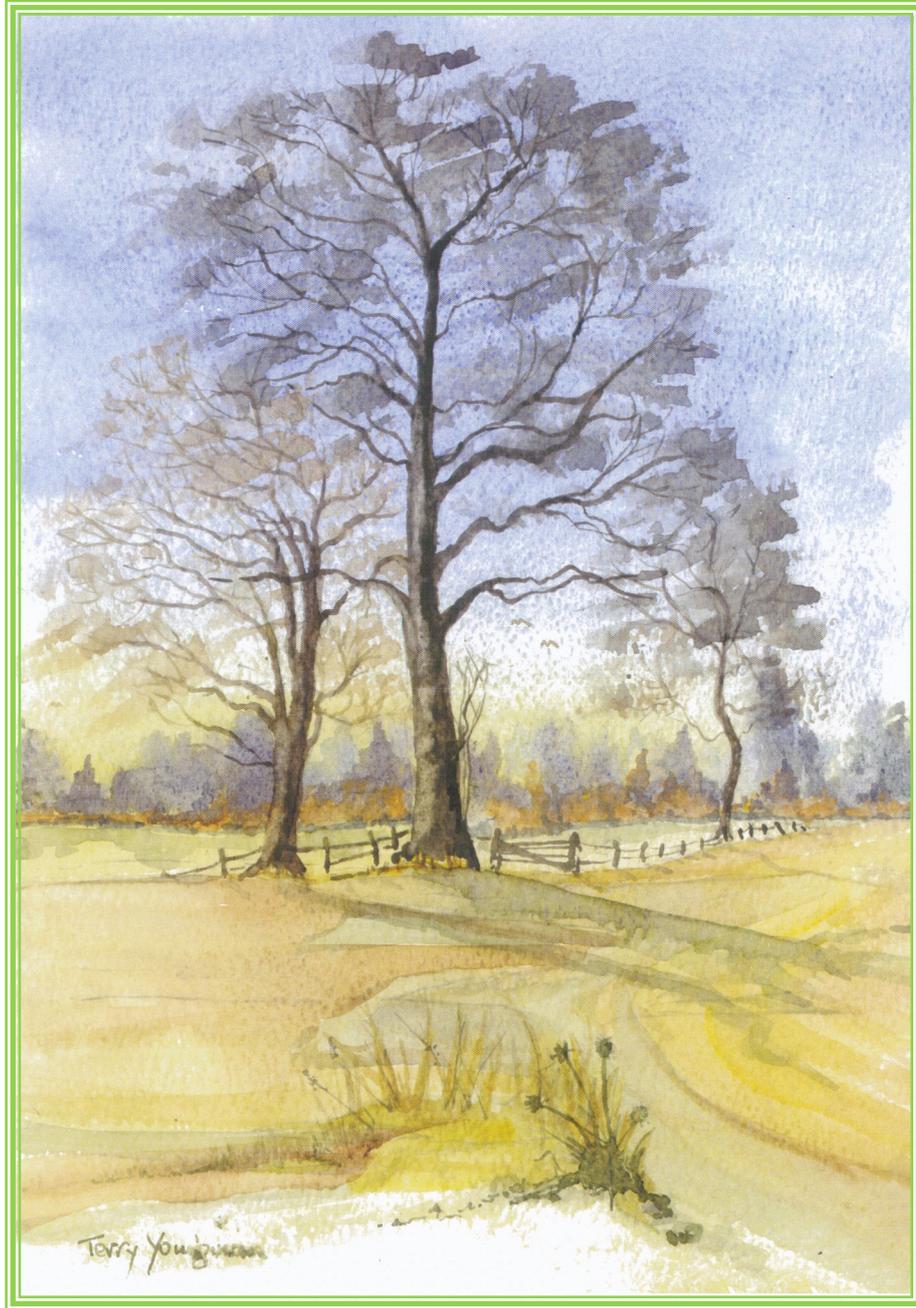




# Oakley Newsletter



**Summer 2019**

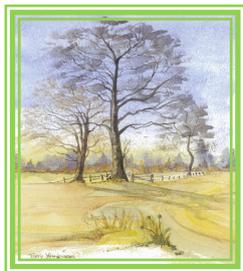
Number 79

**Oakley Carnival 2019**

*Celebrating 30 Years*

**5th & 6th  
July**





Front Cover : Summer Evening  
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 24 August 2019. The publishing date is 1st September 2019.

### Advertising rates

Colour Advertisements  
Quarter page: £30  
Half page: £60  
Whole page: £120  
Four consecutive quarter page adverts - discount 10%  
Black & white advert rates are available upon request.  
Loose inserts, any size up to A4: £100  
Invoices will be issued by Ann Paice, with payment to Oakley Parish Council.

### Editor

Bill Chalker  
13 Bevery 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  
Ten more



# Parish Council News

## Summer 2019

By Jane Walker (Chair)

### Chairman's report for Annual Parish meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2019 -

Although I was Vice Chair of the parish council when this report was given to the Annual parish meeting, I chaired the meeting as Paul Philips our chair was unwell. I am now acting Chair until Paul returns to his role on the parish council. Everyone on the parish council, and I am sure the village, wishes him well and we are looking forward to having him back at the helm, managing us in his quiet but firm way.

### Thank you

Before I update you on what the parish council have been doing this last year, I want to thank lots of people who have volunteered their time over the last few months. Firstly we have to thank Ann Paice. I am not sure where we would be without her. She puts in so much extra time and her knowledge and dedication have been exemplary; Bill Chalker, our Newsletter editor who does an amazing job of getting all of the articles in on time and always hits the exact deadlines he has set for publication; The NDP group who have put in hours of work to produce the plan for the village; the speed watch group who make sure we do not rest on our laurels with the speed cameras and are helping to keep the speed down on the other roads; parish councillors who all are involved in various volunteering roles around the village and so give so much of their time; Sara Farndon and her Village Directory team who each year produce the useful document that we all use throughout the year; the volunteers who keep our village sign planting looking beautiful. This year I want to particularly mention the volunteers who have renovated the war memorial. They have worked really hard to cut back the trees and bushes surrounding it and renovating the memorial itself so that we have somewhere to lay the wreaths. Sorry that sounded a bit like the Oscars but there are so

Continued on page 3

## OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

### PARISH CLERK

**Ann Paice**  
31 Radwell Road  
Milton Ernest  
Bedford, MK44 1SH.  
07873 887370  
parishclerk@oakleyvillage.co.uk

### CHAIR

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

### VICE CHAIR

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

### Jonathan Abbott

(Parish and Borough councillor)  
11 Lincroft 826335  
ma55ey35@gmail.com

### Pat Olney

33 Station Road. 824384  
pat.olney@btopenworld.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

many unsung volunteers who work hard in this village all year round, that I wanted to let them how thankful we are.

### **Grass cutting**

On to business from the year. Last summer was incredibly long and hot and followed the latest snowfall we have had in a long time. The verges were churned up but village grassed areas looked parched. Along with this we had a lot of complaints about the new grass cutters we had employed. As a result, we have chosen different contractors this year, so we hope for better results and so far things are looking good. Please let Ann Paice know if there are any areas you are unhappy with.

### **Youth Club.**

The village youth club goes from strength to strength, led by Dawn Pither who has been amazing at persuading residents and companies to donate items to make it feel more welcoming and fun for the young people. The parish council continue to support the club financially and Dawn is now looking to open a separate club for older children. We wish her as much success with that as the current one.

### **Speed watch**

The Speed watch group gave a presentation to the meeting and explained that the parish council have purchased a moveable speed sign that the group have undertaken to keep moving around the village to keep reminding drivers to slow down. It will be interesting to hear what the data from it says. We also have data each month from the average speed cameras and, whilst we do not publish the figures for each camera, we do report in the council minutes on the number of prosecutions each month. It has gone down tremendously from when we started which shows they are working as a deterrent, but we do still have quite a number of drivers who go well over the limits particularly on Pavenham Road. These were not working for a while so drivers seem to have taken advantage of that. However they are now on permanently and recording a large number of speeding cars.

### **Budget**

There is a report from Ann on page four in the newsletter which outlines the budget position from last year and explains how much we are asking for via the precept this year. I will highlight some of the things that we intend to spend the money on.

We pushed the Borough's planning department, very hard, for a pedestrian crossing at the new Parrot Close site on Lovell Road. This ultimately

could be a development of 25 houses with no means of safely walking into the village. Our request was not taken up by the planners however, so we have decided to use the developer contributions from the site, along with money from the precept, to commission a crossing there. We also know that the bollards around the Green, although now collared, will not last for many more years so we will be replacing a few each year on a rolling programme. Also on a rolling programme of replacement we will be exchanging existing litter bins for the dual waste/dog bins.



**Pat Olney**

This year, after 33 years as a Borough Councillor, Pat Olney stood down from the Borough Council. The parish council thanked her for all her hard work and dedication to the village over so many years and presented her with a plaque and a gift voucher for the Art shop in Bedford as we understand she's looking forward to having more time to indulge her hobby of painting.

Thank you Pat for devoting so much of your time to helping everyone in this village.

### **Oakley Carnival**

Finally, please do not forget it is the Oakley carnival this year on 6<sup>th</sup> July. The Carnival committee have other events planned before that so please support them whenever you can.



### **Additional item since the APM**

The Community litter pick was a big success this year. Thank you to the scouts for providing refreshments and to Whites Engineering for providing Cream eggs for all children participating. Thank you also to the Oakley Post office for sourcing the cream eggs and providing them at cost price. A lot of villagers turned up for the event and they did a great job of clearing the litter from ditches, alleyways and verges where our usual litter picker is not contracted to go. Thank you.

Congratulations to Jon Abbott who was elected to take over from Pat Olney as our new Borough Councillor. We look forward to working with Jon to ensure that the village and it's residents are strongly represented on the Borough Council.

Jane Walker (Chair)



## OAKLEY SHOW

As you will have discovered this newsletter contains the programme for Oakley Show, which **includes an entry form**.

**Please do not put it in "a safe place", to be dealt with later.** We all know what happens, these places are so safe we cannot find them when needs be.

Pin it to your notice board or calendar, stick it on a cupboard door or put it where you can find it after deciding what you are going to enter.

Remember this is not The Chelsea Flower Show, but a way of showcasing many talents that abound in the village. All monies raised from this event goes towards the upkeep of the village hall, a very necessary part of Oakley.

Some of the classes need a bit of forethought, and some can be left until later. Just have a go, even if you only put in one entry. At least come and see what others have done and perhaps go home with someone's efforts following the auction that happens after the show.

Jean Weston

### OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

#### Summary of Accounts - Financial Year ending 31 March 2019

Opening 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
<b>Total cash in hand</b>	<b>£219,551.17</b>

Receipts	
£	
Precept	£51,707.00
Agency Services (Grasscutting - Bedford BC)	£1,171.33
Allotments (rent)	£943.82
Community Infrastructure Levy	£9,905.81
Glass cullet sale from Bottlebank	£1,753.40
Grants (Neighbourhood Plan)	£3,250.00
Interest (including £1,567.03 from bond which reinvested)	£1,608.89
NatWest compensation	£123.00
Newsletter & Directory advertisements and sponsorship	£6,272.50
VAT recovered from 2017/18	£5,107.91
Wayleave	£0.00
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>£81,843.66</b>

Payments	
£	
Administration (includes subscriptions)	£3,561.98
Insurance	£1,582.62
Grass Cutting	£10,800.00
Grounds Maintenance (includes tree works)	£3,858.50
Wages, Tax, National Insurance, Pension, Clerk's Expenses	£19,438.80
S. 137 Payments (grants to local organisations)	£6,218.00
Capital Spending (speed indicator & litter pick signs, litter pick equipment, new play equipment)	£42,380.54
Cricket Field & Riverside (rent)	£800.08
Allotments	£1,736.62
Bottlebank	£1,190.00
Bus shelters	£0.00
Community Orchard	£0.00
Christmas lights	£5,000.00
Linch Furlong	£700.00
Neighbourhood Plan	£9,629.35
Play area (inspections & repairs)	£1,237.00
Publicity (Newsletter, Directory, Website)	£5,130.00
VAT refund due on above payments	£14,370.51
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>£127,634.00</b>

Closing Bank Balances	
NatWest Bank current balance at 31/03/19	£16,740.37
NatWest Bank reserve balance at 31/03/19	£17,214.32
Nationwide investment bond 31/03/19	£58,698.06 { of which £126,725
Hampshire Bank investment bond	£81,126.08 { ring fenced
less uncleared payments	£18.00
<b>Total cash in hand</b>	<b>£173,760.83</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>£301,394.83</b>

<b>Total</b>	<b>£301,394.83</b>
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£102,485 plus £20,980 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.



**YOUR  
PRE-SCHOOL  
NEEDS  
YOU**



**Check Out  
below**

## **Oakley Pre-school News**

Summer term is well underway and we are busy preparing 22 of our older children for their transition to primary school.

Over the last few years we have been looking into moving our setting from its current home at the Oakley Methodist Church Hall, to a larger more accessible building more suitable for the age of the children that we cater for. The broadening of the criteria for Two Year Old Funding and the introduction of 30 Hour funded childcare for 3 and 4 year olds has seen a strain put on the resources that our current premises offer us.

We have been working towards a purpose built pre-school with space for more children and a separate room for the growing number of two year olds accessing our setting. Our management committee and dedicated staff members have worked tirelessly to fundraise and ensure that this much needed new facility for our village goes ahead.

After looking into many options, we have been lucky enough to be offered a lease on part of the field behind the current pre-school to build an eco-friendly type building with accessible access. The new premises will include child sized toilets, a nurture room and library, open views and access onto the field via a covered decking with space to increase our Forest School activities.

The Early Years are so important and we are the building blocks that ensure that children are motivated to learn when they go on to school. The environment that we will create for the children

will facilitate their learning and development within an idyllic setting.

Planning permission has now been granted for this project and we are extremely excited and proud of how far we have come so far.

### **We are now asking for your help.**

We have approached all businesses within Oakley via letter to ask for donations and we will be sending flyers to all households within the village too.

Please, if you feel you can help, or if your children benefitted from starting their educational journey at Oakley Pre-school, and can give a donation, no matter how big or small, you would be contributing towards the future of outstanding childcare within your community.

Do look out for our flyers for how to donate coming through your door. Feel free to get in touch with offers of help etc.

For those of you on Facebook we do have a donate button on our Facebook page and you can always contact us via the telephone and email contacts below.

### **Admissions**

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



## BEDFORD BOROUGH NEWS

### Oakley Ward Borough Councillor

As you will be aware from the last Oakley News-letter, Pat Olney stood down at the Borough Elections on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. I am honoured to have been elected to represent Oakley Ward on Bedford Borough Council.



### Your Local Area, Your Town

The Bedford Borough Community Safety Partnership (CSP) has launched the Community Safety Consultation and wants to hear your views.

This Partnership includes Bedford Borough Council, Bedfordshire Police, Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue and other local organisations. They work together towards a shared vision of "tackling crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour, drug and alcohol misuse and increasing people perceptions about safety and well-being in our communities."

This consultation asks what you think about your local area, the town centre, how safe you feel and your concerns around crime and anti-social behaviour.

Officers from the Community Safety Partnership will be attending community events throughout the summer including the Bedford International Kite Festival, Eid Festival, Queens Park Multicultural Parade and Fire Station open days to chat to local residents about this consultation.

All the responses to this consultation will be part of a strategic assessment of crime and anti-social behaviour to help the Partnership to write the new Community Safety Plan 2020-23. This Plan sets out the priorities and work for the Community Safety Partnership over the next few years.

Chief Superintendent David Boyle, Chair of the Community Safety Partnership said "This is a really important consultation. Let us know what concerns you have in your local community, and help us to make sure we are addressing the issues that matter to you, your local community and local residents across the Borough."

The survey is open until Friday 2nd August 2019. It is available online on the Borough website at [www.forms.bedford.gov.uk/csp](http://www.forms.bedford.gov.uk/csp) You can also request a copy of the consultation via email at [communitysafety@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:communitysafety@bedford.gov.uk).

There are also paper copies available at Borough Hall, the Customer Service Centre and local libraries which can be sent to Consulting Bedford, Bedford Borough Council, Borough Hall, Cauldwell Street, Bedford, MK42 9AP.

### Bedford Borough Local Plan 2021-2030

The local plan is now moving into its examination stage, with the hearing session having opened on Wednesday 29 May 2019 at 9:30am. These will run for four weeks on the following days:

Date from	Date to	Number of days
Wednesday 29 May	Friday 31 May	3
Tuesday 4 June	Friday 7 June	4
Tuesday 18 June	Friday 21 June	4
Monday 24 June	Thursday 27 June	4

Venue: Committee Room 1, Bedford Borough Council, Borough Hall, Cauldwell Street, Bedford MK42 9AP

These sessions are open to the public, if you wish to attend.

Councillor Jon Abbott

Telephone: 07784 549180

Email: [jonathan.abbott71@icloud.com](mailto:jonathan.abbott71@icloud.com)

*Vicky Young is a qualified yoga instructor who completed her training in Rishikesh, India.*

*She incorporates a variety of different styles into her practice and clearly explains the benefits of each posture whilst adapting to suit the needs of all.*

*She offers group and individual classes and offers exercises and classes for the workplace.*

**Classes are held at**

- Great Denham Community Centre • Oakley Village Hall •
- Elev8 Dance Studios Bedford •

Adult Evening, Weekday and Weekend Classes  
Work Place Yoga, 1 to 1 Private Classes,  
School CPD Training Days, Children's Yoga  
Over 70s Yoga

**Contact**

Mobile 07788 262 548  
Email [vickyyoungsyoga@gmail.com](mailto:vickyyoungsyoga@gmail.com)  
Facebook Young's Yoga  
Instagram youngsyoga



Bedford Borough  
Council

### Update from Oakley Village Agent

**Village Agents provide a free, confidential service** and are here to help people over 65 with a variety of issues – large or small. We are funded by Bedford Borough Council. We are all DBS checked and operate in the strictest confidence. Lizzie is the Village Agent for Oakley.

**Book your Winter Wellbeing visit** – as we move towards spring there is still a chance to take advantage of this campaign designed to help improve the wellbeing of older people over the colder months. The visit involves lots of information, helpful tips and also, there are a few freebies such as purse bells, carbon monoxide alarms, and plug-in night lights will be on offer to those who book. Phone Lizzie to book now!

**Don't be lonely** - The Silverline Telephone Helpline is there to help. Everyone can feel lonely from time to time, but for many older people, loneliness is an ongoing issue, especially in the winter. Silverline provides a wonderful service where a volunteer phones once a week for a friendly chat. They also offer a letter writing service, where regular correspondence is exchanged between a volunteer and an older person.

**Help with form filling** – many older people aren't claiming the benefits they are entitled to. Lizzie can help identify which benefits you can claim by doing a confidential benefits check. She can also help you fill in those complicated forms such as Blue Badge, Council Tax Reduction, Housing Benefit and Attendance Allowance forms.

Please call **Lizzie**,  
your **Village Agent** on  
**Freephone 0800 039 1234**

*This is an answerphone service, so please leave your name address & telephone number*



## **Oakley Educational Foundation**

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

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

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

## From Snacks to Meals!

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



# for Coffee

## Oakley's Coffee Shop!

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



# Tudor Rose Patchwork

## Oakley's Sewing and Threadcraft Shop

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

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

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Reductions for young members

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

## Thank you for 33 years as your Borough Councillor by Pat Olney

I have had so many good wishes from everyone on my retirement from being your Borough Council that I thought I would record some of the highlights from my 33 years. The biggest highlight has been working with you all and the Parish Council to achieve so much to make Oakley a good place to live and work.

Cynthia Calton, Chair of the Parish Council, worked with me as the Borough Councillor and the developers and bought the Village Green for £1.00 for you all to enjoy. Oakley Residents Group and the Parish Council achieved the Lorry ban through the village and the Oakley Village Plan. They realised all their goals in 5 years. These included refurbishing the Play Area on the Green, attending Local Plan enquiries and making sure that we retained the gap between Oakley and Clapham.

I worked with the Friends of the Old School, originally OSCAR, to make sure that the Old School became a community Building. The young as well as elderly people enjoy the facilities there and my daughters had their wedding receptions there. I was involved in the rebuilding of the village Hall again with everyone working together to achieve this much-used building. All the village organisations worked together to get the Eastern and South-east Region Best Kept Village Award and the Village was a runner up nationally.

The Carnival was originally started to bring everyone together and is continuing to this day. Do not forget to attend the Carnival this year on July 6<sup>th</sup>. I must mention the Allotments and Linch Furlong and the people who made it happen. The Parish Council have a 99 year lease to preserve the latter as a nature reserve. Browns Wood was planted with nearly 30,000 trees for the year 2000.

The latest project has been the Neighbourhood Plan which should keep Oakley green and a lovely community to live in. I have enjoyed working with you all and representing Oakley concerns at the Borough Council as well as working on many tasks, a prime one being to keep Bedford Hospital open and serving the residents of this borough. It is difficult to pick out individuals because there have been so many people who have given their time and commitment to this village.

Thank you all for an enjoyable and interesting 33 years .

Pat Olney



For all Pre-School Children

At St Mary's Church Oakley on

Thursdays during School Term 10am to 11.45

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

More detail from Dorothy Palmer at  
01234 823959



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

# Oakley Rural Day Centre

Oakley Rural, The Old School, Lovell Road, Oakley, Beds, MK43 7RX  
Tel: 01234 824935 Mobile: 07733 227374 Web: [www.oakleyrural.org.uk](http://www.oakleyrural.org.uk)  
Registered Charity No: 1060283



## NEWSLETTER

Welcome to our latest Newsletter. If anyone has access to the internet please visit our website, [www.oakleyrural.org.uk](http://www.oakleyrural.org.uk) The site is now updated regularly with the latest news from the centre. We have also produced a Facebook page for anyone who has a Facebook account, This will be updated with the latest news and photographs of events at the centre. The Facebook page can be found at [www.facebook.com/oakleyruraldaycentre](http://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 a place where they can make friends in a warm and comfortable atmosphere. A range of activities including crafts, entertainment, quizzes and good old conversation are at the heart of our day.

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

### ACTIVITIES

Since our last newsletter clients have been busy taking part in a variety of activities.



Clients have decorated their own gift boxes using paints and patterned paper. We have made plant pot coasters from cds and we are also making a rug from pom poms which will take some time and a few sessions to complete.

Other activities include making coconut ice and Easter cards. Also quizzes, word games, chair based exercise, bingo and a music quiz were all part of a varied few months.

Also thanks for Kempston Hammers Choir who came in to sing for us. Thanks to Nicky for providing bread rolls and bacon for our clients on St Georges day and the following two days, they really enjoyed the change.

### EASTER WEEK

Volunteer Nicky did her usual excellent display of Easter products. Our clients designed their own Easter bonnets using flowers, chicks, eggs, feathers and ribbons. We also took part in a spring based word game and a quiz. Every client won an Easter egg in the raffle and we would like to thank Tescos in Goldington and Cardington Road, plus Morrisons for donating them.

### UPCOMING

We will be making a pearly kings and queens themed scarecrow for the Oakley Carnival. If anyone can donate a black cap, coat or trousers plus white or pearl buttons it would be greatly appreciated. Also if anyone knows

of any local entertainers they can recommend please let us know, contact details at the top of this page. David Swallow

## Westfield House Open Garden Sunday 12 May in aid of the Church Organ Refurbishment

I had a sense of The Secret Garden as I ventured into a part of Oakley that I had never visited before. There was a long, long drive enveloped by trees on either side that felt a bit like it would go on forever. This ended in a turn into a field containing some



of the oldest trees I have encountered in the village – but everything was still tantalisingly tucked out of view behind hedges. A friendly greeting at the gate allowed us to enter through the hedge and a series of vistas ensued.

Long lawns where the village children ran and ran and ran, beautiful beds of perennials, pretty greenhouses with tempting deckchairs where some of the older visitors had succumbed to the beautiful sunny day with which we had been blessed. Walking around another corner I came across a thatched summer house trailing with wisteria where Saxaphrenia played for our delight. There were tinkling streams, serene ponds and large areas of natural rock absorbed into the design. The gardens at Westfield were created by Percy Cane in the 1960s for Mr E F Davison following the purchase of the house from the Quenby family.



I must say that I enjoyed the discovery of further walled gardens, fountains and lawns and all surrounding a cosy house that sits comfortably in its surroundings. Following the sound of bone china being carefully placed in saucers I found the ladies of the village serving tea and cakes to many of the visitors who were busy catching up with each other. Over 200 visitors enjoyed the garden on Sunday afternoon.

I was very pleased to hear from Michael Frampton that more than £1,400 was raised on the day; the money will form part of the organ fund for St Mary's Church. The organ refurbishment is already under way but there will be a need for maintenance and regular servicing which has not been undertaken in recent years. He would also like to pass his thanks on to the many contributors of cakes, the ladies that worked so hard on the refreshments and Susan and John Ainsworth who kindly made their home available for the afternoon.



Bill Chalker, Editor

## Oakley Speed Watch Report – May 2019

The last newsletter introduced the subject of the recently-acquired speed monitoring and display panel, since which time we have been able to use it in various locations around the village and evaluate its contribution to our speed watch project.

A disadvantage of our planned speed watch exercises is that they require at least three volunteers, their commitment of one or two hours of time per exercise, and reliance on good weather. The display panel has none of these disadvantages as it can operate round the clock for days, until its rechargeable battery needs to be replaced.



The panel cannot record any vehicle details, however. It records speed and time data and stores it for retrieval later. Quite a lot of data, as our specialist team operating the equipment was to find out. The panel detects vehicles coming from both directions but only displays speeds of traffic approaching its display side - something of which some of us were unaware before operating the panel.

Something else which we had to learn quite quickly was that the panel cannot differentiate easily between vehicles and so it stores multiple data records as vehicles pass - it is not, after all, a military-grade system with an ability to separate "targets" and with a cost to match!

The first data retrieved revealed many thousands of separate records, which we mistakenly thought referenced separate vehicles passing the panel; the direction of passing vehicles is recorded, which is useful. One of our team of volunteers questioned the count of what we took to be 92,000+ vehicles in the period analysed. So we looked a lot closer at the data!

Our panel team, two volunteers with extensive technical expertise, then proceeded to analyse the data, which can be inserted into spreadsheet software to provide the initial reports. The package of add-ons supplied with the panel does not include anything particularly sophisticated so the panel team then considered ways of processing the data

further to improve its accuracy. To help with this they consulted the manufacturer and carried out comparative physical traffic counts.

The panel is potentially a good tool to enable us to survey traffic over the coming months, as we are likely to see changes in traffic flow and densities due to various disruptions to the local road network. In the longer term it is vital that we have information to reinforce any comments we may make concerning any further planning applications in north Bedfordshire.

We have been questioned as to why we need all of these additional measures when we already have average-speed cameras round the village. Simply put, the additional measures belong to us and the cameras only provide data for the police to access. We are only given summaries of the average-speed data consisting of the month, speed ranges and number of offenders recorded. We have asked for times and specific dates to be provided too but this has been refused, citing data protection rules.

Not only that, but the cameras only cover restricted areas. It is possible for vehicles to exceed speed limits within a covered area but which can be entered or exited between cameras.

The most recent report from the panel data is summarised here (the panel is the Morelock device):-

*Location: Highfield Road near railway bridge*

*Direction: Facing roundabout off Paula Radcliffe Way*

*Period: From Sat 27<sup>th</sup> April to Sun 12<sup>th</sup> May 2019*

*Summary of findings:-*

- 1. 94% of all traffic is within the 30mph speed limit. However there were significant instances of speeding with the maximum being an appalling 76mph in the 30mph Highfield Road area.*
- 2. During the 15 days of the exercise there were 596 instances of vehicles travelling over 35mph. This is an average of 40 per day.*
- 3. Of these there were 38 travelling over 45mph, an average of 3 a day.*
- 4. The fastest speeds recorded were 76, 69, 54, 53, 52 (twice), 51 (three times) and 50 (4 times) in the 30mph area.*
- 5. Of all the speeding vehicles, 78% were travelling from the rear of the Morelock device and as such do not see the screen and experience the deterrent effect. Conversely it can be seen that the Morelock device is very effective in slowing down speeding vehicles.*

Instances of flagrant speeding will be reported to the police and may lead to their operations being extended where appropriate. The worst speeding offences may lead to a ban or, in extreme cases, a custodial sentence as well.

Steve Nicholas

# Oakley Neighbourhood Plan

The Borough has agreed to the Plan and it will be on the website shortly.

The plan has been submitted to the Borough Council. The borough checked it and with two very minor amendments it has been accepted. The Borough agreed submission will be on the website shortly.

The next Stage will be for the Borough Council to undertake a 6 week consultation in accordance with Regulation 16 of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations. After the consultation period the borough will appoint an Examiner in consultation with the Parish Council.

The plan will then be considered by the Examiner. The fact that the Borough Council has accepted the plan shows the amount of hard work over 3 years that the NDP have undertaken. The group has had to ensure that we kept within the regulations, appointed a consultant and held several consultations, acted on the results of the consultation and produce policies that will keep Oakley green and our sustainable, enjoyable community.

Regular reports have been discussed at the Parish Council meetings and their support has been much appreciated. Our Clerk has not only kept detailed minutes but also organised the consultations, the maps that went into the plan and many other small but important details.

The group has had many discussions. Individual members looked at different policies, submitted them to the group, public consultations then revised them until the final versions were agreed by the Parish Council at the final consultation. They are all contained in the plan submitted and agreed by the Borough Council.

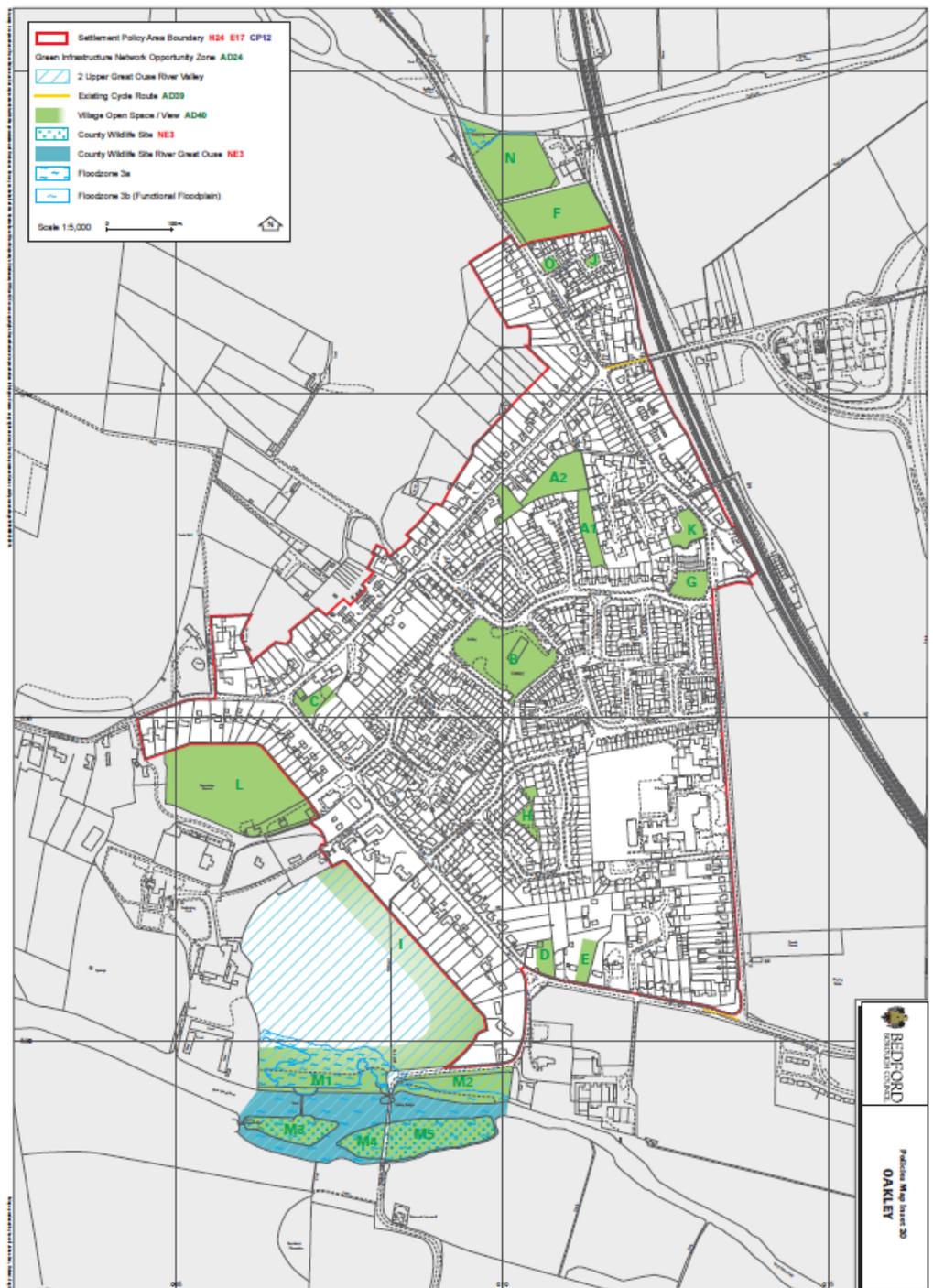
Please read the document to see not only our history but how, through the policies, you will see our village evolving in the future.

This has been a mammoth task and I thank everyone who has been involved, including people who contributed outside the group.

I also thank Oakley residents who took the time and effort to respond to consultations and questionnaires. Thank you.

We will now see how the Examiner views the plan.

Pat Olney Chairwoman



## LOVERS

(Ladies of Oakley Vaguely Energetic Rambling Society)

We LOVERS love to ramble, we love to chat and we love to lunch. We also love "added interest" to our walks, not necessarily following the wrong route or losing some of the group, although these occasions become part of our collective memory – "Do you remember when ..... ?" I have in mind a spectacular view (yes, there are plenty in our "flat" landscape), a glimpse of a less common bird or wild (I do mean wild!) animal, an unusual flower or field crop (elephant grass, who knew?), an interesting acquaintance (we are a friendly bunch), an enticing fruit to pick, a notable sculpture or an ancient site.



One ramble rich in historic interest is "THE THORNTON WALK" around the villages of Moggerhanger and Blunham, and the hamlet of Chalton, named for the Thornton family's connections with the area. In brief, the Thorntons came to Bedfordshire in 1733 and were squires of Moggerhanger Park. So, ten hardy souls braved a snowy February morning warmed by the prospect of a pleasant albeit bracing foray into the countryside, along with plenty of historical detail, to say nothing of a tasty lunch at its completion.

Imagine our delight, therefore, when we happened upon the deviser of this splendid walk. Rosalie was standing at her garden gate, as if deliberately stationed there to provide us with further information, in front of the house once belonging to those ubiquitous Thorntons and now in her possession. Without much ado Rosalie ushered us all into her home, waving aside our protests about the muddiness of our boots, and insisting on a tour of the ground floor rooms to show us the renovation work undertaken by herself and her late husband. Also included was the bonus of a piano recital as it transpired that our hostess is a talented musician as well as a *walk-deviser extraordinaire!* We were obliged to decline Rosalie's pressing invitation to have coffee, otherwise our time schedule would have been even further compromised.

In an ideal world I would report on a contrasting walk in late spring sunshine but, alas, no! Though it was mid-May we were still clad in weatherproof clothing but minus the assorted headgear. Seventeen LOVERS sallied forth from the village of Houghton Conquest, via Kings Wood, up onto the Greensand Ridge. A stunning panorama awaited us and ahead the picturesque Kingswood Cottage, owned by a couple, who regularly passed the property for years and dreamed of living there. Eighteen months ago they realised their dream when the cottage came on the market. The previous week, when we tested the route, they offered coffee, as Ros had done, but flippantly. As our noisy group exchanged greetings with them in passing, their offer, unsurprisingly, was not repeated!

Then onwards to the imposing ruins of Houghton House, dominating the landscape. The building was completed in 1621, as an elaborate hunting lodge for the Countess of Pembroke. It is reputed to have



been the inspiration for the 'Palace Beautiful' in John Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*, published in 1678. The house was dismantled in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century and the grand stair moved to the Swan Inn in Bedford, where it can still be seen.

See what I mean about "added interest"? On every one of our walks we encounter something or someone of interest, and we learn something new. Who knows what or who we LOVERS will encounter in our future exploration of the county and its surrounds!

Anne Youngman



### SPECIAL SERVICES & EVENTS COMING UP

**Sunday 9th June Joint Pentecost-** 10.30am in Oakley Methodist Church- join us as we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit

**Sunday 16th June Cafe Worship-** 10.30am Oakley Methodist Church

**Sunday 16th June Family Worhsip-** 10.30am in St Mary's- Family Worship followed by a Father's Day BBQ in the churchyard

**Tuesday 18th June Messy Church for all Summer Party-** 3.30pm- 5.30pm in Oakley Methodist Church

**Sunday 7th July Joint Oakley Carnival Service-** 10.30am in St Mary's

**Sunday 11th August St Mary's Patronal Festival-** 10.30am- a service to celebrate St Mary the patron saint of the church

**Sunday 18th August Church Anniversary Service-** 10.30am Oakley Methodist Church

### AFTERNOON TEAS IN ST MARY'S

Every summer St Mary's holds 'Teas in Church' on every Sunday afternoon from 3.30pm to 5pm.

Everyone welcome to enjoy delicious refreshments in beautiful surroundings. Open every Sunday in June to August. In aid of church funds.



### COFFEE MORNINGS IN METHODIST CHURCH

Monthly coffee mornings are held on the third Saturday of each month in the Methodist church to raise funds for the Karibuni Trust. Please do come along between 10.30am and 12 noon to support this charity who help children in desperate poverty in Kenya. Summer dates: 15th June, 20th July & 17th August

### OAKLEY CARNIVAL SAT 6TH JULY

Come and find our Churches Together stall at the Carnival where there will be free craft activities for the children. Don't forget to spot our scarecrows in the church grounds!



### CONTACTS

St Mary's: Rev Catherine Wilson 01234 825665 vicar@bromhambenefice.org

Church Wardens: Hilarie Worley 262166 & Graham Palmer 07710 462535

Oakley Methodist Church: Rev Gill Baalham 01234 930025 gill.baalham@methodist.org.uk

Church Steward: Jeanette Letch 825204

Oakley Carnival 2019  
Celebrating 30 Years



**Friday 5 July 2019**

# **RACE NIGHT**

**Oakley Village Hall - 7.30pm to 10.30pm**

*Fun for all ages*

**Tickets: £5**

Available from village shop or  
call/text Dave on 07963 590 737

**Pizza, Dogs &  
Snacks for sale  
Cash Bar**

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

# OAKLEY CARNIVAL

*Pearl Anniversary*

**6 July 2019**

*Celebrating 30 Years*

***Procession, Stalls, Arena Events, Food, Tug  
of War, Scarecrow Trail, Raffle, Tombola,  
Live music, Funfair***

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

## Merri Flowers

Yes, finally (or should that be hopefully) the frosts are behind us and our conservatory is no longer a greenhouse. All our hard work late last year and at the start of this year is beginning to prosper. Our polytunnels are already accommodating early cornflowers and ammi, and our smaller polytunnel is just about to wave farewell to seasonally popular anemones and ranunculus.

The start of May was a bit fraught due to the lack of rain but in line with last year we were ready to provide flowers by the second week of May to florists and committed volunteer church flower arrangers for local weddings and funerals. Now it is mid-May we

are glad to see our first flush of the sweet peas for our DIY wedding flower request families who came up to the farm last May.



Better still the 2020 wedding flowers requests are coming in too, as the more adventurous are wanting to create their own flower arrangements for events. I maybe biased.. but there is nothing nicer than seeing jam jars of freshly cut flowers (not to be confused with fresh flowers, that have most likely flown miles) prettifying tables and filling the air for fragrance.

As mentioned in our previous article, Flowers From the Farm has not taken us to the RHS Chelsea Flower Show this year, but we have added two more events to our list; Gardeners World Live in June and

Oakley Carnival in July – so please make an effort to come see us if you happen to be at either event (especially Oakley Carnival).

Julian still refuses to become a fan of Social Media (hence call Julian) but thankfully for our business, I am. Our Instagram and Facebook followers creep up day by day, and with more followers comes more business, especially Facebook



where I post our events. From both forms of social media, we've met many people who have decided they have had enough of working 9-5 (it never is 9-5 these days) and had a complete career change to become events planners or work at home floral designers (aka florists). It is something I think I would quite like to do. Maybe one day, who knows.

For further information about our farm and events, visit our Instagram or Facebook pages or website [www.merriflowers.co.uk](http://www.merriflowers.co.uk),

email us at [info.merriflowers@gmail.com](mailto:info.merriflowers@gmail.com) ,

or call Julian on 07946 519737.



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## Oakley Allotments



This is the allotment season that we have been waiting for – the start of a new growing season and the anticipation and excitement of things starting to happen as the weather improves (well, the rain possibly gets warmer), and work over winter and early spring starts to give rewards.

This year the weather has actually been quite dry. Apart from Easter, which fooled us in to thinking that summer was round the corner, it has also been quite cold. That cold has held plants back to some extent and the warmer spell has certainly fooled me in to thinking that things should be growing better. For a lot of plants it is still quite early though.

Last year I discovered a new and very useful gardening-aid: social media. We have had a web site, which was useful in our setting-up phase, but which now no longer exists. We now have a Facebook page. This is not widely supported and it is not contributed-to much but may yet find a following. However, there is a good, national page on Facebook (other social media providers are available), called "Allotment Life", and it provides a lively forum for discussing all aspects of allotments.

It is reassuring to know that throughout the UK, others are having successes and failures, what they are doing to address problems and to be able to access a wealth of experience and information to help make our own efforts more successful. Our own contributions can also be added to the mix as we learn about more aspects of the pursuit. This becomes evermore important as we contend with all of the issues that affect us, from management to environment and beyond.

There is valuable information on how to deal with difficult soils, what plants to grow and how best to look after them, how to deal with pests and diseases without resorting to harmful chemicals, how to deal with management and legal issues... everything is, or can be, covered. There is also a real sense of community which extends that of our own allotment tenants rather than being any substitute for it.

Now, as I have probably repeated myself here a few times over the years, I will attempt to add a few tips or other practical information in future reports. The following subject is topical on "Allotment Life" at the moment: -

Our own allotment is plagued by *Convolvulus* (also called Field Bindweed), which is a vigorous and persistent weed in parts of our plot which climbs rapidly. Its flowers are a beautiful pink and white carpet when it gets to the flowering stage, but by that time you can guarantee that it will be well-established and more difficult to deal with. Bindweed is the name we give to the larger, white trumpet-flowered plant – you do not really want that on your allotment either, for similar reasons.



*Convolvulus* is successful as it can propagate from just a small section of root and does it root! Again, I recently spent a delightful hour digging its mass of spaghetti-like roots from an area of about a metre square. Unless you are very diligent (and lucky) you are unlikely to get every bit of root out so you will be seeing it climbing your vegetable plants again very soon. Keep pulling it out as soon as its spear tip-shaped leaves appear and it will eventually disappear or at least weaken.



I now never advocate the use of any commercial weed-killers or weed-preventers at all – there is not one which will not harm the environment to some serious degree. There are other, organic remedies available to help control problems without risking health and well-being. They might not be as effective but they will not ultimately kill us and all of the bees.

For the first time in a while we have a waiting-list (2 people) for allotments. It is great to see so many keen gardeners out there and most of the plots being well-tended. Let us hope that it is another great year for us all.

Steve Nicholas



# Welcome to the multi award-winning Sharnbrook Mill Theatre

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

YOU ARE INVITED TO LUNCH AT  
THE MILL THEATRE!



WEDNESDAY 12<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2019  
12 for 12.30pm

A special talk by Sue Dennis of  
Spurgeons children's charity,  
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Wine/soft drinks available

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[theo@twhgibbs.plus.com](mailto:theo@twhgibbs.plus.com)

In aid of the 'Warm up-Cool down' Appeal



'...a fantastic voice - her band makes me want to dance  
- they have that magical element it's almost impossible  
to put your finger on.' Jools Holland

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July**

at The Mill Theatre, Sharnbrook

4pm – party begins  
6pm – performance begins

Bar open & Ice cream van  
**Bring your own picnic**

Tickets: Adult: £15, under 16: £10

Available now from:

Brian Woodrow 01234 349455

[brianwoodrow38@gmail.com](mailto:brianwoodrow38@gmail.com) or

David Saint. 01933 675995

[words@dauidssaint.co.uk](mailto:words@dauidssaint.co.uk)

In aid of the 'Warm up-Cool down' Appeal



June Auditions

## THE RAILWAY CHILDREN

Book & Lyrics by  
Julian Woodford.  
Music by Richard John

E. Nesbit's  
timeless classic

### SHOW DATES:

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> - Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November  
Nightly 7.30pm and Saturday matinée

This family musical, with a large mixed  
cast of adults and children,  
follows a group of children and their  
mother who move to the countryside  
and fall in love with the nearby railway.

Do you wish to take part?

### INTRODUCTION AND WORKSHOPS:

Fri. 21<sup>st</sup> & Wed. 26<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm

### AUDITIONS:

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm  
at Sharnbrook Mill Theatre

Enquiries to Director Paul Wildman:

[wildchild@hotmail.com](mailto:wildchild@hotmail.com)

Musical Director: Mike Gibbons

Please see further information about the  
workshops and auditions, including  
character list and synopsis, at:  
[www.sharnbrookmilltheatre.co.uk](http://www.sharnbrookmilltheatre.co.uk).

An amateur production by a special  
arrangement with Samuel French Ltd.

\*Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> - Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July, 7.30pm; also Saturday matinee, 4pm



## WAITING FOR SNOW

WORDS AND MUSIC BY  
KAYE TOMPKINS



'A truly inspired piece',  
created written and directed  
by Kaye Tompkins;  
this is a Beyond the Barn  
production in association with  
The Mill Theatre



A story told by actors, singers, dancers and musicians - an intimate tale of  
life and love distorted by the horrors of the First World War.

'...it is the perfect telling of a deeply affecting story.' 'A quite astonishing piece of theatre.'

This production takes place in a small town somewhere in England,  
but these tiny stories would have been playing out all over the world; men changed by the  
carnage they have had to witness and women left to wait...

Photographs are of the inaugural production in October 2018 by 'Beyond the Barn'.

TICKETS (£1 booking fee) £12/13 may be booked in person at PICK-A-LILY, Florist,  
61 High St/Park Lane, SHARNBROOK, or [www.sharnbrookmilltheatre.co.uk/tickets](http://www.sharnbrookmilltheatre.co.uk/tickets)  
Groups 10+ 10% discount (but not on Fri. or Sat.), 2 wheelchair spaces,

(Please phone (01234) 782372 to book); easier access seating; new hearing loop.

\* Charity Night 10<sup>th</sup> July for SERVICE SIX. Reg. Charity. 01933 277520 / [referrals@servicesix.co.uk](mailto:referrals@servicesix.co.uk)



Aged 9 – 18? MILL THEATRE SUMMER SCHOOL is for you!

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> - Friday 26<sup>th</sup> July, from 9am - 4pm,  
plus a performance on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> July at 6pm.

Join us at our unique venue to work with four passionate, talented tutors to develop your  
performance skills through creative workshops, which finish with a show at the end of the week  
on the stage – complete with lighting, sound and costume!

For £120, you will have the opportunity to explore, over 5 days, theatrical techniques, crazy  
choreography and magical music – and meet some fabulous friends! Also included is a Summer  
School t-shirt, two tickets to the Friday performance and a souvenir programme.

➤ Plus, you'll become a member of our award-winning society for a year!

For full details and how to book please head to:

[www.sharnbrookmilltheatre.co.uk/youth/summer-school/](http://www.sharnbrookmilltheatre.co.uk/youth/summer-school/)

Celebrating 40 years at The Mill 1979 - 2019

It has been another busy few months at Oakley Sports & Social Club.

The summer was kicked-off on 5<sup>th</sup> May, when we held a very popular "Lazy Day". This featured live music, BBQ, bouncy castle and Anna's Animals (the latter giving children and adults alike the chance to see and hold a selection of reptiles, insects, arachnids etc.) – all at no charge. We will be hosting another lazy day during the summer – date to be confirmed.

We are pleased to announce that we have a regular classic car meet at the club. Their first meet had over 80 classic cars attending. It is a great spectacle and we encourage the community to come and enjoy their event. The classic car meet is the first Tuesday of every month.

Looking ahead, Oakley Sports & Social Club will be co-hosting the Oakley Motorcycle Club "American Theme Night" on the 4<sup>th</sup> July which features hot rods, dragsters, live music by a Blues Brother tribute band and, of course, lots of motorcycles. It will be a fun night for all – it is free and all are welcome to attend.



## Oakley Sports & Social Club

FAMILY & SPORTS BAR



This is closely followed by the Oakley Carnival, taking place on the 6<sup>th</sup> July.

Finally, just a gentle reminder that in order to enjoy the facilities of Oakley Sports & Social Club (including the extended children's play area) that you should be a member. Adult membership is just £5 per calendar year. You can join online ([www.oakleyssc.com](http://www.oakleyssc.com)) or at the club house.



### Snippet No.37

So much rhubarb!

At this time of year, rhubarb can be really prolific. It does not enjoy the heat of summer, and it is generally not harvested much past the beginning of July, to allow the plant to recover from harvesting and build reserves to enable it to survive the winter months.

There are many and diverse culinary uses for the vegetable, from curry to jam and, a recent favourite, a flavouring for gin.

Here is a simple and quick recipe I use regularly, as rhubarb is a particular favourite in our house. You do not have to follow this recipe strictly, so the quantities are up to you and your taste: -

6 sticks of rhubarb (based on an average size of 2.5 cms thick and 30 cms in length)

Half a good-sized orange, sliced, including the peel

Half a cup of mixed, dried fruit

2 teaspoons of mixed spice

(Sugar or honey are options too, if you prefer it sweeter)

Combine these ingredients in a suitable bowl with a lid, and microwave on full power for 6 minutes.



Or, place in a pre-heated oven on gas 6 (200C, 400F) for half an hour or until cooked to your preference.

Freshly cooked we have it with custard and sometimes a crumble topping.

I often make a larger quantity and keep some in the fridge - it is a great addition to morning porridge or with vanilla ice cream.

Steve Nicholas

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- Experienced
- Guaranteed work
- Peace of mind
- High quality work at a reasonable price

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or: 01234 822499

# Oakley Toddlers Group



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

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

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

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

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

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**Opening Hours: 9.00-11.00 Mon-Sat & 18.00-19.00hrs Mon-Fri  
Sunday and Bank Holidays Closed**

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

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- Regular cleaning (Weekly, Fortnightly, Monthly etc)
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**We cover all of Bedfordshire**

# Brownies

OAKLEY

## Brownies' Badge Bonanza

Over the last few months, Brownies have been working hard on badges. Firstly, the Greatest Showgirl Badge, an unofficial badge, created by another Brownie unit but following the principles of guiding. The badge was based on the film 'The Greatest Showman' and inspired Brownies to think about diversity, celebrate individual's talents and practise a few circus skills too. For the finale of the badge, Brownies dressed up and had

fun juggling under the fine tuition of Brownie parent, Alex Buckhurst, as well as modelling balloon dogs with the expertise of Barn Owl, and making up each other's faces, with results ranging from beautiful to startling.

Making the most of the lighter evenings, more recently Brownies have been working on the Explorer Badge, an official badge in the new Brownie programme. Brownies learnt how to make a compass, find coordinates on a map and the importance of following the Countryside Code. They also enjoyed a walk and seemed even more enthusiastic about the subsequent foot pampering. Most Brownies now have the new badge book which gives them a chance to do badges in their own time as well as at meetings. We are looking forward to handing out lots of the new interest badges and hope that the parents share the same excitement for sewing the badges on!

As the summer rolls on, Brownies are looking forward to running a stall at the carnival, making a scarecrow and hopefully having a campfire too.

If your daughter is interested in joining Brownies now or in the future, please register on the Go website.

<https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter/>

Brownies is held in Lincroft Academy hall on Fridays 6.00 – 7.30pm.



## Snippet No.38

I am taking to cycling again, my inspiration being that I need to get fitter to take part in the Bunyan 100 in July. We are a group of 100, cycling 100 kilometres and aiming to raise £25,000 for charity.

Thirty-something years ago I would ride this distance on a Sunday morning, training for various cycling events, but now, inspiration is needed! After so many years of not being a cyclist any more, I was finding it difficult to brave the discomfort of the bicycle, the dangers of our modern traffic and the roughness of our roads.

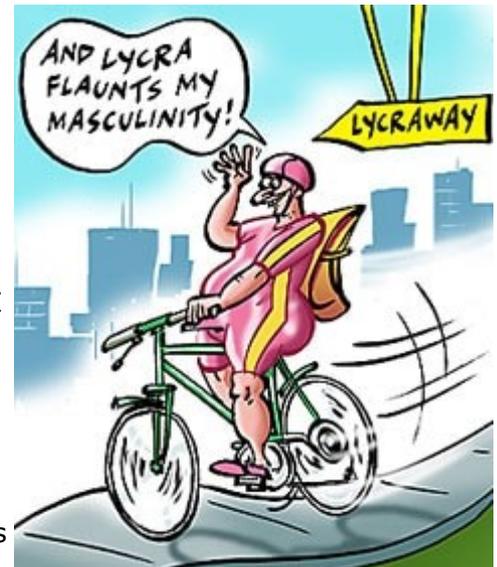
When I was a mere lad I lived on a bicycle. In those days parents neither understood, nor tolerated, the notion that they could provide a taxi service for their offspring. My father had wisely bought me a second-hand cycle for my 14th birthday, after which I discovered the freedom of the open road and a source of fitness that I would, otherwise, not have found.

I recognised that the bicycle Dad had bought me was a potential racing/touring machine so I also then became intent on saving to buy the proper wheels, derailleur gears (with their class-sounding buzz) and other bits and pieces it needed to become my true pride and joy. In many ways, it was one of the best things that my father could have done for me.

Years later, and with 1000s of miles of cycling under my belt, I have toured parts of our island and France, taken part in some competitions, and marshalled at many. I am fitter and healthier than I would have been otherwise as I was never a sportsman. (I did have a talent for basketball, when I was usually picked first for the team - otherwise, I was usually picked last).

Training now involves a longish ride to a local cafe. Pothole-dodging is an essential skill - there were very few potholes when I was that lad, all those years ago. Never in Lycra though... I would not inflict that vision on anybody!

Steve Nicholas



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

We had a good turnout of Beavers, Cubs, Scouts

vers, Cubs and Scouts like to get out for an evening hike. The Scouts recently enjoyed a hike from the Scout Hut to Bromham chip shop, which went down well!

Some of the Explorer Scouts practised their map reading skills during the Easter holiday when they took part in a 13-mile hike as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award.

and Explorers at the St George's Day Parade through Bedford Town Centre, along the Embankment to Russell Park on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April. This annual event is organised by the Bedford & Ouse Valley Scout District and the parade culminates in an afternoon of fun activities, including bouncy castles and slides, skirt football, and Nerf gun competitions.

Plans are well underway for Oakley Scout Group's contribution to the Oakley Carnival Parade. We are all getting excited! The Beavers, Cubs and Scouts will all be contributing to the construction of the float, and we will be running a stall as well.

The day before the parade, the Scout Group helped out at the Oakley Litter Pick. Many of our members went out in search of litter, and we also provided refreshments to the litter pickers. Pitching the mess tent on the village green in very windy conditions was a real challenge, but once all the cakes were on display one resident commented that it looked like the Great British Bake-Off tent!

**Come along to the Great Oakley Bake-Off!**

Our annual Great Oakley Bake-off takes place on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June. There are classes for all age groups, even adults! This year's judge will be Bedford Mayor, Dave Hodgeson. Everyone is welcome to come along and sample the entries after judging has taken place!

The classes are 5-8yrs, 9-12yrs, 13-16yrs and Adult. Entry fee is £1 per entry. Please bring your entries to the Scout Hut at 2:30pm and come along to sample the bakes from 3pm.



**How to get involved?**

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

**Beavers** (for 6 to 8-year olds) runs on Wednesdays 18:15-19:30 (contact Chris on 07805 175521); **Cubs** (for 8 to 10.5-year olds) runs on Thursdays 18:30-20:00 (contact Matt on 07552 217267); **Scouts** (for 10.5 to 14-year olds) runs on Tuesdays 19:00-21:00 (contact Brian on 07746 294138 or Karen on 07918 181815); **Explorers** (for 14 to 18-year olds) runs on Wednesdays 19:45-21:45 (contact Michelle on 07760 315417).

We are always looking out for adult helpers to become assistant leaders, so if you would like to know more, please contact the Group Scout Leader, Sarah Davey, on 07935 796620.

Oakley Scout Group have been busy sprucing up the Scout Hut and giving it a good old Spring clean. The cluttered office has been turned into a comfy rest room for our hard-working Leaders and will also be used for welcoming new parents and members to the Group. Many areas have been given a lick of paint. There is still quite a bit of work to do and we will be holding regular maintenance days.

As the evenings get lighter and warmer, the Bea-

**The Phantom Sprayer**

I know that the majority of Oakley dog owners are very responsible and pick up after their dogs and dispose properly in dog bins or rubbish bins, but we still have some who do not.

A few black bags just left, shame, they do not disintegrate so are there for the duration, occasionally strung up in a tree or hedge – awful!!

Sadly, on a nice afternoons' walk over the bank holiday, I had to spray no less than five piles of dog faeces, all left right in the middle of the rights of way footpaths, just where people are likely to tread in them.

It concerns me, as we hear nowadays of so many places not allowing dogs, or restricting them to a lead, that the few who refuse to 'pick up' will be the cause of a loss of amenities for the rest of us well behaved dog walkers.

Do not forget to worm and de-flea/tick your dogs and cats as this warm weather is when those parasites breed and infest our pets.





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## OAKLEY WI

## OAKLEY GARDENING CLUB

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

10 September  
Midshires Search and Rescue  
A voluntary organisation who assist the police in searching for missing persons

8 October  
Surviving trauma - a real life story

12 November  
An Accordion Adventure  
A light note for a November evening

10 December  
Christmas Dinner

We also have outings, an occasional visit to the cinema and knit and natter on the 2nd Thursday in the month.

New members and visitors are very welcome. To find out more please call 301629 or 825688.

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

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

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

New members and visitors are very welcome at our meetings.

For further information contact  
Denise Hookham on 01933 312119



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# oakley *Motorcycle* club



The warm Easter period paid dividends with 18<sup>th</sup> April seeing a good turn-out of members at Oakley Club and 246 bikes counted during the course of the evening. This was followed by our main Easter Egg run, held on Easter Monday this year, with 68 motorbikes leaving Bedford Market Square in five groups to attend a number of locations across Beds and Northants making Easter Egg deliveries, including Lovell Homes, Oakley. With thanks to Doreen Cockings for providing fifteen teas and coffees to the Lovell Homes delivery riders. Many members who had not been to this location before were astounded by the properties, gardens and settings.



On 9<sup>th</sup> May Oakley Motorcycle Club held a presentation to our chosen charity, the East Anglian Air Ambulance, where OMC Vice Chair and Treasurer Derek Brown presented Rebecca Ferry from the EAAA a cheque for £1,623; the amount raised by OMC members during 2018. This takes our total raised, since the EAAA became our charity, to a



massive £35,273. A very big thank you to all our generous members.

The coming few weeks will see a continuation of the theme nights, however with a slight change. The Bike of the Year Award, rather than being a number of heats leading to a final night, will be held on one night, 13<sup>th</sup> June, with some generous prizes for the top four bikes. We will also have along five of our main dealer sponsors with a selection of their new bikes to show. Fortunately this year the 4<sup>th</sup> July, American Independence Day, falls on a Thursday so yet again we are planning an American theme night. Weather permitting we will have hundreds of bikes, hot rods, classic cars and dragsters from Santa Pod in attendance.



The icing on the cake will be live music courtesy of The Blues Brothers who will be starting around 7pm. Needless to say, the event is free and is likely to be very busy. So if you want to see some quality American metal, loads of bikes, classic cars and dragsters, listen to The Blues Brothers perform, eat, drink and be merry, then Oakley Club will be the place to be. Oh, and for the kids, The Ice Cream Man will be there too!

Hope to see you at OMC

Kind regards

Baysie - Roger Bays - Chair OMC



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**Useful advice:**

- Use strong passwords, change them regularly and keep them secret. Mix upper and lower case. 9 or 10 characters is recommended. **Treat them as Top Secret.**
- Use up to date anti-virus anti mal-ware software Don't forget to keep your tablet and smartphone up to date too.
- Use 3G or 4G networks instead of free WiFi if out and about.
- Back up often.
- Consider what information you place on social networking sites regarding you, your home and place of employment. Do you let your contact know if you're going away?
- Check your mail. Do you shred private and personal information?
- Make sure you have 'Virus' Protection from a recognised company and it is kept up to date.
- Always install updates that come from your provider or software supplier.
- Don't click on links you receive in unsolicited emails or SMS messages. The links may lead to malicious websites, and any attachments could be infected with malware.
- Only install apps from official app stores, such as Google's Play Store, or Apple's App Store.
- When logging in to your online banking account, be extremely cautious if you're asked for details such as the 3 digit (CVV) number on the back of your card, the long number on the front of the card, your card's expiry date, or the 4 digit PIN for your card. If the online banking login page you're on does ask for these details, then don't login until you've called your bank to verify that you're logging in to a genuine web page.
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