

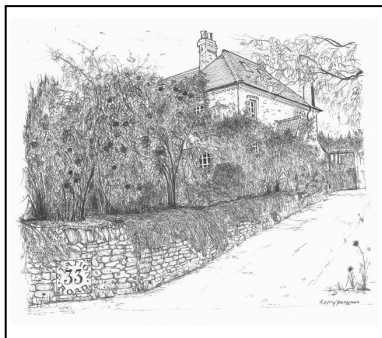


Oakley Newsletter



Summer 2014

Number 59



Front Cover

33 Station Road Oakley

Drawing in pen and ink

by the artist Terry Youngman.

Seen on 4th July!



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 autumn issue is 17th August 2014.
The publishing date is 1st September.

Advertising rates

Quarter page: £15

Half page: £30

Whole page: £60

Four consecutive quarter page adverts: £50

Loose inserts, any size up to A4: £60
Please send cheques to the Parish Clerk, Ann Paice payable to Oakley Parish Council.

Editor

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Hello Children

look out for
12 more frogs!



Parish Council News

Summer 2014

By JANE WALKER (Retiring Chair)

After a busy 2012, 2013 was a relatively quiet year for the village although we did celebrate the biennial carnival on one of the hottest days in a very hot summer. Record crowds attended and thanks go to everyone on the carnival committee who spent so much time planning the day. It is one of the biggest village events in North Beds, attracting visitors to the village from all over the Borough.

We ended the year on another high with the lighting of our Christmas tree at St Mary's church followed by impromptu carol singing led by the churches together. This year the parish council paid for additional lights at the cross roads and these were designed and installed by Oakley resident Phil Supple. These lights were the talk of the village with everyone fascinated by their movement and colour. Phil is a professional lighting designer who designed the Christmas lights at the Kew gardens event. He donated his time and skills to the village so we would like to thank him for making our Christmas lights so special last year.

You are probably aware that the parish council received funding from the developers of the Furlong to spend on sporting provision in the village. The money that was left after funding the tennis and netball court and helping with the football changing room was spent on the Boules pitch on the sports field. The hope was that older residents would set up a club in a similar way to the ladies with the netball court and then we could host matches against teams from other villages. This hasn't yet managed to get off the ground despite there being interest at the open event organised by Richard Baily last year. So if you are feeling energetic and would like to be involved in a new hobby, please contact Richard.

The web site is now being used extensively as a resource for the village and for people looking for information about Oakley. It is averaging 700 hits a month but this is increasing rapidly.

Continued on page 3

OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

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Most people are looking at the news page and "about Oakley" and the editor reports that road closure information is the most popular. Facebook and Twitter followers are building slowly but Facebook is becoming a more popular way of sharing information around the village. Please let Robbie Bays, the editor know if you have any events or news that he can publicise via the internet. Thank you to Robbie for giving us such an attractive and useful web site.

This year the council has allocated a large amount of money for speed reduction methods, following requests from various parts of the village about speeding cars. We intend to jointly fund 2 sets of average speed cameras in partnership with the Borough council and these will be installed by the end of the year.

Another improvement that we have budgeted for is a new bus shelter for Dewlands. We now intend to move the existing shelter from Station Road to Dewlands and install a new shelter on Station Road. The back panel will be towards the road side to give better protection from the wind coming off the fields opposite.

Village organisations that we have helped with funding this year are Oakley Diamonds netball team, the Youth Club, Royal British Legion (poppy wreath), the Day Care Centre and the Gardening Club for maintaining the village flower beds. Money will once again be available this year to support organisations whose members are mostly Oakley residents.

Once again we have had very few incidents of anti-social behaviour from young people during the year and thankfully very little crime. We have however suffered like many other areas in the Borough from the anti-social act of parking on the verges. This causes the verged areas to look unsightly and prevents the grass cutters from doing their job. We are continuing to liaise with the police and the Borough council on measures to stop this happening. Equally as anti-social is the habit of some dog owners not to clear up after their dog. This is both dangerous for people's health and can lead to the owners being prosecuted by the Borough Council environmental health teams. If you have any evidence of the owners responsible and are willing to speak out against them, please contact any member of the parish council or the clerk.

The parish council have recently been contacted by Network rail to talk about the on-

going electrification of the railway line to Leicester running alongside the village. There will be significant disruption to the residents of Railway cottages and the houses near the bridge there, as the bridge will be taken down and re-built to allow for overhead cables. We have not been informed of any impact of the electrification on other properties along the railway line and the parish council has received no information on this. We asked for an open meeting for the whole village to give residents an opportunity to meet with representatives of Network rail so that they could ask their questions directly and this was held at the end of April. The web site and future newsletters will keep you informed of any further activity that we are told about.

Thanks go to Mark Hobbs who we employ to litter pick the whole village. We held our annual Community litter pick over the Easter holiday and there was very little litter even in the usual awkward to reach places. Mark is doing a wonderful job of keeping our village litter free.

Our newsletter continues to be a fantastic medium to let the whole village know what's going on locally. The editorship passed to Bill Chalker last year and he has done a great job of carrying on the previous editors' legacy. We are all very grateful to him, who despite being such a busy man still manages to produce the newsletter exactly when he says he will. Thank you Bill. I would also like to thank the team who produce the annual village directory. I know that it takes a lot of co-ordinating to make sure that the information in it is up to date but it is extremely useful all year round. It is now also being reproduced on the website in case you can't lay your hands on a copy when you need it.

This financial year we have once again frozen the parish precept for the third year running. We still have significant funds in our account from developer agreements and have finished paying for the village hall. We are still able to fund the projects that the village has asked for without raising our portion of the council tax. As far as future projects go, we are just starting to prepare our new Neighbourhood development plan. This is the successor to the original Village plans which aim to find out what local people want for their village for the next few years. Please look out for more information about this over the next few months and please respond to any consultation or questionnaire that you receive so that we can

build up the best picture of how Oakley residents would like to see the village develop.

I have already thanked several people in this report but as this will be my final report as Chair of the council I would particularly like to thank Ann and the other councillors for their support and hard work over the last 12 years that I have been chair. This will be my 21st year on the parish council (I think only John Saunders has done longer and he has been my deputy for the whole time I have been chair. Thank you for your support, John.) and I feel it's time to let someone else with hopefully more time than me, take over. I hope that you will continue to support them as you have me. Thank you.

New Chairman of the council

Some of you may be aware that I recently made the decision to step down as chair of the parish council. It felt like the right time to let someone else have a go and fortunately Paul Phillips from Station Road agreed to take over from me. I will let Paul introduce himself properly in the newsletter but as a way of simple introduction, many of you will know Paul and Shelia his wife for their tireless charity work particularly with Guide dogs. Paul was a police officer so he knows how to get things done and he has been a parish councillor for the last two years.

Jane Walker

Parish council retiring chair

Introducing Paul Phillips

I was very pleased to be asked to serve as Chairman of Oakley Parish Council for the next year. I am honoured to accept the position and will carry out the role to the best of my ability.

Succeeding Jane Walker is going to be a very hard act to follow because much has been achieved for Oakley during the time she was 'in the chair'. On your behalf I thank her most sincerely for all that she has done.

Average Speed Cameras

At the last Parish Council Meeting it was decided that two pairs of average speed cameras be installed in Oakley and that the Parish Council contribute the cost of one pair and Bedford BC fund the other pair. Hopefully they will be installed during this summer.

Parish Council Minutes.

Remember Draft Parish Council Minutes are displayed on the notice Board outside the Post Office within a week or so of each meeting and draft minutes are generally put on the web site within two weeks of meetings. They are there for the benefit of all.

Paul Phillips.

Parish Council Chairman

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Borough Council News

by Cllr Pat Olney

Safeguarding is Everyone's Business

The Borough Council is asking everyone to report any concerns if they think an older person in care is being harmed abused or neglected.

Vulnerable people everywhere have a right to be treated with respect, kindness and compassion at all times.

If you have safeguarding concerns please contact the Bedford Safeguarding Adults team on 01234 276222 or www.bedfordboroughpartnership.org.uk/adultsafeguarding

Planning Advice

The council has introduced a new planning advice service. All general planning information will be available on the website www.bedford.gov.uk/planning.

Please note that if your enquiry is site specific and/or the information is not available online, you will need to complete a request for advice on a pre-application enquiry form and pay the appropriate fee.

Bedford Hospital and Care in the Community

I am pleased to say that the paediatrics service at Bedford Hospital is now operating a complete 24 hour service. The Hospital is now rated highly although it still has to balance its budget.



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The discussions are continuing with stakeholders and the general public about the services that they would like to see provided in the hospital and the community in the borough. During the summer options based on those discussions will be agreed. Those options will be consulted on from September, more news at that time.

It is important that everyone considers those options carefully. The final option then will become the policy that will determine the services that you will receive in the future.

Car Parking at Lurke Street and River Street

These car parks are now open for 24 hours. You will be able to enjoy a concert, an event or a meal in town without worrying about rushing to get your car and safely home.

Network Rail Electrification

Network Rail engineers met with Station Road and Railway Cottages residents to discuss the issues of access when Hartops Bridge is rebuilt to allow for the electrification of the Midland Line Railway. I am pleased to report that the residents fears were allayed. There will be a temporary access to Railway Cottages and the compound from the Highfield Road roundabout. The engineers are working with the highway engineers to make sure that signs are erected to warn drivers of this temporary access. The timetable for the works are stated in the letter below from Network Rail. The Installation of the overhead wires will not take place until next year.

Cllr Pat Olney

Letter from Network Rail

Railway Neighbour

Date 30th April 2014

Ref no SPC2 53M 0022 Y

Dear Neighbour,

Improvement works – Hartops Bridge (Br 46)

I am writing to inform you that Network Rail needs to undertake essential improvement works near your property. These improvements are a vital aspect of our strategy to provide a safe, reliable and efficient railway fit for the 21st century.

Continued overleaf :-

Letter from Network Rail (continues)

The works will involve the removal and replacement of the existing bridge deck and supports. The existing road surfacing will be also replaced in line with the new road levels.

Works will take place from the following dates:

Monday 21st July 2014 until Friday 7th November 2014.

Normal working times during this period are expected to be 07:30 – 17:30 Monday – Friday, with some night time work involved. Expected weekend working hours are 23:00 Saturday Night until 08:00 Sunday morning.

There will be security on site outside these hours.

The main bridge replacement works will be carried out during two weekend possessions, when the existing bridge will be removed and the new bridge deck sections lifted into position with a large mobile crane.

This work will be carried out primarily during two possessions :

On Saturday 13th September 2014 until Monday 15th September 2014

and On Saturday 20th September 2014 until Monday 22nd September 2014

**BRIDGE
CLOSED**

The **road bridge will be closed** from Monday 21st July 2014 until Friday 7th November 2014

There will be a small amount of de-vegetation adjacent to the bridge structure. The works will involve the removal of some low lying vegetation and trimming back on the four corners of the bridge to allow for construction of the new bridge and also new vehicle containment to be installed.

Safety is our number one priority and for this reason, work of this type must be carried out while trains are not running. Under our licence conditions we are contractually obliged to work, whenever possible, at times that cause the least disruption to train services. Unfortunately, this means carrying out a lot of our improvement work during the night and at weekends.

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The equipment we use means some disturbance is unavoidable, but we will make every effort to minimise any unnecessary noise. Furthermore, those working on site are briefed on working responsibly in the local community.



I hope this information is helpful and we apologise for any inconvenience these essential works may cause. However, if you have any additional questions or concerns, please visit www.networkrail.co.uk or telephone our 24-Hour National Helpline on 08457 11 41 41

Yours sincerely

Denise Thompson

Community Relations Manager

Contact & Communities

4A George Stephenson House

Toft Green

York

YO1 6JT

AMIGO

On the 25th March an enjoyable evening was spent listening to a broadcast that was made for Hospital Radio Bedford by Judi Gentle and John Dixon. This marked the 60th anniversary of V.E. and V.J. days with music and information on what took place in Bedford during the war.

On the 22nd April, Nick Wilde gave an amusing and interesting illustrated talk on "The Bedford Bee", a satirical newspaper that was published in 1879.

By the time this Newsletter is published, Catherine Reid will have given her talk on the healing power of herbs on the 27th May.

The coach that will take us to Rotherhithe on the 24th June is full. A report of the day's activities will appear in the September Newsletter.

The current session for 2014/15 will finish with a ramble on the 22nd July from Harrold Odell Country Park. The walk will begin at 7.00 p.m. It will last for about two hours and will be 4 miles in length. Meet with cars at St. Mary's Church Car Park at 6.30 p.m where lifts can be arranged.

John Dixon

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

Note for your diaries!

**Apple Pressing Day will
be held on the
Village Green this year**

Sunday 28th September

Bring along your excess apples and help to press them into lovely apple juice




Keep your eyes open for more details in the September Newsletter and on Parish Council Notice Boards

Parish council news

John Saunders

Some of you may know John as the author of the fascinating articles in each addition of Oakley news, telling us about farming in the village and comparing it to when he was a boy. Others of you will know that he is also a parish councillor. At our last annual parish meeting in April, John quietly told me at the end of our meeting, that he had now been a councillor for 50 years, some of them as chairman. That is a fantastic achievement and an outstanding commitment to the village. Being a parish councillor can take a lot of time and frequently other villagers criticise and get annoyed with us. All of this is done voluntarily with no payment at all, not even expenses, so I have great admiration for anyone who gives up their time in this way for so long.

For the whole time that I have been chair, John has been vice chair and he has always given me unstinting support and guidance. I would like to thank him on behalf of the village. We all owe him a huge amount of gratitude.



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

Oakley Neighbourhood Watch

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

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




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Jema Crouch: 07929 240137
Dawn Sharkey: 07800 832216





Oakley Show

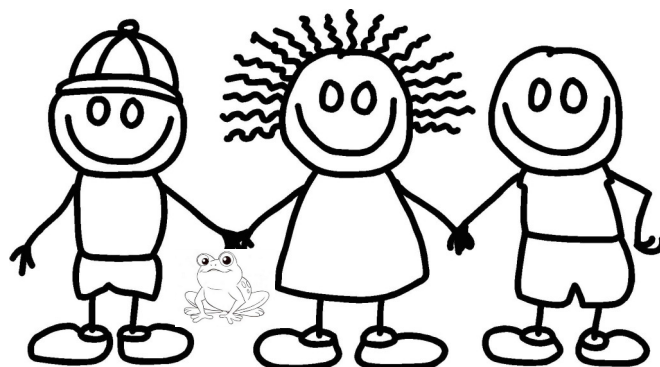
Are there any people interested in reviving the Oakley Show which was once a popular annual event?

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

If you are interested please contact

j.weston370@btinternet.com

or denisehookham@hotmail.com



Oakley Toddlers

Monday 9.30-11.00am

term time only in the Village Hall

£1.50 crafts/toys/singing/drinks & snacks

Oakley Toddlers has been running successfully over the last two decades, providing a warm friendly place for mums, dads, grandparents and carers to meet and play with their children. The Committee are always keen to hear from anyone interested in volunteering to help run the group, so if you are looking for a way to help in the local community please contact us at oakleytoddlers@hotmail.co.uk or drop in to meet us!

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Brownies

The Big Brownie Birthday 1914 to 2014

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

Are you an ex-Brownie from


1st Oakley Brownie pack?

You are invited to a Tea Party

on 20th June 6.30 to 7.30

Lincroft School Hall

Please let us know if you can come by emailing lindy@chalker.eclipse.co.uk

Oakley Gardens
Open Day 
29th June 1.30 to 5.30pm



**15 Fantastic Gardens Open in support
of St Marys Church Oakley**

**Brilliant refreshments at Fox Covert
Westfield Road.**

**Minibus round the Village, please
wave down.**

**Mini gardens and Toilets
at the Methodist Church**

The gardeners have been working very hard to make them brilliant. Dorothy has redone her garden. Pat has made two new borders plus a new bridge.

Oakley House garden is open as are other beautiful gardens. Please come and enjoy a lovely afternoon.

TICKETS

Tickets will be available before the day at St Mary's Church.

Please also support their Sunday afternoon teas.

On the day at Town Farm Carpark, St Mary's Church, 33 Station Road and Foxcovert



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Farm and Country – Summer 2014

By John Saunders, College Farm

Spring is here at last after one of the wettest winters we have known, but everywhere soon dried up and the crops look well. The spring corn sown in March is coming up fairly quickly which means the soil is not too cold. Our cattle were all turned out to grass on April 2nd having had their injections for blackleg and worms. It is always a good sight to see the cows and calves run out of the yards, where they have been all winter, to the fields - all very excited. They run around for about half an hour until they settle down. Most of the cows calves are big enough to go across the river at the back of the farm, but we do have five cows which calved at the end of March. These calves are too small to cross the river so we keep these in the paddock by the house.

At the end of February, Peter Kendall who farms in Bedfordshire at Eyeworth stood down as president of the NFU (National Farmers Union) after eight years. I think it is widely recognised he has been one of the best Presidents the NFU has had for a long time. The president has to retire after eight years. The Young Farmers Rally was on their farm in May which is always a good day out for all the family.

Fires are always a big risk on any farm with all the hay and straw about and we are always hearing of straw stacks being set on fire all over East Anglia, mainly by vandals. It is just over fifty years since we had the farm fire shown in the photographs which was started by a spark from a caravan where we had casual staff living. All the hay and straw was lost in the dutch barn but we managed to get the combine out which was in the end bay. The river was flooded at the time so the fire brigade were not short of water and a lot of the bales of hay were pushed into the river and floated down stream still on fire, this made quite a spectacle when it got dark. Some good came out of it because the corrugated sheets were getting rusty and loose so we had a new asbestos roof which would not be allowed today!

Last night we had a meeting to close our Bedfordshire Dairy Herds competition which has been running for over sixty years. In the past every village had two or three dairy herds. We are now down to eight herds in Bedfordshire and only three will enter the competition so we have no other option. We did join up with Cambridgeshire but their herds all sold up.

The supermarkets are using milk as a loss leader and selling milk far below the cost of production.

They say they are standing the loss, but it will not be long before they start cutting the price to the producer and more herds will go out of production.

John Saunders



Dutch Barn Fire 1964



Browns Wood and Judges Spinney Friends Group



If you would like to more information on upcoming tasks, the Friends Group, or have any comments you wish to make, please contact us at:
prioryrangers@bedford.gov.uk 01234 211182 or
ed.burnett@bedford.gov.uk 01234 228759

Jane Moore,
Country Park Ranger,
Bedford Borough Council,

Oakley Allotments

This spring has been far better than many of us expected and, just maybe, it will be a bumper year for allotment gardening.

Everywhere, flowering plants and trees have taken advantage of the wet and mild weather to produce flowers in vast quantities. Even the bluebells, which were stressed and relatively sparse last year, had reached perfection before Easter and in numbers I don't recall ever seeing before.

We have recently enjoyed a drier spell of weather. Yes, it's looking really good out there, so let us hope that our garden plants respond just as well.

We recently held a working party at the allotments and a small army of tenants turned up to tackle some of the outstanding maintenance work. One (who shall remain nameless) was so keen that he (or she) turned up on Easter Sunday by mistake but made the best of it and started work on the hedge anyway. So, special thanks to P.B. (nameless but not initial-less).

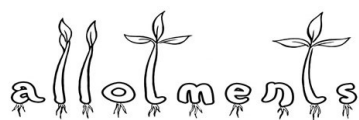
On the correct Sunday, grass was cut, the shed base laid and the water harvester roof repaired. We hope that our shed will be available soon for meetings and other activities and that it will have a water-harvesting function as well as a solar power source.

With its own power source the shed should provide a base for monitoring incursions by the deer and I hope that we may then be able to experiment with various means of deterring them.

As I write this we have 2 half-plots available for rent so please contact me if you are interested in taking an allotment on.

We are planning to open the allotments as part of Oakley Gardens Open Day on the 29th of June, so please come along and have a look at what has been achieved in just a few years.

Steve Nicholas



Oakley Gardening Club

We are in our Summer Mode at the gardening club and we have already been to visit one spectacular garden at Wootton, Beds. We are looking forward to a coach outing to Wisbech, taking in the Elgoods Brewery garden, then on to Peckover House on Wednesday 18th June. There will be a further visit to a garden in Pav-enham in July. We will finish off our Summer visits by taking in various Members' gardens on 28th July, ending with a drinks and nibbles session!

If this all sounds a highly entertaining programme – then we are always on the look-out for new members, as well as welcoming our regular ones!

We recommence our programme of talks on 15th September 2014. We meet at 7.45pm at the Methodist Church. Do come along and see what we get up to! A warm welcome awaits!

Dorothy Hendry



Joshua

Orphan & Community Care



Let me introduce Owen Banda. A charismatic young man, Owen comes from a family of three. His father is unemployed and his mother earns less than £12 a month fetching water and cooking on a local building site. With their monthly earnings less than the cost of school fee's Owens parents were unable to support him at Secondary School. He was identified by the local Head Teacher who approached Joshua for sponsorship on his behalf. Thankfully the "Young Ones" support came at just the right time and Owen was able to continue his education.

Although life is hard for Owen and his family, he gets up every day a 5.30 to collect water from the well and after school he has to collect firewood, things are much better than they were before he was sponsored. His favourite subject is English and in the future he would like to be a mechanic. "Thank you for sponsoring me to do my secondary education. It is important and will help sustain us in the future."

Joshua only exists because of support from individuals and groups and without it we simply wouldn't be able to help thousands of HIV/AIDS orphans, vulnerable children and their communities every year. Thank you.

If you want to find out more about volunteering with Joshua click here. Or if you want to find out about sponsoring a student e-mail heather@joshuainmalawi.org.uk



Oakley's Neighbourhood Plan

Our Village in 2032

First of all a big thank you to the residents who have volunteered their time and expertise to work with the Parish Council to take the plan forward.

The objectives of the previous Oakley Village Plan are now complete. This plan was your statement on how you saw the village developing to 2011. I am pleased to report that the allotments have happened, as have affordable housing plus all the other objectives.

We now need to look forward to 2032. This plan is even more important than the village plan as it will become a statutory document and therefore can be used as policy for all planning applications. It will give us the opportunity to lobby organisations so that we can improve the services for our village. The plan will also have a statement on the landscape around us and the open spaces in the village. We will be able to use it to protect our village in its setting.

The committee have met several times, applied for a grant and have worked up a timetable to complete the plan.

The last village plan was your plan and your vision.

Your plan needs your vision.

There will be a series of meetings with the schools, with organisations and a village wide questionnaire. If you are a village organisation we are happy to come and spend time with you. Please contact Ann Paice
maea@paice31.fsnet.co.uk

The Launch Event is the **12th and 13th of September 2014** at the Village Hall. There will be activities for you and your family to participate in as well as refreshments.

Please keep this date free and come and join us. It should be fun as well as serious. It is so important that we have your ideas.

A Date for Your Diary

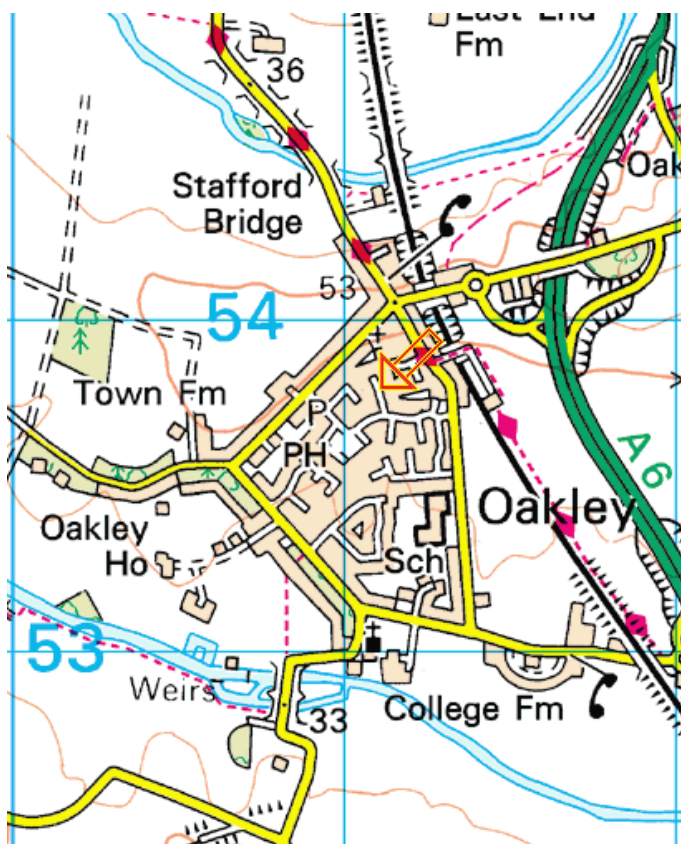
Come and have your say on the future development of Oakley at the

Oakley Neighbourhood Development Plan Launch Event

Friday 12th September 3.00pm – 7.00pm &
Saturday 13th September 11.00am – 3.00pm

in the Village Hall

See September Newsletter and website
www.oakleyvillage.co.uk for details



The committee is

Pat Olney (Chair)

Ann Paice (Clerk)

Richard Baily

Gerry Sansom

Jane Walker

Parish Councillors

Tony Atkinson

Rob Musgrave

Nicholas Saunders

Justin Wickersham

OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Summary of Accounts - Financial Year ending 31 March 2014

Opening Bank Balances

Natwest current account	£26,224.53
NatWest reserve account	£24,431.22
NatWest bonus account	£40,689.31
NatWest Treasurer's Account	£140,000.00
Total	£231,345.06

Receipts

	£
Precept	£50,096.00
Agency Services (Grasscutting - Bedford BC)	£1,171.33
Allotments (rent)	£758.00
Glass cullet sale from Bottlebank	£2,082.17
Grants (apple crusher)	£162.50
Newsletter & Directory advertisements and sponsorship	£2,950.00
Wayleave	£53.01
S. 106 receipts (for sport & leisure)	£12,744.20
Interest	£6,054.49
VAT recovered from 2012/13	£3,087.61
Sub total	£79,159.31

Payments

	£
Administration (includes training)	£1,881.30
Insurance	£1,631.97
Grass Cutting	£5,499.96
Grounds Maintenance	£1,610.30
Wages, Tax, National Insurance, Clerk's Expenses	£13,682.41
S. 137 Payments (grants to local organisations)	£4,767.00
Capital Spending (boules pitch & bus shelter)	£8,637.00
Cricket Field & Riverside (rent)	£900.00
Allotments	£760.77
Bottlebank	£799.00
Community Orchard	£382.50
Christmas lights	£3,329.00
Linch Furlong	£580.00
Maintenance (bedding plants & bollard locks)	£100.00
Play area (inspections & repairs)	£1,499.95
Publicity (Newsletter, Directory, Website)	£5,816.00
VAT refund due on above payments	£3,349.97
Sub total	£55,227.13

Closing Bank Balances

NatWest Bank current balance at 31/03/14	£13,083.95
NatWest Bank reserve balance at 31/03/14	£31,106.10
NatWest Bank bonus account 31/03/14	£71,117.19
NatWest Bond (of which £131,920 ring fenced)	£140,000.00
less uncleared payments	£30.00
Total cash in hand	£255,277.24

Total	£310,504.37
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Total	£310,504.37
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£113,500 plus £15,000 interest of the total cash in hand figure is ring fenced for maintenance of The Furlong once responsibility is transferred to the Parish Council and £3,259.90 for maintenance of the High Street bus shelter.

OAKLEY WI

We meet at Oakley Village Hall on the second Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm. You are welcome to attend as a visitor or as a new member.

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

For further information phone 823788 or 824703 Anne McNab



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Steve's Snippet No.10

(Now into double figures!)

Rhubarb is quite easy to grow, and features quite widely in allotments and gardens. In the United Kingdom, the first rhubarb of the year is harvested by candlelight in forcing sheds - where all other light is excluded - a practice that produces a sweeter, more tender stalk. These sheds are dotted around the noted "Rhubarb Triangle" of Wakefield, Leeds, and Morley.

Julia and I recently went for lunch with some friends and were delighted to be served a rhubarb cobbler with a difference. Whilst we like rhubarb a lot it can become a bit run-of-the-mill but not if you add orange zest and/or a few slices of orange.

If you haven't already discovered this then I recommend it - it lifted the flavour to a new level!



Steve Nicholas

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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Want to keep fit?

Want to try something new?

Want to learn to defend yourself?

Try

Tang Soo Do

A traditional Korean Martial Art

Suitable for all ages and abilities

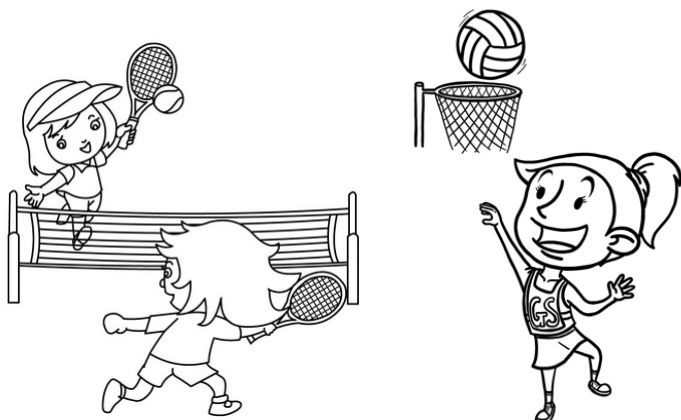
Beginners Welcome

First lesson FREE!

Lincroft Middle School, Oakley
Mondays 6:00pm – 7:30pm
Contact David Roughley (2nd Dan) on
07526950686 for more information

Beginners classes start
9th & 16th June 2014





Calling tennis and netball players

I'm sure you will have seen the fabulous new all-weather courts at Lincroft school at the bottom of Station Road. They now have 4 tennis and netball courts available all year round. The school have asked if anyone in Oakley or surrounding villages would like to start a club or play outside of school opening hours including the holidays, please can they contact the school directly.

Tel. 822147



Oakley Carpet Bowls Club

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

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

We meet at Oakley Village Hall

Every Wednesday Evening 7.30pm to 10.00pm

See our posters on the noticeboards




**Young people
Aged 12 to 16**

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

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

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

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





BADMINTON



Get fit whilst socialising at
Oakley badminton club 😊

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

7:30-9PM

LINCROFT SCHOOL

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

Oakley Pre-school news



This term has been spent continuing our fund raising including social events for all families in the village. We have already held a hugely popular family disco in the village hall and a mother's day activity morning with pampering treats for mums and grandmas and fun for the children and their dads and granddads. We haven't forgotten that dads like a treat too so we will be holding a Father's day bacon butty morning on Saturday 14th June where there will be time for dads to enjoy relaxing with the papers whilst their families are enjoying themselves playing in the pre-school garden and activity room. All families are welcome, you don't have to have someone at pre-school and even if you haven't got any young children please call in to enjoy some refreshments and chat with other people in the village.



Over the Easter holiday we organised an Easter egg hunt around the village. The post office kindly sold clue sheets for us when we closed for the Easter break and as a result we had a large number of non pre-school families taking part in the fun. The weather was sunny and the families who joined in reported that they had great fun, despite some eggs going missing due to the over enthusiastic efforts of villagers taking part in the community litter pick on Easter Saturday. Everyone who completed the hunt and handed in their clue sheet was rewarded with a chocolate egg thanks to a donation of 150 Spongebob and Hello Kitty eggs from First Capital Connect. Thank you to them for making the hunt even more fun.

This term we will be busy preparing our older children for moving up to lower school. We are always sad to lose the children we have been seeing most days for several years. It is wonderful to see how ready they are for school and to know that most of them will be moving up to school in a group with their friends which helps to make the transition even easier for them.

If you would like a place at Oakley Pre-school please let me know as soon as possible. We don't have any spaces this term but we do have some vacancies in the autumn term for Oakley children. You can download an application form from our web site at www.oakleypreschool.org.uk, email admin@oakleypreschool.org.uk or ring us on 826452 during term time.



A letter from Revd Linda

My dear Friends

Pentecost is an event which occurred over 2000 years ago: the Birthday of the Church. A world changing event, the day the Church began, the first Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit! We pray that the same Holy Spirit who came down upon the disciples huddled together in the Upper Room will descend on us too. Jesus' disciples were meeting together to celebrate the Feast of Weeks, the Jewish Harvest Festival. This was also known as Pentecost because it took place 50 days after the Jewish festival called Passover.

The disciples were overwhelmed with joy. They no longer felt destitute without Jesus' presence. They then sensed him with them more deeply and closer than ever before. As they shared a meal together there was suddenly a sound like a gale force wind and they were transformed. It was a tremendous religious experience for all of them. They knew that the Spirit of God which Jesus had promised had come to them. They were now confident to preach the good news of Jesus Christ to all the people in Jerusalem.

We know what happened on the first Pentecost as the facts are recorded in the Acts of the Apostles. The gift of the Holy Spirit fifty days after the resurrection of Jesus from the dead was an outpouring of God's love. God is love and love is his first gift containing all others, as the apostle Paul so eloquently affirms: "God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us." What does Pentecost mean? It means that God's love changes everything. God's love lives in us, not outside of us; it lives, breathes and resides within each one of us, when we let it.

This month four people from this Benefice are to be confirmed into the church. They will renew their baptismal promises which were made on their behalf when they were infants and they will affirm their faith in Jesus Christ. The Bishop invokes the Holy Spirit to come and rest upon them as he lays hands on them as was the custom of the apostles in the apostolic era. He says "Confirm, O Lord, your servant with your Holy Spirit." At the heart of the sacrament is the giving of God's power: his Holy Spirit. It also marks full membership of the church. May we all renew our baptismal promises and pray for a renewing of God's Holy Spirit in our churches as we welcome, Alex, Callum, Peter and Sally-Ann into the Church.

We also welcome the staff, choir and pupils of our Church school to the Pentecost service at St. Owen's Church, Bromham, on Sunday 8th June at 10.30. With all blessings
Revd Linda



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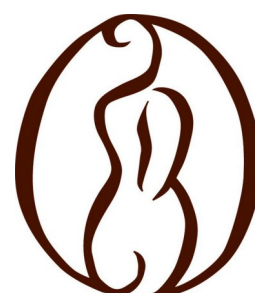
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Oakley Sports & Social Club

Family & Sports Bar

<http://oakleyssc.com>

Forthcoming Events

- Saturday 4th June** Rowley Moore Tournament. Football 9am – 3pm. Food all day. Disco in the evening with a BBQ
- Thursday 12th June** World Cup Starts – All England games LIVE. Food available.
- Saturday 26th July** Oakley Bike Festival. Oakley Motorcycle Club's first festival. Food, drink, stalls and, of course, plenty of motorbikes!

Join us over the summer for refreshments and hot food – see our website for details!

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

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

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

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

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

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

Get in touch tel: 01234 824977 EMAIL: info@oakleyssc.com

<http://oakleyssc.com/>