Faith in a fun way through games, songs, stories etc.

Parents of very young children are invited to remain with their children if they wish. All very welcome. Enquiries tel. Michael 824504







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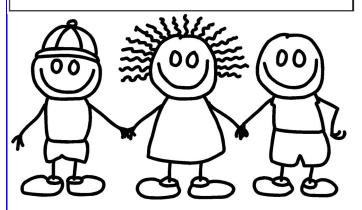
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### **Oakley Toddlers**

Monday 9.30-11.00am term time only in the Village Hall

£1.50 crafts/toys/singing/drinks & snacks

Oakley Toddlers has been running successfully over the last two decades, providing a warm friendly place for mums, dads, grandparents and carers to meet and play with their children.

Anyone interested in volunteering to help run the group please drop in to meet us and see what is involved!



### **Oakley Village Hall**

Church Lane, Oakley, Bedfordshire, MK43 7RJ

A well-appointed village hall Main hall with stage and PA system (Main hall is air conditioned)

Separate meeting room with bar

Well equipped kitchen

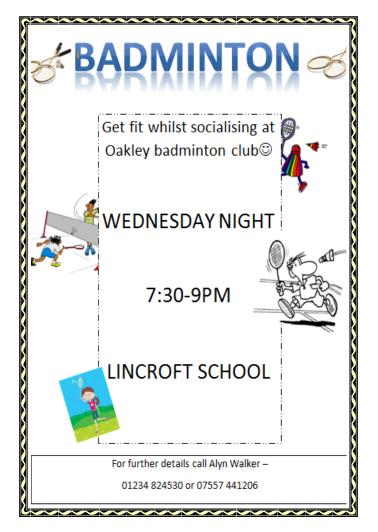
For information and bookings

please telephone 07788 796996





A lack of access to quality education is a huge problem in Malawi. Many children have to walk for up to two hours to reach the closest school, thousands don't complete their primary education, let alone secondary and without an education they struggle to break out of the cycle of poverty. Our sponsorship programme, the Sukulu Project, specifically supports children and young people, enabling them to develop their talents and abilities to the full and get the education they deserve. We pay their school fees for them, and help buy uniform and school books. Where possible we also support some of our most promising students through further education. http://joshuainmalawi.org.uk



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#### **ANOTHER BUSY SUMMER**

Despite the fact that Thursday nights seem to have been rain nights, it has been yet another busy summer at Oakley Motorcycle Club. We had a visit from the British Superbike WD40 race team together with their race bikes. On the same night we were lucky to receive a visit from former three times British Superbike Champion, Naill MacKenzie together with his wife and two sons, Tarran and Taylor who currently race in the British Superbike series.



Tarran competes for team WD40 in the Supersport class and Taylor is the current runaway leader of the Superstock class racing for Team Buildbase BMW. Naill was the Superbike Champion from 1996 to 1998 and now works in the motorcycle media and can regularly be seen on TV as a motorbike racing pundit.



We were joined by local motorbike racers Sam Llewellyn from Bedford and Jon Railton from Little Paxton, who both race in the British Superbike Support series and Andy Sawford from St Neots who races in the Classic Racing Motorcycles Championship. All brought their race machines.





We held a successful American bike theme night coupled with our annual Hot Rod and Dragster night which saw a number of Harley Davidson and Victory motorcycles on display together with several dragsters, including the 8000 BHP Santa Pod Raceway beast and 45 quality hot rods. The winner of the American bike theme night was local businessman and rider, Jason Price of JAP Sound. That night saw in excess of 250 motorcycles in attendance together with many families from Oakley and surrounding villages. Everyone had a great evening. A massive thanks to Dave Brown and family for their organisational assistance.



Many villagers attended the lift off of OMC member and balloonist Tim Horne and his friends. We were hoping for 4 or more balloonists to be in attendance however on the night, due to unforeseen circumstances, we just had Tim. He actually has the biggest balloon by far which resulted in a surprise free Birthday flight for Oakley Mum Nadine Payne and her 12 year old Iad Connor. Another one off the Nadine bucket list!



For more information log onto www.oakleymc.net

Baysie Roger Bays Chair - OMC



#### **OAKLEY WI**

Oakley WI meets on the second Tuesday of the month at the Village Hall. Meetings start at 7.30pm.

#### Tuesday 13th September.

Steve Dimmer is making a return visit to Oakley; this time to tell the story of JAMES BOND.



#### **Tuesday 11th October**

PRIZE BINGO. Laughter

and hilarity guaranteed.



#### **Tuesday 8th November**

When you go to SHARNBROOK MILL THEATRE do you ever wonder about the history of it, or how it works? Douglas Pope has all the answers.



#### **Tuesday 13th December.**

Our CHRISTMAS DINNER. Good food, good company and entertainment. What more can you want?

Visitors are always welcome, and twice a year we have "open meetings" when we encourage husbands, partners and other male friends to join us.

The visits to Ely and Knuston were very successful. Two future outings will be to Windsor Castle to see the exhibition of the Queen's wardrobe



and to MK theatre for another Matthew Bourne ballet. For further information

contact Denise Hookham 828844 or Gill Conway 824303 Competitive prices for all trades We are happy to help and advise Call us now for a free no obligation quote call Darren Hooton 07743 176201 Ray Quinney 07885 644973

#### **OAKLEY GARDENING CLUB**



We meet at 7.45pm at Oakley Methodist Hall in the High Street on the third Monday of the month.

Our meetings are relaxed, informal gatherings. There is an opportunity to have a cup of tea, swap ideas and listen to the guest speaker.

#### **MONDAY 19th SEPTEMBER 2016**

There is a flower arranging demonstration from Amy Hall of 'April Flowers', Clapham.

#### MONDAY 17th OCTOBER 2016

AGM followed by an illustrated talk, 'The world of roses' by Ann Bird, a former President of the Royal National Rose Society and Vice President of the World Federation of Rose Societies for Northern Europe. She is also an RHS rose judge.

#### **MONDAY 21st NOVEMBER 2016**

Janet Munro gives a talk on the development and management of Harrold Odell Country Park.

#### **MONDAY 16th JANUARY 2017**

John Harrowing recounts his experiences of his life in agriculture.

If any of the above are of interest to you, do come along. There is a £3 charge for visitors, to include tea or coffee.

For further information, telephone 822523 or 823788.

Anne McNab

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Download the full menus from our website

Thursday's 6pm - 9pm Full Menu

5pm - 8pm Pizza Night

4pm - 6pm Full Menu

Friday's Saturday's Sunday's 10am - 2:30pm Sunday Menu





