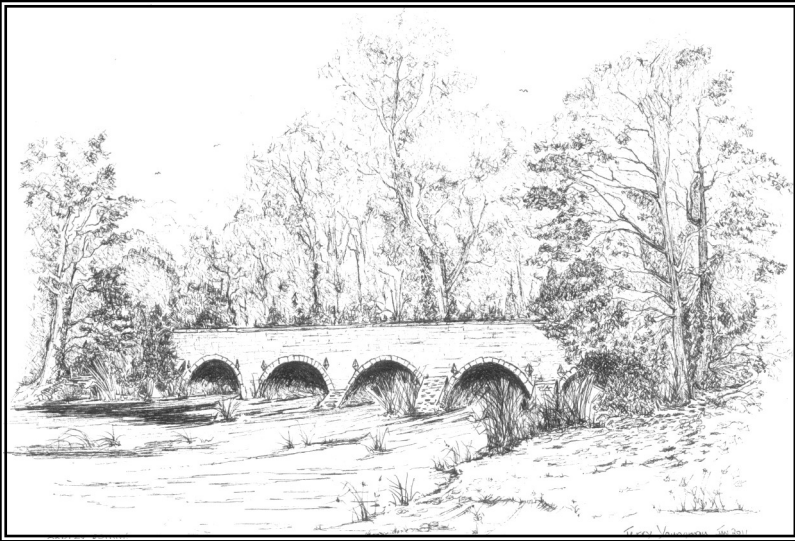
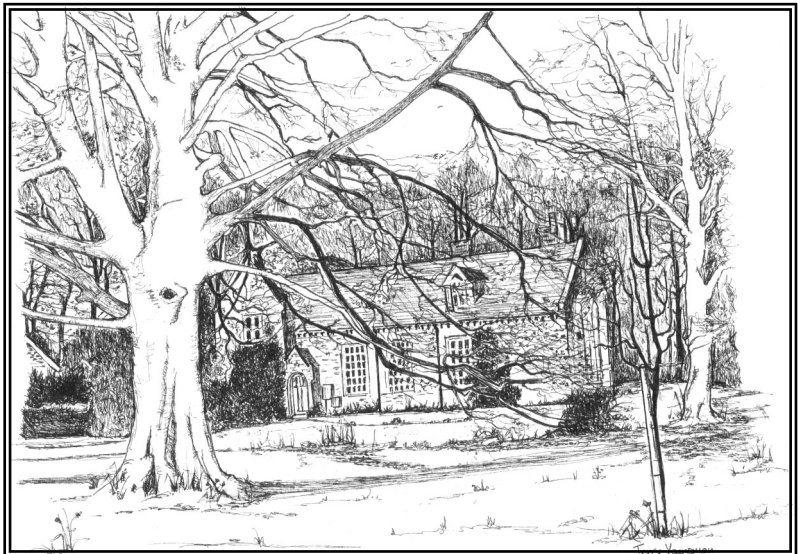
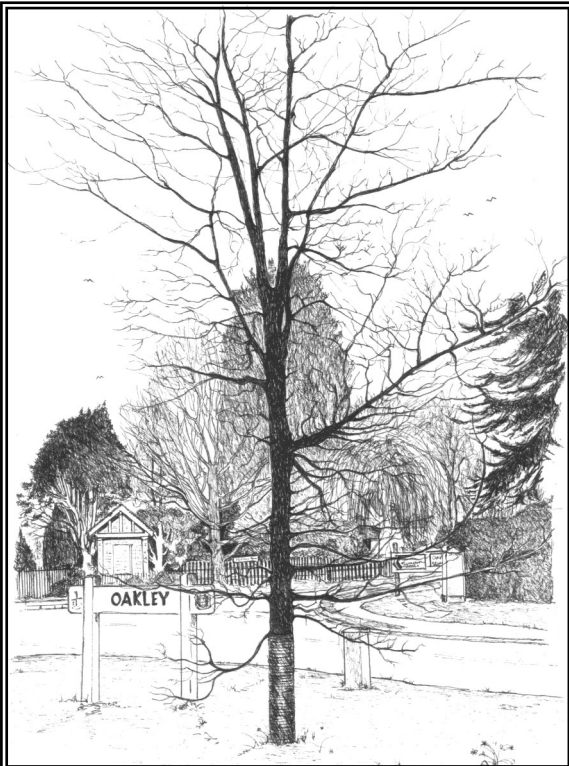




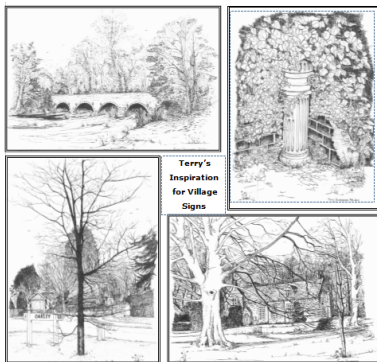
# Oakley Newsletter



## Terry's Inspiration for Village Signs



**Summer 2017**  
Number 71



## Front Cover Inspirations 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 Autumn issue is 25 August 2017.  
The publishing date is 1st September.

### Advertising rates

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Loose inserts, any size up to A4: £100  
Invoices will be issued by Ann Paice, with payment to Oakley Parish Council.

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Bedford MK40 3RL

### Hello Children

look out for  
10 more



# Parish Council News Spring 2017

By PAUL PHILLIPS (Chair)

Hello again and welcome to our summer edition of the Oakley Newsletter. The quality and content of our newsletter goes from strength to strength and I think the spring edition will be very hard to beat, but let's keep trying. I know the Editor is always looking for interesting and newsworthy articles that are of relevance to our readership. Summer is just around the corner and I hope we have a good one.

## Community Speed Watch

Oakley Parish Council is introducing a Community Speed Watch because we are committed to make all of our roads and their users as safe as possible. At the present time we have at least 12 volunteers from the village who will be attending a training session at Bedfordshire Police Headquarters on 27 July 2017 and hopefully within a short time of that date you will see Speed Watch in operation. We will never turn volunteers away so it is still not too late to offer your services.

## Lorry Watch

For some while now the Parish Council has been concerned about the frequency and size of lorries trying to negotiate the crossroads to and from Highfield Road and travelling up and down Pavenham Road. Many of these very big lorries are not suitable for our village roads and are creating a potential danger to our children, in particular many of whom use Pavenham Road. The majority of these lorries, we believe, are travelling to and from the Distribution Warehouse at Pax Hill Farm in Pavenham. Bedford Borough Planners have recently given planning permission for a period of two years for this distribution warehouse despite this Parish Council raising our concerns on the grounds of road safety and that we believe distribution centres/warehouses such as the one in Pavenham should be close to major road networks and NOT in the middle of rural communities.

Continued on page 3

## OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

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It is our intention from now, and for an indefinite period, to monitor lorry movements through Oakley and particularly in Highfield Road and Pavenham Road. [We accept that genuine delivery lorries e.g. builders merchants and the like have an absolute right to travel these roads.] We would be grateful if Oakley residents could be our eyes and ears. If you see such large vehicles, whether they be creating a problem or not, then please obtain as many details as you are able such as location, time, date, registration number, name of company, direction of travel etc. A photograph would be very useful too. Any information obtained should be sent to Ann Paice, Clerk to the Parish Council or any Councillor, details of whom can be found in the front of this Newsletter. Additionally, with the cooperation of our Community Speed Watch volunteers, we may be able to incorporate lorry watch into that scheme too. Once again the safety of our residents is paramount.

### Village Signs

For the last 12 months or more you will have read about our desire to replace the village signs at each of the village entrances. We were very pleased that the new signs were put into place before the end of March this year. We are happy with the finished products and what makes the signs so very special is the fact that each of the four signs shows two reproductions of drawings/paintings of landmarks in this village. Each one is the work of three talented and highly respected Oakley residents namely Terry Youngman, the late Robin Olney and former Parish Councillor Michael Taylor. We are so pleased that Oakley residents and visitors to our village can see these works of art.



Thank you again for your support and for reading my input. On your behalf I would like to say a very big thank you to every one of our Parish Councillors and also our Clerk. As always a big thank you is also extended to Bill Chalker for his sterling work as Newsletter Editor.

I hope you all have a good summer and happy holidays.

Paul Phillips  
Chairman

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# Art Summer School and Friday Adult Art Class

Art and Design Summer School for children 8yrs plus running from Monday 4-8<sup>th</sup> August 9.30-3.30 at the Old School. Flexible attendance from whole week to days or half days. Helps to improve grade profiles. Please pre book, details below.

North Beds Arts is now running a new art group for adults on a Friday morning at the Old school on Lovell Road. We are a small friendly group and currently looking for new members. No prior experience required, just a willingness to learn.

All aspects of art and design are taught, with a focus on the basic elements such as line, tone, colour, composition, perspective, design development, drawing, painting, printmaking and some aspects of 3D i.e. ceramics, foam board modeling and other crafts such as crochet and felt making as requested. Students currently studying plant drawing and landscape.



North Beds Arts is currently in its fifth year and is very proud of current and former students who have won prizes locally and Nationally and see students getting A grades in examinations. Past student currently nominated for National Clothing Award from 800 selected applicants.

Classes operate from Harrold, Oakley, Milton Ernest and local Schools.

After School Club running at Lincroft for Ks2 – Mondays and Ks3- Thursdays.

All current and past students are invited to submit work for our Fifth Birthday Summer Show held in Bedford between 18 and 23 July. Workshops in painting and drawing also held that week, please book in advance.

Some students have stated attendance has helped with health issues by having a new focus and has certainly helped confidence and making new friends. Social events and trips throughout the year and seasonal activities.

Contact Leigh Hopkinson for further information and booking;

[leighmelanie7000@aol.com](mailto:leighmelanie7000@aol.com) or (text initially for return call) 07532456871 Fully insured and DBS checked and 25 years experience teaching at all levels



## **Borough Council News**

**by Cllr Pat Olney**

### **Borough Local Plan Consultation**

Thank you to everyone who has responded to this consultation. This plan when adopted is extremely important for everyone in Bedford Borough. We have a local plan that lasts until 2021. This means that when any developer puts in for planning permission, they should adhere to the policies in that plan. The Borough can say where development should go. Unfortunately for various reasons; the need for houses with a growing population; the fact that Luton has little land left for expansion; London house prices, all mean that there is pressure for Bedford to build more houses. In 2021 the present plan will be completed and the Borough will need to have a new plan in place.

Bedford Borough now needs a Local Plan to ensure that development is sustainable. The Borough decided to look forward to 2035. It is considered that the plan will need to make provision for 8,000 + houses. The Borough decided they should ask for developers to put forward proposals for possible Garden Villages to relieve the pressure on the urban area and the villages. Three of those villages are next to the A6 which is why Oakley and Stevington Parish Councils have made you aware of the proposals so that you could respond with your views.

All the responses will be collated and will inform the draft Borough Local Plan. That plan will be consulted on around Christmas, feedback again will be considered and then the final plan will be sent to an Inspector who will hold an independent meeting to agree the plan. The aim is to get the plan finally approved in the spring of 2019.

It is extremely important that the Borough does have a strong sustainable local plan to which any future development will need to conform. This was your first opportunity to influence that plan. At the end of the year you will have a further occasion to put forward your views.

Thank you again for all your responses.

### **Road Closures**

Milton Keynes Council have informed us that the A422 will be closed from the 30th June to the 12th July 2017 between Astwood and Chichely.

The Causeway between Oakley and Pavenham will be closed from the end of July through to September please see the separate article on page 14.

### **Street Light upgrade in Oakley**

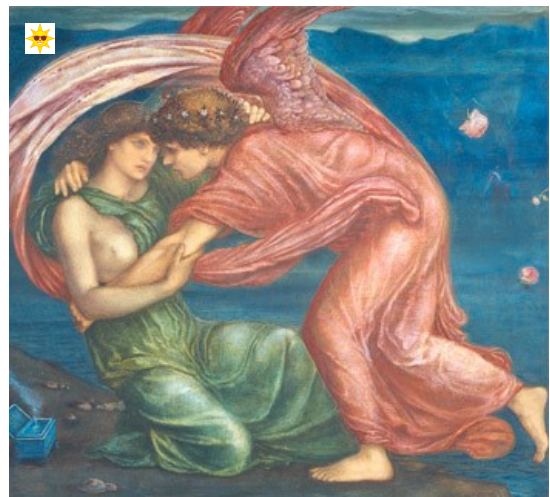
The upgrade should be complete by the time this newsletter is published. All the lights should be operating correctly and switched off between 12 midnight and 5.30am.

### **The Higgins**

Two new exhibitions at the Higgins Museum.



Blue Sky Thinking is about the Short Brothers' Airships from 1917, the R31 at the Cardington Sheds and the airships that are being developed today.



Romance and Rebellion – The Art of the Victorian. How different styles developed alongside one another. There will be paintings by Edward Burne-Jones, Rossetti, Whistler and Richard Dadd amongst other artists.

There will also be a full summer holiday programme for children plus other community events. Please go to the website, [www.thehigginsbedford.org.uk](http://www.thehigginsbedford.org.uk)

Pat Olney Tel. 01234 824384

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

**Come  
fly with us!**



**Oakley Air Cadets**, based in Bromham, prides itself on being a small friendly squadron that offers exciting opportunities to young people (aged 12 and in Year 8 and above). Contact us for details of the next recruitment evening.

The cadets follow a national programme throughout their whole cadet career which enables them to learn the basic principles of flying, gain confidence and most importantly have fun whilst learning these new skills. When the cadets have gone through their mandatory training, at 16 years old they will gain a Level 2 BTEC in Aviation which is recognised by employers and education establishments. The cadets also have the opportunity to go flying, play music, play and compete in sports, go shooting, visit different RAF stations, achieve a Duke of Edinburgh award, gain a St John Ambulance first aid qualification and go on adventure training courses.

Sgt Ella Day has been in the Air Cadets for over 5 years: "I have enjoyed every part of it. One of my favourite things about being in cadets is that I have met so many new people and made lots of friends. So far I have gained various qualifications such as a Level 2 BTEC in Aviation, an Instructional Methods qualification which allows me to teach cadets and I attended an Advanced Drill Course which allowed me to instruct the cadets in foot drill effectively. I have also passed a St John Ambulance Activity First Aid course, which allows me to teach cadets their Youth First Aid qualification. There's just too much to mention as I've made the most of the opportunities I've had."

To register or for more information on the recruitment evening,  
please email [2462@aircadets.org](mailto:2462@aircadets.org).

## Guiding in North Beds



This recent spell of beautiful weather has got our Rainbow, Brownie and Guide units thinking about plans for the summer term with lots of opportunities for outdoor activities and fun. The Guides, along with Clapham Brownies, visited Gallones ice cream parlour in Bedford and made (and ate) their own ice cream which was the best they had ever tasted! They have also been practicing sucker archery and learning about "helping dogs", when they had a visit from Canine Partners. Whilst the weather was not so good the Guides found out about opportunities to work for Guiding's highest award and become a "Queen's Guide". They also learnt about the Duke of Edinburgh's award which can also be gained through Guiding.

After completing their latest challenge badge "I'm a Brownie, get me out of here!", which involved lots of jungle fun, Oakley Brownies have been working on their healthy heart badge. They are also planning their Scarecrow entry for Oakley Carnival. If you would like more information about Rainbows, Brownies, Guides or indeed volunteering with Guiding, look out for them on the field on 15<sup>th</sup> July and have a chat. The girls are also working on a special treat to give to their dads on Father's Day but my lips are sealed!!

Rainbow groups in Oakley and Clapham have seen lots of girls make their Promise as the youngest members of Girlguiding. They said their Promise confidently watched by proud parents and friends. Afterwards everyone enjoyed tea, squash and chocolate cake. They are looking forward to lots of outdoor games and fun in the park. North Beds Trefoil Guild (Guiding for adults) meet once a month for fun and friendship and in July they will be having a go at "haybox" and other unusual methods of cooking. Please e-mail Jane on [div.nbeds@bedsguiding.org.uk](mailto:div.nbeds@bedsguiding.org.uk) or visit [www.bedsguiding.org.uk](http://www.bedsguiding.org.uk) for more information about any of the Guiding groups in Oakley and North Beds, including Trefoil Guild, or to have a chat about volunteering. We look forward to hearing from you.

Jane Thompson, District Commissioner



## Spring at college farm has been a busy one...

I am writing this on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May with it pouring with rain outside just like it has done for the last few days. A week ago every farmer was hoping and praying for rain as we had endured one of the driest periods on record. The crops were beginning to suffer but luckily and hopefully it has arrived in time.

Spring at College farm has been a busy one. Many people have been asking me about the tree felling that took place around the bridges a few months ago. This was to harvest the bat willow trees which will be processed and made into cricket bats. Around 75 trees were felled and next winter over 100 will be planted to replace these. It takes about 16 years for the trees to grow to the right size and each time they are felled we hope to plant 25% more.

Our spring drilling campaign finished on Tuesday just before the rain came. This spring nearly 1,000 acres of drilling has been done which has kept us busy. Alongside this we have been spraying, fertilising and completing lots of other jobs.



## Charlie drilling spring barley & "Springer"

Calves have been born and some are now out in the fields. It is a great sight to see them all running around in the evening. Laura has started naming some of them, my favourite is 'Springer' as he has similar markings to a springer spaniel.

As we approach the end of May we have started silage making. This process involves mowing the lush green grass, leaving it a day or two to wilt and then baling it up and wrapping it in plastic to keep the air out. This then conserves it for the winter. When you open it in 6 months' time it will hopefully smell quite sweet and the cattle will go mad for it. It is a similar process to pickling.

As the days get hotter and longer we will then move onto hay making. This is where we cut the grass and leave it to dry before baling it and it

doesn't need wrapping in plastic. The feed quality generally is not as good and you will need good weather and some luck on your side to get it made well.

Harvest is not many weeks away with the ears out on the barley and just starting to show on the wheats, they say 8 weeks from ear to shear!

Henry Saunders

## The weather is turning warmer and days longer which can only mean one thing.....harvest is nearly upon us!

Farmers love harvest - spending time on their combine admiring their crop and the hours of hard work they have put into producing it. It definitely is something to be very proud of, however for a farmer's wife it means one thing - goodbye to your husband for two months! Days are long so I often take dinner out and make sure everything is running smoothly.

As Henry has mentioned the cows have started calving and I have helped calve a couple when needed although the majority have calved on their own, one down the river meadow! They seem to be enjoying the warmer weather and they all have their unique personalities.

In addition to farming, I have also been working



on my latest painting which is a commission for Pat Olney of a beautiful view in the village which you may recognise?

## Recognise the view?

A selection of my paintings and photographs are now up at the Bedford Arms pub in the village. Gallery is also open Thursdays and Fridays from 10am at the farmhouse. If you are passing feel free to stop by. If you would like to commission me to paint a picture or take a photograph then please give me a call on 07815 045272.

Until next time...

Laura Saunders



## OAKLEY BELLS

**Ding dong merrily on high  
in heaven the bells are ringing**



Just as well because as our young people go off to Uni there will not be much ringing in Oakley. Perhaps you may not mind not hearing them on a Sunday but it would be a different story if they are wanted to celebrate a wedding or any other family event.

**E'en so here below, below  
Let steeple bells be swungen**

Money was raised to celebrate the Queen's Silver Jubilee with a sixth bell, to have them fall silent because there is no one to ring them would make all the hard work go to waste and an ancient art disappear from Oakley.

**Pray you, dutifully prime  
Your matin chime, ye ringers**

It is not just youngsters we need, almost anyone can learn to ring. Of course, if you are too small you will have to wait a while to reach the ropes but an age in double figures is usually enough.

Ding dong merrily on high was written by George Ratcliffe Woodward 1848-1934 and was first published in 1924. Woodward took an interest in church bell ringing which no doubt aided him in writing it.

**Interested?** We practice (almost) every Friday from 8.00-9.15pm - just check with the Tower Captain Bill Sellars in case we have to cancel a Friday practice which rarely happens. Or if you hear us ring knock on the tower door (loudly) and we will let you come up and see what is going on. [thesellars@btinternet.com](mailto:thesellars@btinternet.com) Tel: 07980 745292



**Open Afternoon at Linch Furlong**

**18th June 2017**

**From 2.00pm**



**Come and find out about the plants  
and wildlife in the Nature Reserve.**

**Pat Knight**

**will be there to guide you around and tell you about the plants  
and wildlife that inhabit the reserve.**

Pat manages the nature reserve on behalf of the Parish Council.

Many of you already have seen the violets and cowslips that have been blooming this year. There will be different plants in flowers on June the 18th if you are lucky the orchids might be in flower. You could continue your afternoon with a walk to Browns Wood along the river.

Linch Furlong is on Pavenham Road and the entrance is by the junction with Willow Vale and opposite the allotments.



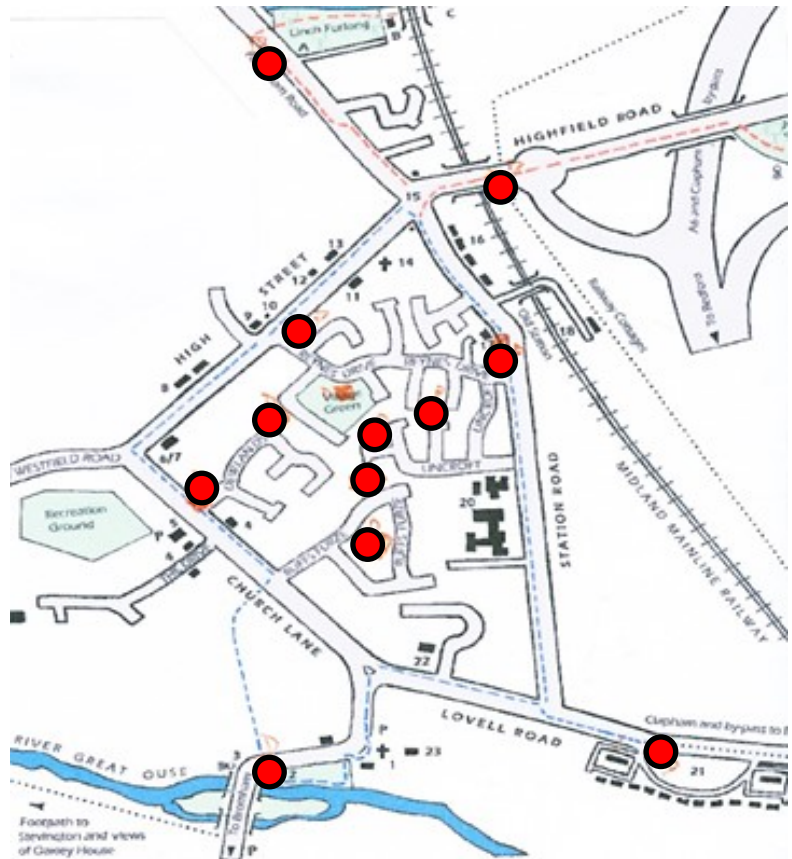
## The Phantom Sprayer

This is a map of where to find the dog waste bins in Oakley. The red spot marks the bin ●

You may also use the large waste bins or your own dustbin, so long as the waste is wrapped in a plastic bag.

Please do not use the small bins at the bus stops as these are for tickets and small rubbish only.

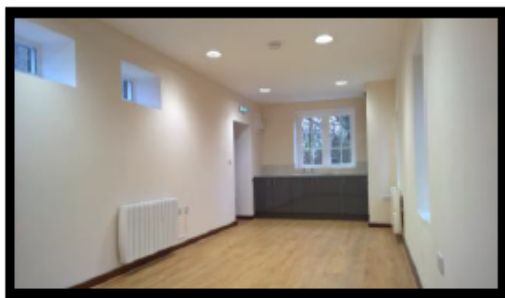
Please do not throw the full bags in the hedgerow or on the verge, this is worse than leaving the waste - it will not rot away



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## **Celebrating 25 years - White's Engineering... and the man behind the business**

There may be one or more people you have encountered who are particularly notable or memorable, for all good reasons - they may be talented, personable, adventurous, accomplished, admirable, ... the list goes on." - see Steve's Snippet 28 in this newsletter.

This seems appropriate for a man who probably wouldn't accept that he was worthy of inclusion in such a list. There are many people who would insist that he is very worthy. Paul White, you are most definitely worthy.

Paul comes across initially as quite a brusque character. His speech is considered and restrained and he seems passive. Daughter Nichola describes him as a man who won't use two words when one will do. Appearances can be deceptive - he hasn't practiced it for some time (he is always working or with his family) but Paul has a black belt in Taekwondo and is qualified to judge competitions. It may be that he can afford to be passive.

He is definitely a family man, first and foremost - the business is the means of providing for his family and they participate in its running: his wife, Ellie, works part-time in the office. Eldest daughter, Nichola is now full-time in the office. Paul's sister looks after the accounts side. He works long hours and, when he does return home, sits in his chair, half-watching TV with a laptop computer by his side (so he can continue working or dealing with community issues) and his Cocker spaniel, Ruby, at his feet. He is also quite passionate about his Koi carp.

Paul's program-to-watch is Emmerdale - probably a good choice for a country man with a commitment to his community as well as his business. Community work has included Oakley Sports and Social Club, although the added incentive of an occasional beer helped, and he was chairman of the club for a number of years. He has also been a member of the village hall management committee for even more years and is a parish councillor. Commitment is Paul's nature and he is always ready and able to assist with community matters, often providing maintenance and emergency repairs at little or no cost to the village.

White's engineering, started by Paul in 1992, has become a strong and ethical family business. It wasn't Paul's plan to follow this path at the start of his career. He was apprenticed as an agricultural engineer after leaving school at 16, with Bedfordia, then based at The Grange in Oakley. A grant from the village helped to provide his first

toolkit. He progressed to become the Service Manager of three depots for Bedfordia.

His last position with Bedfordia was as manager of their Leighton Buzzard depot. Following a change in company regime, Paul was made redundant and left Bedfordia. Shortly afterwards the depot caught fire and burnt to the ground - there was no connection, Paul says with a smile. In fact, Paul was still on good terms with the company and was permitted to continue using a small facility in Kempston for his own interests.


Those interests included looking after a small customer base of his own and a passion for tractor-pulling, something which he no longer participates in but which enabled him to demonstrate his considerable engineering skills at the time. However, as Paul explains, the agricultural-engineering world was changing with the advent of more complex technology, which was starting to exclude any who could not afford a big investment in diagnostic tools or who weren't main agents.

Following further disruption to farming practices after foot-and-mouth outbreaks and the BSE crisis, Paul began to concentrate on smaller, horticultural machines. Also, various manufacturers were looking for agents for their machines so he started to take on the agencies in this area for a number of well-known manufacturers.

Quiet and considered as ever, Paul has progressively grown White's Engineering by acquiring other businesses as they have closed, often due to their proprietors retiring. He has diversified further by taking-on automated gate systems and, most recently, Almond Garage Doors. Quite a change from the early days in 1992, when he moved to Oakley and set up the original workshop in a single shed at College Farm.

Thanks, are also due to James, Sarah, Steve, Dave and of course Terry, Paul's Dad, who used to do some driving for collections and deliveries (even though now in his eighties, he still helps out where he can). Everyone has helped to make the business what it is today.

The new lady in Paul's life is his granddaughter, Holly. Paul now takes Mondays off, trusting the running of the business to his very capable staff whilst younger daughter, Charlene, trusts the doting grandfather to look after her daughter.

As with all marriages, it is probably wise to let the wife have the last word - Ellie says that Paul is not what he appears to be at first meeting. He has a heart of gold and is probably too kind, often helping people when others wouldn't. Don't take advantage though! Still waters run deep, as the saying goes. Steve Nicholas 



## AMIGO

### Revised itinerary for the day out in Greenwich on Thursday 27th July, 2017

8.00 a.m. Leave Oakley Village Hall – A 39 seat-er coach has been booked

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

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

The cost of the tour is £10.00 a head.

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

2.25 p.m. A tour of the Painted Hall Ceiling at the Old Royal Naval College has been arranged. The party will need to be split into two groups with a twenty minute gap between the start of each tour.

The tours will begin at 2.40 p.m. and 3.00 p.m. and will last for approximately one hour. It will be necessary for people to arrive 15 minutes before the start of the tour at the Painted Hall i.e. by 2.25 p.m. for the earlier tour and by 2.45 p.m. for the later tour. By 4.00 p.m. the tours will have finished and there will be an opportunity for tea, coffee and cakes before boarding the coach at 4.30 p.m. for the journey home. The cost of the tour will be £10.00 a head which has already been paid for.

There will be 34 people on the tour, of which 30 people will be on the Painted Hall Ceiling Tour. I will be contacting those people individually with the "Health and Safety" requirements as passed to me by the Old Royal Naval College.

A very enjoyable evening was spent at the Bedford Arms Souldrop for a skittles match on Tuesday 25th April. After a closely fought game, the winner was Jean Savill. Many congratulations Jean.

The most recent event was a garden party held in the beautiful garden of Pat Olney on Tuesday 23rd May. The weather was perfect and a very enjoyable evening was spent by those who came.

John Dixon

WHITE'S  
ENGINEERING SERVICES

## 25th Anniversary Event

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White's Engineering is opening its doors on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of August. Please come along and see what Paul, his family and his staff have achieved in 25 years.

## NAO Cattery

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## Oakley Rural Day Centre

Oakley Rural is a centre for frail elderly people. It provides a nutritious meal, has activities for the people to enjoy, speakers on a variety of topics and much more. The Centre operates for 3 days a week except for a fortnight when it shuts down over Christmas.

The centre is a Charity and is for people in North Bedfordshire. We have had long serving Trustees and now some wish to retire.

Our centre is full of life and much laughter and is based at the Old School, Oakley surrounded by lovely grounds.

If you feel that you would like to become a trustee of this charity that provides a good time and companionship for our elderly people - please contact.

Pat Olney, the chairwoman by email  
pat.olney@btopenworld.com or by telephone  
01234 824384.

If you would like to visit please contact Lynne Godfrey by email [info@oakleyrural.org.uk](mailto:info@oakleyrural.org.uk) or phone 07733 227374



Pat Olney

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## Oakley Neighbourhood Plan

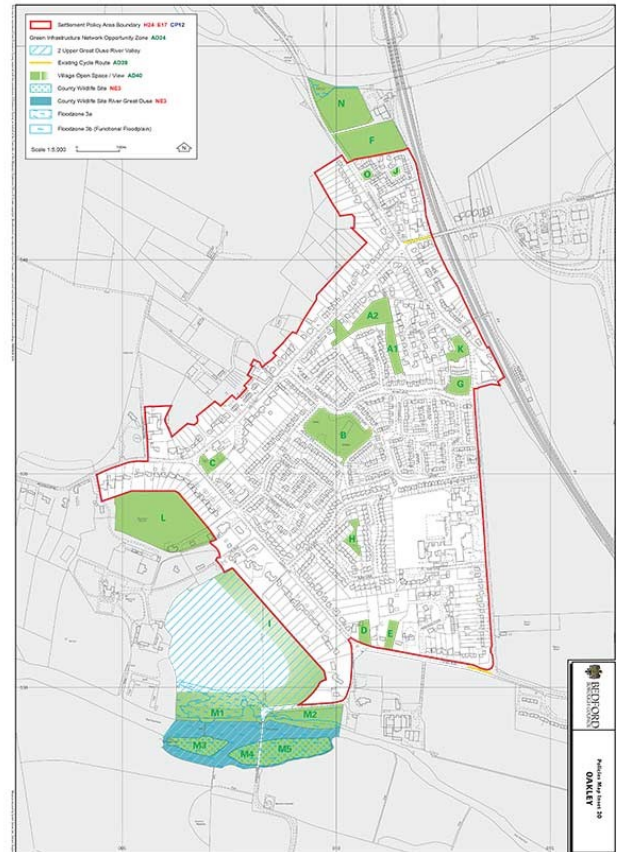
The Neighbourhood Plan group have been very busy working on the response to the Borough Council's Local Plan Consultation and that response will have gone in by June 9th.

The group will be finalising the policies after comments from the Borough planner who is working with neighbourhood plan groups.

The Parish Council with the NDP have decided that a consultant is needed to assess sites that have been proposed for development. Grant funding is being sourced for this work. Once the group have the information a possible site or sites will be presented to the Parish Council for their consideration. The borough agreed that, as we have made good progress with the plan, the Parish Council can decide where the 25 to 50 houses that have been allocated for Oakley should be situated.

We are still looking to have the Neighbourhood Plan in place by early next year.

Pat Olney Chairwoman



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# Oakley



# Show

## POST EARLY FOR CHRISTMAS

Never mind about Christmas for now, think post early for entry to the **OAKLEY SHOW**. Last year's reworking of the show garnered much interest and quite a few people said if it happened again they would enter.

Well the good news is that it is going to be in the Village Hall on SUNDAY, 17th SEPTEMBER.

The format remains the same but some of the classes have been altered to attract a variety of ages.

Please do not let it be the preserve of the older generation, many of whom lead very active lives, what with keep fit classes, adult education, coffee mornings and, of course, grandchild minding to name but a few activities.

Even if you do not put in an entry come along and see what other residents of Oakley have achieved. there will be refreshments available; cups of tea and home made cake (Ruth's ginger cake was greatly admired last year).

There is now an enlarged committee to help with, hopefully, a larger number of entries.

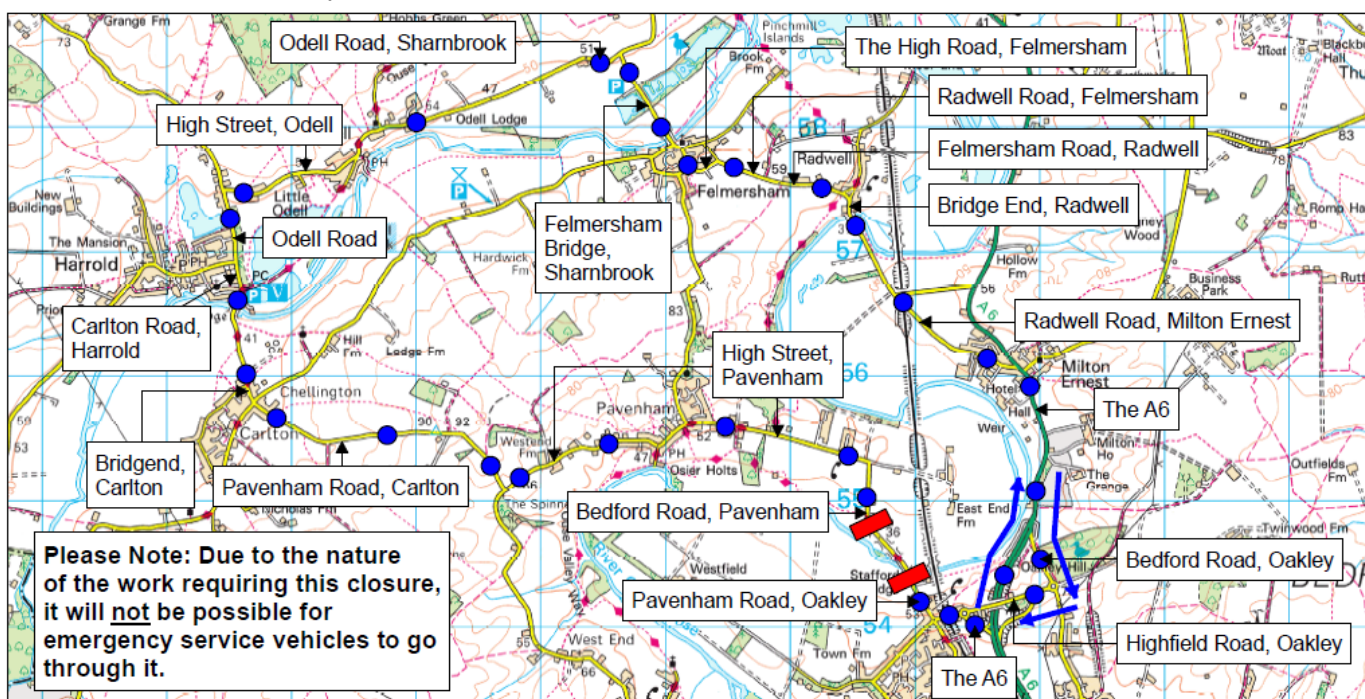
The committee: Julia Nicholas, Jean Weston, Wendy Gater, Yvonne Keyte, Sandra Frampton and Kiri Robinson. If you know any of these ladies and have a query about the show they will be very pleased to help .

Jean Weston

## Temporary Road Closure Pavenham Road Oakley Jul to Sept

Bridge reconstruction works at Stafford Causeway (Oakley to Pavenham) highlights the need to fully close Stafford Causeway (between the villages of Oakley and Pavenham) from 3<sup>rd</sup> July for approximately 12 weeks. The associated vehicular diversion route will be through the villages of Pavenham, Carlton, Harrold, Odell, Felmersham, Radwell and Milton Ernest (with a short section on the A6), as shown on the attached plan.

● = Alternative Routes for Vehicles





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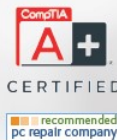
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## The Adventures of Figgy—continued

Well, now you know - the van was named "Figgy" as I leant over a rail on the upper deck of the Mal-laig to Armadale ferry, contemplating the car-deck and my little van nestled amongst much larger (dare I say, ostentatious) vehicles. This was to be a few days in the future though - for now the van was just "the van".

In Figgy you are never far from the great outdoors, I mean, really, you never are more than inches away. Then, in Scotland why would you not want to be outdoors - midges, rain, sleet and lively breezes excepted, of course.

I have encountered the notorious Scottish midge during previous visits but my timing was perfect and they were nowhere to be seen (or felt). I had been lightly nibbled at Kielder on the trip up when I had inadvertently invited some seemingly innocuous and nearly microscopic flies in to the van. I was about to encounter some rain though, but not quite as closely as Dennis was to encounter it.

I met Dennis at Kilmartin just south of Oban (we wondered who "Martin" might have been) and I used Figgy's rack for the second time as I loaded the bicycle and we headed to town for the night. Dennis was intent on finding a B & B since he was slightly damp from an earlier deluge and needed to dry some kit ready for the next day. Figgy is also a bit on the snug side for two single men, although in drier weather later on Dennis did commandeered the front seats for one night.

I dropped Dennis off at his accommodation and headed off to find a stopping place for the night. It was dark and there was nowhere to be found around Oban. I did find the touring site above the town but it was all quiet and I knew I would have to make an early start and might have problems finding someone to pay. Eventually I stopped in a residential carpark behind a part-finished housing development.

In the morning I started early as planned and stopped for a brew and tidy-up before meeting Dennis for breakfast. He was booked on the ferry across to the Isle of Mull where he would cycle up to Tobermory and catch a ferry over to the start of the Ardnamurchan leg the following day. We planned to meet at Ardnamurchan Point so I was loose in Scotland on my own once again.

The route to the Ardnamurchan Peninsular is not a direct one. This mountainous coast of Scotland is deeply riven by sea lochs and travelling was best accomplished by boat many years ago. Today travelling by boat would still be a lot quicker than the winding routes the few roads necessarily follow. Since I guessed that the van wouldn't float too well I took to the roads.

My destination was Fort William and I had plenty of time to get there. The events of 2007 were in my mind again but also the memory of our return in 2008 to eventually complete the National 3 Peaks Challenge. We had successfully scaled Ben Nevis, stopping on the way to remember our fallen companion of the previous year. Arriving at the summit we had experienced something quite rare: the weather was clear and the views were spectacular. We decided at that point that we would forgo the time limit and stay a while at the summit - we might never see this again. Today though the summit was in the clouds and remained so for the time I was there.



I continued past the town and followed the road that hugs the shores of Loch Linnhe, eventually stopping at a secluded lay-by slightly to the south of Fort William and on the opposite shore. This looked like a great overnight spot but there were signs that it was a popular place, with much litter, camp fires and some rubbish fly-tipped by the loch. It beggars belief that people cannot appreciate the beauty of their country and dump rubbish without a thought. Shortly after setting the van up



for the night and raising the roof, something that wasn't always essential, I was sitting contemplating existence when I was aware of a strange fluttering and bumping noise. A pied wagtail had discovered a new rival hiding in my door mirrors and was attacking it vigorously.

I have a video and it is very entertaining. The bird persisted but was making quite a mess on the mirrors so I covered them with carrier bags. He then moved to the rear window where he discovered another rival and continued attacking that one. This continued until he gave up as darkness gathered.

It was a great location and the night passed very peacefully. The morning was a bit drizzly and a wet day had been forecast. Fort William and Ben Nevis were not visible across the loch this morning and the wagtail did not reappear. I packed the van, lowered the roof and, hoping that I would find other places as good as this (but minus the rubbish) I continued on the route to meet Dennis at the most westerly point on the mainland.

It was soon to be a time of realisation that his island-hopping and reliance on ferry timetables had caused Dennis to fall behind schedule; my few-days dash to Scotland was probably going to be a week-and-a-half. I quickly gave myself permission to take the extra time off work and called in to rearrange my diary. This was shaping-up to be quite a trip and I was determined to enjoy every bit of it. Even the rain that was about to arrive.

In the next installment I meet a striking character at Ardnamurchan Point and continue to Mallaig and then the Isle of Skye, one of my favourite places on the planet.

Steve Nicholas

## **Steve's Snippet 27**

As my scribings in this issue are centered on things mechanical, automobiles and adventures therein, I would like to introduce, briefly, the sometimes controversial subject of naming one's vehicle(s). To some it is merely an indication of a possible mental-state, to others it is an essential part of vehicle ownership.

I was first seriously introduced to this by a friend who had named his recently acquired Panther Kallista, Molly. The reason for this was that Molly (Malone) had been purchased from her previous owner on the outskirts of Dublin and the purchase was rather more a rescue from neglect.

His next purchase was a Panther Lima. The Lima was to be christened Griff - it's number plate consisted of letters spelling "Rhys". A perhaps tenuous connection but useful when you need to specify quickly to which of your cars you are referring.

He also owns a Healey 3000 and MGC GT - I don't yet know what their names are yet but names become even more important (or possibly not).

As I have accidentally acquired four VW T4 Transports it is also rather essential that they have names, until such time as I decide on which of them is the best and move the others on.

Continues overleaf

## **The Bedford Arms Update**

The Bedford Arms Oakley said farewell to Tim and family and have now welcomed the new landlords Emma and Ben who also run the Hare and Hounds in Old Warden and their new Manager Emily. They want to serve more than just traditional meals, and their Head Chef John offers us an exciting, seasonal menu with modern twists alongside fish specials.

Their aim is to have the pub being the hub of the village, encouraging locals through fantastic events and an exciting selection of ales & wines. As a family run operation they believe that provenance is key to their success, using only the finest local ingredients they can get their oven mitts on in order to carry on their reputation for food that not only tastes out of this world but looks good too.

As my wife's birthday gave us the perfect excuse I decided we should put their aspirations to the test. The new staff were friendly and accommodating in keeping us in the shade on a sunny day. The menu was varied and gave several tempting choices for both of us. Our drinks arrived promptly with a jug of iced water. We decided on the same starter which proved to be both fresh and unusual with its choice of vegetables and beautifully presented.

Our main courses arrived in good time and again were well presented with good portions. My wife had the chicken and delighted in the accompanying potato rosti, crisp on the outside and fluffy inside. My steak was cooked to order and full of flavour. We decided to return another time to test the desserts.

Bill Chalker, Editor





### Steve's Snippet 27—continued

As I have accidentally acquired four VW T4 Trans-  
porters it is also rather essential that they have  
names, until such time as I decide on which of  
them is the best and move the others on.

The Scottish Adventure was undertaken in the  
van which was to be christened "Figgy" on the  
Mallaig ferry, en route to the Isle of Skye. It  
seemed an affectionate name as the van was (as  
I may have mentioned) becoming a favourite and  
is based on its number plate.

An earlier van is named "Rio" for the same reason  
and "Devi" is a Devon conversion, or will be re-  
stored to such one day when time allows.

The final, and most recently acquired van is  
slightly different. It is a 2.5 litre, petrol-engine  
automatic, not a diesel, as diesel engines of all  
types and ages are getting a bed press now. I  
asked the family to suggest names for it as I had  
run-out of ideas. The name "Nemo" was put for-  
ward, as the suggestion was that the van would  
drink like a fish (it doesn't). However, this van is  
blue so "Dory" was settled upon instead... it's also  
appropriate as it has twin sliding doors.

Steve Nicholas



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Carnival 2017



# RACE NIGHT

**Friday 14th July**  
**7.30pm start**  
**Oakley Village Hall**  
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Licensed Bar

Race Night kindly sponsored by

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### **Churches Together in Oakley**

Invite you all to  
The Carnival Service on  
Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2017  
10.30am at the Methodist Church

**The United Service in August**  
will be at St Mary's Church  
on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2017





# Fun for all the family

**Help us celebrate the Carnival**



The Carnival will begin with a procession through the village from **12:10pm** arriving at the ORA field (off Church Lane) for a fun packed afternoon

- Craft stalls
- Fun fair
- Tug of War
- Arena show
- Food stalls
- Competitions
- Bouncy castles
- Climbing Wall
- Licenced Bar

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

Email: [oakleycarnival@gmail.com](mailto:oakleycarnival@gmail.com) / Facebook 'Oakley Carnival' /

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

**Please Note:**

It is not permitted to bring alcohol onto the field



## **Steve's Snippet no.28**

There may be one or more people you have encountered who are particularly notable or memorable, for all good reasons - they may be talented, personable, adventurous, accomplished, admirable, ... the list goes on.

One such person, for me, was Bill. I promised more about him, so here it is. Some of the stories of his career sound too fantastic to be true but he was far from being a Walter Mitty character. There are photographs and corroborating testimony to support his accounts.

At a young age Bill intended to become a pilot. Many young men did and still do, it was an early ambition of mine too (at that time operational flying was a male-dominated area but many women flew, delivering aircraft of all types during the war). Bill was a young man at the beginning of World War Two and he joined the Royal Air Force. He was selected as suitable for flying-training and was, by all accounts and historical events, a very able and natural pilot.

At the age of just 17 years, as the pilot of a Lancaster bomber, he was commander of the aircraft and its crew, including his squadron leader, an old man of 23 years. Survival-time as aircrew was often desperately short. Bill was overcome with the adventure of it all and was fortunate in that his talent soon led him to special missions away from the normal bombing runs over Europe, with their attendant high mortality rates.

As a young pilot officer he found himself over the Irish sea one evening in rapidly worsening weather. Ordered to turn out to sea and ditch his aircraft he refused as the chances of survival were virtually non-existent. Instead he insisted on landing his aircraft and its crew at a closed airfield. His subsequent court-martial led to his demotion to sergeant pilot but he had saved the aircraft and his crew. He told me that he would do the same again in a heartbeat.

After the war he was involved with the Berlin airlift - he had flown everything from transports to Spitfire and Mosquito and so could fly virtually any aircraft. This skill gave him employment in subsequent years as a pilot in many a war film and he was able to meet quite a few of the Hollywood legends - he had a few stories to tell about some of the goings-on behind the scenes.

Some years later Bill set up a small garage business; his father had owned a garage and so he had been brought up with the technology. The business grew and became a small chain of garages with fuel stations and a Land Rover dealership.

This also funded Bill's passion for motor racing and particularly the building and maintenance of the cars. At various times he ran Marcos, Jaguar



and Riley cars and counted people such as Jacky Stewart and Graham Hill amongst his friends. He also had occasion to meet a young Bernie Ecclestone, before Bernie's rise to vast fame and fortune.

My association with Bill was through motor engineering and our racing backgrounds. He was also interested in my involvement with the RAF Volunteer Reserve and my rather brief flying experiences. It was a tremendous privilege for me to be respected and trusted by him and to be able to call him a friend.

Steve Nicholas

## **FIT for LIFE PILATES**

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## There are many temptations in this life, but cake is probably one of the biggest of them

This profound observation on life was made by Alexander McCall Smith. Of all the many things that he has done in his life, Scouting does not appear to be one of them. Well, that is his loss. And probably yours as well. The chances are that you are not, or were not, a Scout. Or a Cub or a Beaver for that matter. However; if you like a challenge, or you rate your baking skills, or you just want to pit your ego against these culinary experienced Youth Members, get involved with the Oakley Scout Group's third annual Great Oakley Bake Off !.

### Get involved and get baking . . .

The Bake Off competition on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2017 is for Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, and their siblings, parents, family members, and friends, and anyone else who just loves to bake! At a rough estimate this should involve just about all the Newsletter's readership. And now, for those radio listening readers of a certain age and above,

### This is what you do . . .

- Decide what you'd like to bake
- Enter as many bakes as you like, £1 per entry
- Judging will be in 4 categories of age groups; 5-8years, 9-12years, 13-16years & Adult
- Bring your entries along to the Scout Hut on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June between 2.30 and 2.45pm
- (The Scout Hut is off Church Lane opposite Dewlands, between the Village Hall and the Sports Club. It is the grey windowless building with the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts hanging around outside.)
- Judging will take place between 2.45 and 3.00pm
- Encourage all your family and friends to join us at the Scout Hut from 3pm to buy a cuppa (tea or coffee) and cake and eat it, then buy some more cake and eat that too – in fact, do not bother with lunch, just plan for breakfast and afternoon tea – and then take some more cake home for supper, you can always freeze for later what you cannot eat on the day (*perhaps a little too enthusiastic ? Editor*)
- Awards will be presented at 4pm
- Stay and eat more cakes, share a fun time with your family, get to know other members of the Group, the Leaders and Committee Members, and make some money for the Oakley Beavers, Cubs and Scouts.

Please come along to the Scout Hut on **Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June** from 3pm to buy a cuppa (tea or coffee) and cake, as above. And if you walk to the Scout Hut then you can even use the exercise to justify the tea and comestibles. Just remember those incisive words of Oscar Wilde

### Let them eat cake . . .

no, that should have been

### I can resist anything except cake, sorry, temptation

Well, I dare say that you get the general idea.

And, if you are the parent or guardian of a child between the ages of 6 and 14 who may be interested in joining Oakley Scout Group, then please be assured that we do Scouting as well. Jon Abbott, Group Scout Leader, and his team of Leaders and Adult Helpers are providing a wide range of fun and challenging activities for boy and girl Youth Members between the ages of 6 and 14. The Scouting programme provided for the Sections is a mix of badge work, games, themed evenings, visits and weekend activities. And right now there are still some vacancies for Cubs.

The relevant contact numbers are below.

Beaver	6 - 8 year olds	Wednesdays	18:15-19:30	phone Chris	07805 175521
Cubs	8 - 10.5 year olds	Thursdays	18:30-20:00	phone Arran	07526 653178
Scout	10.5 - 14 year olds	Tuesdays	19:00-20:30	phone Dean	07854 312255



## Update on Youth Club

Wow, what a term we have had. Lots of changes at Oakley Youth Club. With over 40 members it can only get better. Myself, Sara, Jade and our new girl Leonie are grateful to be supported by the Parish and have been lucky from the start. With a generous donation from a family friend we were able to upgrade the techy stuff, buy some sports equipment and some new games. As well as all our new and improved facilities our members like to play games, socialise and listen to music on our trendy AMP.

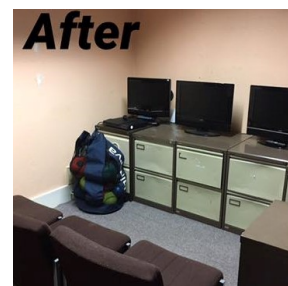
I have two children at Youth Club and even though they were a bit embarrassed to start with I think they quite like having me run it now as they know how important it is that they have somewhere they can hang with their friends and be safe. I have been overwhelmed at how well the members all get on and mix with each other including the boys with the girls.... I think a favourite moment of mine so far was at the beginning of our Youth Club when they put some rap song on, yep they took off my music however I didn't mind, as they all clearly knew the song and were all singing it together. It really opened my eyes to how great they are together and only enthused me more to make Youth Club brilliant. We mainly have year 7's so I have been lucky as I know most of them and more importantly I know their parents, ha ha. They have behaved very well so far, and have been a fitting example of how children should be going into their teens (eek).



**Before**

I just want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for your donations of games, equipment, volunteering and your support. We would like to raise money for a little shed that we can store some items in as we share the hall with the Day Centre so we are limited on space...the village shop has kindly said I could have a pot on the counter so if you have any loose change then we would be very grateful. We also intend to hold some fundraising

events in the autumn too to raise money for activities, equipment and maybe a trip somewhere.



**After**



Look out for us at **this year's carnival** too....as some of you who know me well know that I've always been keen to have a friendly community and I always like to do my bit. We are joining in with the procession this year and will be dabbing around the village as they say! We will also take part in the scarecrow trail too so look out for our cool teenager of course dabbing somewhere near the Old School. Lastly, in regards, to our fundraising we also like to give back too so we are going to do the **Teas in Church on Sunday the 25<sup>th</sup> June**. If you fancy a cuppa and a slice of cake then come down and meet some of our members who will be happy to serve you and of course you will also be doing your bit for our village church. Have a great summer everyone. Dawn, Jade & Leonie x

For more information please contact Dawn at [dawn.pither@btinternet.com](mailto:dawn.pither@btinternet.com)

**Do religion and politics mix?  
What is the future of our country?**

Like it or loathe it we are being faced once again with propaganda regarding the forthcoming General Election. After an election two years ago and the bitterly divisive referendum of 2016, do we really need to go to the polls again this year? Well, whether we agree or not with the Prime Minister's decision, there's not much we can do to change it; the election will happen on June 8<sup>th</sup> whether we like it or not.

Certainly, the election will determine much of what happens in our lives for the next five years and, through controlling who will lead on negotiations about Brexit, will impact on us all long after that. What might our response as Christians be? We need to be involved for a number of reasons.

In 2015 Krish Kandiah the President of the London School of Theology stated that:

1. Voting publicly recognises that we submit to the authority of the political system in our nation as established by God. (Romans 13:1-7)
2. Voting recognises the equality of all people, their right to speak and be heard. (Deuteronomy 10:17-19)
3. We can obey God's command to seek the good of those around us and our nation. (Jeremiah 29:5-6)
4. It shows that we care deeply about who our leaders are and we need to pray for them (1 Timothy 2:1,2)
5. We need to do something about politics in our nation. 'All that is required for evil to prevail is for good men to do nothing', Edmund Burke. (Psalms 34:14)

As scripture says, "We're all in this together" (John 1:14) so love it or loathe it. We need to be involved and pray for the election; engage in the debates, cast our vote and encourage others to do so.

Four days before the General Election we will have celebrated Pentecost and the culmination of the wave of prayer called 'Thy Kingdom Come', the end of the Great Fifty Days of Eastertide, in which we embrace the joy begun on Easter Day. During this time the church focuses on prayer, just as the first disciples did as they gathered after they had watched Jesus ascend into heaven. In Acts 1:14 we read: 'They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus.'

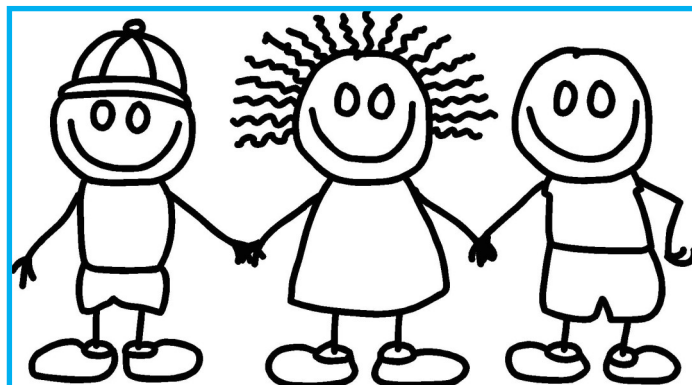
Pentecost, the Birthday of the Church, was a world changing event brought about by the coming of the Holy Spirit! We pray that the same Holy Spirit who came down upon the disciples huddled together in the Upper Room will descend on us too as we approach the General Election.



The gift of the Holy Spirit 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." God's love changes everything, it lives in us, not outside of us; it lives, breathes and resides within each one of us, when we let it. Let us pray: 'Thy Kingdom Come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven' as we ask for God's blessing and guidance at this important time in the history of our country.

With all blessings

Rev'd Linda



## **Oakley Toddlers**

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

£1.50 crafts/toys/singing/drinks & snacks

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

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

Contact Sue Carey 07971 202405

# JOB OPPORTUNITIES

**Oakley Parish Council is seeking a litter picker and a bus shelter cleaner to start as soon as possible. Both posts can be combined.**

## Litter Picker

Hours are 8 hours per week 1<sup>st</sup> November to 31<sup>st</sup> March and 9 per week 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> October

Duties are to keep the village free from litter in the following areas:

- a) The Village Green, including the children's play area
  - b) The two fields adjacent to the Twin Bridges
  - c) Station Road including the hedges on both sides
  - d) All the Bus Shelters
  - e) Bottle Bank site
  - f) Pavenham Road once a month
  - g) Alleyways Dewlands/Grenidge Way/Lincroft/Ruffs Furze as necessary
  - h) Church Lane (over the Twin Bridges as far as the layby) and Lovell Road entrances to the village as necessary
  - i) Plus any other areas required, on an ad hoc basis, but within the contracted hours
- 2 of the 8 or 9 hours each week will be spent on a Saturday morning clearing the Village Green.

## Bus Shelter cleaner

Six bus shelters to be cleaned once a month. Shelters situated as follows:-

Station Road near junction with Reynes Drive  
Lovell Road, by the Old School  
High Street by no. 3  
High Street near Reynes Drive junction  
High Street by the Bedford Arms  
Church Lane near junction with Dewlands

To apply please send a CV to Ann Paice at [parishclerk@oakleyvillage.co.uk](mailto:parishclerk@oakleyvillage.co.uk) or 31, Radwell Road, Milton Ernest, Bedford, MK44 1SH by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017.

For more information please call 07873 887370

**Applicants must be 16 years of age on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2017**

## 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





## Oakley Allotments

The most entertaining thing about running an allotment is the uncertainty of each year's progress dependent upon the weather.

Despite a promising, early start, progress was halted somewhat by the wetness of the ground. We stopped trying to dig and pottered about with other tasks, hoping that the ground would dry out enough to aid soil preparation. In the meantime we made another trip to Cornwall to see our fast-growing twin granddaughters so further allotment work was abandoned anyway.

After our return we planned a further few hours at our plot and found that the ground was now rather too dry. A no-dig regime seems to be the way to go, as I have said before. I will pursue this and report on progress.

April has been reported as the driest in East Anglia since records began. I suspected as much because it was getting very noticeable. I turned the water on at the allotments to find that at least three of the taps were defective. One was impossible to turn off completely so I closed the main valve again. Since I have had insufficient time to repair the system, as I and other tenants have done in the past, we awaited a plumber.

We still awaited a plumber... eventually I had enough time to replace the leaky tap and turn the system back on. This prompted the onset of much rain - I just wish I'd thought of it sooner! We recorded a rainfall of 54 millimetres from the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> of May this year.

I'm hoping to get some ground prepared this week as the weather has now warmed-up and the greenhouse is full of plants ready to be planted out. If I don't get there by tomorrow I'm sure that it will be very difficult to work again. Entertaining indeed!

We **have a few vacancies** and a prospective tenant from as far away as Thurleigh - rural allotments are becoming rarer. We are very fortunate to have such a facility available to us.

Here comes summer, and what next?

Steve Nicholas



*Ben Hyatt*

07823 321 959

**TREE CARE, HEDGES**

**& GARDEN SERVICES**

All tree & hedge work undertaken.  
Garden clearance & seasonal tidy up.  
Shrub shaping & lawn turfing.  
Soft and hard landscaping.

[Benhyatt43@gmail.com](mailto:Benhyatt43@gmail.com)

All our staff are NPTC trained and we are fully insured.



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*Established in 1992 specialising in:*

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



**Helen Dawkins LRPS**

**01234 782265**

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



# Oakley Sports & Social Club

## Family & Sports Bar

<http://oakleyssc.com>

### A hub for Oakley's social life

Oakley Sports & Social Club has gone from strength to strength over recent years. This success has been spurred on by the continued support of Oakley residents and surrounding villages, in addition to the Oakley Recreation Associations (ORA) which include AFC Oakley, Oakley Pilgrims Cricket Club and Oakley Motorcycle Club.

Over the last twelve months, the Club has hosted many successful events – Santa's Grotto for member's children, two Village Fun Days (the Fun Day in 2016 helped raise funds for our re-vamped children's play area) and the ever-popular fireworks night to name just a few.



Hot food has also proven to be a success; with full menus on Thursday evenings, Friday afternoons and pizza night on Friday's, the kitchen has been busy and a pull-factor for new members.

Owing to the fantastic support from its members, Oakley Sports & Social Club has been able to make significant investments recently too. These improvements include the replacement of the old green containers and a small garage. A new, purpose-built large garage is specifically kitted-out for use by the Club and its ORA organisations to ease storage issues and potential safety concerns. The kitchen has been extended, allowing for more facilities to be installed and preparation of high quality food quicker for members. An area on the main football pitch had sunk by several feet (where a pond used to be!). Significant investment was made to raise this, allowing for cheaper "top-ups" to be done yearly to ensure that the same problem does not repeat. We now have one of the best pitches in North Bedfordshire. We have also revamped our children's play area, repurposing redundant equipment donated to us by Oakley Lower School and completely resurfacing the area, making it a far more useable for members' children and encourage families to enjoy the facilities on offer.

Looking ahead, Oakley Sports & Social Club will be hosting another **village fun day on 27<sup>th</sup> August** (featuring live music, a bouncy castle and BBQ), and the **4<sup>th</sup> November** will see it host another Fireworks Night (details to be released closer to the time, but it promises to be the biggest and best one at OSSC yet!).

On behalf of the Oakley Sports & Social Club committee, we would like to thank you all for your continued support – we look forward to seeing you enjoy our facilities over the summer and beyond.

Robbie Bays



# oakley *Motorcycle* club

What a difference the clocks changing and a bit of dry weather has made for OMC! Now is the time many members come out of hibernation and the car park starts to fill up.

A good start to the season was made in April with the annual OMC Bring and Buy sale followed by the annual bike jumble which raised over £250 for the East Anglian Air Ambulance



The annual theme nights have started. We opened with the Honda night complimented by Grafton Honda from Milton Keynes who brought along a selection of brand new Honda machines. The nights winner was Russell Gregory with his superbly restored 1979 Honda Britain 750SS, one of only a handful that were available in the UK.

This was going to be followed by the Italian theme night but due to heavy rain that day, it proved to be a washout and was cancelled at the last minute.



Thankfully British Superbike Racer for the Boast Plumbing Supplies team, Jon Railton, wasn't put off by a bit of rain as he races in the wet. He was present with his Ducati Tri-Options Cup race bike although it did come in the back of a van!



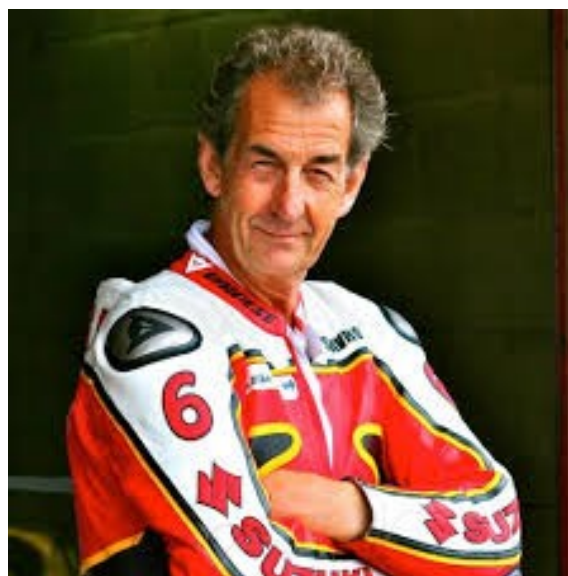
The theme nights will continue across Spring and Summer with the Yamaha night on **25<sup>th</sup> May** complimented by Flitwick Motorcycles with a selection of new Yamaha bikes.

On **8<sup>th</sup> June** we have the BMW night with BMW Wollaston and some BMWs for members to test ride.

Then on **18<sup>th</sup> June** we have the re-arranged Italian night and the following week, **22<sup>nd</sup> June** the British night with Pure Triumph attending with their latest models.

**6<sup>th</sup> July** will see probably the biggest night of the summer, with not only the American theme night but a display of Hot Rod and custom cars with hopefully some Dragsters from Santa Pod.

The last theme nights will be **20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> July** with Suzuki and Kawasaki and some new Suzuki machines courtesy of St. Neots Motorcycles.



The finals night on **10<sup>th</sup> August** will have all the earlier winners. The overall winner of the OMC Bike of the Year Award will have it presented by Mr Steve Parrish who was the 1977 team mate of Barry Sheen at Heron Suzuki.

He went on to become a British Superbike Winner and followed that by being the British and European Truck Racing Champion for several years. Steve is a leading commentator and pundit for most channels covering MotoGP, Superbikes and Isle of Man racing.

Baysie  
Roger Bays Chair - OMC





# Welcome to the multi award-winning Sharnbrook Mill Theatre

Patrons: Joanna David & Hugh Laurie OBE

Registered charity 242164



Monday 5th to Saturday 10th June at 7.30pm

## THE WORLD PREMIERE OF A BRAND NEW MUSICAL



An epic, pioneering tale of love, betrayal and team-spirit. It features a stunning, sweeping score with heart-rending songs and strong characters against a vision of a future world, where humans struggle to survive against the elements



This is not a post-apocalyptic future you've seen before...this is CLOUD...

Book & Lyrics: Kaye Vincent Music & Lyrics: Kaye Tompkins Tickets £11-13

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> - Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June at 7pm

Sharnbrook Mill Theatre & Harrold Priory School present the classic MGM musical:

### BOOK NOW!

Tickets: Child £5 Adult £7 from: [www.sharnbrookmilltheatre.co.uk](http://www.sharnbrookmilltheatre.co.uk)

NB: performances start at 7pm.

By permission of  
Music Theatre International  
and Josef Weinberger  
Screenplay by Betty Comden  
and Adolph Green.  
Songs by Herb Nacio Brown  
and Arthur Freed



Based on the classic Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer film,  
by special arrangement with Warner Bros. Theatre Ventures, Inc.

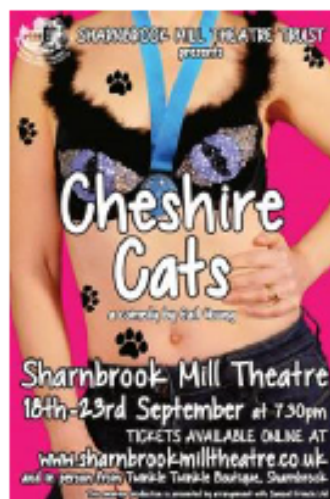
Monday 18th to Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September at 7.30pm

## Cheshire Cats

A comedy by Gail Young

Grown women,  
aching feet  
and heaving bosoms!

Follow the  
Cheshire Cats  
team as they  
speed-walk their way to  
fundraising success in  
The London  
Moonwalk...



Tickets £9-11

14 - 18 November, 2017 at 7.30 pm

## SHARNBROOK MILL YOUTH

will be performing the Youth Version of a  
world famous, record-breaking musical.

Unfortunately, because of  
publicity restrictions,  
we cannot tell you here.....  
but please visit our website:

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

or pick up a Brochure from 'The Mill'  
...and all will be revealed!

Will YOU be under 21 on 18th November '17? Interested to take part?

WORKSHOPS at The Mill Theatre Mon. 12 & Wed. 14 June 7.30 pm

AUDITIONS: Company, Sun. 18 June, 2 pm. Roles to follow.

MUSICIANS welcome: Grade 5 & above.

Enquiries: Director Barry Thompson mail to: [clymn@sol.com](mailto:clymn@sol.com)

All Students to be Under 21 at Performance Date

Also SUMMER SCHOOL Monday 31st July-Friday 3rd August - see website!

BOOK TICKETS FOR OUR MAIN SHOWS on-line : [www.sharnbrookmilltheatre.co.uk](http://www.sharnbrookmilltheatre.co.uk)\* or in person at Twinkle Twinkle Boutique, Sharnbrook\*\*

\*STUDENTS in full time education; there are £3 concessions at these 3 shows - on Tues. & Wed. only. Please check details on our website.

GROUPS: 10+ 10% discount: Call: 781372, also for the 2 WHEELCHAIR SPACES. NB: Hearing loop A-E only. (\*£1 booking fee \*\* No booking fee)

WILL YOU HELP US? With the increasing number of shows & events we are happily undertaking, we are keenly seeking VOLUNTEERS to join our teams; particularly Front of House, Costumes, Set Building, Back stage, also Fundraising!

Interested? Please email: [info@sharnbrookmilltheatre.co.uk](mailto:info@sharnbrookmilltheatre.co.uk).

## 'Warm Up' Appeal Events

WEDNESDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> JUNE  
12 FOR 12.30 pm

### A 2-COURSE LUNCH

with wine and soft drinks available,  
followed by:

### AN INSPIRING TALK

by ANITA SMITH, MBE MRG,  
FOUNDER & DIRECTOR OF THE  
AMAZING, AWARD-WINNING  
BANSANG HOSPITAL CHARITY,  
THE GAMBIA

Tickets £15 Virginia Pope 01933 356974

## The Little Things We Do Together

Thurs. 7<sup>th</sup> - Sat. 9th September 7.30 pm

### CONCERT

featuring the words and lyrics of

## Stephen Sondheim

Tickets £15

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

or in person at Twinkle Twinkle Boutique, Sharnbrook

## CURTAIN UP AT THE MILL

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30 pm

### A Cabaret - featuring

The Sounds of Swing,  
Pop and The Musicals

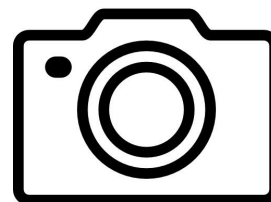
With Jonathan Reynolds, Siobhan Moore, Claire  
Emery, Tracy Holderness and James Reynolds

Tickets £12.50 On-line:

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

or call Jonathan: 07903 252241





## **BEDFORDSHIRE : A CHANGING LANDSCAPE - PHOTOGRAPH COMPETITION**

CPRE Bedfordshire, a local countryside charity, celebrates its 30th anniversary this year. To mark this, the charity is running a photography competition open to all, to build a picture of



Bedfordshire's much-loved countryside and green spaces, and glimpse how these are changing. The theme is: Bedfordshire - A Changing Landscape.

Entrants are encouraged to consider the ways that Bedfordshire's landscape, countryside and greenspaces can be seen to change, throughout the year and over time, through natural or human factors. We hope people will be inspired by the theme and that we get entries from across Bedfordshire. The competition is free and open to all - first prize - £100, second prize - £50 M&S vouchers. The deadline for entries is 16th October 2017. Full details about how to enter can be found on [www.cprebeds.org.uk](http://www.cprebeds.org.uk).



### **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).

# OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

## Summary of Accounts - Financial Year ending 31 March 2017

Opening Bank Balances	
NatWest Bank current balance at 31/03/16	£17,509.78
NatWest Bank reserve balance at 31/03/16	£106,918.76
NatWest Bank bonus account 31/03/16	£140,000.00
<b>Total cash in hand</b>	<b>£264,428.54</b>
Receipts	
	£
Precept	£51,530.00
Agency Services (Grasscutting - Bedford BC)	£1,171.33
Allotments (rent )	£948.22
Glass cullet sale from Bottlebank	£1,534.22
Grants (Neighbourhood Plan & Ward Councillor)	£0.00
Grants (Bedford BC Rural Grant for Old School)	£15,700.00
Interest (including £1973.46 from bond which reinvested)	£1,996.58
Newsletter & Directory advertisements and sponsorship	£4,563.00
VAT recovered from 2015/16	£3,616.57
Wayleave	£56.55
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>£81,116.47</b>

Payments	
	£
Administration (includes subscriptions)	£3,658.26
Insurance	£1,441.62
Grass Cutting	£7,235.00
Grounds Maintenance (includes tree works)	£2,870.00
Wages, Tax, National Insurance, Pension, Clerk's Expenses	£19,321.28
S. 137 Payments (grants to local organisations)	£2,432.00
Capital Spending (speed cameras & picnic table)	£60,439.00
Cricket Field & Riverside (rent )	£759.50
Allotments	£469.56
Bottlebank	£749.00
Community Orchard	£0.00
Christmas tree & lights	£2,080.22
Linch Furlong	£788.25
Maintenance (Riverside fence & bedding plants)	£980.94
Neighbourhood Plan	£4,567.20
Play area (inspections & repairs)	£1,606.85
Publicity (Newsletter, Directory, Website)	£4,645.00
Bedford BC Rural Grant for Old School	£15,700.00
VAT refund due on above payments	£3,743.22
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>£133,486.90</b>

Closing Bank Balances	
NatWest Bank current balance at 31/03/17	£22,924.27
NatWest Bank reserve balance at 31/03/17	£47,160.38
Nationwide investment bond 31/03/17 (£133,105 ring fenced)	£141,973.46
less uncleared payments	£0.00
<b>Total cash in hand</b>	<b>£212,058.11</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>£345,545.01</b>

**Total** **£345,545.01**

£113,280 plus £16,565 interest of the total cash in hand figure is ring fenced for maintenance of The Furlong open space and £3,259.90 for maintenance of the High Street bus shelter.



# St Mary's Church

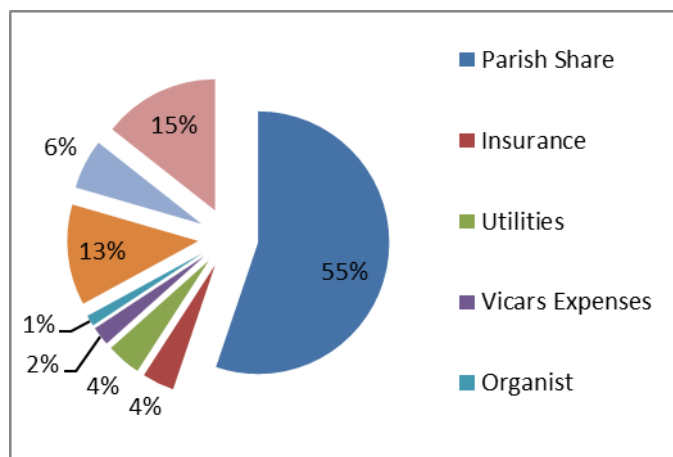
## Oakley needs your help

We have a gap to fill and wondered if you might be able to help us to reduce that gap. Below you will see that **we have a deficit of £600 per month.**

### PAYING OUR WAY?

**Q.** What does it cost to run St. Mary's per month?

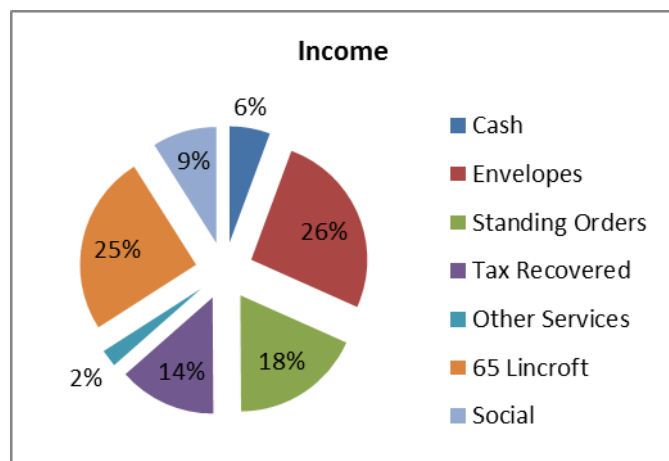
**A.** The estimate for 2017 is: **£3500 per month**  
(£807 per week)



The largest part is our Parish Share, which is what we pay to the Diocese to pay for the clergy, their training, NI pensions, housing etc., as well as services provided to the parish e.g., advice on mission, buildings and finance etc.

**Q.** What is our **Income** per month?

**A.** Estimate for 2017 is **£2900 per month**  
(£669.23 per week)



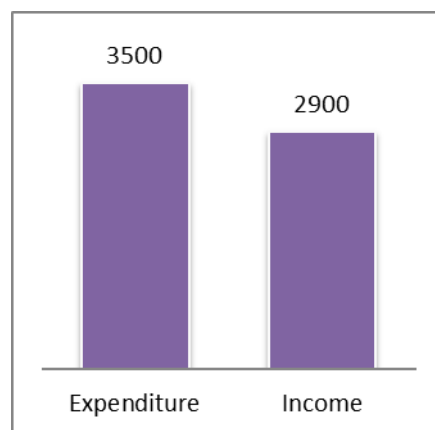
**So – there is a forecast shortfall of £600 per month** (£138.46 per week)

Not shown on the above pie charts, are the costs involved to completely redecorate the interior of the church, and the organ is in need of extensive maintenance and renovation, the cost for these



projects is likely to be in excess of £30,000 and is programmed to be started within the next 12 months

### CAN YOU HELP US FILL THIS GAP?



We know that some of you contribute to our Church in more ways than one, and there are the unstinting fund-raising efforts of our Social Committee but this alone cannot help us to sustain an even balance with our finances. However, it would help enormously if the core everyday expenses could be met by additional donations, which can be Gift Aided for those of you who are tax payers.

Although the church is used by residents and past residents of the village for weddings, baptisms and funerals as well as regular services of worship and church fundraising, it is not enough to sustain our funding. If you would like to help in preserving this Grade 1 listed building, to be there for our children and generations to come, please contact the PCC Treasurer on 01234 823133 for further details.

Your help would be very much appreciated.

*Sally Ball*  
Oakley PCC

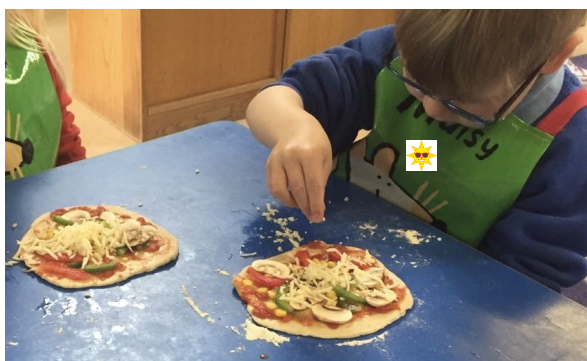
# Oakley Pre-school News



Summer term is well underway and we are busy preparing 23 of our older children for their transition to school.

From September we are preparing to offer the new 30 Hour Funding, if you have any queries regarding this, please do contact us.

We love being part of the village community, and are busy preparing to take part in the Carnival this year. We visited the park, as part of our Safe Places to Play, and on the same afternoon, hosted an exhibition of the proposed new play equipment for the village. The children and parents were able to express which play equipment they preferred.



We have been thinking lots about keeping healthy this term and our new Deputy for Welfare and PANCO (Physical and Nutritional Coordinator) Mrs Searle, led a Healthy Eating week. We made healthy pizzas and held a Teddy Bear's Picnic, where we made our own sandwiches to share with our teddies.

## **Fundraising & Community events**

Our Family Spring Disco was well supported and great fun! We raised £582.02p towards new ICT equipment for the pre-school.



Our village Easter Egg Hunt raised £234. We still have some unclaimed eggs at pre-school, so if you did take part in the hunt and are yet to collect your prize, do call in and see us.

Our Dog Show was again very popular and the weather was very kind to us. We raised £441.30

Our Family Barbecue and Sponsored Toddle, at the pre-school, on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June have unfortunately had to be cancelled.

## **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)

In April, we launched our new website; 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







## Oakley Village Hall

Church Lane,  
Oakley,  
Bedfordshire, MK43 7RJ

A well-appointed village hall  
Main hall with stage and PA system  
(Main hall is air conditioned)

Separate meeting room with bar

Well equipped kitchen

For information and bookings  
please telephone 07788 796996

## Joshua

Orphan & Community Care

The year has continued to be a challenge to ensure the feeding programme has been maintained. Hopefully the 2017 harvest will be a better one because the rains have been more normal.


New funds have enabled Joshua to employ Edith, the mobile clinic nurse for 2 days a week. She is monitoring the children in each feeding centre every month, picking up early signs of problems and ensuring the right help is provided. She is also supporting the adult population who have come to value her visits. Her outreach work is an important addition to the work of Joshua's medical centre.

A new library has been opened in Chigamakire and is now being used by students to study and do homework. They truly value this facility and all the opportunities they are given to aid their education.


Many thanks for the continued support of people in Oakley. To help up continue our valuable work please go to <http://joshuainmalawi.org.uk/donate/>

Jacky Mould





# 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

## NIGEL L. WILLE

PLUMBING & HEATING ENGINEER

GAS SAFE REGISTERED

BOILER REPLACEMENTS

FULL CENTRAL HEATING INSTALLATION

BATHROOM SUITES

RADIATOR REPLACEMENTS

TAP REPLACEMENTS

ALL DOMESTIC PLUMBING, HEATING WORK  
AND REPAIRS UNDERTAKEN

FOR A FRIENDLY SERVICE  
PLEASE CALL NIGEL

Tel: 01234 822962

Mobile: 07778 800595

Email: [nigel.wille@sky.com](mailto:nigel.wille@sky.com)



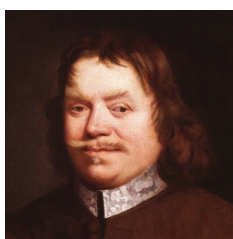
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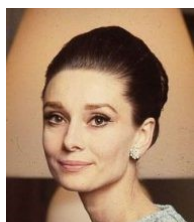
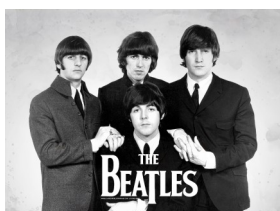
## OAKLEY WI

We meet at the Village Hall at 7.30pm on the second Tuesday in the month.

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2017.** Under the heading of A WATERWAY PARK FOR ALL, David Fowler will bring us up to date with the history, route and progress of the canal which will link the Grand Union Canal in Milton Keynes to the river Great Ouse in Bedford.



**Tuesday 11th July.** One of the staff from the Bunyan Museum is coming to talk about Bedford's most famous son, JOHN BUNYAN.



In August there is no evening meeting, but on two Fridays there are opportunities to go to Knuston Hall for a talk and an excellent two course lunch – on **August 5<sup>th</sup>** to hear about the Beatles and on the **25<sup>th</sup>** about Audrey Hepburn.



**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September.** FUNNY WOMEN, the story of two favourite performers, Victoria Wood and Julie Walters, with Tricia Thompson - a speaker many of us have heard on our visits to Knuston.

We have a new craft group which meets monthly to make items for the Dementia Ward at Bedford hospital – as well as enjoying coffee and a chat – and plans are under-way for visits to Waddesden Manor and to local theatres.

Visitors are always welcome to join us.

For further information contact Gill Conway  
824303



## OAKHAM DECORATORS LTD

INTERIOR - EXTERIOR - DOMESTIC - COMMERCIAL

PROFESSIONAL & RELIABLE LOCAL DECORATORS

With over 30 years experience

Specialists in wallpaper hanging

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Competitive prices for all trades  
We are happy to help and advise

Call us now for a free no obligation quote call

Darren Hooton 07743 176201

Ray Quinney 07885 644973

## OAKLEY GARDENING CLUB



In the summer months, members get out and about, visiting various gardens near and far. Always an enjoyable experience.

Later in the year you are welcome to join us at Oakley Methodist Church Hall. We meet at 7.45pm.

### MONDAY 18th SEPTEMBER 2017

David Livermore's illustrated talk is on the wild flowers of Spain and Portugal.

### MONDAY 16th OCTOBER 2017



Richard Revels subject is 'Wild orchids of Bedfordshire'.

### MONDAY 30th NOVEMBER

Some ideas for Christmas from Elaine Sturges as she demonstrates Christmas floral arrangements.

We are a friendly and informal group, and should you decide to join us, you are assured of a warm welcome.

For further information tel: 824703 or 823344  
Anne McNab

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### OSSC Kitchen

Download the full menus  
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### Thursday

6pm - 9pm  
Full Menu

### Friday

5pm - 8pm  
Pizza Night

### Saturday

4pm - 6pm  
Full Menu



824977



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



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