



Oakley Newsletter



**Spring 2026
Number 106**

Parish Council Vacancy

2026 Oakley Show Date

Speedwatch Volunteers Needed

Asian Hornet Spotting & Reporting

Village Directory Volunteers Needed

Oakley Cubs Awarded

Beaver / Scout Leaders Needed



Front Page Picture : Long Tailed Tit
Photographer : Shelley Eden

The Oakley Newsletter

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

Opinions and information

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

Next issue

Final copy date for the
Summer issue is 15th May 2026
The publishing date is 26th May 2026

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Hello Children

look out for
Ten more
little ones



Parish Council News

Spring 2026

A warm welcome to all villagers and to the spring edition of the Oakley newsletter.

Christmas Lights

Since my last column, Christmas has come and gone. However, I wanted to mention the Christmas lights. Once again, they brighten up Oakley and offered a warm welcome on arriving into Oakley.

Many villagers enjoyed the Christmas lights switch on at the Church - accompanied by carols, mince pies and mulled wine. It really made us feel that the festive season had begun. Thank you to all at the Church for organising the event and to Rev. Katherine Wilson for telling the Christmas Story and leading the carol singing.

Budget Details

In early January the Parish Council met and reviewed all expenditure. If you look at the parish council finances, you could be forgiven that we have a lot of money to spend. We do have money, but these funds are reserved for spending in certain areas. They are described as Section 106 funds, which the council receives from developers for maintenance.

This is set aside for specific spending at The Furlong, The Grange and Parsonage Close, plus a sum for the bus shelter. The Parish Council itself does not have big reserves of money, and we work carefully to think about the projects that we should consider for the village, the affordability and the priorities.

We have reviewed all expenditure, and details can be seen in the minutes of the Finance group which met on the 6 Jan 2026. We recommended an increase in the precept of 5% to £64,150. The band D rate would increase by 5% to £64.42.

Continued on page 3

OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

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Our Village Environment

The amount of rain we have been having, coupled with frost, has led to some extensive road damage. There are potholes as you will have seen at the Highfield Road crossroads. Patching has been done at the junction of Reynes Drive and the High Street. The crossroads are also affected by the water leak on Highfield Road. Anglian Water are looking at this and hopefully by the time you receive the newsletter then this work will have been done. Bedford Borough would prefer the water leak to be sorted before any road repairs done - that makes sense of course.

Potholes we all know can seemingly appear quite quickly and of course can be deep with the potential to cause serious damage to people, cyclists and vehicles.

Severe and dangerous potholes that you spot and believe to be an immediate and critical risk can be reported by calling the Highways team on 01234 718003.

If you want to report a pothole then please do so by going to the Bedford Borough Council Website - searching for potholes where you will find the online form to report the pot hole. The Council really welcome as much detail as possible to help them pinpoint the pothole - so landmarks or even the "what three words" to describe the location. The Council will inspect the road within 7 days to determine action and if the pothole is dangerous, they will repair it within 24 hours of inspection.

Housing Development

Many of you will have seen that the land on Station Road has been sold for development. An application has been made for work to start in Station Road before the access roundabout is built. The conditions around this are there is no left turn from the site onto Station Road; there is no access between 8.00am to 9.30am and 2.45pm to 4.00pm and the Traffic Management Plan includes frequent cleaning of Station Road, and the application is currently awaiting a decision from Planning. The Parish Council and NDP Group will be meeting with developers in early March to discuss emerging plans.

Parish Council Vacancy

Did you know we have a vacancy in the Parish Council? Would this be of interest to you? It is a chance to be involved in what takes place into village, to learn about how things operate and to consider what is in the interests of Oakley. Additionally, an opportunity to give something back to the community - your time, engagement and interest. We are such a great village with a lot of volunteers and activities that we have a lot to be thankful for.

If you would like to find out more then please do contact me, any of the Parish Councillors, or the Clerk Ann Paice and we will be happy to chat further. Any villager is welcome to come to any other

Parish Council meeting and hear what we talk about.

Which leads me nicely to the next topic - the

Annual Parish Meeting.

We have the annual Parish Meeting on **7th April** at **7.00pm**. All villagers are welcome and there is plenty of opportunities to ask questions, find out more about the parish council, or suggest new ideas. **See you in April!**

Failing that, here are the dates of Parish Council meetings for the coming year.

Parish Meeting 5th May. 2nd Jun. 7th Jul.
1st Sept. 6th Oct. 3rd Nov. 8th Dec and
5th Jan in 2027.

Finance Advisory Group 12th Jan 27 5th Mar 27

Annual Parish Meeting 6th Apr 27.

I look forward to seeing you there.

Are you missing the Village Directory?



I am and I would love **some volunteers to come forward to produce this little booklet.**

Many of you may know I coordinated it for about 18 years and it tells a great story of all that goes on in our village.

All the instructions are in place to get this moving again, so if you are computer literate, willing

to talk to others and a little bit creative - any of, or all these skills will be of use. Please do get in touch and we can bring this publication to life once again.

Kind regards to everyone in Oakley

Sara Fardon

Parish Clerk's Working Hours

The Parish Clerk is currently working from home Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings. She is also in the Old School Meeting Room (at the rear of the building) on Thursdays between 10.00am and 2.00pm if anyone wishes to visit in person. She does not work on Fridays but any messages or emails will be picked up on Monday.

Borough Council Report



Green Waste Collections

As part of the Council's budget consultation, one of the options the Government asked the Council to consider was introducing a charge for garden waste collections. Although many borough councillors were not supportive of charging, the option was included in the consultation so that residents could give their views.

Following the consultation, the majority of residents did not support a charge and as a result of this the Council will **not** be introducing charges for green waste collections, despite what has been written in the press.

Food Waste Collections

From Week beginning Monday 30 March 2026, Bedford Borough Council will introduce weekly food waste collections for all houses and flats.

Homes will get a small kitchen caddy and a larger outdoor food waste bin for weekly collection. Flats will receive a kitchen caddy and either use communal food waste bins or have local collection points set up where communal storage is not available.

Residents can line their kitchen caddy using ordinary plastic bags, paper or newspaper, or choose to buy liners (optional).

Glass Recycling success

Bedford Borough Council introduced glass bottle and jar recycling in orange-lidded bins on 1st December 2025. Early figures suggest it has proven successful with residents. In December 2025, the Council collected over 220 tonnes more recycling from orange-lidded bins than the same month the previous year, an increase of around 24%.

As a reminder, before putting bottles in orange lidded bins:

- Rinse bottles and jars.
- Leave metal lids on.
- Remove corks (put these in the black-lidded bin).
- Remove plastic spray tops or plastic lids from jars, but these can still go in the orange-lidded bin separately.

Roads maintenance and Potholes

In 2023, the local road network had a large backlog of maintenance built up over the past decade. Unclassified roads (the everyday streets outside homes, schools and workplaces) make up around 60% of the Borough's roads. In 2023, 38% of

these were recorded as being in the worst condition. By 2025, that had fallen to 18%.

Pothole repairs also increased substantially from 1,343 in 2020/21 to 6,308 in 2024/25 with the Council putting more focus on planned, preventative maintenance to reduce repeat problems. Although it does not feel like it at the moment because wet weather makes the problem worse and hinders repairs, our roads are in no worse a state than the rest of the country and as soon as the weather improves, work on repairs will begin in earnest. This work is supported by a £9.5 million highways maintenance investment by Bedford Borough Council.

David Lloyd Leisure Limited comes to Bedford Borough

Bedford Borough Council has agreed to lease the Oasis Beach Pool site on Cardington Road to David Lloyd Leisure Limited, who plans to redevelop it into a modern health and racquets club. The Council is working on a Community Use Agreement so there will be clear benefits for local people, especially local schools, including access to facilities like swimming.

The redevelopment is expected to support around 75 full-time jobs, as well as apprenticeship opportunities. Next steps are to finalise the legal agreement and then submit a planning application (with target timings during 2026).

Separately, the Council has £600,000 set aside for free outdoor leisure facilities on land next to the site, and will consult with residents on what they would like to see there.

The Council's budget

At the time of writing, councillors have not yet agreed a budget for this year so the council's portion of tax for next year has not been set. It looks like it will be 4.99% increase however, but this will be confirmed in the council tax notice which will be sent to all households in March.

Councils across the country are currently under severe financial pressure, because demand is rising fast for essential services that they are legally required to provide. (Temporary accommodation, children's services and adult social care)

The cost of providing these services has jumped around 25% and Government funding has not risen at the same pace. At the same time, Councils are being asked to do more, such as rolling out separate food waste collections as detailed above.

Also, dealing with the immediate aftermath of the Cleat Hill explosion cost the Council around £2 million. The Council asked the Government for emergency financial help to cover these exceptional costs, but that request was refused, which

Continued on Page 6



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Borough Council Report

- Continued

The Council's budget - continued

means the Council has had to fund the £2 million from its own budget, adding extra financial pressure to the finances.

An Improvement Plan which is being overseen by Government officers, will ensure tighter control of spending and income and an application for a government overdraft facility has been requested. The Improvement plan will set aside funds and advice to help the council run more efficiently so it can return to a stable financial position while protecting frontline services.

Fostering for Bedford Borough Council

We are always looking for more families to help look after our most vulnerable children. A home environment rather than an institution, gives them the best chance of overcoming any trauma or loss they may have experienced.

The Borough council supports our own carers with a scheme called Mocking bird which aims to provide a community of carers who can offer respite care, advice and a friend to call on whenever you

need it. Bedford Borough Council also offers help with Council tax charges and subsidised entry to our leisure facilities along with all of the usual support you receive as a foster parent.

If you are considering taking on this important role, you can find out more information at <https://www.bedford.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/fostering/who-can-foster> or contact us fostering@bedford.gov.uk

Jane Walker

Borough Councillor for Clapham and Oakley

If you need any further information or assistance with issues at the council, you can call me on 07952 879587

or email jane@janewalker.co.uk.

You can also find me and/or message me on Facebook @CllrJaneWalker.

Jon Abbott

Email: jonathan.abbott71@icloud.com

07784 549180

Facebook: Clapham & Oakley Liberal Democrats

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Oakley Show 6 Sept

Another year and another growing season to look forward to along with this year's Oakley Show to let us see the outcome of all your hard work, both growing, crafting and baking.

We are just starting to arrange this year's show so now is the time to let us know if there is anything new you would like to see included: we are always grateful for suggestions. You can comment on our Facebook page, email: the1juliamn@aol.com

or phone 07778 537427.

Look out for the show programme which will arrive through your door at the beginning of June.

Oakley Show Committee



LOOKING FOR A NEW SPORT?
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SHARNBROOK BOWLS CLUB
Lodge Road, Sharnbrook

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We offer coaching for beginners and free membership fees for your first year

For more details of the club and to arrange a visit
Contact Penny Mann (Secretary) on 01234 781660

OAKLEY VILLAGE MONTHLY



Run by Oakley Parish Council and held in Oakley Village Hall

Friday 20 MARCH 2026

Friday 24 APRIL 2026

Friday 15 MAY 2026

Friday 19 JUNE 2026

7.30pm start

Maximum 6 people per team

£3.00 per person (cash payment only please)

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Email: oakleyruraldaycentre@yahoo.com

Web: www.oakleyruraldaycentre.weebly.com

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SPRING 2026

Our Day Centre provides our older people with a place where they can make friends in a warm and comfortable atmosphere. We provide various activities including crafts, word games, board games, bingo and other mentally stimulating activities.

We also provide chair based exercise classes. Our clients really enjoy taking part and we are finding them to be very beneficial. Choirs and entertainers also visit the centre.

We serve freshly prepared home cooked lunches and desserts together with tea, coffee and toast at the start of the day with beverages throughout. The Centre is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 10.00am to 2.30pm.

For details of costs, advice and to book a visit please contact Lynne on 01234 824935 or 07733 227374.

Enquiries welcome from Bedford and surrounding villages in North Bedfordshire.



Please visit our website at www.oakleyruraldaycentre.weebly.com

The site is updated regularly with the latest news from the centre.

We also have a **Facebook** page. This will be updated with the latest news and photographs of events at the centre.

The **Facebook** page can be found at www.facebook.com/oakleyruraldaycentre

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



NEWS

TRUSTEE REQUIRED

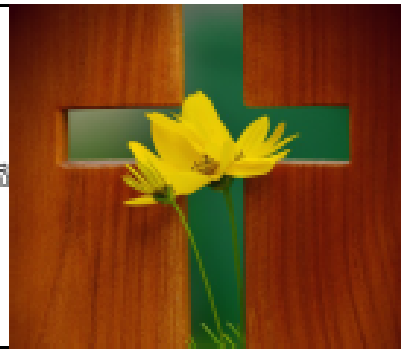
Our day centre is looking for a new Trustee. For details contact our chair at andrea@virgo-associates.co.uk

CHAIR AND TABLE PERSON REQUIRED

A person is required an hour per week to put tables and chairs out very early Tuesday mornings and put them away Thursday evenings. This is two half hour sessions to do the job. For details contact our chair at andrea@virgo-associates.co.uk

Clients have carried out various activities since the last newsletter. These include water colour painting, making birdfeeders, Chinese lanterns and Dragon boats, painting and decorating model butterflies.

Everyone really enjoyed Christmas Party week. We played lots of games including bingo, pass the parcel, hoop the reindeer and a raffle. We also had a visit from Santa and his helper!



SPECIAL SERVICES & EVENTS COMING UP

Sun 15th Mar	10.30am	Joint Mothering Sunday Service - St Mary's
Sun 29th Mar	10.30am	<i>Palm Sunday Service with donkey procession - St Leonard's Stagsden</i>
	10.30am	Palm Sunday Service - Oakley Methodist Church (OMC)
Thurs 2nd Apr	6.30pm	Joint Maundy Thursday Meal and Communion - Oakley Methodist Church
Fri 3rd Apr	10.00am	Good Friday Craft Workshop- St Owen's Bromham
	2.00pm	Good Friday Service - St Mary's
Easter Sunday 5th Apr	10.30am	Family Communion Service & Egg Hunt - St Mary's
	10.30am	Easter Sunday Service - OMC

TEAS IN CHURCH

St Mary's popular 'Teas in Church' is back! Sundays from 3.30pm to 5pm, begins 5th July. Why not come along and enjoy delicious refreshments in beautiful surroundings, while supporting your local church?



*For more details on all our events visit www.bromhambenefice.org or www.northbedsmethodist.org.uk

MESSY CHURCH SESSIONS

Messy Church runs on Thursday mornings at 10am during termtime in St Mary's for preschool children and their carers.

Messy Church For All is for all ages and is meeting on Tuesdays 17th March, 21st April & 19th May at 3.30pm at Oakley Methodist Church.

Messy Church Plus is a school holiday session in St Owen's Bromham 11.30-1.30pm. Any age (accompanied) children welcome- next session Mon 4th May. The session includes a free light lunch.

CONTACTS

St Mary's: Revd. Catherine Wilson: 01234 825665 vicar@bromhambenefice.org
 Church Wardens: Hilarie Worley 262166 & Graham Palmer 07710 462535
 Administrator Sarah: 07494 069540 administrator@bromhambenefice.org

Oakley Methodist Church:
 Revd Paulette Tedd: 07591 139940 paulette.tedd@methodist.org.uk
 Church Steward: Jeanette Letch 825204 jenletch@hotmail.co.uk

Oakley Good Neighbour Scheme Update

We have made great progress in working to set up a Good Neighbour Scheme in Oakley with the support of the Parish Council and a team of volunteers from the village.

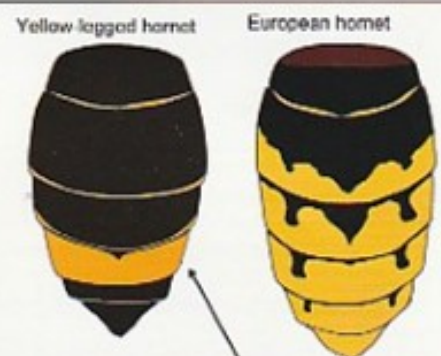
We aim to launch the scheme in March, offering local residents help with shopping, minor DIY, hospital transport, and companionship.

We have a team of volunteers who will all be insured and have a DBS check.

Please look out for posters and other promotions for start date and how to contact the group for help.

Asian Hornet Shown here at a larger than life size

Key ID Features



Yellow-legged hornet abdomen is almost entirely dark except for 4th abdominal segment.



Please report sightings immediately with a photo:

- with the iPhone and Android recording app: Asian Hornet Watch
- online at: nonnativespecies.org/asianhornet
- by email: alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk

Find out more and report a sighting:



An emerging threat to our pollinators!

Asian hornets (*Vespa velutina* – also known as Yellow-legged Hornets) are starting to establish in the UK.

We recently attended a talk at the Marston Forest Centre – the speaker was an experienced Apiarist with a detailed knowledge of the Asian Hornet, its spread across Europe and its potential, devastating impact on European pollinators and ecosystems.

Climate change has enabled many species to spread rapidly from their native ranges and start to populate areas

Slightly smaller than the native European hornet. May be confused with other species, shown below in actual size for comparison.



Asian hornet



European hornet



Median wasp



Hornet mimic hoverfly



Woodwasp

where long-established species have little or no defence against the invaders.

Across the UK, scientists and beekeepers are increasingly alarmed by what some describe as the early stages of Asian Hornets establishing a presence in the country. Native to Southeast Asia, these insects have been moving further west since arriving in France in 2004. They are now regularly turning up in Britain, and there's growing evidence that they are about to become more permanent.

The first confirmed UK record was in 2016, in Gloucestershire, and since then sightings have risen year after year, especially in the south and southeast of England. Migrating queen hornets hitch a ride on ships or lorries arriving at our shores, or even fly here over the Channel when favoured by the weather. Most recently, the first Asian hornet nest in Wales was reported in early 2026, underscoring how their range is creeping further north and west.

What makes these hornets particularly worrying is their effect on pollinators. Asian Hornets are predatory — they hunt insects, and a single worker can catch dozens of honeybees in a day. The hornets will hover outside hives and wait for returning bees. Each hornet will kill 50 or more bees in a day, quickly destroying a hive's viability before moving on to the next hive.

In parts of continental Europe where the hornets are established, honeybee colonies and other native insects have suffered serious decline under this sustained pressure. The European bees have no defence against this attack, whereas Asian bees have; they crowd around individual hornets, causing them to overheat and die.

An overwintering queen hornet will quickly establish a new nest when warmer weather arrives and can eventually produce a large nest over the summer and autumn, leading to the ultimate release of hundreds of new queens, ready to spread further after overwintering in to the next year.

Scientists and government agencies have been racing to keep the species at bay. For years the UK's National Bee Unit has responded to sightings by destroying nests, and public reporting via apps like Asian Hornet Watch has become a key part of early detection. Those efforts have helped prevent widespread establishment so far, but recent findings — including hornets thought to have overwintered in Britain — suggest eradication is becoming more difficult.

While Asian hornets are not more dangerous to people than native wasps or hornets, they pose a significant ecological threat. With warm summers and a high volume of incoming queens from continental Europe, experts warn that the next few years could be critical in determining whether these insects become a permanent part of the UK's insect fauna.

Scientists, environmental groups, and beekeepers continue to urge vigilance — asking the public to learn how to identify Asian Hornets and to report any sightings promptly so that rapid action can still be taken before nests grow and spread further.

Steve Nicholas

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Down Memory Lane (or not)

Oakley Mill

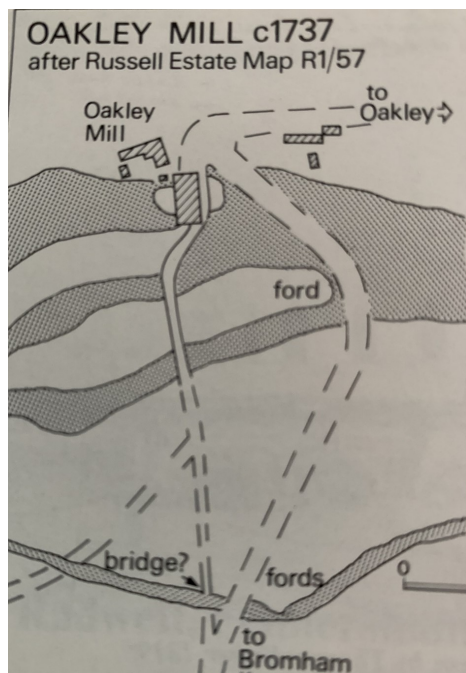
When writing the "Down Memory Lane" articles I try to cover the history of the subject and "weave in" my personal memories. On this occasion I make no apologies to having NO memories, and you will soon discover why, but nonetheless thought the topic would be of interest if only for historical reasons !!

With a riverside location it should come as no surprise to learn that our village once had a mill. Oakley Mill is listed in the 1086 Domesday Book as "1 mill worth 26 shillings and 200 eels". What can you get nowadays for 200 eels ?? !!! The mill is recorded as standing in the village of Achelei, the name of our village from 1086 to 1174 when it was changed to Achelea.

The Domesday Book states that the mill lay in the manor of Robert de Tosny and continued to form part of the Manor of Oakley Reynes which was purchased by the Duke of Bedford in 1737. It is from this point of the Dukes' ownership that the majority of information about the mill originates.

Records from 1737 indicate that there were mills every few miles along the river serving the local population. A water driven **fulling** mill stood near the Stevington parish boundary near a field called Bishops Ruffs Furze. Fulling, is a step in [woollen clothmaking](#) involving the cleansing of woven [cloth](#) (particularly [wool](#)) to eliminate ([lanolin](#)) oils and dirt, to produce a smooth, tightly finished fabric that is insulating and water-repellent. This mill probably supported Oakley's tailors and dressmakers which numbered four at this time growing to fourteen by 1841.

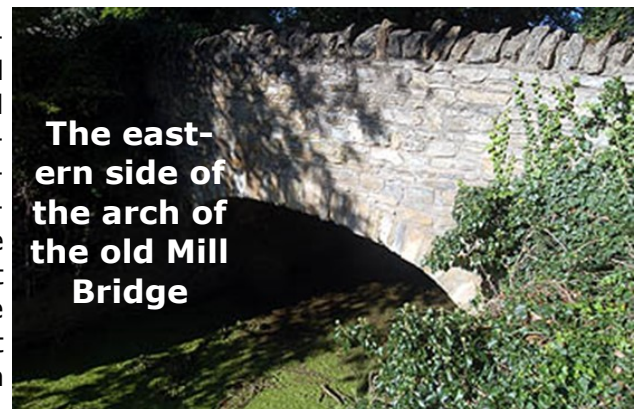
The mill referred to in the Domesday Book was a water driven **grain** mill with three pairs of stones. Until the main bridges were built in 1815, which I covered in the Autumn 2025 Newsletter, there was no substantial road bridge and the river flowed in four separate channels. Vehicles used a ford slightly downstream of the mill and small footbridges may have crossed each of the channels. In 1737 the mill was let at an annual rental of £14 10 shillings. It stood on the north bank of the river immediately west of the first arch of the current Oakley Bridge as you travel south towards Bromham,



as shown on the attached map.

References made to the names of the millers indicate that in 1804 "Robert Hewlett of Oakley is to have notice to quit his house and mill and land according to his Grace's directions". There is no indication as to why !! In 1835 Mr Rogers was the occupant paying a fixed annual rent of £100. The last millers recorded were in the census of 1861 indicating that the mill ceased operation between 1861 - 1871, probably because of the industrial revolution and the invention and introduction of the steam engine. It is believed that the mill was demolished in the 1860's. Despite the passing of over 165 years traces of the old mill can still be seen today. At the Oakley end of the main bridge the remnants, a mill arch by the side of the bridge, believed to be the remains of a foot bridge leading from the mill over the river, survives - see photos. There are also two unusual oval buttresses on the outside face of the east parapet between the river and mill bridges. They serve no structural purpose and may be part of the former mill buildings. Take a wander to the river and let your imagination run away with you back into the midst of time.

Richard Worker



Oakley Village Monthly Quiz

Since the last newsletter we have held three highly successful and well attended quizzes. The November Quiz was won by "The Cheesy Puffs". As an exception their team was made up of 7. They included Arthur, cradled in his Dad's arms, who apparently made more of a contribution than some of his considerably older teammates. Festive fun was had at the December Quiz and of course Santa made a guest appearance. A tie break determined the winners with "Gardeners Delight" pipping "Our Telly's Broke" to achieve their first ever win. The first quiz of 2026 was also decided on a tie break with "The Avengers" emerging as the winners with "Gardeners Delight" in second. All winning teams are pictured.

The team names always cause amusement and a couple of recent favourites have been "Snow Joke", "Big Don's Greenland Holidays" and the topically named "6-7" which is used primarily among Gen Alpha to playfully confuse adults and succeeded in our case !!

It was with pleasure that the Parish Council and the Quizzers made donations from the quiz profits of £200 to each of the Day Centre and to the village's residential care home for people with learning disabilities. The Day Centre is held in the Old School opening every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and the care home is situated in the High Street on the crossroads. Both used the donations to support their Christmas celebrations, a couple of photos from the Day Centre are attached. Further donations will be made to other village-based organisations in March.

Remember anyone can enter the quiz to have a great time and catch up with friends and neighbours. The next **FOUR** quizzes will be held on: **20 March, 24 April, 15 May and 19 June**. If anyone wishes to enter a team, maximum 6 people, then please email me at richworker@hotmail.co.uk.

"The Cheesy Puffs"

Richard Worker

Winners of the November Quiz



"Gardeners Delight" –

Winners of the December Quiz



"The Avengers"

Winners of the January Quiz



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News from the Tower



February is a month of 'firsts' in the Bedfordshire Association of Church Bell Ringers. 'Ring a First in February' is an annual initiative, designed to encourage novice or improving ringers to achieve a 'first', such as their first quarter peal, first time ringing inside (i.e. not the treble, or first, bell), or first time conducting. A few 'firsts' have been achieved by the ringers at St Mary's.

If you are experiencing church bell ringing for the first time, you will probably wonder what on earth we are all talking about! (Confession... some of us still get confused, even after ringing bells for years!). We've touched on some of the terminology specific to bell ringing in previous articles, and here we focus on it in a little more detail.

High up in the bell tower, each bell is attached to a wheel, and each wheel has a rope attached to it. The ropes in the photo are in the tower of St Owen's in Bromham. The woolly section on the rope is called the sally and the length of rope below the sally is called the tail.

A bell with the mouth pointing downwards is said to be down and in this position is inherently safe. A bell with the mouth pointing upwards (the position in which it is rung) is said to be up and in this position is inherently unsafe as the bell can fall to the down position under the influence of gravity.

When the person ringing the treble bell, the first bell to ring, says 'Look to', all the bell ringers get ready to pull on the rope of their bell. The conductor is one of the bell ringers who oversees what is being rung.

Hand stroke is when the sally is pulled and back stroke is when the tail of the rope is pulled. Rounds are when the bells are rung repeatedly in sequence from the highest pitched bell to the lowest, often rung at weddings. Call changes mean the bells are called into a different order by the conductor. A method is like a tune. It is a predetermined pattern in which the bells are rung. The conductor calls 'That's all' to call the bells back into rounds when the method has come to an end.

As ever, if you are an experienced bell ringer or would just like to have a go, please come along to a practice night! The Oakley Band of Bell Ringers practice on Friday evenings from 8pm to 9:15pm and ring on Sunday mornings before the services at St Mary's Church. New members are very welcome! We are a friendly bunch. Please contact our Tower Captain, Bill Sellars on 07980 745292 or email thesellars@btinternet.com for more information.

Shelley Eden

Roadside operations are undoubtedly the most obvious evidence of our speedwatch activities we devote considerable time to installing and maintaining the speed display on Highfield Road and the traffic recorder we move to various locations around the village and analysing and reporting the data we collect from these. We are grateful that the Parish Council have funded new posts and we hoped to have some data to report.



Unfortunately, the batteries for the traffic recorder have failed and we were only able to get 2.5 hours of data from the High Street on the morning of Sunday 1st February. The average speed of the 136 vehicles was 22mph with a top speed of 31mph. In all there were 73 cars, 14 HGVs, 41 vans and 8 two wheelers. Whilst interesting, the presence of parked vehicles will have a significant effect on such a small sample and we hope in our next report to be able to share data from at least a full week.

Whilst I don't want to labour the point but the Speed Watch group is operating commendably with the minimum number of staff meaning ***we are desperate for new volunteers*** to come and join our very friendly team.

Should you be interested and you are eighteen and above, then call me on 07968122301 or email me at paulphillips65@gmail.com

Until our next contribution Stay safe and ensure others you come into contact with are kept safe.

With kind regards Paul Phillips Oakley Speed Watch Coordinator



Oakley parish YOUTH CLUB



FRIDAYS 7PM-9PM

OLD SCHOOL, LOVELL ROAD, OAKLEY

to find out more contact youth leader JJ on 07469659826 or email oycsecretarial@gmail.com

01

entry fee

we do have an entry fee for the youth club but it is only £2.50 per person.

02

activities

we have a range of activities that vary depending on you what to do such as going outside during the warmer weather and small football matches. we have indoor activities and an area you can go and hang out with your friends.



03

Tuck shop

we have a tuck shop filled with all of your favourite snacks and treats and if we don't have anything that you want let us know and we can add it to the tuck shop so you can enjoy it with the rest of your friends. The prices are also cheap!!!!





Oakley Sports & Social Club

Family & Sports Bar

We are over the moon to have started our extension and full refurbishment in December last year, with works continuing at pace. This project is very much an initiative by the community, for the community, supported by local tradesmen to ensure everything we do feeds back locally. It is fantastic to see the vision taking shape and we cannot wait for you to enjoy this improved, excellent facility serving the village.

We will be hosting a formal opening event on Friday 20th March, supported by a live singer and saxophonist, and we look forward to welcoming members to celebrate this significant milestone with us.

Despite the extension being in full flow, it certainly did not deter us from hosting our second Christmas Fete & Market. Santa, his elf helpers and even his reindeer were in attendance. With busker singers, market stalls and funfair amusements, there was plenty of festive cheer at OSSC. It has been wonderful to see so many local faces – including those who may not be regular visitors – coming down to join in the celebrations. The event has quickly become a signature occasion for the Club and plays an important role in helping us deliver our mission to be a true community hub for the village.

We are therefore delighted to confirm that the Christmas Fete & Market will return on Saturday 12th December, with Santa and his reindeer already firmly booked.

We closed 2025 with a fantastic New Year celebration featuring a DJ and photo booth, sending our members into 2026 with plenty of smiles. It was yet another free event provided as part of OSSC membership.

We have also introduced a new initiative to host live entertainment inside the clubhouse on the first Saturday of each month, free of charge for members. It is just another benefit of being part of OSSC. If you have not yet joined or renewed your membership for 2026, you can do so online at:

<https://oakleyssc.com/membership>

For the first time, we will be hosting a Cider & Hog Roast event on Bank Holiday Sunday 24th May.



The day will feature bouncy castles for the children and live music from local legends The Bonas Brothers. Another free event for members to enjoy as part of their OSSC membership.

On 17th July, we will once again be hosting our members-exclusive School's Out event. Live music will be provided by Mr Stixx, performing Ibiza classics on his saxophone, while children enjoy the bouncy castles and parents can relax with a well-earned end-of-term drink and bite to eat.

We are also pleased to confirm that our now-infamous Firework Display will return on Saturday 7th November – further details to follow on what is always one of the highlights of our calendar.

We have plenty more events up our sleeve. If you are not already following us on Facebook, we highly recommend doing so for the quickest updates on news and events:

<https://facebook.com/oakley.ssc>

Our website is also regularly updated with forthcoming events and membership information:

<https://oakleyssc.com>

As you can see, it has been another busy quarter at Oakley Sports & Social Club. With the extension progressing and an exciting programme of community-driven events ahead, we look forward to welcoming both familiar and new faces throughout the year.

Robbie Bays

OSSC & ORA Chair

(On behalf of the Oakley Sports & Social Club Committee)

Oakley Cubs achieve highest award



In Oakley Cub Scouts this term, we have been trialling split groups according to age, to better cater for the older Cubs who would be moving on to Scouts if Oakley Scout Group still had a Scout section. At the beginning of term, we continued with pioneering. The older Cubs designed and made a catapult, and the younger Cubs learnt how to tie various knots and what each knot is used for.

Our Cubs hold a forum in which they discuss with the leaders what they would like to do. Archery and air rifle shooting are just a couple of the exciting activities that the Cubs can experience, under the supervision of trained instructors. We are looking forward to a visit to Milton Keynes police station this term too!



Last year, eight Cubs earned their Chief Scout's Silver Award! A fantastic achievement and one they should be very proud of! This is the highest award that a Cub can earn. To complete it, a Cub needs to earn six Activity or Staged Activity Badges and all seven of the Challenge Awards. This has been made possible by teaming up with other Scout groups, enabling our Cubs to go on camps. We have enjoyed a sleepover at Gulliver's World, a climbing sleepover, and a joint camp with Brickhill Cub Scouts.

And we have got lots more planned or being planned! There is Cubjam, a fun-packed week-long jamboree; there is another trip to Gulliver's World; we would also like to do a 110th birthday camp; and we are looking into a possible sleepover at Shuttleworth.

All these activities take a lot of time for the leaders to organise and supervise, to ensure all the Cubs have great fun and are safe. More hands on deck would help us to continue running these activities and **would also allow us to reopen the Beaver and Scout sections**. If you would like to explore volunteering opportunities with Oakley Scout Group, please have a chat with our Group Scout Leader, Janet, on 07758 872172 or at Janetscoutbits@outlook.com. Many hands make light work!



Oakley Educational Foundation



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

Applications and more information can be obtained from the Parish Clerk from the end of March.

For an application form please email parishclerk@oakleyvillage.co.uk

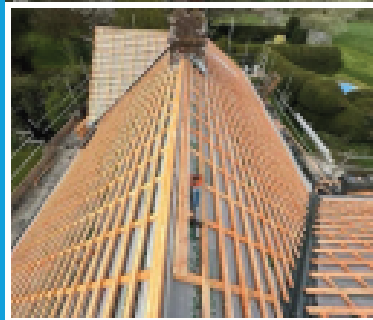
Applications accepted by 2nd May. Itemised receipts for purchases of goods must be provided.



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North Beds Ramblers

We are 50!



North Beds Ramblers, the oldest Ramblers Group in Bedfordshire turns 50 in 2026!

A recently discovered walking programme from 1976 will allow us to recreate our first year of walking as a celebration. The programme was very scant, with one monthly walk offered on the first Saturday afternoon of the month. We still walk on Saturday afternoons! The only other detail was a start time (2:15pm), a meeting point and the leader.

Sadly, we have no idea how long the walks were, although starting at 2:15pm in the winter might suggest that they were not very long!

So, 2026 starts a year of celebrations for us. Not just recreating the 1976 programme but we also hope to incorporate parts of the North Bedfordshire Heritage Trail into many of these walks. Recently, a number of our members have been involved in resigning the North Bedfordshire Heritage Trail and so it will be lovely to see some of their work first hand.

As with any big birthday, we plan to have a celebration party and will be producing some memorabilia for our walkers, watch this space. All the memorabilia and promotional material will include our new 50th year logo, kindly designed by one of our members - Julianna Jagielska.

If you are in the locality please come and join us on one of our birthday walks or any other. as we now walk every Saturday, not just the first of the month.

<https://www.ramblers.org.uk/go-walking/ramblers-groups/north-bedfordshire-group>

Date	Meeting Point / Details	Start Time
January 3rd	Meet at Turvey Cross Leader - Sam Andrews (Bedford 771477)	2.15 pm
February 7th	Meet Willstead Cross Roads We are hoping that Mr. Coles will be able to lead on some of the footpaths in Willstead area	2.15 pm
March 6th	Meet Wootton Church Leader - Mike Hudson (Amphill 40221 - Office)	2.15 pm
April 3rd	Meet Milton Ernest Church Leader - D. Boddington (Oakley 2995)	2.30 pm
May 1st	Meet Texas Instruments Leader - John Fyfe (Bedford 60992)	2.15 pm
June 5th	Meet Kempston Church Leader - Sam Andrews (Bedford 771477)	2.15 pm
July 3rd	Meet on A428 1 1/2 miles west of Bromham Leader - Tony Ely (Oakley 2747)	2.15 pm
August 7th	Meet Northill Church Leader - details later	2.15 pm
Sept. 4th	Meet Reshald Church We are inviting Mrs. Tilley to lead on this occasion	2.15 pm
Oct. 2nd	Meet Old Warden Church Leader W. Nevard (Hitchin 812009)	2.15 pm
Nov. 6th	Meet Gt 027550 Leaders D. Boddington (Oakley 2995) S. Andrews (Bedford 771477)	2.15 pm
Dec. 4th	Meet Mowbray Park Car Park, Kimbolton Road Leader J. Quilty (Bedford 46210)	2.15 pm

Sandra Kelsey

North Beds Ramblers Walk every Saturday: Please note change of start time for afternoon walks – Winter start 13:00. Come and join us for a walk. We walk every Saturday afternoon approx. 6 miles and Saturdays twice a month in morning for approx. 12 miles. Or try our "Ramble" on first Saturday morning each month – slightly shorter, slower pace

March Walks

- 7th am "Ramble", Cranfield, 5 miles, pm Wootton 6.5 miles - Birthday walk
- 14th am Milton Keynes, 10 miles, pm Wilden, 7.5 miles
- 21st pm Carlton, 7 miles
- 28th am Old Warden 12 miles pm Cranfield, 6.5 miles,

April Walks

- 4th am "Ramble", Riseley, 4.5 miles, pm Milton Ernest 6 miles Birthday walk
- 11th am Harrold, 12.5 miles, pm Roxton, 7.5 miles
- 18th am London Walk "Unlock Churches", 7.5 miles, pm Old Warden, 7 miles
- 25th am Sharnbrook 13 miles, pm Great Denham, 6 miles,

Contact; Margaret Sawyer 07780933729 Facebook; North Beds Ramblers

<https://www.ramblers.org.uk/north-bedfordshire>

Oakley Allotments

There was a time when winter on the allotment meant a proper pause. Frost so thick it looked like the plot had been dusted with icing sugar. Soil locked solid. Gardeners indoors with seed catalogues and unrealistic optimism...not this year.

After a mild winter, the allotment does not so much wake up in spring as simply realise it never went to bed. Across the country, growers have wandered down in February expecting dignified dormancy and instead found... activity. Suspicious activity.

The rhubarb is already flexing. The overwintered kale never stopped. Broad beans, instead of huddling quietly through the cold months, have carried on as if they have checked the weather app and decided winter was cancelled. On the surface, it feels like a bonus. A head start! More growing days! A smug sense that you are somehow ahead of schedule, even though you did not actually do anything. But seasoned allotment gardeners know better. Nature does not give gifts. It offers complicated arrangements.

The real winners of a mild winter are not the diligent compost-turners or the early-sowing enthusiasts. It is the slugs. In a proper winter, frost knocks them back. It is the gardener's one reliable ally — free pest control delivered from the air. However, without hard freezes, slugs have simply... endured. They have wintered comfortably. Possibly with hobbies. Lift a plank and there they are, looking rested. Plump. Optimistic.

The same goes for aphids. No dramatic population crash, no reset button pressed. Just quiet survival and what feels like strategic planning. If you listen carefully, you can almost hear them: "Excellent. Mild again. We begin at dawn."

A mild winter often means wetter ground. Yes, you can dig. No, you probably should not. There is a special kind of regret that comes from enthusiastically striding onto a waterlogged plot and realising you are now compacting next summer's carrots into submission. The soil looks inviting. It is not. It is a trap.

Earthworms, however, are thriving. They have been busy all winter, improving structure and aeration. The worms are fine. The gardener, less so — caught between impatience and the knowledge that patience is the only real skill this hobby requires.

Fruit trees rely on proper cold spells to set themselves up for the season ahead. Without enough "chill hours," apples and pears can flower unevenly or sulk. So now we have trees tentatively bud-



ding in what is technically still winter, while every grower stares at the forecast thinking, "There will absolutely be a late frost. I know how this works."

The mild winter creates a false spring — and British weather loves nothing more than a plot twist in April.

One unexpected side-effect of a mild winter is the disappearance of the allotment's off-season. There used to be a time when you could stay home, drink tea, and pretend you were resting productively. Now there is always something happening. Something sprouting. Something needing attention.

Allotment holders who once took January off are suddenly popping down "just to check," only to emerge two hours later having weeded, tidied, and held three conversations about climate patterns over the compost heap. The shed tea tastes slightly different too — less about survival, more about mild anxiety.

Of course, behind the humour sits a larger truth. These milder winters are not just quirks; they are part of a broader shift. The allotment has become a front-row seat to climate change. It is not simply "warmer": it is less predictable. Growth without pause. Pests without penalty. Blossom without guarantee.

Gardeners are, by nature, adaptable. We adjust sowing dates. We mulch more. We watch the sky like amateur meteorologists. We learn, year by year, that the only constant is change — and that the slugs are organised.

*I invited ChatGPT to contribute to this issue's article...

The Allotment After a Mild Winter: Nature Forgets to Turn It Off and On Again

Quite an entertaining and insightful contribution! We have not had much prolonged frost, but it has been VERY wet!

Please contact me if you would like an allotment.

We have a short waiting-list.

Steve Nicholas

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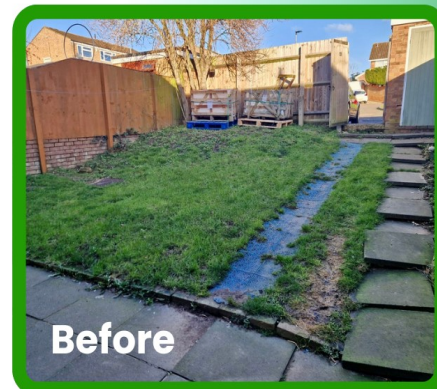
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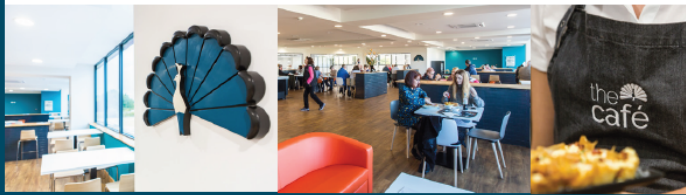


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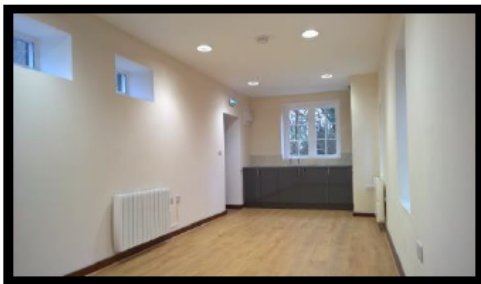
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Email: billsellars@theoldschooloakley.org.uk

Web : www.theoldschooloakley.org.uk



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Or contact the Clerk :

Mandy Newton

On 07736 466965

Registered Charity Number : 200480

Girlguiding in Oakley



Oakley has two guiding units – Rainbows for girls aged 4 -7, and Brownies for girls aged 7-10.

If you would like to enrol your daughter in either of these units or any other units locally, please register your daughter at <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter/>

If you would like more information about the individual units before you register your daughter, you can use the contact details below.



1st Oakley Rainbows (Wednesdays)

Unit contact: Amanda Keen (Assistant Leader)

oakleyclaphamrainbows@outlook.com

1st Oakley Brownies (Fridays)



This Winter at Brownies we have been keeping warm and busy in the Scout Hut! In November, as part of the Reflect Skills Builder badge, Brownies extracted DNA from strawberries! Complete with lab coats, goggles and gloves this was certainly one of the highlights of the Autumn term!

For the final session before the Christmas holidays, Brownies took part in a carousel of activities, making snowmen marshmallows, playing Christmas themed bingo, decorating Christmassy stained-glass windows and making fairy decorations to take home.



Back by popular demand in February, the Brownies competed in their own version of the Winter Olympics!! Re-creating different events in teams, to win gold, silver and bronze medals for their chosen country, followed by a medal ceremony! Great fun was had by all! As the evenings slowly get lighter and Spring approaches, we are looking forward as a unit to spending more time outside.

If you think your child would enjoy being a Brownie, please sign up on the website; [girlguiding.org.uk](https://www.girlguiding.org.uk) (click on register a child) or contact Kathy Jones – leader at 1st Oakley Brownies by email - snowyowloakleybrownies@outlook.com

Kathy Jones

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Oakley Kindergarten News



The kindergarten is feeling springlike and full of new life, as we welcome all our new starters joining us for the spring term. Everyone has now settled back into the routines after the long Christmas break.

The year has started very wet and with the added excitement of a snow fall! The children have again embraced being outside in all weathers and taking all the learning opportunities that nature provides - playing out in the rain and the snow and with ice and mud!

The bulbs that we acquired from the Bedford Borough Annual Tulip giveaway and planted with the children in the autumn, have all started to emerge and we are looking forward to seeing their colourful blooms around the site. This is despite the local squirrels who are interested in everything we plant and do try to dig it all up for themselves - much to the delight of the children who can see them digging in our kitchen garden and plant pots!

Inside, we have been busy baking and learning about Valentine's Day, Shrove Tuesday, Ramadan, Holi and the Lunar New Year- so many spring festivals for the children to experience!

We will again hold our annual Easter Egg Hunt around the village which will run from Saturday 28th March until Saturday 11th April. Maps will be available from Oakley Post Office nearer the time priced at £3 each.

We are operating a waiting list for all our rooms at present, but if you would like to come along to see the setting, with a view to starting with us, please do contact us via the methods below. Please note there is no charge to be on our waiting list.

Admissions

If you would like to register your child for a place at kindergarten, please contact us on 01234 826452. Email: info@oakleykindergarten.co.uk Website: www.oakleykindergarten.com Follow us on Facebook to keep up with our latest news and events. For information on funding, you can see details on our website with a link to Childcare Choices or alternatively you can contact the Family Information Service 0800 023 2057

Sally Martiello BEM



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GoodOaks Homecare Bedford is quickly becoming one of the most respected names in care across the Bedford area, and it's not just local families taking notice. The dedicated team has recently been awarded not one, but two prestigious national accolades recognising their commitment to delivering high-quality, compassionate care in the community.

In June, GoodOaks Bedford was named a Top 20 Home Care Provider 2025 by Homecare.co.uk, the UK's leading home care review website. This award is based entirely on reviews from clients and their families, making it a powerful reflection of the trust and appreciation the team has earned through their work. To be ranked among the top providers in the region is a significant achievement and a source of enormous pride for the Bedford team.

In addition, the branch also received the 'Best Start-Up Homecare Service or New Franchisee' award at the 2025 Home Care Awards, an industry-leading event that recognises outstanding performance, innovation, and service in the homecare sector.

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HCA
HOME CARE AWARDS

Winner 2025

Founded on the ethos of providing care "we'd be happy for our own families to receive," GoodOaks Homecare Bedford has made it their mission to support people to live independently, safely, and with dignity in their own homes. Their care professionals are known not just for their professionalism, but also for the warmth, respect, and genuine connection they bring to every visit.

Shaz and Naz Islam, the husband-and-wife team behind the branch, say these awards are a testament to their staff's dedication and passion. "Every member of our team goes above and beyond to support clients and their families. These recognitions mean so much to all of us and show that our hard work is truly making a difference."

With national awards under their belt and a growing reputation for excellence, GoodOaks Homecare Bedford is clearly a name to watch in local care.



- ♣ Dementia care
- ♣ After hospital stay care
- ♣ Meal preparation
- ♣ Medication
- ♣ Help around the home
- ♣ Personal care
- ♣ Companionship

01234 395100

bedford@goodoakshomecare.co.uk

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Harrold-Odell Country Park

With spring just around the corner, why not challenging yourself to learn something new this year by listening to bird song and try and identify which species is singing or calling? There are Apps (such as Merlin) and web sites (such as the RSPB) that do help, but it often helps to locate the bird that is singing with your eyes which really allows your brain to connect the sound with sight and retain that memory. Vocalisations can be fascinating! Robins, wrens and blackbirds are a good place to start and once you start tuning in, I promise that it will add to your enjoyment of the outdoors and help you feel more in tune with nature. Be wary of the mimickers though – I have known starlings to call like a buzzard and song thrushes to call like a female cuckoo!

I often hear birds before I see them around the park – take the kingfisher for example. Its piping call is distinctive and has me looking towards the water as soon as I hear it. Getting to know bird behaviour helps too as Kingfishers tend to fly in straight lines. The single high-pitched call of a great spotted woodpecker often has me looking in the tops of tall trees as this is likely spot from where the call could be coming from whilst the contact calls of long-tailed tits have me scanning through the bushes and trees to see them bouncing from branch to branch as they feed and move through. The yaffle of a green woodpecker has me looking towards the ground as they feed on ants, looking for an undulating flight or a bird trying to hide on tree trunks!

This year has seen a lot of rain so far, with flood waters receding in the park as I write this. The weather does not stop our intrepid volunteers though as we have been coppicing in different areas of the park. Coppicing is a traditional way of managing woodland for product, but we do it to increase biodiversity (e.g. more light for plants and different opportunities for insects, birds and mammals) and to provide a more varied age structure within the trees and vegetation.

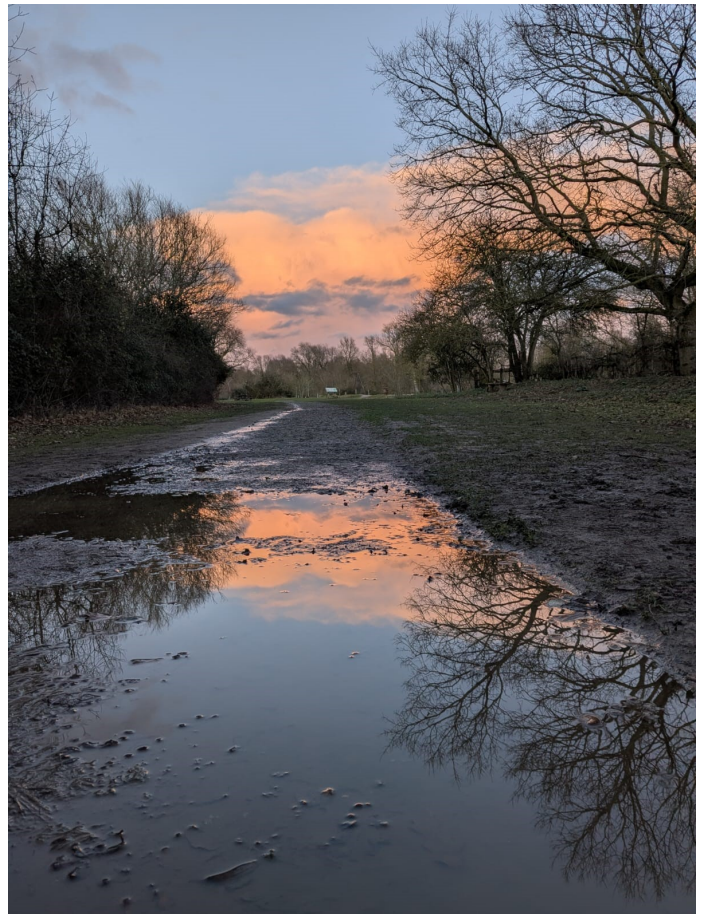
We have had a number of entries for our Poetry Competition already! Time is running to enter so be quick! Your subject matter can be anything so long as it is to do with Harrold-Odell Country Park. With 3 age categories (Under 10's, Under 18's and Over 18's) the winners of each category will win £50 and have their poetry published in a leaflet in the café and/or displayed in the Dragonfly Café. For the rules and submission information, please e-mail hocp@bedford.gov.uk. Deadline is 31st March 2026.

As usual, our popular I Spot, Children's Activity and Crossword booklets are perfect to keep your kids or grandkids entertained - available to buy for just £1 from The Dragonfly Café.

Every other Thursday, there are health walks around the park and/or local area. Meeting at 10:30am at the woodland entrance to the Dragonfly Café, they last about 1 hour. The dates are March 12th & 26th, April 9th & 23rd and May 7th & 21st. More info can be found at <https://hocp.co.uk/get-involved/health-walks/>

We hope you enjoy your visits to our wonderful park!

From the Country Park staff and The Friends of Harrold-Odell Country Park.



oakley Motorcycle club

Despite what I said in the Winter 2025 newsletter of OMC having a record membership of 586, by the time 2025 ended it was a membership of 592!



2025 ended not only with a record OMC membership but with a presentation on 4th December of over £6,800 to the East Anglian Air Ambulance which was raised during 2025 by OMC. This takes the total amount raised by OMC for the EAAA to an amazing £54,181.17!! A number of representatives from the EAAA attended this presentation and then stayed and participated in the OMC Xmas Charity Quiz which was won by team Norfolk "n" Chance who donated their winnings to the EAAA.



The following week the combined OMC and OSSC Grand Xmas Draw took place with over 100 prizes worth close to £2,000 going to the lucky winners. This event also raised nearly £300 for the EAAA. So with these events and a exceptionally gener-

ous donation of £250 by a Lady who lives in the village who is not only a fan of OMC but also the EAAA, so far we start off 2026 with over £600 for the 2026 presentation next December.

Although little has happened on the biking side of things at Oakley, our members have been active with a group representing OMC attending the MK SNAP Charity ride from Woburn. MK SNAP raise funds for adults with learning difficulties. A group also attended the annual Chilly Willy Charity Ride from Northampton which raises money for the East Midlands Air Ambulance.



More good news on the fund raising front is that following the OMC 20th anniversary event our bike jumble on the day raised over £1,800. All the left over jumble was kindly collected by the Retail Manager at Emmaus Village, Carlton. This together with some items of bike gear that had been donated, created a one day sale at Emmaus Village on Saturday 7th February. It was advertised as being from 10am to 4pm, however, they had to close the doors at 11am as it had completely sold out taking £800 for their charity! So it means that every single item donated for jumble to OMC last year has been sold for charity!

Looking ahead this year we are holding the OMC AGM on 12th March in the extended OSSC clubhouse which by that date should be fully redecorated and refurbished.

This year all six of our dealership sponsors have booked in for a Thursday evening between April and August. They will be bringing the latest machines from their manufacturer plus some will provide test rides.

We will see the latest offerings from leading manufacturers Yamaha, Honda, Suzuki, BMW, KTM and Royal Enfield.

Many other things are being planned, all we need is decent weather.....

Roger "Baysie" Bays

What is Report Fraud?

Report Fraud is the place to tell the police about cyber crime and fraud. Using our service you can make a report online or by phoning our Report Fraud Contact Centre.

We also provide the Report Fraud Victim Service which offers dedicated, and specialist help to victims of cyber crime and fraud.

The service is run by the City of London Police. Our Report Fraud Analysis Services team are responsible for the assessment of reports made and to ensure that your fraud reports reach the right place.

The City of London Police is the national policing lead for economic crime and works in partnership with policing and other law enforcement agencies.

Are you at risk of fraud?

According to the 2023 Crime Survey for England and Wales, 1 in 17 adults in England & Wales were victims of fraud. Anybody can be at risk of fraud, no matter your background, age or race. Fraudsters use manipulative tactics to exploit us and lower our defences, so nobody is immune to fraudulent behaviour.

Report Fraud help protect yourselves and others from fraud

Report Fraud are here to make you aware of the

tactics and risks to help protect everyone within the cyberspace. Criminals operate everywhere online, including websites, apps, emails, text and phone, so it is essential to learn and understand what you can do to prevent the risks of fraud for yourself and to make others aware.



For more information and guidance on what you can do to stay safe online, please refer to our Individual Protection Guide.

For tips on keeping your business away from harm, see our Business Protection Guide.

Report fraud & cyber crime to Report Fraud

You can report cyber crime or fraud using our online reporting service any time of the day or night; the service enables you to both report a fraud and find help and support. We also provide help and advice over the phone through the Report Fraud contact centre. You can talk to our cyber crime and fraud specialists by calling 0300 123 2040.

When you report to us you will receive a police crime reference number. Reports taken are passed to Report Fraud Analysis Services. Report Fraud does not investigate the cases and cannot advise you on the progress of a case.

<https://www.reportfraud.police.uk>

Bedfordshire Classics & Customs

We are pleased to be returning in 2026 to Oakley Sports & Social Club so please make a note in your diary for the following dates which are the 2nd Tuesday of the Spring and Summer months

14th April

12th May

9th June

14th July

11th August

8th September

Please remember to bring the family along. It is a great evening to grab some food, an ice cream, a drink and see some amazing cars!



Luke and the Classics & Customs Team



Oakley Sports & Social Club
Family & Sports Bar

EXTENSION & REFURBISHMENT

Grand Opening

FRIDAY 20TH MARCH
6PM - 8PM

Featuring

HOLLIE MARIE
& TOM SAX

CANAPÉS & REFRESHMENTS
ON ARRIVAL

