



# Oakley Newsletter



**Autumn 2019**

Number 80



Front Cover : Riverstone House  
By Terry Youngman

#### The Oakley Newsletter

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

#### Opinions and information

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

#### Next issue

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#### Hello Children

look out for  
Ten more



## Parish Council News

### Autumn 2019

By Jane Walker (Chair)

#### Oakley Carnival 2019

Thank you to all the volunteers who once again put on a wonderful afternoon of fun and entertainment for the village. There are some reminders of the day further on in this newsletter, but I wanted to thank everyone who gave so much of their free time to making this such a lovely community event. Even the rain halfway through the afternoon did not dampen people's spirits and as soon as it stopped everyone was back out, enjoying the stalls and the arena entertainment. It is a huge event to organise and it takes a lot of pre planning so I would like to thank the committee and helpers on behalf of the village.



#### Christmas lights

This year the first Saturday in December is not until the end of the first full week, so we have decided to hold our annual Christmas lights switch on event on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November this year to give us longer to enjoy the wonderful display. Please make a note of this date in your diaries as there will not be another newsletter now until the week after the switch on.

#### Highfield Road Railway Bridge

There was a huge amount of consternation when Network Rail installed some very large concrete coping stones on the old railway bridge on Highfield Road recently. Everyone agreed that they were very ugly and not appropriate for a rural setting. The parish council protested as we had not been informed about this work beforehand and so had not been consulted on the design or purpose of the stones. As we also had the support of the Borough Council, Network Rail agreed to remove them temporarily. Unfortunately, they will be back later this year, although they will be dark green rather than the bright concrete colour. The parish council have maintained their objection as we would prefer to see the

Continued on page 3

## OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

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bridge parapets completely rebuilt in the same stone material they are currently, but we have been told that this is not possible within the budget or timescale.

We were told at our last meeting that the parapets need to be raised because of the new electric wires which run underneath. We suggested a close mesh type fencing but were told that this would potentially allow items to be thrown through the mesh onto the wires beneath. Also if something was hanging from the parapet anywhere near the cables, the electricity could arc back and the extremely high voltage would be fatal to anyone standing on the bridge. We accepted the advice of the railway engineers on this so agreed to the raising of the parapet using a solid material.

We have been advised that the green coping stones will be installed at Souldrop bridge before ours so if anyone would like to see how it is going to look you can see it there. We have been assured that this time, Highfield Road will only be closed when the installation is happening and the traffic lights will be removed when they are not required.

### **Bottle bank**

As I am sure you are all aware the Bedford Arms is now under new management and the new landlords have requested that the Parish council removes the bottle bank from their car park. We do not want to lose the facility from the village as local organisations benefit from the money raised when we sell the glass. As a result the Village hall committee have kindly agreed for the bottle bank to be re-located there for a trial period. We are very grateful to them for enabling us to keep glass recycling in the village. Please respect it and use it properly. If it is full please take your glass home until we can have it emptied and do not leave empty boxes and carrier bags by the side of the bin. If the area is not kept tidy we will lose the facility altogether.

### **Grass cutting**

Overall the standard of grass cutting from our new contractors has been high. However, several people have complained about areas of verge that they feel has been missed this year. Although most of these areas are alongside the public highway they have not been recorded as highway land and so we are not refunded for cutting them on behalf of the Borough Council. Our new contractor has been correctly reading the areas of responsibility from the maps provided by the Borough whereas previous contractors had just cut all verges without checking.

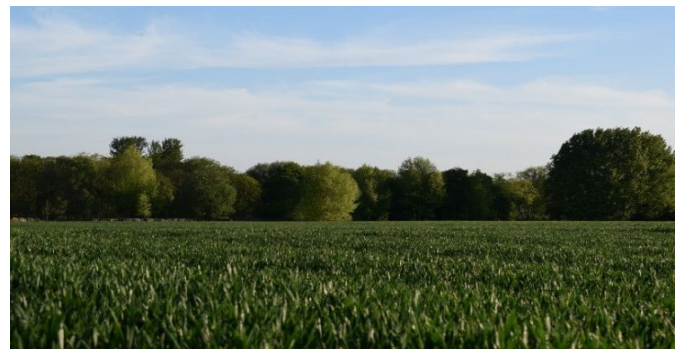
We are talking to the Borough about adding areas onto their maps so we hope to rectify it for next season. The Parish Council will discuss at the meeting in September whether to cover the extra cost for the remaining few cuts of the season

### **Improvements to security/ facilities on Parish Council public open spaces**

Following the recent visit to the village from members of the travelling community we have decided to try and make other areas in the village less accessible. As a result we are looking into putting bollards around the Grange Close Green as well as replacing some of the older bollards around the Green.

Another improvement we will be making over the next few months is replacing the broken seesaw with a new one. We have already had the old one removed for safety reasons but we hope to have a new one in its place very soon.

Jane Walker (Chair)



### **Oakley Neighbourhood Plan**

I am pleased to say that the Bedford Borough Council considered the Oakley Neighbourhood Plan and that it met all the planning requirements. The Borough Council has completed the consultation and has sent on the Neighbourhood Plan and the comments received to the Examiner.

The Examiner will consider the plan and the comments. The next stage is that the Examiner will make the report with any possible recommendations. The Recommendations will be considered by the Parish Council and the NDP.

The Oakley Neighbourhood Plan will then be subject to a referendum by you, the residents.

If approved by you it will be the planning document that all applications will be judged against for the next 10 years.

Pat Olney

## BEDFORD BOROUGH NEWS

### Bedford Borough Local Plan 2021-2030

Bedford Borough Council is consulting on proposed modifications to the Local Plan 2030.

The Council's Local Plan 2030 has been progressing with hearings held by the Planning Inspectorate in May and June 2019.

Following these hearings the Council was invited by the Inspectorate to submit a number of modifications to the Plan. These include 'main modifications' which are required for the Plan to be taken forward and considered 'sound'.

The list of proposed modifications can be found at [www.bedford.gov.uk/examination](http://www.bedford.gov.uk/examination) along with a representation form for responses. A version of the Local Plan 2030 showing the proposed main modifications is also available so that proposed changes can be seen in context. Proposed 'main modifications' are shown in red text. Green text shows proposed 'additional modifications' which are minor changes to make the Plan clearer and easier to understand.

All responses to the consultation will be sent to the Planning Inspectorate. This marks one of the final stages of the examination of the Local Plan 2030, which ends with the Planning Inspectorate's report to Council. This will set out any further modifications that the Plan requires. The Council will then have the option to adopt the Local Plan 2030.

To view and respond to the consultation visit [www.bedford.gov.uk/examination](http://www.bedford.gov.uk/examination).

Hard copies can also be found at borough libraries and the Customer Service Centre (Horne Lane, Bedford). **The consultation closes at 5pm on Tuesday 1 October.**

### Have Your Say on the Future of Bedford Town Centre

Although we live in a village outside of the centre of Bedford, most of us will visit the town centre at some point for shopping or leisure.

The Council is writing its new Town Centre Plan and wants to hear ideas from users. This consultation aims to find out what people use the town centre for, how often they visit, and what might bring them into town more.

Drop-in sessions are being held in the town centre, with a vision wall inviting thoughts and ideas, staffed by members of the Council's Economic Growth & Development Team.

These responses will then feed into the Town Centre Plan, which will then be published and further feedback invited early next year.

The **survey is open until Friday 27 September 2019**. It is available online on the Borough website at <https://forms.bedford.gov.uk/TCS/>

There will also be 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.

### Are You Registered To Vote?

Bedford Borough Council has sent out this year's 'Household Enquiry Forms' to ensure everyone who has a right to vote is on the Electoral Register.

The Council is required by law to carry out what is known as an 'Annual Canvass' every year. This involves writing to every household in the Borough so that local residents can check that the correct individuals are registered to vote at their address and, if necessary, make any changes.

Please check the details for your household and confirm no changes or any changes you have by responding either by text, online, or by phone. If they do not receive a response from a household the council is legally required to send up to three reminders. So, respond now to save you time and save the Council money.

Councillor Jon Abbott

Telephone: 07784 549180

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



### 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).



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## AMIGO

Another successful coach trip to London took place on Thursday 27th June. It was a great pleasure for the group to meet up with Charlie de Wet, our wonderful guide. He took us on a fascinating walk from Cafe 101 (near St Paul's Cathedral) through the back streets of that part of London to The Old Bank of England, which is a pub next to the Law Courts. After an enjoyable meal at the pub we went on a guided tour of the Royal Courts of Justice which was most interesting. We then had some free time to explore the neighbouring part of London before catching the coach home.

A very enjoyable ramble took place on the evening of Tuesday 23rd July from the Harrold-Odell Country Park. The weather was good and the group were able to enjoy some excellent views of the countryside.

The new session of Amigo activities begins on Tuesday 24th September with a skittles match at the Bedford Arms, Souldrop. The match will begin at 7.30 p.m. and a buffet of sandwiches and chips will be available at the cost of £6.00 a head payable on the night. If you want to come

please let John Dixon know, by the 17th September, whether or not you wish to have the buffet. John's telephone number is 01234 824959 and his e-mail address is jwdixon30@gmail.com .

Further events have been arranged and brief details covering the period up to and including Christmas are set out below. A full programme will be available shortly and details will also appear in the Churches Together Newsletters:-



**Tuesday 22nd October** Come and enjoy a "Ukulele Evening" with Alan Goodger beginning at 7.30 p.m. at Oakley Methodist Church.

**Tuesday 26th November** A Poetry evening. Come along and enjoy some poetry, home-made or not. If you wish, bring a poem to read (either your own or from a book) 7.30 p.m. at Oakley Methodist Church.

**Tuesday 17th December** . Carol singing with an opportunity of playing with Hand Bells at the Bedford Arms, Oakley beginning at 8.00 p.m.

John Dixon

On 11th March, Southern Malawi was hit by a tropical cyclone causing widespread flooding and devastation. Thank you to all of you who responded so generously. We received over £9850 of donations from our UK supporters and these have made a huge difference to the communities we support. Thank you so very much.

Initial flood relief funds were spent on plastic sheeting which was delivered to all Joshua communities to be used to patch up houses temporarily. Food parcels were made up and delivered to four communities identified as being the most needy.

These were particularly remote with poor access because of broken bridges and the number of damaged houses. One of these, Chilingani, is very far from town and the usual access dirt road had become impassable after a bridge collapsed. At Mwandika, families were forced to sleep at the CBCC because their houses had fallen down.

Community rebuilding was then supported through the provision of training in building stronger houses. This took place at eight centres and enabled all communities to access the training given to local builders. Each community has also been provided with a tool kit which can be borrowed to facilitate rebuilding.

**Joshua**   
Assisting Orphans & their Communities in Malawi



Jacky Mould



## Traffic Initiative!

On 13 June 2019 the temporary traffic lights between the Highfield Road bridge and the crossroads stuck on red in both directions, so 10 year old Finnan O'Regan of Highfield Road donned his luminous jacket and, ably assisted by Dave Ursell his neighbour, dealt with the problem as the photographs show.

At peak traffic time you can imagine how chaotic it would have been had it not been for their timely intervention.

Well done and thank you to them both.

Paul Phillips



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## SUNDAY 22nd SEPTEMBER The Oakley Show

In the last edition of the newsletter there was the programme for the show. You were asked to put it where it could be easily found. Well, now is the time to retrieve it, read it again, decide what to enter then fill in the entry form and put it, along with the appropriate fee, in an envelope. This can then be posted through my door at 10, Grenidge Way, or that of Wendy Gater at 21 Ruffs Furze.

At the time of writing this article I have received just one entry, we need a lot more or it will be a no-show show which will be very sad. If you cannot find the necessary paperwork please phone me 823910, or email me at j.weston370@btinternet.com or phone Wendy 824633, email, wendygater21@btinternet.com and we will get the details to you.

There are plenty of choices for an entry or two, it is not just about growing things.

People will be outside the Post Office on Saturday morning 7th September selling raffle tickets, the generous prizes have been donated by residents and organizations of Oakley. The raffle will be drawn at the end of the show. All monies raised in relation to the show go to the upkeep of our much used village hall. An entry form has been added below in case of need.

As I have previously said, do not hide your talents, be proud of your abilities and show them to others. Wendy and myself await the clunk of envelopes, loaded with entry forms and fees, falling on our door mats. By the time you have read this you may well have sorted your entry, well done you; but there is also room for more residents to have a go.

Jean Weston

### Oakley Show - Entry Form

Sunday 22nd of September 2019

Exhibitor No. ....

(to be issued by the Show Committee)  
Additional entry forms are available from the Show Committee - or photocopies acceptable

Entry	Class No.	Description	For Auction	
			YES	NO
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				

Please read the rules of the Show.

Please complete the auction column to indicate whether or not you agree to your exhibit being auctioned in aid of Oakley Village Hall.

Entry forms to be submitted with the relevant fee to Jean Weston, 10 Grenidge Way, Oakley or to Wendy Gater, 21 Ruffs Furze, Oakley no later than Friday 20th September 2019.

£1 for up to 5 entries, £2 for up to 10 entries, £3 for 11 entries or more – free for under 16 year olds.

Name .....

Address .....

Tel No .....

Age if under 16.....

## Oakley Pre-school News



Over the first three weeks of the summer holidays, we have held three 'stay and play' sessions at pre-school. These sessions are to give parents somewhere to go with their children over the long break. The sessions were well attended and we raised just under £100 for Pre-school.

We are looking forward to the new term at pre-school and have been busy, over the summer break, preparing for our new intake of children. We are already full on some sessions.

You should have already received a flyer through your door asking for help towards our new building. Thank you so much to those of you who have already donated. Some people have popped into the pre-school to donate and others have telephoned and donated online.

It has been wonderful to start to feel the support of Oakley Pre-school alumni and the wider local community on this project. We will hold a grand opening for everyone to see what their help and donations have achieved. Please, if you feel you can help, then we would really appreciate hearing from you.

Do feel free to get in touch with offers of help or any questions you may have about the build. For your convenience we have added a flyer to this page. 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



## Oakley Pre-school

Have your children or grandchildren attended our pre-school or hope to in the future?

**We need your help to make our big plans for a new building a reality.**

If you can make a donation, however big or small, we would really appreciate it.

If every family with a connection to our pre-school made a small donation, it could make a massive difference!

☐

**Bank transfer**

Please use the following details:  
Sort code: 60-02-13 Account number: 80127661

☐

**Cheque**

Please make it payable to 'Oakley Pre-school'

☐

**Cash**

☐

**Add Gift Aid**

We can claim an extra 25p from the Government for every £1 you donate. If you're a UK Taxpayer please tick this box and ensure you provide your name and address opposite.

Name

Address

Postcode

Amount

Please return this slip to Oakley Pre-school, Methodist Church Hall, Chapel Pound, Oakley MK43 7RD or email your details to [info@oakleypreschool.com](mailto:info@oakleypreschool.com)

**Thank you!**

## From Snacks to Meals!

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### SPECIAL SERVICES & EVENTS COMING UP



**Sunday 8th Sept Joint Service-** 10.30am in Oakley Methodist Church

**Sunday 15th Sept St Mary's Harvest Festival-** 10.30am

**Sunday 22nd Sept St Mary's -** 10.30am The Archdeacon of Bedford, Dave Middleton, will be joining us for our morning service followed by a bring and share lunch.

**Saturday 28th Sept Joint Harvest Supper-** 7.00pm at Oakley Methodist Church

**Sunday 29th Sept Methodist Church Harvest Festival-** 10.30am

**Sunday 13th Oct Joint Service-** 10.30am in St Mary's

**Sunday 10th Nov Village Remembrance Sunday Service-** 10.30am at Lincroft School followed by a procession to the War Memorial for an Act of Remembrance

**Saturday 30th Nov Christmas Tree Lighting-** 5pm St Mary's

#### HARVEST SUPPER

The Harvest Supper will once again be held at Oakley Methodist Church on Sat 28th September at 7pm. Tickets will be available from mid Sept from churchwardens at St Mary's or from the Methodist church. This is always a fun

event and  
all are  
welcome.



#### REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

The village Remembrance Sunday Service will be on Sunday 10th November at 10.30am at Lincroft School. After the service there will be a procession to the village War

Memorial for  
an Act of  
Remembrance  
at approx  
11.45am.



#### CONTACTS

St Mary's: Rev Catherine Wilson 01234 825665 [vicar@bromhambenefice.org](mailto: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](mailto:gill.baalham@methodist.org.uk)

Church Steward: Jeanette Letch 825204

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## Oakley Village Directory 2020

Shortly it will be time to start work on the Village Directory for 2020. I wonder if you are interested in joining our team to help produce the directory.

The directory promotes clubs, businesses and community activities in Oakley and in doing so it gives a really comprehensive overview of the lovely village we all live in. There is loads to do and many businesses find that their profile is raised amongst Oakley residents – winning work as a result.

We are fortunate that the directory has been sponsored every year of its publication (13 years) by Old Road Securities. Their generous sponsorship means that all funds raised (£15,079 so far) are spent on village projects - the sculptures in Linch Furlong, a contribution to Oakley Orchard, a contribution to the Christmas lights and the new village signs at the entrances to Oakley. As a village we should be really proud of ourselves.

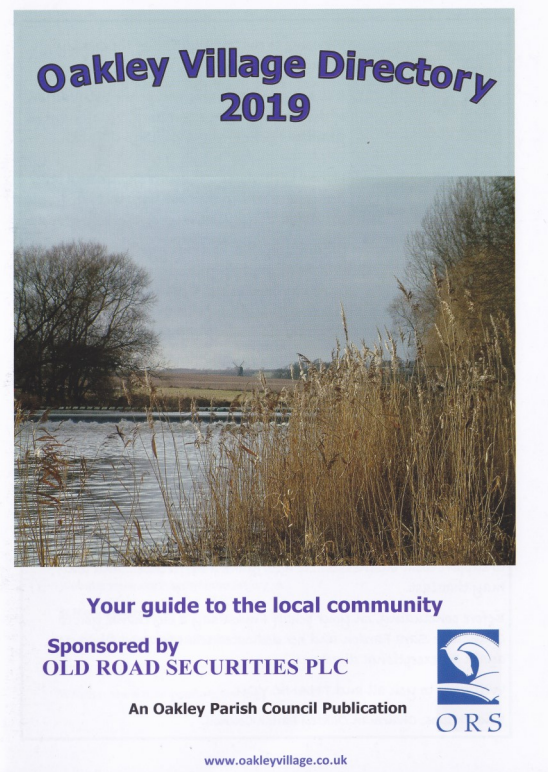
Thanks to everyone who has supported the directory.

To help produce the directory I am keen to see if you would like to volunteer and join the small team of people who help produce the directory. All that is involved is a small amount of time over October and November checking the entries in the directory – have contact names and numbers changed? It is not a big job and yet it results in the great little booklet that we all receive.

If you are volunteering for the **Duke of Edinburgh Scheme**, then it is a great way to do some voluntary work.

I'd really love to hear from you if you can help. Please contact Sara Fardon on 0771 365 1246 or email me at [sarafardon@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sarafardon@yahoo.co.uk). I look forward to hearing from you.

Sara Fardon



## The Phantom Sprayer

I have received so many complaints this summer about the amount of dog poo there is everywhere.

We had been so much better in this lovely village, people were collecting and properly disposing of the dog faeces. But recently it is worse than it has ever been, on pavements middle of footpaths, you can almost guarantee to find more every time you go out.

Whether children are walking their pets and just ignoring the mess, I do not know, but I think we all agree if a child is old and responsible enough to walk the dog then they should be responsible for picking up and disposing of the mess.

It is possible to buy cheap bags and a scooper. Pound Shop did sell a simple grabber, I am not sure if they still do, but they will still be available somewhere. Cheap nappy sacks can be used without a problem. These faeces are left lying around for children playing on the greens etc to tread in. If they contain roundworm eggs, the most common and prolific worm, these can cause blindness, particularly to children. PLEASE pick up and make sure anyone walking your dog picks up and disposes too.

It has also been reported to me that a lady, walking her dog around the Station Road field, requested a couple of owners of large dogs to put them on the lead until they had safely passed, as she did not want to risk her dog or herself getting into any trouble. Please put your dog on the lead whilst passing another dog if you have not already done so and are requested to.





## How did you survive the heatwave?

I must admit we hid inside keeping the cool air in behind curtains but by the third day we were going stir crazy and had to open the windows in the evening - but was it not awful. We are not prepared for such extremes in this country which of course only happens when the jet stream drops down to the Azores and pushes up the heat from Africa and Spain.

Whilst we were feeling sorry for ourselves there were people in the village who were worse off.

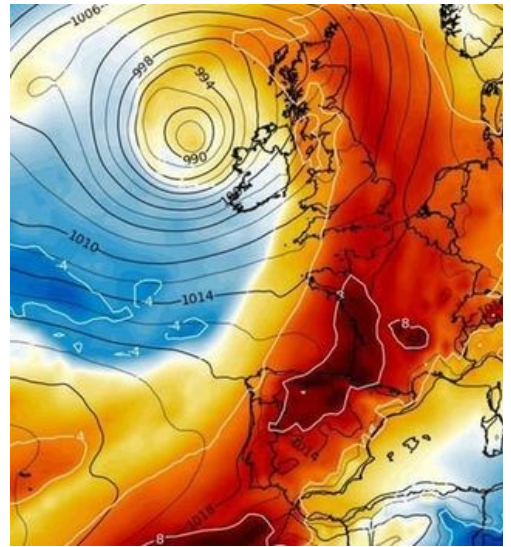
The residents of Lovell Homes were not only suffering physically with the intense heat, which made breathing difficult for some of them, but some contractors working across the river decided to burn off tree cuttings and smoked them out for FIVE DAYS altogether. The thick smoke got as far as the road and resulted in the Fire Brigade being called out three times. The smoke ruined washing, houses were reeking of smoke and residents were unable to sit outside in a bit of shade.

At night, when the heat means you cannot sleep, they tried opening the windows for some cool night air only to get their lungs filled with smoke ridden air. The Residents of Lovell Homes reaction is "How could you do this to your neighbours. You are a disgrace to the Community."

Bearing in mind specific environmental laws make it an offence to cause fumes or smoke to be released into the air that are harmful to human health or affect the enjoyment of property there is a case to be answered here. Under the Highway Act 1980, it is an offence for smoke from a fire to spread to the public highway and to endanger traffic.

The Parish Council have agreed to discuss with the responsible parties firstly the impact of burning off surplus wood waste close enough to affect the village and thirdly how elderly residents can be supported if such a heatwave occurs again (which is apparently likely in future years).

Bill Chalker, Editor



## The Friends of St Mary's Oakley (Registered Charity Number 1071053)

The Friends were formed in 1998 by five Oakley residents with the primary objective of raising money for the urgent repairs needed for the Church tower and, in the long term, to help fund the maintenance of the fabric of the Church.



As stated within the Deed of Trust the funds to be 'for the preservation, repair, maintenance, restoration, improvement and ornamentation of the fabric of the Parish Church of St Mary's Oakley'.

Initially, in June 1998, a letter was delivered to each of the residents of Oakley informing them of the urgent need to repair the tower and asking for their assistance and this resulted in many generous donations, pledges and covenants. This, along with various events to raise awareness and funds, including a balloon race, dance and musical evenings, all well supported by the village, meant that within a year £19,000 had been raised. The response of the village was wonderful. This has continued, with further donations, pledges and legacies enabling The Friends to allocate funds towards the new roof and other repairs. This has secured the future of St Mary's Church as a key feature of the landscape of the village.

If you would like to consider supporting and donating to The Friends of St Mary's Oakley please contact **Graham Palmer Chairman on 01234823959 Mobile 07710462535**  
email [gpalmer@talk21.com](mailto:gpalmer@talk21.com)



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# Oakley Carnival 2019

## Celebrating 30 Years









## Hope everyone enjoyed the Scarecrow trail this year.

Congratulation to Holly & Charlie of Grenidge Way who are this year's individual winners and to Oakley Rainbows as this year's team winners.

Special mention to Messy Church as runner up as it was a difficult decision to choose between the teams. Thank you to Pat Olney for judging.

Lorraine Woolhouse





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## Oakley Allotments



Things have progressed since my last report – this has been a good summer, with reasonable temperatures promoting growth and some rain-fall. We have had to water a few times and it has sometimes been difficult to decide whether to water or to wait for forecast rain. Some of our plants might bolt if left too dry for too long – an example is fennel, which will not form decent-sized bulbs and will bolt if too dry.

It seems that, nationwide, there is a glut of courgettes. That is certainly true in our case. Last year our courgettes were disappointingly sparse so I possibly over-compensated this year, planting 3 yellow and 3 green courgette plants. I am now exploring a lot of methods for preserving some of the courgette/marrows that we are producing.



My favourite, so far, is to cut the raw courgettes into 5mm slices, layer the slices with thinly sliced garlic (I'm talking colossal elephant garlic here, which we have also produced) and pack it down in a large jar ready to be immersed in olive oil/rapeseed oil, a dash of balsamic vinegar, with sea-salt and black pepper. Leave it for a few days and invert the jar occasionally to ensure that everything gets well-covered.

Courgettes can be cut up and frozen, used in soups or simply sliced and barbecued. Courgette, potato and cheese soup is very good. Of course, you can offer them to friends and neighbours but you risk straining the relationship if you overdo this generosity...

We have also pickled beetroot, which is best cooked and sliced if large. If the beetroot tops are good then we steam them and have them as greens. Some people make pesto with the leaves

but I have not tried that yet. Microwave the beetroot and test that it is cooked using a knife or skewer, slice to your preference, pack into large jars and cover with malt vinegar. You could use pickling vinegar but for our taste that overwhelms the beetroot flavour. The beetroot can be used almost immediately.

We had a successful working-party some weeks ago. The crushed brick was spread on the main track so it should not become a swamp when winter returns. Others have generously kept grass cut and made other repairs when necessary. Again, a big "Thank You" to all who help.

Unfortunately, it seems that some have not yet understood that there is no facility for disposing of general garden waste at our allotments – after all, why should there be. There is nobody available to clear up after those who persist in fly-tipping their home-produced waste at the site, so please, do not do it! Also, any waste produced on your allotment should remain on your plot, be put in your green bin at home or taken to the tip in Bedford.

We have a waiting-list (now three people) for allotments. A frantic allotment year for us is approaching autumn and the inevitable slowing-down but there is yet more to come, I am sure.

Steve Nicholas



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# 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](https://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. **ENQUIRIES ARE WELCOME FROM BEDFORD AND SURROUNDING VILLAGES.**

### ACTIVITIES

Clients have been busy with various activities recently. These include decorating their own plant pots. There were some wonderful designs and everyone enjoyed the process. Other activities included making flowers from wire and pva glue, bag decorating, card making and pom poms for a rug.

We also made a pearly kings and queens scarecrow for the Oakley Carnival. This took a number of weeks but the effort was worth it in the end. Other activities included a music quiz, word games, jigsaws, crosswords, word searches, chair based exercise and group discussions.

Also thanks for Kempston Hammers Choir who came in to sing for us on two occasions. We really appreciate the support they give us and our clients really enjoy having a sing along.



### AGEING WELL EXHIBITION

In June we attended the ageing well exhibition at the com exchange. We had our own stall and could hand out our leaflets to visitors and chat about the service we offer. It was a really useful day and we liaised with such organizations as Age UK, Red Cross, The Tibbs Foundation and many more.

### OTHER NEWS

Many thanks to clients and carers who completed questionnaires we provided regarding our day centre. The feedback is informative and will help us improve our service.

Village Agents will be visiting the centre giving advice to our clients on benefits they may be able to apply for and services they could access which is really useful for everyone involved. We will be holding a bring and buy sale in the autumn. If anyone can donate any new or nearly new items it would be much appreciated.

Also in October we will be having a vocalist coming to the centre to entertain us.

David Swallow

# 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)

## Oakley Speed Watch Report

*Extracted from Morelock Speed Device Reports for two weeks in July 2019. High Street - three cars travelling over 45 mph per day plus one at 71pmh and three over 50mph. Pavenham Road - 257 cars came round the bend at over 35mph (16 of which were over 45mph) and must have been caught by the average speed cameras. [Full reports available from the Parish Clerk]*

It is difficult to understand why some drivers do not consider excessive speed to be a problem on roads in a built-up area with a lower speed limit. Particularly when the limit is 30mph and their speed is as high as 70mph, or more!

We have a better knowledge of how slowly people react - drivers and other road-users. Nobody has a reaction time faster than the perception of a hazard and the nervous-system's response to it: it is basic science. Also, even a few mph over the limit will extend a vehicle's physical stopping distance by an unexpected amount.

Some drivers who speed seem to think that it is OK to do so because it might be after midnight and there is "nobody about". The danger is that there can always be a pedestrian out at any hour, day or night. The speeding driver does not anticipate this and the pedestrian is not expecting someone to suddenly be in their space at criminally insane speeds.

It is not just humans, of any age, that present a potential hazard to the foolish driver but animals may be in the road at any time, unexpectedly, unavoidably, and lead to the driver suddenly run-

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ning out of skill and luck.

The fact is that a speed limit is absolute and is in force whatever the time of day. To ignore this fact is to risk fines, court costs, points on your license, or worse. And do not forget that points add up – get 12 points (fewer for newer drivers) and suddenly you no longer have the privilege of driving.

You may also think that the fines are insignificant. However, fines can be based on your income, so a means-tested fine could be large enough to matter to you.

Perhaps part of the problem is that driving is seen as a right – respect yourself and others or you may find out that it is not.

We believe that those who offend in this way are possibly less likely to be reading this sort of report – after all, they already know everything, right? If you know such a person then please, please, pass on this vital information to them – you might save somebody's life... and it might be theirs.

A magistrate I consulted advised me to point out that it is also an offence to withhold the details of the person driving a vehicle at the time an offence is committed. This former loophole no longer exists. The keeper of the vehicle will be held responsible for any offence and subsequent penalties can be severe. Always ensure that the vehicle's registration document (V5) is up to date, with the correct keeper's name and address.

Steve Nicholas



### Snippet No.39

The charity cycle ride was completed successfully, although only 32 people took part and not the 100 originally hoped for.

The day was ideal – overcast skies with some hazy sunshine, not much breeze and warm enough to be comfortable in the event T-shirt and shorts.

There were a lot of cyclists out and about, despite there not being many taking part in our event – the weather was ideal for cycling. Drivers of vehicles were also very patient and we were passed in safe places and given plenty of room.

There was one exception to this when a less-patient driver placed his car right alongside me as traffic approached from the opposite direction. He was so close to me that, had I hit a rough bit of road or stuck an elbow out, we would have had an "incident". Fortunately, I did not wobble and remained polite and reserved.

I was grateful for the miles of training I had managed to fit in during the weeks prior to the event. The first 40 miles were fairly comfortable. The last 20 miles were getting harder, as I had anticipated. The final 10 miles seemed like another 20 and the few (modest) climbs we still had to ride on the route were more difficult.

The countryside of mid-Bedfordshire is as scenic as any in England and the roads we took were generally quiet and not the most popular motor routes.

We took every opportunity to stop at the various checkpoints and have a chat with the marshals, who had given up their Saturday to help feed and water us. I am sorry to say that they also had to endure my latest jokes, which is possibly not the best way to treat volunteers.

As we approached the finish it started to rain. Our timing had been almost immaculate and the refreshing shower was very welcome.

Steve Nicholas



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What an eventful summer we have had at Oakley Scouts! Back in June we held our annual Village Bake-Off and had lots of

lovely entries from our members and their parents. The bakes were judged by Bedford Mayor, Dave Hodgson and he commented that it was hard to choose winners in each category because all the bakes were of such high quality. After the judging villagers, members and parents enjoyed sampling the cakes and raising funds for the Scout Group.



In July, the Group took part in Oakley Carnival and we all had a thoroughly enjoyable day. The Beavers and Cubs worked hard on their Pearly Kings & Queens costumes, while the Scouts and Leaders built our wonderful London Bus float. Our bus was so realistic that it even stopped to pick up passengers along the parade route! We were so pleased when our efforts paid off and we won Best Float! The chance to feed the Bog Monster with toilet rolls drew people to our carnival stall, as did the opportunity to make colourful paracord bracelets.



The Scout Group played an important part in the Carnival as various stalls borrowed our chairs and tables and Animal Encounters enjoyed the comfort of the Scout Hut for the day.

Also, in July, we held our end of summer term BBQ and AGM. This year our Group Scout Leader, Sarah, has introduced awards for the Beaver, Cub and Scout that has stood out for en-

thusiasm, willingness to take part, the most improvement, etc. Well done to the three members who received this year's inaugural awards!

At the AGM we were sad to say goodbye to Matt, our Cub Leader, and Tom, our Assistant Cub Leader, as they move on to other things. We also said goodbye to three of our long-standing Trustees, who have done a sterling job supporting the Group in many ways. On a happier note, we have gained a new Beaver Leader, Katie, plus four new Trustees!

Some members of the Dragons Explorer section have been on a summer camp on Anglesey during the holidays, where they took part in surfing, coasteering and zip-lining. They also hiked to the top of Snowden and back!

### How to get involved?

We still 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 Sarah Davey, on 07935 796620); **Cubs** (for 8 to 10.5-year olds) runs on Thursdays 18:30-20:00 (contact Chris on 07805 175521); **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).

If you would like to know more about becoming an assistant leader, please contact the Group Scout Leader, Sarah Davey, on 07935 796620.



### Snippet No.40

I have discovered Norfolk – do not go rushing over there to have a look as you probably will not like it and the place just gets more crowded.

It was last year that a friend and I arrived at West Runton in the pouring rain, intending to stay for a couple of nights, just for a short escape and to test my latest camper-van creation. The van was, at least, waterproof.

The next morning dawned bright and dry so we headed for the beach and the short walk to East Runton. Getting a bit carried away we overshot and kept on to Cromer, along the beach and with the occasional excursion paddling in the sea. It was July, but not warm, and we remarked that it was unusual to be wearing coats at this time of

year.

Cromer was good to explore – I had been here as a lad many years ago but could not remember much of it from those days. We walked out on the pier and toured the Lifeboat station and afterwards decided that a beer took precedence over ice cream, which we would enjoy later.

Exploring the town we chanced upon a gift shop which displayed various arts and crafts, a bit above the standard of the usual bucket-and-spade emporium.

Something unusual caught my eye – driftwood fashioned into a stand for a shoal of small, metal, hand-painted fishes.

Continued opposite:-





Brownies had a fun term doing a wide variety of activities including playing games, making a scarecrow for the carnival scarecrow hunt, decorating and preparing for the carnival game stall and having an end-of-term picnic and rounders match.



On Midsummer's Day we held the whole meeting outside around a campfire. Where there is fire (at Brownies), there are marshmallows to be toasted. Although the Brownies showed impressive fire awareness, we were grateful for the extra supervision provided by our Treasurer, Victoria, as she became the fourth adult.

As well as toasting marshmallows, the Brownies also enjoyed making dens which they did with great creativity and no two were the same. They also did a scavenger hunt, following pictures and a map to find eleven natural objects. We ended our meeting with songs round the campfire in time-honoured Brownie tradition.

Lindsay Saunders

#### Snippet No. 40 Continued



I liked it so much I bought it for Julia as a coming-home gift for my eventual return (aware that my very arrival might not be enough in itself..., whatever persuaded me that a shoal of metal fishes would make any difference). Incidentally, I have seen similar ornaments nearly everywhere since – I do sometimes think I might be wandering about with my eyes closed.

Fresh-cooked crab (an adventure in itself) and chips for lunch and then we continued our tour of the town. The event of the afternoon was, mistakenly, stopping to talk to a youngish lady who

greeted us as we passed by the shop she was sitting outside.

Too late we noticed the mad glint in her eye as she held forth on the various conspiracies that had led to her current problems. I attempted to nod or shake my head in what I hoped were the right places, whilst hoping that she was not concealing anything sharp.

Promising to look her page up on social media, I explained that our wives and partners would be wondering what had happened to us and so we must, regrettably, continue on our way to meet-up with them.

Sometimes, the teeniest fib is OK in the greater scheme of things. We returned, along the beach, to the Runtons.

On this day's outing my companion had noticed a poster advertising guided walks, looking at the area and its geology. Conducted by the former curator of Cromer Museum, such a walk seemed too good to miss: we were to return just 2 weeks later.

Steve Nicholas

to be continued...



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Hello Everyone.

Welcome to our summing up of Merri Flowers' british summer flower growing season.

It has been a funny kind of season weatherwise. We have been exposed to both heatwaves and downpours, which some flowers have not liked and others have loved. Thankfully our business continues to flourish, as people begin to realise that 'British Grown' and supporting local businesses is the way forward.

Our Bedfordshire florist contacts have increased, as more of them venture to our farm to purchase flowers for British Flower Weddings, based on recommendations from other florists. More and more families are taking on the task of decorating their wedding venues themselves, which is a win-win situation for everyone. Rachelle even had a stall at the Oakley Carnival which has brought in some Oakley customers too.



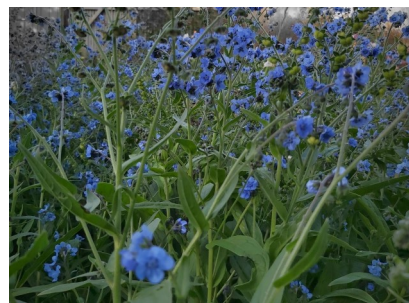
As of August Julian took on a new employee in the form of Rachelle! Yes, that is right, after 26 years working for Unilever at Colworth Science Park, Rachelle gave up her desk job to ded-

icate 100% of her time to flower growing and building the business. This has meant that we have had the ability to extend our events to include evening Pick Your Own Experiences, all of which have sold out. We now offer Pick Your Own experiences on week days too, so there is no excuses to not venture up to your local flower farm.

In August Rachelle volunteered at The Sandringham Flower Show. She did not get to meet Charles and Camilla but they did visit the Flowers From the Farm stand. We also held a number of events for the first ever Big Flower Farmers

Weekend. Alas, the weather was terrible on 18th August and we had to cancel our evening event. All was not lost as everyone was available to move to the 23rd August instead.

As the season slowly switches to Autumn, our priorities begin to focus on our 2020 Flower season and Christmas. Sorry – there is no avoid-



ing it, it is getting closer, even the Garden Centres are clearing their decks for Christmas decorations. Like last year we shall be running our Christmas Tree Fundraiser Events and will be starting our Tag a Tree events from the end of October. If you want an Oakley grown tree for Christmas please come see us then.

In addition to selling Christmas Trees we shall also be running a few Wreath Making Experiences at the farm at the end of November. We will also be co-hosting some events at Bromham Mill.

For further information about our farm and events, please visit our website [www.merriflowers.co.uk](http://www.merriflowers.co.uk), email us at [info.merriflowers@gmail.com](mailto:info.merriflowers@gmail.com) or contact Julian on 07946519737.



## The Borough of Bedford Local Access Forum is looking for new members.

All Local Authorities are required by the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000 to establish a Local Access Forum to provide strategic advice on 'the improvement of public access to land in that area for the purposes of open-air recreation and enjoyment of the area'.

The BoBLAF is short of specific members. Whilst walking is well represented; we only have one horse rider, one farmer and one member representing the visually impaired. Landowners, cyclists and motorised users are not currently repre-

sented. The BoBLAF need extra members in all of these fields.

The BoBLAF meet in the evenings at Borough Hall, Bedford 3-4 times a year and each meeting lasts about 2-3 hours. Recent submissions / advice provided to organisations related to East West Rail, Bedford Borough Local Plan, Oxford – Cambridge Expressway, Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet new road, Borough Neighbourhood Plans and the Borough's Rights of Way Improvement Plan.

If you are interested in helping formulate advice to Bedford Borough Council then please contact the BoBLAF secretary via email: [BoBLAF.Secretary@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:BoBLAF.Secretary@bedford.gov.uk)



## Oakley Village Hall

Church Lane,  
Oakley,  
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A well-appointed village hall  
Main hall with stage and PA system  
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**WEDNESDAY NIGHT**

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# theWI

## OAKLEY WI

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 at Pavenham Golf Club

We also have outings and occasional visits to the cinema. New members and visitors are very welcome. To find out more please call 301629 or 825688



## OAKLEY GARDENING CLUB

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.

16 Sept **Flower Demonstration** by Jane Leech of Howbury Farm Flowers

21 Oct **The Language of Flowers** by Tricia Thompson

18 Nov **Winter Flower Arrangements** by Elaine Sturgess

Meetings are held at Oakley Methodist Church 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

Well what a fantastic summer it has been for OMC! We held our usual sponsor evenings over May and June hosting St Neots Motorcycles, Flitwick Yamaha, Grafton Honda, Pure Triumph and The KTM Centre from Hemel Hempstead, all of which were very busy evenings.



Then on the 4th July we held our very popular American theme night in conjunction with Oakley Sports & Social Club. As this was just before Oakley Carnival weekend most of the fair was in position and they opened up for the evening.



Also as promised we had live music courtesy of The Blues Brothers who arrived in theme in their 1980's ex USA Police Dodge car before going into their routine.



The weather was great and the night attracted 529 motorbikes and 93 show cars. There were many fantastic examples of American metal from the V8 cars to the V twin Harley Davidson bikes including a Second World War US Army half-track

kitted out with helmets, rifles, ration packs and even a pack of Lucky Strike cigarettes for total authenticity. Couple all that with many villagers and other people driving here and it resulted in a field full of vehicles of all descriptions and over 1,500 people. It was a record number of bikes and show cars for OMC.



Our next big event was the OMC Bike of the Year Award on the 25th July. This saw 29 entries into the show to win the top prize of the OMC Bike of the Year Shield and a £200 food and drink prize kindly donated by OSSC. Our top attraction was the 1996 and 2005 World Superbike Champion, Troy Corsa, who along with the 1992 and 1996 British 250cc GP Champion Steve Sawford and OMC members Richard "Dickie" Galka and Dave Higham judged the event.

The voting was exceptionally close with only two points separating the top three bikes but it was won by Peter Schrubbs with an absolute mint 1959 Norton Triton. Following the presentation, in true Australian Troy Corsa ride anything, anywhere style, he took the winning bike for a ride round the field whilst Peter stood watching smiling nervously!



With the nights now drawing in and the temperatures dropping that is the end of the events at Oakley Club until we hold our annual Memorial Ride. This is scheduled for Sunday 29th September and is held in memory of members who are no longer with us

For more information and pictures please visit [www.oakleymc.net](http://www.oakleymc.net) or the Facebook page of Oakley Sports & Social Club. Please feel free to pop along any Thursday evening as we welcome all those with an interest in motorbikes whether you ride one or not

Kind regards      Baysie - Roger Bays - Chair OMC



## CLASSIC CAR MEET



**Oakley Sports  
& Social Club**  
FAMILY & SPORTS BAR

Many people may have been wondering why they have seen so many old cars around the village on particular Tuesday evenings. Well, as touched upon in the last OPC newsletter, it is because Oakley Sports & Social Club are hosting a Classic Car Meet which has been taking place every second Tuesday of the month over the spring and summer months. These guys had originally been organising a meeting last year in Houghton Conquest but had been made aware of the fantastic facilities at Oakley Club so decided to switch venues and they have not been disappointed!

The first meet saw 70 show cars in April followed by over 100 in May. June was a wash out due to rain and a soggy field, but July and August saw over 120 cars each time with many never seen before at Oakley. The selection has been amazing with vintage Bugatti, Austins, Fords, Porsches, Morriss, Rovers, VWs and Minis to mention just a few alongside some quality American classics and even a Mercedes McLaren supercar!

With the club kitchen being open and Mr Ice Cream Man in attendance, the evenings have proved very popular with the drivers and many local villagers bringing their children along. The last evening of 2019 is Tuesday 10th September when the show starts from 6.30pm. So if you are a bit of a petrol head with a love of old metal this may be right up your street!  
Hope to see you here

OSSC Committee



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# Firework Display

## 2nd November

### Oakley Sports & Social Club

Field open at 5:30pm ★ Display commences at 7:30pm

**Hot food available between 5:30pm - 7:30pm**

**Entrance: £5 Adults / £2 Children / £10 Family Ticket\***

**Fayre Rides ★ Bouncy Castle ★ Kids Toys ★ Icecreams**

Tickets will available in October at Oakley Sports & Social Club  
Tickets also available at the gate on the night (limited amount)  
TEL: 01234 824977 | [www.oakleyssc.com](http://www.oakleyssc.com)

\* = Family ticket provides entrance for 2 adults and 2 children



**Oakley Sports & Social Club**  
Family & Sports Bar  
<http://www.oakleyssc.com>