



Oakley Newsletter



Spring 2017
Number 70



Front Cover

Daffodils are Out
by Terry Youngman

The Oakley Newsletter

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

Opinions and information

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

Next issue

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Hello Children

look out for
10 more



Parish Council News

Spring 2017

By PAUL PHILLIPS (Chair)

It is hard to believe that Christmas and New Year have come and gone and as I write my article we are still in the middle of a very cold spell. The skies however have been beautifully blue and clear for a couple of days with wall to wall sunshine. I know it is still winter, but the days are lengthening noticeably and by the time your newsletter is delivered to you and you read it, spring will be just around the corner.

Annual Christmas Tree Lights Switch on

On Saturday 3 December 2016 we had our Annual Christmas Tree Lights Switch on at St Marys Church. We had the usual Carol singing which was made all the more enjoyable by the delicious mince pies and mulled wine kindly provided by volunteers from the Churches. Weather wise the evening was calm, still and fine, a little on the cool side, but the perfect ingredients to encourage well over 100 young and old to prepare for Christmas. It is always so good to see families enjoying the evening together. It was also an opportunity to see the Church beautifully decorated not only with the normal Christmas decorations but also with the wreaths representing the numerous village organisations including the Parish Council.

Lincroft School/Bedfordia Cross Country event.

On Tuesday 17 January 2017 Lincroft School hosted the annual Bedfordia Cross Country event. On the day Michael Taylor and I monitored the event and we think it fair to say that the effect on the village and its residents was minimal and overall it was very successful particularly considering the number of schools entering, the number of pupils participating, together with the numerous parents and friends supporting. Much of the success was due to the good planning, the work undertaken by Lincroft School staff and the four members of Bedfordshire Police Special Constabulary who conducted themselves impeccably and with good humour. The Head and Staff at Lincroft School should be congratulated for hosting such a prestigious event of this size and nature. Well done to all concerned.

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Village Signs

Some while ago the Parish Council decided to update the signs at each of the village entrances. Choices were made by the residents who attended the Annual Parish Meeting in April of last year and I am now pleased to say that we have placed an order to a supplier who lives in a nearby village. We have asked that the supplier ensures that these signs will be fitted before the end of March this year. These signs will be paid for with money raised by the Oakley Directory.

Average Speed Cameras

We are continuing to monitor the average speed cameras around the village. Bedford Borough Council has informed us that from the four sites 714 notices of intended prosecution were issued in November 2016, 655 for vehicles travelling between 37 and 42 mph, 55 for vehicles travelling between 43 and 49 mph and 4 for vehicles travelling over 50 mph. The highest speeds recorded were in Lovell Road. In December 532 notices of intended prosecution were issued, 497 for speeds between 37 and 42 mph, 34 for speeds between 43 and 49 mph and 1 for a speed of 52 mph. I am hoping that not too many Oakley residents were amongst those numbers. We will continue to monitor the effect of the cameras on a regular basis and I would argue that the true measure of their effectiveness will be when the numbers are shown to be reducing significantly.

Police Matters

In December 2016, together with Councillor Phyllis Jones, I attended a seminar at Bedfordshire Police Headquarters. Prior to the seminar the Police had sought views of Parish Councils on Policing Priorities and the three most voiced concerns were speeding, visible policing and antisocial behaviour. As far as speeding is concerned in this village we have done a lot to help ourselves and really and truly because of what we have done we have fewer speeding problems than many other villages. Having said that we still have complaints from residents in the High Street, Highfield Road and Reynes Drive. Due to resource problems the Police are unlikely to be able to provide much attention to these locations and due to Council financial constraints engineering measures are unlikely in the short term. What this might mean is that we have to continue to help ourselves and that may be with the introduction of a Community Speed Watch Campaign which enables volunteers to work within their community to raise awareness of the dangers of speeding and to help control the problem locally. The scheme seeks to promote safer driving in our local communities by educating rather than by prosecuting.

Data collected by Community Speed Watch Groups is passed to Bedfordshire Police who then may undertake speed checks which result in drivers being prosecuted. Such a scheme is dependent on volunteers coming forward, receiving some basic training and being prepared to operate speed check equipment, record details of vehicles exceeding the limit and forwarding results to the Police for further action if necessary. Speed Watch is to be discussed by the Parish Council at our March meeting and it is possible it could be a topic for discussion at our Annual Parish Meeting on 4 April 2017 at the Village Hall. The agenda and full details will be found on the Parish Council Notice Board and on the Village website.

Anti-social behaviour will be dealt with by the Police in partnership with others e.g. Bedford Borough Council and will remain a high priority.

Though many of us would like to return to the days of visible policing, we now have to accept that that ideal may not be possible due to significant financial cuts, reduced manpower and increasing demands. The best we can expect now is ACCESSIBLE POLICING. Oakley is in a cluster of 10 other villages

Continued on page 4

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including Clapham, Biddenham, Bromham, Great Denham, Pavenham, Turvey, Kempston Rural, Stagsden, Wootton and Stevington and the officer responsible for this large area is Police Community Support Officer James Dancer.



The Police have asked that we remind residents to call 101 for general concerns, 999 for emergencies, or Crime Stoppers on 0800551111 with intelligence information. The Police say that this process allows them to review all calls and allocate resources in a timely fashion to the incident in order for them to keep communities safe from harm.



Please remember that you can find out about crimes occurring in the village by keeping up to date with the Parish Council Meeting minutes - the crime figures are always a month behind.

Annual Parish Meeting

Please note that the Annual Parish Meeting will take place on Tuesday 4 April 2017 from 7pm at Oakley Village Hall. We value your attendance at our Annual Meeting. The agenda will be put on the Parish Council Notice Board and on the village website well in advance of the meeting. This is an opportunity for you to hear from any guest speakers and for you to voice your concerns about matters in the village.

Oakley Neighbourhood Plan

The group continue to work very hard on the plan and an exhibition of the policies took place in the Village Hall on Sunday 29 January 2017. Every resident was invited to attend and to those who did we say a very **big Thank You**. Residents had an opportunity to give feed back which will be analysed, adjusted and then adopted as our village policies.

There will be further stages including preparation of a draft plan, another exhibition, referendum and an examination by an Inspector. If it is found that the plan is sound it will become the planning document for our village up to 2035. A very big THANK YOU to each and every member of the Group.

Village Planting

Residents will know that we have two volunteers who have taken responsibility for the planting of the beds at the village entrances and the two at the crossroads/War Memorial. They continue to do an excellent job, but in order to reduce their workload particularly during dry spells I am looking for volunteers who would be prepared to help with the watering on a needs basis. There are a total of 6 beds, so I am thinking that 12 volunteers to help with this little job isn't too much to ask. I hope some volunteers will come forward. Please contact me, Ann the Parish Council Clerk or any Parish Council member. Our contact details can be found in the front of this Newsletter.

My typing fingers are getting sore so I think I will draw my contribution to a close. Before doing so can I say thank you to everyone for reading and supporting the Newsletter, thank you to all Oakley Parish Councillors and our Clerk and last but by no means least to the Editor Bill Chalker for consistently producing an excellent Newsletter.

Paul Phillips
Chairman

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Borough Council News

by Cllr Pat Olney

The Borough Council has agreed an increase in council tax of 4.75%. This is an increase of 1.75% plus the 3.00% that the government has agreed should be added to your council tax to pay for social care. This includes adult and children social care.

Bedford Borough Local Plan to 2035 will be consulted on from the 18 April to the 2nd of June 2017.

This prior notice is to give Parish Councils and the public time to access it before the consultation starts. It is a clear document that states borough priorities for housing development and green spaces. There are several appendices that are important. They detail how the borough has reached their conclusions.

The borough state that they will include one or two new local settlements. The four which are being evaluated are; 6,000 dwellings at Twinwoods, Milton Ernest; 4,000+ at Thurleigh Airfield site; 4,500 at the Unilever site in Sharnbrook and 4,500 at Wyboston. If you are interested in seeing the proposals for these sites please go to the planning website and look for the "call for sites settlement" document.

They have detailed the amount of development for the urban area and for the parishes:-

Group 1 villages nearest to Oakley ward; Clapham 500 dwellings, Bromham 500 dwellings.
Group 2 Villages – Oakley 25 to 50 houses.
Group 3 and 4 Villages - Stevington and Pavenham no specific dwellings but feel that some development might be appropriate especially if the dwellings have the support of the local community.

The borough has recognised the importance of neighbourhood plans. The NDPs give detailed policies appropriate to their parish whilst the borough local plan has broad brush policies. They recognise that the Parishes will be able to select their own sites to be developed to meet the number of dwellings. They can consider sites from the call for sites proposals or any other site if it meets the relevant policies. All future Planning applications will be considered on the parish NDP if they already conform with the borough local plan.

However if the parish does not have an emerging or full NDP then the Borough will decide planning applications only on the borough local plan policies.

If you would like to read the proposed Borough Local Plan 2035 in more detail then go to www.bedford.gov.uk/localplan2035. This details the proposal for housing development and local green spaces.

Oakley, Pavenham and Stevington are all working hard to bring forward their neighbourhood plans.

Good News for Aspiring Musicians

There is to be a Music Education Hub at Castle Newnham School. This will give the Music Service a permanent home which will be teacher led by the Bedford Music Co-operative. Jenny Brown from the Bedford Music Co-operative said "we look forward to the day when all hub partners have a shared base"

The Hub will be available for all the children in the borough.

Pat Olney Tel. 01234 824384

email pat.olney@btopenworld.com,

MESSY CHURCH

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

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Barry Holmes Remembered



Barry Holmes was known most recently to many of the village as the Editor of the Oakley Newsletter; after picking up the mantle from Robin Olney in 2010 and before passing it on to me in 2013. Whilst I had spent a large part of my career creating internal and external communications I had little understanding of the Role of the Editor until I spent several hours in his study and realised that I had volunteered for a new challenge to face in retirement and another “growth” opportunity. The Editor is the owner of the style and the standards (including correct grammar – oh the benefits of a well educated wife) thus all the kind contributions needed to be marshalled into good order.

For Barry this skill set came as a second nature to him after a lifetime in the world of Books. His greatest personal achievement was being responsible for the Poems on the Underground series of books, the first volume of 100 poems first appeared in 1991 and every year thereafter until finally a splendid hardback 10th edition of over 300 poems came out in 2001.

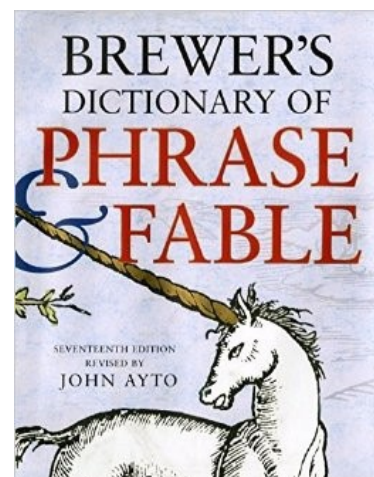
An extract from his obituary article in The Bookseller from December 2016 sets out an amazingly varied career. "Following spells at Foyles and Gordon & Gotch, he joined the sales team at Studio Vista in 1965, after which he became part of the Cassell sales and marketing force following spells at Crowell, Collier and Mac-

millan. He was appointed deputy group marketing manager in 1973, and later promoted to director of sales and marketing, before moving into a commissioning role in the mid-1980s. His main focus was non-fiction, in spite of the success of the Poems on the Underground series he oversaw. He retired in 2005."



"Barry was a company man, but not a corporate one. He regarded form-filling and financial projections as a waste of time and, as the sales department became more central to decision-making, took to describing them as the Sales Prevention Department. He was humorously and openly cynical about Modern Management Techniques.

"But he was forgiven by the High-Ups because he was so good at everything he did. He ran his lists brilliantly. He got on well with his authors. He was the best sales conference presenter I've ever encountered, offering wittily enthusiastic or comically despairing outlines of forthcoming books, all without the aid of notes. Invited on air by Radio 2 presenter Derek Jameson to talk about one of the jewels in Cassell's crown – Brewer's Dictionary of Phrase and Fable – he proved so popular that he was invited back again and again. Sales soared."



"An intensely modest, rather private man, Barry didn't actively seek friendship. But then he didn't need to. Friendship found him. His colleagues relished his kindness, wit, wisdom and humanity, and we are all greatly saddened that he has gone. We offer our deepest sympathies to his wife Sue, and to his children and grandchildren."

Perhaps less well known is Barry's contribution to local amateur dramatics. His Pantomimes started with four annual productions at Oakley Lower School and then transferred to the Old School for a further run of 11 years



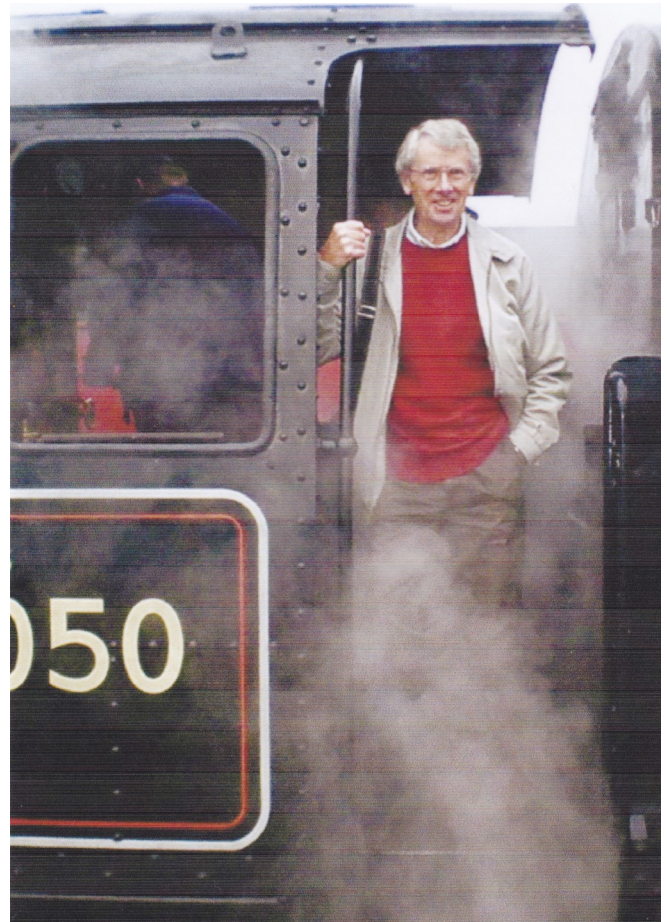
Dick Whittington—Jan 1986

As script writer/ script wrangler – he borrowed a few – Barry delighted in making the performances topical and village oriented – ably assisted apparently by Robin Olney's homemade wine and dry wit. Barry's wife Sue remembers many bed-times spent debating appropriate songs to match the story lines.

Barry loved to take the role of the Dame and Gordon Reade reflects on a memory that for some reason Barry always singled him out in the audience to come and sit on his lap! Sue tells of another story line that involved mind reading and the extraction of the chosen victim in the audience's wrist watch. Unfortunately, Barry chose the one person in the audience who had lost his arm!

Pat Olney remembers "Barry became a member of the Oakley Retired Gentlemen Ambling Society Members on his retirement. Robin was very glad he joined because there would be another member who had a literary bent rather than sport or very technical knowledge.

Barry did improve on the technical side as one of the outings was to the Nene Valley Steam Railway. I include a photo of him on the footplate. All the members enjoyed his quick wit and humour.



When it came time for Robin to give up the Newsletter he thought long and hard about the person to continue it. The solution was Barry and they had many hours of editing together before Barry felt able to take on the role. Barry was, on his own admission, not computer literate.

He succeeded and the newsletter benefited hugely from his editing. Barry will be very sorely missed at the ORGASM dinners but Sue will continue as an honorary member at the quarterly dinners."

Bill Chalker, Editor

The Phantom Sprayer Returns

Spring will soon be here – we hope - and once again the need for a reminder about the responsibilities of owning a dog.

I have persisted in spraying the nasty piles of faeces left around the village for people to tread in or push their baby's push chair through.

I was quite heartened for a spell, things were much better and cleaner, my spray can remained in my pocket and lasted well **BUT** come the Christmas holidays, dog poo everywhere, and it continues. I have used three cans of spray between the week before Christmas and early February.

This is not acceptable. There are many, many people who **are** responsible owners and always pick up. This is confirmed by the use of the bins provided, so thank you to those people. However, there is still a significant element who do not pick up, nor teach their children to pick up, when they go off for a walk with the family dog.

There is one person with a large dog which regularly leaves very large piles in the field opposite the school – where the children run. There are others who also do not clear up in the field and there are times when I use nearly a whole can in that field on one trip. Please be a little more thoughtful and respectful to the other walkers in the field and to the children who regularly use the field for their cross country running. It is necessary to **ALWAYS** clear up after your dog wherever you are walking whether it is the field at Broad Green, behind Station Road, as well as all the pavements and alleyways.

We have a lovely village and you have the most beautiful canine companions, let us become the cleanest and proudest village in the country!!



The Phantom Sprayer

Steve's Snippet - yet another one...

I have various ideas for possible inclusion in my growing stable of Snippets and suggest to myself that making a note or two at the time would help later when the creative process is forced in to action near deadline time. I never do, as I fool myself that although my once-excellent memory has now been demoted to a rank of well-above-average, it is still up to the task.

Or is it that once you get to a "certain age" your memories start to fall out the back as you experience and keep learning so much more new stuff. Interesting and conciliatory to postulate - my word! - swallowing that dictionary has given me indigestion!

Last year was notable for many things, particularly for the passing of a large number of celebrities. The year also saw the passing of two characters who were friends of mine and had influenced my life in considerable ways.

One, David, had lived in Oakley for a number of years. I was involved with him through motor-racing over a large number of years. He was a man of sharp intelligence, great humour and inventive interpretation of the world and life-events.

David enjoyed food, wine and beer (at the appropriate times) and was somewhat rotund, which made entering and exiting a compact sports car something of a challenge. He reasoned, however, that his round shape was due to the fact that he knew so much information that his brain overflowed and the extra storage just happened to be near his waistline.

He also had a novel and amusing theory about why men only appear to lose their hair as they get older. It turns out that, usually only if you are male, your hair is actually attached to the inside of the soles of your feet. Naturally, as you grow taller the hair is pulled back through your scalp and only appears to be shorter or actually disappear completely. So now you know.

David was a serious racing driver though and was well-known and respected as such in club-racing circles. He had reached a good age and lived a good life but he is greatly missed.

The second man, Bill, was possible even more remarkable - he was also involved with motor-racing and I met him through that interest also. His life was remarkable for other reasons - I'll tell you why later.

(... it's no. 25 - I just remembered...)

AMIGO

An enjoyable evening was spent at the Bedford Arms, Oakley on the 20th December for traditional carol singing and the ringing of hand bells, with mince pies, kindly provided by the Pub. We were all in good voice.

A treat was in store for those who came to the showing of "The Lady in the Van" on the 24th January at the Methodist Church. I thought that Dame Maggie Smith was superb.

A light hearted quiz had been arranged for Tuesday 28th February at Oakley Methodist Church beginning at 8.00 p.m. A report will appear in the June issue of the Parish News.

A **talk by Pat Olney on "Linch Furlong"** will be held on Tuesday 28th March at Oakley Methodist Church beginning at 8.00 p.m. Pat will explain what it is and how it became a wild life haven.

A **Skittles evening** at the Bedford Arms, Soul-drop has been arranged for Tuesday 25th April beginning at 7.30 p.m. A buffet of sandwiches and chips will be available at £6.00 a head payable on the night. Please let John Dixon know by the 18th April if you wish to come and have the buffet.

A **garden party** will be held by the kind invitation of Pat Olney at her house from 6.30 p.m. on Tuesday 23rd May.

An **evening ramble** will be led by John Dixon on Tuesday 27th June. Further details will be appearing in the Churches Together Newsletter for June and in the June issue of the Parish News.

A **coach outing to Greenwich** has been arranged for Thursday 27th July. An itinerary is set out below:-

8.00 a.m. Leave Oakley Village Hall – A 39 seater coach has been booked

10.00 -10.30 a.m. Arrive at Visit Greenwich Visitor Centre, 2 Cutty Sark Gardens, Old Royal Naval College, London, SE10 9LW for tea, coffee and use of toilets. We will be met by our Guide, Charlie de Wet at 10.30 a.m.

11.00 a.m. Leave the Visitor Centre for a guided tour of Greenwich on foot led by Charlie which will last for approximately 90 minutes.

12.30 to 12.40 –p.m. It is proposed that you please yourselves where you might have lunch. There are plenty of eating places to choose from. Charlie will point out possible eating places during the walk.

2.25 p.m A tour of the Painted Hall Ceiling at the Old Royal Naval College has been arranged. It will be necessary for the group to arrive 15 minutes before the start of the tour at the Painted Hall i.e. by 2.25 p.m.. The group will need to be split into two groups with a twenty minute gap between the start of each tour. The tour is due to last for about one hour and it is proposed that the first tour will begin at 2.40 p.m. with the second tour beginning at 3.00 p.m. By 4.00 p.m. the tours will have finished and there will be an opportunity for tea, coffee and cakes before boarding the coach at 4.30 p.m. for the journey home.

I am proposing a charge of £35.00 a head. Please let me have cheques payable to J. W. Dixon and send them to me at 30 Hunts Path, Oakley, Bedford, MK43 7SR by not later than the **15th April**.

This will include the cost of the coach, the cost of the tour led by Charlie and the cost of the Painted Hall Ceiling Tour. Payment for the Painted Hall Ceiling Tour is required to be made three months in advance, that is by not later than the 27th April 2017.

John Dixon

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Farming life at College Farm, Oakley

As I write on the 10th February we are eagerly awaiting the arrival of Spring. The days are starting to get longer and I've got itchy feet to get out into the fields again. The last few months have been spent cutting the hedges around the fields, tending to livestock and loading grain, straw and hay, as well as quite a bit of time in the office planning for the coming season.

Some of the first jobs will be applying muck and slurry along with fertiliser to wake the crops up from the winter dormancy. Then as we get into March we will begin sowing spring crops, these include barley, beans, oats, peas, wheat and a first for me this year, soya

Soya beans are normally grown in the warmer climate of America and are rich in protein; this makes them a great supplement to a cow or pig's diet and really helps their growth. I have been assured that the newer varieties will grow in the UK. Only 1,000 acres are being grown in the UK this year and I will be responsible for 50 of them. The reason for trying to grow soya is to find an alternative break crop to oilseed rape, this is now proving very difficult to grow because of the withdrawal of certain pesticides. You then get large bare patches in your fields which are an ideal place for blackgrass to grow. This is another very hard to control weed in the UK. It will take over and can cause massive yield reductions in the following wheat crop. Farmers are currently spending in excess of £100 on herbicides per hectare to control this weed with very little success. I'm hoping my venture with soya will be successful, I will keep you informed!

On top of all this we have 35 cows due to start calving in the middle of March. With a bit of luck the cows will need very little assistance, usually when they do it's in the middle of the night, but luckily Laura is starting to get quite good at helping me!

Finally I would like to wish Tim, Yvonne and family all the best



when they move to their new pub in Yorkshire. I've spent many happy hours in the Bedford Arms over the years, sometimes too happy! Best of luck to you all!

Calving session is nearly upon us...

I can't believe Spring is around the corner. For us this year it will be calving session – there is something quite fascinating about watching a new born calf enter the world and attempt to stand up for the first time. It always brings a smile to my face!

I expect to be on duties again this year and envisage a few sleepless nights. In addition to preparing myself for calving duties I have been busy painting commissions for a farmer client – a hay lorry which combines fine paintbrush and palette knife techniques. I am also looking to add more paintings to my portfolio over the coming months and show my work in more local galleries and shops. The Eggshell Gallery in Castle Ashby is the latest gallery to display a variety of my work for sale. Don't forget my art gallery is open on Thursdays and Fridays from 10am at College farm house. Feel free to pop by for a nose.

Henry and Laura Saunders



Oakley Rural Day Centre

We are having a very exciting time at the Day Centre busying ourselves making crafts such as clocks, draught excluders, door stops and many other useful items for our Bring and Buy stall on the 7th, 8th and 9th March.

At Oakley Rural we offer plenty of opportunities for our clients to participate in many types of arts and crafts where they are able to learn new skills and reminiscence about older ones. We always try to make the day as special as possible for our elderly clients who look forward to meeting and making new friends in a pleasant environment filled with chatting and laughter.

Funding is fairly tight at the moment so we were extremely grateful to Sainsbury's at Fairfield Park for donating £200 for our festive celebrations. Thank you also to a few members of their staff who joined in the fun and made it all possible.

If you know of any elderly person who feels lonely, isolated or would just like to come and join in the fun or if you would like to become a volunteer and can spare 3 hours a week to provide assistance and friendship please give the Day Centre a call on 07733 227372

Pat Olney



Uncomfortable with letting strange people into your home?

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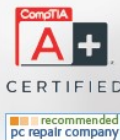
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The National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies works to advance decorative and fine arts education and appreciation, alongside the preservation of artistic heritage. The new Great Ouse Valley branch of the NADFAS society is to have their inaugural meeting in April.



The 2017 Programme will be :-

April 18th Peter Webb - Artists I have known from Dali to Hockney

May 16th Gavin Plumley - The art and culture of fin de siècle Vienna

June 20th Andrew Davies - Nicholas Hawksmoor and the glories of the English Baroque

September 19th Dr Twigs Way - Art and the garden: Gardens as symbol and setting in art from medieval to modern

October 17th Stephen Duffy - The Wallace Collection's Rembrandts: From Twelve to One, but now Three and Two Halves

November 21st Dr Stephen Kershaw - Troy: Myth, History and Archaeology

Meetings will be held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm at The Sharnbrook Hotel.

Potential members are welcome to contact the Membership Secretary : Sara Tusting via email at

greatousevalleymembers@gmail.com who will be happy to provide further information regarding the application process.



Guiding in North Beds

February is an important month for members of Girlguiding as we celebrate Thinking Day on 22nd. Thinking Day is the day when Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Senior Section, adult volunteers and members of Trefoil Guild remember other members of the Guiding movement in the UK and all around the world. The 22nd February was chosen because this was the birthday of Lord Robert Baden Powell, founder of Scouting and Guiding and also of his wife, Lady Olave Baden Powell who was the first World Chief Guide.

This year members of Oakley Rainbows and Brownies are joining with other Guiding groups in North Beds for a celebration afternoon at Mollivers Guide Centre in Bromham. The girls will take part in a variety of outdoor activities including woodland trails, games, toasting marshmallows to make yummy S'mores and outdoor crafts followed by a campfire with hotdogs and hot chocolate. The event will end with some new members making their Promise for the first time and other members renewing their Promise for the year ahead. We are looking forward to having a great afternoon together.

For more information about volunteering with Guiding or about Rainbows, Brownies Guides, Senior Section or Trefoil Guild (Guiding for adults) please e-mail Jane on div.nbeds@bedsguiding.org.uk or visit www.bedsguiding.org.uk

Why not come and join us – you will be sure of a warm welcome!

Jane Thompson, Acting District Commissioner

A Farewell to Tim, Yvonne, Euan and Tory from The Bedford Arms

It is not often that so many are moved enough that they get together to pay tribute; in this case the tribute is well-deserved and is paid to Tim, Yvonne, Euan and Tory as they prepare to leave the pub that has become a popular meeting and eating place for so many people over the last seven and a half years. A small group of us got together to decide how best to present our thoughts to mark the end of an era.



A volunteer was needed in order to commit those thoughts to an enduring record in print - I drew the short straw.

It seemed appropriate to ask Tim for his family's story and to ask some of the questions we wanted answered - not least, what has motivated them to move on after such a successful tenure at the pub?

So, I ambushed Tim in the pub one evening - he had returned late from Yorkshire and was not quite prepared to be interviewed right then but volunteered to let me have some notes later, after talking with Yvonne and the family. I left, arranging to return later in the week and take advantage of the opportunity to enjoy one of his well-kept beers.

It seems as if Tim and Yvonne have been at the pub for much longer but they only came to Oakley in September 2009 the pub re-opening in the October. They wanted to take on a bigger challenge, having made a great success of running The Cock in North Crawley, where they built a reputation with a high quality menu. So successful were they at North Crawley that a number of their friends and customers from those days still visit them in Oakley.

Our pub had run down, as demands changed, and was refurbished by the brewery in readiness for a change of direction. The aim was to make it a pub-restaurant producing a great seafood-orientated menu with high quality at affordable prices. This was achieved much to the delight of an ever-increasing clientele.

Tim had moved into pub management from the motor trade in 1991, having previously worked for M.A.N. Trucks, also having travelled widely and spent some time in Australia. He is a man of humour and intellect and describes his wit as "perhaps sometimes too dry". Don't ever change, Tim! You can guarantee a ready audience at your new bar I'm sure, especially for your quiz-nights. He and Euan are also keen rugby fans, Euan participating actively.

Yvonne had also spent some time in Australia. Yvonne is a trained chef with particular interest in presenting seafood and a great, varied menu. She is a pioneer in studying allergies and presenting gluten-free options, having personal experience of the problems sufferers face when dining out. All of this has contributed to their success. Tim describes Yvonne as the driving-force of the business.

It is not just a business but has become a valued part of our community with an altruistic side. Many charity and community events have been staged by the pub. Probably most notable are the fireworks at New Year's Eve parties and summer balls. The family team has also helped to raise some twenty thousand pounds for various charities over their time here. Tim took part in the Great North Run and has raised funds for Bedford Hospitals Charity, MacMillan and Bliss, a charity assisting premature and sick babies and dear to Yvonne's heart.



It must not be forgotten either that the pub has provided employment over the years for some forty local people, from students in need of temporary jobs to full-time staff. Everyone has helped to provide a standard of service which is efficient, attentive and friendly, reflecting the considerate and highly professional nature of their employers - qualities all too rare these days.

Other acts of kindness have taken place; Yvonne has provided take-out meals for those who have needed them due to illness or emergencies. Roast potatoes have been known to appear on the bar for some who might not have survived hunger until the arrival of their restaurant meals. A trip to Newmarket was organised one year and Yvonne said that they would provide some food - legend has it that superb food was provided and in quantities that could have fed the entire crowd at the races.

Why the move then? Well, they are buying and moving to a free-house, The Bay Horse Inn, in Market Weighton, situated almost mid-way between Hull and York. They have a family connection with Hull and it is a lovely part of the country. Euan has joined the business and has great plans for the future, so a move to independence from the tied-house trade was a logical step. As Tim pointed out, without the restaurant it would not be possible to make a living.

We wish Tim, Yvonne, Euan and Tory all the very best for the future - you will be greatly missed and are a hard act for any successor to follow. Don't be too surprised if you find some of us propping up the bar and studying the menu in your new establishment - it will be worth the journey, without a doubt.

Louise and James emailed us wanting to add their thoughts to this article - they are included because they sum-up what these seven and a half years have meant to so many...

"We have known Tim and Yvonne for 10 years now, first meeting when they took on their last pub in North Crawley. When they moved to The Bedford Arms we of course missed Yvonne's fantastic cooking along with Tim's impeccable sense of humour. After frequent visits and lots of delicious food, we grew familiar and fell in love with Oakley village enough to buy a house and settle here 2 years ago with our young children. We are so sad to see Tim, Yvonne, Euan and Tory now move on. A part of our 'village family' will have left us but we wish them the best of luck in their new venture. We know it will be a great success with such an amazing team behind it and their new locals certainly won't be disappointed. Louise and James x "

Tim has always taken an interest in his patrons and frequently spends time either side of the bar being the perfect host. He very often has the last word, and this is no exception... Oakley is a lovely village and is a great place to live. He wanted to make sure that his and his family's thanks and gratitude are conveyed to everyone who is and has been a part of their lives over the years, essential in making their business the success that the family has worked so hard to achieve.

Steve Nicholas





Oakley Youth Club – Come and join in the fun!

The Youth Club in Oakley has been running for over 10 years. Based at The Old School, we welcome young people on Friday night to come and have fun.

After a recent break, and a

chance to recharge our batteries, the Youth Club has just restarted. Our new youth leader is Dawn Pither and she is assisted by Jade Catchpole. Dawn and Jade are looking forward to you to have a great time with them.

We welcome boys and girls aged 11 – 14. We have a lot of fun activities in a safe, friendly and fun environment

The new season has just started on the 24th February, and is every Friday night between 7.30pm and 9.00pm. Take our quiz on the next page to see if you'd like it at Oakley Youth Club



For more information please contact Dawn at dawn.pither@btinternet.com



Oakley Diamonds Netball Club Update



DeLever

I thought I would write a little update about Oakley Diamonds, we are still playing and are currently in our 6th year. We are currently in division 4 and are getting stronger with every match. We are enjoying being part of a team and are going to have new stylish dresses and hoodies, with help from our new sponsor Jon Lever who owns DeLever which is based in Thurleigh.

We are currently looking for a few more players, ideally players that would know the game and are relatively fit. In addition to this we are also seeking a new coach ideally suited to someone who knows the game quite well, can train with us each week and enjoys being part of a team. If you are interested, then

Oakley Youth Club

Invitation



Come and have fun

I like table tennis Score 3 for Yes and 1 for No ☐

I like cooking Score 3 for yes and 1 for No ☐

I like dodgeball Score 3 for yes and 1 for No ☐

I like chatting Score 3 for yes and 1 for No ☐

I like music Score 3 for yes and 1 for No ☐

I like painting Score 3 for yes and 1 for No ☐

I like games Score 3 for yes and 1 for No ☐

I like being with my friends Score 3 for yes and 1 for No ☐

MY TOTAL SCORE ☐

Hurrah! I scored more than 9; therefore I'm going to have a great time at Oakley Youth Club

A new season started on 24th February 2017, 7.30pm – 9.00pm, Old School, Lovell Road, Oakley. Boys and girls aged 11 – 14 welcome. £1 entrance and small change for tuck shop. **Cut this out and get free entrance with this leaflet.**

Oakley Neighbourhood Plan 2035

Thank you to everyone who attended our Open day about the proposed policies for the NDP

The comments you gave were very interesting and will all be considered at the next meeting. They will inform the final document.

The Group will now be working on the Oakley Neighbourhood Plan draft document. We hope that this will be available in the summer and again you will be asked for your comments.

The Plan will be then sent to the Borough Planning Department so that they can organise the referendum which we hope will be in the autumn 2017.

It is vitally important we have a Neighbourhood Plan.

Any planning application coming forward will be assessed against the plan policies and if it does not conform will likely to be rejected. It also means that we have solid evidence to object strongly against any future planning application.

I wish to give a thank you to all the committee members who continue to work hard and a special thank you to Ann Paice, our clerk who produced the exhibition material for the event.

All the policies are on the website as is the form. If you could not manage the open day you can still have your say. Go to <http://ndp.oakleyvillage.co.uk> where you can see the map above in full detail.



Pat Olney

1st Oakley Brownies



Oakley Brownies had great fun making their tie-dyed tee shirts for Christmas. This term they are working (!?! for their "Get Me Out Of Here I am a Brownie" Badge. They have braved squidgy feely boxes and have a bush tucker trial to come!

The Brownies would love to take part in the Oakley Carnival this summer if someone can volunteer a lorry and a driver.

We have panels that simply hang over the side of the lorry—see photo on next page.

The girls and adults are covered by Guiding Insurance.



New Community Committee Room at the Old School

Open Invitation – 29 March 7pm to 9pm

Anyone who has lived in the village for several years will remember the old outbuildings around the back of the Old School on Lovell Road. Some of you may have even gone to School here before Lincroft School opened in 1971. Over the years these outbuildings have slowly deteriorated, and until recently had been used for storage.

The Friends of the Old School, responsible for looking after and maintaining the site, are pleased to announce that we have now converted the outbuildings into a warm and welcoming meeting / committee room, available for all local community groups to hire. It has a self-contained kitchenette with tea and coffee facilities and has space for up to 15 people.



To convert the outbuildings into a flexible community space involved specialised work to ensure the integrity of the Grade II listed remained in keeping with its original design. We therefore needed to raise over £30,000 to make this happen, which took our small team of volunteers considerable time and effort with several knock backs along the way! However, we were absolutely delighted to secure grants from a wide range of local funders and charitable foundations. So an enormous thank you goes to: Bedford Borough Council (through their Rural Grants Assistance programme) ,The Harpur Trust, The Wixamtree Trust, Oakley Parish Council , Gale Family Charity Trust, and a contribution from Cllr Pat Olney's Ward Pot

Without their financial support (and overwhelming patience with us) we simply could not have completed this project. We will be having an **open evening on Wednesday 29 March between 7pm – 9pm**. The invitation is open to everyone and light refreshments will be available. Please do feel free to come along to see the improvements that have been made.



To hire the meeting room (or the main Hall) please call Bill Sellars on 01234 823473 or 07980 745292. The committee room is available for just £6 per hour, any time of the day or evening.

Matt Young

Help Brownies find a lorry for 15 July

Please can you help the 1st Oakley Brownies find a lorry for The Oakley Carnival which takes place on 15th July 2017.

If you can, please contact

Brenda Barnes on 824614 or

Lindy Chalker on 824002



One like this please



Fun for all the family

Help us celebrate the Carnival



The Carnival will begin with a procession through the village from **12:30pm** arriving at the ORA field (off Church Lane) for a fun packed afternoon

- Craft stalls
- Fun fair
- Competitions
- Arena show
- Food stalls
- Licenced Bar
- Bouncy castles

Why not get in touch to book a stall, take part in the procession or Arena acts, or to get involved:

Email: oakleycarnival@gmail.com

Website: www.oakleycarnival.co.uk



A letter from Revd Linda

The Meaning behind the dust!

"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return"

Ash Wednesday falls on March 1st, Lent in Western Christianity. Lent is forty six days (forty fasting days, if the six Sundays, which are not days of fast, are excluded) before Easter and can fall as early as February 4 or as late as March 10. Ash Wednesday derives its name from the practice of blessing ashes made from palm branches blessed on the previous year's Palm Sunday.

The Four Gospels recall Jesus spending forty days fasting in the desert, where he was tempted by the devil. The forty days of Lent are for us a time of penitence, fasting and prayer in preparation for Easter. Every Sunday was seen as a commemoration of the Sunday of Christ's resurrection and so as a feast day on which fasting was inappropriate. Accordingly, Christians fasted from Monday to Saturday (six days) during six weeks and from Wednesday to Saturday (four days) in the preceding week, thus making forty days.

Ashes symbolize two main things in the Old Testament: death and repentance. The following passages help us understand the meaning behind the dust! Ashes are equivalent to dust, and human flesh is composed of dust or clay (Genesis 2:7), and when a human corpse decomposes, it returns to dust or ash. Abraham told God, "I am but dust and ashes" (Genesis 18:27), a reference to his human mortality. Ashes are a sign that we use on Ash Wednesday to remind ourselves of our own impending deaths. We need to be prepared for death and the way to prepare is to live according to God's ways. When the prophet Daniel shamefacedly clothed himself in sackcloth and ashes, they were a sign of his people's contrition for their rebellion, wickedness and treachery (Daniel 9:3). When Jonah warned the Ninevites that God planned to destroy their city because of their corruption and depravity, the people covered themselves with sackcloth and ashes as a sign of their intention to turn from their evil ways (Jonah 3:6,10).

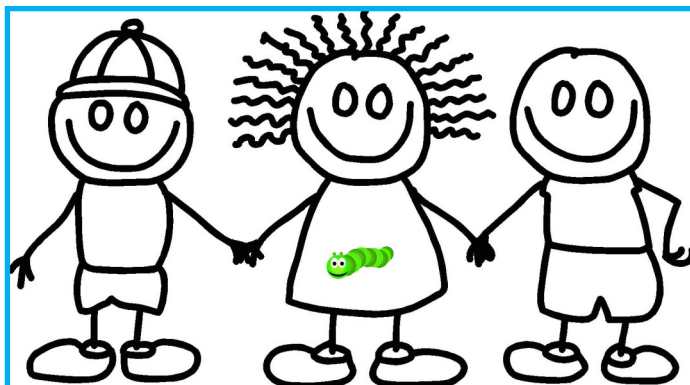
Ashes are a plea to God for mercy and compassion, pardon and forgiveness. Moreover, they are a public admission of guilt, an expression of sorrow for sins that have been committed, a promise to reform and a pledge to resist temptation in the future. The imposition of ashes is a solemn ritual used to begin the penitential season of Lent. The ceremony is distinctive, a unique liturgical action in the churches year.



A cross using ash is applied to the forehead as the priest says: "Remember that you are dust, and unto dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19) When we receive ashes on Ash Wednesday, we are saying that we are sorry for our sins, and that we want to use the season of Lent to correct our faults, purify our hearts, control our desires and grow in holiness, so that we will be prepared to celebrate Easter with great joy.

Don't miss out, begin Lent properly - you will not regret it. Join us at St. Mary's church, Oakley at 7.30pm. There is also a Lenten Pilgrimage to Walsingham on Tuesday 4th April. Details from Linda

Rev'd Linda



Oakley Toddlers

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

£1.50 crafts/toys/singing/drinks & snacks

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

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

Contact Sue Carey 07971 202405

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Oakley Allotments



Not much is happening at this time of year, except that, unusually, I have been inspired to start work rather early - I hope the enthusiasm endures! This is partly due to a bit of (accidental) forward planning and having crops to harvest throughout the winter - crops such as kale, carrots, leeks and chard (that chard, again!).

Weather permitting, and we have had a bit of weather, we have pottered about at the plot doing various jobs such as rearranging the raised beds, pruning the vicious, though wonderfully fruitful, cultivated blackberry that has now romped fearlessly down the fence for half the length of the allotment. It needs some taming as it makes wild bramble look as if it's not really making an effort to take over.

Having sold it so convincingly, if anyone would like a cutting for their own allotment or garden then please let me know - it is worth the effort as it produces pounds of large, sweet, juicy fruit every year and could also form a good security-barrier if you need one somewhere. You will need a bit of room for it though and possibly a suit of armour to wear at pruning time.

I have a developing forest of sprouting broccoli promising great things for a month-or-so's time and we have a collection of seed-packets ready to be deployed when conditions are warmer. We won't plant too early - as I have mentioned before, a bit later is often better as late sowings (later than the seed-packets' guides suggest) can survive better and catch up any earlier sowings that make it.

I will keep this one short as I now have to wander off to another page or two and construct a few more Snippets.

As ever, if you are thinking of taking on an allotment, please get in touch with me.

Steve Nicholas



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Irresponsible Parking.

A minority of people continue to leave their cars irresponsibly around our village, whether it be on yellow line at Reynes Drive/High Street junction, on zig zags outside the Schools, parking on junctions, on pavements or partially on pavements and on grass verges.

It is good to hear that Bedford Borough Council have now introduced a hot line that any one can use to report these few, but persistent offenders.

If you can take a photograph then do so and then call Bedford Borough Council's main number on 01234267422, select option 2 for Highways and Parking and then option 3 to report Dangerous, inconsiderate or unlawful parking across Bedford Borough.

On their website Bedford Borough Council specifically encourage people to report incidents as set out below and if at all possible they say **they will prosecute:-**



Parking on zig zags outside schools

Parking in disabled bays without a blue badge

Parking on bus stops or taxi ranks

Parking across dropped kerbs

Parking without a valid ticket or permit

Parking in a way that impedes the flow of traffic or across pedestrian footpaths

Parking on grass verges especially where damage may be caused.



Members of the Borough Council have said that in some circumstances they are prepared to seek recompense from offenders where damage is caused to grass verges or indeed kerbs. I would urge residents to use this hotline in appropriate circumstances and warn those who may be responsible for inconsiderate parking to stop this behaviour in case they find themselves reported. I have included some photographs of examples of such irresponsible parking. I hope you will agree that it is irresponsible, unnecessary and often very dangerous.

Paul Phillips



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.

Steve's Snippet No.26

Every year is special but we attach an arbitrary importance to round or notable numbers (the last Snippet was no.25 - who would have thought), we just do.

10 years ago this year I trained for, and took part in, an attempt at the National Three Peaks Challenge. The event was cut tragically short in its early moments when, at about 6.20 pm on mid-summer day, 2007, we lost a man to catastrophic heart failure on the ascent of Ben Nevis - Peter was just a year older than me.

This was not far from my mind as I continued my trip round Scotland in July 2016. Dennis, who I was now heading out past Loch Fyne to meet, had organised that charity event and it was never far from his mind either. Memories like this give you an anchor in the past and a place in the present - they are a part of life and experience and we must accept them.

As I drove towards the loch and Inverary I was overcome by the scenery and the experience and had to just stop and take photographs of it all. The sense of freedom was overwhelming and, as I continued driving, every turn of the road and change of sunlight was marvellous. Approaching Inverary was quite something - the view of the town across the waters of Loch Fyne and the tall ship berthed there adding to the wonder of it all.



Inverary is, not surprisingly, a tourist hot-spot and it was school holiday time in Scotland so things were getting busy. I was tempted to stop off and have a tour of the town but just drove round it twice instead (I had missed the turn I needed) and headed on, intending to meet Dennis somewhere on the route to Oban.

Dennis had decided that he had done routes through Scotland many times (he has bagged all of the Munros once and has started them all over again, together with Corbetts - yes, he's slightly mad!) and so this time he would take to the island routes via ferry where he could. I was expecting to meet him on the road to Oban, sometime that afternoon after he had returned on the ferry from Arran, the island often described as Scotland-in-miniature.

However, Dennis was running a bit late and I was early so I headed for Oban, taking a detour round Loch Awe on the way. This was really my first introduction to narrow roads with passing-places that I was to encounter regularly from now on - they slow-down the pace somewhat and you have to make allowance for them in journey times.

Loch Awe was not quite what I expected from the map as the loch is screened from the road by woodland for most of its considerable (and slow) length. I managed to pull in to the one place I had seen so far that resembled a lay-by and wandered down to the side of the loch to see if a view was available - it was. This was obviously a popular spot for swimming and camping as it was a small shingle beach with some litter (why!?) and the remains of a campfire.

As I gazed out across the loch a smallish bird flew out across the water making a piping call as it flew. As a keen bird-watcher only just learning my water-birds I was determined to identify it. The bird flew round in a circular route and returned to the far end of the beach where I noticed another of the birds on the shore. With some amazing foresight I had come equipped with binoculars and identified the birds as a pair of greenshank.



This was getting better and better. I continued along the road and found a good parking place further on but the loch was not quite so accessible. I walked out for a while and took more pictures, particularly of the van amongst the trees - I was falling more deeply in love with Scotland... and, you know, this van... I was beginning to form an attachment to that too; it was going to be my home for a few days to come and what a home it was for the views were always spectacular. Later, the van would be christened on the ferry to Skye.





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Fri. & Sat. Phone 01234 781372, also for the 2 wheelchair spaces & easier access seating Rows A – C. Hearing loop A – E only.



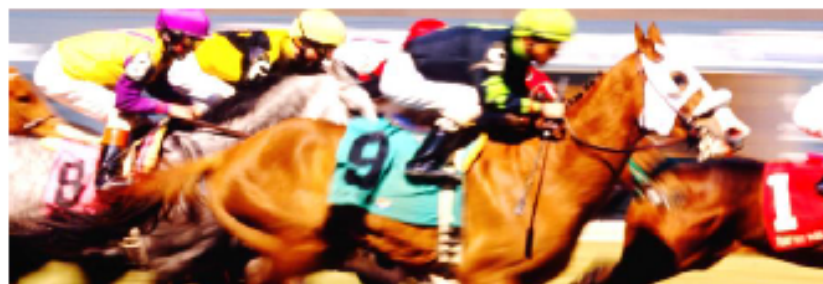
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Screenplay by Betty Comden & Adolph Green
Songs by Nacio Brown & Arthur Freed

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**The classic MGM musical
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Tickets available soon, please check our website for details**

MILL RACE NIGHT Saturday 11th March 7 for 7.30pm



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Contact Theo Gibbs 01234 782377 or theo@twhgibbs.plus.com

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**Sunday 2nd July
2 – 5 pm**

**£10 per person on the gate
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Licensed bar

Relax!

Enjoy!

Oakley Pre-school News



We have been enjoying a fabulous spring term at pre-school.



Our spring bulbs are blooming and the children are observing all the changes in the garden, including the ewes and lambs in the field, as we move through the seasons.



Fundraising & Community events

Our **Family Spring Disco** is on 25th March 2017 at Oakley Village Hall from 6-8pm. All welcome!

Due to popular demand, we will be holding our **Village Easter Egg Hunt** over the Easter Holidays. Clue sheets will be available from pre-school in the weeks before the holidays and also from the Post Office once we are closed for the Easter break.

We will be holding our annual **Dog Show** in the field, behind the pre-school on Sunday 21st March, from 2-4pm.

We are also planning a **Family Barbecue** and Sponsored Toddle, at the pre-school, on Saturday 10th June from midday.

Admissions

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

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

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

Sally Martiello

This term we have lots of fun activities planned. We are expecting visits from the ambulance service and police department during our 'People Who Help Us' weeks. We will also be holding our Pet's Afternoon, which is always very popular with the children. In March we will all be dressing up as book characters for World Book Day. This helps to encourage a love of books, stories and their characters, from an early age.





Oakley Village Hall

Church Lane,
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Main hall with stage and PA system
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Separate meeting room with bar

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Joshua

Orphan & Community Care

I thought I would share with you a close up of Joshua activities from last week with a picture of our little people getting their play with Teaching and Learning Using Locally Available Resources. We turn recycled materials into play time to stimulate Early Childhood Development across our twelve children's centres.

To help up continue our valuable work please go to <http://joshuainmalawi.org.uk/donate/>








BADMINTON

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WEDNESDAY NIGHT

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oakley *Motorcycle* club

OMC ended the year with our Xmas bash at Oakley Club featuring The Blues Brothers tribute act and the presentation of a cheque to the East Anglian Air Ambulance for £1520. The club now boasts nearly 440 paid up members.



2017 began with the 6th annual OMC curry evening at Indiya Restaurant, The Broadway, Bedford. This event on the last Sunday in January saw 65 members and partners attend. Yet again organised by Dave and Lesley Brown it proved to be another brilliant evening with fun competitions and prizes provided by the restaurant and Oakley Sports & Social Club. The day saw another £500 raised for the Air Ambulance bringing the total raised to date by OMC for the EAAA to well over £29,000.

On Thursday 9th February the 12th AGM took place and yet again with over 100 members attending Oakley Club it was a very busy evening.

It was a sombre start with a minutes silence being held in tribute to three members who had passed away, due to illness, in the previous 12 months.

Following this the Chair provided an overview of 2016 and plans for 2017. There was no election of Officers as no persons stood against the existing Officers. The committee had four members standing down and it had been running two short for 2016. However, six people stood for election including four previous committee members, so we are back to full strength for 2017/18.

The chosen charity for OMC was yet again the EAAA. The Member of the Year Award was won by OMC's Magazine and Newsletter Editor and the Pillock of the Year had a total of fifteen nominations for daft things done in the previous 12 months. There was no outright winner as it was too close to call, so four people were presented with a "Pillock" mug.

Keep an eye on the OMC website as well as the Oakley Sports & Social Club Facebook page for notable evenings at Oakley Club brought to you by OMC.

Two for your diary are

Thursday 6th July which will be the **American bike theme** night competition in conjunction with the annual hot rod and dragster night

Thursday 10th August, the Grand Final of Theme night winners. The Winners shield will be presented by Mr Steve Parrish who was the 1977 team mate of Barry Sheen at Heron Suzuki. He went on to become a British Superbike Winner and followed that by being the British and European Truck Racing champion for several years. Steve is a leading commentator and pundit for most channels covering MotoGP, Superbikes and Isle of Man racing.

Baysie Roger Bays Chair - OMC



theWI



OAKLEY WI

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

Tuesday 14th March

AGM followed by a **BEETLE DRIVE**. A firm favourite which gives an opportunity to chat and laugh with friends old and new.

Tuesday 11th April

KEMPSTON HAMMERS CHOIR. Enjoy an evening of popular music and join in with your favourite songs.

Tuesday 9th May

WHAT DID THE GEORGIANS EAT? Find out about 18th century chocolate, the significance of pineapples and why gin was seen as a social evil. The speaker is Alison Eskritt who has considerable experience of cooking period dishes in period settings!

Tuesday 13 June

A WATERWAY PARK FOR ALL : THE BEDFORD - MK CANAL The Bedford & Milton Keynes Waterway Trust was established in 1995 to promote the development of a broad waterway park, which will link the Grand Union Canal in Milton Keynes to the river Great Ouse in Bedford through a series of waterway parks. David Fowler will tell us how things are developing.



We arrange visits to the cinema, day outings and lunches. There are also opportunities to take part in activities and outings organised by the Bedford Federation of the WI.

If you are interested but hesitate to come on your own for the first time, we can arrange for a member to pick you up and introduce you.

For further information contact Gill Conway 824303



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OAKLEY GARDENING CLUB



The club meets at 7.45pm at Oakley Methodist Church on the third Monday of the month. Our meetings are relaxed and informal, giving us a chance to swap ideas and listen to our guest speaker.



MONDAY 20th MARCH 2017

Martin Towsey, head gardener at Woburn, makes a welcome return visit to us. He spoke last time of changes that would be taking place at Woburn. It will be interesting to hear of the new developments.

MONDAY 24th APRIL

Liz Livermore will give an illustrated talk on the Temples and Gardens of Japan, based on visits to Tokyo and Kyoto.

Summer outings are being planned to places of interest to gardeners. See notice boards later for details.

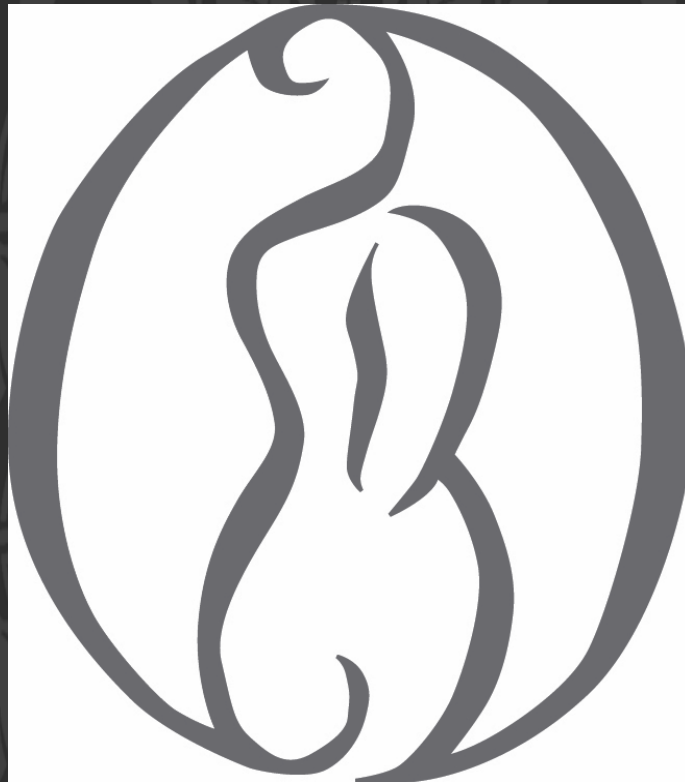
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OSSC Kitchen

Download the full menus
from our website

Thursday's

6pm - 9pm
Full Menu

Friday's

5pm - 8pm
Pizza Night

Saturday's

4pm - 6pm
Full Menu



824977



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