



# Oakley Newsletter



**Winter 2014**

Number 61



## Front Cover

Wintry Scene 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.

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Please send cheques to the Parish Clerk, Ann Paice payable to Oakley Parish Council.

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### Hello Children

look out for  
12 more snowmen!



## Parish Council News

### Winter 2014 By PAUL PHILLIPS (Chair)

I hope you all find this copy of the Oakley Parish Council Newsletter both interesting and informative. The Parish Council is very grateful to the Editor Bill Chalker and we thank him for his hard work. I hope you agree that the colour printing enhances the Newsletter tremendously.

### Christmas Tree and Lights outside St Mary's Church.

The Parish Council is in the process of planting a fully grown Christmas Tree outside St Mary's Church. The tree will be decorated with new lights and they will be officially switched on at 5pm on Saturday 6 December 2014. Full details of the event will be found elsewhere in this Newsletter. There are, however, two major requirements to make the evening successful and they are that you turn up in great numbers and you have with you your best singing voices. We look forward to seeing you all there.

### Neighbourhood Development Plan Launch.

A sub group of the Parish Council under the Chairmanship of Pat Olney organised a very successful launch in the Village Hall on 3 and 4 October 2014. This was only the start of a fairly lengthy process of consultation, the outcome of which will benefit our lovely village and its current and future generations. Thank you to the sub group and most importantly thank you to everyone who expressed their views which will help shape the future of our village.

### Donation of Seat

In the past many residents have expressed a wish to donate wooden garden type seats at various sites around the village. To donate and place a seat at a chosen location in the village in memory of a loved one or indeed as a gift to the village is a lovely thing to do. Of course ongoing maintenance and its security would need to be considered. If anyone would be interested in making such a donation please feel free to contact me or the Parish Council Clerk Ann Paice.

Continued on page 3

## OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

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## **Parking and Dog Fouling on Foot-paths/Pavements.**

In the last Newsletter I "went on a bit" about both of these topics. That was because both issues were creating fairly major problems for residents. In the last two months or so there has been a marked improvement on the dog fouling and indeed the abuse of the dog poo bins. I really do feel encouraged by this and clearly dog owners are taking their responsibilities seriously. For that I say **Thank You**. Let's hope we don't revert to our old ways! As far as parking on paths is concerned, I am not sure that we have made that much progress. The same cars in the same locations still park half on the path and half on the road. I know who you are and you know who you are. Please, please don't do it. Think of pedestrians, children in prams/buggies and disabled people in wheelchairs or on scooters. By parking half and half you achieve nothing; car drivers are still inconvenienced and footpath users most certainly are. If you witness such behaviour you are encouraged to photograph the offending vehicle showing clearly the registration number, its location, the time and date and forward it to the Parish Council Clerk who will pass it to the Police to take appropriate action. It would be far better if we didn't have to take that course of action, so your co-operation would be appreciated.

## **Police Community Support Officer**

At our Parish Council meeting on 7 October 2014 we had a visit from our new Police Community Support Officer Josie WESTON. She informed us that she is responsible for five villages in the North of Bedford, with Oakley being one of them. She displayed a very positive outlook to her work and expressed a clear desire to benefit Oakley and its residents. She asked that ALL matters requiring Police attention should be reported immediately and we agreed to support her in any way we could. The reporting of ALL matters is vitally important because we are aware that resources are only allocated on a needs basis.

## **Apple Pressing on the Village Green.**

Gerry Sansom and his band of volunteers held our annual Apple Pressing Day on the village green on Sunday 8 September 2014. The attendance from the village was reasonable, but probably not quite as good as we had hoped given its central location. It is fun and at the same time informative for our children and young people. It will be repeated next year so let's hope for another glut of fruit. Thank you Gerry and thank you to the numerous volunteers.

## **Installation of Average Speed Cameras**

Detailed work in respect of the installation of Average Speed Cameras is still ongoing involving the Borough Council, Amey, Siemens the Consultants and ourselves. Members of the Parish Council have had the benefit of seeing a trial of enhanced street lighting which is legally required at each of the camera sites. There is no doubt that the lighting is bright and necessarily so. The Parish Council, the Borough Council and the Suppliers will do all in our power to minimise the effect on residents living close to the camera sites. Data that has been collected confirms that speeding is a major problem in our village and many residents have expressed a wish for the installation of these cameras. This should address the problem, with the emphasis on prevention rather than detection. It is hoped that work will start towards the end of this year or early next year. It is also the intention of the Parish Council to communicate directly with those residents living close to the camera and enhanced lighting sites.

## **Annual Remembrance Service.**

The Annual Remembrance Service took place at Lincroft School at 10.30 on Sunday 9 November 2014, followed by procession, prayers and poppy wreath laying ceremony at the War Memorial at the crossroads. The service was well attended and provided an opportunity for all present to remember and pray for those who sacrificed their lives for our peace and freedom. I know that Oakley residents are grateful to all those who organised and were involved in the service in any way making it the success that it clearly was. Thank you.

In conclusion, on behalf of Oakley Parish Council, I wish every resident of Oakley an enjoyable Christmas and a very Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New Year.



Paul Phillips  
Chairman



## Borough Council News

by Cllr Pat Olney



# Happy Christmas

### Thinking of the Roads in Winter

If we get severe weather this winter you can get information on the road conditions by going to @grittertweets. This is a dedicated Twitter service providing updates on road conditions and gritting runs 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Go to – [twitter.com/grittertweets](https://twitter.com/grittertweets).

There is a winter maintenance webpage which provides daily updates on public transport, adult transport and bin collections. Gritting lorries are fitted with GPS tracking so that you can see at any time when and where they are working. To find this information please go to [www.bedford.gov.uk/winterupdates](http://www.bedford.gov.uk/winterupdates)

Finally, the council's specially adapted quad bike will be on call to grit priority areas the lorries cannot reach such as busy pedestrian areas.

Please stay safe this winter.

### Good News—Free Parking in Bedford

Please take advantage of this freedom to visit the Town Centre. There is lots to see and do. The museums are open as are shops and restaurants. The Embankment and parks are great to visit and look lovely on crisp winter days.

Parking is now free in all council car parks on a Sunday so venture out and enjoy all the delights Bedford Town centre has to offer.

Please do not forget that you can also have 2 hours free parking on Saturday mornings.

### Bedford Bypass Link Road

Hurrah! Work has started on the road to link the A6 to the Western Bypass at the Bromham Road end. It will take about 18 months and open in 2016.

### Hartops Bridge, Oakley

The huge crane has just arrived as I write. It has been amazing to watch the work involved in raising the bridge. The huge bridge span is in the compound ready to be lifted in place and then the final works will be to put in the parapets. Network Rail hope to have the works finished at Christmas and then the site will be cleared and returned to its former state. The construction company have been very good at keeping local residents informed as the work has progressed.

The next stage, after the bridge is complete, is to straighten the tracks they will then put in the overhead structure and lastly fit the electric cables. They should finish in 2017.

### Oakley Lower School. New Classrooms

I am pleased to announce that over the Winter Oakley Lower School is to have new classrooms to replace the temporary classrooms that have been on site for more years than I can say.

The Borough and the Governors of the Lower School have worked together to achieve this result. A big thank you to Roz Gray, the Chair of Governors and her working group. The children and staff will have much improved classrooms to work in and will not have to cross a draughty playground.

Does anyone know how many years those temporary classrooms have been on site? Answers to me at [pat.olney@btopenworld.com](mailto:pat.olney@btopenworld.com)

Pat Olney



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## Farm and Country – Winter 2014

By John Saunders, College Farm

As I write I suppose we would call the weather an Indian summer as the temperature has got to 20 degrees today. The grass is still growing which is good for the cattle as they do not need so much other food such as hay or silage. After a very good spring it is not very often the grass will grow in the autumn. Because of the dry spell in September we were later sowing the winter cereals, wheat and barley. Sometimes, if you sow grain in dry soil the seed will chit and then die off and would have to be resown. As soon as we had some rain we got on with the planting and now all the winter corn is sown and growing well.

Last week there was an auction at a farm in a nearby village at which all the equipment used on the farm was sold. This particular farm belonged to two brothers who died within a year of one another; one brother died tragically in a farm accident. When these sales take place everything on the farm, from small tools to workshop equipment and machinery is sold.

Usually most farmers from about a twenty mile radius come to the sale; especially if it is a wet day when things are quiet on their own farms. Some come to buy, for others it is a social occasion. You get the travellers who buy the scrap iron and local farmers buying other equipment, ploughs, cultivators etc. because they have seen it working and they know it is genuine. The dealers usually buy the tractors and combines for export abroad. Most lots make a fair price but it is a very sad day for the family.

It was interesting going to the Village Hall to view the comments made on the future of the next 18 years in the village. Several comments were made regarding country footpaths and they would like to see more in the countryside. I think this village is very well off for footpaths especially near the river as they were created to get people to work. For example men living in Stevington who worked at Oakley House would walk across the park rather than around the road and also for people going to the railway station. They did not have bicycles in those days. Now they are used for villagers to enjoy the countryside or to exercise their dogs. Sadly a small minority throw sticks into the crops and do a lot of damage and, if there are cattle or sheep in the field, will not keep their dogs on a lead. Can I ask for more consideration please. After all that it will be nearly Christmas when you read this so I wish you all a Happy Christmas and New Year. John Saunders



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### Browns Wood and Judges Spinney

#### Friends Group

If you would like to more information on upcoming tasks, the Friends Group, or have any comments you wish to make, please contact us at:

[prioryrangers@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:prioryrangers@bedford.gov.uk) 01234 211182 or  
[ed.burnett@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:ed.burnett@bedford.gov.uk) 01234 228759

Jane Moore,  
Country Park Ranger,  
Bedford Borough Council,



## AMIGO

After an exciting skittles match that took place on the 28th October at the Bedford Arms, Soul-drop in which 15 people took part, Pat Cheesbrough emerged as the winner. Many congratulations to Pat. An excellent buffet was available at £5.00 a head.

By the time this Newsletter is published, Richard Harpham will have given an illustrated account of his expeditions around the world. A report of his talk, that is being held at the Methodist Church on the 25th November, will appear in the March newsletter.

Carol singing, all welcome, has been arranged for **Tuesday 16th December** at the Bedford Arms, Oakley beginning at 8.00 p.m.

On **Tuesday 27th January**, Martin Deacon, an Archivist from the Bedfordshire and Luton Archives, will give a talk about the experiences of the 17th Battalion of the Bedfordshire Regiment on the Western Front. Please note that the talk will be held at St. Mary's Church, Oakley at 2.30 p.m.

On **Tuesday 24th February**, Brian and Pauline Leeson will be giving us an illustrated account of the history, culture, volcanic nature and fauna of New Zealand ("the Land of the Long White Cloud") beginning at 8.00 p.m. at Oakley Methodist Church.



Another **coach trip to London**, with Charlie De Wet as our guide, will be taking place on **Wednesday 24th June 2015**. It is proposed to leave Oakley Village Hall at 8.30 a.m. and arrive at Cafe 101 (which is near St. Paul's Cathedral) for a cup of tea or coffee and to be met by Charlie at 11.00 a.m. Charlie will then take us on a walk to Smithfields via Postman's Park. Lunch will be at the Cloister Cafe at the Church of Saint Bartholemew the Great at 12.45 p.m.. After lunch a guided tour of the Church has been arranged, which should last for about an hour. It is proposed to leave London for the return journey at about 4.00 p.m. Further details of the day's events (including the cost) will appear as soon as possible in the Churches Together Newsletters and in the March issue of the Oakley Newsletter. A 33 seater coach has been booked and in view of the popularity of these coach trips please let John Dixon know as soon as possible if you wish to come. John's telephone number is 01234 824959 and his e-mail address is [jwdixon30@gmail.com](mailto:jwdixon30@gmail.com).



John Dixon

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# Oakley Neighbourhood Plan

A big thank you to everyone who came to the Launch of the Neighbourhood Plan. Your thoughts were very insightful and were very helpful when the Parish Council were thinking about the "Call for Sites".

The Parish Council have now put forward their comments to the Borough Planning Officers who are dealing with the emerging Borough Local Plan to 2032. The Parish Council have formally objected to all the sites except the Industrial site in Lovell Road. The Parish Council also acknowledged that any further comments on sites in the village would follow from the Neighbourhood Plan after further consultations with residents.

Some people put forward their names to become part of the process and they are being contacted to see whether they would consider being part of the subcommittee.

What was very heartening was the way every one appreciated what a great community village we live in. There was praise for the schools, including the preschool, the clubs and the fantastic landscape around the village. There were comments about ways the village could be improved which included cycle paths. All the comments have been collated by Ann Paice the Clerk to the Parish Council who also did the signage for the Launch. Thank you Ann. I also wish to thank all of the sub committee who attended both days, our Parish Chairman and not forgetting the people who volunteered to serve the refreshments.

If you wish to have more information please go to the village website and follow the link to the Neighbourhood Plan.

We will be consulting further as the plan continues to grow. It is vitally important that it is **your plan** so please join in and give us as much information about how you see the village in 2032.

Pat Olney



## Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony At St. Mary's Church Oakley

6<sup>th</sup> December 2014 at 5.00pm

Be part of the switching on in

St Mary's Car Park.

Come and Sing Carols

Enjoy the Festive Refreshments

Gaze in Awe at the New Lights on the Christmas tree

Wonder at the Displays of Christmas Wreaths Magically put together  
by Village Organisations



## Oakley Pre-school news



The autumn term has seen us welcome new children to our pre-school community. They are all settling extremely well and becoming used to our routines and expectations.

It is always an exciting term to be around young children. We have been busy observing the changes the seasons have made on our outdoor environment and have been taking part in traditions and festivals that happen at this time of the year. We learnt the historical meaning behind Bonfire Night by making a Guy and discussing the Gun Powder Plot. Once the children had helped make the Guy, we had a bonfire in the pre-school garden where we toasted fruit bread for snack and then burnt our Guy. This was all very exciting and the children learned lots, including how to stay safe near fire.

We had a sad event at the pre-school towards the end of October, when our lovely chickens Clucky, Dusty and Snowy were unfortunately let out over the weekend, by somebody coming into preschool, while we weren't there and undoing their Egg-loo home. 'Fantastic Mr Fox' saw this as a great opportunity and our wonderful girls are no more. We had looked after them for almost three years and they had a wonderful free range life, playing amongst the children. They have taught all the children so much, especially those who may be a little afraid of animals. We fed them our leftovers from lunch and snack and we used their eggs for our cooking activities. We were all extremely sad when we had to explain what had happened, but we used it as a learning opportunity and included all the children in discussions around the story 'Chicken Licken.' We have improved our security and have decided to get new chickens, as the educational benefits of having them are immeasurable and we are currently running a competition to guess their names. We will introduce them in the next newsletter.

We are now busy preparing for all our Christmas activities and the children are learning the words to Christmas songs. We will hold a concert to share these with family and friends and to coincide with the Nativity celebrations at the Methodist Church. The children will also be treated to a Christmas party and a visit from Father Christmas.

Fund raising for our extension is going extremely well. Our next events will be in the New Year with an ever popular Bacon Butty event at pre-school on the **24th January** and Family 'Spring Disco' at the Village Hall on the **21st March**. We really want to reach out to the whole village community with our events

and you do not have to have a connection to preschool to come along, so look out for more details of these events on the village notice boards.

### Admissions

If you would like your child to attend Oakley Pre-School you can contact us on 01234 826452

or by email [oakleypreschool@btconnect.com](mailto:oakleypreschool@btconnect.com)

or take a look at our website at [www.oakleypreschool.org.uk](http://www.oakleypreschool.org.uk)

or you can drop in and see us during term time.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year!

Sally Martiello



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## Oakley Allotments

Oakley allotments are now just into their 5th year after what has possibly been the most successful season so far. After the recent tenancy renewals a few half-plots became available so I have contacted people on the short waiting list. Hopefully, by the time you read this, the allotments will again be fully occupied but if you are interested in joining us then please contact me.

After a slow start due to the very wet conditions early in the year we enjoyed a rather better spring and summer and the main growing season was very successful, producing good crops of a wide range of vegetables. Although Julia and I had originally decided that the allotment would be my project she joined in with the work early in the season. It has been the most successful year for our own efforts and we nearly achieved self-sufficient levels of production; we have had to buy much less than in recent years.

A major contribution to our success has been the construction of a third raised bed together with improving soil conditions on the open beds, where the soil has now been worked for a few seasons. I have also adopted a rather more laissez faire attitude as an antidote to stress and, after all, if working an allotment becomes stressful then you have got it wrong! The plants seem to sense this and respond positively - I haven't quite got to the point of talking to the plants but I have spoken quite harshly to a number of slugs and snails.

We managed to harvest nearly 8 kilos of strawberries from just a few square metres of ground and, as well as having fresh berries of outstanding flavour, made several jars-worth of strawberry jam. As if our own produce was not enough I also picked a good weight of the wild plums from only a few metres-length of allotment hedge and made a considerable amount of jam from those too. The blackberries were also prolific and provided quite a crop for many of us to enjoy.

Other successes this year have included sweetcorn (I should have planted more of it, and watered it in the very dry September), chard (so easy to grow and colourful too) and celeriac (we consume fair amounts of celeriac mash - I recommend it). We managed to grow beetroot nearly the size of footballs and more than enough runner beans. Fennel has also been very successful and makes a superb salad when shredded finely together with mild-flavoured onions.



Thank you to everyone who has been involved with the allotments throughout the year. A special mention goes to Oakley Parish Council for their continued support and willingness to help fund essential projects. One of these is the track repairs which still need to be completed, but may now have to wait for drier conditions.

We have enjoyed some social get-togethers during the year too, making use of the new community shed and getting some essential maintenance jobs done. It was decided that the proposed bonfire celebration should not take place, mainly because of possibly excessive smoke and other concerns.

I would appreciate it if someone would be willing to assist with the administration of the allotments as I will be able to do even less next year because of further commitments. The most important of these will be due to the imminent arrival of our first grandchildren and, as they are in Cornwall, we will be absent for rather more weekends than normal. I also have some business obligations arising over at least three separate projects and I would not want to neglect the allotments which have become very important to me.

Steve Nicholas



## Joshua

Orphan & Community Care



Every day in Malawi, thousands of children are unable to attend school, not because they do not want to, but because poverty prevents them from so doing. For those who are fortunate Secondary School is a dream come true. However, the reality is that most children in Malawi do not complete Primary School, let alone receive a secondary education. This is due to poverty. The battle for food, shelter and clothing comes first for over a million orphans who struggle to survive day by day in Malawi, leaving education at the bottom of the agenda. Of the current intake of students 100 are children orphaned by HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases. Joshua runs a sponsorship programme for these children costing £20pm. By providing free secondary education for those most in need, Joshua is helping to break the cycle of poverty and is creating a brighter future for the most vulnerable.

## St Mary's Church News

### St Mary's Church on Camera

A very enjoyable evening was held on Tuesday the 30th September at the church with a film about the running of the church and history dating back to the 12th century. The film was shot and produced in July this year by a local TV Company. Included was a trip to the various levels of the tower to see the ringing platform, 400 year old clock mechanism, the bells and finally up out onto the tower roof. Splendid views of the church surrounds and the Ouse Valley were filmed from the top. The evening ended with refreshments and over 70 people were in attendance. The event raised £277 for church funds. Thank you to everyone for their support, especially the organisers.

### Messy Church

Is held every Thursday 10am to 12am in Term Time for pre-school children. There are plenty of activities including modelling, crafts, painting and toys. The children receive a healthy snack of fruit and drinks with tea/coffee available for the adults. Stories and songs are also part of the event with the children playing musical instruments as well as singing. It costs £1.50 for a child and accompanying adult and 50p per extra child. Come along and share in the fun.

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## SHARNBROOK MILL THEATRE

Welcome to our Winter-into-Spring Season 2014>15



**2014**

**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2014**, 7.00 for 7.30 pm Do join us for ***Philomena***, the 3<sup>rd</sup> of the *Movies at The Mill*; based on the book *The Lost Child of Philomena Lee*, by journalist Martin Sixsmith, Certificate 12a, starring: Judi Dench & Steve Coogan. Ticket: £5 from Sharnbrook Post Office (in person only, please).

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2014** '**Remember the '40s & 50s?**' A special talk by Anita Marie Sackett, at The Mill Theatre 12.00 for 12.30 pm; Tickets, £15 including Lunch: Sausage and mash with pudding and custard! - from Virginia Pope 01933 356974 [virginiapope@icloud.com](mailto:virginiapope@icloud.com) or Susan Moore 01933 318318 [susanc.moore25@gmail.com](mailto:susanc.moore25@gmail.com). Prize for best dressed guest (40s/50s). Don't forget your ration coupons!!! An H&V 'Warm Up' Appeal Event.

### **Christmas Greetings!**

#### **Buying your Christmas presents online?**

Please sign up to, then buy via: [www.easyfundraising/causes/sharnbrookmilltheatre](http://www.easyfundraising/causes/sharnbrookmilltheatre) as normal. 1,000s of major stores donate a % **at no cost to you!** - Helping our 'Warm Up' Appeal, for your ultimate comfort!

We are delighted to introduce **Mill Theatre £10 Gift Vouchers**. Buy in person at Mill Theatre Box Office during a show or order/enquire now via: [www.sharnbrookmilltheatre.co.uk](http://www.sharnbrookmilltheatre.co.uk) / 'Contact us'. Redeem at Sharnbrook Post Office, or as above. *Now there's an idea!*

**2015**

#### **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2015 at 7.30 pm. Race Night at Sharnbrook Mill Theatre.**

Thrill to the excitement of horse & greyhound racing in the comfort of the Mill Clubroom! Licensed bar from 7.00 pm, 7.30 pm start; raffle; 8 races, tote, race sponsorship & runner 'owner' opportunities... Details and tickets after 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015: £10 pp, *in advance only*, including fish & chip supper, from Theo. Gibbs 01234 782377 (message); [theo@twhgibbs.plus.com](mailto:theo@twhgibbs.plus.com); [www.sharnbrookmilltheatre.co.uk](http://www.sharnbrookmilltheatre.co.uk). An H&V 'Warm Up' Appeal Event.

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> – Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2015** Our Spring Show: '**Abigail's Party**' The social get-together from hell! An hilarious, acerbic comedy by Mike Leigh. Booking from 1<sup>st</sup> February: On-line [www.sharnbrookmilltheatre.co.uk](http://www.sharnbrookmilltheatre.co.uk)\*; Sharnbrook Post Office (nb in person only please) or Bedford Central Box Office 718112#\*. \* Booking fee. 10% discount 10 + tickets (excluding charity nights, Fri. & Sat.). 2 Wheelchair positions # ; easier access seating Rows A-C; hearing loop Rows A-E : \* NB Booking fee



#### **Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2015 Concert by The Ouse Valley Singers.**

Further details will be posted on our website:  
[www.sharnbrookmilltheatre.co.uk](http://www.sharnbrookmilltheatre.co.uk);

Follow us on: Twitter @SMTTheatre; Facebook: [www.facebook.com/groups/233885789967345](https://www.facebook.com/groups/233885789967345)

**Registered Charity No 242164**

*Happy Christmas      Happy Theatre-going!*



Sharnbrook Mill Theatre, in seasonal costume. A5 Christmas cards of 2 scenes available from [theo@twhgibbs.plus.com](mailto:theo@twhgibbs.plus.com). £2.50 / pack of 5 single photo A5 cards.







## **Churches Together in Oakley**



The Oakley Churches Together Christmas dates for 2014

A warm welcome awaits you and your family at our Christmas Services and events on :-

**Sat. 6th Dec.** Lighting of Village Christmas Tree at 5.00pm outside St. Mary's Church, with carols, refreshments and display of Christmas Wreaths inside.

**Sun. 7th Dec.** All Age Worship Gift Service at 10.30am at the Methodist Church, followed by Bring and Share Buffet Lunch.

**Thurs. 11th Dec.** "Come to the Manger"- a display of Nativities in the Methodist Church some made by village groups, from 3.00pm to 8.00pm, with carols and refreshments.

**Sat. 13th Dec.** Messy Church's Christmas Craft Afternoon at 2.00pm at St. Owen's Church, Bromham

**Sun. 14th Dec.** Churches Together United Family Christingle Service at 10.30am at the Methodist Church.

**Tues. 16th Dec.** Carol Singing and Handbells in the Bedford Arms from 8.00pm.



### **Carol Services : Sun. 21st. December**

Café Style Family Carol Service at 10.30am at the Methodist Church

Candlelight Carol Service at 6.00pm at St. Mary's Church

### **Christmas Eve : Wed. 24th December**

Family Crib Service with Nativity at 4.00pm at St. Mary's Church

Midnight Eucharist with Carols at 11.00pm at St. Mary's Church

Midnight Communion Service at 11.30pm at Methodist Church



### **Christmas Day**

Benefice Holy Communion at 8.00am at St. Owen's Church, Bromham

All Age Eucharist with Carols with gifts at 9.30am at St. Mary's Church

Christmas Morning Service at 10.30am at Methodist Church

**Sun. 28th Dec.** Section Service (with Clapham and Sharnbrook Methodist Churches) at 10.30am at Oakley Methodist Church

### **Special Occasions in January**

Sun. 4<sup>th</sup> Jan. **Parish Eucharist for Epiphany** at 9.30am at St. Mary's Church

Sun. 11<sup>th</sup> Jan. **Churches Together United Service** at 10.30am - St. Mary's Church

Sun 18<sup>th</sup> Jan. **Methodist Covenant Service** at 10.30am at Methodist Church

Sat. 24<sup>th</sup> Jan. **New Year Family Party** at 5.00pm at the Methodist Church

Any enquiries : Suzi Webb----Anglican Church Administrator : Tel. 825454

Jeanette Letch----Methodist Senior Steward : Tel. 825204



Thursday  
11<sup>th</sup> December

Come to the Manger  
Oakley Methodist Church

Anytime between  
3pm and 9pm

Pop in and browse a variety  
of Nativity Scenes and  
vote for your favourite

Carol Singing for all

## A letter from Revd Linda

### Connections for Life!

Are you really happy with your lot? Advent is a time for reflection to slow us down at a manic time of year. The Countdown to Christmas begins on Advent Sunday. As well as shopping and planning family events, why not get an Advent calendar or sign up to Connections for Life.

**Connections for Life** is a daily opportunity to think prayerfully about your relationship with the world, with other people and with God - and to allow that reflection to shape your life and actions.

Take part by receiving a brief email: a bible verse, a short reflection, an image and a challenge for each day. More simply get texts to your phone, or follow

**@live challenge**. The bible verses begin in Genesis and lead through to the birth of Jesus. Weekly themes are Living, Loving, Seeing and Meeting.

Connections for Life is a Live the Challenge initiative from the Diocese of St Albans. Advent begins on Sunday 30th November 2014. For more information about the Diocese of St Albans

see [www.stalbans.anglican.org](http://www.stalbans.anglican.org).

When the Challenge has started you can join the conversation by posting your comments and uploading images and videos. Just click on Today's Verse.

**Take time this Advent to Pause, Stop and Think, Pray and Act. Have a blessed and wonderful Christmas as a result.**

Rev'd Linda



# THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OAKLEY LOWER SCHOOL

## New Classrooms

As you may already know, Oakley Lower School is building fantastic new facilities at the school. When the school opened 40 years ago it was not built to accommodate our current numbers of over 200 pupils, nor was it designed to support the varied needs and technologies that exist within schools today. Our 'Big OL Build' team have been busy fundraising and applying for grants. A huge thank you to all of you who have supported us in our challenge, we are delighted to announce that we have been awarded money from **Bedford Borough Council's Temporary Classroom Replacement Fund, The Harpur Trust** and **The Ibbett Trust**. The temporary classrooms at the front of the school will be replaced by new classrooms at the back of the school and should be complete within this academic year.

## We NEED YOU!

This is all very exciting, but this is just the start of our plans to improve the school. We continue to apply for grants to complete the new nurture suite to support the differing special educational needs within school, the outside learning space between the old and new classrooms, a canopied area for all weather outside learning and play, a new door through which we shall link the new build to the existing school and a secure front entrance. We hope to raise most of the money through grants, but your donations make a tremendous difference.

## Name a Paver

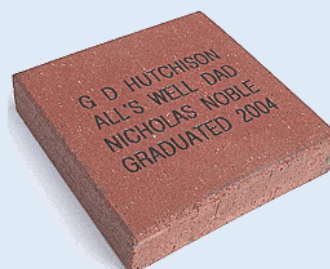
The Big OL Build team are launching a 'Name a Paver' scheme. In return for £35 for a private single paver or £100 for a business double paver, your name or message of support from your business could be engraved in gold on a paver that will be permanently embedded in the walkway around the new classrooms. All supporters of the Big OL Build will be mentioned in our newsletters and will be invited to see their stone in its amazing new surroundings when we formally open our new classrooms next year.

### Private single paver £35 each



210x105x50mm

### Business double paver £100 each



210x210x50mm

Sample pavers can be seen in the school office, please pop in if you would like to have a look. Orders can be placed by:

- Collecting an order form from the front desk at Oakley Lower School.
- Emailing a member of the fundraising team at [bigolbuild@gmail.com](mailto:bigolbuild@gmail.com) and requesting an order form.
- Phoning Oakley Lower School on 01234 822104 for an order form to be sent to you.





We provide our dogs free of charge, and they are specifically tailored to meet each individual's needs and to each person's disability. They are trained to help with everyday tasks such as opening and shutting doors, loading and unloading the washing machine, picking up dropped items, pressing buttons including lifts and pedestrian crossings and fetching help in an emergency.

These life transforming dogs also provide practical, psychological and social benefits including increased independence and confidence, motivation and self esteem. Most of all they help people to smile again!



## Canine Partners

Canine Partners is a charity dedicated to helping the lives of people with disabilities through one of our amazing assistance dogs. Our dogs give their partners greater independence and a much better quality of life.

## Valentines Dance

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2014

8 till Late

At Oakley Village Hall, Church Lane, MK43 7RJ

Dancing to local band

**"Beer Jelly"**

(60s/70s music)

**Tickets £10** Light Supper included.

Raffle & Bar

Tickets available from

Sheila: 07817116406 or Carol: 07946461778

*Proceeds in aid of  
Canine Partners*

Registration No 803680

## Oakley Scout Group

Not quite all change at the Scout Group

This Autumn, the Oakley Scout Group has had a few important changes in the Uniformed Leadership Team.

Greg Kilpin, the Group Scout Leader of many years standing, has been appointed as Acting District Commissioner for the Bedford Scout District. This means that after the 3 months or so transition period, the appointment becomes permanent.

This has the effect of providing a vacancy at the head of the Group's Uniformed Leadership. Jon Abbott, the experienced Cub Scout Leader, is now the Acting Group Scout Leader. In turn, this leaves a vacancy which is filled by Martin Kavanagh who will be the Acting Cub Scout Leader.

These changes ensure the uninterrupted provision of Beavers, Cubs and Scouts in Oakley. So if you have a daughter or son who is interested in Scouting, please contact us.

Beavers 6 - 8 year olds Wednesdays 18:15-19:30 phone Karen 07918 181815

Cubs 8 - 10 year olds Thursdays 18:30-20:00 phone Martin 07917 137179

Scouts 10 - 13 year olds Tuesdays 19:00-20:30 phone Dean 07854 312255

The Scouting programme provided for the Sections is a mix of badge work, games, themed evenings, visits and weekend activities. And fun.



# Oakley's Own Coffee Shop



## for Coffee

Coffee, Tea, Chocolate, Cold Drinks  
Hot Food, Cold Food  
Breakfast, Lunch, Morning/Afternoon Tea

*All Food made on the Premises!*

### Open 7 Days a Week

Oakley Park, Station Road, Oakley - Phone 01234 824113

#### Steve's Snippet No.12

Chard (as well as being a town in Somerset) is a leafy vegetable. I mentioned it briefly in my allotments article and thought that I ought to give it some more publicity as it is an easy-to-grow vegetable with many great attributes. Its flavour can be an acquired taste but it is worth persisting with as the method of preparation will overcome any doubts you may have.

Chard is also known by its many common names such as Swiss chard, silverbeet, perpetual spinach, spinach beet, crab beet, bright lights, seakale beet, and mangold. In the same species as beetroot, it has been cultivated from sea-beet. Julia and I also eat the entire beetroot plant, but the star of this show is chard...

Purely as a decorative plant, chard is a winner. There are many varieties available and colours vary from stunning reds to less-showy greens. Apart from the dietary benefits, chard has an indomitable spirit and demands that you keep removing leaves whilst it continues to grow undeterred.

It is one of the healthiest vegetables available and has helped me to reverse a potentially serious pre-diabetic condition,

now unfortunately common in our ageing and nutritionally badly-advised population.

Chard stems, often brightly coloured, can be roasted to present an unusual addition to a meal. However, one of our favourite methods is as follows (another simple recipe which can be adapted to suit your taste and available ingredients):-

Use a large pan with a lid. Serves 2.

Take 4 large chard leaves with stalks pulled carefully from the base of a plant.

Soften thinly sliced onion in a small amount of oil/butter in the pan and, whilst the onion is cooking, slice the chard stalks into 1-2 cm slices. Keeping them separate from the stalks finely shred the leaves.

Add the stalks to the softened onion and stir so that the chard stalks are coated - continue to cook until slightly browned if you want the sweeter, caramelised flavour.

Add chopped tomatoes (we use tinned but home-grown would be good, if slightly longer to prepare) and heat to simmering.

Continued on Page 17



## Steve's Snippet No.12 - Continued

Cover the pan and allow to simmer until the chard stalks are cooked nearly to your liking, because you then need to add the shredded leaves with enough time left to allow them to steam in the covered pan.

Cooked this way, chard with tomato, onion (and maybe also with garlic, herbs etc.) has become one of our favourites and is really good served by itself or with a piece of white fish or chicken...you choose.

Precautionary note:-

Chard contains a higher level of oxalic acid than some other foods (many foods contain this naturally-occurring compound). This is important to be aware of if you have been advised to limit your intake of oxalic acid. A balanced diet is always recommended.



## New Youth Leader at Oakley Youth Club

We are happy to tell you that Samantha Cockings has accepted the role as Youth Leader at Oakley Youth Club and she has already taken over the reins. Sam first started as a volunteer 5 years ago and has proved invaluable in running the Youth Club. We are delighted that she has accepted the role as Youth Leader and look forward to lots more planned activities to keep our young people entertained on Friday evenings. Thanks go to Leigh for running the Youth Club since January and we wish her well as she goes forward with teaching art classes.

Thanks also for the continued support and the funding from Oakley Parish Council which pays for a Youth Worker and other costs. The admission fee of £1 and profits from the Tuck Shop also help to offset the cost of running the club.

This year has seen a gradual increase in the numbers attending each week and they have enjoyed being involved. Bonfire Night was a lot of fun, with Ryk Sudnik getting a decent fire going despite the damp wood! It brought back fond memories as a Scout in his youth. The weather was kind to us on the night and we enjoyed toasted marshmallows and spuds baked in the embers. The toffee apples were a bit dodgy-looking as the toffee hadn't set, but tasted good. A lot of hilarity was had with the home-made monster witch's head piñata which was so strong that it took an awful lot of hard bashing to get at the sweets inside!

**BADMINTON**

Get fit whilst socialising at  
Oakley badminton club ☺

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT**

**7:30-9PM**

**LINCROFT SCHOOL**

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

The Youth Club has a few more meetings to go this year, culminating with the Christmas Party planned for 12th December which we are all looking forward to.

Volunteer numbers have dwindled unfortunately, due to various other commitments. We're very grateful to all volunteers - the Youth Club couldn't run without them. As membership has grown, we appeal to anyone who can lend a hand to get in touch with Sam on 07730979482. If you could spare a couple of hours on a Friday, even once a term or just once a year, that'd be really helpful.

Oakley Youth Club is held at the lovely Old School on Lovell Road from 7.30pm to 9.30pm on Fridays during term time. Young people aged 12-16 can come along and check it out, maybe join in an activity or just chill out with mates.

It's a good place to get involved, make friends and mix in a safe environment, whether for entertaining games and activities, or simply chilling out and filling up on tuck or at a cooking session! All that's needed is £1 admission and maybe some money to spend in the Tuck Shop.

So Merry Christmas everyone and a festive New Year. We look forward to seeing you at the first Youth Club meeting on 9th January 2015, if not before.

Carol Hrynkiewicz-Sudnik



## Oakley Neighbourhood Watch

Christmas time is nearly here  
A festive season full of cheer  
Santa brings for girls and boys  
Lots of nice expensive toys  
Colourful packages of all shapes and sizes  
Fills us with joyful surprises.

But people BEWARE of nasty boys  
Who will rob you of those lovely new toys.  
Cameras, Xbox worth a pretty penny  
Become a tempting target to many  
Watches, necklaces and rings on fingers  
Cause many a burglar to stay and linger.



This Christmas I urge you all  
To take care of your festive haul  
Windows and doors keep locked tight  
When you go out and to bed at night  
Place your gifts well out of sight.

So this cheerful festive season  
I penned this poem for a very good reason  
Secure your home, secure your car  
May this Christmas be the best by far!  
Hope you enjoy your new gadgets and toys  
Enjoy the smiles of those girls and boys



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Shop On Line at:  
<http://www.tudorrosepatchwork.co.uk>

## Colour in Santa on his sleigh



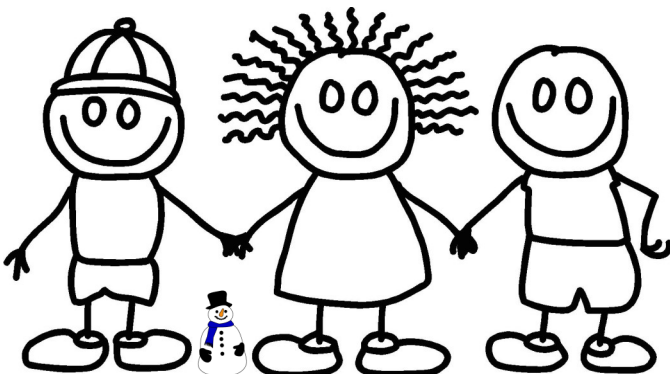
### Oakley Toddlers

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 contact us at [oakleytoddlers@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:oakleytoddlers@hotmail.co.uk) or drop in to meet us and see what is involved!



# theWI

## OAKLEY WI



Oakley WI meets in the Village Hall on the second Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm. Over the next few months we can look forward to the following:

### Tuesday 13th January 2015

Pam Jones will be explaining the role of Medical Detection Dogs and the difference that they make to their owners. Their keen sense of smell enables them to detect any changes in their owner's condition. It may be low blood sugar, low cortisol levels or the detection of substances such as nuts, all of which could prove fatal if not recognised.

### Tuesday 10th February 2015

The entertaining Steve Dimmer highlights the life and times of Sid James, via Hancock's Half Hour and the Carry On films, in his talk entitled 'The Happy Prune'.

### Tuesday 10th March 2015

Our AGM, followed by a glass of wine and a game or two of Crazy Bag Whist. No skill required!

If any of these appeal to you, we would be happy to welcome you to our meetings.

Members also get together regularly for walks, theatre and cinema visits, lunches and day trips.

For further information tel: 823788 or 822577  
Anne McNab



## Oakley Village Hall

After the recent A. G. M. there have been some changes.

Terry Carroll, who has been on the committee for years, has stood down. He has played a big part in the evolution of the Village Hall and will be greatly missed.

As I said in the previous issue of this magazine, I was planning to leave, in the hope that someone would come forward to do the bookings for the hall.

Well step forward Jane and David Cooke. They will learn that whilst it can be quite a taxing job, at times, it can also be fun. I have got to know many people over the years and I am sure that continued good service will be the order of the day.

Please keep using the hall as it is a vital part of our Village, and if you fancy being on the committee you will be very welcome.

For information and bookings please telephone 07788 796996

Jean Weston

(retiring booking secretary)

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### Oakley Gardening Club

We meet in the Methodist Church Hall during the autumn and winter on the third Monday in the month at 7.45 pm. We would be very happy to welcome you as a visitor or a member, however small your garden. An interest is all that is needed. Details for the next four months are as follows:

#### 19<sup>th</sup> January 2015:

Speaker: Nicholas Warliker "Trees and shrubs for the small garden".

#### 16<sup>th</sup> February 2015:

Our annual dinner – venue to be announced.

#### 16<sup>th</sup> March 2015:

Speaker: Peter Vince "The Woodland Trust"

#### 20<sup>th</sup> April 2015:

Tricia Thompson "The language of flowers"

We look forward to you joining us.

Audrey Mehew, Committee member –  
tel: 823380 for further information.



# R P TESTA

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# oakley *Motorcycle* club

Yet another great year ends for OMC on top of the phenomenal success of the Bike Festival in July. We close with another record for membership. This year we have over 470 paid up members!

The highlights of the year have been numerous but one summer night is worth a mention. One OMC member, who is also a keen Balloonist, brought over some of his Northants Balloon Club members and we witnessed the spectacle of 6 balloons taking off from the OSSC field.

Other notable events have been the Easter Egg run with over 50 members taking part and delivering Easter eggs to 6 locations including Lovell Homes. There have been a number of weekends away with stays in North Yorkshire, the Forest of Dean and a Ladies only weekend in Wales.

Continental travel has included trips to Spa, Belgium, the MotoGP race in Valencia, Spain and a visit to the biggest bike show in Europe at Cologne. Here we were greeted by "The Cologne Motorbike Show welcomes Oakley Motorcycle Club" displayed across their giant information screens on the day we attended.



Furthermore in October, whilst attending his daughter's wedding in Positano, Italy, the Chair of OMC even met local people who knew of OMC, including an Italian biker from Naples. We are going global!

Finally, on **Saturday 6th December** we are holding the annual Xmas bash at OSSC which will feature the band "Preacher". They are, for those who were in their garden on the night of the Bike Festival, the band you may have heard but not seen! **Tickets are on sale** on the OMC website at [www.oakleymc.net](http://www.oakleymc.net) or at Oakley Club. Rest assured Preacher are playing indoors on the day!

All profits on the night will yet again be going to the East Anglian Air Ambulance. Since OMC adopted the EAAA as our chosen charity, our fund raising has reached over £25,000!

Roger Bays , Chair - OMC



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# Hazel Kaye

Hair, Beauty & Wellbeing Clinic

40 High Street, Oakley

Tel : 01234 826502

Beauty Therapy



Hazel Kaye offers expertise in all aspects of facial and body treatments. Jessica Nails, the ultimate in nail nutrition, are NEW to the salon. Treats weak, peeling, damaged or perfectly normal nails. Add a touch of something special to your nails with Swarovski Elements Crystals for that Christmas party look.

## Hairdressing

We are a Wella premier salon with excellent, well trained stylists, technicians and hair-up specialists. NEW to the salon is the latest GHD collection. Beautiful voluminous hair sometimes seems to be unreachable, but not with Balmain hair extensions! Adding hair is the look of the future.

## Medical Aesthetics

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## Oakley Sports & Social Club

### Family & Sports Bar

<http://oakleyssc.com>



Refreshing beverages



Friendly atmosphere



Fun for the kids



Fantastic facilities

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

The kitchen offers very tasty hot food served on certain days and evenings, homemade pizzas baked in our very own pizza oven. Check our fabulous menus out (download them from our website), pop down and try a bite - you won't be disappointed.

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

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

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

## Latest News & Events



### Join us for Xmas and New Year's

Oakley Motorcycle Club and Oakley Sports & Social will be hosting a joint Xmas party on 6th December at the club house - all members are welcome. We will also be hosting a New year's Eve party - see our website for details.

**Alzheimer's Society** Leading the fight against dementia

### Members Raise money for Alzheimer's Society

On 28th September, OSSC Chairman Paul Moffat and club member Tracey Hewitt successfully completed their 10km run which, in conjunction with an 80's themed disco, helped raise money for the Alzheimer's Society.

### 2015 Membership Renewal

As of the 1st January 2015, all memberships are up for renewal.

Prices remain at £5/adult and £3/child

Renew online at our website

## OSSC Kitchen

Download the full menus from our website

**Thursday's**  
6pm - 9pm  
Full Menu

**Friday's**  
5pm - 8pm  
Pizza Night

**Saturday's**  
4pm - 6pm  
Full Menu

**Sunday's**  
12pm - 2:30pm  
Sunday Menu



824977



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



<http://oakleyssc.com>

