



# Oakley Newsletter



**Autumn 2021**

Number 88

**Look inside for**

**Brockwell Meadow Consultation  
Oakley Emergency Group  
Preschool Build Fund Raising**

**Community Litter Pick  
Oakley Show Details  
Community Officer Update**



Front Cover : Hector the Highland Cow by Laura Saunders

### 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 26th Nov 2021. The publishing date is 1st Dec 2021.

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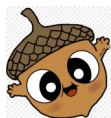
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### Hello Children

look out for  
Ten more  
little ones



## Parish Council News

### Autumn 2021

Hello Everyone,

I am putting my notes together on arguably one of the hottest days of the year and it makes me reflect on the different sorts of weather we have experienced this year. Earlier in the year we thought it would not stop raining when many of our walks were under water. Then we have had days of nearly record breaking temperatures with the Met Office issuing warnings of potential danger to health. For those of us that can remember 1976, memories come flooding back.

Anyway we must get on to business and during this last quarter the Parish Council has been very busy, reflected in the minutes which are always available to all on the PO Notice Board and on the Village Web Site, [oakleyvillage.co.uk/parish-council](http://oakleyvillage.co.uk/parish-council) The major issues and consultations have been East/West Rail, Oxford/Cambridge Arc and the Bedford Borough Plan 2040. Councillors and Clerk have been beavering away on these and many others. Recently we also drew up our own emergency plan for the village to be used in the event of an emergency occurring in our midst. We hope to have drawn up the very best emergency plan and that it never needs to be used.

### Highfield Road Railway Bridge

Unfortunately our objections to Bedford Borough Council concerning the alterations to Highfield Road Railway Bridge were unsuccessful. On 25 May 2021 Bedford Borough Council Planning Department gave Network Rail (NR) prior approval to carry out their planned work. Should you wish to read details of the application and the full report this can be done by going to [www.bedford.gov.uk/searchplans](http://www.bedford.gov.uk/searchplans) and click the link VIEW & COMMENT and type in Application number 20/02157/P18 in Simple search box, click on Search button. For the documentation click on the DOCUMENTS tab, followed by VIEW ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS. The document shows the decision and Officers Report, which explains how the decision was made.

Continued on page 3

## OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

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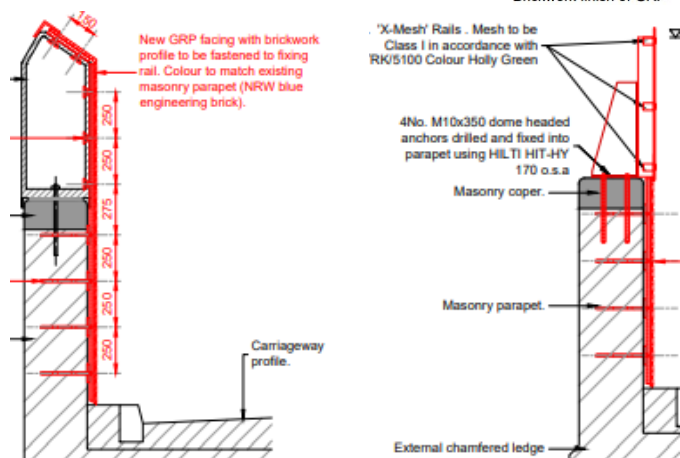
## Highfield Road Railway Bridge (continued)

The brief the report concludes; "It is recognised that this bridge is a gateway into the village of Oakley and is prominent from the wider area because of its elevated position. However there is also a real public safety need from the electrification of this railway line and whilst a lower parapet and/or permanent masonry design solution has been considered and discussed, for the reasons set out in the report these are not viable or realistic options.

The GRP brickwork design solution being put forward across the whole bridge, is therefore considered, on balance, to meet the safety needs of Network Rail, as well as ensuring the character and



Brickwork finish of GRP



[ Editors Note : Diagrams extracted from NR Application ]

appearance of the area is not detrimentally harmed.

The development is therefore considered to meet the tests (set out in Part 18, Class A to Schedule 2 of the GPDO), of both being acceptable in terms of its location (criteria a), and in terms of the ensuring the amenity of the neighbourhood is not injured by reason of its design and appearance (criteria b) particularly when weighing up any harm against the public benefit and safety improvements that will result from the works.

It is therefore recommended that the Local Planning Authority gives its prior approval to the detailed plans and specifications."

In respect of the first consultation Bedford Borough Council received 26 objections from 23 households, but in respect of the amended application there were only 4 objections from 4 households. I am grateful to the 26 people who took the trouble to raise their objections, though I have to admit to some disappointment that there could not have been a lot more.

## Campaign to Protect Rural England

Earlier this year CPRE Bedfordshire invited Parish Councils to nominate areas or projects for consideration for awards under different categories.

One of the categories was "Living Countryside Award for Better Places to Live."

We put a case together for Linch Furlong, Community Orchard and Riverside Meadow to be considered. Abbeyfields Roundabout in Elstow won this category, but I am delighted to tell you that our submission was runner up and has been HIGHLY COMMENDED.

The judges said they were pleased to be able to recognize all the hard work and positive impact our projects have on the local community. The Parish Council is extremely grateful for this recognition and our award is a result of the way Patrick Knight manages these sites for us; we thank him very much.

On behalf of the Council I would also like to thank everyone who contributed to the initial work to make Linch Furlong and the Community Orchard viable in the first place.

## Litter Pick 2021



Our annual Litter Pick will take place on **Saturday 11 September 2021** between 10am and noon the day before The Oakley Show. YOU are very welcome to attend and help. Children with an adult are also very welcome and the meeting point is the Scout Hut near the Village Hall.

Please do your best to attend. It is a really good way to re-enforce the message to our young that you do not drop litter. We are so lucky to live in this village; let us keep it looking nice.

## Footpath Cutting

On behalf of all walkers, with or without dogs, I would like to thank John Cooper who lives in Highfield Road for the way he has regularly cut the footpath around the field bordered by Highfield Road/the railway line/the River (known as Broad Green).

This has been quite a commitment for him enabling us to walk without getting our feet and legs soaking wet from long grass and weeds. Thank you John we are all very grateful.

## Christmas Lights Switch on

I know it seems very early to be talking about Christmas, but I would like to give you good warning that, restrictions at the time permitting, the annual Christmas Lights Switch On will take place at St Marys Church on **Saturday 27 November 2021** at 5pm. Your support on the evening would be appreciated. I think I have exhausted everything I have to report on.

As always thank you for reading this publication and thank you for your on going support.

On your behalf I also thank our Editor, Bill Chalker for once again producing an excellent Newsletter.

Paul Phillips, Chairman.

# OAKLEY SCOUT

1st

GROUP



# Open Day!



Interested in Joining  
Come and find  
out more



Village Litter

Pick



**All Welcome**

**Oakley Scout Hut (next to Village hall)**

**Sept 11th 10am - 3pm**



JOIN US FOR THE

OAKLEY COMMUNITY LITTER PICK

 11<sup>th</sup> September 2021

10.00am – 12.00 noon

MEETING AT THE SCOUT HUT

IN THE VILLAGE HALL CAR PARK

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# AMIGO

As will have been seen from the June issue of the Parish News a garden party is due to take place on Tuesday **28th September** at the home of Pat Olney at 33 Station Road, Oakley from 5.30 p.m. Light refreshments and drinks will be available. Please let John Dixon know by the 14th September if you wish to come. John's telephone number is 01234 824959 and his e-mail address is [jwdixon30@gmail.com](mailto:jwdixon30@gmail.com)

Please note that on the **26th October** Nick Cooke will be giving a talk at Oakley Methodist Church on the activities of the code-breakers at Bletchley Park beginning at 7.00 p.m.

The following further events have been planned. Further details will appear in the Churches Together Newsletter for October and on posters displayed on Village Noticeboards.



**23rd November 2021**

- A visit to the Planetarium and Telescope at Bedford School



**14th December 2021** - Carol Singing at The Bedford Arms, Oakley from 8.00 p.m.

**25th January 2022** - A film show at Oakley Methodist Church from 7.00 p.m. The film will be "The Personal History of David Copperfield."

**22nd February 2022** - A light hearted Quiz hosted by Sue Brecknock beginning at 7.30 p.m. at Oakley Methodist Church.

I am pleased to say that Charlie de Wet has agreed to lead us on another London Walk on Thursday **23rd June 2022**

It is also proposed to arrange a talk by the Bedford Historian, David Fowler and a guided visit to "Linch Furlong" led by Patrick Knight as well as an evening ramble.

I will keep you informed of further developments. Further details of each event will appear in the Churches Together Newsletters nearer the date and in the September issue of the Parish News.



John Dixon

## Summer at College Farm...

Well, what a harvest it has been and its not over yet! I thought last year's harvest was very stop and start but this year has proved to be more challenging! The weather is entirely to blame. It appears that our 'summer' is now April and May! It has been very frustrating at times but we are getting there!

In between harvest we have been cultivating, preparing the ground for crops to be drilled later in the year, muck spreading to improve the ground, baling grass, largely for silage which is used to feed cattle in the winter months when they come in from the fields.

Our cows are enjoying the grass down the river meadows and in the field opposite the farmhouse. Grass seems to be growing well now compared to earlier in the year where all farmers were worried we would run out! Most of our cows are in calf and should start calving soon.

We had pest control at the farm earlier in the week – I am sure you can imagine we attract all sorts of wild rodents and they can get quite out of control. We therefore have to keep the matter under control to protect crops and ensure our farm animals don't catch harmful diseases.

We were disappointed that the police had been called on this occasion. Our farm contact details

are easily located online so if anyone has any concerns we would appreciate they called us first rather than waste police time and resources. The police helicopter disturbed our cows and probably woke most of the residents in what was a complete waste of time.

We are pleased that life is getting more back to normal, village events are back on and teas in church has restarted. Its great to see the local community come together and raise money for fantastic causes.

## Farming wife duties...

Our young calves are growing nicely and the older ones will hopefully become mothers in the spring next year. We are looking forward to seeing the calves they produce.

We are still feeding them nuts in the morning but they have the grass to graze on all day. My daughter and I went to the Fairy Garden and were blown away by the range of activities on offer and the level of detail that the organisers had gone to! Thank you for such a lovely afternoon out.

In addition to helping on the farm, I have recently completed a Cockerel commission and launched some new homeware products, including personalised Christmas baubles and tractor bone china jugs. Feel free to browse my website [ljcreativestudios.com](http://ljcreativestudios.com)

We hope you have enjoyed reading about life on the farm.

Henry and Laura Saunders



## MERRI FLOWERS & MERRI CHRISTMAS TREES 2021

Welcome to our 2021 overview of our Flower and Christmas tree season. Yet again it has been a challenging year. The weather has been all over the place! The merri month of May 'should' have been the start of our flower selling season, but the weather was far too cold to kick start our season and we had to postpone all of our May events to June.

Come June, things were on the up. Wedding flower orders cancelled in 2020 started trickling in, but they were no way near as big as we were used to in 2019 because of the 30 person restrictions. What we did not sell to Florists, we gathered for Friday Flower deliveries within Oakley and five miles of our farm. Picked For You gift orders also picked up, many of which we also delivered within Oakley.

Fast forward to July and we started re-hosting our Pick Your Own Flower experiences. By the end of July we were able to add in more and more dates as our flowers flourished and now we are near enough fully booked on all our PYO days up until the end of September. We even managed to get a mention in The Floral Arranger magazine as a venue to come and Pick Your Own Dahlias in the UK, so if you are a fan of Dahlia maybe see if you can visit us soon too.

Come the end of September our flower season 'should' be over, but who knows, we might be gifted with an Indian Summer. September is always a strange month for us. It is the month we start height tagging Christmas trees for wholesale

orders and re-numbering our rows of Christmas trees to ensure our Tag Your Christmas Tree days go smoothly. Year on year our trees grow another foot but fear not we shall be opening a new plot of trees this year to tag and our first date for tagging will be 30th October.



This year we have some wonderfully local wreath makers onboard to help us create wreaths and more delivery people recruited to offer more delivery slots around Bedfordshire.

We do hope more Oakley residents will come our way to support our businesses. Supporting local businesses is so important for the local economy, especially a seasonal one like ours that is on your doorstep. Do not be surprised if you see Rachelle judging an 'oh so relevant to our farm' category at the Oakley Show on 12th September.

Best wishes to you all.

Rachelle & Julian Merrill , [www.merriflower.co.uk](http://www.merriflower.co.uk)

## Linch Furlong and the Community Orchard

The Community Orchard which is behind the Allotments has been delightfully full of wild flowers under the fruit trees. There are apple, pear and plum trees, all heritage varieties. Do come along and visit as you might find apples to pick and blackberries.

The allotments are flourishing at last this season. There should be bumper harvests. Do not forget Oakley Show in September. The posters will be up soon.

Linch Furlong has been a delight. The Pyramid and Bee Orchids were lovely as were the field Scabious, Alexanders. Wild carrots are blooming at the moment. Eggs and Bacon were very cheery with their yellow and dark orange flowers.

By the way the blackberries are delicious. I eat them nearly everyday when taking the dog



through there. I was pleased to see that the meadowsweet seeds were flowering this year by the hedge at the beginning of the Linch Furlong.

It is great to sit there to take in the lovely view and to relax.

I am so pleased to see that many people are now visiting and found the walk under the viaduct by the river and back to Highfield Road. If you wish to venture further do cross the A6 and on to Browns Wood.

Pat Olney





## Oakley Show 12.30 pm 12 September 2021



It is lovely to be arranging a show again this year and if you are reading this as soon as your Newsletter arrives you will still be in time to get your entries in for the Show.

**Your form** needs to be delivered to Wendy at 21 Ruffs Furze or Karen at 43 High Street by **Saturday 11th September** and remember that all entries for under 16s are free.

If you need any more information on the show please get in touch with Wendy  
Gater: wendygater21@btinternet.com: Tel 824633

or myself: Julia Nicholas : the1juliamn@aol.com: Tel 07778537427.

We are looking forward to seeing you on the day with your entries from 9.00am with all the lovely produce, baking, arts and crafts. Entries please by 10.30am ready for Judging to start.

But even if you are not entering please come along to see the exhibits and enjoy a cup of tea and a piece of cake from 12.30pm. You can also enter our raffle for lovely prizes donated by Oakley businesses.

You could also go home with some of the entries in the auction at the end of the show after the presentation of the Prizes at 2.30pm.

Julia Nicholas

## Oakley Youth Club



Oakley Youth Club starts on 17<sup>th</sup> September

7.15pm – 9.00pm at the Old School

£1.50 + some money for tuck

Register your child at [info@oakleyyouthclub.co.uk](mailto:info@oakleyyouthclub.co.uk)

&

**We're hiring!**

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## Oakley Speedwatch – Needs YOU!

We need more volunteers so that roadside speed-monitoring exercises can be arranged without relying so much on the few volunteers we have at the moment. About two exercises are arranged every month: they take place at various times in daylight hours, at various locations in the village and last for around two hours.

Please contact Paul Phillips or Ann Paice if you would be willing to volunteer and are over 18 years of age.

Speedwatch operations had been largely abandoned due to Covid, apart from the monitoring of speeding at various locations, using the Morelock equipment.

It was apparent that speeding had become worse over the last year and it was decided that the speedwatch exercise should be resumed. The speedwatch volunteers met in mid-June to consider developments and arrange the resumption of road-side exercises.

The following numbers (part of the full report) make disturbing reading and show that speeding in the village is again a serious issue, having become worse than before the start of the pandemic:-

**Location:** Highfield Road.

**Direction:** Facing roundabout off Paula Radcliffe Way.

From Saturday May 1st 12.12pm to Tuesday May 25th 8.30am 2021, 23.8 days



Out of the 3,584 Departing speeders in the 23 days (151 per day) there were 34 instances of 50mph and over. The fastest of these was travelling at 62mph as it passed the Morelock device near the bridge. What is worse is that it was a lorry! It was at 5.34pm in the evening a busy time for pedestrians.

There were 2,027 Arriving speeders (85 per day) with 31 at 50mph and over. The fastest was a car at 64mph at 6.27 in the morning and second was again a lorry at 62mph at 5.54 in the evening.

Further analysis of information recorded by the Morelock equipment suggests that the display of speed, when presented to motorists, has a noticeable effect on their compliance with the speed limit. This could justify considering the installation of further displays in key locations round the village.

The additional equipment would be costly and warrants further research and careful consideration. Some of the team have carried out initial surveys and costings so that a report can be presented to the parish council at the September meeting. Funding would need to be sought before further progress could even be considered, but this is a matter of safety, high on the list of many residents' concerns.

Steve Nicholas

### Snippet No.52

...and while we are on the subject...(well, you might not have been, but I am, again)...

I would like to suggest a possible new taxation scheme to government – frequent and inappropriate use of some words might be a lucrative source of income.

The word "like" comes to mind, because the word "like" is used unnecessarily, like, all of the time, in, like, everyday conversation and stuff.

You might hear a gem of a statement such as, "Me and my friends was, like, going away for the weekend, like, for the first time since, like, lockdown." (A real example, possibly unfortunately).

There is so much wrong with that sentence, but my age-addled brain hears that as an attempt to convey, "My friends and I were, resembling, going away for the weekend, the same as, for the first time since, similar to, lockdown".

There is no logic in my choice of synonyms, thus emphasising the point.

I will will leave it here – I need a lie-down.

Steve Nicholas



**Oakley Parish Council  
Biodiversity Improvement Project**

**Brockwell Meadow  
Creation of a Wildflower & Wildlife Friendly Area**

**Public Consultation**

Oakley Parish Council will be holding a public consultation on plans to improve Brockwell Meadow "on-site" at the meadow on

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> October  
From 2.00pm until 4.00pm**



**All are welcome**

Neighbours with properties adjoining the meadow will receive written invitations together with a copy of the proposed scheme.

For further information please contact the Clerk at [parishclerk@oakleyvillage.co.uk](mailto:parishclerk@oakleyvillage.co.uk) or 07873 887370



## Oakley Rural Day Centre

Oakley Rural, The Old School, Lovell Road, Oakley, Beds, MK43 7RX

Tel: 01234 824935 Mobile: 07733 227374

Email: [oakleyruraldaycentre@yahoo.com](mailto:oakleyruraldaycentre@yahoo.com)

Web: [www.oakleyruraldaycentre.weebly.com](http://www.oakleyruraldaycentre.weebly.com)

Registered Charity No: 1060283



## NEWSLETTER

Welcome back to the Staff and Clients to the Old School on the 31st August. All the clients are keen to come back and be able to socialise. The Staff have been contacting the clients by phone and provide a weekly newsletter and quizzes to entertain them but it is not the same as being at the centre said one client.

At the moment we are taking clients who have already had been attending the centre to make sure that they are comfortable and we are able to see that they settle in happily.

We have additional people who would like to attend the centre and will be, during September, when our existing clients are happily settled.

If you would like to attend the centre, please contact Lynne on 07733 227374 and she can arrange a date for you to visit.

Pat Olney

## OAKLEY EMERGENCY GROUP



An Emergency Group has recently been set up in Oakley to provide a first response in the event of a village emergency.

The Group will complement the work of the emergency services and the Borough Council and will help vulnerable residents, where possible.

If there is anyone in your property or neighbourhood who might need particular assistance in an emergency, please let us know

on [parishclerk@oakleyvillage.co.uk](mailto:parishclerk@oakleyvillage.co.uk) or 07873 887370.

**If anyone is interested in joining** the Emergency Group or could provide help e.g. medical training, 4 x 4 transport etc. please also let us know.

Personal information will be held for use in an emergency only and will only be passed to Emergency Services when necessary.



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# Oakley Village Hall

## Defibrillator

For a heart attack, or any medical emergency, residents need to dial 999 and ask for an ambulance and the controller will give them the code to open the defib if they decide it is needed. It is sometimes used for other medical emergencies as it records the patient's condition and can then be taken to hospital with them.

Do not leave the patient alone get help to bring the defibrillator to you.



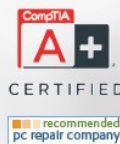
The defibrillator has voice and display instructions and is very easy to use.

Bill Chalker, Editor



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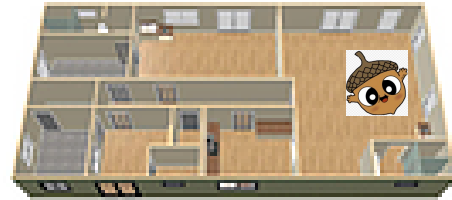
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## Oakley Pre-school News



Autumn brings many changes and for pre-school it means that we have said goodbye to nineteen of our older children, who transitioned to three primary schools in July this year. We have thirteen new starters ready to join us in September 2021 and we are very much looking forward to welcoming them into the pre-school community.

We also said good bye to Mrs Karen Searle, who after 10 years, is leaving to take on a new role and we wish her well for the future. Mrs Natalie Talbot joined us in the summer term and has settled in very well and is looking forward to undertaking her training with us.

This term will also see us able to welcome back students to our settings, as Coronavirus restrictions ease, and we look forward to once again mentoring students from Bedford College and the Universities of Bedfordshire and Northampton. It is vital that we enable the childcare practitioners and teachers of the future to spend time in our setting. Then they have the opportunity to learn from experienced practitioners and gain experience of working with children in the Early Years sector.

### New Build Fundraising

Our Name a Brick Appeal is ongoing and you can continue to order a brick, where you can record your involvement with pre-school by purchasing a brick that will be permanently displayed on the interior wall of the new entrance hall.

Please see the Oakley Pre-school Name a Brick Appeal on the 'New Build' page of our website for an order form.

<https://www.oakleypreschool.com/new-build>

Alternatively you can give us a call at pre-school to discuss your order.

### 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](mailto:info@oakleypreschool.com) Our website is: [www.oakleypreschool.com](http://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

## Come on Oakley - You can do Better

The current pandemic has caused me to reflect on how lucky we are to live in the village of Oakley.

I am sure you agree we benefit from some fantastic facilities. Lynch furlong and the riverside meadows are a well managed habitat in which thrive the wild flowers of each season. Sports field and social club providing a meeting place for residents and a variety of sports areas. The Village hall is a great venue for weddings, birthdays, meetings and local events. The play area on the green is a popular meeting place for younger members of the community on the swings, roundabout and zip wire. How lucky we are. Pretty good I think.

But there are some aspects that make me sad. A minority of individuals abuse our village by :-

Not removing their dogs excrement, overcrowding bins instead of taking it home. Also the amount of littering. Inconsiderate parking at the mouths of junctions. All of these are causing a blot on our village and in the case of parking a danger to residents, particularly youngsters.

With a minimum of effort I sincerely believe we can greatly reduce these unwanted elements and enhance Oakley. If you are concerned about parking you may want to contact Bedford Borough parking services 01234 718057 or [parkingservices@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:parkingservices@bedford.gov.uk)

Bedfordshire Police - call 101 for non emergencies, visit the online reporting centre or talk to a Police operator via webchat.

Littering and bins, then go to [Bedford.gov.uk](http://Bedford.gov.uk)>littering

Dog mess.... your conscience

Pete Blackwell, A Concerned Resident

Dear Resident,

Bedford Community Safety Partnership (CSP) brings together agencies concerned with tackling and reducing crime, anti-social behaviour, drug and alcohol misuse, and increase perceptions about safety and well-being in our communities, in Bedford Borough.



The CSP is made up of Bedfordshire Police, NHS Bedfordshire CCG, Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service, Bedfordshire Probation Service and Bedford Borough Council. We aim to provide a joined up approach to tackling issues within the community and this letter drop is to ensure you as resident understand how to report concerns to us and encourage you to help us help you.

### **What to report and How:**

#### **Bedfordshire Police:**

##### **999 – Emergency Number**

Call 999 when it is an emergency, a crime is in progress, someone suspected of a crime is nearby, when there is danger to life, when violence is being used or threatened

##### **101 – Non emergency**

Use the 101 non-emergency number if you do not need an emergency response, or use the online reporting system/web chat via the Bedfordshire police website

##### **Online reporting system – <https://www.bedfordshire.police.uk/report>**

Report a Crime that has happened, Criminal Damage, Harassment, Theft, Anti-Social Behaviour, Suspicious Behaviour/Activity, Vehicle related activity, Dangerous Driving and other concerns

##### **Bedford Borough Council Community safety - <https://www.bedford.gov.uk/environmental-issues/community-safety/anti-social-behaviour/>**

Anti-social behaviour - we can help with Persistent behaviour that is having a detrimental effect on the quality of your life, and that of your neighbours.

Rowdy and inconsiderate behaviour linked to a property or location.

Exploitation of vulnerable individuals.

Long-term, multi-agency problems solving.

##### **Bedford Borough Council Environmental Issues including –**

- Noise related disturbance
- Issues with Waste and littering
- Dumped rubbish (fly-tipping)
- Abandoned cars
- Housing safety concerns

<https://www.bedford.gov.uk/environmental-issues/>

##### **Bedford Borough Council Highways Issues and Parking Services –**

<https://www.bedford.gov.uk/parking-roads-and-travel/>

<https://www.bedford.gov.uk/parking-roads-and-travel/parking/nuisance-vehicles/>

**Bedford Borough Council Contact Centre – 01234 267422**





**BEDFORDSHIRE POLICE**  
Protecting People and Fighting Crime  
*Together*

I am writing to introduce myself, I am Amanda HARVEY your local Community Officer. As part of my role I have the responsibility of covering Oakley in relation to community concerns. I have been an officer for over 12 years now but am relatively new to Bedfordshire Police as I transferred from the Met Police in 2019. During my time in London I was fortunate enough to have a number of exciting roles in busy boroughs from response to dedicated robbery teams. I then had the opportunity to work for a year at the Olympic Site in Stratford on a counter terrorism prevention unit for the 2012 Olympics. My final years were as a firearms officer in the Diplomatic Protection Group. I have always liked to talk to people and felt that all these jobs have given me the skills and attitude to bring into a role in the community with Bedfordshire Police.

Nowadays there is nothing better than having a day where I can end my shift knowing that I have made a difference to someone who may be vulnerable. Or maybe engaged someone who now feels a little safer or has more confidence in the police due to my actions. Not to mention ensuring that those that need it are dealt with for bad actions and poor choices.

I am regularly patrolling in the area and now that lockdown has an end in site I hope to see more of you out and about and at future events when they start up again. If you see me around please come and say hello. I am always interested to hear what has been going on. One way to let us know is to complete 'Have your say surveys' at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/BedsPoliceHaveYourSay> which decides our priorities through the year.

At this time our community priority is combating vehicle theft. You may see us out and about on patrol or see our social media posts about how to keep your vehicles and property safe, but we cannot do any of our work without your help. If you see anything that does not look right, report it on 101 or the online reporting tool at <https://www.bedfordshire.police.uk/report>. If you do not tell me what is going on then we cannot make a difference.

Amanda Harvey



## **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](mailto:louise_tunley@yahoo.co.uk).



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## Emmaus Village Carlton in search of Bistro volunteers

Bedfordshire homelessness charity Emmaus Village Carlton is appealing to local people to help out in their bistro.

em's Bistro, at the charity's site on School Lane near Carlton, serves proper coffee, breakfasts, hot and cold lunches, sandwiches, paninis as well as delicious cakes. It raises vital funds to help provide a home and meaningful work for 42 people who have experienced homelessness.

The popular bistro has continued to trade during the lockdown periods by offering takeaways. With the indoor seating area now reopened; customers can dine inside or make use of the outdoor marquee and picnic benches across their large site.

Emmaus Village Carlton is calling on local people to volunteer and help in the bistro. Working alongside staff and those supported by the charity, volunteers support the enterprise by serving customers, clearing tables, and assisting with simple kitchen tasks.

Speaking about the volunteer search, Catering Manager Chloe Goodship said: "Emmaus Village Carlton supports some of the most vulnerable people, and we are extremely proud that our popular bistro helps raise money for the charity. We do our best to provide great food and customer service; the more people we have helping, the better our bistro will be. This is why we are hoping that more local people will join our volunteer team. We provide all relevant training along with a full induction, paid travel expenses and lunch on the day you volunteer."



Volunteer Sarah at em's Bistro, Emmaus Village Carlton

Anyone interested in volunteering can get in touch with the charity by calling 01234 720826 or emailing [barbarafitzgerald@emmausvc.org](mailto:barbarafitzgerald@emmausvc.org)

To find out more about Emmaus Village Carlton visit [www.emmaus.org.uk/village-carlton](http://www.emmaus.org.uk/village-carlton)

### Phantom Sprayer

We have had some lovely weather, some extremely hot weather and some very wet weather, what a mixture and with all this we need to exercise our beloved and very beautiful dogs.



Whilst the majority of pet owners pick up after their dogs and dispose in the bins and also, if their children are allowed to walk the family pet, then they train them to also pick up and dispose, so our streets fields and favourite walks are cleaner. Nonetheless there is an element of people who still do not care about anything. They do not clear up after their dogs, persistently take them to the same places to deposit and then just leave it regardless of where they are and whether it is a children's play area, or just on a footpath, to spoil some else's walks. Presumably if they have children and allow them to walk the dog, they do not train their children to pick up either.

I would appeal to those guilty people, please join the majority, and clean up after the dog. It is quite easy and there are places to dispose of the full bag within easy reach of anywhere in the village. Please do not just leave the bag or hang it in the hedge. **Find a bin and leave it in that.** Please remember that if you are caught not clearing up after your dog you may be fined £70 each time. This would add up rather if you were caught on a regular basis.

Please all be aware of the rising dog thefts and take care when walking your dog. Keep it within easy re-call and beware of strangers taking a great interest in your dog. The police are doing their best to find the stolen dogs and return them to their owners, but this often proves to be difficult. Neighbourhood Watch are also setting up dog watch patrols. If you feel you would like to help I am sure they would welcome you; anything to deter these callous and heart-breaking thieves.

## Oakley Allotments

The allotments are once again fully occupied and looking the best they have ever looked: fully occupied, but not fully worked, unfortunately. A few plots have been untended for a while and weeds, going to seed, affect those who work hard to maintain their allotment in good condition. Allotments will be inspected within the next few weeks and notice may be given to those tenants who do not, at the very least, control the weeds.

The waiting-list has six names on it now – I received no reply from emails to four Oakley residents on the list, so their names will be retained and I will attempt to contact them just once more when allotments next become available.

It is undoubtedly hard work starting on an allotment, particularly if it has not been tended for a while, but everyone I talk to enjoys the challenge, the physical work and the satisfaction of making the space their own. It does not have to involve heavy digging and weeding though, as one couple explained to me recently.

They have been using a “no dig” method for a number of years now, with a great deal of success – the results they have achieved, with minimal effort after the initial setting-up, are there to see.

The main work to keep the method going from season to season involves covering the ground with a good layer of organic matter, which can be composted material, soil conditioners and manure. The soil eventually becomes easier to plant, easier to weed, retains moisture well and becomes home to healthy populations of worms and other vital organisms.

Charles Dowding’s book, “No dig gardening”, is one of the recommended sources of information for those interested in the technique (there are other books by other authors available).



Whatever method you prefer to use, the results are now showing. The late and unhelpful spring weather has turned into a mostly warm and damp summer... a good thing! All over the allotments there is an abundance of different plants, vegetables and flowers, thriving and providing much sustenance to their growers.

Of course, there are failures as well as successes and they are all part of the adventure. Every year is different, weather playing a major role. Some years benefit certain pests and diseases – this year many of us have had to remove tomato plants because tomato blight has hit, yet last year I grew tomato plants successfully outside and bottled the tomatoes for later use.

This year we let potatoes grow where they sprouted from escapees from last year’s harvest (we always get some of those!) and we gained several kilos of extra spuds “free” from those plants. It all adds to the satisfaction of keeping an allotment going.

The allotments management committee, now active again, is focussed on keeping the allotments in good order and maintaining the area generally. A working-party is planned for the beginning of September and some hedge-trimming and tidying will be undertaken. Anyone who is interested in joining us for a few hours will be most welcome – please contact me for details. Please also contact me (or Ann Paice) if you are interested in joining the wait to take on an allotment of your own.

Steve Nicholas

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<http://www.o-for-coffee.co.uk>  
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<http://www.tudorrosepatchwork.co.uk>  
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### Snippet No.53

My younger son has a dry wit, reserved for special occasions, rare and, er, witty – unlike his father (who said that!).

Arriving for a long weekend at his home in Cornwall I made a comment on something or other that led No.2 Son to remark that it was going to be a long, long weekend.

Feigning hurt (I am used to harsh criticism) I replied that there were those who laughed at my quips.

He said, "Yes Dad, but they laugh and point at you".

On another occasion we were discussing his handsome countenance, which he attributed to his mother. I remonstrated that I had, in my younger days, once been described by a young lady (with, I prefer to believe, good eyesight) as "ridiculously good-looking".

His reply? "...and now you just look ridiculous".

Needless to say, I have now changed my Will.

Steve Nicholas

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# Girlguiding in Oakley



Oakley has two guiding units – Rainbows for girls aged 5 -7, and Brownies for girls aged 7-10.

If you would like more information about the individual units before you register your daughter, you can use the contact details below.



## 1st Oakley Rainbows (Wednesdays)

We are starting back at the Village Hall again in September. Whilst we are currently fully subscribed please feel free to add your daughter's name to the waiting list which is available on the following web link

<https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter/>

Unit contact: Amanda Keen (Assistant Leader) [oakleyclaphamrainbows@outlook.com](mailto:oakleyclaphamrainbows@outlook.com)



## 1st Oakley Brownies (Fridays)

Brownies continued to meet outside in the second half of term and the rain forced us back onto Zoom just once. The Brownies worked towards their Camp Stage 2 badge, learning about fire safety, making a fire putting up a tent and playing a game to decide what we should and should not pack when going camping. We were lucky enough to be able to use the Mollivers Activity Centre grounds in Bromham for one of our meetings. Here the girls had fun playing in the woods, making bug hotels and guiding a blindfolded friend along a string walk as well as toasting marshmallows on a campfire. Towards the end of term we enrolled four new Brownies, watched by their parents at a suitable distance. Next term we will be back in the Scout Hut, although we hope to do as much outside as daylight and weather permits.

### Making bug hotels at Mollivers



Unit contact: Lindsay Saunders (Leader) [oakleybrownies452@gmail.com](mailto:oakleybrownies452@gmail.com)



### HARVEST SERVICE

We will be holding a joint Harvest Festival on Sunday 12th September in St Mary's churchyard (weather permitting!). This is always a fun event and all are welcome.



### REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

This year Remembrance Sunday falls on 14th November. Plans are still being finalised in the village so do keep an eye on our websites for updates.



Oakley Methodist Church welcomes our new minister, Rev Chris Sandy for his first service with us on 5th Sept at 10:30.



We are now back in church for services at both St Mary's and Oakley Methodist church. Please keep an eye on our websites for up to date information on times

### Messy Church is back!

### Christmas Tree Lighting

Here is a date for your diary!

St Mary's will be switching on the Christmas tree lights on Sat 27th Nov at 5pm.



Both our venues are relaunching in Sept. Feel free to come to whichever session suits you (or indeed both).

St Owen's Bromham starts Mon 6th Sept 11.30am—1.30pm (incl lunch)

St Mary's Oakley starts Thurs 9th Sept 10- 11.45am (incl snack)

Messy Church for All is unable to restart yet due to a lack of volunteers. We will let members know when we are able to reopen.

### CONTACTS

St Mary's: Rev Catherine Wilson 01234 825665 vicar@bromhambenefice.org

Church Wardens: Hilarie Worley 262166 & Graham Palmer 07710 462535

Administrator: Sarah Smale administrator@bromhambenefice.org Website: www.bromhambenefice.org

Oakley Methodist Church: Rev Chris Sandy 01234 860484 christopher.sandy@methodist.org.uk

Church Steward: Jeanette Letch 825204



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## Rhythm of Life

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Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> – Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December, 7.30pm  
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Join us for an exciting evening of classic Christmas songs, some hidden gems and poignant extracts from traditional stories

A show for all the family...

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## Oakley Village Hall

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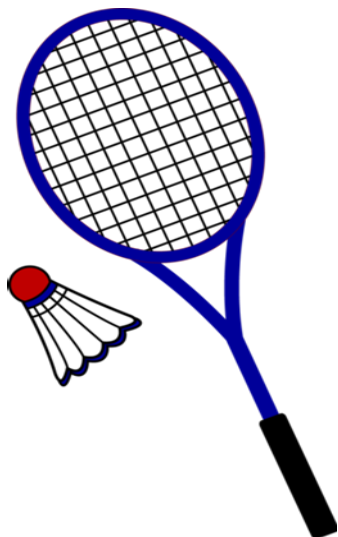
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# Oakley Toddlers Group



Come and join us every Monday 9.30 - 11.00am term time only in the Village Hall.

We are a friendly local community run group that has been going since the 1970's. We aim to offer a place for mums, dads, babies, toddlers and carers to socialise together and help start some of the building blocks towards our little ones development.

**Your first visit is free** then only £2.00 for your first child and £1 for each child thereafter.

Children must be supervised at all times (we do not offer childcare)

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Web : [www.theoldschooloakley.org.uk](http://www.theoldschooloakley.org.uk)

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## OAKLEY WI

**It is with regret that I have to inform you that Oakley WI is being suspended.**

**If in the future some members of the Village would like to restart the WI they would be very welcome by Bedfordshire Federation.**

Vivian Kirk

## OAKLEY GARDENING CLUB

Dear members unfortunately the booked meetings have been cancelled.

Please keep an eye on the notice boards for information.

For further information contact Denise Hookham on 01933 312119



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Thursdays during School Term 10am to 11.45

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If you would like to be considered please visit the website [www.lovellhomesoakley.co.uk](http://www.lovellhomesoakley.co.uk)

Or contact the Clerk :

Mandy Newton

On 07736 466965

Registered Charity Number : 200480

# oakley *Motorcycle* club

After many months of restrictions preventing OMC from meeting we finally got back together on 22nd July and what a night it was! 420 bikes attended, our second ever busiest night only beaten by the American theme night in July 2019!

Since then we have had over 200 bikes on three other bike nights but on the night it rained heavily just 15 turned up!

We have re-commenced our ride out programme with numerous ride outs and our annual memorial ride out will be on 26th September.

Unfortunately we have not been able to arrange any themed evenings this summer but hopefully normal service will be resumed in 2022

Stay safe, Baysie Roger Bays - Chair OMC



Beds Classic Car Meet started at Oakley Club in the spring of 2019 and in their first year of meeting, every Second Tuesday of the month, had between 60-120 show cars in attendance.

Obviously due to restrictions they were not able to meet until lockdown was lifted in late July. Since then they have tried to make up for lost time by holding events twice monthly and up to the end of August had held three meets at Oakley Club. The first saw 138 show cars, the second meet included 207 cars and then 240 show cars attended!!

The cars have ranged from vintage to classics to hot rods to custom cars, also an old London Transport Routemaster Bus!

## CLASSIC CAR MEET BEDFORDSHIRE



The next and last show of 2021 will be Tuesday 7th September from 6pm. Needless to say entry is free so bring the family down for a meal, drink and ice cream and walk around some stunning motors.





# Oakley Sports & Social Club

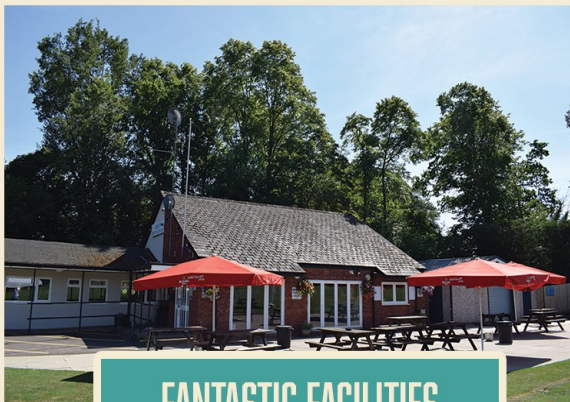
## Family & Sports Bar

### FAMILY FRIENDLY :: OPEN DAILY

Situated in the picturesque village of Oakley near Bedford, Oakley Sports & Social Club is a registered charity that is home to AFC Oakley, Oakley Motorcycle Club, Bedfordshire Classic Cars and a lot more.

We offer a large recreational play field, well equipped children's play area, tennis courts & pentanque court.

**MANY EVENTS HELD THROUGHOUT THE YEAR - SEE OUR WEBSITE & FACEBOOK FOR DETAILS**



FANTASTIC FACILITIES



AFFORDABLE FOOD & DRINK



WELL EQUIPPED PLAY AREA



LOCAL + SKY SPORTS & BT

**KITCHEN OPEN**  
THURSDAY & FRIDAY 3PM - 9PM  
SATURDAY & SUNDAY 12PM - 7PM



# HOME OF AFC OAKLEY

Oakley Sports & Social Club is a registered charity who's primary aim is to cater for the local community

OAKLEY SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB, CHURCH LANE, OAKLEY, BEDFORDSHIRE MK43 7RJ :: 01234 824977 :: WWW.OAKLEYSSC.COM