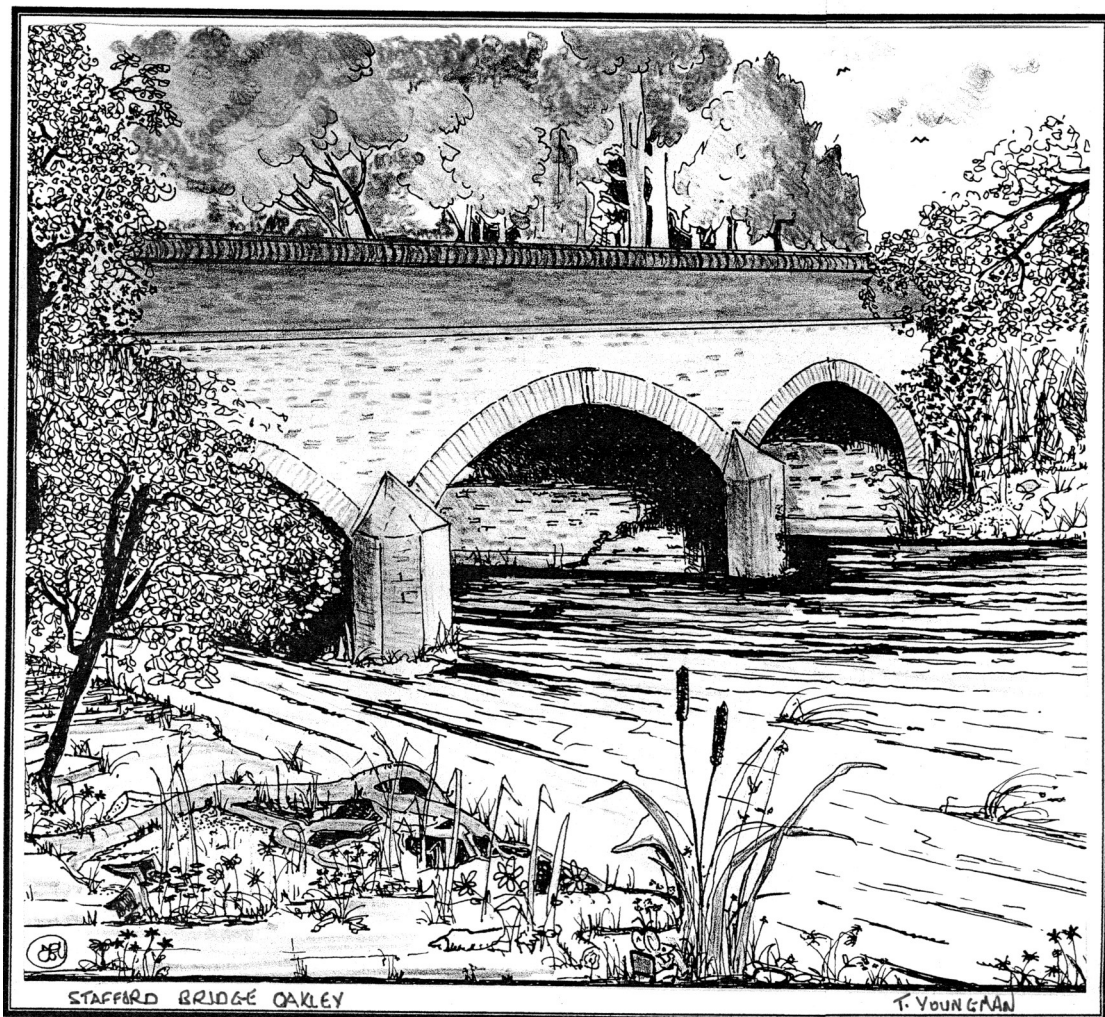


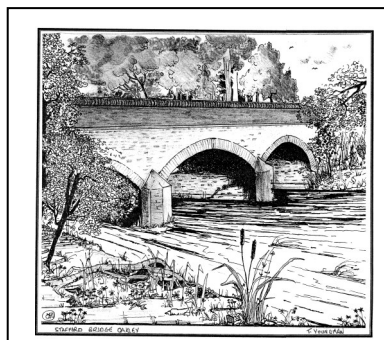


Oakley Newsletter



Summer 2013

Number 55



Front Cover

Stafford Bridge

Pavenham Road.

Drawing in pen and ink
by the artist Terry Youngman.

The Oakley Newsletter

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

Opinions and information

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

Next issue

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Please send cheques to the Editor, but payable to Oakley Parish Council.

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Barry Holmes

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Parish Council News Summer 2013

By JANE WALKER (Chair)

Chairman's annual report 2013

2012 was a busy year for both the country and for Oakley. Along with the excitement of the Olympics and visits from our local torch bearer, we also celebrated the Queen's Jubilee. In a moving ceremony on the ridge at Browns Wood, Clapham and Oakley's beacon lighting was one of only two Borough beacon sites. Hundreds of local people turned out despite the weather being overcast and drizzly and we were treated to rousing dance music and a wonderful beacon lighting.

The Jubilee will also be commemorated in the village by a new Christmas tree on Grange Close Green, which has kindly been purchased by WI. Thank you to them for that.

At last year's APM I talked of our hope that a new lease for the playing field was shortly going to be signed. It was eventually signed and the grant money promised to the ORA from the Football Foundation was secured. I'm pleased to say that they have now finished the changing room refurbishments and thanks must go to everyone involved at the Recreational Association for creating such a great sporting facility for the village. The parish council are still aiming to fund a Boules pitch on the field to provide another type of recreational activity for residents to take part in. The playing field will also host the bi-annual carnival this year on 13th July. Let's hope they get some better weather than we've had recently.

Other improvements that the parish council has funded for the village over the last year include a new bus shelter on Station Road and further improvements to the allotments hard standing areas. Organisations that we have helped are the Gardening Club for maintaining the village flower beds, the Day Care Centre, the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal,

Continued on page 3

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Oakley Air Cadets, Oakley Diamonds netball team, the Police Partnership (the Bobby van), the Youth Club, Oakley Saturday Football Club and Pilgrims Cricket Club. Money will continue to be available this year to support organisations that have mostly Oakley residents as their members.

Last year we had a presentation at the Annual Parish Meeting from the Borough Council highways team with a proposal to turn off our streetlights at midnight and switch them back on at 5am. This was approved by the meeting and the parish council, and the switch off happened in the late summer with very few comments. Some people did ring us to tell us the lights weren't working and others thought there was a power cut, but apart from that we had very little feedback, either positive or negative. It now seems to be accepted by the whole village so we consider that the trial has been successful and we will not be returning to all night streetlights.

Once again we have had very few incidents of anti-social behaviour during the year and thankfully very little crime. Unfortunately there has been a major crime in the village recently so please be vigilant. The police do respond to these incidents but for minor problems or nuisance issues we would ask that residents continue to report these on 101 so that the police have a complete record of what's going on. We are of course happy for you to let us know too but this will only be for information. We can't do anything unless it's reported to the police. This is the only way that we are allocated the police resources we need.

Last year's Community Litter Pick in the spring was our best yet but unfortunately we didn't have many people turn up for the bulb planting in October and it had to be abandoned. Our litter pick on 20th April this year saw 19 people come along to help tidy up the village. It didn't beat last year's 29 people but thank you to everyone who turned up and made such a good job of clearing the hard to reach areas of our village.

At the beginning of April our new web site went live. Thanks to Robbie Bays who has worked really hard to provide us with a fantastic new site. It really has been a labour of love for him and we are grateful for all of the hard work he has put in over and above what we are paying him for. The

result is a brilliant resource for residents and visitors alike and I hope everyone will use it regularly. We will be continuing to look for news stories, calendar events, links to village clubs and societies and old photos of the village to ensure that the web site stays current and is useful. Please have a look at it and let us have any comments or information that you think other people would find interesting.

This financial year we have frozen the parish precept for the second year running. Ann will explain later. Residents are still suffering due to the financial crisis and we don't want to increase the burden on them. We still have significant reserves and we will be using them this year to fund our larger schemes.

One very large scheme which we are considering this year is to introduce traffic calming around the village, either through the purchase of a speed camera or physical measures to slow traffic. We have had a petition request from residents about Pavenham Road and the cross roads end of the High Street along with a letter request for measures to be installed further along the High Street towards the Reynes Drive junction. As anything we install will have knock on effects elsewhere in the village we have asked the Borough to come and talk to us at our May meeting to let us know which methods would be best for the whole village. This will potentially be an expensive project and will take some time to complete so you will have time to contribute to the debate before a decision is made to proceed.

Please note the skips will not be coming to the village in the autumn. At the moment their next visit will be spring 2014.

As usual I would like to finish with some thank yous. Firstly to Barry Holmes who has done a great job yet again, of editing our village newsletter. Barry has indicated that he would like to retire from the job and so we are now looking for a new editor. I have had someone come forward who may be interested but if you know of anyone else with some time and the skills needed to edit our quarterly newsletter please ask them to contact me as soon as possible. If we have several people volunteer we may even be able to make it an editorial team this time.

Thank you to Ann Paice our Clerk, who works so hard behind the scenes to keep us all in order and to do all of the laborious work that wouldn't ever get done by councillors and which helps make our village life so pleasant. Also thanks to Mark Hobbs and Jake Walker for their bus shelter cleaning and litter picking. Sometimes I don't think we appreciate what they do, but when you go into other areas and see the dirty bus shelters and litter on the road side, you do realise how relatively clean Oakley actually is. As this will be Jake's last year before he goes to university I wanted to take the opportunity to thank him. And finally, thank you to all of the parish councillors who give so much of their time to help make the village a better place for everyone. Thank you.

.....

Plea for help from the Parish Council

We have had a lot of complaints about the grass over growing the pavements from the verges. The parish council has investigated the cost of a contractor clearing this for us but the cheapest quotation we have had will still cost us several thousand pounds to do. As a result we would like to request all of our residents help to tidy up our village. If you have a verge near by your house, please can you do your best to cut back the grass overgrowing the pavement and get rid of it in your green bins.

Thank you

.....

Borough Council News

by Cllr Pat Olney

Allocation and Designation Plan to 2021 – Oakley until 2021

The Inspector has recommended that the Oakley Settlement Boundary as agreed by the residents should be retained and not extended.

In the last newsletter I reported that two developers had made representation to the Inquiry into the Allocation and Designation Plan to extend the settlement boundary opposite the Bedford Arms and next to Hazel Kaye. I am pleased to say that the Inspector listened to me when representing the Parish Council and stated that the boundary should not be extended but should stay as recommended by the residents of Oakley. The consultations into the Inspector's recommendations are now complete and the comments are being reviewed by the council. The final plan will be adopted in the autumn.

New Borough Local Plan 2012 onwards

When the final Allocation and Designation Plan is adopted, the borough council will start work on a new development plan for after 2021. This will set out their policies for the type of development and where it shall take place in the borough area. This will include housing, retail and commercial development. It will be based on sustainable principles and will look at transport as well as landscape uses.

Which brings me to **Neighbourhood Plans**

At present we have a Village Plan which sets out Oakley's vision of how the village should look up to the year 2021.

If Oakley wishes to have a view on how the village should be after 2021 then there is a need for an Oakley Neighbourhood Plan setting out our vision. I know this means work but it does mean that your wishes will be taken into account and this time it will be an official planning document. The village Plan was very useful not only for planning applications but also at the latest Inquiry.

A new neighbourhood Plan will be even more influential. It is an exciting opportunity to shape the village for the future.

The Parish Council has agreed to a Neighbourhood Plan Working Group who will investigate how to move forward and how to involve you, the residents; how you would like the village to be after 2021. The Working Group is: Cllr Pat Olney, Cllr Gerry Sansom, Cllr Richard Baily and Cllr Jane Walker.

Bus Station

At last there is a planning application to regenerate the bus station in Bedford. The application will not only include a new bus station but also the refurbishment of the Allhallows car park and major modernisation of the public toilets with improved disabled and baby change facilities. New shopfronts, construction of a new surface carpark on Greyfriars and improvements on the north side of the bus station area in front of the car park, with new paving, seating and other features. Passengers will be able to walk from the concourse onto the bus under cover. The planning application is expected to be presented to the Planning Committee on 24th June 2013. The Borough Council has put together an £8.8 million fund through savings and efficiencies to ensure the development takes place.

Highways

I am pleased to report that several village roads are in the three year capital programme agreed by the council. The entrance to Ruffs Furze this year. Then in the following two years – the entrance to Dewlands, High Street, Lovell Road and Reynes Drive.

Potholes

The pothole hit squad is looking for potholes (not difficult I know) this week as I write. We have a new officer, Helen Dow. Cllr Michael Taylor would I am sure wish to join with me in thanking our previous pothole officer Charlotte for all her work in the last few years. She has walked the village with us and always repaired the potholes as soon as she could schedule the work.

The Higgins, Bedford Art Gallery and Museum Opening June 21st Dawn to Dusk

I am delighted to say that at last you can visit the new Higgins Art Gallery and Museum. You can get up early or lay in bed and visit later and even stroll in after work. Then you can continue to visit through this year and in the future. There will always be something new to look at and be involved with. The popular holiday activities for children will be back taking place in the properly equipped activity rooms. Changing exhibitions include exhibitions from community groups, touring and special exhibitions from our own collections.

All this and more of our collections is exhibited in extra permanent galleries, telling the story of Bedford and the people who have shaped the borough over the centuries. The international Cecil Higgins Collection is redisplayed in more space and even better, everything is accessible from the entrance, no more trekking from one building to the next. Best of all, there's a new cafe to rest and enjoy refreshment after sampling the delights the Higgins Bedford has to offer.

I have been lucky enough to watch the transformation and I recommend it to you. So get along to Castle Lane and have a look. I will be delighted to hear from you. Remember, June 21st - Dawn to Dusk. You will I am sure spend many a happy hour there and return often. I would love to hear your views. Please email me at pat.olney@btopenworld.com

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Farm and Country – Summer 2013

By John Saunders, College Farm

After a very wet summer and winter we arrive at the end of February and start thinking about spring. Then we are into five or six weeks of bitter cold weather that seems to go on and on.

It has been very hard for the sheep farmers lambing in this part of the country, but even worse for the farmers who had heavy snowfalls with ewes lambing outside, getting buried in snow drifts and the lambs getting frozen to the ground as they were born. They will not know the extent of their loss until the snow goes. To make matters worse they are not allowed to bury the carcass on the farm, but all fallen stock [dead animals] has to be collected by the knacker man and incinerated at great expense to the farmer, who is hit twice with loss of the animal and the cost of removal. With cattle, which are not so easy to bury, the local foxhounds kennels will collect cattle at a small cost, providing they are under thirty months old. Over that they have to be collected by the knacker, who will take them away to be incinerated – at a cost of £80-100.

Now the sun is shining and the weather is warming up. Farmers are trying to drill seed corn which should have been drilled in the autumn. Some are still sowing winter wheat, unheard of in February and March in a normal year. Now in April they are sowing spring barley. Usually, if you hear the cuckoo before you sow, the barley is called cuckoo barley.

Everything is late this year. The birds are not nesting so early, and the fields of rape, usually in flower by the end of April, have hardly grown after the pigeons have devastated them, so it will be interesting to see how harvest turns out.

The hare population has been in decline for several decades and modern agricultural methods, so they say, are to blame, but I don't believe they should take all the blame. There are not as many hares about in the fields as years ago when in 1934 a local farm shot 360 hares in a day because they were devastating the brassica crops. Some of the hares were distributed around the village and the rest sent to the London markets by train to be sold.

The hares usually give birth to their young – called leverets – in the open fields, but the leverets are very vulnerable to the buzzards. Now farmers are encouraged to have grass headlands around their fields to help the wildlife.

We are into May and dare I say it- we could do with a rain.

John Saunders

GOOD NEWS!

2013 LONDON MARATHON

Dave Jones (Jonesy) with the help of the people and friends of Oakley who sponsored his London Marathon run have raised an amazing **£10,076.50** for the benefit of children with autism.

Of this £2,000 has been donated to the National Autistic Research Society for vital research with the remainder being used to purchase vital sensory equipment to be given to Oakley Lower School.

Well done Jonesy!!

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JOHN DEERE



Browns Wood and Judges Spinney Friends Group Spring and Summer 2013

Volunteers from Clapham and Oakley and further afield have been busy working on the Millenium Woodland and meadow next to Browns Wood. Areas of the new woodland have been thinned to allow more light to reach the woodland floor and encourage a more diverse mix of woodland plants. The meadow area has been seedbombed with a suitable mix of wildflower seeds sourced locally. Woodland areas were planted up with woodland plants similar to those found in Browns Wood and were also seedbombed with bluebell seeds to try and kickstart swathes of bluebells in the Millenium Woodland to mirror those in the old wood.

Both Browns Wood and Judges Spinney have also benefitted from new interpretation boards – giving information on the wildlife in Browns Wood and on the wonderful panoramic view over the Ouse Valley at Judges Spinney.

More tasks and guided walks are planned over the next few months, running from 2pm to 4pm approx, including glade clearance of unwanted sycamore saplings at Browns Wood to help keep the bluebells blooming; Guided walk of Judges Spinney 30th June – find out more about this little known gem of a site, its history and its wildlife and 28th July Tree health survey at Browns Wood and Judges Spinney – help us to find out if any of the oaks, ashes or horse chestnuts in the woodlands are showing signs of disease – and be part of the countrywide OPAL survey which should give a fuller picture of the health of the nation's trees (<http://www.opalexplorenature.org/>)

If you are interested in becoming a Friend of Browns Wood and Judges Spinney and would like to be kept informed of events and practical tasks please contact:

Priory Rangers on 01234 21182 or: prioryrangers@bedford.gov.uk.

If you would like to take part in one of the wildflower/plant surveys taking place at both sites over the next few months please let us

know and we can let you know when these are taking place. If you have any comments or suggestions about either site or events/guided walks/talks that you would like to see taking place there please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Jane Moore (Priory Park Ranger)

OPEN CHURCH SUNDAY

Come along to St Mary's Oakley on
Sunday 23rd June, 3.30pm to
5.00pm.

Try your hand at bell ringing and hand
bells.

Photographs will be on display
depicting the many activities that
take place in our church.

Refreshments will be available.

Enjoy a delicious home made cream
tea, with plenty of tea or coffee or a
cold drink, all for only £2 per person.

St Mary's Church is open every
Sunday afternoon 3.30pm to 5.00pm
until 29th September.

Oakley Allotments

During my travels in California at the beginning of March I saw trees about to burst in to leaf, mile after mile of blossoming fruit trees in California's Central Valley and suburban magnolias starting to flower. Spring was starting to happen and I judged it to be about two weeks or more ahead of our own. I was going to return home to enjoy the beginnings of the English springtime having avoided the worst of February's cold...

Well, we all know very well how that turned out! We have suffered one of the most prolonged cold spells on record and our spring has been delayed by some 2 to 4 weeks.

The result was that my first visit to the allotments (that is, after the snow had actually cleared and you could even see the allotments) revealed a state of lifelessness one would expect to see in mid-winter. Frozen ground remained unworkable and everything that had over-wintered and should be producing, wasn't. The only plus was that the severe cold had stopped everything growing, including weeds and wayward grass.

This year is already very different to 2012, when we had an early drought followed by constant wetness and low light levels. This year we have a very late start to the growing season, which will lead to poor production. Everyone wonders what the rest of the year will bring. At the time I am writing this my own plot is now so dry that it is unworkable - I may just mow it this year and get the deck-chairs out!

PS - I suggested that the deer damage caused to some allotments could be the work of muntjac but we now have proof that roe deer are in the area. This would not be surprising since roe deer are now the most widespread of our native deer.

Julia spotted a female deer crossing the slip road by Highfield Parc at about 8.15pm on Saturday the 11th of May. It was larger than a muntjac and we later confirmed the identification from photographs of the species.

Steve Nicholas

All you need to know about...

Gardening

When weeding, the best way to make sure you're removing a weed and not a valuable plant is to pull on it.

If it comes out of the ground easily, it's a valuable plant.

All you need to know about...

Public Life

"Always do right. This will gratify some people and astonish the rest".

Mark Twain

And here's a recent headline from the *Sunday Telegraph*:

"If doing the right thing means a spell of unpopularity, so be it".

All you need to know about...

Life

By Oscar Wilde

"I sometimes think that God, in creating man, somewhat overestimated his ability".

Robert Benchley said....

"Drawing on my fine command of language, I said nothing".

AMIGO

Noel Evans and I very much enjoyed our visit to Turkey last September and on the 26th February at the Methodist Church we gave an account of our experiences with pictures of the sites of the seven churches in Asia Minor mentioned in Revelations as well as of other ancient sites and the strange scenery of Cappadocia, not forgetting Istanbul. We were very pleased that the leader of the tour, the Rev. David Winwood came to the event and was able to re-assure us on certain facts given during the presentation. I believe that we were able to show that Turkey is a fascinating country and worthy of a visit.

On the 26th March a visit to the Panacea Museum in Bedford took place. The museum relates the history of the Panacea Society and their beliefs. It was a most interesting visit and a place I would wish to return to for further study.

Another enjoyable evening took place on the 23rd April when after a closely fought contest at the Bedford Arms, Souldrop, Terry Youngman emerged as our new Skittles champion. We also had a buffet of sandwiches with a bowl of excellent chips. My thanks to Noel Evans for arranging the event.

By the time this newsletter is published, a ramble around Putnoe Wood will have been held on the 28th May. The walk will be led by Jenny Sudworth and my earnest wish is that the weather will be fine.

The long awaited visit to Spitalfields will take place on the 25th June when under the excellent leadership of our guide, Charlie de Wet, we will learn something of the history of this area including the story of the Huguenots who settled there. The coach leaves Oakley Village Hall at 8.30 a.m. and returns leaving Spitalfields at 4.00 p.m. A few seats may be available, by the time this Newsletter is published. The cost will be £25.00 a head. Cheques should be made out to John Dixon and sent to him at 30 Hunts Path, Oakley, Bedford, MK43 7SR.

A tour of the Harrold-Odell Country Park led by Park Ranger, Janet Monro will be held on the 23rd July. The tour will begin at 7.00 p.m. and will be followed by a "bring and share" picnic.

No event is planned for August.

In September, Pat Olney has kindly agreed to give an illustrated talk on her recent visit to Burma. This will take place on the 24th September at the Methodist Church beginning at 8.00 p.m.

I am also very pleased to say that on the 22nd October, Gerry Sansom from CPRE has agreed to give an illustrated talk on protecting Bedfordshire's landscape through working with the Planning System. It is proposed that this talk will take place at the Methodist Church, beginning at 8.00 p.m.

Further details of future events appear in the Churches Together monthly newsletters as well as in the Parish Newsletters. As will be seen, all Amigo activities usually take place on the fourth Tuesday of the month and are open to all.

I would add that I am most grateful to Noel Evans, Jenny Sudworth, Anne Youngman and others for arranging activities whilst I am awaiting and undergoing treatment at Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge.

John Dixon

Uncomfortable with letting strange people into your home?

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



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OAKLEY DIAMONDS NETBALL TEAM

So we are coming to the end of our first Winter League as Oakley Diamonds Netball Team and it has been a great first season. We as a team are so lucky to have so many committed ladies, who I shall name here, even though they won't like it, but for me they deserve a mention:

Ali Harrison, Cheryl Bailey, Stephanie Blackwell, Emma Halls, Joanne Price, Emma Hume, Sarah Page, Clare Fay, Katie Ridiyard, Clare Perusko, Sarah Damon, Pauline Heapey, Tracey Mathews, Viv Dawes, Siobahn Pither, Beki Daniels, Sam Head, Gail Yerrill and, well, me...

With the welcome return of our GK Claire Woodfield next season it can only get better. I would also like to mention Megan Hodges and Ali Fox who coached us at the beginning of the season to get us on the right track. Thank you, girls.

It's been a cold winter and luckily we have the great facilities at Lincroft to keep us warm. In the summer we train and use the facilities at the Oakley Sports and Social Club, as we always feel really welcome there by Mick and Barb, also with the help of the Oakley Recreational Association who ensure we have a great court to play on!

With the end of the season approaching I am pleased to report that we are midway in the league with one match left – but even better news: while we have been playing our league matches we have also been taking part in the tournament to win the Plate, which I'm happy to say WE WON

We started the final with equal points to our opponents and the game was tight with us winning the first quarter, losing the second, winning the third and then just winning the final quarter in the last couple of minutes ... Phew. It was close but very exciting.

The girls fought well and played a brilliant game. We are very proud of them and all our ladies as they do nothing but give their best on each game. I'm so pleased because it's great to have something to celebrate other than footie or cricket, etc, for this great village of Oakley.

I would also like to thank the committee for their hard work: Stephanie Blackwell, Joanne Price, Cheryl Bailey, Emma Halls and most of all Ali Harrison. Ali sorts all our fixtures, umpires, results and, er, well, me. Thanks also to Steph and Ali for taking the role of Captain each week. It's not easy making sure everyone is coming, umpires are sorted, bibs and balls are in hand and the results are given in, all this as well as being busy mums and wives. I applaud you gals.

Look out for us in the Oakley Carnival procession, then come to support us as we take part in the tug of war where we hope to hold on to the winning trophy.

Next we look forward to the summer league or for some of us a rest. Let's just hope the weather gets better and we have no more rain!

Have a great summer, everyone ...

Dawn Pither

Oakley Diamonds Netball Chairperson



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11/11

OAKLEY CARNIVAL

SATURDAY 13TH JULY

THEME- COUNTRY LIFE

Hello everyone, the famous Oakley Carnival is nearly upon us. We have been in preparation for over a year and now everything is coming into place.

We look forward to you joining us on Saturday 13th July, and we welcome your support if you want to get involved with the procession, a stall, tug of war or to help selling programmes and raffle tickets.

We have a website and Facebook page so you can follow what's going on right up to the day:

www.oakleycarnival.co.uk

To contact the relevant person:

For the programme:

Bev Marshall bev_simon@talktalk.net 07428 174566 / 827097

For the procession:

Alyn Walker alyn.walker@customtek.co.uk 07557 441206

For Stalls:

Niki Humberstone nikihumbug@hotmail.com 07546 330754

For the Arena:

Darren Hooton darren.hooton1@btinternet.com 07743 176201

We are having a family evening the week before on Saturday 6th July at the Village Hall 7pm start including bingo ,bouncy castles, BBQ and much, much more. Further details will follow on our website and posters around the village.

Please come and join in both events and support the village.

All profits go to local organisations.

If you have any other queries please contact me: **Sue Wren, Chair**
aces.wren@btinternet.com 07716 75 22 94

INCORPORATING THE THEME
COUNTRY LIFE

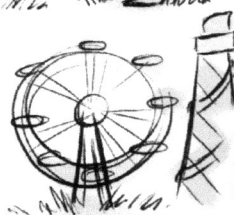


OAKLEY CARNIVAL



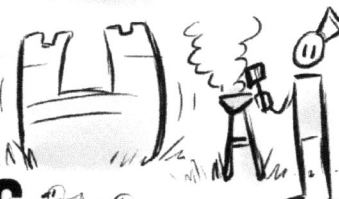
- JULY 13TH -

STALLS GALORE



FUNFAIR

BOUNCY CASTLES



BBQ

CHILDREN'S RACES



ARCHERY

DOG COMPETITION



CONTACTS: ARENA – DARREN HOOTON:
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FACEBOOK: 'OAKLEY CARNIVAL'

JOHN WESTON

After John finished paid employment he found time to indulge in several passions. His playing bowls became more frequent, and would have been even more so had I allowed it.

Between his bowls John was able to enjoy several other activities that played a large part in his life; his motorbike, wheeler-dealing on the stock market (not always profitable), ORGASMic walks and philosophising, and latterly his piano playing with several ladies in the village. Our growing families also gave him much enjoyment and amusement.

Along the way John remained in contact with past friends and made many new ones. This was demonstrated by the enormous number in attendance, in person or thought, at his funeral. We, his family, were overwhelmed by the large gathering.

Thank you.

Donations made in his memory were:

St. John's Hospice £581.04

Macmillan Cancer Support £206.03

Sharnbrook Bowls Club (new clubhouse)

£716.03

Again, thank you,

Jean, Emma and Helen

.....

Steve's Snippet No.5

Always questioning, I wondered why a large proportion of the world chooses to drive on what we might regard as the wrong side of the road.

If you regard right-handedness as the correct-handedness, then the side of the road on which we drive, and cycle (but should not walk - and more of that later) is correct, but only if you happen to be a sword-carrying yeoman of the Middle-Ages. The same rule applies for mounted knights wielding lances.

If you are right-handed then you are in the majority of humans. Left-handedness was mistakenly looked upon as an affliction in

years past and many a left-handed child faced misguided adults who tormented them into conforming to the "normal" right-handed handwriting etc.

It now seems that left-handedness can be a sign of exceptional ability and even genius, but let me not digress.

A right-handed yeoman would proceed along the lanes with his lady to his left so that, if he met someone coming from the opposite direction, they would pass him on his right and he could wield his sword to that side if necessary. These were times tending to lawlessness.

A mounted knight would carry his lance in his right hand so that it was on the side on which he met his opponent and he held the reins in his left hand. He therefore rode on the left-hand side of the road or the jousting arena.

Napoleon was a left-handed genius. He insisted that his armies should march on the right so that his sword-hand was to his opponent. Countries subdued by Napoleon were subjected to the same rules and so the tendency was for many countries to adopt this method. British Empire subjects remained travelling on the left.

In more modern times the change to driving on the right was reinforced by the domination of world markets by American cars. They were the most reliable automobiles of the time and Americans had readily adopted most things anti-British following their successful bid for independence, so their cars were only produced in left-hand-drive form.

Sweden was the last country to actually change from driving on the left to driving on the right. They did this virtually overnight in 1967. It is unlikely that this would happen again in any other country as the expense would be prohibitive now.

Next Snippet - why you should walk on the right, facing oncoming traffic...and not as simple as you might think...

Snippet No.6 in a future issue.

Steve Nicholas

Oakley Pre-school news



The summer term at pre-school is one of our busiest with lots of outside activities and getting the older children ready to start at their new school in September. This term we will be visiting the local park and Linch Furlong for a picnic; we will be holding a sports day and a concert/leavers ceremony for our older children; the Video production crew and photographer will also be visiting to ensure the children and families have lasting mementoes of their time at pre-school and all of the children will be taking part in our Eco art project to produce their own artwork for their families. This is all taking place alongside our increased fund-raising activities for our new extension.

On Saturday 11th May we held our first joint fund-raising event with the Methodist church and have so far raised over £500 with a coffee morning and sponsored Toddle.

Our next event is planned for Saturday 15th June when we will be hosting a father's day breakfast at pre-school. We hope that families who are no longer associated with us will return for this event along with our existing fathers. We will be serving bacon butties at pre-school between 10am and midday. Please come along, treat the dads and support our fund-raising.

We will also be serving refreshments in the Village hall at the Oakley carnival in conjunction with the Methodist church and also look out for our "roving toilet" at the event. We are currently filling an empty toilet bowl with loose change to raise money for the new toilets in the extension. It's now on wheels so that we can take it with us to outside events.

We have a large number of new starters in September so places will quickly be filled up. Unless your child is on our waiting list we will not be able to ensure that the places are kept open for your child as the school year progresses, so please contact me as soon as possible to ensure that we know that you would like a place.

You can contact Jane Walker by telephone on 826542 during term time or email oakleypreschool@btconnect.com

Please see www.oakleypreschool.org.uk for more information.

New Oakley Village Website now live!

www.oakleyvillage.co.uk

This is a call to all village clubs, societies, groups, organisations etc to please send in details of their activities for inclusion on Oakley's new updated village website.

The more information on the website the more it will attract the interest of local residents and the more it will be used. Both online and in the newsletter.

So if you've got something you think might be of interest to local residents please send details to:

Jane Walker: jane@janewalker.co.uk
or

David Jones: david.jones@ivar-uk.com

**Lets make the Oakley village website the
best there is!**

If in doubt – send it out!

OAKLEY GARDENING CLUB

Oakley Gardening Club would like to extend a warm welcome to all who have an interest in gardening, however slight, to join us. We especially would like to welcome any members who have Allotments.

We are not a band of experts – just those folk who actually enjoy the planting, lawn mowing, hand weeding (well, OK, maybe 'enjoy' is a bit over the top for the last one!) We have varied speakers, the odd competition, (friendly!) and we hope for at least one coach trip out to visit a garden, from which we hopefully gain further ideas, and renewed enthusiasm!

This year, on the 10th June, we will visit Water Perry Gardens in Oxfordshire.

In the summer months we also have several visits to local Open Gardens, and in late July we will visit some of our own Members' gardens, and end up somewhere or other for drinks and nibbles.

We have an annual dinner in February to which members may bring friends.

All in all we contrive to have a jolly good time!

However, we commence our monthly meetings in September each year and run through to April of the following year.

Below is the list of meetings for the 2013/14 sessions.

We meet at the Methodist Church Hall at 7.45pm.

We look forward to meeting you!!

2013:

September 16th October 21st

November 18th

2014: January 20th

February 17th (annual dinner)

March 17th April 14th

Dorothy Hendry – Chair

Tel: (822523)

Your Village Needs You!

**We need a new editor for this newsletter
(having worn out the current incumbent)**

Have you got some spare time

**Do you enjoy playing with words and getting to
know what's going on in the village**

Do you have IT skills

Interested?

**Have a chat with Jane Walker, Chair of the Parish Council on
01234 824530 or email jane@janewalker.co.uk**



Oakley Sports & Social Club

Family & Sports Bar

<http://oakleyssc.com>

Opening times

Monday – Friday 3.00pm – 11.00pm
Saturday - 12.00pm – 11.00pm
Sunday – 12.00pm – 10.30pm

Saturday	1 st June	Party	40 Emma Vase
Friday	7 th June	Football Presentation	All ages
Saturday	8 th June	Joggers/Band	£5.00 per ticket
Fri/Sat	14 th June	Women M/B/Club	Band Sat night
Saturday	15 th June	Private party	

Additional functions for July and August 2013 are displayed in Club House.

We pride ourselves on being a family club, we have maintained a registered club status and we are a registered charity allowing family involvement and family activities to flourish. Oakley Sports & Social Club boasts one of the finest children's playgrounds in the area and holds many events throughout the year for children and families with themed disco's, BBQ's and fun days to name but a few.



Join us:

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