



Oakley Newsletter



Autumn 2017

Number 72



Front Cover Westfield Drive 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

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Hello Children

look out for
8 more



Parish Council News

Autumn 2017

By PAUL PHILLIPS (Chair)

Hello Everyone,

Welcome to the Autumn 2017 edition of Oakley Newsletter, our must read publication.

As I start to prepare my notes I am hoping that everyone is enjoying their summer holiday. I most certainly am, though as I write today it is absolutely throwing it down with rain and yesterday wasn't much better. A day like today makes me think more of autumn than summer, but to be fair we have enjoyed some lovely prolonged spells of good summer weather earlier in June and July, with hopefully much more to come.

Enough of talking about the weather, let us get down to business.

Village Grass Cutting

Those residents who follow Parish Council Meeting minutes will be aware that the Parish Council has devoted a considerable amount of time at recent meetings discussing the standard of grass cutting by our contractors. I think it fair to say that for a variety of reasons we have been less than satisfied with the service we have received. We will continue our discussions with the contractor with the aim of getting good value for the considerable amount of money paid and at the end of the day we want our village to look as well cared for as we possibly can.

Community Speed Watch

Our band of 'willing volunteers' from the village attended Bedfordshire Police Headquarters on 27 July 2017 and received training in respect of Community Speed Watch. We have been issued with the necessary equipment. As soon as the various sites that we have selected around the village have been accepted and risk assessed by the Police you will see the new scheme in operation. You will gather from the introduction of the average speed cameras and now the commitment to introduce this new

Continued on page 3

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scheme that the Parish Council is determined to reduce speeding as far as possible on ALL roads in the village. Please help us to achieve this objective. Incidentally we have just received the average speed camera enforcement figures for the 3 months May, June and July. There is a total of 303 Notices of Intended Prosecution served for speeds between 37 and 49 mph. That does not include those people who would have been offered a speed awareness course. I hope you were not one of the 303!

Inconsiderate and dangerous parking

Some drivers continue to park just where they want to, whether it be on a junction, on the pavement, on the verge, across driveways, on zig zags outside the schools, on yellow lines and in many other circumstances where serious obstructions are caused or visibility is obscured. It also seems that all the polite requests are not going to change habits. The actions of the Bedford Borough Council Camera van and its operators might influence a change in behaviour.

On this subject, I would just like to assure residents that the comments regarding inconsiderate and dangerous parking are a genuine attempt to make our roads safer and to show residents that the Parish Council does care. We sincerely hope that car drivers will act with more consideration, thinking of others as well as themselves. There also seems to be a misunderstanding by many that the money raised in fines by speed cameras etc comes back to the village. Can I make it abundantly clear that it does NOT. That money goes direct to the Treasury.

Bedfordshire Day

The Friends of Bedfordshire Society will be celebrating Bedfordshire Day on 28 November 2017. They suggest that examples of involvement could be celebrations in local pubs, fun days at churches, sporting tournaments - in fact anything you like! The Parish Council has decided once again not to organise anything, but should anyone wish to get involved, then I would suggest they contact Luke Blackstock at luke@friendsofbedfordshire.org.uk

Grass Spraying

In June of this year the Bedford Borough Council arranged for a contractor, on their behalf, to kill weeds on pavements and edges of verges where weeds were growing over the footpath. The work was carried out to a very poor standard and in some cases damage was caused to private gardens. The matter was taken up very quickly by the Parish Council and the Bedford Borough Council took the matter up with the contractor and he has apologised for the mistake of his operative.

The contractor has contacted residents affected and is giving additional training to the operative concerned. I notice, however, that the deadened areas are starting to green up again.

Village Play Areas and Equipment

We have reported in previous editions of this Newsletter that the Parish Council decided to 'replace some' and 'add to' play equipment at the two play areas in The Furlong and The Green. The work on The Furlong was due to start on 21 August and by the time you read this, hopefully the work will have been completed without too much inconvenience and should not have lasted more than 3 to 4 days. The work on The Green is more extensive and is expected to take 2 to 3 weeks. In view of that duration we decided to put the work off until 4 September. The contractors will need to drive over the Green and will put two equipment and welfare containers on the Green. We know how popular these play areas are and how valuable they are to the village. We apologise for the inconvenience, but hope that the users and parents are pleased with our considerable investment which followed consultations at the Annual Meeting in April and at Playgroup and our Schools.

A couple of days ago I visited the play area in The Furlong and thought the gardens were a bit weedy and generally untidy and I wondered if we could establish a working group to weed and generally tidy the area after the work has been carried out. Should anyone wish to lead a group, or indeed just volunteer to take part, then please contact me via my details at the front of this Newsletter. The more volunteers we can get the less onerous the job is likely to be and it will give us a good starting point for ongoing maintenance in the future.

Christmas Lights Switch on

Our Annual Christmas Lights Switch on will take place at St Marys Church at 5pm on Saturday 2 December. It will follow the normal pattern of the lights switched on, Carols and the usual festive refreshments. Please make a note of the date because the Winter Newsletter will not yet be published. Reminders will be given on the Village Website, from Church, Schools and Noticeboards. It is always a good evening and the perfect way to get into the festive mood.

I think I have covered the main items and it just remains for me to thank you for reading our Newsletter and for your consistent support. I know you would also want me to thank our Editor Bill Chalker for all his hard work in consistently raising the standard of our Oakley Newsletter.

Paul Phillips
Chairman

Borough Council News

by Cllr Pat Olney

East Midland Intercity Trains – change of service

The government is proposing that the intercity trains should **no longer stop** at Bedford and Luton stations. This means no fast trains to London or North of Bedford. They are proposing only commuter trains to Corby. If you wish to go further north you will need to change at Kettering.

The government cites overcrowded trains as the reason for the proposed reduction in services. If you wish to object either sign a petition set up by Ben Foley, of Bedford Commuters Association, at bit.ly/EMrailpetition.

Or you can email objections to eastmidlandsfranchise2017@dft.gsi.gov.uk by October the 1st

Or do both.

Bedford Borough Local Plan 2035

Thank you to everyone who replied to the recent consultation particularly the Parish Council and the Neighbourhood Plan Group. The borough received 1,800 plus replies and are in the process of analysing them. The final draft local plan should be out by early 2018.

The issues for our village are the three large village/towns that are proposed along the A6 to the north and the impact that they will have on traffic flows and the Great Ouse Valley Landscape.

Stafford Causeway reconstruction works

These are continuing until the end of September 2017.

Can I thank everyone for their co-operation as this has meant longer journeys, difficulties for pedestrians and damage due to increased traffic along very narrow rural roads.

The Causeway has been propped up for 15 years following a structural assessment. These props have now also showed significant deterioration and the causeway was likely to collapse and desperately needed work.

The borough engineers had to decide how to do this. I quote "that the least disruptive and most cost effective option was to maintain the full use of the highway is to remove the props and reconstruct the decks."

"A number of options were considered for the best way to replace the structure, including ways of working that maintained a one-direction traffic route and provision of a temporary bridge.

Neither were found to be practical. We have looked at extending the working hours or working weekends but the additional cost of doing so has been estimated at £60,000. These additional costs result from cost uplifts for working at weekends and having to resource extra gangs (to allow regular gangs to rest). In addition, the time savings that might be expected from doing this would not fully materialise as there are some operations that preclude faster progress – for example waiting for concrete to cure. We also use weekends as contingency time in the programme in case of bad weather or other unforeseen issues. In working weekends we lose the "float" from the contractor's programme, which then has to added back in or risks further costs being incurred."

The borough are trying to minimise the disruption and hope you will bear with them until the end of September. They are continuing to see if they can open the causeway earlier.

On a more optimistic note:-

Footpath repairs

Paul White and I toured the village on 28th of July looking at footpaths with the Borough road engineer. We identified all the footpath repairs that met the borough criteria for repair. I am pleased to say that all the repairs have been done. He has also supported the Parish Council and I in putting forward the High Street and Lincroft pavements for refurbishment in the capital programme. This means that they will be considered against others for the next round of capital work. I am hoping that with the engineers report backing the Parish Council that the work will get approval.

Higgins Bedford have a new exhibition from the 30th September called a Walk in the Woods.

Works will include the artists John Constable. John Sell Cotman, Francis Towne and Paul Nash. The exhibition coincides with the 800th anniversary of the Tree Charter. The original tree charter was signed by Henry III to protect the rights of people to access and use the Royal Forests. On the 6th of November a new Tree Charter will be launched, led by the Woodland Trust, which will establish a set of values to promote and protect trees.

Please go on the website to find out what else there is happening at the Higgins. There are art and craft activities, music and talks.

www.thehigginsbedford.org.uk

Pat Olney Tel. 01234 824384

email pat.olney@btopenworld.com,

AMIGO

The 2016/17 session of Amigo activities finished with a very pleasant evening ramble led by John Dixon on Tuesday 27th June which began at the Methodist Church and took in Judges Spinney, Browns Wood and Linch Furlong. The weather was dry and a most enjoyable time was spent walking through the countryside.

A total of 32 people came on the coach trip to Greenwich which took place on Thursday 27th July. We were met at the Visitor Centre by Charlie, our excellent guide who took us on an informative walk around Greenwich. The highlight of the day was the Painted Hall Ceiling Tour at the Royal Naval College, an unforgettable experience.

The new season will begin with a skittles match at the Bedford Arms Souldrop on Tuesday **26th September** at 7.30 p.m. As usual a buffet has been arranged of sandwiches and chips at the cost of £6.00 a head payable in cash on the night. Please let John Dixon know if you wish to come and have the buffet by Thursday 21st September.

It is hoped that a Wild Life Photographer will be giving a talk on Tuesday **24th October** at Oakley Methodist Church beginning at 8.00 p.m. This event, however, remains to be confirmed.

A speaker will be giving a talk on "Medical Detection Dogs" at Oakley Methodist Church on Tuesday **28th November** beginning at 8.00 p.m.

These dogs are trained to detect the odour of human disease. It is at the forefront of the research into the fight against cancer and helping people with life-threatening diseases.

The traditional evening of carol singing will take place at The Bedford Arms, Oakley on Tuesday 19th December beginning at 8.00 p.m.

The following events are proposed for 2018. Full details to follow:-

23rd January - A film show at Oakley Methodist Church at 8.00 p.m.

27th February - A talk on the history of Oakley by Pat Olney at Oakley Methodist Church beginning at 8.00 p.m.,

27th March - A Musical Quiz.

24th April - A day time visit to the Military Intelligence Museum at Chicksands. The Museum will not be taking bookings until October 2017.

22nd May - Another opportunity to visit Pat Olney's beautiful garden for a "Garden Party".

26th June - An evening ramble

24th July - A coach outing.

As soon as arrangements are made, details will be made available.

John Dixon

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Volunteering

"spending time, unpaid, doing something that aims to benefit the environment or someone (individuals or groups) other than, or in addition to, close relatives."



I'm writing about volunteering because it is great fun! It is a good way to use existing skills, develop new ones and meet new people. It's very rewarding. You can volunteer for all sorts of activities that appeal to you. I have just done a search on the government site "Do it database" at Gov.uk. and found 83 volunteer opportunities nearby as a result of putting in my postcode. It is worth having a look yourself.

In Oakley the parish council have set up a volunteering page under the Parish Council section of our website www.oakleyvillage.co.uk. Anybody offering opportunities for volunteers can put their details on. I have put on the details of the Youth Club and Paul Phillips has put on the details of the speed watch – two very different sorts of volunteering opportunities. I am about to add a third and I am going to publicise it here first!

Volunteers needed to help produce the Village Directory

Every year in November/early December I require a small team of volunteers to help produce the village directory. The main part of the project is to contact all the people in the current directory and check if their details have changed and if they want to renew. Once that is done I add in new people to the directory and then Jan (Oakley IT) and I work together to update the layout and create the whole booklet.

I am looking for volunteers to make contact with businesses and clubs in the directory – either by phone or email. It is best carried out during the day or early evening. It is friendly and fun and we will cover any expenses incurred.

The directory in 2018 is going to be the 12th edition. It changes every year, reflecting how business and life changes, but one thing that does not change is the portrayal of Oakley as a super, vibrant and active place to live. It is really valued throughout the village.

If you would like to help me produce the village directory for 2018 then please contact me. For more details please call me on 01234 824516 or email me at sarafardon@yahoo.co.uk.

1000 copies of the directory are produced and delivered to every home in Oakley in January. We have raised £13,473, over the last 11 years. All proceeds are spent on village initiatives. The directory is generously sponsored by Old Road Securities.

Sara Fardon

The Phantom Sprayer

I have been spraying the dog waste I find left on the paths and parks, for over two years now. Most people are very conscientious about picking up after their dog and proper disposal of the waste, but there are still a few people who are inconsiderate and fail to do so. I appeal to those, please help to keep this beautiful village as the cleanest and tidiest around.



Leaving the dog poo on the path, whether it is in the street or around the fields, for other people to tread on is not only thoughtless but also very selfish and I would appeal to everyone to be very meticulous about this basic hygiene for the sake of all other walkers.

It would also be nice if children were trained not to drop their drink cans and wrappers but to dispose of those in the rubbish bins provided around the village or to take it home and put it in the dustbin.

It always amazes me that bottles still half full of drink are just abandoned on the village green where there are at least three rubbish bins. Cans which are just dropped in the grass and then get cut up by the mower could cause injury to anyone playing on the green.

Harvest at College Farm

I am sitting here writing this on a damp and dark mid-August evening. We still have about 20% of our combining to do and the ground is very wet which is holding us up on a lot of our other jobs such as cultivations, muckspreading and baling.

The summer for us got off to a great start, from mid-May we were silaging grass for cattle feed for next winter. The hot weather in June allowed us to get most of the hay made in near ideal conditions and the crops were racing towards harvest.

I managed to contain myself a little and held off getting the new combine out until the 4th July, the earliest start I have ever made to harvest. It was a great feeling, dust was flying, the crops were yielding above expectations after the spring drought and everyone was in good spirits thinking harvest would be over by early August.

The weather unfortunately had other ideas. We have since been unable to harvest for more than two consecutive days which has become very frustrating for all involved. We need our crops ideally to be 15% moisture or below when we harvest them, otherwise we have to dry them which is an expensive operation. Unfortunately most days we have had to start at moistures of up to 20% and get the crops dried as we have to get the crops harvested in good time to avoid losing quality. With the shorter days upon us instead of being able to cover 100 acres in a day, it will be more like 60.

On the few fine days we have had, we have combined long into the night, often till midnight in order to get caught up. Everyone has worked very hard to get where we have, and I would like to thank them all, especially Laura who has kept us fed in the evening and put up with my less than ideal mood!

Luckily, for this harvest, we swapped our wheeled combine for a tracked version. The tracks put a much larger footprint on the ground spreading the weight of the combine more than wheels. This has so far prevented us from getting it stuck, something I hope we do not ever do. It also makes it slightly narrower to move about on the road, not by a lot, but when you are trying to squeeze it in and out of the Oakley roads 6 inches does make a huge difference.

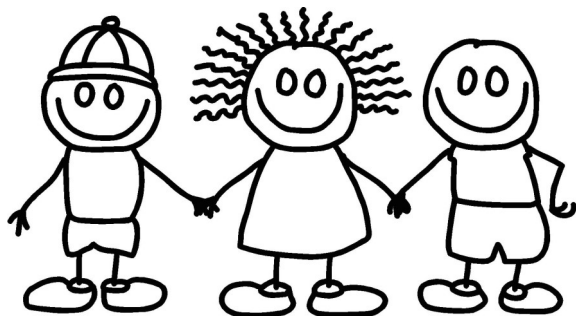
We have also had Whites 25th Anniversary party at the farm. It is hard to believe I was just 7 years old when Paul White opened. I think they had a good few days raising some money for charity. Unfortunately it was held on one of the few combining days in August and by the time I came home on the Saturday night it certainly looked like Paul and his family had had a good time!

Harvest for a farmer's wife

The harvest season, which usually runs from July to September, is by far the busiest time in farming. It is lovely to see the excitement on everyone's faces when the combine leaves the farm for the first time. But as a farmer's wife you know this means the start to many nights without your husband. Your role turns into taxi driver and dinner deliverer to hubby and the harvest crew. At times this can involve getting lost and also getting the car stuck (although thankfully this has only happened once this year!) It's also a good excuse to get my camera out and take some farming photos.

In addition I have also been busy working on commissions and recently painted a sunset and landscape scene. I am currently working on a seascape. Photos of my recent commissions are on my L J Creative Facebook page. There is plenty to keep me busy! Henry and Laura Saunders





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.

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Contact Sue Carey 07971 202405

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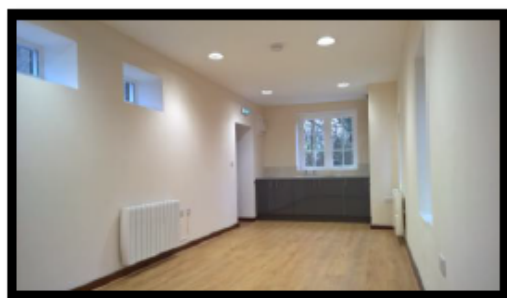
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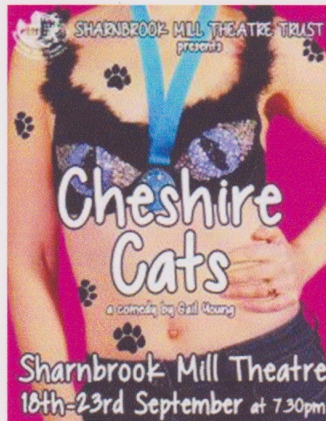
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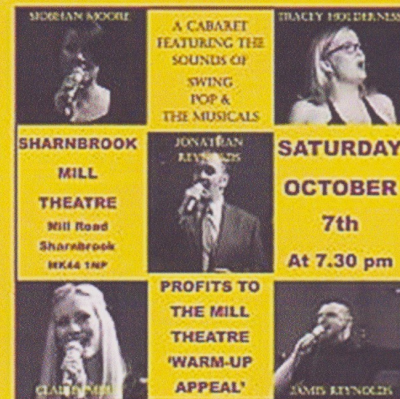
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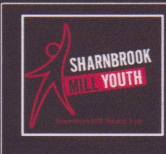


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TUESDAY 18th – SATURDAY 23rd NOVEMBER, SHARNBROOK MILL YOUTH

will be performing the Youth Group Version of a world famous, record-breaking musical.

Unfortunately, because of publicity restrictions, we cannot tell you here!

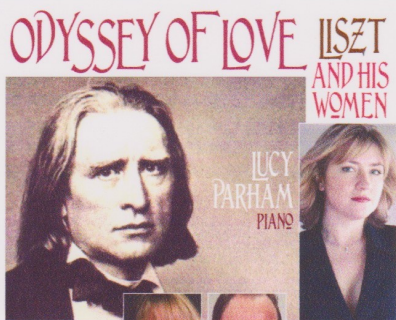
BUT PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE: WWW.SHARNBROOKMILLTHEATRE.CO.UK

or pick up a Brochure from 'The Mill' and all will be revealed!

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and Robert
Glenister

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Sunday 11th February 2018

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7.00 pm : Champagne Reception at 6.15 pm

Tickets £20 from The Quarry Theatre Box Office

Open 10am - 12 noon Monday – Friday 01234 362337

Email: quarrytheatre@bedfordschool.org.uk

Sharnbrook Mill Theatre Trust presents

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Joanna David. Edward Fox and Freddie Fox

- in conversation with David Saint
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Two 'not to be missed' events in aid of our 'Warm Up' Appeal,
for a green energy-based heating and natural ventilation system at The Mill Theatre
Appearances subject to professional engagements

Staying secure online doesn't
have to be complicated. The National Cyber Se-
curity Centre offers the following simple advice :-

Install the latest software and app updates

Use a strong, separate password for your email
account

Secure your tablet or smartphone with a screen
lock

Always back-up your most important data

If you get an uncharacteristic email containing a
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Leave a website if you feel suspicious

Regularly check social media privacy settings If
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Password protect wireless home networks

Oakley Neighbourhood Plan 2035

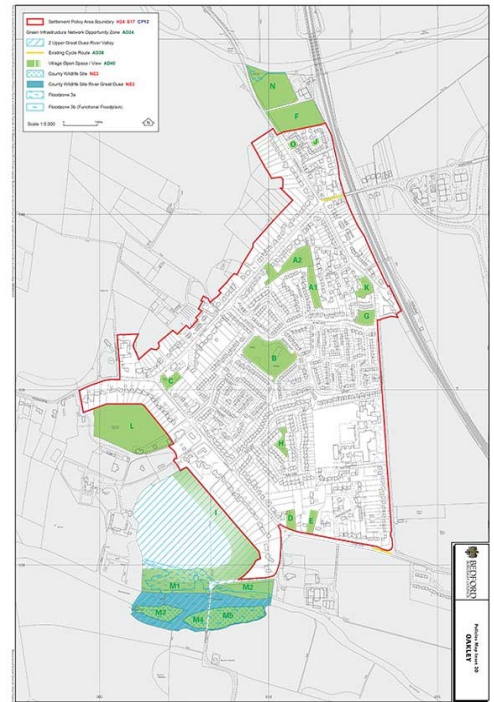
The group is pleased to report that the consultant has considered our policies and agreed that they reflect the government's and the borough's planning policies. He has rewritten our policies so that they represent a planning document.

You may recall that the borough asked developers and land owners if they wish to put forward possible sites for inclusion in the draft Borough plan 2021 to 2035. The Oakley Parish Council said they would like to decide which sites should be developed to provide the extra 20 to 50 houses to be built in Oakley from 2021 to 2035. The Neighbourhood Plan group has asked a consultant to see which sites might be technically viable. When the group has the evidence for the technical viability we will assess each site against the technical evidence and our policies. The group will make possible site recommendations to the Parish Council for inclusion in the Draft Neighbourhood Plan.

The next stage is for the consultant to make sure that the draft plan stands as a planning document. We will have an open day, or days, in the village to ensure that is what you would wish for Oakley. The second stage is to present the plan to the borough for their final agreement. Finally, the borough will then conduct a referendum with the residents of Oakley. If the referendum is positive then a planning inspector will, we hope, agree the plan and it will become Oakley Neighbourhood Plan 2021 to 2035.

Any future new development will be judged to see if it conforms to the Oakley plan and the borough plan. A government grant has been obtained to pay for the consultant's fees.

Pat Olney Chairwoman of the Oakley Neighbourhood Plan



Steve's Snippet No. 29

Oakley Speedwatch is topical at the moment and I would like to add a few thoughts to the matter:-

1. Speed limits are just that - they are limits, not targets: speeds lower than the limit may be more suited to prevailing conditions. 20mph may be too fast on village roads lined with parked cars and young people on the loose from school etc. 70mph is certainly too fast on a motorway during a rainstorm, unless your vehicle is equipped with radar and a braking system that defies the laws of physics (you do have to wonder sometimes!)
2. You may be the best driver in the world - the imposition of a speed limit is not an attack on your personal choices, liberty, or abilities. Bear in mind that someone else may not judge your speed if it exceeds that expected in the zone you are in and they may reverse off their driveway or otherwise present themselves into your path unexpectedly. You will probably not be able to avoid a collision, or worse.
3. A customer recently reported his experiences at a speed-awareness course he opted to attend following a slight speeding infringement. The word "slight" is important here, because few realise that just a few mph over the limit can increase your stopping distance beyond belief.

A demonstration of this was prepared to show just how important that “only a few mph” can be. An advanced driver was asked to approach a marker at a steady 30mph and then brake as hard as possible - the car was equipped with all of the aids designed for this situation, particularly, anti-lock brakes. When the car came to a halt a cut-out figure of a person was placed, touching the car’s front bumper.

The run was repeated at 32mph, just 2mph faster and something we all might do in a moment's lapse, thinking it is really not that significant. However, the car failed to stop at the cut-out figure as you might have guessed: not only did the car not stop, it was still travelling at 8mph when it hit the figure!

Speeds under 30mph may not cause a fatality but if a car hits you at even 8mph you will sustain injuries and some of those may be life-changing.

When the experiment was repeated, with speeds only slightly higher, the contact speeds were much higher than expected: at 40mph the car was still moving at 28mph when it hit the figure.

In future, and so as not to embarrass myself by failing to practice what I preach, I will be the one driving round the village at 25mph, but only if it is safe to do so.

Steve Nicholas

Oakley Rural Day Centre

Oakley Rural is a centre for frail elderly people. It provides a nutritious meal, has activities for the people to enjoy, speakers on a variety of topics and much more. The Centre operates for 3 days a week except for a fortnight when it shuts down over Christmas.

The centre is a Charity and is for people in North Bedfordshire. We have had long serving Trustees and now some wish to retire.

Our centre is full of life and much laughter and is based at the Old School, Oakley surrounded by lovely grounds.

If you feel that you would like to become a trustee of this charity that provides a good time and companionship for our elderly people - please contact Pat Olney, the chairwoman by email pat.olney@btopenworld.com or by telephone 01234 824384.

If you would like to visit please contact Lynne Godfrey by email info@oakleyrural.org.uk or phone 07733 227374

Pat Olney



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Thank you for the Linch Furlong Guided Tour

On 18th June we went along to Linch Furlong for the Open Afternoon. It was a lovely warm afternoon and we managed to identify nearly 90 types of wildflower and grass, in about 2 hours. Actually it was Pat Knight who led our search and used his expert knowledge to show everyone where to look, answered all our questions and pointed out particular characteristics for each plant to make it easier for us to identify them in the future.

Hopefully this event can be arranged for different times of the year to help us appreciate the diversity of wildlife in Linch Furlong. It certainly increased my awareness of what is around me if I open my eyes. If a similar event is organised I would encourage people to go along.

The main reason for this article is to not only mention the Open afternoon and how good it was but also to express our thanks to Pat Knight for his time and also to Pat Olney who acted as scribe. She must have writers cramp trying to write down so many names in a short length of time.

Barrie and Yvonne Keyte

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I can report that we have had a great summer term at Youth Club with lots of new members enjoying our new games, equipment and outdoor play. Most of our new items have been donated so I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported us, whether it has been money, equipment, volunteering, this has really helped.



Our members have been really great and I am super proud of them, so much so, that we threw them a small end of term party with music, games and lots of food. We had a busy weekend too as we also wanted to be involved in this years Carnival. We made our Teenager Scarecrows for the trail and they were not bad for our first attempt. We also took part in the Carnival Procession and I was really pleased with how many of our members turned up, especially as it was raining.



Fridays 7.30 - 9.00 £1 entry



Youth Club **starts back**

Friday 8th September from 7.30 till 9pm and its £1 entry.

Ages are 11-14 years. All welcome.

Look forward to seeing you all next term

Dawn Pither



Fun for all the family



Well, what can I say other than 'what a fantastic day'! The Community came together on Saturday 15th July to celebrate everything that we love about our village.

The theme for this year was 'Countries of the world' and all the groups who took part in the procession certainly pulled out all the stops. Congratulations to the winners, Oakley Pre-School, whose theme of travel and airlines was truly inspired!

Despite a very soggy start to the day the rain stopped just as Oakley Motor Cycle Club heralded the start of the procession. The Carnival King and Queen (Jacob and Hattie) were treated like royalty in an open topped car, courtesy of Hazel and David Strickley (Hazel Kaye), as the procession wound its way through the village to the Recreation Field. It was lovely to see so many people come out to watch the procession and cheer everyone on.





On arrival at the field the Carnival was opened by our special guest, children's author Steve Cole, who spent the first years of his life growing up in Oakley. Throughout the afternoon we were then treated to performances in the Arena by local dance school Power Academy of Dance, Oakley AFC, Mike's Line Dancing, Shefford Majorettes and the wonderful Bedford Pipe Band. To finish off we held a Tug of War competition (kindly sponsored by Towers Health and Racquets Club) and children's races.



As well as the Arena, other attractions on the day included Chris's Animal Encounters in the Scout Hut; a Circus skills area (kindly sponsored by Leaders Sales and Lettings and D&M Removals); Cream Teas in the Village Hall (run by Lincroft School PTA) with musicians and singers from Lincroft performing throughout the afternoon; a Dog Show (run by Canine Partners and sponsored by Oakham Decorators) plus two bands provided by Oakley Sports and Social Club. If all of this wasn't enough we also had bouncy castles, a fair, food stalls plus over 30 stalls run by local businesses and clubs.



As I am sure you can imagine, the event takes a huge amount of organisation with planning starting months in advance. All of this is done by volunteers who give up their time to plan this wonderful event for our community. I would therefore like to thank Niki Humberstone, Emma Daniels, Paul East, Rachel Saunders, Lorraine Woolhouse, Jon Lever, Louise Woodworth, Neil Walker, Pat Olney, Alyn Walker and Lisa Harrington for all their help and support. The Carnival Committee are also supported by the Oakley Sports and Social Club Committee and Mick Hewitt and his family. We would therefore like to thank them for all the hard work that they put in on the run up to the Carnival and on the day.



Our local schools played a big part in the Carnival again this year. Thanks to Oakley Primary Academy for all their support with the designs for the programme, for providing the Carnival King and Queen, and to all the parents for their generous donations for the Carnival Tombola. Thanks to Lincroft Academy for kindly allowing us to use their facilities for the start of the procession and Mr Duke, Head Teacher, for judging the procession. Final thanks go to all the residents of Oakley who made the day so special, either by being involved, supporting the event, or just putting up with the disruption. It is a wonderful celebration of our community and all that it has to offer.



As well as providing a wonderful weekend for our community, the Carnival also raises valuable funds which are given back to local clubs and organisations. This year we are hoping to have raised nearly £3,500 which will be donated back to the community. Thank you also to Ade Clewlow for acting as official photographer. If you would like to apply for a donation for your local club please email us oakleycarnival@gmail.com.

If you would like to be involved in the 2019 Carnival, either on the committee or helping on the day, please email us at the address above. We would love to hear from you!

Bev Marshall



Village Scare- crow Trail



We again recruited local clubs and individuals to take part in the Village Scarecrow Trail. This year the scarecrows were on display on both Saturday and Sunday which gave us an opportunity to pick the winners early and present the trophies during the Carnival. This year's Group winners were Messy Church and the Individual winner was Lynsey Dazley. We also had 'People's Choice' winners which were judged by everyone who took part in the trail over the weekend. The group winners were The Oakley Brownies, and the Gainsford family were the individual winners. The winners of the scarecrow trail competition were Rhys Line (Children) and Ann Reader (Adults) so well done to them also. All of the scarecrows were fantastic so thank you to everyone who took part. Huge thanks to Brenda Barnes and Helen Gray for organising the Scarecrow Trail, and to Carol Farrant for putting together all the clues.





Hazel Kaye Hair and Beauty Salon celebrated 25 Successful Years by taking part in and supporting the Oakley Carnival



“No prizes, but all winners . . .”

You may well have seen these two scarecrows on the High Street this year.



The Beavers made them during one evening with the help of their Leaders and parents. The scarecrows were built by over 10 Beavers acquiring Scouting uniforms, wellington boots, braces, pipe cleaners, plastic cable ties, straw, and anything else that was lying around in the Scout Hut. The whole construction process began and was finished in under one hour. Everyone involved enjoyed the activity. The unused straw was used for animal bedding.

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, we do all aspects of Scouting. Jon Abbott, Group Scout Leader, and his team of Leaders and Adult Helpers are providing a wide range of fun and challenging activities for boy and girl Youth Members between the ages of 6 and 14. The Scouting programme provided for the Sections is a mix of badge work, games, themed evenings, visits and weekend activities. And right now there are still some vacancies for Cubs.

The relevant contact numbers are below.

Beaver	6 - 8 year olds	Wednesdays	18:15-19:30	phone Chris	07805 175521
Cubs	8 - 10.5 year olds	Thursdays	18:30-20:00	phone Arran	07526 653178
Scout	10.5 - 14 year olds	Tuesdays	19:00-20:30	phone Dean	07854 312255



Oakley Show

ARE YOU A SHOW OFF?

Time has passed and entry forms for the forthcoming Oakley Show have been put through every door in Oakley. We know that there will be some entries, we hope there will be many. This year has been a bit topsy turvey as regards the weather and this has had quite an impact on the production of fruit, vegetables and flowers, but there is hope that this will not get in the way of you finding a reason to be a show off.

A few reminders; The Show takes place in the Village Hall on **Sunday 17th September** ; Exhibits delivered to the Hall 9.00 until 10.30am ; Open for public viewing at 12 noon ; Auction of exhibits to take place at 2.30pm



Entry forms and accompanying fees, 5 classes £1 and up to 10 for £2 with 11 entries or more for £3, are to be delivered to Jean Weston at 10 Grenidge Way or to Wendy Gater at 21 Ruffs Furze. If you have mislaid your entry form e-mail Julia Nicholas at: th1juliamn@aol.com and she will send you a copy.

If you go to Oakley Show on Facebook you will be able to see what is happening.

Please come along to view the entries, enjoy a cup of tea and a piece of home made cake, and take part in the auction.

Jean Weston



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DATE	TIME	VENUE	AGES
MON	5.30-6.30PM	CHURCH LANE COMMUNITY CENTRE, PUTNOE	7-12 YEARS
	6.30-7.30PM		13 YEARS - ADULTS
WED	6-7PM	LINCROFT MIDDLE SCHOOL, OAKLEY	7-12 YEARS
	7-8PM		13 YEARS - ADULTS
THURS	6.50-7.35PM	SHARNBROOK SPORTS COMMUNITY CENTRE	7 YEARS - ADULTS
FRI	6-7PM <small>STARTS 15TH SEPT</small>	OLD SCHOOL HALL, LOVELL ROAD, OAKLEY	7-12 YEARS
SAT	10.30-11.30AM	OLD SCHOOL HALL, LOVELL ROAD, OAKLEY	7 YEARS - ADULTS

PRICES ARE 'PAY-AS-YOU-GO' / £6 CHILDREN - £7 TEENS - £8 ADULTS

BLOCK BOOKINGS AVAILABLE - PLEASE ASK!



Oakley Allotments



Having written about our allotments for quite a few seasons now I thought I would look back at my past writings again to remind myself what previous years have presented us with.

I do this occasionally and this is quite acceptable apparently, as well-respected offerings from the BBC do this fairly regularly with programmes such as Countryfile looking back over past episodes. I usually criticise such episodes as "filling-in" due to a lack of new material.

Anyway, moving on swiftly, a summary of past summers reveals that they have all been noticeably different. The early part of this year moved rapidly from too wet to dig to far too dry and grass growth was (thankfully) much less rampant than last year. A famous TV gardener described the early part of the year as "warm and dry" - I think I remember the exact week he was referring to.

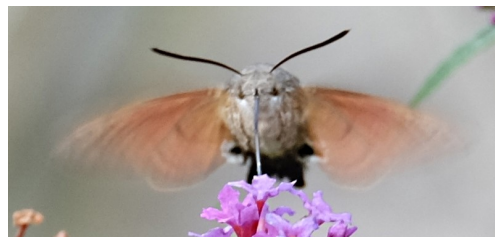
For us, this year has been slow to start and I think it has been rather cooler than one would hope, for growth to surge ahead. I agree about the "dry" part but that obviously changed to "far too wet" some weeks ago. I watered new plantings a few times but the water butts have been full for a while now. As the old gardening saying goes, when the butts keep filling up you probably do not need to water.

Not that I should complain - some of our plants have been the best ever. Celeriac is bulbing-up nicely and leeks are looking as if they may soon resemble the market-quality specimens one sees, rather than the slimmed-down ones grown in recent seasons. Sweetcorn has been slow to grow but is now flowering. Runner beans have been slow but are now catching-up. Soft fruit has been very good but earlier strawberries perhaps not quite as prolific as they have been. Courgettes are prolific and turning rapidly to marrows with the large amount of water available.

I have been exploring various methods for preserving courgettes and recently made some trial batches of pickled courgettes and courgette chutney. These are very much experimental as they have no sugar added to them, which seems like a healthier option if it works. As usual, if I survive, I will let you know how they go. If I am feeling adventurous I will enter something in the Oakley Show and hope that the judges are feeling equally adventurous on the day.

A small part of my plot is devoted to some flowering plants. I have a particular fondness for crocosmia as we had a mass of them in our front

garden when I was a child; my grandmother always called them montbretia. Other favourites include bluebells (bought from a garden centre), foxgloves, delphiniums and verben bonariensis, which produces small clouds of purple flowers on tall, delicate stems. I was visited recently by another favourite, a hummingbird hawk moth, which fed for some minutes on the verben nectar, allowing me time to photograph and video it. I think, on balance, it has been one of our best allotment years yet.



The second Oakley Show will be underway on Sunday the **17th of September** so please take part if you can or come along to see what has been presented by others.

We **have some allotments available** - please contact me if you would like to take one on.

Steve Nicholas



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WHITES Engineering Service at College Farm Oakley

Thank you to all those who came in to see us at our 25th celebration open event. Fortunately the weather held out for us and the feed back from all attendees was very positive, a very big thankyou to the Saunders family for their support up to and during that weekend.

Paul White



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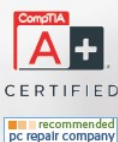
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Oakley Pre-school News



Having sent 23 older children to their respective Primary schools, we are looking forward to the autumn term and welcoming 12 new starters to our pre-school community. Lots of our families are eligible for the 30 hours of funding available from September and so some of our sessions are already full. It's going to be a busy term!

We are welcoming back a member of staff, Mrs Worrall, who came to us as a student and worked as a practitioner with us. She left in 2014 to gain experience of other settings and continue her studies. We are now delighted that she has returned to us as our Maths and Science Coordinator, she brings with her a wealth of resources, ideas and enthusiasm!

We loved taking part in this year's carnival and were delighted to retain the Oakley Carnival Procession Winner's trophy. We included the carnival

and learning about the different countries of the world in to our summer term planning. The parents and children then chose which country they would like to make a flag of and dressed up in this for the carnival. Thank you to all the parents who helped make the flags and who dressed up and walked with us on the day. Thank you also to the staff and committee who helped to construct our 'Oakley Airlines' aeroplane and our 'Oakley pre-school Seven Wonders of the World' scarecrows for the Scarecrow Trail. Lots of hard work, but great fun too!

Admissions

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

Our website is updated regularly; please do visit it for an insight into Oakley Pre-school. www.oakleypreschool.com

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



Guiding in North Beds

The summer term is always very busy for all our Rainbow, Brownie, Guide and Trefoil groups with lots of outdoor fun. This year some groups took part in their local village carnival or fete, had fun experiencing outdoor cooking, archery, target shooting, croquet and golf. A group of Guides took part in the Bedfordshire County camp at Bromham and tried their hand at kayaking, climbing, caving and indoor surfing amongst many other activities.

Girlguiding UK is in the process of renewing its programme for all sections following consultations with leaders and girls. There is lots of information about the new programme on the Guiding web-site – please visit - stories.girlguiding.org.uk/ourjourney/ - it looks as if we are in for a very exciting time! If you would like more information about what is on offer for girls and young women through Guiding in Oakley and North Bedfordshire please e-mail Jane on div.nbeds@bedsguiding.org.uk or visit www.bedsguiding.org.uk. To register your daughter for Rainbows (5-7 years), Brownies (7-11 years) or Guides (10 -14 years) please visit www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter We are always keen to welcome new members to join in the fun so please do get in touch to find out about your local groups.

Jane Thompson, District Commissioner



Oakley Sports & Social Club

Family & Sports Bar

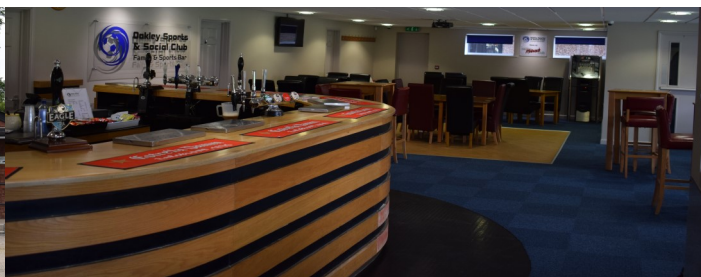
<http://oakleyssc.com>

Oakley Sports & Social Club has undergone a major refurbishment project. The works include a new external render on the gable-end of the club house, new carpets (change from red to blue), a new mirrored optics shelf, new ceiling tiles and a lick of paint. This has given the club a refreshed look and we encourage you all to pop down and take a look.



The summer period has seen three family fun days which included a BBQ, live music and bouncy castle, in addition to a busy Oakley Carnival. These very successful occasions have been enjoyed by many local, and not so local, families which have kept OSSC very busy over the season.

Looking ahead, our next major event is **fireworks night on 4th November** and promises to be the best one yet. Details will soon be made available – ensure you check our website (www.oakleyssc.com) and Facebook (@oakley.ssc) to stay up date. The committee would like to thank Mick Hewitt and the various companies involved in the refurbishment project (most of which are local to the village), the Carnival Committee for their brilliant 2017 carnival and, most of all, our members for their continued support. Only with this support can Oakley Sports & Social Club continue to offer such fantastic facilities to the village.



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 Motorcycle club

Since my last article, we have had some mega busy evenings at Oakley Club. Following some wet Thursdays the rescheduled Italian theme night saw a record 321 motorbikes attend!



The American theme night incorporating our annual hot rods and dragsters night saw 10 dragsters and 53 hot rods and custom cars together with a couple of hundred motorbikes. We had hundreds of visitors including many families from the village, which made for a very busy evening. Many thanks to Dave and Lesley Brown and family for arranging the hot rods and dragsters as well as bringing their own hot rod and dragsters along.



Our other theme nights were attended by many of our sponsors as well as plenty of bikes.

All eight theme night winners came to the Finals night on Thursday 10th August. Thankfully, after two days of rain occasionally of biblical proportions, *that* day turned out lovely with some bright sunshine and rising temperatures. Everything dried out nicely due to the exceptional and expensive drainage on the field at Oakley Club. It was fit for purpose and able to take the strain of vans, bikes and gazebo's without as much as a tiny rut. In total about 300 motorbikes and several hundred people attended.

For the night OMC sponsors, Pure Triumph, brought along some new bikes as did Grafton Honda. Flitwick Yamaha brought along a new R6 together with Steve Linsdell's Loctite Yamaha GTS which was built in the 90s and raced in the IOM TT. John Hannaford, who also had a Yamaha 350 YR5 in the final, also brought along his two Yamaha 350 race bikes. BSB racer Jon Railton was present with his Ducati Pannigale 959 which he races in the BSB Ducati Tri-options Championship. Finally BSB HEL Performance Championship Team Sym Cirrus riders Sam

Llewellyn and Edmund Best had their Moto3 race KTM's. The team owners brought along a Pablo Neito MotoGP bike. Also present was a stall for the East Anglian Air Ambulance, yet again the OMC members chosen charity of the year.

The voting for the Bike of the Year Award was very close. The 1942 Harley Davidson WLC750 owned by Jason Price, the 2001 BMW 1200 Independent owned by Andy Palmer and the 1995 Kawasaki ZZR1100 owned by Terry and Jackie Jones all tied for third place. In second was Mark Woods with his Seeley 500 Gold Star Mark 2 that races the IOM TT Classic. Winning by a single vote was the mint 1975 Suzuki GT750 owned by Julia and Shane Hill.



Ex 500 World Championship racer, seven times British and European Truck racing Champion, TV Commentator and Pundit Steve Parrish announced the winner and presented the shield. Steve was kind enough to waive his fee for a charitable donation to one of his favoured charities. As a result £300 was donated to the East Anglian Air Ambulance by OMC and Oakley Sports & Social Club.

Many members, sponsors and race bike team members had the opportunity to chat with Steve which was greatly appreciated by all concerned. A bouquet was presented by Vice Chair of OMC, Derek Brown to Steve's PA Michelle Hunter.



For those who missed the visit of Steve Parrish, don't be disappointed as plans are afoot for Steve to bring his famous talk show to Oakley for the beginning of 2018. Why not visit our website at www.oakleymc.net

Baysie
Roger Bays Chair - OMC



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Jacky Mould



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WEDNESDAY NIGHT

7:30-9PM

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theWI



OAKLEY WI

Meets at 7.30pm on the second Tuesday of the month at Oakley Village Hall.

TUESDAY 12th SEPTEMBER 2017



TRICIA THOMPSON's talk is about 'FUNNY WOMEN' and tells the story of two favourite performers, Victoria Wood and Julie Walters.

TUESDAY 10th OCTOBER 2017



'LEST WE FORGET', recalls the Great War, 1914-18, its muddy fields and comradeship, presented by JANE BACKHOUSE, a member of the Western Front Association.

This meeting is open to ALL. The £4 fee includes refreshments.

TUESDAY 14th NOVEMBER 2017



SHELTER BOX is a charity which helps families made homeless after natural disasters. Hear about the work that they do from DEREK HARDY and see for yourself a Shelter Box and its contents.

Visitors are welcome at our meetings. To find out more, telephone 824296 or 826844

Members also enjoy outings, lunchtime talks, book club and visits to theatres and cinemas.



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OAKLEY GARDENING CLUB



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

MONDAY 18th SEPTEMBER 2017

MICHAEL BROWN, MA Garden History, is our guide around THE MONASTERY GARDEN. Its uses, symbolism and features will be explained and explored in this illustrated talk.

MONDAY 16th OCTOBER 2017

We begin with the AGM, after which, renowned nature photographer and Fellow of the Royal Photographic Society, RICHARD REVELS will be presenting an illustrated talk on WILD ORCHIDS OF BEDFORDSHIRE.

MONDAY 20th NOVEMBER 2017

ELAINE STURGES, a qualified florist for over twenty years, will be demonstrating CHRISTMAS FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS, a timely inspiration for the festive season.



You are most welcome to attend any of the above as a visitor. £3.00 charge includes biscuits and tea or coffee.

For further information, telephone Carole on 823344 or John on 824703

Anne McNab



A LANDMARK FOR HAZEL KAYE HAIR, BEAUTY & FACIAL AESTHETICS.....CELEBRATING 25 YEARS IN BUSINESS !

Hazel started her beauty career in her beloved home town of Liverpool before the travel bug struck. She moved to Scotland, working at the world-famous Gleneagles hotel where her regular clients included Bob Hope and Sean Connery, before moving to work on the QE2 Ocean Liner. She then settled in Sydney, Australia, still working in beauty.

And then to her parents' relief, she moved back to British shores and settled in London, working in skincare and cosmetics as an Account Manager for Chanel in Harrods, managing a team of 17 staff. The high life continued when she was appointed London Training Manager for Ralph Lauren Fragrances, before the David Douglas Modelling Agency were alerted to her many talents, and she was appointed UK Sales Manager. However, two years later, her life was turned upside down with the sudden demise of the company. For the first time in many years, she didn't have a job to go to....but out of adversity, the Hazel Kaye business was hatched !

After initially operating from a small room at home, Hazel teamed up with her good friend Leigh who operated a hair salon above the village stores in Oakley. Hazel rented a room at the salon and soon became very busy as customers enjoyed her considerable expertise and knowledge in beauty, and of course the banter! Leigh handed over the reigns to Hazel, and the Hazel Kaye salon was born!

More staff joined as the salon became busier – firstly Helen, who is now the Salon Hair Director, joining 21 years ago, and then Julia, the Salon Barber Director, who joined 20 years ago – both remaining loyal to Hazel throughout the years. Becci, Anna and Lesley have all worked at the salon for 15, 12 and 11 years respectively, reflecting Hazel's caring and nurturing values, as she places great emphasis on staff relations.

More success followed when Hazel Kaye was voted **Number 1 Salon in the whole of the UK** by Top Santé magazine, after being nominated by Kate Kilroy. This was a huge accolade as there were many salons nationwide that entered the competition. Judging was fierce, however, the news was given to Hazel that **"Yes"** - her salon was top of the pile!

There are now 28 staff at Hazel Kaye ranging from 16 years old and upwards (!), and they really are one big happy family, proud to be able to offer support and employment to local people. The list of services offered has grown immensely over the years from facial aesthetics to hair integration for ladies & men, from creative hair styling to customised skincare.....Hazel Kaye offers it all.

She met David, the love of her life (most of the time!) 30 years ago and is involved in his business too, which is a brand development and distribution company dedicated to supporting brands entering the global fragrance market. They have launched fragrances such as the Sugababes, Superdry (clothing), Jane Packer (florist), The Rugby Fragrance and the National Trust Bath & Body Range. All of these products have been designed in Oakley, and have been sold in prestigious retailers such as Harrods, Selfridges and Harvey Nicholls, and are of course heavily promoted at the salon! Their new fragrance – Savile Row for Men – is being launched in the salon during October.

To celebrate 25 years, Hazel Kaye is holding a 25th Anniversary event on Monday 4th December at the salon from 6pm till 10pm for customers who have visited the salon over the past 25 years. Why not come along and mingle with the team, have a glass (or two!) and then grab some bargains for Christmas.

Hazel herself is a proud Scouser, who is enthusiastic and bubbly, with a great sense of humour. Hazel can often be found regaling clients with amusing tales of the early days in the salon, such as her visit to a beauty wholesaler, just 6 weeks after giving birth to a beautiful daughter, somehow pushing the trolley with one hand, and a buggy with the other! Superwoman comes to mind...!!

Hazel is so proud to be an Oakley lady now, but remember, her friends say to her "You can take the girl out of Liverpool, but you can't take Liverpool out of the girl!"

David Strickley



Hazel Kaye



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HAZEL'S INVITATION

Hazel Kaye will be opening its doors to past, present and future clients to celebrate our 25 Year Anniversary.

Please join us on:-

MONDAY 4TH DECEMBER
AT THE SALON
FROM 6PM TILL 10PM.

Refreshments and Fizz will be served!
Mingle with the team; browse the salon and our product ranges and grab a bargain at the same time!



*"Looking forward to seeing you on
Monday 4th December!"*
Hazel, Proprietor

40 High Street, Oakley, Bedfordshire, MK43 7RG

Tel: 01234 826502, e: hazel@hazelkaye.com www.hazelkaye.com

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