



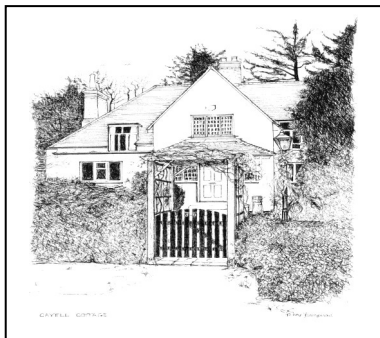
# Oakley Newsletter



CAYELL COTTAGE

**Spring 2014**

Number 58



## Front Cover

Cavell Cottage  
High Street  
Drawing in pen and ink  
by the artist Terry Youngman.

## The Oakley Newsletter

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

## Opinions and information

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

## Next issue

Final copy date for the summer issue is 18th May 2014.  
The publishing date is 1st June.

## Advertising rates

Quarter page: £15

Half page: £30

Whole page: £60

Four consecutive quarter page adverts: £50

Loose inserts, any size up to A4: £60

Please send cheques to the Parish Clerk, Ann Paice payable to Oakley Parish Council.

## Editor

Bill Chalker  
13 Bevery Close, Oakley  
MK43 7SH  
07789 997733

bill@chalker.uk.net

## Hello Children

look out for  
12 more daffodils!



# Parish Council News

## Spring 2014

By JANE WALKER (Chair)

## Christmas lights

I'm sure everyone will have seen the wonderful Christmas lights we displayed at the cross roads this December. We had been trying to use the tree already on the grassed area opposite the memorial in our Christmas display for several years and this year, thanks to Phil Supple we were able to put on the magnificent display there. Thank you to Phil for sourcing and installing the lights. We have now purchased them so that they will be in use every year. We have also agreed to buy more lights and with the agreement of the church we will be planting a permanent tree in the Church car park so that we can make this a much bigger display.

Last Christmas' switch on ceremony was the best one so far. After the lights had been switched on we all filled the church and enjoyed carol singing by request, which meant we all sang our favourite and well-loved Christmas hymns. The magical time was completed with mince pies, mulled wine and other refreshments, all supplied and served by the Churches Together. Thank you to everyone who came along and to everyone who had some part in making the evening so special.

## The Village green

We have had several requests over the last few months, for events to be held on the village green. Whilst we don't want to hold these too often, so as not to disturb residents, we would like to make the green a hub for the whole village, as it already is for children and young families. To help mark it as a focal point for our community it has been suggested that we could erect some signage in a similar way that Bromham has done on their green spaces in the village. As this type of signage can be quite expensive to produce we would like some feedback from the village to see if it is something you think we should be doing. Please let Ann Paice our clerk or me, know what you feel about this idea.

Continued on page 3

## OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

### PARISH CLERK

#### Ann Paice

31 Radwell Road  
Milton Ernest  
Bedford, MK44 1SH. 824852  
maea@paice31.fsnet.co.uk

### CHAIRMAN

#### Jane Walker

(Parish and Borough councillor)  
11 Dewlands. 824530  
jane@janewalker.co.uk

#### Pat Olney

(Parish and Borough councillor)  
33 Station Road. 824384  
pat.olney@btopenworld.com

#### Richard Bailly

63 Church Lane. 823251  
richard.bailly@btopenworld.com

#### Sara Fardon

61 Lincroft. 824516  
sarafardon@yahoo.co.uk

#### Dave Jones

2 Westfield Road. 07920 522120  
david.jones@ivar-uk.com

#### Paul Phillips

3 Station Road. 824260  
paulphillips65@gmail.com

#### Gerry Sansom

21 Pavenham Road. 823295  
gerrysansom@btinternet.com

#### John Saunders

College Farm. 822328  
john@saundcall2.plus.com

#### Robert Saunders

College Farm. 822328  
john@saundcall2.plus.com

#### Michael Taylor

20 Lovell Homes, 823594  
Lovell Road.  
michaeltaylor1390@gmail.com

#### Paul White

20 Reynes Drive. 825472  
paulwhite20rd@btinternet.com

## Annual parish meeting

This year's annual parish meeting will be held on Tuesday 1st April at 7pm in the village hall. This is your chance to come along and question your parish councillors about anything that they are doing in the village or discuss something else you would like them to do. At this year's meeting we will also have the Borough council's Highways team coming along to explain their plans for the new speed cameras in the village and they will be answering questions from residents about the scheme. Following the meeting parish councillors will make their decision on the scheme, so it is important that you come along.

We will also be hosting a representative from RAF Odiham who has agreed to come to our meeting to tell us about the low flying military aircraft, that we often see flying over the village and listen to residents' concerns about the low flying helicopters. Please come along and find out why they have to fly so low over the village and what we can do if we want their flight path changed.

Even if neither of these issues are of concern to you, please come along and ask questions or just let us know what you think. The meetings normally last no more than an hour and as all of your parish councillors and the Borough Councillor will be there along with the outside visitors, it's a really important opportunity to let us know what's going right and if anything's going wrong.

## Dog mess

Once again we have received numerous complaints about dog mess being left on the village footpaths, particularly in the alleyways through the estate. These walk ways are one of the main routes for our children to walk to school. The dog mess is creating a problem for both the schools and in people's homes, as well as being a potential health hazard. The parish council has installed a large number of dog bins around the village so there's no excuse for not having somewhere to put the dog mess. If you feel there is still somewhere that could do with another bin we are happy to consider it, but there is **absolutely no excuse for not clearing up after your dog.**

It is actually an offence to not clear up after your dog and the Borough council has recently been successful in prosecuting offending owners. We will have no hesitation in reporting anyone caught leaving dog mess on the footpaths. We hope that this will not happen and that everyone will please consider other residents when out walking their dogs.

Jane Walker

Parish council chair

### Almond Garage Doors Ltd



- Servicing Bedford & Milton Keynes
- Spare Parts (including obsolete makes)
- Existing Doors Automated
- EMERGENCY Call Out Service
- New Sales & Installations (Free Quotations)

01234 828953

[info@almondgd.co.uk](mailto:info@almondgd.co.uk)

Fax: 01234 826024

College Farm, Oakley, Beds, MK43 7RX

[www.almondgaragedoors.co.uk](http://www.almondgaragedoors.co.uk)



## Borough Council News by Cllr Pat Olney

You will be glad to know that your Borough council tax is staying the same.

There will continue to be a weekly bin collection.

The swimming pools, Bunyan Centre, Outdoor Centre at Kempston and the Athletic Stadium are now operated by Fusion.

### The Missing Link of the Bedford Western Bypass

is getting closer to being built. The funding is in place. There are still final negotiations with Railtrack and some landowners. Soon I hope to see various legal orders to be published so that the work on the road can start.

### Bedford Bus Station

is to be rebuilt this year. There will be a Booking and Information Hall and it will be a good place to arrive in the town and to leave from. The whole area will be a great improvement.



Jan Rymarz - Principle  
IT Technician / Trainer

- Fast PC and Laptop Repairs
- Virus and Security
- Clear and Friendly Training
- Fast and Efficient Service

and much more...

A few recent customer comments:

"Great service"

"Efficient & Affordable"

"Trustworthy & reliable"

"Highly recommended"

### Fostering

There are new fees and allowances for people who are looking after children on behalf of us all.

### Bedford Hospital Update

All children can now go to Bedford Hospital's A&E. The Paediatric Services are receiving all children. They are assessed and if they need more specialist care then they are referred on to the appropriate specialist hospital.

The Review into the hospital that I outlined in the last newsletter has now been widened. It will now be considering not only the hospital but also care in the community and how these link together. The review will be looking at how services are delivered to keep people healthy. Also how people are cared for at home, in residential care, as well as mental health, chronic illnesses and life threatening illnesses.

It is very wide ranging and will involve the hospital, G.P. Practices, the local authority and voluntary organisations, patients and carers. After the consultation recommendations will be made on how the Health Services can give the best health care to people when they need it.

Consultation is already taking place with everyone involved. The consultation into the Paediatric Service was excellent in gaining everyone's views and its recommendations were very well thought out. Hopefully this one will also be as thorough. If so then there will be an improved service and care for everyone.

### Electrification of Midland Main line

This will mean many bridges over the rail way will need to be rebuilt at higher levels to allow the cables to run under them.

In Oakley, Highfield Road bridge is high enough to take the cables however Hartop Bridge, that leads from Station Road to railway cottages, will need to be raised.

Railtrack have just published the plans for the bridge. The Parish Council and the houses affected have been notified so that they can make their comments. The plans just cover the bridge works themselves and not any adjacent works e.g to the road, footpath diversion etc. These will be part of the ongoing legal process. It is proposed that work will be undertaken in the winter of 2014/2015

Bromham Road Bridge will also affect us because of road closures. Railtrack, with the Borough Council, is considering the traffic management around Bedford, including our village, when the bridge works are undertaken.

Cllr Pat Olney

**07401 250 118**

[www.oakleyit.co.uk](http://www.oakleyit.co.uk) [help@oakleyit.co.uk](mailto:help@oakleyit.co.uk)



## Catherine Knight

Catherine, in February played at the Amaryllis Concert Hall. She played the Arutiunian virtuosic Trumpet Concerto with the RCM Philharmonic. I quote from the programme notes. " Catherine Knight, winner of the RCM Concerto Competition."

We have been very fortunate to have Catherine play at our last two Remembrance Services. Every one was moved by her playing at Bill Knight's funeral. Her grandfather would have been very proud of her and would have enjoyed the music.

The Oakley Charities supported her with a grant towards her trumpet. It is good to follow her career and I am sure she will be playing solo many more times.

Catherine is one of many young people supported by the charity who go on to achieve their potential.

The charity gives grants twice a year. They will soon be advertising for the next round of applications and grants will be decided in June 2014.

Pat Olney

# WHITE'S

## Lawnmowers & Garden Machinery

**Sales ~ Service ~ Parts ~ Hire**  
**Briggs & Stratton Service Centre**

**STIHL** **MTD** **AL-KO**

**Mountfield** **HAYTER**



**LAWNFLITE** **MTD** **Indespension**  
...& many more

LARGE SELECTION FOR ALL YOUR GARDENING NEEDS

# 01234 826066

[info@whites-online.co.uk](mailto:info@whites-online.co.uk)

[www.whites-online.co.uk](http://www.whites-online.co.uk)  
College Farm, Oakley, Bedford, Bedfordshire, MK43 7RX



## Safe, Healthy & Well

*A Bedford Borough one-stop information leaflet which brings together existing services offered by Bedford Borough Council, and other organisations that can help residents keep safe, healthy and well.*

*Environment and Sustainable Communities*

## Safe, Healthy & Well

The Borough has asked us to put a link to their Safe, Healthy and Well leaflet, which has been produced to advise Borough residents on ways to keep safe, healthy and well during the winter months. The leaflet can be downloaded by following this link

<http://www.bedford.gov.uk/safehealthywell>

- Insulation Schemes
- Home Improvements
- Handyperson Scheme
- Fire Safety Checks
- Home Security Checks
- Benefits advice
- Jobs Advice
- Debt and Housing advice
- Health and Wellbeing advice

## AMIGO

On the 18th December we sang carols at The Bedford Arms, some played with handbells, much to the delight of the diners at the pub. A good number of people attended and we were grateful to the management for the mince pies and sweets that they kindly provided.

Two exciting skittles matches took place on Tuesday 28th January at the Bedford Arms, Souldrop, separated by a buffet meal. The first match was won by Sue Brecknock and the second by Pat Cheesebrough. Many congratulations to them both

By the time this Newsletter is published, Pat Olney will have had the opportunity of giving an illustrated talk on her visit to Burma. Pat had asked if she might do this as she did not have the correct memory stick when she gave a talk last September. The talk was held on Tuesday 25th February at 8.00 p.m. at Oakley Methodist Church.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

An opportunity to hear a radio broadcast given by Judi Gentle and John Dixon on Hospital Radio Bedford. With music in commemoration of V.E and V.J days in Bedford during the Second World War on Tuesday 25th March at 8.00 p.m. at Oakley Methodist Church.

Find out about the use of herbs in the 17th century at a talk given by Catherine Reid on Tuesday 27th May at 8.00 p.m. at Oakley Methodist Church

A coach trip has been arranged for Tuesday 24th June to visit Rotherhithe accompanied by our excellent guide, Charlie de Wet who has taken us around parts of London over the past three years. The coach will leave Oakley Village Hall at 8.30 a.m.

We will be arriving at the Brunel Museum in Rotherhithe in time to meet our Guide at 11.00 am. We will learn of the dramatic story of the construction and subsequent history of the Thames Tunnel built by Sir Marc Brunel and his son Isambard Kingdom Brunel. Whilst enjoying a cup of tea or coffee we will be able to watch a film about the building of the tunnel.

When the Thames Tunnel opened in 1843 the original entry shaft was transformed into the Rotherhithe Grand Entrance Hall whose sweeping staircase teemed with a million visitors in the month after it was opened.

Touted as the birthplace of the modern Metro system it is one of the most important sites in engineering history. We will have the opportunity of descending into the Thames Tunnel.




After some further time in the Museum, we will be taken on a guided walk by Charlie around historic Rotherhithe before arriving for lunch at The Mayflower Inn (an historic pub where some of the Pilgrim Fathers left for America) where bar snacks or sandwiches may be bought.

Following lunch, the party will travel on the London Overground Line from Rotherhithe Station to Canada Water (one stop) and thence on the Jubilee Line to North Greenwich (two stops). At North Greenwich, we will take a ride on the Emirates Cable Car over the River Thames to the Royal Victoria Station where the Coach will be waiting for us to take us back to Oakley. The estimated time of departure will be between 3.30 p.m. and 4.00p.m.

The total cost per person is £30.00. This will cover the cost of the coach, the fee of Charlie as our guide, the admission fee to the Brunel Museum (£3.00 for Adults - £1.50 concessions) and the cost of the descent into the Thames Tunnel. The cost of the descent with a guide from the Brunel Museum is £6.00 per head (with a minimum payment of £120.00). In order to minimize the cost, it is to be hoped that at least 30 people will undertake the descent, which works out at £4.00 a head.

You will need to pay for your own tea or coffee at the Brunel Museum as well as lunch at the Mayflower Inn. The cost of travelling from Rotherhithe Station to North Greenwich Station will be £4.50 and we will need to purchase a travel card for that sum at Rotherhithe Station. I am told by Charlie that because of possessing Travel Cards, we will get a discount when obtaining tickets for the Cable Car.

If you wish to come, please send a cheque for £30.00 made payable to John Dixon as soon as you can to his address at 30 Hunts Path, Oakley, Bedford, MK43 7SR. 

If you have any queries, please telephone John on 01234 824959.

# Mother's Day at for Coffee

## Treat Mum for Mother's Day

Bring her in for Coffee or Tea and Cake on **Sunday March 30**

For Only **£3.50!** 

## Cupcake Bouquets **£20**

Orders for Mother's Day being taken now

Call us now on **824113**

Last day for Orders is Wednesday, March 27

*Serving great coffee and tea, cakes from our kitchen.  
paninis, sandwiches and hot lunches!*

Station Road, Oakley – Phone 824113 – [info@o-for-coffee.co.uk](mailto:info@o-for-coffee.co.uk)

*40 years of rebuilding lives after spinal cord injury*

**"Hold a Fish and Chip Supper to help spinal cord injured people rebuild lives after injury"**

**Great British Fish and Chip Supper –  
Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2014**

Want to eat Fish and Chips, while raising money for charity? Hold a fish and chip supper on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2014 whilst raising awareness of spinal cord injury and supporting SIA's vital services.

You can hold a fish and chip supper in your own home, at work or hold a larger supper at your local community centre.

SIA will provide a fundraising pack containing hints and tips, recipes, invitations and donation envelopes. By inviting 8 friends and asking them to donate an additional £5.00 means you will raise at least £40.00 from your supper but we will also give you additional fundraising ideas to raise even more money for SIA.

In 2014 SIA is celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary and so we want to make the batter matter and raise £25,000 from

everyone holding suppers. Last year we raised £12,500 from the suppers.

The money raised from the suppers will help the Spinal Injuries Association offer support to individuals who become paralysed and their families, from the moment a spinal injury occurs, and for the rest of their lives by providing services and publications which enable and encourage paralysed people to rebuild lives after spinal cord injury.

Every year in the UK over 1,000 people experience a spinal cord injury and there are an estimated 40,000 spinal cord injured people in the UK alone.

Community Fundraising Manager, Elizabeth Wright, says, "The Fish and Chip Supper is a wonderful opportunity for a great evening with friends and family. We are also encouraging people who work to hold a Fish and Chip Lunch in their work places to raise even more funds. You may be even a local community group wanting to run a fun evening with your group. For more information or

request a fundraising pack call Elizabeth Wright on 0845 071 4350 or email [fundrais-ing@siafishandchips.co.uk](mailto:fundrais-ing@siafishandchips.co.uk) or visit [www.siafishandchips.co.uk](http://www.siafishandchips.co.uk)

**sia**   
spinal injuries association

## OAKLEY MOTORCYCLE CLUB

Oakley Motorcycle Club, having finished the year with a record membership of 442, held their AGM on Thursday 6th February at Oakley Sports & Social Club. 125 Bike club members turned out on a very wet and cold night to see the various elections and prize giving with Roger Bays elected again as Chair.

After an exceptionally busy 2013 plans were revealed for events in 2014 which include our very first Oakley Bike Festival which will be held on Saturday 26th July 2014 on the sports field at Oakley Club.

This will aim to provide a good fun day out for not only OMC members but other bikers, kids, Oakley villagers and just about anyone with an interest in two wheeled machines.

The Festival will be supported by most local motorbike dealerships representing Honda, Suzuki, Yamaha, Kawasaki, BMW, Ducati and Triumph makes. Other key organisations will be represented who are associated with motorcycling and motorcycling sport as well as the emergency services including the Fire Service and Beds/Herts/Cambs Police motorcyclists.

Motorcycle race teams and race bikes will be there, hopefully including some motorcycling celebrities!

The times on the day are planned for 11am - 5pm and will also include a stage with live band. Food and drink will be available during these times. All proceeds on the day will be going to the East Anglian Air Ambulance.

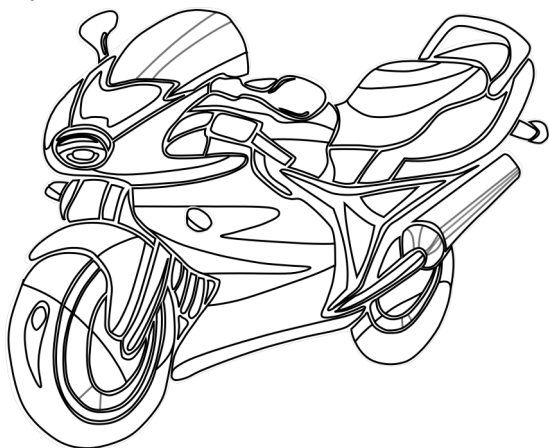
We are hoping for a successful event and some decent weather on the day. Watch this newsletter for further information.

Baysie

Roger Bays

Chair

OMC



Treating musculoskeletal injuries & pain



The Orchard Osteopathy Clinic offers accurate diagnosis and fast effective treatment for a whole range of injuries and general discomfort

Katie Bociek BSc (Hons) Ost

T: 07445 891113

E: [katie.osteopathy@gmail.com](mailto:katie.osteopathy@gmail.com)

W: [www.orchardosteopathy.co.uk](http://www.orchardosteopathy.co.uk)

Osteopathy

Sports Massage

Medical acupuncture

Kinesio taping

Treatment	Duration	Fee
Initial Consultation	60 minutes	£45
Follow up appointment	45 minutes	£30
Sports massage	30 minutes	£25

34 Brockwell  
Oakley  
Bedford  
MK43 7TD

## Oakley Neighbourhood Watch

Burglaries across North Bedfordshire continue - what can we do to reduce the risk of our houses being targeted?

- Most break-ins occur at the back or side of the house - what can you do to restrict access?
- Close downstairs windows—consider window locks
- Don't leave handbags, wallets, cash, or keys where they are easily seen.
- Keep sheds and garages locked
- Remove keys from locks—keep them in a safe place out of sight
- Keep side gates locked - bins, ladders and tools locked away
- If your house is empty after dark, leave a light on or set a timer
- When you are out, leave a radio on a talking channel as this will make it sound as though someone is home



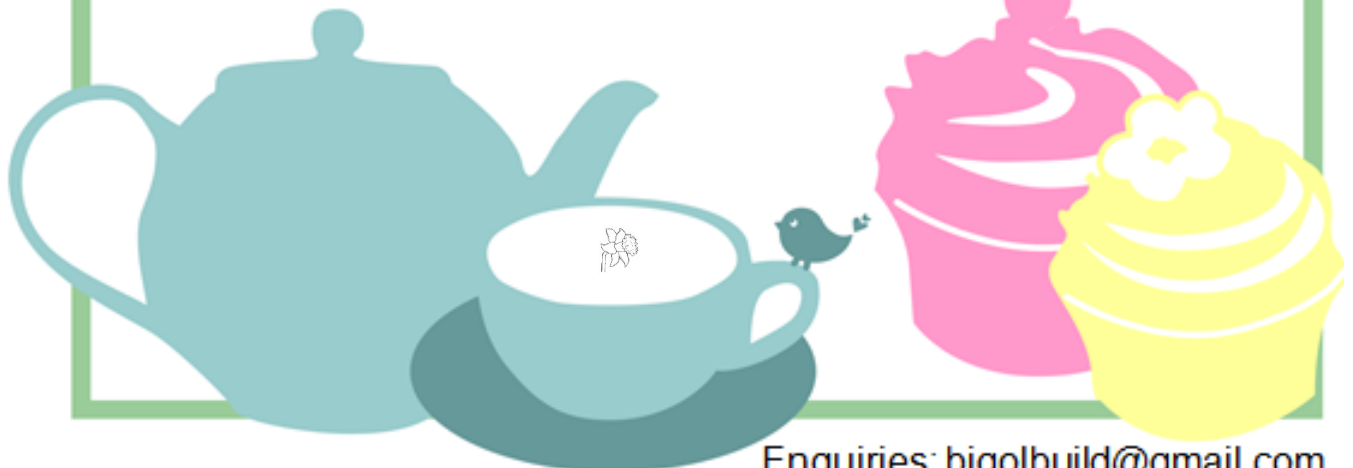
In association with Oakley Lower School PTA



# Big Ol' Build's Cake And Fundraising Event

Welcome to Bob's Café! As part of our fundraising for new classrooms we are hosting monthly coffee mornings. We open from 8:45am- 11am in The Conker Room, Oakley Lower School, enter via Lincroft school's exit. £2 entry for home-made cake and a cuppa. |

Please pop in and see the different stalls available each month.  
Future dates: 07/03, 04/04, 02/05, 06/06, 04/07



Enquiries: [bigolbuild@gmail.com](mailto:bigolbuild@gmail.com)

## Bill Knight

Recently Bill died at the age of 93 years. The military funeral reflected the man he was, a gentleman who was always courteous with a great intellect. It was dignified and conducted with grace.

Many people would have read of Bill's memoirs of the war that were published in the OVL magazine. He served in Madagascar, India and Burma during the last war. Instead of going to university Bill signed on and served through out the war years.

However I remember Bill serving this village in many ways. He ran the Karate club for many years but my memories are of Bill "Keeping Oakley Green" The village was very involved in planning the New Estate during the 1960s. The houses were needed but the villagers wanted a green place where the young families could have place to play and would reflect the open countryside around us. Unfortunately one of the spacious places was to be built on. So Bill went into action. A group was formed, the Borough Council was lobbied and we kept the space. However Bill was not only involved in this. He wrote a history of St. Mary's Church, supported the Church all his life and was planning parts of the next Sunday's service when I visited him in November last year. He loved music and was very proud of Catherine our trumpeter, who gave a wonderful performance at his funeral.

Whilst studying for his degree and M.A, he wrote a village history. He had a full house whenever he gave talks about the village. His talks were always interesting and humorous, particularly when he inserted stories of his family who had lived in Oakley for several generations.

He spent many a happy hour when volunteering at the Bedford Museum. He used his knowledge of Latin and Greek to classify the coins and also translate the documents held there. The Curator was very glad of that expertise and held Bill in very high esteem.

Bill's knowledge of the village will be greatly missed. I am so glad he wrote down the history of the village and the church. He will be missed at the Higgins and by all his colleagues. I have written about his influence on the village, however at the funeral it was apparent that his interest and knowledge were very wide ranging and touched many people and organisations.

I will remember him for the way he always shared his knowledge with me and his kindness and thoughtfulness. He always had a good word about everybody. This is my small selection of my memories. I am sure they could be added to by many people.

My thoughts are with Deirdre and his family and hope that all their memories will be a help to them at this time and in the years ahead.

Pat Olney



## Red Cross Week 2014

The Bedfordshire branch of the British Red Cross has sent out a call for volunteers to help cover collections across their national fundraising event, Red Cross Week. They are looking for committed volunteers to help cover house-2-house and street collections at villages and towns around the Bedfordshire area.

This year Red Cross Week is running from the 4 May until the 10 May. There are already many store collections lined up in partnership with some of the big name supermarkets throughout Bedfordshire. Senior Community Fundraiser, Helen Sendagire, is looking for locals who able to volunteer a few hours of their time in order to make Red Cross Week 2014 bigger and better than its predecessor.

Last year Red Cross volunteers around Bedfordshire managed to raise £11,043.97 through the combined efforts of street collections, house-2-house collections and various fundraising events. The money raised by Red Cross Week goes into Red Cross projects which are there to support the wider community.

The projects range from our Medical Equipment Local service to our First Aid Training service, which we offer to rural communities in order to allow them save lives in an emergency. The British Red Cross is dedicated to helping people in crisis, whoever they are, and it is the support of donors and volunteers that allow us to continually be there for the people who need us.

If you are interested in covering a street collection or arranging a fundraising event to coincide with Red Cross Week 2014 then please contact the Senior Community Fundraiser for Bedfordshire, Helen Sendagire, on the details provided below. If you wish to read more about the work of the British Red Cross or Red Cross Week, then head to [redcross.org.uk](http://redcross.org.uk).

Helen Sendagire  
Senior Community Fundraiser  
01582 589 083  
[hsendagire@redcross.org.uk](mailto:hsendagire@redcross.org.uk)



## BLACK AND WHITE REVIVAL

*Established in 1992 specialising in:*

Photograph Restoration  
Darkroom printing : Hand Colouring  
Archival Family History Storage  
Antique and Repro. Frames  
Old Photographs of Bedfordshire c1910



**Helen Dawkins LRPS**

**01234 782265**

[www.blackandwhiterevival.co.uk](http://www.blackandwhiterevival.co.uk)



## ENTERTAINMENT SHOW

*Award-winning musical fun with puppets, props  
and other surprises for pre-school children.*

*Delicious cakes and drinks included!*

*It's a party every week. From £3 & pay as you go.*

**Biddenham Village Hall  
Nodders Way  
MK40 4BJ  
Mondays 10 - 11am**



[www.ccchimps.com](http://www.ccchimps.com)

[www.facebook.com/CCCMKBeds](https://www.facebook.com/CCCMKBeds)

Jema Crouch: 07929 240137

Dawn Sharkey: 07800 832216



Get the Red Cross' first aid app.  
**Download it now.**

**FREE**

The Red Cross emblem is a special protective sign





## Oakley Show

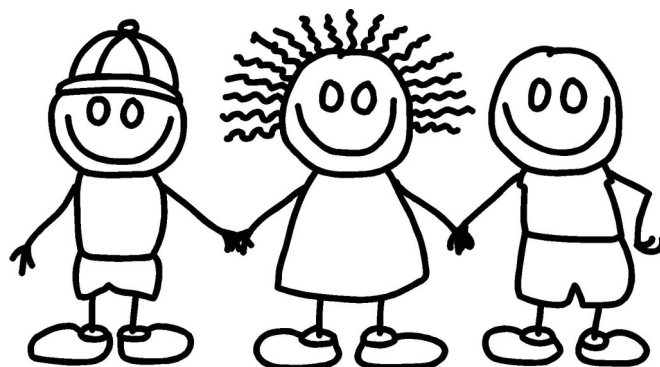
Are there any people interested in reviving the Oakley Show which was once a popular annual event?

As well as the usual fruit flower and vegetable classes there would be photography, art, craft-work, cookery and a children's section.

If you are interested please contact

[j.weston370@btinternet.com](mailto:j.weston370@btinternet.com)

or [denisehookham@hotmail.com](mailto:denisehookham@hotmail.com)



## 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. The Committee are always keen to hear from anyone interested in volunteering to help run the group, so if you are looking for a way to help in the local community please contact us at [oakleytoddlers@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:oakleytoddlers@hotmail.co.uk) or drop in to meet us!

# R P TESTA

## PLUMBING & HEATING SERVICES LIMITED

Est. 1992

All General plumbing requirements  
and full design and installation for:

- Gas Central Heating: Inc. LPG
- Bathrooms: Inc. tiling
- Underfloor Heating
- Solar Hot Water



102217



01234 781827

A LOCAL RELIABLE COMPANY

# Brownies



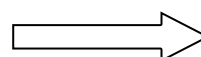
## The Big Brownie Birthday 1914 to 2014

This year is a very special year for Brownies, because it is our 100th Birthday !

We celebrated by going to Butlins, it was really fun! We went swimming, did craft, watched the red coats and much more! Thank you to all of the leaders for organising for your sixes to go and a very special thanks to Brown Owl and Little Owl, I hope you had a great time!

Libby Thompson (9 years old)

Did you come to 1st Oakley Brownies - then come to the Brownies Tea Party - more information on the next page







## **Browns Wood and Judges Spinney**

### **Friends Group - Winter 2013**

On 21st December the turning of the year was celebrated by the Friends Group with a big brash and burn bonfire at Browns Wood, attended by over 30 people. Despite the weather forecast of torrential rain, we enjoyed a (relatively!) dry afternoon of further thinning, burning what had been cut (the 'brash'), which blazed well against the slate grey winter skies. Amongst the volunteers were several family groups. As well as helping with thinning, the children made pine cone bird feeders, Christmas decorations from natural materials, and enjoyed toasted marshmallows around the bonfire.

This shortest day was further marked by traditional dances and music with Hemlock Morris ([www.hemlockmorris.com](http://www.hemlockmorris.com)) helping to welcome the lengthening days from this point on. Despite the mudbath underfoot the dances were completed with great gusto and joie de vivre – and much enjoyed by all!

The woodland was planted in 2000 to enlarge the existing area of Browns Wood. Thinning helps more light into the wood, encouraging an understorey of woodland plants and shrubs to grow. Many of the trees that have been cut near the ground will grow back as coppice, which is ideal habitat for all sorts of wildlife and adds to the diversity of woodland habitats.

Thinning has continued throughout the autumn and winter months with a mixture of Friends Group tasks, ad hoc volunteer days, Youth Inspired tasks ([www.youthinspired.org.uk](http://www.youthinspired.org.uk)) and the Borough's Junior Street Champions. A very very big thank you to all who have come along, often in the rain and the cold, to help with this task.

If you would like to more information on upcoming tasks, the Friends Group, or have any comments you wish to make, please contact us at:

[prioryrangers@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:prioryrangers@bedford.gov.uk) 01234 211182  
or

[ed.burnett@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:ed.burnett@bedford.gov.uk) 01234 228759

Jane Moore,  
Country Park Ranger,  
Bedford Borough Council,

*Invitation Invitation Invitation Invitation*

**Are you an ex-Brownie from**

**1st Oakley Brownie pack?**

**You are invited to a Tea Party**

**on 20th June 6.30 to 7.30**

**Lincroft School Hall**

If you are a former Brownie from 1st Oakley please come to help the current Brownies gain their Special Birthday Challenge Badge by joining them for Fairtrade tea and cake.

Contrary to rumour Brown Owl has not been in charge for the whole time but we do have the daughter of one of her original pack now at Brownies! She would love to see as many of you as possible.

There are many old Brownies in the village. Please tell your friends - come in a group. Parents - if your daughters have left home but are not too far away please pass on this Invitation.

Please let us know if you can come by emailing [lindy@chalker.eclipse.co.uk](mailto:lindy@chalker.eclipse.co.uk)

**Brownies**

## Farm and Country – Spring 2014

By John Saunders, College Farm

At the time of writing it is raining and very wet everywhere. In my time I do not remember it being so wet. With the amount of rain we have had I think it is amazing the river has not flooded more. It is about 40 years since the Environment Agency dredged the river, but I do not think it would make a lot of difference now. They do seem to control the river very well.

So far it has been a very mild winter and we have had very little trouble from the pigeons on the rape because there is so much other food about. I suppose some cold weather with frost and snow will bring them back. On our ground, which drains fairly well, the cereals, wheat and barley are looking very well despite all the wet weather. However on farms on the heavier ground where the water will not drain so easily, the cereals will struggle.

It has been about forty years since we had a cattle market in Bedford. It was in Commercial Road where now there are flats and a multi storey car park. It was a hive of activity on a Saturday as livestock lorries and farmers with land rovers and trailers bringing their livestock to be sold. On the south of the road the cattle, pigs and sheep would be sold and on the north side was Peacocks sale yard selling poultry, rabbits, goats, eggs and plants.

On arrival with your livestock you would be met by a drover. There were two, known by their nicknames Punch and Goldy, and if you made it worth their while they would make sure you were in the right pen so you were not first or last in the sale. How did they get their nicknames? Punch you can only guess and Goldy's surname was Goldsmith!

The market auctioneers were Stafford Rogers & Merry. Jack Merry was the main auctioneer who lived in Oakley at Town Farm. When he retired his son Jim took on the auctioneering.

Once the animals were sold you would go to the office to pay. You then got your animals loaded into lorries or cattle trailers for their journey to the new homes and this was when the drovers were kept very busy.

The dealers were up to all sorts of tricks, for example by giving a few pounds to other dealers not to bid, so they could buy stock a little cheaper. This was called standing out money but a good auctioneer would be wise to this and put a stop to it.

After the sale the dealers and a few farmers went to the Woolpack pub just across the road, which is still there now although looking very derelict. Several farmers would go to the Dujon for lunch which was above Dudeney Johnsons shop where they had a farmers table. Then later on they would go to the Corn Exchange to see the corn or machinery merchants to sell some grain, buy some seed corn or some new equipment. Unfortunately the market has moved to Thrapston but I suppose this made sense because of the traffic problems and Thrapston Market is soon moving to a greenfield site near A14.

John Saunders



Cattle Market



Dudeney & Johnsons is just up on the left.

## Oakley Allotments

Yet again weather is playing a dominant role at the beginning of the year as we experience a different type of extreme and something which could not have been anticipated some months ago. This time last year the country was experiencing snow and prolonged freezing temperatures. (Not me, I was in Australia... I can't believe another year has gone so quickly!)

When I wrote for the last newsletter some weather pundits had warned that this winter would be very cold and snow was forecast - a lot of snow. Well, the level of precipitation has been very high but so have temperatures and the result has been widespread flooding. Try to imagine that amount of rain converted to snow!

Fortunately, most of Oakley is some height above the level of the river which minimises the risk of disastrous flooding. The allotments are somewhat above the worst expected flood level but do tend to get waterlogged. Although this winter the allotment field does not appear to be much wetter than it has been in the last few years. It is possible that surface drainage is better as the ground is better worked. The rain must surely stop some time soon and then what kind of growing season will we have?

The ground is far too wet to consider working it at the moment so it will be a matter of revising any planting plans as we see how the year progresses. My greatest success of last year was growing butternut squashes - they went in as seeds planted direct into the ground as late as June, as it had been far too cold to plant them prior to that. We still have one large squash left in storage.

In any case there are other plans to make for the allotments. We should be able to construct our community shed and make other gradual improvements to the site. Some repairs are necessary, such as replacing the roof of the water harvester. The roof was designed poorly and could not withstand the weight of water/snow/ice to which it has been subjected over its short life.

Deer have been causing some damage to plots, particularly at the orchard end and are possibly entering the site from the railway. There have been sightings of muntjac and roe deer leaving the site and crossing Pavenham Road late in the evenings.



I did install an automatic camera at the field early last year, in the hope of recording some of the wildlife, but only succeeded in capturing evidence of my allotment neighbours working. I am interested in continuing this experiment - is there anyone willing to help participate in a survey to determine the type and number of wild animals visiting the allotments?

Ultimately, we could investigate means of deterring animals from entering the site. Fences are of limited use for excluding deer, which also trample flimsy netting in order to eat crops growing underneath the nets.

At this moment we have only a half-plot left vacant which is a much better situation than a few months ago, when we were considering offering allotments for rent to neighbouring villages.

Happy gardening in 2014, wherever you choose to do it.

Steve Nicholas



### Joshua

Orphan & Community Care

#### Tiyamike feeding centre update

Margreet, a nurse from Holland who lives and works in Malawi was running her weekly under-fives clinic. Every Friday Margreet runs a clinic at one of four Joshua feeding centres.

Margreet weighs every child who comes to the clinic and asks their mother if there are any problems at the moment. She records the children's weights and does this in order to identify common illnesses such as diarrhoea, malnutrition, worms and malaria. If she is concerned that they are suffering from any of the above or more serious illnesses, she refers people to the Joshua clinic, local hospital or she gives out basic medication herself.

Without this front line service many illnesses would not be identified until much later and the damage done by them would be much greater, in some cases life threatening.

Up until 2012 this feeding centre had been little more than a grass hut. But thanks to the incredible hard work of a team of volunteers from Northern Ireland, called the Young Ones, this centre was built in 4 weeks - which is truly remarkable.



# Oakley's Neighbourhood Plan

The Parish Council has recently registered with the Borough Council to start its own Neighbourhood Plan and has set up a sub-group consisting of Parish Councillors and interested residents. The sub-group will develop the Neighbourhood Plan over the next 2 years.

## What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

The Government has placed a new emphasis on planning at a local level. A key component of this new approach to planning is the Neighbourhood Plan. This new type of plan will mean that local communities will have the opportunity to shape the future of their area.

It is similar to the Village Plan that we completed in Oakley in 2005 with the difference that the processes are much more specific and that the whole of our community will have to agree to the plan through a referendum of registered voters.

Once agreed, the Neighbourhood Plan is incorporated into the Bedford Borough "Local Plan". Unlike the Village Plan planning decisions will have to conform to it, so it is an important document.

## What period will the Neighbourhood Plan cover?

The Plan is expected to be completed by 2016 and it will cover the period from 2016 to 2032.

## What sort of things can a Neighbourhood Plan include?

Typical things that a Plan can include are:

- Development of housing including affordable housing – how much, what type and location
- Provision for local businesses
- Transport and access - including issues around roads, cycling, walking, buses and access for disabled people
- The development of schools, health & leisure facilities, community and youth centres
- The design of new buildings
- Protection and creation of open space, nature reserves, allotments, sports pitches, play areas, parks, planting of trees
- Protection of buildings and historic assets
- Renewable energy projects

## What is a Neighbourhood Plan not allowed to do?

A Neighbourhood Plan cannot conflict with strategic policies in the Bedford Borough "Local Plan".

It cannot be used to prevent development that is included in the "Local Plan".

## Why has the Parish Council decided to start Oakley's Neighbourhood Plan now?

We have decided that now is the right time to begin our Neighbourhood Plan because Bedford Borough Council is also starting the new Borough "Local Plan". We believe that it is in the best interest of our community to be positively involved in the development of plans which will effect the future of our village and that by being involved we can influence the outcome.

## Who will be involved in the Neighbourhood Plan?

It's our objective that all residents will have the opportunity to have their say and participate in the Plan making process. There will be a very wide consultation process through public meetings and events, workshops and questionnaires, notices in this Parish Council Newsletter and the notice boards, meetings with community organisations and leaflets.

We really hope that residents will join us to help create the Oakley of the future.

If any resident would like to join the sub-group or would be interested to help with specific issues please contact me, Jane Walker.

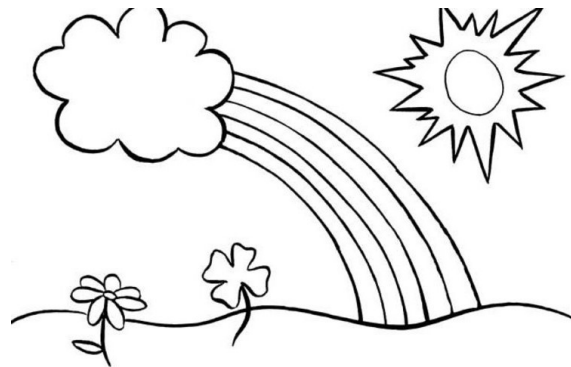




## Oakley Methodist Church

Water, water everywhere, nor any drop to drink... Wherever we turn at the moment there seems to be water. Our hearts and prayerful concern go out to all whose lives and businesses have been and continue to be so deeply affected by the recent weather. Whether we have suffered no more than inconvenience or have experienced personal loss, the last few weeks have, for many of us, revolved around regular viewings of the news and weather forecast and trying to work out which bridges are passable. As a relative newcomer, I have been very grateful to those of you who have shared your expertise and local knowledge, helping us to acclimatise to an area more used than some to having to cope with so much water.

Nature is for us a two-sided coin. Bringing tourism and natural resources into our area on the one hand, the River Great Ouse can also become a source of anxiousness and destruction. How can we reconcile our need for the richness of natural resources on the one hand with the need for security and protection from the elements on the other? Throughout time there has been the tension between enjoying the world in its raw state and taming it to suit our own purposes. The dark storm clouds are at once awe-inspiring and threatening; thunder, thrilling and menacing; swollen water-courses, picturesque yet alarming. When we look out of the window in that first glance at the clouds in the morning, we can have no idea of what the day will bring – from the point of view of weather, or from the more personal angle of the events that will confront us.



The biblical theme that springs to mind is the rainbow after the storm, illustrated in the narrative of Noah, reminding all of us that the hard times are not the end and that through it all God is with us, bringing light and refreshment and new life to come. This is picked up in Isaiah 43:2 "When you walk through the waters, I will be with you, and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you". Whatever we are facing, God-in-Christ IS there with us. There is no place, geographically or emotionally that Jesus will not go to be by our side, sharing with us our pain and our anxiety, our struggles and our despair. As we approach Lent and begin to consider once again the entirety of the Easter Story, let us be comforted and strengthened by the knowledge that Jesus went through everything that we do and more beside, and yet overcame even death itself through the grace and love of God.

As storms are to rainbows, so is the cross to the empty tomb. May the God of resurrection be your strength and your hope and bless you in all your ways.

Rev Gill and family

# Uncomfortable with letting strange people into your home?

We are an **all-female** team of interior painters and decorators, working in the north beds village area. Fully experienced in hanging wallpaper, painting – including paint effects, restoring and repairing surfaces, wallpaper stripping and all general home decorating. We are all individually CRB checked, will provide references and testimonials showing the standard of our workmanship giving you peace of mind. We will come to your home to discuss your exact requirement, offer advice and produce a free written specification and quotation. We will then arrive on time, keeping disturbance to the minimum and deliver a quality job using only top quality materials.



**OAKLEY ANGELS**  
*The all-female painting and decorating team*

- Trustworthy
- Experienced
- Guaranteed work
- Peace of mind
- High quality work at a reasonable price

**Phone: 07989 778345**  
**or: 01234 822499**

## **Stevington Baptist Church**

SBC is a growing group of friendly people from Stevington and the local area. We welcome everyone to join with us for our Sunday gathering, which is an all age service, family-friendly service. It starts at 10:45am, then the children go to the Hall for Sunday School, with both events concluding around noon.

Our structured contemporary worship focuses on both traditional and new hymns and songs. We aim to make God's word easy to understand and apply to our everyday lives. We are non-judgemental and following Jesus' example to show God's love in all we say and do!

### **We have a simple Vision Statement:**

*As a church, we want to bring people to know Jesus and membership into his family; to develop and feel encouraged and motivated to worship, and to serve Him within the Church and Community.*

We run a number of regular activities and more events planned for the near future:

### **Weekly**

Mondays 2pm - *Stevington Quilters*: This is a women's group open to all ages, to share a time of companionship, refreshments and every form of needle craft!

Wednesdays 7pm - *Prayer & Bible Study*: A small friendly group from all backgrounds focus on a structured pathway to understand God's word and spend quiet reflective time praying for our individual and shared needs, and those further afield. We finish around 8pm.

### **Monthly**

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month - (10.45am) - Family Service followed by refreshments.

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month - (10.45am) - Communion during the service; followed by a homemade fellowship lunch.

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month - (3pm) - 'Tea & chat' - our 'open house' in the church hall where everyone is welcome to join us for delicious homemade Afternoon Tea - a lovely time for making friends and getting to know each other. Anyone and everyone are welcome at all times!

### **Future Events**

*Jam Club* - (Starting Tues 18<sup>th</sup> March) A club for local children and young people.

*'The World We All Want'* - (Starting Weds 19<sup>th</sup> March) An informal 4 week course for non-Christians, comparing what we want and God's desires for us.

*Model Railway Club* - A local men's group which we are hoping to start in March.

If you would like to discuss anything about Stevington Baptist Church, please call our Pastor Rev Paul Brown on 01234 910 325 or e-mail him [pastorpaulbrown@ymail.com](mailto:pastorpaulbrown@ymail.com), and follow us on Facebook for daily spiritual readings.

Yours in Christ,  
Rev Paul Brown



## **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

## A letter from Revd Linda

### Mothering Sunday

Mothering Sunday is the day on which we are encouraged to visit our mother church and give thanks to God for our mothers and for Mary the mother of Our Lord. Always on the fourth Sunday of Lent, this year Mothering Sunday falls on March 30th. Lent is a period of abstinence and fasting when to eat less or cut out sweet, rich foods and meat especially on Fridays when we remember the day of our Lord's death. The fast is lifted on Mothering Sunday when Simnel cakes were prepared to eat on this special day.

You may think that Mothering Sunday has always been kept on the Fourth Sunday of Lent. The revival of Mothering Sunday is attributed to Constance Smith (1878-1938), who was inspired in 1913 by reading a newspaper report of Anna Jarvis's campaign in America. Constance Smith believed that "a day in praise of mothers" should be fully expressed in the liturgy of the Church of England.

Mothering Sunday has its origin in the pre-Reformation 'Laetare Sunday', when the first prayer begins: "Rejoice, O Jerusalem: and come together all you that love her ... and be filled from the breasts of your consolation." Some customs outlived the Reformation including making a simnel cake and taking it to Mother. In the 17th century the poet Robert Herrick wrote: "I'll to thee a Simnel bring, / Gainst thou go'st a Mothering.," A Simnel cake is a light fruit cake covered with a layer of marzipan and with a layer of marzipan baked into the middle of the cake. Traditionally, Simnel cakes were decorated with eleven or twelve balls of marzipan, representing the disciples and, sometimes, Jesus Christ. It is thought that the cake was named after Lambert Simnel who worked in the kitchens of Henry VII of England sometime around the year 1500.

Constance Smith reintroduced Simnel cakes and using her pen-name C.Penswick Smith she published a booklet 'The Revival of Mothering Sunday' in 1920. At the time feelings were high as many mothers had lost their sons in the First World War so her idea was soon adopted. She didn't intend that the celebration be limited to one Christian denomination. By 1938, Cordelia Moyse, of the Mothers' Union, wrote: "it was claimed that Mothering Sunday was celebrated in every parish in Britain and in every country of the Empire."

Do join us to celebrate Mothering Sunday this year, bring your mother to the mother church and keep this ancient tradition alive.



**OAKHAM DECORATORS LTD**  
INTERIOR - EXTERIOR - DOMESTIC - COMMERCIAL  
PROFESSIONAL & RELIABLE LOCAL DECORATORS  
With over 30 years experience  
Specialists in wallpaper hanging  
We can help with:  
Plumbing ❖ Carpentry ❖ Plastering ❖ Electrical needs  
Competitive prices for all trades  
We are happy to help and advise  
Call us now for a free no obligation quote call  
Darren Hooton 07743 176201  
Ray Quinney 07885 644973

## Bring & Sing

A Bring and Sing will take place at St Owen's Church, Bromham, as part of the concert series to raise money for the New Extension. To everyone's delight the new plans have now been accepted, so fund raising events need to be well under way.

Please help and support St Owen's Church members to have the pleasure and ease of a new workable kitchen and a room for work with the youth of the parish, to swell the numbers and the influence of the Church in the village.

Come and fully enjoy adding your voice to the singing, or sit back and enjoy the beautiful praise provided by Janet Welsh and her choral members.

Roberta Hatt



**Bring and Sing**  
**Fauré Requiem.**  
With the... *Ouse Valley Singers,*  
**KEMPSTON MUSICAL SOCIETY**  
& Guest soloists  
\*Additional singers welcome - fee £5;  
contact Janet Welsh for information on 01234 781010  
**St Owen, Bromham** MK43 8LL  
**Saturday April 5th**  
**Performance 7.00pm.**  
**Tickets £8, under 16 yrs free.**  
*Price includes glass of wine/squash & crisps etc*  
*Pay at the door (cheques to Friends of St Owen)*  
**To book, contact: mornings: 01234 825454**  
**evenings: 01234 826551**  
**Programme:- Fauré Requiem (40 mins) followed by**  
**separate items:- How Lovely Are Thy Dwellings; All**  
**in the April Evening; Laudamus Te; O Saviour of the**  
**World.**  
[www.bromhambenefice.org](http://www.bromhambenefice.org)

## OAKLEY WI

We meet at Oakley Village Hall on the second Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm. Here is what we have planned for the next few months. If any of the topics are of interest to you, you are welcome to attend as a visitor or as a new member.

Tuesday 11th March

Our **AGM**. A social evening with games and quizzes - and a glass of wine.

Tuesday 8th April

We look forward to hearing about the amazing Colossus computer and **Bletchley Park**.

Steve Munyard shares his knowledge.

Tuesday 13th May

**Jane Sumner**, colour and image consultant will be on hand to pass on her expert ideas on wearing what suits our body shape, personality and lifestyle.

Don't miss this one!

Tuesday 10th June

William French says, "**Welcome to my world**".

William is a former butler to the Royals and superstars - from Royal Cruise to Tom Cruise!

**Theatre and cinema visits** are arranged throughout the year, as well as regular walks and outings to places of interest.

For further information phone 823788 or 824703

Anne McNab

## Steve's Snippet No.8

There is a mark recorded in stone on the long bridge at the twin bridges, Oakley. The River Great Ouse flooded on the 1st of November 1823 to the mark indicated on the pillar by indented arrows. The river rose 16ft above its normal level and many animals were drowned.

Steve Nicholas

## Steve's Snippet No.9

How about an occasional Snippet recipe?

For those who are trying to limit calorie intake and may be following the 5-2 diet...

Salads are a good way to limit calorie intake if you're being good and they can be nutritious, filling and...a bit boring. Don't reach for mayonnaise or salad cream (loaded with sugar and additives) but have a go at making a simple and quick dressing.

Pour equal parts rapeseed oil and white-wine and/or apple-cider vinegar in to a clean jar. Add a small amount of salt (if you allow it) and freshly-milled black pepper, plus a teaspoon of ready-made English mustard. Add chili flakes as well if you like them.

Put the lid firmly on the jar and shake vigorously (the jar mainly, but yourself too if you need the exercise) until the whole lot is nicely mixed, then pour over the salad.

Actual quantities are not critical and the mixture keeps happily in the fridge. The more intense flavour is quite satisfying and can mean that you are less likely to feel hungry.

Steve Nicholas

## Highly recommended Mobile Female Care Assistant



Daniela Bennett can help you with:  
Personal Care  
Cleaning  
Shopping  
Meal Preparations  
Hospital Appointments  
Peace-of-mind services  
tailored to your specific needs  
Call 07955 945895



## Oakley Pre-school news



### Ofsted - Outstanding

At the end of January, Ofsted carried out an unannounced inspection of the pre-school. Although we were expecting that they would come sometime soon, we were very surprised to open the door early one morning in January, to see two inspectors ready to check everything we provide for the children, both for their education and care. It was a busy day as usual and the inspectors saw a typical Oakley Pre-school day full of fun and activity. We were delighted at the end of the day, when they told us that they judged us to be "Outstanding", a very difficult grade to achieve since last year when the tests were made harder.

On the day that they arrived, we were also hosting a visit from children's author Julia Jarman as part of our drive to build the children's knowledge of literacy and love of books. The inspectors were particularly impressed with the number of "extremely interesting and engaging activities" that we provide and they said that this led to our children's levels of attention and engagement being superb. Sally Martiello, our pre-school manager, was particularly pleased that the inspectors acknowledged the variety of activities we provide for our children and that they confirmed the strength of our pre-school curriculum.

The inspectors praised "the leadership and management's relentless drive for improvement that gives the children the best possible start to their education" and said that "the quality of staff interaction" and "their skilful use of teaching methods is excellent".

They also praised our partnership with parents. They met our chair, Julie Grimshaw, who has stayed on to lead the committee despite the fact that her youngest child left us to go to school in July last year. Julie offered to stay on in the role in order to carry on supporting the school for the village. Along with several of our parents, she met with the inspectors, and she explained that she has a hard working management committee who support the work of the staff.

We feel very lucky to have such a fantastic team of both staff and parents who also work closely with the Methodist church to provide such an outstanding pre-school for the village and that this has now been acknowledged by the government's inspectorate of schools. If you would like to read the full report it will be available online within the next month at [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)

### Active Kids

You will probably have seen the banner outside the church on the High Street, but once again we are collecting Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers. We can exchange the vouchers for valuable resources for our pre-school children so please if you don't have another organisation to donate to, please accept the vouchers when they offer them to you at the till or in the petrol station. You can then give them to any of our parents or staff or pop them in our letter box at the back of the church by the pre-school outside play area.

### Admissions

Although we have no vacancies for next term, if you would like to put your child's name down on our waiting list for the next school year, please contact us on [oakleypreschool@btconnect.com](mailto:oakleypreschool@btconnect.com) or download an application form from our web site at [www.oakleypreschool.org.uk](http://www.oakleypreschool.org.uk) or you can ring during term time on 01234 826452.



Children's author Julia Jarman  
reading to the children at Oakley Pre-school



## Oakley Gardens Open Day

**29th June**

Please keep the date free.

It is always lovely walking around the gardens and having a delicious tea. At the same time you will be supporting our lovely, ancient St Mary's Church.

Your favourite gardens will be open this year but we would also like to have some new ones.

So how about it? Don't be shy. I walk around the village every day admiring your gardens and would love to see them open for others to admire them.

If you are unsure but would like to find out more please contact Pat Olney at 824384 or Noel Steel 825164.



## Oakley Carpet Bowls Club

We are running a bit short of members for a good evening's bowling.

If you are looking for friendly company, gentle exercise with monthly social activities then why not come along and give it a try.

We meet at Oakley Village Hall

Every Wednesday Evening 7.30pm to 10.00pm

See our posters on the noticeboards



**Young people**


**Aged 12 to 16**

**Need something to do  
on a Friday night?**

**Come along to the  
Old School on Lovell Road  
From 8pm until 10pm**

**Games, Activities  
Or chill with your mates**

**Admission £1  
Plus tuck shop money!**






# BADMINTON

Get fit whilst socialising at  
Oakley badminton club 😊

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT**

**7:30-9PM**

**LINCROFT SCHOOL**

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



Hair, Beauty & Wellbeing Clinic    40 High Street, Oakley, Nr Bedford

Voted No.1 Salon in the UK by Top Santé Magazine

Open the door to a whole new world of tranquillity, harmony and creativity. We are dedicated to providing you with a professional service through our highly trained staff, who will be able to recommend the very best products combined with appropriate treatments to achieve the most successful results for all your hair, beauty and anti-ageing skin care needs.

*Wide Range of Beauty Treatments*

*Wella Premier Hair Salon      Hair Colour Specialists*

*Dermal Fillers and Line Smoothing Injections*

*St. Tropez Tan & Spray Tanning Booth*

*Eye Lash Extensions      Bridal Packages*

*Top to Toe Days      Barber Shop*

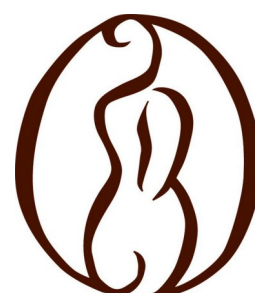
Open 6 days per week including late nights

Gift Vouchers available

Telephone (01234) 826502

Email: [hazel@hazel-kaye.com](mailto:hazel@hazel-kaye.com)

[www.hazel-kaye.com](http://www.hazel-kaye.com)







# **Oakley Sports & Social Club**

## **Family & Sports Bar**

<http://oakleyssc.com>

### **Forthcoming Events**

- |                                    |  |               |
|------------------------------------|--|---------------|
| • Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> February | Cricket Club Quiz Night                            | - All welcome |
| • Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February | OMC Committee Meeting                              |               |
| • Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup> March  | St Patrick's event – Life of Riley – Tickets £5.00 |               |
| • Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> July   | Oakley Bike Festival                               |               |
| • TBC                              | Open Mike Night                                    |               |

Welcome to the New Year from all at Oakley Sports & Social Club. Suffering from winter blues, cold, wet and depressing weather? Come along to the club for a very warm welcome all year round **'a perfect place to enjoy some time with the family'**.

We offer a very friendly, relaxing environment for you and your family to enjoy with fantastic facilities and extremely competitive prices. We're proud to be a family-orientated club. We are equipped with an outdoor play area, baby changing facilities, high chair and confectionary and soft drinks suitable for all ages! Why not pop down and see for yourself?

The kitchen offers very tasty hot food served on certain days & evenings, homemade pizzas baked in our very own pizza oven, just like mama used make. Check our fabulous menu out, pop down and try a bite - you won't be disappointed

The Oakley Sports & Social Club house has two large LCD HD screens and a high definition projector, bringing you live sport from terrestrial, Sky Sports and BT - all in HD. Football, rugby, golf, darts, and many other main sporting events covering internationals and home fixtures. We have many football teams across the age groups up to adult teams under the Oakley Football Club (AFC) banner; Cricket teams Youth and Adult; Dart team, Pool team, and a petanque pitch.

As a Club we offer excellent facilities that are available to hire upon request for functions and parties at very competitive rates. The bar offers a large selection of drinks, alcoholic and non alcoholic, with a guest ale provided.

Membership of the club is a virtual give away at only £5 per year! You could save that on your first round of drinks compared to the current average Pub prices. In order to take advantage of the great facilities at Oakley Sports & Social Club, become a member. Membership can be completed online using the link below or over the bar in the clubhouse. Current members, please don't forget to renew your membership for 2014.

The OSSC is proud to host this year the first ever Bike show provided by the Oakley Motorcycle club. The event is advertised as the Oakley Bike Festival 14 which will provide a good fun day out for all club members, OMC members, non members and all the family. Look out for flyers and posters advertising the event which will be on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2014. Opening times 10.00am – 5.00pm.

**Get in touch tel: 01234 824977 EMAIL: [info@oakleyssc.com](mailto:info@oakleyssc.com)**

**<http://oakleyssc.com/>**