



# Oakley Newsletter



**Spring 2019**  
Number 78



Front Cover : Garden Birds  
By Terry Youngman

#### The Oakley Newsletter

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

#### Opinions and information

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

#### Next issue

Final copy date for the Summer issue is 24 May 2019.  
The publishing date is 1st June 2019.

#### Advertising rates

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Invoices will be issued by Ann Paice, with payment to Oakley Parish Council.

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#### Hello Chil-

look out for  
Ten more



## Parish Council News

### Spring 2019

By Jane Walker (Vice Chair)

#### Council tax

The budget and parish precept for the coming financial year was agreed at the parish council meeting in January. It was agreed that we would increase the overall precept (the parish's share of Council tax) by 1.9% which is an additional £1.04 per year on a band D property. This extra money will help to fund several projects throughout the village in the coming year and allow us to ensure existing amenities are properly maintained.

The largest project we will be funding is a new pedestrian crossing on Lovell Road to allow residents from the Parrott development to cross over to the footpath and so be able to walk into the village safely. It will also help older people crossing to the bus stop from the Lovell Homes. This crossing will be part funded by developer contributions, but the parish has agreed to top up the money to allow it to go ahead.

We will also be refurbishing the wooden bollards around the Green on Reyne's Drive and replacing litter and dog bins on a rolling programme. You may have already seen some of the dual-purpose dog and litter bins around the town's parks and we plan to change ours to the same ones as they become in need of replacement. These types of bins are much more convenient for residents to use and means we can increase the number of dog bins which currently we are not able to do because the Borough's dog waste collections are at capacity.

#### Grass cutting

Due to a number of issues throughout the grass cutting season last year the parish council has taken the decision to appoint a new company to carry out the grass cutting contract in the village in 2019. The new company have local links so we hope that they will be much more familiar with the village and more accessible if we experience any problems.

Continued on page 3

## OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

#### PARISH CLERK

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#### Paul White

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paulwhite20rd@gmail.com

## Speed watch

The parish council has purchased a speed indicator sign that will be used to flash up the speed that drivers are travelling around the village. It is portable so will move between locations and whilst it does not have a camera to record registrations, it will be monitored by the village speed watch team who work with the police to issue warning notices. The sign will be used to record speeding in areas that are not covered by the current speed cameras.

## Bottle bank

Between Christmas and New year, there were a lot of complaints about the bottle bank at the back of the Bedford arms. This bottle bank is operated by the parish council and the sale of the glass for recycling is put back into village projects. However, we are reliant on the recycling company being able to empty it regularly and during the Christmas break they are closed. Unfortunately, this is also the busiest time for bottles. Whilst we are very pleased that residents want to reuse their glass, we would ask you to hold on to it over this period because the bottle bank is invariably full, even when it is emptied just before Christmas as it was this time. The mess that was left because people could not get their bottles in to the container and didn't take it home again, had to be cleaned up by volunteers as the recycling company will not pick up loose glass from around the area. We are very grateful to the volunteers who do it each time, but we would rather they did not have to. The bottle bank is there for the benefit of residents and village organisations, so we ask that you respect it and the fact that the pub allows us to keep it there and not create litter around the site.

## Parking on verges

On a similar note, I am sorry that we keep having to ask people not to park on the verges. At this time of year especially, when the grass is really wet, any parking on the verges will churn them up and make them unsightly along with spreading dirt around the footpaths and roads. We seem to have a particular problem at the moment with building contractors' vans being parked on the larger verges whilst they carry out renovations or extensions on neighbouring properties. We are currently taking note of when and where this happens and we will be informing the Borough Council of the culprits, who will then be asked to either make good themselves or pay the Borough to make good. Please ensure if you have any contractors working on your house, that they do not park their vehicles on the verges as they will be liable for any repairs needed.

## May elections

A quick note about the elections that are coming up on 2<sup>nd</sup> May this year. There will be potentially 3 local elections taking place on that Thursday: The Mayor of Bedford, Borough Councillor for the Oakley ward and Oakley Parish Council. We have 11 places on the parish council and are always looking for new people to come forward to represent their area or group in the village. We rarely have elections for the parish council because we do not have enough people standing, but if you are interested and would like some more information about what it involves, please contact either Ann Paice, our parish clerk, on 07873 887370, contact me on 07952 879587 or email any of the councillors shown at the front of this newsletter or the village directory.

## Litter pick

This year's Community litter pick will be held on 27<sup>th</sup> April at 10am, starting on the Reynes Drive Green. Hopefully we will have better weather than last year, but once again the scouts will be providing refreshments and the Borough council will provide litter pickers and bags. Please come along and support us if you can. Although we pay for a regular litter picker, this community morning ensures we clear all of the hidden areas and helps to create a feeling of pride in our village.



The skips will be in the village over the weekend of 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of April. Please check Page 12 or the noticeboards for a full list of timings and locations

## Thanks

Oakley has always been a village full of busy volunteers and they all make it a pleasure to live here. They all deserve our thanks but this time, in particular, I would like to thank all of those people who have renovated the War memorial, tend to the planting around the village signs and to Sara Farndon and her team for once again producing a useful and informative directory of all of the clubs, societies and businesses that you can access in the village. If you have not had a directory or would like another copy, please contact Ann Paice. Thank you.

Jane Walker Vice Chair

## **Bedford Borough Report**

### **by Cllr Pat Olney**

#### **Council Tax 2019-2010**

Borough Council general tax increase 1.49%

Adult Social care	1.0%
Total increase	3.49%
Average Parishes increase	2.5%
Fire and Rescue increase	2.99%
Police	13.48%

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Average increase	3.63%
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The Band D increase for Bedford Borough which includes the Borough increase + Oakley Parish increase + Fire and Rescue + Police = £1848.13.

#### **Bedford Borough Local Plan 2021-2030**

The local Plan has been submitted to the Inspector for consideration. It has now become the emerging Local Plan. The Plan will then have a Public Examination probably in the Autumn/winter of 2020. If you wish to look at the final submission please go to

[www.bedford.gov.uk/localplan](http://www.bedford.gov.uk/localplan)

#### **Elections**

##### **Register to Vote**

If you are not already registered to vote you have until 12<sup>th</sup> April 2019 to do so. Please go to

<https://www.bedford.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/elections-and-voting/register-to-vote/>

On May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2019 you have the opportunity to elect a Mayor, your Bedford Borough Councillor and Parish Councillors.

#### **Oakley Independent Borough Councillor Pat Olney**

I will not be standing for elections as a borough councillor this time. I have served on the Borough Council for 33 years. I wish to thank everyone for their support during these years.

However I would still wish to serve Oakley for the next four years on the Parish Council and I will be standing for election to continue on the Oakley Parish Council for the next four years.

Pat Olney

Tel. 01234 824384

email [pat.olney@btopenworld.com](mailto:pat.olney@btopenworld.com)



# Amigo

The talks given on behalf of the Charities "Mercy in Action" and "The Leprosy Mission" in October and November 2018 that were mentioned in the September issue of the Oakley Newsletter were full of interest and most informative.

A traditional evening singing Christmas Carols and having fun with Hand Bells was spent at The Bedford Arms, Oakley on Tuesday 18th December. A good number of people came and enjoyed eating warm minced pies.

A film evening at Oakley Methodist Church took place on Tuesday 22nd January when the film "The Quartet" was shown. I had not seen the film before and found it most enjoyable.

Further events taking place this year are:

**Tuesday 26th March.** Come and be entertained by a varied musical programme given by "**Saxophrenia**". 7.30 p.m. at Oakley Methodist Church

**Tuesday 23rd April.** A light hearted **quiz** hosted by Sue Brecknock. 7.30 p.m. at Oakley Methodist Church.

**Tuesday 28th May.** You are welcome to attend **a garden party** at The Old School, Lovell Road, Oakley from 6.30 p.m. Drinks and light refreshments will be available.

**Thursday 27th June. A coach trip to London.**

8.00 a.m. Leave Oakley Village Hall – A 33 seater coach has been booked

10.00a.m. Arrive at Café 101, 101 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4EH Tel. No. 020 7332 8046 for tea, coffee and use of toilets. We will be met by our Guide, Charlie de Wet.

10.30a.m. Fleet Street is a street packed full of history from St Paul's, where we start our walk, to the **Royal Courts of Justice**, where we finish. Along the way, we hope to see the ruins of Whitefriars Priory, the legacy of the newspaper industry, old banks that appeared in Dickens' novels, St Dunstan's, St Bride's and Temple Church, the house where Dr Johnson's wrote *A Dictionary of the English Language*, and much more.

12.45 p.m. I am planning for lunch to be at **The Old Bank of England**, formerly the Law Courts branch of the Bank of England and now a pub.

2.00 p.m. A tour lasting approximately 1 hour 15

minutes has been arranged of the Royal Courts of Justice which adjoins The Old Bank of England



Between 3.15pm, when the tour ends, and 4.30pm, when we pick up the coach, there will be free time to explore a few of London's gems; e.g. call into Twining's historic tea shop - well worth a visit, cross over to St Clement Danes - the central church of the Royal Air Force, wander through the Middle and Inner Temple complex with their beautiful buildings and gardens, retrace your steps to pay a fleeting visit to Dr Johnson's House in Gough Square. If it is pouring with rain one can call into Ye Olde Cock Tavern frequented by Pepys, Tennyson and Dickens. Covent Garden is not far away and there are plenty of places for a reviving cup of tea.



4.30 p.m. Pick up the Coach in the vicinity of the Royal Courts of Justice for our return journey.

I have calculated the cost per person to be £45.00. This will include Charlie's fees, the cost of the coach, tea and coffee upon arrival at Café 101 and the tour of the Royal Courts of Justice. Confirmation of numbers and payment for the tour of the Royal Courts of Justice is required by Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May.

Please let me know as soon as you can if you wish to come on the trip and let me have your cheque for the cost drawn in my favour.

My address is 30 Hunts Path, Oakley, Bedford, MK43 7SR. Tel. No. 01234 824959 and my e-mail address is [jwdixon30@gmail.com](mailto:jwdixon30@gmail.com).

**Tuesday 30th July.** An **evening ramble** led by John Dixon. Details to follow.

## Oakley Neighbourhood Plan

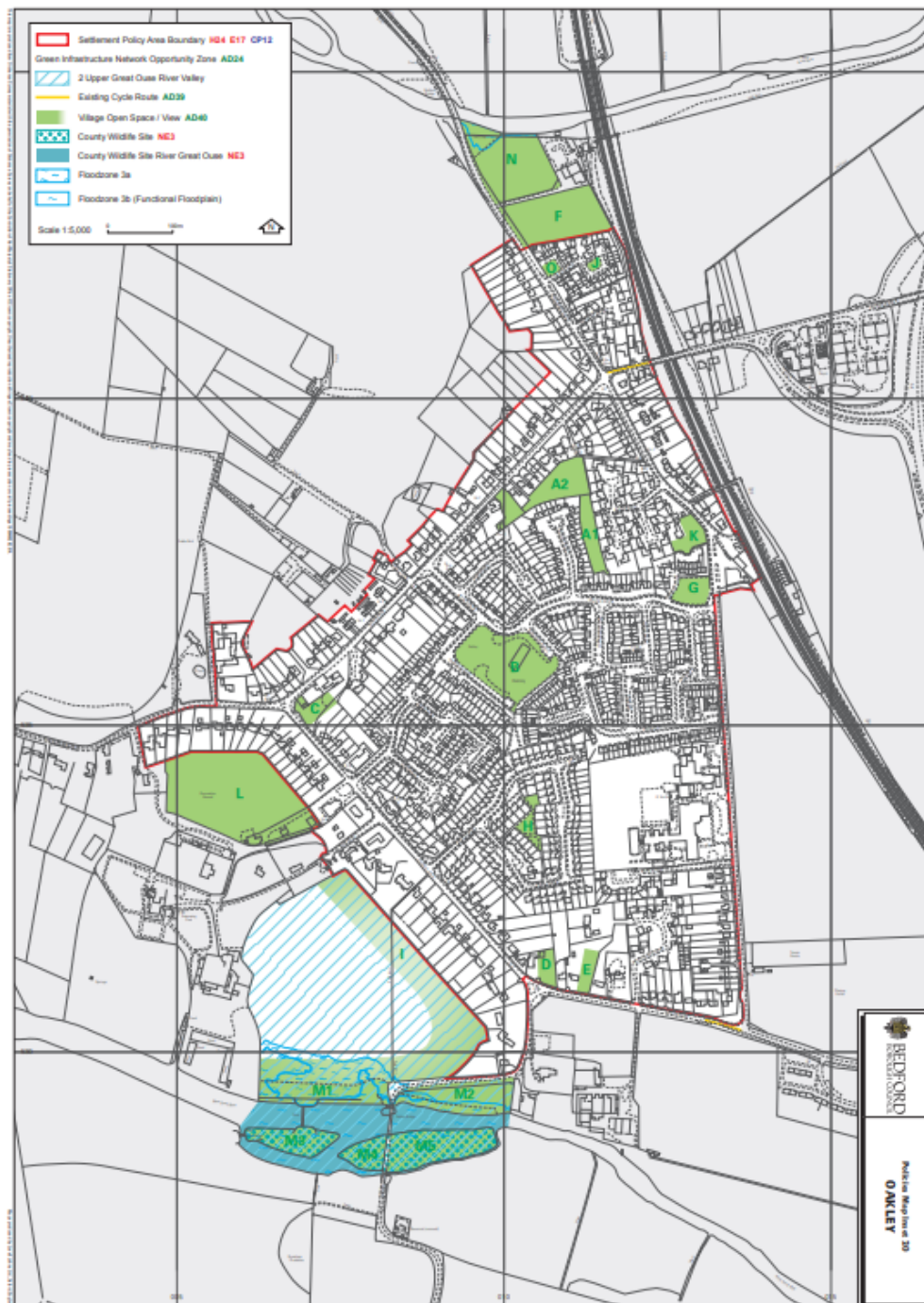
Thank you for all your comments submitted on the final draft consultation of the Oakley Neighbourhood Plan. Each comment has been carefully considered and adjustments made as appropriate.

The spreadsheet of the responses will be published in March 2019 on the NDP website which you can find on the Oakley Village website.

People who asked for individual copies will receive those separately as well as being able to view them on the website.

The NDP group have taken time and carefully considered each response against our policies, the Borough Local Plan policies and the government's National Planning Policy.

We have made some adjustments to the plan and you will see that detailed in each response.



### Next Steps

The Final draft plan will be presented to the Oakley Parish Council for final approval.

It will then be submitted to Bedford Borough Council – who take control of the following process:

- Check plan
- Publicise the plan(reg16).
- Submit for independent examination.
- Review examination results, if appropriate request adjustments to the plan.
- Organise referendum.
- Confirm the outcome of the referendum and plan status.

Pat Olney- Chairwoman of the Oakley Neighbourhood Plan Group





# Joshua

Orphan & Community Care



At Joshua, we have been putting a lot of work in to Early Child Development, trying to give children the best start to life by ensuring they have access to nutrition, health care and education.

We currently work across 14 CBCCs (Community Based Care Centres), delivering a high nutrition meal once a day and providing play based learning to stimulate young minds and set them up for the best start at school.

All this would not have been possible without our amazing caregivers who give up their time because they also believe in supporting their local communities and children.

This typically involves preparing the likuni phala (fortified porridge), serving this to the children, and engaging in pre-school education, games and activities. A caregiver typically earns the equivalent of £5 a month.

Many caregivers have not had much access to the education to learn the skills required to teach young children - qualifications are expensive in Malawi and by funding training we are able to fully acknowledge their incredible hard work and see that they get something in return too - qualifications, opportunities and income.

The money our supporters donate provides so much help and hope for the future.

On behalf of Joshua I would like to thank those of you who continue to donate.

Jacky Mould



## Oakley Educational Foundation

This Foundation exists to assist young people between the ages of 16 and 25, who live in the Parish, with grants towards the cost of books and tools, etc. in furtherance of their education.

Applications are accepted in the months of May and November and must be accompanied by receipts of purchase. Application forms can be obtained from the Clerk, Louise Tunley.

For further information, or for an application form, please contact Louise Tunley on 07917 462213, by post at 19 Goldington Road, Bedford, MK40 3JY or by email at [louise\\_tunley@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:louise_tunley@yahoo.co.uk).

## From Snacks to Meals!

Cakes to die for  
Best coffee in the neighbourhood  
Milkshakes, tea, soft drinks  
Open SEVEN Days!  
Friendly staff, good service



# for Coffee

## Oakley's Coffee Shop!

Phone 824113- [info@o-for-coffee.co.uk](mailto:info@o-for-coffee.co.uk)  
<http://www.o-for-coffee.co.uk>  
Oakley Park (Unit 1), Station Road, Oakley!



# Tudor Rose Patchwork

## Oakley's Sewing and Threadcraft Shop

Phone 824983 - [info@tudorrosepatchwork.co.uk](mailto:info@tudorrosepatchwork.co.uk)  
<http://www.tudorrosepatchwork.co.uk>  
Oakley Park (Unit 1), Station Road, Oakley!

We're friendly and very helpful!  
We run all kinds of workshops and clubs!  
We have a great selection of knitting yarns  
We have a huge range of cotton fabrics  
as well as other types of fabric

## SHARNBROOK GOLF CLUB

9 HOLE PAR 68 PARKLAND COURSE  
[sharnbrookgolfclub.co.uk](http://sharnbrookgolfclub.co.uk)

CALL FOR DETAILS  
01933 665 495

PRIVATE CLUB FOR MEMBERS AND GUESTS ONLY

# JOIN TODAY



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WITH FRIENDS

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Full Ladies ..... £210  
Full Mens ..... £420  
Members guest green fees ..... £10  
Reductions for young members

[membership@sharnbrookgolfclub.co.uk](mailto:membership@sharnbrookgolfclub.co.uk)



## Mobile Library



On a Thursday morning once a fortnight a free mobile library, including children's books, visits Oakley calling at:

Lovell Homes - West at 11.05 am departing at 11.20 am and

Lovells Homes - East at 11.25 am departing at 11.45am

Reynes Drive arriving at Burley Place near the playground at 11.55 am departing at 12.20 pm

Ruffs Furze arriving at 12.35 pm departing at 13.00 hours

Dates for this month are March 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>

Further information at Bedford Borough Website (search under Library)

*Editors Note - link far too long for someone to type in!*

Audrey Mehew



For all Pre-School Children

At St Mary's Church Oakley on

Thursdays during School Term 10am to 11.45

Crafts, Painting, Play, Music, Stories and a Healthy Snack plus tea/coffee for the adults

More detail from Dorothy Palmer at  
01234 823959



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College Farm, Oakley, Bedford, Bedfordshire, MK43 7RX

# Oakley Rural Day Centre

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

Tel: 01234 824935 Mobile: 07733 227374

## NEWSLETTER February 2019

**Welcome** to our latest Newsletter. If anyone has access to the internet please visit our website, [www.oakleyrural.org.uk](http://www.oakleyrural.org.uk). The site is now updated regularly with the latest news from the centre. We have also produced a **Facebook** page for anyone who has a **Facebook** account. This will be updated with the latest news and photographs of events at the centre. The **Facebook** page can be found at [www.facebook.com/oakleyruraldaycentre](https://www.facebook.com/oakleyruraldaycentre). We are also producing articles in various publications throughout Bedford and surrounding areas to raise the profile of the centre.

### PLACES AVAILABLE

Our Day Centre provides our older people with a place where they can make friends in a warm and comfortable atmosphere. A range of activities including crafts, entertainment, quizzes and good old conversation are at the heart of our day.

We serve freshly prepared home cooked lunches together with tea, coffee and toast at the start of the day with beverages throughout. The Centre is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. For details of costs and advice, contact Lynne on **01234 824935** or **07733 227374**.

### ACTIVITIES

Since the start of the New Year clients have been busy taking part in a variety of activities. We have recently celebrated Chinese New Year and Valentines.

Clients have made bookmarks in the shape of love hearts made from paper, sheep hanging ornaments from wool, card and curtain rings and Chinese lanterns from card.

Other activities include quizzes, word games, chair based exercise, bingo and a music quiz.

I would like to thank our army of 14 volunteers who give their time throughout the year to make our centre the special place it is, we really appreciate the time and effort they give us.

### NEW CHAIRS

We are pleased to say that all our high back chairs and dining room chairs have been replaced with new ones.

We have been working hard to raise money towards the project and we would like to thank the **The Connolly Foundation** and **The Albert Hunt Trust** for providing funds to pay for the project. Everyone is thrilled with the new furniture.

### TESCO BAGS FOR LIFE

Our day centre has been chosen for the bags for life scheme along with two other charities. This will take place in all local Tesco stores. Please pop a token in our box in stores to support the day centre from 1<sup>st</sup> March to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2019.



David Swallow





## **Oakley Methodist Church**

Oakley Methodist Church began with the building of a chapel in 1849, and soon reached a membership of 120. The present Church replaced the original one in 1974, and still retains an attendance of 30/40 people on special occasions. A short topic about the "Church's Involvement with Children" now follows the previous one about "Pastoral Care", in an attempt to explain a little more about aspects of the life of this Church.

In the past, the Sunday School was a vital part of the life of the Church, but like in most churches, the number attending declined.

A weeknight activity, called Footprints, started in 2002, to provide the opportunity for children, aged 7 to 12 years, to learn about the Christian Faith in a structured but fun way. Many children in the village came. In 2017, Messy Church for All replaced this activity, and now invites children with their parents/carers to themed craft sessions followed by a story, songs and prayers. The activity closes with everybody enjoying a meal together. Weeknight events for children are supported by church members, who welcome the opportunity to help, and talk with both children and adults.

Children are encouraged to take part in special worship sessions on Sundays. Café Style Services are planned once a month and, because of their more informal nature and practical activities, are particularly suitable for families to enjoy. Other occasions like Christmas, Easter and Harvest time, often include children in playlets and musical items. At our last Christmas Carol Service, teenagers who once went to Footprints, and children from Messy Church, were all very much involved. From time to time, there have been family parties with games, songs and quizzes. As with all these activities, children of any age are always welcome.

### **Café Style Worship at 10.30am**

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May

### **Special Sunday Services at 10.30am**

Palm Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April

Easter Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April

### **Saturday Coffee Mornings from 10.30 am to 12.00 noon**

( Enjoy coffee and cakes , chat and share any concerns)

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May

**A warm welcome is given to everybody who comes to any of these events.**

Any enquiries to Brian Leeson, Church Steward ( tel. 823441 )

## **Avoiding My Own Heart Attack!**

As you get older your body gets less reliable and in need of constant maintenance. Several years ago I joined a Pilates class in Lincroft Hall and there I met Grant Mohle, who specialises in biomechanics who has been helping me to reduce pain and improve my health ever since.

His aspiration was always to be able to help more people with their health, have healthier more balanced lifestyles and ensure they live longer fuller lives. He had lost his father to a heart attack (as I lost mine) and this has focussed his mind on building a health studio with a difference. Partnering up with another local business man, they have created a pleasant studio filled with intelligent fitness machines and great coffee, called Forever Health Studios located on Woburn Road Industrial Estate in Kempston.

Experienced Personal Trainers were on hand to introduce me to the new equipment that uses RFID technology to remember all of the settings on each machine for your individual requirements and is capable of accommodating any medical issues. The simple circuit workout takes less than 30 minutes to complete and is guaranteed to provide results with just two sessions per week. I was surprised how varied the members were, by age and by capability, from the unfit like me to a couple who are long distance cyclists. If you are looking for a fitness studio with a great team and a non intimidating environment, I would highly recommend visiting Forever Health Studios.

Bill Chalker, Editor



# The Annual Oakley Parish Meeting will be held

in the Village Hall  
on Tuesday  
2nd April 2019

at 7:15 p.m



All are welcome

Oakley Carnival 2019  
06.07.19 celebrating 30 Years



Saturday 11 May 2019

# BARN DANCE

Oakley Village Hall - 7.30pm to 10.30pm

Live Music!

Fun for all ages

Tickets: £10 Pizza Supper  
Available from village shop Cash Bar

Fancy Dress Competition: Best Pearly K or Q

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

BEDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

## COLLECTION OF BULKY WASTE

### OAKLEY

Please take your domestic waste to the following locations:

#### Saturday 06<sup>th</sup> April 2019

Lovell Road & Station Road	8.30am until 10.30am
High Street & Station Road	10.30am until 12.30pm
Reynes Drive & High Street	12.30pm until 2.30pm

#### Sunday 07<sup>th</sup> April 2019

Dewlands	8.30am until 10.30am
Reynes Drive & Station Road	10.30am until 12.30pm

Times are approximate to allow for travel between sites

**PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE RUBBISH AT THE SITE IF THE COLLECTION VEHICLES ARE NOT THERE**



BEDFORD  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

## RURAL BULKY WASTE SERVICE FOR THE COLLECTION OF HOUSEHOLD WASTE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE

Please help us to provide a safe and efficient service by following these guidelines:

- ✓ This service is provided for household waste only – business or commercial waste will not be accepted.
- ✓ Comply with any instructions given by the driver in charge.
- ✓ Place waste directly into the vehicle or container provided. Do not leave your waste on site if the vehicle is not present. Fly-tipping is a serious offence attracting substantial fines.
- ✓ Don't throw waste into the containers from a distance.
- ✓ Act in a considerate and responsible manner without 'queue jumping'.
- ✓ Please remember not to do anything that would endanger you, other users or Council staff.
- ✓ Don't attempt to dispose of business waste or unsuitable materials as the driver will refuse to take these. Users could be liable to prosecution if they load any such materials.

#### Unsuitable Materials

Please do not bring the following materials for disposal via this scheme:

- |                    |                       |                 |                      |
|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| x Acids            | x Asbestos            | x Batteries     | x Clinical Waste     |
| x Medicines        | x Fluorescent Lamps   | x Gas Cylinders | x Lead Sheeting      |
| x Oil              | x Paraffin            | x Petrol/Diesel | x Creosote           |
| x Toner Cartridges | x Plasterboard/gypsum | x Tyres         | x Fridges & Freezers |

These hazardous materials require special disposal by law. For guidance on how to dispose of these items please contact the Environment Agency on 03708 506 506.

#### Alternative Council disposal methods:

- Household Waste Recycling Centre, Barkers Lane, Bedford will accept oil, tyres and batteries as well as normal household waste. For further information please contact 01234 718013 (Mixed commercial waste is now accepted at this recycling centre for a charge – please report to the site office before disposing of any waste).
- Bulky Waste and Fridge/Freezer collection service operated by Bedford Borough Council. For further information please call the Environmental Services Helpline on 01234 718060 (charges apply).

BEDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REFUSE OR REJECT ANY UNSUITABLE ITEMS i.e. hazardous, large or overweight items that are deemed likely to cause injury to employees, members of the public or cause damage to vehicles.



## Becoming a Parish Councillor

We're approaching the time for local elections, which includes the most local form of local government, the parish councils of villages like Oakley, Pavenham, and Stevington. If you are over 18, and are interested in playing a role in your local community, then becoming a Parish Councillor could well be the right role for you.

Parish Councils may only be responsible for a village but that doesn't diminish their importance and potential to affect and manage change within that community. For one thing, the Parish Council sets the Parish precept, the tax levied on residents through the Council Tax bill, that then comes to the parish council as its income. That money is then used to fund the wide, and increasing, range of responsibilities that fall on parish councils as a custodian of community assets, including maintenance of rights of way, public footpaths, the protection of war memorials and cemeteries, and support for the arts.

Parish Councils also have a role in monitoring decision-making, to ensure that Borough Council services are delivered and policies implemented effectively, for example on issues like traffic and environmental issues. They have to be consulted by the Planning Authority on all planning matters, and can be the catalyst for the creation of community-led housing trusts. Parish Councils are also a critical conduit of information from the Borough Council to the local community. They act as representatives of the local community, and Parish Councillors are subject to the same rules in terms of ethical behaviour and transparency as any other publicly-elected official.

So, if you want to do something for your local community, and are willing to consult, inform, listen, think and act on their behalf, why not stand for election this May. Nomination papers have to be submitted by 4pm on Wednesday, 3 April, and you can download nomination papers and more information from the Electoral Commission (<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk>). Or simply contact Ann Paice, Oakley's Parish Clerk ([parishclerk@oakleyvillage.co.uk](mailto:parishclerk@oakleyvillage.co.uk)). The election is on 2 May.

Andrew Senior



**Please Be A  
Responsible  
Dog Owner**



**Clean Up After  
Your Dog**

## Phantom Sprayer



I am really very sorry to see that there is a lot of dog mess left lying around recently, on the pavements and rights of way footpaths, Lynch Furlong, anywhere where the general public are inconvenienced by this mess.

It is very disappointing to see quite a lot of dog mess in the sports field, where the children play their games. Not only is this disgusting, for the children playing and the Mother's needing to clean them up afterwards, it also endangers their health if the dog is not regularly wormed and is carrying worms.

Also please consider that the sports club could ban dogs from the field if people are so inconsiderate, and this would not be at all fair on those many people who are meticulous about cleaning up after their dogs

Please clean up after your dog – wherever you are – there are plenty of disposal bins around the village.

I hope everyone has ensured their dog has had the essential wormers and flea/tick treatments to keep their dog healthy and parasite free.



## MESSY CHURCH IN OAKLEY



Oakley is blessed with two Messy Church groups which are for children and their carers. 'Messy Church' meets every Thursday in term time at St Mary's at 10am and is for pre school aged children and 'Messy Church for All' meets at Oakley Methodist church on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 3.30pm and is for all children from 0-100! next date Tuesday 19th March. The children have lots of fun things to do (some are messy!) and refreshments are provided. We finish with a short celebration! Children can enjoy songs, stories, games and crafts that help them start to know the Christian way of life. All are welcome!

## SPECIAL SERVICES & EVENTS COMING UP

**Mothering Sunday 31st March 10.30am** in St Mary's- join us as we thank God for those who 'mother' us

**Palm Sunday 14th April- 10am** at St Mary's with a procession with palms to Oakley Methodist church for a service at 10.30am

**Maundy Thursday 18th April 6.30pm** Communion Service at St Mary's

**Good Friday 19th April 2pm** Good Friday Service at St Mary's

**Easter Saturday 20th April** from 10.30am Easter Saturday Craft Displays and Workshops at Oakley Methodist Church

**Easter Sunday 21st April- 10.30am** at St Mary's All Age Communion and Easter Egg hunt

## TEAS IN CHURCH

Every summer St Mary's holds 'Teas in Church' on every Sunday afternoon from 3.30pm to 5pm. Please do come along and enjoy some refreshments in beautiful surroundings. First date for 2019— 26th May.

Rev Catherine Wilson 825665

Rev Gill Balham 930025

Church Warden St Mary's

Hilarie Worley 262166 & Graham Palmer 07710 462535

Church Steward Oakley Methodist Brian Leeson 823441



## SERVICE OF REMEMBERING

On Sunday 19th May we will be holding a service at 3pm at St Mary's to remember loved ones who have died. Everyone is welcome. If you would like the name

of a loved one read out please call Rev Catherine or one of the church wardens.





## Merri Flowers

Welcome to our round up of the merri months of December through to February. First of all, we want to say a big THANK YOU to everyone in the village who visited our farm in November or December to buy or tag a Christmas Tree. Our Merri Christmas Tree Fundraiser raised £500 for five local primary schools and 2 pre-schools, including Oakley Pre-School and the Lincroft School Association. Its success exceeded our expectations, and we met loads of Oakley families, some of whom even came on foot and then took their freshly cut tree home on foot too.

You may think that there is not much to do at this time of year, but you would be wrong. The current exceptionally mild weather has allowed us to get ahead of our plans. We ploughed up a grassed area near the entrance to our farm in mid February, to allow us to increase our flower farm capacity. We are not sure what to plant there yet. It will either be to cater for more PYO events or to grow more flowers, especially for weddings and events during the months of May through to September. Sowing sweet peas ready for our 2019 flower season started in January, followed by many other hardy annuals at the start of February. Keeping seedlings at the farm is not an option, the mice would devour the lot in one serving. Our conservatory has become a temporary greenhouse, until they are strong enough and tall enough to fend for themselves.

By night, Rachelle has ventured into the world of giving talks to promote British Flowers, with her first talk taking place at the Bedford NAFAS (National Amateur Flower Arts Society) at the start of February at the Addison Centre, Kempston. She then did another talk for the Biddenham Gardeners Association at the end of February and has many more planned throughout the year and even a booking for September 2020 already placed.



As well as running our flower farm, we are still active members within the Flowers From the Farm Association, which alas won't take us to the Chelsea Flower Show this year. It will take us to The Sandringham Flower Show in July to be within The Royal Marquee and also got Julian on the poster for The Big Flower Farmers Weekend, which will take place from 16-18th August.

Then, you might think that Christmas Trees look after themselves at this time of year, but you

would be wrong.



The trees have to be base pruned at this time of year (to avoid them growing into each other), so it is definitely not a quiet time of year for us. Unfortunately it is a quiet time when it comes to making money,

so when it comes to May, please do not forget about us when you need flowers for an event, or know of someone else who does, because like our trees, they are on your doorstep.

My wordcount is up, so it is time I ended this article and got back to sowing seeds. For further information about our farm and events, please contact Julian on 07946519737, visit our website [www.merriflowers.co.uk](http://www.merriflowers.co.uk) or email us at [info.merriflowers@gmail.com](mailto:info.merriflowers@gmail.com)

Rachelle Merrill



# MERRI FLOWERS

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JOIN US FOR THE  
OAKLEY COMMUNITY LITTER PICK  
SATURDAY 27<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2019

10.00am – 12.00 noon

MEETING AT THE GREEN

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# Welcome to the multi award-winning Sharnbrook Mill Theatre

Patrons: Joanna David and Hugh Laurie CBE : Registered Charity 242164

**\*Monday 11th to Saturday 16th March at 7.30pm**

## Wait Until Dark

**By Frederick Knott, author of Dial M for Murder**

A tense, edge-of-seat thriller,  
set in the turbulence of 1960's London.

The play follows the story of Suzy, a blind woman, who, left alone in her apartment, becomes embroiled with a group of con-men hatching an elaborate scam. As the tension mounts, Suzy is left to fend for herself. But, with the phone line cut dead and the house plunged in darkness, can Suzy outwit the murderous visitors?

Book now! – on-line: [www.sharnbrookmilltheatre.co.uk/tickets](http://www.sharnbrookmilltheatre.co.uk/tickets)

Or in person at Pick-a-lily, 61 High Street/Park Lane, Sharnbrook

Tickets: £10/11 (10+ £9, not Fri. and Sat.); 2 wheelchair spaces, please phone 781372 to book) and easier access seating. Hearing loop.

\* NB: Monday 11th March is a Charity Night for  
The Rotary Club of Rushden. Phone: 01933 312668.



Not suitable for Under 12s



**Friday 10th May 2019**

**David Fletcher (from the BBC's Flog It!)**

will bring antique items and talk about his life as an auctioneer.

Tickets £16, which will include a supper, are **AVAILABLE NOW** from  
Brian Woodrow: 01234 349455 or [Brian.Woodrow38@gmail.com](mailto:Brian.Woodrow38@gmail.com)

*In aid of The 'Warm-Up' Appeal*



**16th May 2019 at 7.45pm**

**Award-winning Canadian folk/country duo Madison Violet**

will entertain us for the evening, with support from  
David Banks (of The Whybirds).

One of Madison Violet's sets is available on YouTube,  
courtesy of BBC Radio Scotland

TICKETS, £14 (unreserved seats), are **AVAILABLE NOW!**

online: [www.sharnbrookmilltheatre.co.uk](http://www.sharnbrookmilltheatre.co.uk),

also in person from Pick-a-Lily, Florists, 61 High St/Park Lane, Sharnbrook

Further information about the evening can be obtained from  
Roger Wiltshire (07704 700785)

*In aid of the 'Warm-Up' Appeal*

### LUNCH AT THE MILL - SPURGEONS CHILDREN'S CHARITY



Wednesday 12th June 2019  
Sue Dennis from children's  
charity Spurgeons  
will be our speaker for this lunch.  
Ticket details to follow.  
*In aid of the 'Warm-Up' Appeal*

### DIARY DATES

- Sunday 7th July: BUCKETS OF FUN with SARA SPADE -THE UKULELE LADY  
4pm: Riverside marquee, bring your own picnic, then, at 6pm Concert in Theatre.  
Details to follow.
- 10th - 13th July: WAITING FOR SNOW – A Beyond the Barn Production for  
Sharnbrook Mill Theatre – is a story told by actors, singers, dancers and musicians -  
an intimate tale of life and love distorted by the horrors of the First World War.  
Please note: this replaces *The Who's Tommy*. Tickets on sale after *Wait Until Dark*.

**Celebrating 40 years at The Mill 1979 - 2019**

# Oakley Toddlers Group



Come and join us every Monday 9:30-11:00am term time only in the Village hall

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

**Your first visit is free** then only £1.50 for your first child and £1 for each child thereafter.

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

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

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Sunday and Bank Holidays Closed**

\* Note that all boarding cats must be healthy on arrival and fully inoculated against cat flu and contagious enteritis. Terms and Conditions apply, charge includes insurance and vet on call.

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[naoservices111@gmail.com](mailto:naoservices111@gmail.com)

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Do you have a daughter aged between 7-10 years who is interested in joining a lively, friendly Brownies group in Oakley?

Brownies is a fantastic opportunity for girls to make new friends, develop their confidence and have lots of fun taking part in exciting games and activities. We meet at Lin-croft hall on a Friday evening from 6-7.30pm and currently have a few spaces for those who want to join. To register your interest please visit [www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk)

Here's what some of our current Brownies have to say:

*"I love Brownies because we play lots of fun games, do lots of crafts, meet up with our friends and sing lots of songs. At Brownies we also earn badges by doing lots of exciting activities". – Ellen, aged 8*

*"I like doing lots of different activities. My favourite things were celebrating Chinese New Year and I liked the game where you have to walk like a baby or a rabbit and race against other teams". – Anna, aged 7*

*"Brownies is exciting. We hold streamers and run through them when we do our Brownie promise. We've got some very nice leaders, Brown Owl, Barn Owl and Snowy Owl. I love Brownies! – Elodie, aged 8*

Not sure? Why not come along for a free taster session?

Please email Mel (Barn Owl) at [1stoakleybrownies@gmail.com](mailto:1stoakleybrownies@gmail.com)



It has been a busy few months at Oakley Sports & Social Club, with a number of improvements having been undertaken on our facilities.

The changing rooms have been fully renovated by local builders AR Worker Construction, ensuring its longevity for many years to come. We have also widened the driveway to ease parking, protecting the edge of the field and improve safety.

Oakley Sports & Social Club has invested further in improving the member's children play area. The play area will have four new play units installed; a basket swing, spinning bucket, sprung seesaw and a climbing wall. This new equipment will have substantial groundworks done to extend the existing rubber surface accordingly to improve safety and ensure that it's useable all year round for our member's children.

To mark the opening of the new and improved children's play area, Oakley Sports & Social Club will be hosting a lazy Sunday on the 5<sup>th</sup> May bank holiday weekend. Details to be confirmed, but in addition to a BBQ, live music and bouncy castle, we hope to have another feature for the day which will be announced via our website and Facebook page in due course.

Oakley Sports & Social Club have confirmed that our annual firework extravaganza will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November. Details to follow.

Finally, we would remind everyone that membership renewals are now due. The cost remains the same (adults membership is just £5 per calendar year) and it is a legal requirement that those using Oakley Sports & Social Club facilities are registered members. New and renewed memberships can be taken at the bar or online at [www.oakleyssc.com](http://www.oakleyssc.com).

The Oakley Sports & Social Club committee look forward to an busy 2019 and would like to thank our members for their continued support.



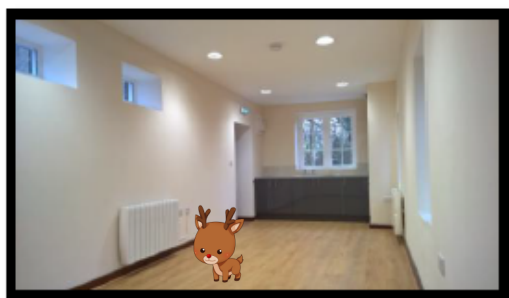
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# Oakley Pre-school News



We have been very busy during spring term and the children have enjoyed celebrating the spring festivals of Chinese New Year and Valentine's Day. The mild winter weather has enabled us to add building materials and car parts to our outdoor environment. The children have created some wonderful joint building projects using these resources. Thank you to those who have donated pots, pans and cutlery for our mud kitchen, if anybody has any large spoons or fish slices, metal, wooden or plastic, it would help us to enhance our provision further.

Our annual Easter Egg Hunt will take place over the Easter Holidays and will run from Saturday 6th – Tuesday 23rd April inclusive. Follow the clues around the village to receive your Easter prize. Clue sheets will be available from the pre-school and from the post office once we have gone on Easter break.

## Admissions

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

Our website is updated regularly; please do visit it for an insight into Oakley Pre-school.  
[www.oakleypreschool.com](http://www.oakleypreschool.com)

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

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

Sally Martiello





### What has Oakley Scout Group been up to?

The Scouts had a very informative visit to the Bedford Foodbank in January. They were shown how the Foodbank works and helped out with sorting food and making up parcels for those in need. In addition to helping out, the Scouts donated over 9kg of food. This activity also went towards completing their Global Challenge Badge. It was a snowy evening, but this did not put off Oakley Scouts!

Oakley Cub Scouts recently enjoyed a Ready, Steady, Cook style evening. Ingredients and recipes were provided, and they created delicious burgers, a salad and spaghetti bolognese.



Oakley Beaver Scouts are half way through a virtual world tour, involving making passports and virtually visiting different countries, learning about the food and cultures of those countries.



### What's coming up in Oakley Scout Group?

If you enjoy cakes (and who does not!), come and join us for our annual Oakley Village Bake-off. This year it is taking place on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2019 at the Scout Hut. You do not have to be a member of the Scout Group to enter and everyone is welcome to come along and sample the entries after judging has taken place! More details to follow.

### How to get involved?

We currently have some spaces in all Sections, so if you are between the ages of 6 and 18 and looking for fun and adventure and to learn new skills, please ask your parent(s) to contact the relevant Section Leader:

**Beavers** (for 6 to 8-year olds) runs on Wednesdays 18:15-19:30 (contact Chris on 07805 175521);

**Cubs** (for 8 to 10.5-year olds) runs on Thursdays 18:30-20:00 (contact Matt on 07552 217267);

**Scouts** (for 10.5 to 14-year olds) runs on Tuesdays 19:00-21:00 (contact Brian on 07746 294138 or Karen on 07918 181815);

**Explorers** (for 14 to 18-year olds) runs on Wednesdays 19:45-21:45 (contact Michelle on 07760 315417).

We are always looking out for adult helpers to become assistant leaders, so if you would like to



# **WESTFIELD HOUSE GARDENS**

**WESTFIELD ROAD, OAKLEY MK43 7SX**

# **OPEN**

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2019**

**2.00pm until 5.00pm**

**Gardens of special historic interest  
originally created mid–20<sup>th</sup> Century by Percy Cane**

**Entrance: £5 (children under the age of 14 – free)**

**Onsite parking (1.4 miles from top of Westfield Road)**

**Refreshments available**

**Musical entertainment by Saxaphrenia**

**In aid of refurbishment of organ at St. Mary's Church, Oakley**



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## Oakley Allotments



We will soon be celebrating the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our allotments – I think this is worthy of mention and I will be organising something to mark the event towards the autumn.

At the moment, all of the good plots are occupied and most are being tended enthusiastically, even at this early stage in the new year. Some of the ground by the community orchard has always been quite poor, except that weeds seem to thrive on it, as weeds often do.

I introduced the idea of extending the community orchard, and possibly making a community garden, in the last newsletter. Hopefully, this can be realised this year if help is available from tenants for a few working parties. Part of the rough area has been cleared of the rubble, which has been crushed and left piled-up (carefully blocking a track!) ready to be spread on the marshland that is the middle section of the main track.



Up to now this winter has been quite mild; last year we were enduring the "Beast from the East" and its interminable cold, which delayed things somewhat. This winter has also been quite dry – I have had to water-in new plantings of elephant garlic using water from my, fortunately full, butts. I wonder if there will ever be a time when we will be able to plant very early and have to rely on the mains water supply!

Unusually early we have been able to do quite a lot of work on our plot, clearing last year's beds, pruning the blackberry and preparing the ground for whatever this year holds in store. I also intend to try out some new planting techniques. One intriguing technique I happened upon whilst exploring the Web is growing potatoes under old straw. It can be quite productive with minimum effort. The straw suppresses weeds and helps to condition the soil and I am very keen *not* to dig – I used to enjoy digging as a form of exercise, but life is getting shorter at this end...

I have never felt this much enthusiasm for the allotment this early in the new season. Part of the

enthusiasm-boost is achieved by planning each visit to carry out specific jobs within a specific period of time. The two hours we planned for the last Sunday morning turned in to three and a half hours and I had to drag myself away as we had other plans for what was left of the day.

Soon enough the grass will need cutting and I can trim the edges of the paths, spread my straw (potatoes go in around Easter), tidy the glory-corner, repair fencing, paint the shed (which did not get done last year), etc. etc. I am also reliably informed that I have one or a few jobs outstanding at home too.

I can not remember what being bored was ever like.

Please note that there is no longer a website for the allotments – I can be contacted on my home number, where you can leave a message if I am not available, or by email: details are in the newsletter's list of parish councilors. There is no waiting-list at the moment and plots do become available.

Steve Nicholas

### Steve's Snippet No. 35

In the true tradition of a "snippet", this one is the shortest yet...

I accidentally discovered that half a teaspoon of drinking chocolate powder and a bite of Red Leicester cheese is quite a good flavour combination!



Well, I thought so, but I do not expect to appear on Masterchef any time soon.

### Steve's Snippet No.36

The Internet and social media have a strong positive side but, depressingly, they are tools which seem to amplify the worst traits of humanity.

A rather less obvious but potentially damaging aspect of the technology is that it gives a voice and platform to fringe groups, who once languished in well-deserved obscurity and provided more amusement than threat.

Relatively harmless, compared to some others groups, is a minority (apparently growing in number) who fervently believe that the world is flat and definitely NOT a globe! They are variously referred to as Flat Earthers, Flerfers... and by various other names.

Continued on Page 25

## Steve's Snippet No. 36 Continued

There are a few different versions of this particular form of science-denial but the theme is common – they refuse to believe that the earth is a globe (well, actually an “oblate spheroid”, as it bulges slightly in the regions of the equator), argue using an alternative “science”, although they don't seem to be able to grasp real physics.

Some claim that pictures of the earth taken from orbit or the moon, space exploration, moon-landings etc. are all part of a massive conspiracy, maintained by millions, for reasons which are totally unfathomable.



The most common model of a flat earth is a disc with the North Pole at its centre and an ice-wall (Antarctica) around its rim. The ice wall retains the flat body of water forming the oceans. Gravity does not exist, the horizon is a fantasy and the sun and moon are much smaller and closer to the disc than we have been led to believe. I dread to think where the water will go if the ice all melts due to global warming!

Apparently, the Bedford Level Experiment failed to prove curvature of the earth (it did not), ships do not disappear gradually over the horizon as they can be viewed in their entirety using a powerful telescope (they do actually disappear). Airplanes do not have to be constantly made to dip their noses whilst flying in order to avoid climbing in to space, which of course they would if the earth's surface was curved (I never encountered this when flying).

Actually, space does not exist as it is constrained by the dome forming the Firmament, to which the



points of light (they are actually only points of light) called “stars” are attached. The moon is self-illuminated.

It goes on...but I am getting too depressed to continue. Let's hope that real, valuable education does not become swamped by doubt and misinformation: ask questions by all means but do not invent your own answers.

Steve Nicholas



## OAKLEY SHOW



Whilst we, the committee, have not yet got down to the nitty-gritty of the organising of the show I can confirm that it will definitely happen on

### Sunday 22nd September.

Fruit and vegetables will, as usual, need lots of entries. We hope the weather will work with us this year and not be all out of kilter as it was last year.

There will be items that require cooking in some form and the technical bake challenge which drew many entries will again be included.

There will also be various small craft classes, artistic skills to admire, and something for the children to demonstrate their imagination. After the show many of the exhibits are auctioned off, with the proceeds going towards the upkeep of our village hall.

If anyone has a suggestion for a particular class to be included please let me know at:  
[j.weston370@btinternet.com](mailto:j.weston370@btinternet.com)

In the next edition of the newsletter there will be the entry form for the show. Please take part in one way or another, it is a true village event, do not hide your capabilities, show off for a good cause!

Jean Weston



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## Action Fraud News

### Renters urged to spot the signs of Tenancy Deposit Scheme fraud

Action Fraud has received reports of fraudsters claiming to be landlords of rented properties available online.

- Action Fraud is warning the public that fraudsters are claiming to be landlords to trick people into paying upfront 'rent' into Tenancy Deposit Scheme (TDS).
- This comes as 28 reports were made to Action Fraud between December 2018 and February 2019 alone – amounting to a total loss of £19,990.



### A third of over 75s targeted by investment scams, as FCA urges consumers to take the time to check

- A fifth (22%) of over 55s and a third (32%) of over 75s believe they have been targeted by an investment scam in the last 3 years
- Over half (55%) of those who have invested in financial products did so on their own, rather than making the decision with family
- One in eight (14%) of over 55s spend little or no time researching financial investment products before handing over money, rising to a quarter (26%) of over 75s



### Don't let flight ticket fraudsters take off with your cash

- Action Fraud warns half term holiday makers to avoid new tactics of fraudulent flight ticket sellers
- Check with ABTA and ATOL to make sure a ticket sales site is legitimately authorised
- The reporting centre, which has received 110 reports with total losses of £98,043, has collated intelligence that fraudsters are attempting to entice victims who are looking for cheap flights abroad.



### Romance fraud

Happens when a person thinks they have met the perfect partner through an online dating website, app, or through social media, but in fact a fraudster out to gain the person's trust and ask for money or enough personal information to steal the victim's identity.

Action Fraud is warning the public to spot the signs of romance fraud :

- Don't rush into an online relationship – get to know the person, not the profile and ask plenty of questions.
- Analyse their profile and check the person is genuine by putting their name, profile pictures or any repeatedly used phrases and the term 'dating scam' into your search engine.
- Talk to your friends and family about your dating choices. Be wary of anyone who tells you not to tell others about them.
- Evade scammers by never sending money to, or sharing your bank details with, someone you've met online, no matter what reason they give or how long you've been speaking to them.
- Stay on the dating site messenger service until you're confident the person is who they say they are. If you do decide to meet in person, make sure the first meeting is in a public place and let someone else know where you're going to be.



## Oakley Village Hall

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# BADMINTON






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**WEDNESDAY NIGHT**

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## OAKLEY WI

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

14th May  
The Life of a Royal Footman  
An insight into what life is really like with the Royal Family.

11th June  
Poetry and Prose for a laugh  
A lovely way to spend a June evening,

9th July  
Aromatherapy and the benefits of essential oils  
How we can all feel better.

Visitors are very welcome at our meetings. To find out more please call 301629 or 825688

## OAKLEY GARDENING CLUB

Oakley Gardening Club meets on the third Monday of every month, September to April, with visits to gardens and places of interest over the rest of the year.

There are two meetings left before we break for the summer.

Our next meeting in March will be a talk on Birds and Nesting appropriate for the season.

The summer programme will include visits to various gardens including those of some of our members

Meetings are held at Oakley Methodist on the third Monday of the month

New members and visitors are very welcome at our meetings.

For further information contact  
Denise Hookham on 01933 312119



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# oakley *Motorcycle* club

2018 saw OMC achieve a record membership of 483. As we moved into the New Year the annual OMC curry night took place on 27th January superbly organised again by Dave and Lesley Brown 68 members descended on Indiya Restaurant, The Broadway, Bedford for an evening of food, beer and party games. The evening raised a staggering £890 for the East Anglian Air Ambulance.



Thursday 7th February was the OMC AGM which again attracted over 100 members. There was no change in the Officerholders so we continue 2019 with Roger Bays as Chairman, Derek Brown as Vice Chair and Treasurer and Bernice Russell as Secretary. There was one change on the committee with Paul East stepping down and being replaced by Chris Johnston.

The Pillock of the Year award was won by committee member Colin Measures for managing to drive over one of the telegraph poles that edged the Oakley Club field and then getting his car stuck!

Plans are now underway for a bumper 2019 and we are hopeful of having top British Superbike Racer Peter "Hicky" Hickman in attendance. Hicky races for BMW and in 2018 won the senior Isle of Man TT setting a new course lap speed record of over 135 mph! Now, for those who do not know, a lap at the IOM is over 37 miles and the course is little more than an average B road!



The member of the Year was Mick Hodson who joined OMC in 2013 and attends every Thursday throughout the year no matter what the weather on one of his motorbikes. He comes from Rothwell, Northants a 54 mile round trip and has only used his car 3 or 4 times in those 5 years. Not bad for a 77 year old!



Also on 26th March and 11th April Beds Police will be running a "Bike Safe" course from Oakley Club, so for once there will be a much larger than usual Police presence in the village

Baysie - Roger Bays - Chair OMC





## Reporting crimes and incidents to the police

Neighbourhood Watch is keen to support a better awareness of reporting crimes and incidents to the police. Each report that is submitted is logged and if the same problem persists, or frequently occurs, then we would encourage each occurrence to be reported to the police. This helps the police decide on priorities for action. We have been asked to pass on, through our members, the following information.



There are a number of options available for reporting crime and incidents of crime, and the first two are familiar to us: i.e.:

### 101 for non-urgent calls and 999 for emergency calls.

You should call 101 to report crime and other concerns that do not require an emergency response. For example, if your car has been stolen, your property has been damaged, you suspect drug use or dealing in your neighbourhood. Or to: Give the police information about crime in your area, or speak to the police about a general enquiry.

**You should always call 999** when it is an emergency, such as when a crime is in progress, someone suspected of a crime is nearby, or when there is danger to life or when violence is being used or threatened.

### A third option is available using the reporting page found on Bedfordshire Police's website. [www.bedfordshire.police.uk](http://www.bedfordshire.police.uk)

At the top of the front page of the website is a red link to 'on line reporting'. Clicking on this link takes you to a new page giving a number of options through which to report your concerns or incidents. These pages are constantly monitored and reviewed. This is a better option for anyone who feels more able to write down rather than speak out their concerns.

A fourth option is through **Crimestoppers**, an organisation independent of the police. All calls through Crimestoppers are anonymous and the police are not given any personal information regarding the caller. **Crimestoppers number is 0800 555 111 wherever you live in the UK.**





# Oakley Sports & Social Club

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Full Menu

## **Friday**

5pm - 8pm  
Pizza Night

## **Saturday**

4pm - 6pm  
Full Menu



**824977**



**[info@oakleyssc.com](mailto:info@oakleyssc.com)**



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