



Oakley Newsletter



Summer 2018

Number 75



Front Cover
Stevington Windmill
 by Terry Youngman

The Oakley Newsletter

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

Opinions and information

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

Next issue

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Editor

Bill Chalker
 13 Beverly Close
 Oakley
 MK43 7SH
 07789 997733
 bill@chalker.uk.net

Printers

White Hart Press
 58a York Street
 Bedford MK40 3RL



Hello Children

look out for
 Nine more



Parish Council News

Summer 2017

By PAUL PHILLIPS (Chair)

Hello Everyone

I cannot believe that it is 3 months since I wrote something for the last Newsletter. At that point we were looking forward to a lovely spring, but all I recall for many weeks after that time was rain and more rain. As a dog walker we seemed to live in wellies and we were constantly washing and drying dogs. That is behind us for the time being and we now look forward to the summer. Let's hope that it is going to be a good one.

Annual Litter pick



The village annual litter pick took place on Saturday 28 April 2018. I am sure many of you will recall it was a particularly cold and wet Saturday morning following an equally wet Friday. Doubtless such weather put off 'would be' litter pickers but some hardy souls did ignore the conditions and felt it their duty to clear litter for the good of the community. To all those who attended we are very very grateful and a number of bags of litter were collected. Amongst the intrepid souls were eighteen young cubs, two beavers and two explorers from Dragons Explorer Unit, most of whom were accompanied by their parents who also collected.

Someone must have known that the weather was going to be awful because the Scout group set up a marquee on the village green and served hot drinks and cakes raising over £40 for Group funds.

All the young people who took part thoroughly enjoyed doing the litter pick enhanced by their wearing high visibility vests and using the litter picker tongs.

Thank you so much to all who took part. Continued on page 3

OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH CLERK

Ann Paice
 31 Radwell Road
 Milton Ernest
 Bedford, MK44 1SH.
 824852
 parishclerk@oakleyvillage.co.uk

CHAIR

Paul Phillips
 3 Station Road. 824260
 paulphillips65@gmail.com

VICE CHAIR

Jane Walker
 (Parish and Borough councillor)
 11 Dewlands. 824530
 jane@janewalker.co.uk

Pat Olney

(Parish and Borough councillor)
 33 Station Road. 824384
 pat.olney@btopenworld.com

Jonathan Abbott

11 Lincroft 826335
 ma55ey35@gmail.com

Sara Fardon

61 Lincroft. 824516
 sarafardon@yahoo.co.uk

Michael Frampton

The Little House, The Drive
 822181
 michael_frampton@btinternet.com

Phyllis Jones

35 Ruffs Furze 910187
 phylmaj@gmail.com

Stephen Nicholas

44, Grenidge Way 824345
 sbnicholas@aol.com

Gerry Sansom

21 Pavenham Road.
 823295
 gerrysan-
 som@btinternet.com

Robert Saunders

College Farm. 822328
 rjsaunders5591@gmail.com

Paul White

20 Reynes Drive. 825472
 paulwhite20rd@gmail.com



Village Volunteers

Saying thank you to those who participated in the litter pick moves me on to recognise residents who volunteer to carry out tasks for the benefit of the community.

I know there are a number of Oakley residents who give up much of their valuable time for the benefit of the community. I do not need to identify those of you who provide this service to Oakley. You all know who you are and exactly what you do.



I, my fellow Parish Councillors and many residents are very grateful to you and value your selfless contributions. Let us all ensure we keep our village looking the best it can possibly be.

Neighbourhood Development Plan

The neighbourhood development plan is still progressing well and a consultation on the draft plan took place at the Village Hall on Sunday 13 May 2018. We are grateful to those of you who turned up and gave your thoughts on the plan.



Many people will know that an enormous amount of work has been put into this plan over the last 3 years or so by a number of people. The plan has been compiled sympathetically and with the best intentions for the future of Oakley and its residents.

Since starting on the plan we, the Neighbourhood Development Group and the Parish Council, have tried to involve the village every step of the way. We publish articles in the newsletter, the plan is always on Council meeting agendas and we regularly update the village web site.

We have also put other information in the form of flyers through doors and published details of the Bedford Borough Plan from their 'call for sites' up to their consultation earlier this year.

It is good that a number of residents have followed the process through, because it is so important for us all.

I know the journey has been long and involved, but its outcome will be for the good of us all.

Once again thank you for reading the Newsletter and thank you for your continued support.

As usual a huge thank you to the Editor Bill Chalker for producing such a quality publication.

Kind regards Paul Phillips. Chair



Photographer : Jonathan Abbott,
Group Scout Leader

Borough Council News

by Cllr Pat Olney

Bedford Borough Local Plan 2035.

Unfortunately the consultation of the Borough Local Plan that covers until March 2035 showed that the Colworth Garden Village could not be delivered at the present time.

The Village would have delivered 2,500 houses up to 2035 with a further 2,000 beyond that date. It would have included a new access to both the Colworth Business Park and Santa Pod to take the traffic away from the rural roads and Sharnbrook Village. There were plans for a railway station to take traffic from the A6 and high-quality employment land.

The success of the scheme relied on agreement between the site promotor and the operator of Santa Pod to enable appropriate noise mitigation measures to be put into place. After extensive negotiation the operator of Santa Pod does not support the proposal and has not entered into an agreement with the promotor of Colworth Garden Village.

This means that this 2035 Local Plan is not sound and could not be progressed.

So – moving forward, officers will review the evidence base. They are considering the possibility of changing the timescale which means the number of dwellings required would be reduced. Other options are being considered as well.

The priority is to get a “sound” plan, a plan for delivering growth. This is the best way to ensure continuing the delivery of the homes that are needed and to protect communities and the countryside from speculative development. It also enables those groups preparing Neighbourhood Development Plans to make progress.

The six weeks consultation for the second local plan, Regulation 19, is to start in September 2018. The Local Plan will be submitted for Independent Examination before the end of December 2018.

Flooding in Stevington

Has been a bigger problem in recent years. Highway and flooding Officers from the Borough met with myself, members of the Parish Council and concerned residents in Court Lane to review ways to relieve the problem.

There was agreement that the highways engineer will fit one-way valves to the offlets in Court Lane. This work will help manage the flow of the two water sources, highway runoff and environmental water. Highways will schedule the work as soon as possible. Work will continue with

regular checking and cleaning of debris at the grating of Court Lane drain

The Environmental Officers will work together to find a longer-term solution and present a strategy to the Parish Council by the end of June. They will identify flood specialists and obtain three quotations for what could be done to alleviate the flooding in the centre of the village. Possibilities are diversion or holding flood water in natural ponds or at barriers higher up the water course.

River Festival

I do hope you are looking forward to the River Festival in July. There will be lots to see and do. There will be great music on the music stages, the fair, many activities taking place on the river plus the procession. Please go the River festival website to see what is on offer.

For more information of what is on in Bedford Borough go to the Love Bedford site. Villages can also access the site to promote their village activities.

Pat Olney Tel. 01234 824384
email pat.olney@btopenworld.com

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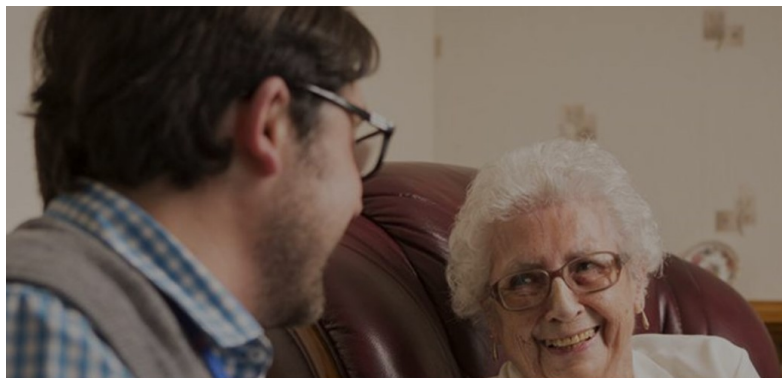
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Volunteers **Wanted**



The Royal British Legion is currently recruiting for volunteer caseworkers across Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire. Case workers play a vital role in enabling the Legion to deliver our Welfare services, and are often the only person who will meet with our beneficiaries face to face. The role involves visiting Service personnel, reservists, veterans and their families in their home, and completing our application for assistance. Case workers also write a narrative report and complete an outcome star covering six areas of need; Finances, Well-being, Health, Housing, Activities and Social Life. After completing their report, case workers make recommendations to a paid member of staff, a Case Officer, as to what kind of assistance may be required. This can include financial grants, referrals to internal specialists (debts, benefits, War Pension/Armed Forces Compensation Scheme, mental health, independent living, criminal justice etc.), referral to external and statutory services and referrals to internal services (break centres, care homes, adventure breaks etc.). After a volunteer is finished with a case, they are able to see all the actions taken with a case through our online Case Management System (CMS).

Full training is provided, and expenses are covered, including travel up to 45p per mile. All of our volunteer caseworkers are DBS checked.

We are looking to recruit people with good social skills, who are able to drive to visit the clients' homes, and who are comfortable using a computer. If you are interested in the role, or would like some more information, please contact us on 0333 011 4480 or VolCoordSEM@britishlegion.org.uk

Your Hospital needs you!

As you will have heard, Bedford Hospital is to merge with Luton and Dunstable Hospital although the date of the merger has been pushed back until later in the year. L&D is a Foundation Trust and Bedford Hospital will have certain (mainly financial) advantages from becoming part of the Foundation Trust. A Foundation Trust is required to have a membership list that reflects the population which it serves and L&D already has 16000 members. In order to ensure that Bedford Hospital is properly represented in the decision-making that lies ahead, it is important that as many Bedford residents as possible join and that includes Oakley and the other villages. There are no obligations or duties associated with being a member of the Foundation Trust and there is no cost to you in time or money. The benefits include having a say about how the Trust manages its affairs and you would receive newsletters and updates. You could have direct access to the Board of Governors or even stand for election as a Governor. You could raise concerns about the way the hospitals are being run or offer ideas for improvement. You would also become eligible for Health Service discounts when shopping online. There is nothing to lose, so sign up today!



Telephone 01582 718333 or complete the membership form enclosed with this newsletter or online at www.bedfordhospital.nhs.uk

Michael Frampton



This is just to let you know some great news – we have two parents who have volunteered to take over the running of Oakley Brownies – Lindsay and Mel – they will both undertake the Leadership Qualifications in September.

Thanks to Brenda, Lindy and Helen for their efforts in recruiting new leaders – it is great to know that Oakley Brownies will continue into the future.

It will be great to welcome Lindsay and Mel to Twinwoods District and North Beds Division.

Jane Thompson District Commissioner



New Brownie Leaders Found to start September 2018

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THE THROW AWAY SOCIETY

Oakley Show 2018

As you will have noticed there is a 'leaflet' within this newsletter. I hope you have not done the usual thing with such an item, namely throwing it into the recycling bin without giving it a second glance.

The said item gives the details of our expanding Oakley Show.

If you put in an entry, or visited the show last year it will be evident that some of the classes are the same but the entry criteria are different.

So, for example, if you cannot make a decent scone but pastry is your forte, go for it.

One entrant from last year suggested that we have a technical challenge, a touch of The Great British Bake Off! If you have an idea for an additional challenge, let us know.

The committee for the show is well aware that there is a lot of hidden talent in Oakley. Stop hiding your light under a bushel, let it shine forth and be seen.

Thus if you have dispatched the form into the recycling bin, go and retrieve it, read it, then make a positive decision to put an entry or two into the Show.

Please.

Jean Weston



Oakley Neighbourhood Plan

Thank you to everyone who attended the Exhibition on the 13th of May. We are now evaluating your feedback and will respond to your comments on line as soon as possible.

We can understand your frustration and we have felt it as well.

We wish to detail how we got to where we are:

- The government has said, through the National Planning Policy Framework, that all Local Plans must contain housing growth.
- All Neighbourhood Plans also need to show growth if required by the Local Authority, in our case Bedford Borough.
- If there is not an up to date Local Plan all growth is uncontrolled and any landowner and developer can submit plans. If these are turned down they can appeal and at appeal gain permission.
- The Borough Local Plan comes to an end in 2021 and therefore there is a need for a new one. The Borough is at present going through the process of producing a plan from 2021 to 2035.
- The Borough through this process had a consultant assess housing need in the Borough.
- The Borough then looked at the urban and rural areas suitable for growth with the largest amount in the urban area, the rest in the villages.
- Oakley was designated a category 2 village and was allocated between 25-50 houses.
- Oakley had already started its Neighbourhood Plan so that the village could manage any growth proposed for the village.
- At consultation events residents supported the need for more housing in Oakley. The preference was between 20-50 dwellings.
- Residents also showed a preference for small developments (10-/+) rather than one big one.
- At consultation all residents were concerned about traffic and resources, as no development site is free of these issues.
- Oakley Parish Council commissioned a housing survey which stated there was a need for approximately 40 houses.
- All the sites put forward by developers/landowners were audited by a consultant commissioned by the Parish Council. Those results were set against the Village Road Assessment and our policies.
- There were two possible sites that met the criteria.
- The Parish Council and the Neighbourhood Development Plan Group considered all these issues and have selected these two sites; one of 20 houses and one of 30 houses creating the least impact on Oakley as a whole.
- The two sites still need planning permission, must comply with the Neighbourhood Plan, the Borough Local Plan and the Government National Planning Framework and address such issues as drainage, highways, landscaping etc.

The Parish Council and the Neighbourhood Development Plan Group have, by making a balanced assessment of the sites, always recognised the impact on individual residents. Their judgement was based on what the residents told us, the planning system from government, the impact on individual residents and the impact on the whole village. If we do not as a village manage the growth, then growth will still be imposed on us but we will have no influence over where it is located or what it looks like, this will be decided by the Borough Council.

The next part of the process will be a regulation six week consultation. Watch for the date.

Paul Phillips Chair Oakley Parish Council
and Pat Olney Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Group.

SITE LAYOUTS ARE INDICATIVE ONLY AND THAT TYPE, SIZE, ETC OF DWELLINGS HAS NOT YET BEEN DETERMINED

[illegible]

Oakley Rural Day Centre

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

Tel: 01234 824935 Mobile: 07733 227374

NEWSLETTER May 2018

Welcome to our latest Newsletter. If anyone has access to the internet please visit our website, www.oakleyrural.org.uk The site is now updated regularly with the latest news from the centre. We have also produced a Facebook page for anyone who has a Facebook account. This will be updated with the latest news and photographs of events at the centre. The Facebook page can be found at www.facebook.com/oakleyruraldaycentre

We are also producing articles in various publications throughout Bedford and surrounding areas to raise the profile of the centre.

PLACES AVAILABLE

Our Day Centre provides our older people with a place where they can make friends in a warm and comfortable atmosphere. A range of activities including crafts, entertainment, quizzes and good old conversation are at the heart of our day. We serve freshly prepared home cooked lunches together with tea, coffee and toast at the start of the day with beverages throughout. The Centre is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. For details of costs and advice regarding transport, contact Lynne on **01234 824935** or **07733 227374**

ACTIVITIES

Since our last newsletter our clients have taken part in many activities at the centre, including various quizzes, group discussions and physical activities. They have also made pennants and picture frames using salt dough, made spectacle chains, and took part in basket weaving and paint blobbing! There are many pictures on our website with weekly updates in our news section. Our clients made Easter cards and Easter chocolate nests over the holiday period.

BRING AND BUY

Many thanks to all people who bought and donated at our recent bring and buy sale. We raised **£257.50**.



EVENTS

Kempston Hammer Choir visited once again in March and May to entertain our clients with a selection of songs We really enjoyed a good old sing along! Seventeen year old magician **Lucas Fordham** also entertained us. Lucas performed some amazing tricks. Everyone really loved it and we would like to thank Lucas who is a member of the junior magic circle for attending the centre!

We are grateful to **Village Agents** and **Age UK** who gave talks on the various services they provide. The talks were very informative and useful to some of our clients.

UPCOMING EVENTS

We have a date booked for **Urban Safari** who will be visiting the centre bringing various animals and reptiles for our clients to see. We also have three dates booked where flower arranging demonstrations will take place at the centre.

20TH ANNIVERSARY

This year our day centre will be celebrating its 20th year. The celebration will take place on Thursday 28th June. We are inviting all staff and volunteers who have worked at the centre over the last 20 years plus local dignitaries.



Oakley Pre-school News



The annual Easter Egg Hunt was a great success and raised £225 for pre-school funds. Many thanks to Gemma and Allan Aspinwall, of AAWR Ltd, who donated all the eggs.

Our 50th Birthday Celebration will be from 12 noon on Saturday 23rd June in the field behind pre-school.



Posters are now up in the village noticeboards and you will receive a flyer through your door over the next few weeks, inviting you to this fun afternoon.

We hope as many of the pre-school alumni will join us to mark this momentous occasion. Photographs of both past and present times at pre-school will be on display.

The plans for our new building will be available and there will be an opportunity on the day to donate towards our new build.

The children are busy making bunting to decorate the field and we will have a balloon race, bouncy castle, pony rides, ice cream van as well as lots of other entertainment for children and adults, including a special guest appearance from Peppa Pig herself.

Bring your picnic and blanket and come and celebrate 50 years of outstanding child care in our village.

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

Our website is updated regularly; please do visit it for an insight into Oakley Pre-school.

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 Pre-school is 50 years old!

*You are invited to join us in celebrating our 50th Birthday
and help keep our village Pre-School sustainable!*

Sat 23rd June from 12noon onwards

*Bring your own picnic,
chairs & blankets*

*Pictures & memories
of both past & present
to share*

*Pimms & Prosecco Bar,
Beers and Soft Drinks*

*Children's Entertainment
Balloon Race
Bouncy Castle*

Please donate towards our new building. Envelopes will be available on the day!

Oakley Pre-school Field, High Street, Oakley (Behind Pre-school)

College Farm Update

Well what a spring it has been! When my last article was written I thought we were at the end of winter and I was looking forward to spring, then the beast from the east hit. Snow ploughs were back on and for a good few days we were clearing roads and car parks whilst also trying to keep all the cattle water troughs de-frosted, not an easy job when the daytime temperatures did not get above freezing with a bitter wind chill.

March seemed to come and go very quickly even though very little work was achieved, our main jobs were carting straw and silage to farms that were running short and quite a lot of maintenance was carried out.

I went away for the Easter weekend, I was fed up of trudging around in the mud and cold, but when I returned it was wetter than I left and the river just about to burst its banks. Finally, by mid-April the weather improved very quickly and the rush was on to complete a huge backload of spring work which included fertiliser spreading, spraying, drilling and many other jobs which were unable to be completed due to waterlogged fields. I must thank my employees for the hours they put in to get caught up.

As poor as the spring weather has been since the middle of April we have been spoilt with some lovely warm, sometimes hot days. This sudden change has meant the trees, hedgerows and flowers have all come out in some of the most wonderful colours of green I have seen, set against the blue sky I think the countryside looks fantastic at the moment.

So here we are in the middle of May, spring drilling has been completed, and its straight into the grass harvest, the cattle are out grazing the river meadows, the first ducklings, goslings and cyg-

nets have been spotted and its beginning to feel like summer.

Farmer wife duties...

The annual Bedfordshire Young Farmers Rally was on 19th May 2018 at Scald End Farm, Thurleigh. Young farmers take part in over 200 competitions including cookery, flower arranging and tractor driving. Congratulations to Leighton Buzzard who were crowned winners this year.

Henry and I judged the 'dream machine' class so we were presented with new pieces of farm machinery and software. Many local firms support the event and there are lots of activities in the main ring. Henry had a stand promoting his contracting services with a couple of tractors on and I showcased my countryside art and photography prints. The day was a fantastic representation of country life in Bedfordshire and it was great to see a mix of people there.

I have also recently attended the two baby/toddler groups the village has to offer - Oakley Toddler Group on Mondays at the Village Hall and Messy Church on Thursdays at Oakley Church. Both are great places for mums to socialise and toddlers to go to with a mix of children's activities. Oakley Toddler Group also has a dedicated area for babies under 1 with a play gym and toys. Messy Church is more suited to over 1's really but we will be going back to both when we can.

Lastly my artwork and photography prints at the Bedford Arms pub in Oakley are being taken down on 11th June. I am offering 10% off marked prices from now until then so if you have seen a piece you like, purchase it now whilst the offer lasts. My full portfolio can be viewed at ljcreativestudios.com

Henry and Laura Saunders



AMIGO

A highly enjoyable evening was spent on the 27th March at Oakley Methodist Church when our musical knowledge was put to the test by Sue Brecknock who hosted the event. Our thanks to Sue and congratulations to the winning team who received chocolate eggs for prizes.

A memorable visit to the Military Intelligence Museum at Chicksands took place on the 26th April. There were 14 people in the party and the information available was truly fascinating. A really worthwhile visit discovering what took place in the field of intelligence.

The weather was fine for the annual visit to Pat Olney's delightful garden that took place on the 22nd May. Those who came very much enjoyed light refreshments and friendly conversations.

An evening walk led by John Dixon will take place on Tuesday 26th June from the Harrold-Odell Country Park. The walk will last for about two hours and is approximately 4 miles in length. Meet with cars at Oakley Methodist Church at 6.30 p.m. or

at the Country Park at 7.00 p.m. John's telephone number, should further information be required is 01234 824959.

The long awaited coach trip to London will take place on Thursday 26th July. There are only a few seats left on the coach. Please let John know as soon as possible if you wish to come. An itinerary appeared in the Spring Issue of the Oakley Newsletter. Please contact John if you require any further information.

There is no Amigo activity in August.

The 2018/19 session will begin on the fourth Tuesday in September which is the 25th September. Please look out for details in the Autumn issue of the Oakley Newsletter or in the September issue of the Churches Together Newsletter.

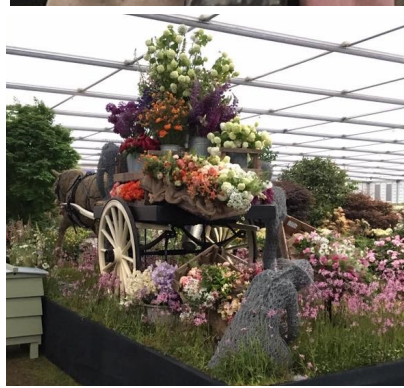
I hope that you all have a enjoyable Summer.

John Dixon

Merri Flowers of Oakley help to win Gold Medal At Chelsea Flower Show



Congratulations to Merri Flowers of Queens Close Oakley run by Julian and Rachelle Merrill who were amongst ninety-three other Growers from Flowers From The Farm who provided flowers to go in their first ever Chelsea "Going to Market" exhibit and they won a Gold Medal!



Litter (and dog poo)

Like me I am sure you have noticed the large number of drinks bottles, cans, and fast food packaging which lie around the village until someone clears it up. It spoils the appearance of our roads and paths and costs us, the residents, a great deal of money through our Council Tax. We employ a litter picker but there is a limit to what he can do. There are bins at strategic points around the village and it is very easy to use them instead of throwing your rubbish into the hedge or onto the grass verge. Please think before you throw, and if you are a parent, impress the importance of keeping the village tidy to your children.



On a separate note, there are plenty of dog poo bins around Oakley. As anyone who has accidentally trodden in dog poo while out walking can tell you, it takes ages to clean it off your shoes or the hall carpet and it has the potential to transmit all sorts of nasty diseases to our children. Please be a responsible dog owner and clear dog poo off the paths and pavements and put it in the bin. You can buy 100 nappy bags from the supermarket for 30 pence and these are ideal for clearing up; it is quite acceptable to use a litter bin for bagged dog poo if there is no red bin nearby and so much better than throwing the bag into the hedgerow. The plastic bags are ugly and can take many years to decompose.

Let's keep Oakley tidy!

Let's keep Oakley looking beautiful!

Michael Frampton



Poppy Walk for Honour 2018

Calling families, dog walkers and ramblers! Get walking and raise funds for The Royal British Legion, Bedfordshire's Poppy Walk for Honour, The Poppy Walk returns to commemorate the end of the First World War and to say thank you to the First World War generation- all who served, sacrificed and changed our world. Come to Bedford Priory Country Park in Bedford, Barkers Lane, Bedford MK41 9SH on Sunday 12th August, 2018. Join the Poppy Walk Squad and be part of the fun!

We will be gathering at Visitor Centre at Priory Country Park Bedford from 11.00am to embark upon a choice of two routes, 2km, which is wheel chair and push chair friendly or 10km for those that really want to stretch their legs. Stroll around some of the areas most interesting sites.

As well as the walk there will be live music and activities with refreshments available at the Cloverdale Retreat-the Parks Café. A wonderful day out for the whole family to enjoy while raising funds for our wounded, injured, sick members of our Armed Forces and their families. Why not come and join us?

Registration 11:00am

Act of Remembrance 11:30am

Walk starts 12:00pm

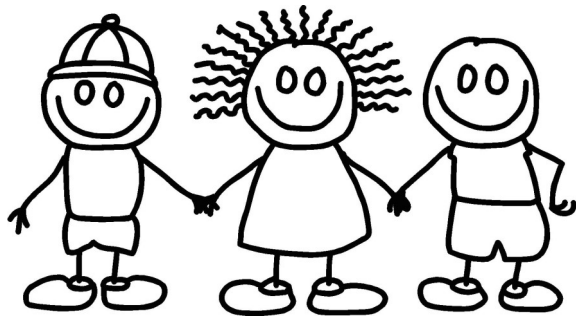
Register online at: bedpoppywalkforhonour.co.uk or upon arrival on the day

Adult 12+ £8.00

Child £5.00

Family £20.00 (2 x Adults + 2 x Child or 1 x Adult + 3 Child)





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

NAO Cattery

BOOK NOW!



07411 136691

naoservices111@gmail.com

www.naoservices111.weebly.com

Bramble Lodge, 29 Oakley Road, Clapham, Bedford MK41 6AN

Opening Hours: 9.00-11.00 Mon-Sat & 18.00-19.00hrs Mon-Fri
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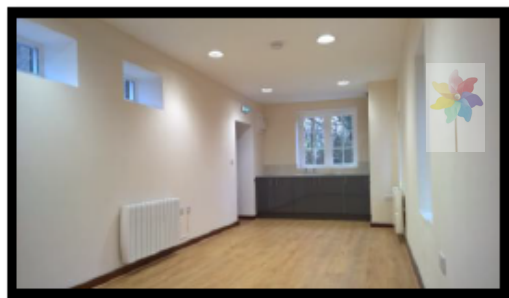
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Saturday 7 July at 7.30pm

St. Anne's Church, Kew Green

TW9 3AA

Supporting Integrated Neurological Services

Tickets £10 on the door and from

www.eventbrite.co.uk (booking fee applies)

Saturday 14 July at 7.30pm

St Mary's Church, Oakley

MK43 7RU

Supporting the Church Organ Fund

Tickets £14 (incl drink) on the door

and from james.sudworth@sky.com

The Joyful Company of Singers – www.jcs.co.uk – Registered charity no. 105725



OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Summary of Accounts - Financial Year ending 31 March 2018

Opening 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	£141,973.46
less uncleared payments	£0.00
Total cash in hand	£212,058.11

Receipts

	£
Precept	£51,616.00
Agency Services (Grasscutting - Bedford BC)	£1,719.27
Allotments (rent)	£861.54
Glass cullet sale from Bottlebank	£1,135.46
Grants (Neighbourhood Plan)	£10,060.00
Interest (including £1,283.65 from bond which reinvested)	£1,295.73
Newsletter & Directory advertisements and sponsorship	£5,349.00
Subscription refund	£101.00
VAT recovered from 2015/16	£3,743.22
Wayleave	£56.55
Sub total	£75,937.77

Payments

	£
Administration (includes subscriptions)	£3,324.76
Insurance	£1,521.75
Grass Cutting	£8,300.04
Grounds Maintenance (includes tree works)	£1,000.00
Wages, Tax, National Insurance, Pension, Clerk's Expenses	£18,247.09
S. 137 Payments (grants to local organisations)	£5,058.00
Capital Spending (village signs, seat & litter bins)	£3,083.78
Cricket Field & Riverside (rent)	£779.03
Allotments	£505.27
Bottlebank	£1,050.00
Bus shelters	£345.00
Community Orchard	£0.00
Christmas lights	£2,592.00
Linch Furlong	£700.00
Maintenance (installing seat, defibrillator & bedding plants)	£319.97
Neighbourhood Plan	£4,915.00
Play area (inspections & repairs)	£6,360.11
Publicity (Newsletter, Directory, Website)	£5,235.00
VAT refund due on above payments	£5,107.91
Sub total	£68,444.71

Closing Bank Balances

NatWest Bank current balance at 31/03/18	£29,121.60
NatWest Bank reserve balance at 31/03/18	£47,172.46
Nationwide investment bond 31/03/18	£58,257.11
Hampshire Bank investment bond	£85,000.00
less uncleared payments	£0.00
Total cash in hand	£219,551.17

Total **£287,995.88**

Total **£287,995.88**

£112,950 plus £17,995 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.

Did You Know There Are Dragons in Oakley?

Oakley Scout Group are very pleased to welcome the Dragons Explorer Scout Unit to Oakley. Dragons moved from their old base in Kempston to Oakley Scout Hut in January as quite a few of their members were travelling from North Beds villages. The move means that Scouting in Oakley is available for children from the age of 6 years right the way through to 18 years! The Dragons Explorer Scout Unit meets at the Scout Hut at 7.45pm each Wednesday during term time.

Bake Off – Diary Date

On the **1st July**, we will be holding the third annual Oakley Scout Group Bake Off. This is open to all (not just Scouters), who want prove that they are the best bakers in the village.



Come and join us in the afternoon for a cup of tea and slice of delicious cake, while helping to raise funds for the group. For more details, please see posters that will shortly go up around the village or contact the Group.

Adventure

In June members from the Scout section will be going to SAW (Scout Activity Weekend). This is held at the Bedford & Ouse Valley District campsite at Jordan's Close in Great Barford. They will take part in activities such as Backwoods Cooking, Canoeing, Climbing, Kayaking, Paddle Boarding and Shooting. This event brings together Scouts from right across North Bedfordshire.



Jamboree

A few of the Oakley Scouts are looking forward to attending NorJam in August. NorJam is a week-long international jamboree that takes place in Norfolk every four years. Scouts from around the world get together for a week of fun, activities, games and making new friends.



Community Impact

All Sections of the Group plus Dragons Explorers, took part in the village litter pick, as part of working towards their Community Impact Badge. Members and parents braved the weather for two hours to help keep Oakley tidy.

We were also lucky enough to be able to provide refreshments at both the litter pick and the NDP exhibition held in the village hall. These two events raised over £100 for group funds. We had cakes generously provided by parents, friends and members of the group. These were thoroughly enjoyed by all. We were able to donate the left-over cakes to the Day Care Centre at the Old School, where they were appreciated by their clients.



Get Involved

Oakley Scout Group is very lucky to have a small band of dedicated leaders and helpers, all of whom are volunteers, but we always need more help.

If you would like more information on Scouting in Oakley or to get involved as an adult; please contact Jon Abbott, Group Scout Leader, 07784 549180 or jonathan.abbott71@icloud.com.



Neighbourhood Watch brings neighbours together to create strong, friendly, active communities where crime and anti-social behaviour are less likely to happen.

Our vision is for a caring society, focused on trust and respect and where people feel safe from crime and enjoy a good quality of life. Neighbourhood Watch is about making sure that fewer people feel afraid, vulnerable, or isolated in the place where they live.

Reporting crimes and incidents to the police

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

We have been asked to pass on, through our members, the following information.

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

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

You should call 101 to report crime and other concerns that do not require an emergency response. For example, if your car has been stolen, your property has been damaged, you suspect drug use or dealing in your neighbourhood.

Or to:

Give the police information about crime in your area, or speak to the police about a general enquiry.

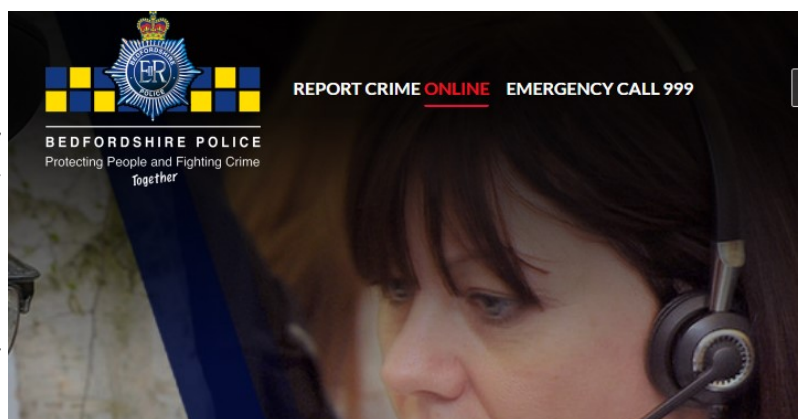
You should always call 999 when it is an emergency, such as when a crime is in progress, someone suspected of a crime is nearby, or when there is danger to life or when violence is being used or threatened.

A third option is available using the reporting page found on Bedfordshire Police's website.

At the top of the front page of the website is a red link to 'REPORT CRIME ONLINE'. Clicking on this link takes you to a new page giving a number of options through which to report your concerns or incidents.

These pages are constantly monitored and reviewed.

This is a better option for anyone who feels more able to write down rather than speak out their concerns.



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

Please consider joining and being part of the Neighbourhood Watch network. Register today and automatically receive useful information through our messaging service. Take a look at our website <http://bedfordnhw.ourwatch.org.uk> and join today.



Fraudsters taking advantage of the HMRC tax refund process

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) are currently processing tax refunds after the end of the tax year and criminals are taking advantage by sending out phishing emails and text messages. The fraudulent emails and texts include links which take victims to fake websites where their personal and financial information can be stolen.

In March 2018, HMRC requested 2,672 phishing websites be taken down and received 84,549 phishing reports. HMRC have warned that this kind of phishing is expected to continue in the coming months as genuine tax refunds are issued.

Tax refunds only come through the post or your employer

Treasury Minister, Mel Stride MP, the Financial Secretary to the Treasury said: "HMRC only informs you about tax refunds through the post or through your pay via your employer. All emails, text messages, or voicemail messages saying you have a tax refund are a scam. Do not click on any links in these messages and forward them to HMRC's phishing email address and phone number.

"We know that criminals will try and use events like the end of the financial year, the self-assessment deadline, and the issuing of tax refunds to target the public and attempt to get them to reveal their personal data. It is important to be alert to the danger."

Other types of HMRC scams

Fraudsters also use spoofed calls and leave victims automated voicemails saying that they owe HMRC unpaid taxes.

In most cases they ask for payment in iTunes gift card voucher codes and tell victims they have arrest warrants, outstanding debts or unpaid taxes in their name.

How to protect yourself

Recognise the signs - genuine organisations like **banks and HMRC will never contact you out of the blue to ask for your PIN, password or bank details.**

Note from the Editor : A friend of mine was scammed last week by a text from Barclays asking him to validate a payment to M&S Card centre for £2,400 and it arrived in the same stack as his other Barclays texts. In the text was a request to call a number by clicking on it which being a busy man he did. They sounded just like the Barclays call centre, even asked him security questions! They have access to all the info you put on the web so be careful. Luckily the Bank refunded him the next day.

Also recently a neighbour in Oakley suffered from being the recipient of the drive paving scam. Men in a white van called to ask if she was happy with the work they had done recently laying her new brick drive and was there anything else she wanted doing and she admitted that she wished she had had a path just like her neighbours. They did the work (pinching cut bricks from the front of the drive) and forced her to pay ten times the going rate for the work they had done. Be careful there are nasty scammers out there. If in doubt get another quote from a local reputable tradesperson first.



Oakley Educational Foundation

The 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.

Youth Club Update

As we start the summer our members are enjoying going outside at Youth Club and the activities we have to offer. Over the last few months we have set up the Youth Club how we would like it. I would like to take this opportunity to say a massive thank you for donations of furniture, equipment and monies. A big thank you to the Dazley family for our lovely sofa and also to the Traisneau family for our shed. We have a lot more room for our members. Their feedback tells us they feel like they are in a friend's home enjoying their chats, gaming and the activities that we put on for them. I am also pleased to say they now only use their phones for music and enjoy **talking** to each other and having fun.

We are welcoming more members so if you are 11 to 14 years of age and want to check Youth Club out then come down and join in. You can hang out with your mates and enjoy lots of tasty treats from our impressive tuck shop. These last few months we have enjoyed activities including sewing, our 'trash to fash' evening, making pancakes and our 'minute to win it' evening where we had lots of fun games for them to tackle in their teams.

Also, in the last couple of months we now have a new team and welcome Jade and Rachel. I think it is important for our members to have relatable mentors whilst they attend Youth Club and I have loved watching them join in with games, have chats and lots of laughs. Also, in our team we are pleased to welcome Isabella who is doing her Duke of Edinburgh Award. I love that we can offer her a role within our youth club and we are delighted with how well she has integrated with our members.

I am always on the look-out for new equipment and things to do for our members so if you are having a clear out, always let us know if you have something that we might be able to use. We are also fundraising and hope to have a fundraising evening in the summer; maybe cakes and refreshments made and served by our members. Look out for our poster at the Post Office with details next month. Thank you for your donations in our fundraising pot that we have at the shop, we really appreciate your kindness.

Have a great summer everyone

Dawn x

Youth Club, Fridays 7.30 – 9.00pm (Term Time only) £1 Entry. Email: dawn.pither@btinternet.com



Oakley Sports & Social Club has seen a fantastic first-half of 2018. The first May bank holiday saw the first village fun day at OSSC of the year.

Blessed with great weather, fantastic music courtesy of "Tom Betts Band", and children's bouncy castle entertainment provided by Sundorne Bouncy Castles, the day was a fantastic community event.

The committee would like to thank Mick and Barbara Hewitt and their staff, for overseeing the bar and the general running of the day and Paul and Julie Hewitt for running the BBQ.

The second bank holiday weekend in May saw the annual "Roley Moore" football tournament, which promotes local children's football to finish the season off. The event continues to be a popular for children and parents alike and Oakley Sports & Social Club would like to thank all involved for providing another great tournament.

Oakley Pilgrims Cricket Club have run an eight-week "All Stars" children and parents cricket scheme. It is the first time that OPCC have run the scheme. It has been a huge success with over 50 children involved. This is even more remarkable against reports of a downturn in youth cricket across the country. OPCC must have found a magic formula to defy this trend!

Following our refurbishment of the club house last year this summer we have invested in resurfacing the drive and its parking areas. This is in addition to the continued up-keep of the playing field to ensure the highest-quality pitches for both football and cricket. Many thanks to the great efforts of Andy Nash.

Looking ahead to the **28th July**, we will be hosting another **village fun day**. This event will be in support of the East Anglian Air Ambulance. Oakley Sports & Social Club will host "Matt Robinson's Band", a range of stalls, rides for children, bouncy castles, face painting, BBQ, ice cream van – plus lots more in the pipeline! The Fun Day will run from 2pm – 7pm. Entry is free and all are welcome. Please join us in aid of the East Anglian Air Ambulance.

Robbie Bays



Oakley Sports & Social Club

FAMILY & SPORTS BAR



A Trip to Scotland in 2016 – The Last Instalment

Since it would possibly take longer to read my ramblings than the trip actually took to complete, I will present this last instalment in diary form - fasten safety belts and hang on...

Monday 11th of July

I just had to look the day of the week up - honestly, I hadn't got a clue what day it was; time had become less relevant but it was about now that we realised Dennis was a few days behind schedule. I 'phoned home to rearrange work commitments as we weren't going to be back before the weekend.

This day, the plan was to head for Ullapool. I followed the route (if you look at the map of this area you will notice that there aren't many alternatives) and met Dennis just before Garve. I put the kettle on and Dennis gave the account of his night-stop.

He had encountered some locals in a pub and not only did they give him a donation and buy his beer, one, a shepherd, offered him free accommodation for the night. It was getting late and Dennis was very grateful. Expecting to be sleeping with some sheep he was amazed to be directed to a newly refurbished cottage with an interior straight out of an ideal home magazine. The shepherd left Dennis to the comforts of the cottage as he had business on a windswept hillside for the night, but he promised to return in time to make breakfast in the morning.

Now, as we drank a fresh brew of tea, we planned the rest of the day. As it was approaching time for a lunch stop we arranged to meet further along the route at the Altguish Inn, a popular stopping-place as it is the only one for miles. Lunch over we parted company again and I headed for the modestly spectacular Corrieshalloch Gorge and the 45 metre, Falls of Measach. I was about to take some more pictures.



Arriving at Ullapool and the impressive view down to Loch Broom and the harbour, I was admonished by Dennis for failing to wait for him along the route, which he had found hard, breezy and tiring. I booked in to the campsite by the lochside and arranged to meet Dennis later for a well-earned wild night on the town.

My pitch was next to one occupied by a solitary Ducati motorcycle and a one-man tent - I invited the occupant of the tent over for a drink. Gareth was from Wales and had entrusted his engineering business in Swansea to the care of his manager. He said that he escaped in this fashion whenever he could and had just now completed the run to John O'Groats but in the opposite direction to ours. He travelled light and drank water or wine, depending on circumstances. A kettle and stove were not included in his meagre kit, so he welcomed the proffered hot coffee with a shot of the whisky I had bought in Portree.

Wishing him well for his journey home I headed off to meet Dennis and suitable refreshment in this busy and popular small town. Dennis returned with me later for a nightcap as he was quite taken with Figgy's comparative luxury and the rumour that Figgy contained a bottle of whisky. We walked back to the campsite along the headland and on to the shingle beach - we were about to enjoy a superb sunset.

Tuesday 12th of July

Dennis came to the campsite with Doris for the now-customary cleaning before he set off. I was not going to rush off this morning. It was bright, sunny and warm. I was going to enjoy my pitch for as long as possible, with its proximity to the loch and the welcome campsite facilities. I had also purchased some upgrades for Figgy in the local camping shop the day before so I set about installing them.

Finally my check-out time arrived and I headed on towards our next night's stop, planned for the campsite at Durness, where we would be on the final stages, along the north coast towards the finish-line.

Today's route took us to a lunch-stop at Kylesku, a small, former ferry-port now partly redundant due to the construction of the sweeping, curved span of the Kylesku Bridge. I waited for Dennis and explored a small craft shop on the ferry slipway, unable to resist buying some gifts for the family and a few colourful additions for the van's interior; I always believe in supporting local economies in this way when I can.

After lunch Dennis rode off in a light drizzle and I continued to Scourie and its legendary shop. I bought some litres of expensive diesel as I was sure that buying fuel when it was available might be wise in this remote place. I passed Dennis along the road and it was now bright and dry again. I waited for him at Loch Laxford, having parked Figgy in a position where I could take pictures of the van across the shingle beach.

Finally, we arrived at Durness and its crowded campsite, which was a bit of a shock having enjoyed comparative solitude so far. Finding a position near the clifftop we settled down for a night in this picturesque location. The local pub-restaurant was crowded too but we found 2 seats and enjoyed good food and beer.

Dennis decided that he could sleep in Figgy's front passenger seat but due to the van's half-bulkhead design (something I would change later) it was

not possible to recline the seat much and his night was not the most comfortable. Mine was as comfortable as ever and morning dawned bright and dry.

Wednesday 13th of July

Today would be a hard riding day so Dennis had to get going quickly. He suggested that I visit the Smoo Caves, just east of Durness. I did just that and found them fascinating. My main interest, apart from the geology of the area, was the photographing and videoing of fulmars, seabirds not familiar in my usual haunts but quite numerous along these coasts. After some successful camera-work I returned to Figgy and the thrill of exploring unfamiliar roads and places.

Dennis had described the next feature I was about to encounter as one of the most demoralising parts of an already exhausting journey. Loch Eriboll (or Loch 'Oribble, as Den likes to call it) is an obstacle along the route. You arrive on its shoreline road to see your destination just 2 miles away on the other side of the loch. However, the actual distance is 12 miles by road - 'orrible indeed if the weather is rough, but today it was fine again.



I waited for Dennis at the head of the loch, where I found a broad parking place with superb views. As I had done at every suitable opportunity on the journey, I waited, camera poised, ready for his approach. As he pedalled along the very narrow road my video clearly shows him nearly being forced off the road as a following car passed him, leaving him precious little room. This was something that had happened far too often during the trip.

We continued after a much-needed recovery break, during which we discussed, in lively fashion and colourful language, the ease with which incompetents could obtain a driving licence these days - grumpy old men but with some justification. Peugeot driver - we have the evidence!

I continued in the van and stopped at a broad, deserted layby above a busy fish farm on the eastern side of Loch 'Orrible - actually, it was far from 'orrible today, homicidal drivers excepted. Stretching my legs and taking more pictures of views across the loch, I was passed by a fluttering apparition of white and black; I had never seen anything like this butterfly/moth before and pursued it across the bracken by the side of the road. Thankfully, the insect landed and I captured it on camera for later identification.

It was so unusual and the phone signal so passable that I broadcast the picture to all and sundry,

it being so unusual in my experience. Julia replied almost immediately, following her instant research, that it was a magpie moth.



Dennis and I met again in the village of Tongue and, feeling invigorated, possibly also fired by adrenalin following the earlier close-encounter of the Peugeot kind, he decided to continue to Bettyhill, some miles further on. If I could pick him and Doris up and return to Tongue for the evening, I could return them to Bettyhill in the morning and the ride could legitimately continue.

This we did, having had the opportunity to celebrate Den's birthday with a night out in Tongue to close the day. Dennis found space in a local hostel and I parked Figgy on the causeway that crosses Kyle of Tongue. What a location that is and I awoke to a bright, clear day with the call of oystercatchers and a view across to Ben Loyal, the most northerly of the Corbetts and my destination for a mountain hike later this year.

Thursday 14th of July

The day I described as the day of my encounter with the dreaded tick.

There is not much to add except that the drive across the north coast became less spectacular as the terrain became flatter, windswept and with few views of mountains.

My night was spent by the Duncansby Head lighthouse, above a deserted-looking John O'Groats. The sun barely sets this far north at this time of year. I sat for a while and watched the lights on the Orkneys, just across the sea from me and wondered about the history of Stroma, the now uninhabited island with its eerily windowless houses just across from the mainland.

Friday 15th of July

The final day in Scotland and a long drive home ahead of us, which we would complete in 17 hours.

It started early for me with a walk along the cliffs to see the twin pinnacles standing in the sea and icons of this coast. I also hoped to see Duncansby's puffins but I was unlucky this morning. Reluctantly, I walked back to the van and headed in to the town to pick Dennis up from the hotel. I was 15 minutes late, apparently. Dennis decided to call me "Mr Bumble", so I chose "Mr Bimble" for him, because he had just bimbled on a bike. Everyone was tired.

With occasional stops and Den's special guided tour of the east coast route, we headed for home through this place I had grown to love even more in just over a week of intense experience.

Steve Nicholas



Welcome to the multi award-winning Sharnbrook Mill Theatre

Patrons: Joanna David & Hugh Laurie CBE : Registered Charity

Monday 17th – Saturday 22nd September 2018

The Crucible

By Arthur Miller

Set in small town Salem, Massachusetts in 1692, this exciting drama about the Puritan purge of witchcraft is both a gripping historical play – and a timely parable of our contemporary society.

The story tells how small lies - children's lies – build and build, until the suspicions of a whole town are aroused.

For the Monday and Tuesday performances, priority booking is being given to local schools. For more information about these performances and the educational resources available please contact

Kathryn Rose: 07753 634985 or kathryn.rose86@gmail.com

An amateur production by arrangement with Josef Weinberger Ltd



TICKETS (£1 booking fee) for all our shows may be booked in person at PICK-A-LILY, Florist, 61 High St/Park Lane, SHARNBROOK, or on line: www.sharnbrookmilltheatre.co.uk/tickets Groups (10+) 10 % discount (not Fri/Sat) 2 wheelchair spaces (please phone (01234) 781372 to book); easier access seating; hearing loop



Monday 5th – Saturday 10th November 2018

Avenue Q – The Musical

Avenue Q is an "autobiographical and biographical" coming-of-age parable, addressing and satirizing the issues and anxieties associated with entering adulthood.

Its characters lament that as children, they were assured by their parents, and by children's television programs such as PBS's Sesame Street, that they were "special" and "could do anything". But, as adults, they have discovered to their surprise and dismay that in the real world their options are limited, and they are no more "special" than anyone else.

The musical is notable for the use of puppets, animated by unconcealed puppeteers, alongside human actors.

Parental guidance is suggested for children under 15 due to adult language and situations.



Are you interested to join us and take part? Welcome!

Workshops are on Monday 18th & Wednesday 20th June, 7.30 pm, with Open Auditions: on Friday, 22nd June, 7.30 pm.

All at Sharnbrook Mill Theatre. Enquiries: Please email: info@sharnbrookmilltheatre.co.uk



Wednesday 12th September, 12 for 12.30 pm

The next in our series of popular "Lunches at The Mill"

Floral Demonstrations by Jo Jacques
of Pick-a-Lily, Florists of Sharnbrook

PRECEDED BY A 2 - COURSE LUNCH

Tickets £16 Wine/soft drinks available Raffle

Two 'Warm Up' Appeal events. Details and Tickets: please contact from Brian Woodrow 01234 349455 or email: brianwoodrow538@gmail.com



Friday 12th October 7.30 pm

Do join us for a Special Evening with
Lincoln Noël - The Maestro

Joyous, most entertaining Concert Pianist with a vast repertoire. Includes a light-hearted Musical Quiz! Ticket £20 including Cheese board. Licensed Bar - Raffle



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Oakley Allotments



March was a cold month with the lazy wind (the sort that goes through you, rather than round) from February continuing to blow from Siberia and keeping temperatures lower than the expected average. My abiding memory of March is that it was very cold and we had little opportunity to visit our allotment. We also had snow, which did not stay for too long.

April was a wet month and slightly warmer than March had been. We were fooled into believing that spring had finally arrived between the 18th and 21st and the highest temperatures in April since 1949 were recorded. It did not last and cool weather returned. We had given up hope of an early start on the allotment although we did manage a fleeting visit to do a few jobs.

Early May gave us a few more hours at our plot. We finished pruning the blackberry and did a bit of tidying ready for the better times to come soon...hopefully. Seeds sown in the greenhouse had germinated and were approaching a stage where they would need planting out and, finally, we were able to do that.

On Sunday the 13th of May we worked in the garden and greenhouse at home in the morning

My main task was to empty one of our two compost bins so that the compost could be used to top-up one of the raised beds at the allotment. I also uncovered some three-year old leaf mould already in bags and well-rotted.

We arrived at the allotment in the afternoon to top-up the raised bed, sow it with a few rows of carrots, coriander and spring onions, carry on weeding and plant leeks. The afternoon was bright and warm and the bags of compost were duly spread over the raised bed, suddenly releasing clouds of small and very energetic flies. We had arrived in time for their lunch.



Later identified as Blandford flies (they were first identified as such when attacks occurred at Blandford Forum in Dorset as long ago as the 1960s) the little blighters proceeded to land on my lower legs and Julia's arms, as she was kneeling and weeding the onion bed. They bit hard and voraciously, drawing blood immediately. They are also known as bloodsucker flies. They leave painful and swollen bites which can cause some serious reactions - fortunately we were just slightly swollen where bitten but the effects lasted until mid-week.

Nearly a week later, as I write this, I have been inspired by a few evening hours spent cutting the suddenly-overgrown grass and watering the beds we have sown and planted so far.

The sun is shining, it is still and warm, the birds are singing and time has slowed to a point where it seems to be standing still, something rarely experienced in our frenetic world. There are no flies in sight.

There is yet more work to be done tomorrow; we are planning our first full day at the allotment for a considerable time. I must repair and paint the shed. We will weed the rest of the ground needed to plant, trim the rest of the grass and generally tidy up, which ought to include the glory-corner and the inside of the shed; it would be great to actually be able to walk into it again!

I'm expecting to find a few long-lost or forgotten bits and pieces so it may feel a bit like Christmas.

Most of the plots are now occupied, although some look abandoned. If anyone feels the urge to give the allotment life a try, experience the health benefits (apart from the attack of the Blandford fly) and even experience the slowing-down of time itself, then please contact me.

Steve Nicholas



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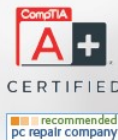
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Every day Joshua provides nutrition and education to 1000 children (aged 2-6) in our 15 Early Years Centres. Our focus for 2018 is to improve the quality of education at our centres. We have partnered with Save the Children to use their education assessments with our children. This has given us an understanding of what we need to do to improve our education delivery. We have employed Mourice a full time early years teacher. We are building new centres and renovating old ones. We have partnered with VSO to pilot Education iPads in two of our centres. We have also invested in locally made educational resources.

Phiri, our artist has done great work creating educational murals. We have started kitchen gardens to contribute to a more sustainable food source.

Jacky Mould



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theWI

OAKLEY WI

OAKLEY WI meets on the second Tuesday of the month, 7.30pm at the Village Hall.
Coming up...

TUESDAY 12th JUNE 2018

TAI CHI FOR HEALTH, FITNESS AND SELF DEFENCE.

A look at the history, practice and benefits of this ancient Chinese art with ROBERT AGAR-HUTTON

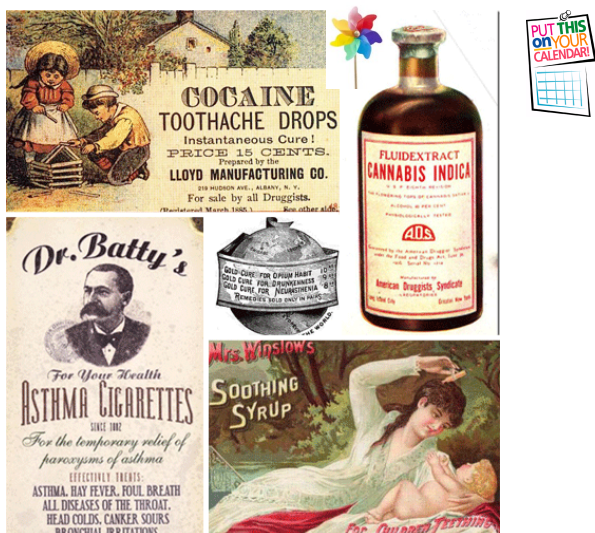
TUESDAY 10th JULY 2018

SCARF TYING AND ACCESSORISING

Bring along some of your own scarves and explore with WENDY WARREN some new ways to update your look.

TUESDAY 11th SEPTEMBER 2018

LEECHES AND LAXATIVES - VICTORIAN QUACKERY



Popular speaker, TRICIA THOMPSON promises an amusing evening's entertainment.

TUESDAY 9th OCTOBER 2018

We welcome **MASQUERADE**, a group of 10 amateur performers who will present a programme of song, dance and monologues based on musical theatre.

If any of these topics appeal to you, come along as a visitor. You will be most welcome.
For further information telephone 824296 or 826844



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OAKLEY GARDENING CLUB



Our summer programme of garden visits is well underway now.

Still to come is a coach trip to Waterperry Gardens near Oxford on the Fourth of July.

At the end of the month we visit members' gardens.

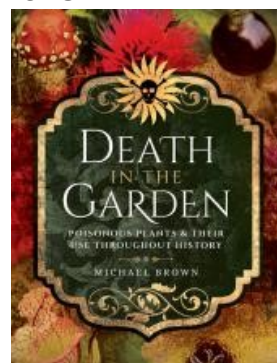
In the Autumn we will meet as usual at 7.45pm at Oakley Methodist Hall on the third Monday of the month.

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 17th 2018

We welcome back garden historian, **MICHAEL BROWN**.

This time his talk is '**DEATH IN THE GARDEN**'

Perhaps your garden is playing host to plants that could do us harm....



MONDAY OCTOBER 15th 2018

Podington Garden Centre's knowledgeable expert, **NICHOLAS WARLICKER** will pass on his tried and tested tips about **growing fruit and veg**. If you have any gardening questions for him, bring them along.

MONDAY NOVEMBER 19th 2018

CAROLINE BOWLDER will give us a history of **Gardening in Bedfordshire**.

Visitors are welcome at our meetings.

For further information telephone 823788 or 824703

oakley *Motorcycle* club

It has been a busy Spring at OMC and we are looking forward to yet another busy Summer.



The annual OMC Easter Egg run took place Easter Sunday with 60 OMC members and bikes leaving Bedford Market Square. We visited five different locations across Beds and Northants delivering hundreds of Easter Eggs to various homes including Lovell Homes, Oakley.

We all returned to Oakley Club for refreshments and a sponsored head shave of member Steve Emery which raised nearly £1000 for the East Anglian Air Ambulance.

On 19th April when OMC held its annual bike Jumble we raised a further £320 for the EAAA. A presentation was made to them of monies raised in 2017/18, including the annual curry night and the Easter Egg run, which amounted to over £2,140.



This brought our fundraising total to date to over £32,000.

This night was the busiest of the year so far with over 320 bikes in attendance leading to a first ever "pitch invasion" at Oakley Club!



The annual OMC theme nights started on 17th May with the Suzuki night sponsored by St. Neots Motorcycles. These will continue across the spring and summer. One or more OMC sponsor and Motorcycle dealership will be in attendance and will choose the winner who will receive a £50 food and drink voucher kindly donated by Oakley Sports & Social Club. They will then return for the finals night on Thursday 9th August.

The Suzuki night winner was Mark Daniels with his immaculate 1976 Suzuki GS750



The night which annually attracts the most interest from non bikers will be **Thursday 5th July** which is the **American Theme Night**. Again there will be not only be some American bikes on display but it will be coupled with our sponsors Santa Pod Raceway. Dave, Lesley and Paul Brown will encourage some Dragsters of both two and four wheeled varieties along together with road legal Dragsters and hopefully a vast array of quality Hot Rods and Custom Cars. Last year saw several Dragsters, some firing up, nearly 60 Custom Cars and over 250 motorbikes in attendance. So, if you want to bring the family along for food and drink, see some quality cars and bikes, pop this date in the diary. All are welcome there is no entrance fee. The kitchen is open from 5.30pm.

We hope to see some of our parishioners at our theme nights

Baysie - Roger Bays - Chair OMC

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from our website

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Full Menu

Friday

5pm - 8pm
Pizza Night

Saturday

4pm - 6pm
Full Menu



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