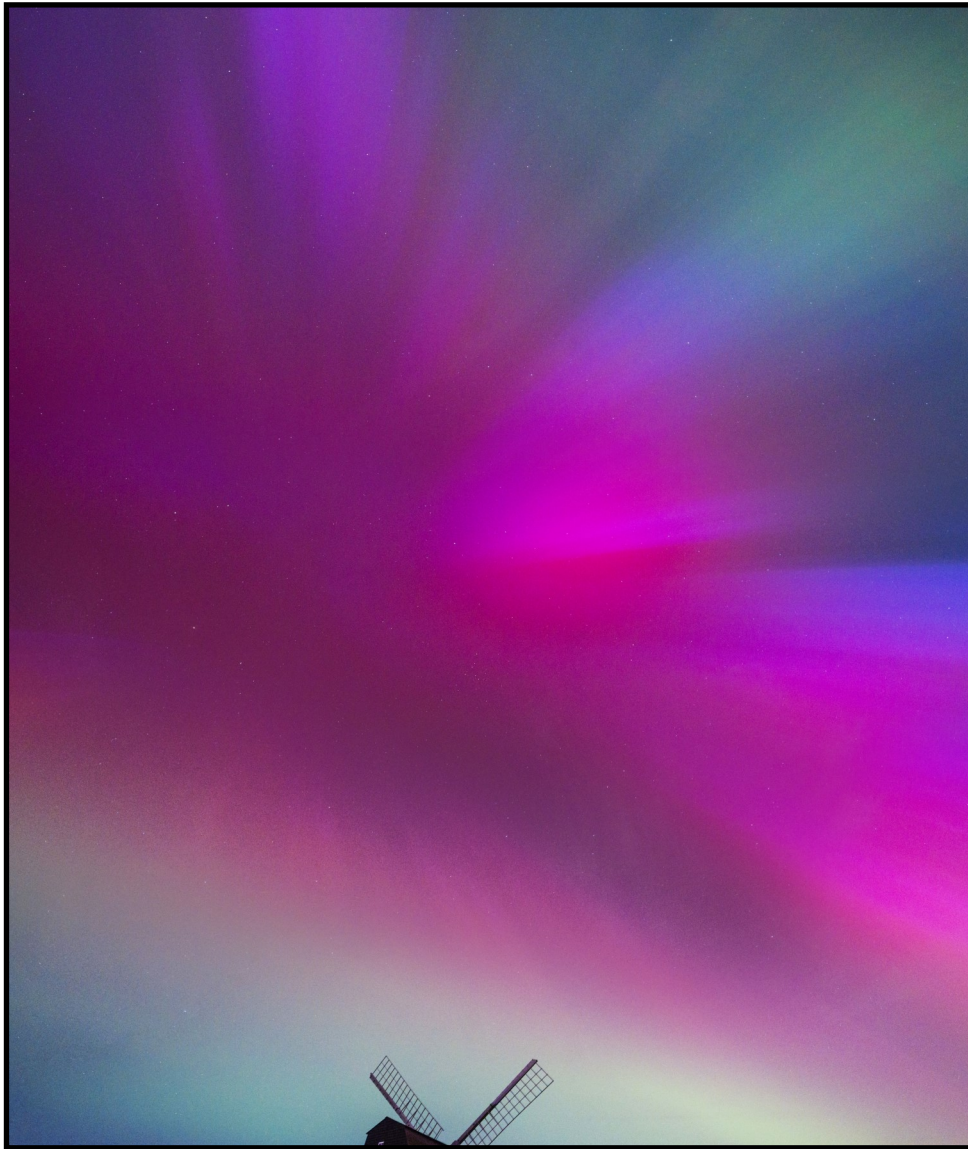




Oakley Newsletter



Summer 2024

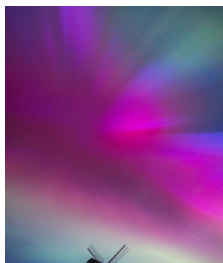
Number 99

Village Hall Booking Secretary Needed - see page 9

Oakley Directory Editor Needed for 2025 Edition - See page 21

Bedford Talking Newspapers Update

Oakley Show Date and Entries



Front Page Picture : Aurora 2024
Artist : Mike Hyden Astro photographer

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 23rd Aug 2024
The publishing date is 1st Sep 2024

Advertising rates

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Four consecutive quarter page adverts - discount 10%

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Invoices will be issued by Ann Paice, with payment to Oakley Parish Council.

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White Hart Press
58a York Street
Bedford MK40 3RL



Hello Children

look out for
Ten more
little ones



Parish Council News

Summer 2024

We held the Annual Parish Meeting in early April. Thank you to all those that turned out. The meeting gives us the chance to report back to you, the parishioners, on the activity of Parish Council. Much like any annual appraisal it is good to take stock and revisit achievements yet also see if there are areas for improvement. On your behalf I was pleased to thank all volunteers within the village for their efforts, all councillors for the work they do and our Parish Clerk Ann Paice, who does a sterling job for all of us.

Now it is the new term for the Parish Council. At our May meeting I was lucky enough to be nominated again to stand as Chair and I was delighted to accept. I continue to be supported by Robert Saunders as vice chair. All Parish Councillors have additional responsibilities and I have listed them below for your information.

Finance Advisory Group: Chair, J Abbott, J Walker, R Worker

Planning Advisory Group: C Bays, P Jones, P Olney, R Saunders, J Walker

NDP Group: P Olney, J Walker, R Worker

Allotment Group: P Olney. Former Cllr. Nicholas would continue as allotment manager

Speed Watch Group: R Worker. Former Cllr. Phillips would continue as co-ordinator

Village Roads Co-ordinator: P White, J Abbott

Footpaths & Waste Bins: P Jones

Oakley Directory: Vacancy

Oakley Recreational Association: P Jones, T Saunders, R Worker

Village Hall: P White

Oakley Carnival Committee: C Bays, C Worker

Continued on page 3

OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

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Oakley Rural Day Care Centre: P Olney

Education Charity Trust: J Walker (Reserve R Worker)

The Villager Community Minibus: C Worker

Tree Warden: R Saunders

Youth Club: S Fardon.

Whats on our agenda?

You can follow the key issues the Parish Council looks at by keeping abreast of the agendas and minutes on the notice board at the Post Office and on the village website (oakleyvillage.co.uk) . The Annual Parish Meeting minutes will be there as well.

However, it being the grass growing season, then I can tell you that grass mowing is on our agenda and many residents have made comments on it. Our contractors have missed bits, left the village looking untidy and the grass is growing really quickly.

We do have some of our own frustrations, the main one being that the contractors do not do everything in one go and therefore we never seem to get that feeling of looking at a nicely mown village. Our contractors are responsive when we feedback comments, but we would prefer the job to be done in one go in the first instance. We will keep the position under review and we will consider all options yet again when looking at grass cutting for 2025.

Oakley Village Directory

I wanted to say a special word on the Oakley Village Directory - a little publication that is close to my heart. We are looking for new volunteers to get involved - from IT skills to editing. In a few pages this directory brings Oakley alive - shows us the many clubs, community groups and businesses here in our village.

Thanks to the generous sponsorship from Old Road Securities that has been in place for 18 years we have been able to channel all money from advertising back into projects for the village. To that end £24,535 has been raised which is a tremendous achievement.

I am always looking in it for a phone number, or opening hours.

If you would like to be part of the team that makes this happen then please do get in touch.

For more information please look at the article on Page 9.

Date for your diary - 9.15pm 6th June Beacon for D-Day

Please save this date and come and join us at an event to Commemorate the 80th Anniversary of D-Day. Beacons are being lit nationwide. We are working with Clapham Parish Council to do the same at Browns Wood.

Public Open Session

The Parish Council has an open session at every meeting when members of the public are welcome to come and ask questions, make points, raise topics. You are always welcome to listen to the parish council meeting in progress as well.

Kind regards to everyone in Oakley.

Sara Fardon, Chair



Vote of Thanks

The Village Hall Committee would like to record a public **Thank You** to our outgoing Booking Secretary David Cooke and his able assistant Jane for the generous volunteering of their time and patience running the bookings (one of many tasks undertaken with pride and professionalism) for the Oakley Village Hall. Your kind and thoughtful labours have been greatly appreciated since October 2014 when David convinced Jane that it would be a good idea!

We all would like to send you best wishes for the future and of course it goes without saying we know you will both not be all that far away and still in regular contact.

The Village Hall Committee

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 News

Oasis pool to reopen

After many months of closure The Oasis pool has been completely refurbished and will re-open with a Hawaiian party on Tuesday 28th May. The café and changing areas have been completely updated, the Reception area has been re-designed to help stop queuing to go in. The slides and bubble pool will be open whilst the boiler has been repaired and lights in the pool replaced. Its good to see Bedford's only fun pool re-open for families to enjoy during the Half term holiday.

Customer service centre on Horne Lane to re-open to the public

The Customer service centre in the old Civic theatre on Horne Lane will re-open to the public this month for the first time since Covid. You do not need an appointment. You can just pop in when you are in town if you need help or advice on any Council service or you want help getting online to access forms or plans on the councils web-site. Customer service advisors plus specialist officers from housing will be available on-site to give advice.

We will also have advice leaflets available on lots of useful topics and local attractions. We also hope to be able to re-open the Tourist information centre inside the building once it is fully open.

Glass Recycling

The Council has launched this trial and residents on a number of streets in West Kempston, Keysoe, Riseley and Pertenhall will be able to recycle glass bottles and jars directly in their orange-lidded bins.

The trial will last for 9-months and aims to capture the glass that ends up in domestic black bins, an estimated additional 1,500 tonnes for the whole of Bedford Borough.

The Council will be monitoring the trial through the process and will conduct regular reviews to assess results and impact on the existing collection rounds. We hope that once it has been evaluated, kerb side glass recycling will be introduced throughout the Borough.

Fostering

Bedford Borough council are always looking for new Foster families.

You can make a real difference to a child in Bedford Borough if you foster. Fostering is when children who are not able to live with their birth families are placed in a safe and loving family home on a temporary basis. You can find out about the types of fostering, what it involves and how to

start the assessment process on the Borough Council website. We offer training, support and a competitive allowance for the child and a fee for you.

Catch up vaccines for under 5s

Children whose vaccinations are not up to date can attend any one of a series of clinics which will take place over the coming months. The clinics, aimed at the families of children under five years of age, will be held at regular venues across Bedford. Health bosses have selected the sites to make it easy for families to drop in, with no booking required for these clinics. The dates have been selected so that children can be protected before starting school or nursery in September.

To get your child vaccinated make an appointment at your GP surgery, or visit any of the venues listed below. Clinics in Bedford Borough take place as follows:

Queens Park Children's Centre, Marlborough Road, Bedford

Monday 17 June, 9am-midday

Monday 15 July, 9am-midday

Monday 19 August, 9am-midday.

Pine Cones Children's Centre, Slade Walk, Bedford

Tuesday 18 June, 9am-midday

Tuesday 16 July, 9am-midday

Tuesday 20 August, 9am-midday.

Church Lane Community Centre, Goldington, Bedford

Friday 21 June, 9am-midday

Friday 19 July, 9am-midday

Friday 23 August, 9am-3pm.

There will also be opportunities for older children and teenagers to catch up on any missed vaccinations and those dates will be published shortly.

New spaces for the community at Bedford Central library

Bedford Central Library has opened two brand new rooms designed to further enhance the library experience for local residents. Made possible by funding from the Town Centre Priority Fund, the library has created a dedicated parent and carer baby feeding room. This comfortable and private space provides a welcoming environment for parents and carers with young children visiting the library. All Bedford Borough libraries are breastfeeding-friendly spaces and this new room brings an additional choice to parents and carers who need to feed their children while in Bedford town centre. The library's existing, accessible

Continued on Page 6



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Beauty Menu

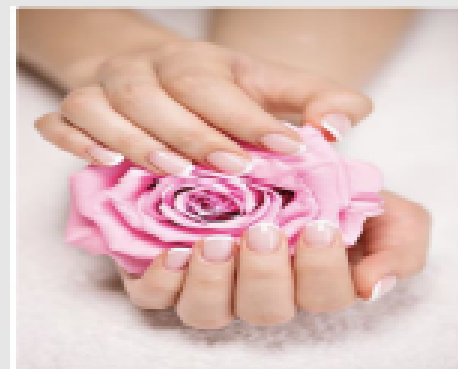
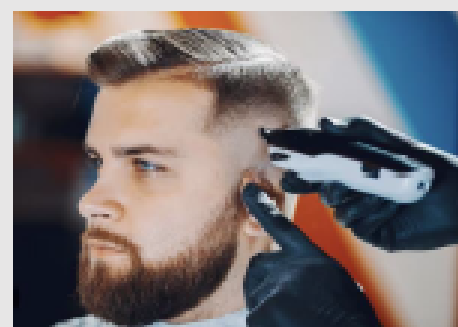
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Borough Council News

- Continued

New spaces for the community at Bedford Central library - Continued

baby changing room remains available during all opening hours on the third floor.

The second new room is a free to use and bookable meeting room available for small groups of up to eight, or individuals seeking a quiet space to work or connect. Whether it is a book club, a community group, or simply a need for a focused environment, this room offers a valuable resource within the library. It is intended for smaller gatherings and complements the existing, larger meeting room which remains available for hire on the third floor for groups of up to 70 people.

Both the parent and carer baby feeding room and the meeting room are located on the second floor of the library and will be readily available to the public from Tuesday 28 May. Customers can speak to library staff about accessing either of these rooms and booking the meeting room.

For those revising for exams, there continues to be space for study and free Wi-Fi throughout the buildings.

Uk shared prosperity fund

The UK prosperity fund continues to be open to applications. There are several parts to the fund which give flexibility to the type of applications that are eligible. It is part of the UK government's Levelling Up agenda. The Fund aims to improve pride in place and increase life chances across the UK investing in:

- Communities and Place
- Supporting Local Business
- People and Skills

Bedford Borough has been allocated £2,296,175 of funding, which will be used for local projects across the themes and the council is inviting applications for grants.

There are grants available for both community infrastructure projects and for cultural projects in the Borough.

The Community Infrastructure Grant Fund is for capital investment only. There is a funding pot of £455,000 available for funding for new, or improvements to existing, community and neighbourhood infrastructure projects.

The second strand of the fund is the Rural England prosperity fund (REPF) which has been set up to support activities that specifically address the particular challenges faced by rural areas.

REPF funding will be for capital investment only. This means that it must be spent on assets such as a building or equipment which are expected to be used for a period of at least one year.

Local grants awarded using REPF will provide cap-

ital funding to:

- support new and existing rural businesses to develop new products and facilities that will be of wider benefit to the local economy. This includes farm businesses looking to diversify income streams.
- support new and improved community infrastructure, providing essential community services and assets for local people and businesses to benefit the local economy.

Any rural organisation with legal status can apply for REPF. This may include local authorities, public sector organisations, higher and further education institutions, private sector companies, voluntary organisations and registered charities. Grants must be for business and community purposes.

Please look on the Borough council website for more details on all of these funds.

River festival

Preparations are reaching the last few weeks now for this summer's river festival. The festival will be on 20th and 21st July and will have a more family focused appeal. There will be a dedicated family zone in St Mary's gardens behind Bedford college, which will also include a dedicated area for people with SEND. This area is away from the main hustle and bustle and nearer parking, which we hope will make it more accessible and fun for families of all types.

Summer of SEND

This year's Summer of SEND is almost ready. This is a programme of events and activities for families with a child with additional needs. Please look on the Local offer website for full details and how to book. If there is anything missing that you'd like to see happening during the summer holiday, please email our Local Offer officer local.offer@bedford.gov.uk, with your ideas.

Jane Walker Borough Councillor for Oakley

If you need any further information or assistance with issues at the council, you can contact us on

Jane Walker

Email: jane@janewalker.co.uk

07952 879587

Facebook: Cllr Jane Walker

Jon Abbott

Email: jonathan.abbott71@icloud.com

07784 549180

Facebook: Clapham & Oakley Liberal Democrats

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WANTED Bookings Secretary for Oakley Village Hall

Our current Bookings secretary is due to retire and we need someone to take over this vital role. You will be taking bookings (managing the Hall diary, sending out and receiving back the bookings forms etc) and dealing with the hirers.

For more information, please contact
07788 796996

The Role of the Bookings Secretary

Our retiring Bookings Secretary has provided a description of their role.

"Oakley Village Hall is a major asset for the village. Our regular hirers include Rainbows and Tibbs Dementia, with other weekly hirers running classes for bowls, dance (including ballet, tap, modern and jazz), fitness, line dancing, Karate, Tai Chi, and yoga. The Parish Council hold their meetings in our Committee Room, and the popular village quiz in the main hall. We serve as the village's Polling Station. In addition we are a popular venue for private events and parties, and for other activities such as lace-making days and craft fairs.

As Bookings Secretary I manage the Hall diary, so I am the person with most contact with hirers, in particular with prospective hirers who might want to use the Hall. They contact us through the website <http://oakleyvillagehall.org.uk/> or on the dedicated mobile line. My role is to check that what they want to do is feasible (there are certain restrictions on the use of the Hall), what facilities and equipment they might be needing, and whether we can accommodate the required dates. Once the booking is settled I deal with the paperwork – sending our standard hiring agreement, collecting the deposit, making sure they will be able to access the building, etc. I also handle any queries that people have in the run-up to their booking.

Being the public face of the Village Hall, knowing how much we add to village life, is very satisfying."

Oakley Show

Sunday 8th September 2024

fruit - vegetables - flowers
baking - chutneys - preserves
arts - crafts - photography

entries are invited from everyone
any age - any skill
so have a go

a Show Programme will be delivered
with the June Oakley Newsletter

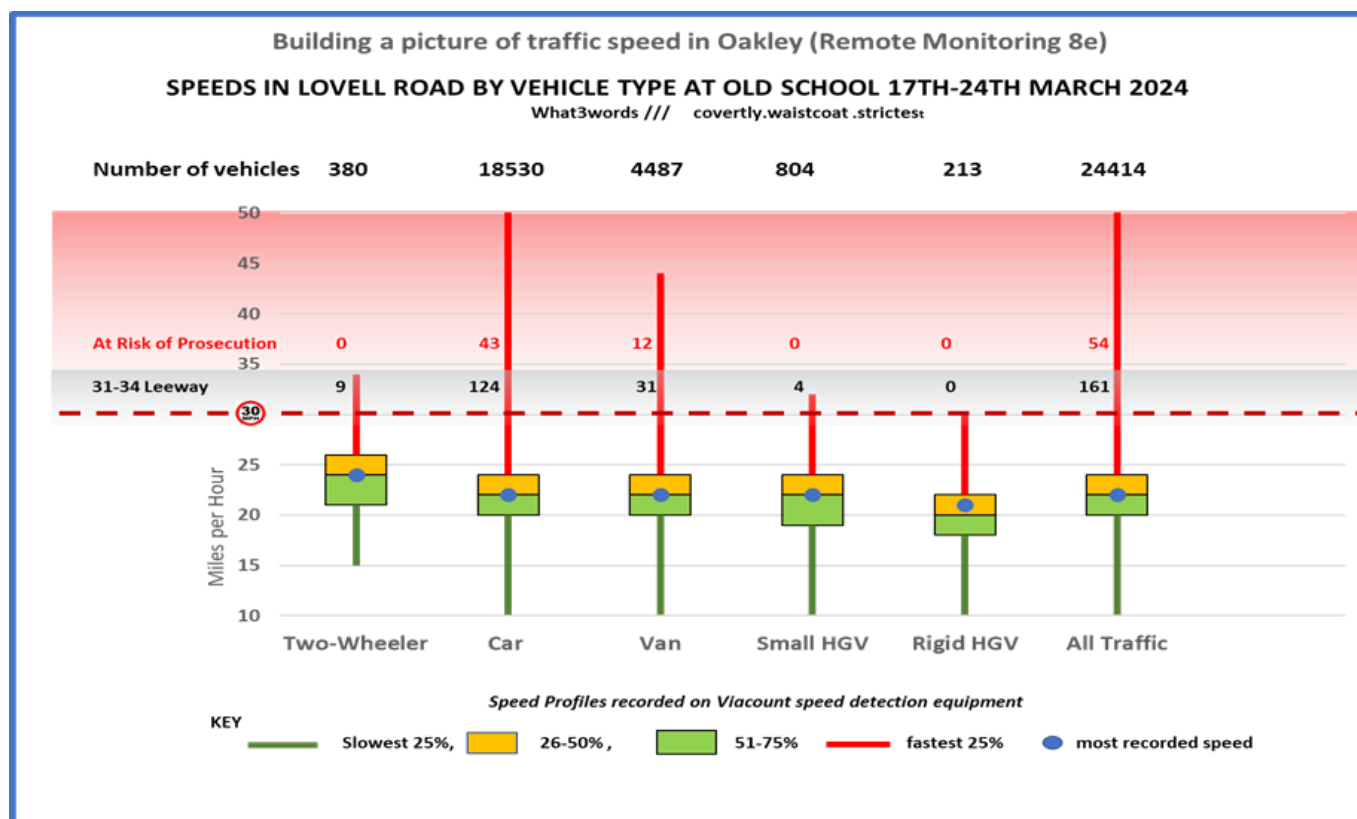
contact: 07778 537427
for more information

follow show news
on Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/OakleyShow>
and in the Oakley Newsletter

Since our last report written in February, we have completed operations in Pavenham Road, Reynes Drive and twice in the High Street. Of the 100 vehicles observed in Pavenham Road, only two had to be reported which represents an improvement on some of the recent operations there. In Reynes Drive 45 vehicles were seen in the hour beginning at 2.45pm and of these the 7 exceeding 25mph and 1 recorded at 30mph given the time of day were concerning, especially since the calming effect of yellow jackets was very obvious. The High Street operations were in the early morning and over two operations we saw 222 vehicles travelling away from the crossroads – it is clearly a busy time of day.



We promised that we would look at some of our remote monitoring of speeds around the village using our Viacount equipment. This was placed in Lovell Road close to the entrance to the farm. It records the direction and speed of vehicles passing and also the length of vehicles from which the vehicle type can be calculated.



We were a little surprised at the total number of vehicles in the week (24,414), that 75% of traffic was travelling at less than 26mph and that there were no articulated HGVs. The difference in average speed between the two directions for the week was merely 0.5mph. For two wheelers we ignored speeds of less than 15mph and noticed that the length of some 30 of them probably indicated that they were e scooters.

The red vertical lines on the graph show the range of speeds for the fastest 25% of traffic but as these speeds are not distributed equally over the range, the chart on the left shows the distribution of those speeds by direction and vehicle type.

In all the data as a whole gives a positive picture of vehicle speeds in this section of Lovell Road.

Paul Phillips – Oakley Speedwatch Co-ordinator.



A new Villager Bus goes into service in North Beds.

The Villager has a new bus providing greater comfort and easier access for passengers.

The Villager Bus is run by volunteers for the North Bedfordshire communities. There are scheduled routes each week and it can be hired for outings.

The new bus can take up to 16 passengers including space for one wheelchair user. It has a low floor for easy access and a wheelchair ramp, as well as air conditioning, WiFi and phone charging points.



The Villager Bus provides regular bus services from the North Bedfordshire villages to various destinations, including Olney, Bedford, Milton Keynes, Rushden Lakes and St Ives. Concessionary Bus Passes can be used as well as payment by card or cash. Currently the cost of a single journey to any destination is only £2.00. Very good value!

The purchase of the new bus was made possible with the generous support of various sponsors including Bedford Borough Council, the Harpur Trust, The Gale Family Charity Trust, Felmersham and Radwell Community Trust, Wixamtree Trust, The Connolly Foundation and the Christopher H R Reeves Trust.

The Villager Bus is a service for all, helping everyone to get out to town centres and local supermarkets. It has been run entirely by volunteers since 1987 with the aim of improving the lives of those in the North Beds villages. The service supports many older people and those with mobility problems who may find it difficult to travel on their own. It is a great opportunity to socialise too! We currently deliver between 250 and 300 passenger journeys a month as well as frequent community hires.

A survey on the Villager Bus services generated some comments from passengers:

Just to say thank you to all who give up their time to pick us up from the various villages to get us to the shops. It is really appreciated.

I have been a regular user of The Villager since it started and am very grateful for the service and the volunteers who make it possible. I can't drive so since my husband's death 5 years ago it has been even more important to me.

I look forward to these weekly trips meeting new people and indeed have made several close friends through our weekly trips.

May I add that the volunteer drivers are always so very polite and accommodating. It is always a pleasure to be driven by them.

I don't drive and the Thursday outing to Olney is for me very important and I am glad that it is provided. The social side of the morning in Olney is also very important to me, I meet friends from Carlton and from Turvey, places which without a car are difficult to get to.



Visit our web site www.villagerbus.uk and see our timetables and the opportunity to book a guaranteed seat!

The Villager Bus team would welcome volunteers to help with the organisation or driving the bus. If you have any questions and you cannot find the answer on our website

www.villagerbus.uk please call us on our enquiry line 07438 870658.

Or hail the bus at one of the bus stops on the various routes.

Oakley Youth Club is growing and is recruiting



Oakley Youth Club is looking for staff. The Youth Club has recently re-opened with a new team in place and is proving very popular and as such we would like to expand our team. Oakley's Youth Club has been running for many years, each Friday night during term time and is much loved by young attendees.

We are seeking a **Youth Club Assistant** to help supervise activity, organise games, engage and support the Youth Club Leader. Contracted for 3 hours per week. We currently have two youth club assistants in place.

Tell Me More..

If YOU like working with children, are creative and responsible and would like to be part of a small friendly team then this role is for you. You may have experience of working with children, be a parent, or just fancy something different.

The team have a great time running the Youth Club and it is a much loved part of the Oakley Village Scene.

We take the governance and safeguarding of the Youth Club very seriously and have a clear set of rules and procedures in place. DBS checks will be carried out. Competitive rates of pay apply. The Youth Club is fully supported by the Parish Council and there is a small committee, of Chair, Secretary and Finance Manger to help with the running of the Club.

How to apply or find out more

Candidates are being sought now. To find out more please contact Sara Fardon Secretary at oycsecretarial@gmail.com.

Want to come to Youth Club?

The Youth Club is open on a Friday night and new Youth Leader **JJ**, is now supported by **Jessica** and **Maddison**. If you would like to find out more then please contact oakleyyouthclub@gmail.com. The Youth Club loves working with local children and having a good time on a Friday night! We are very grateful to the support from the Parish Council and from the Old School.



Phantom Sprayer

Summer is coming, lovely sunshine and long walks with our beloved companion pets. I do hope that does not mean more nasty messages left on the pavements, verges and fields, to make it unpleasant for the rest of us.



I notice that in the Oakley Sports Club Field which is a favourite exercise area for our lovely dogs, someone has taken to picking up into a bag and then leaving the black bags lying around the field. I found four this morning. This is unacceptable especially as there is a red bin right opposite the driveway to the club and also a black bin just beside the bus stop opposite.



It is also unacceptable for bags to be left hanging on bushes and trees as sometimes happens in favourite walking spots and as Oakley is well provided with bins there is no excuse for this disgusting habit.

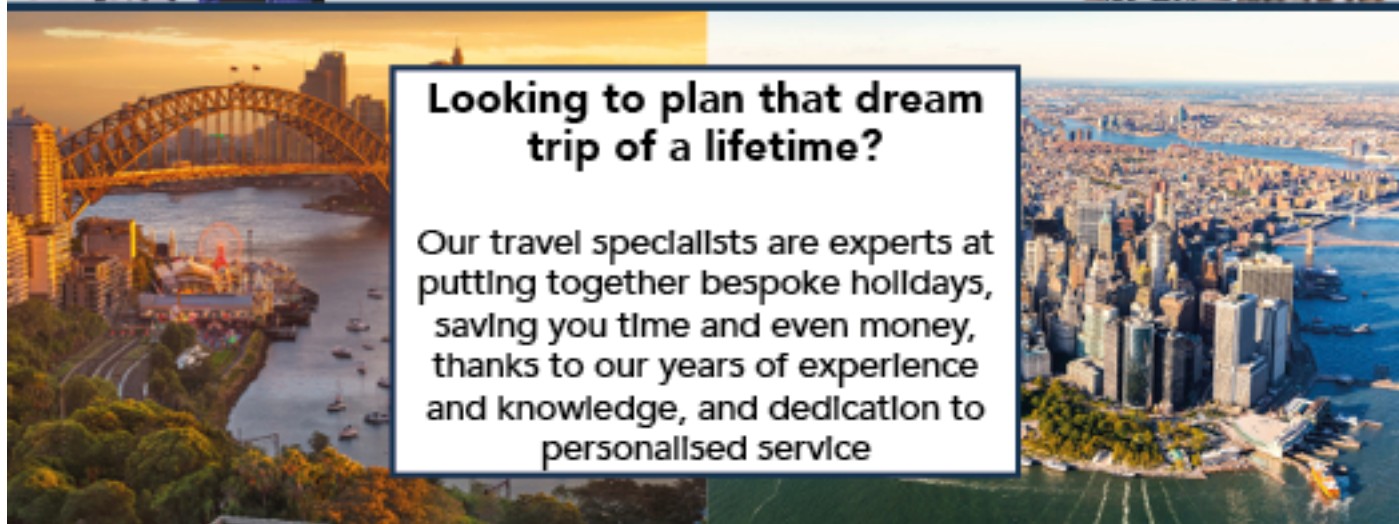
Thank you to those who do pick up and keep our village clean and who also show their displeasure on Facebook etc when anyone does not do so.



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Down Memory Lane.....

Oakley Village Hall - always an important village amenity

A key meeting place and amenity within Oakley is our Village Hall, standing in Church Lane and opened in 1995. But the history of meeting places for Oakley folk goes back many decades. Before an Oakley Village Hall existed, the villagers used to meet in "The Hut". A wooden building, offering basic facilities, it was located on what is now the High Street and Reynes Drive junction set within a small spinney and was used for events such as dances and Whist Drives.

However, on 28 June 1943, during the Second World War, a small group of villagers met and agreed to form a committee the aim of which was to raise funds to purchase land and for the building of a Village Hall. Varying fund-raising events, supported by the whole village, started immediately. Over several years funds were raised and numerous discussions were held, mainly with Charles Wells Ltd, regarding a site for the new "Village Hall". Sites in the High Street and around the Bedford Arms were considered but ultimately the village was gifted the land on which the current Village Hall stands. But it was not until 19 August 1954, 11 years after the project started, that the Village Hall Committee held one of their regular meetings in the new Village Hall for the first time. The building was still only half-complete, there was no lavatory, heating, lighting, or permanent flooring. It was not until the 8 September 1956 when, as part of a Summer Fete, the new Village Hall was officially opened.

As the photos show, although not as salubrious as today's, the original Hall served the village well, and I am sure many current villagers will remember it. My memories of it are vivid. When I was a youngster, my Dad played for Oakley Cricket



Club. One highlight for me was teatime when everyone made their way from the top corner of what is now the Playing Field, then a cow field, down to the Hall. The entrance was where it is today and the rectangular shape "ran away from the entrance doors" with a stage at the far end. Us kids were put on a separate table where we would tuck into a salad and, more importantly for us, homemade cakes! My lifelong addiction to "flapjack" dates to that time and due specifically to Margaret Saunders who made the best I have ever tasted!!!. My other vivid memories are of the annual Cricket Club jumble sales where people would queue into the car park to get in and purchase a bargain. I held my 21st birthday party in the Hall having spent many evenings attending Youth Club meetings and the regular discos that were held there.



The original Hall stood until 1995 when it was replaced by the current one which holds regular and varying events and available to hire to anyone who wishes to use this great village amenity.

Richard Worker



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Locals with Interesting Lives - Katrina Hyden

I'm Katrina, I have lived in Oakley for six years now and have two children at Oakley Primary and Lincroft schools. I am originally a project manager from the early years sector, but now facilitate all-age ceramic painting, connect and collaborate with artists, and help new parents capture their babies' first hand and footprints.

My business the Bee&Bottle Ceramics has recently opened a studio behind the Methodist Church in Oakley. I have enjoyed getting to know more people, particularly at the church coffee morning; a brilliant audience for my other passion – history! I am currently completing my university studies focused on Bedfordshire in the sixteenth to eighteenth centuries, which is fascinating.



I also enjoy teaching history and natural crafts. I have loved helping at Oakley Primary for black history month, as well as teaching at the Country Days holiday club based on the Leys nature reserve in Felmersham.

One thing I love about Oakley is how many creative people there are. I have fired some impressive pieces already and cannot wait to meet more artists and crafters. History helps us to understand the past, but art allows us to envision the future.



My next few months will see the business fully open in Oakley, running some natural craft sessions for children in the village and connecting with more creative people. My husband Mike is also creatively minded, talented particularly in wood-turning and astronomy photography. An exhibition of his work is coming soon. We would love to chat with anyone interested in what we do!
beeandbottle.ceramics
(Facebook& Instagram)

**Pat, possibly my oldest painter
collecting a beautiful coffee cup**



Snippet No.72

Electric bicycles – one solution to easier, environmentally sound, personal transport.

Things have changed in the world of 2-wheeled power-assisted transport, with advances in battery and other technologies helping to make electric bicycles a viable choice for some people.

My first dive into the technology of electrically-assisted cycling was in 2013, when I went along to the big cycling show in London. As a keen cyclist from the age of 14, I was interested in extending my knowledge of this new world and finding out what was available, how it worked, and what it might cost.

I was immediately attracted to a kit, dbRevO, which was being unveiled at the show. It was an affordable option, being an innovative design, consisting of various sizes of replacement wheel, containing the motor, batteries and electronics, communicating wirelessly with a pedal-rotation sensor and handlebar-mounted control panel.

I was offered a bike to test on the show's test-track. I was very unimpressed and returned to the exhibitor's stand. After a quick check they decided that the kit would work better if actually switched on, so I returned to the track to give it a good run, and I was suddenly more impressed.

I ordered a kit to fit one of my mountain bikes and awaited its delivery with some excitement.

The purchase turned out to be a good thing, in more ways than just making general cycling easier and helping to make hill climbing less energy-draining... more will be revealed in later issues, including an answer to whether electric bicycles are worth the hype.

(Spoiler alert – they are worth the hype).

Steve Nicholas

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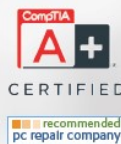
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Snippet No.73

Wildlife update...



Cuckoos seem to be doing well in our region this year as we have heard them calling regularly in various locations, including at Oakley allotments.

One evening, at Harrold-Odell Country Park, we heard a Cuckoo calling for most of our walk alongside the river from the main car park, all the way to Odell. On our return to the Harrold side, we heard two Cuckoos calling, one from near the church and one by the car park. The two birds then appeared and flew over the big lake towards Little Odell.

Earlier in the week, again at the country park, we had heard short bursts of song from at least two Nightingales.

It is wonderful to hear these birds, as they are reported to be in decline. Is this decline reversing, indicating that efforts to repair our damaged countryside are working?

Hedgehog news...

We have seen three hedgehogs in our garden – on a few occasions, two males fighting for the attentions of a single female.

We are hoping that we may be lucky enough to see some new, young hedgehogs joining the group later this year.

Steve Nicholas



**Editor : we too have
amorous hedgehogs!**

Letter to the Editor

Oakley Speedwatch

A remote speed camera is currently positioned in Highfield Rd, facing eastwards. I suspect the results will be somewhat alarming. Every time I come down Highfield Rd, I trigger the sign to read SLOW DOWN and I imagine many other cars do too. This is because the camera picks me up doing 35 mph in what is the 40 mph zone, but by the time I hit the 30, I am doing 30 or less and am not in fact driving too fast.

However, as a resident of Highfield Rd, I am well aware that many vehicles are speeding in the stretch between the roundabout and the crossroads, something I find difficult to fathom. The process of flooring the accelerator followed by heavy breaking involves unnecessary fuel use and wear and tear on brake pads just to save maybe 5 seconds. There are several children living in Highfield Rd and those 5 seconds could mean the difference between life and death for any one of them.

Traditional methods of slowing traffic down in Highfield Rd would be unwelcome, especially speed bumps, as we have a high volume of domestic and commercial traffic passing through and these would create unnecessary and unpleasant noise. However, should we be so inclined, the residents could solve the problem by parking vehicles on the street. We are legally allowed to do so, but have an unspoken agreement to park on our driveways, thus allowing free flowing passage of vehicles and due consideration to our fellow road users. Please can we ask that everyone gives us due consideration in return by sticking to the speed limits?

Lesley Brown

OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Summary of Accounts - Financial Year ending 31 March 2024

Opening Bank Balances	
NatWest Bank current balance at 31/03/23	£97,636.81
NatWest Bank reserve balance at 31/03/23	£7,288.61
Nationwide investment bond 31/03/23	£59,999.74
less undeared payments	£2,616.00
Total cash in hand	£162,309.16
Receipts	
	£
Precept	£56,860.00
Agency Services (Grasscutting - Bedford BC)	£1,712.33
Allotments (rent)	£1,356.04
Community Infrastructure Levy	£0.00
Grants (Bedford BC Ward Fund)	£750.00
Interest	£1,102.04
Newsletter & Directory advertisements and sponsorship	£6,671.00
Quiz	£1,927.47
VAT recovered from 2022/23	£4,255.07
Uncashed cheques written off	£24.00
Sub total	£74,657.95

Payments	
	£
Administration (includes subscriptions)	£5,574.83
Insurance	£2,978.48
Grass Cutting	£11,582.72
Grounds Maintenance (includes tree works)	£4,171.00
Wages, Tax, National Insurance, Pension	£23,936.66
S. 137 Payments (grants to local organisations)	£4,550.00
Capital Spending (replacement roundabout & new defibrillator)	£8,681.21
Cricket Field & Riverside (rent 2023/24 for cricket field paid in 2022/23)	£100.00
Allotments	£379.22
Bus shelters	£0.00
Community Orchard	£0.00
Christmas lights	£2,820.00
Linch Furlong	£0.00
Play area (inspections & repairs)	£4,881.50
Publicity (Newsletter, Directory, Website)	£4,920.00
Quiz	£1,585.44
VAT refund due on above payments	£5,654.02
Sub total	£81,815.08

Closing Bank Balances	
NatWest Bank current balance at 31/03/24	£7,377.42
NatWest Bank reserve balance at 31/03/24	£2,383.96
Nationwide investment bond 31/03/24	£61,006.43
Hampshire Bank investment bond	£85,013.20
less undeared payments	£628.98
Total cash in hand	£155,152.03
Total	£236,967.11

Closing Bank Balances	
NatWest Bank current balance at 31/03/24	£7,377.42
NatWest Bank reserve balance at 31/03/24	£2,383.96
Nationwide investment bond 31/03/24	£61,006.43
Hampshire Bank investment bond	£85,013.20
less undeared payments	£628.98
Total cash in hand	£155,152.03
Total	£236,967.11

£98,384 plus £22,727 interest of the total cash in hand figure is ring fenced for maintenance of The Furlong, the Grange & Parsonage Close open spaces and £3,259.90 for maintenance of the High Street bus shelter.

Draft Accounts for 2023/2024:

In 2023/24 income amounted to £74,657.95 and expenditure to £81,815.08. Income increased by approximately £5,137 as a result a Ward Fund grant of £750 for a new defibrillator at the Methodist Church which will be installed shortly and several other small increases. The precept increased by £1,110, the VAT refund by £565 largely due to the cost of the new slide purchased in 2022/23, the Borough Council, increased their contribution to the cost of grass cutting in the village by £512 and £434 more was received for Newsletter and Directory advertisements.



Expenditure increased by approximately £1,136. Capital expenditure increased by £7,883 due to the purchase of a replacement roundabout at a cost of £7,931 using CIL money from the Parrott Close development and VAT payments increased by £1,399 in consequence. The quiz also raised £1585. This was offset by decreases of £2,565 on the Newsletter printing costs as 5 editions were invoiced in 2022/23 and only three in 2023/24; a reduction in grants to local organisations of £2,068 despite the donation of the quiz proceeds, as the ORA and Kindergarten did not apply for grants last year and the Village Hall applied for less; a reduction in wages of £2,151 because an incorrect tax code for the Clerk in 2022/23 resulted in an overpayment of PAYE and consequently no payments were required in 2023/24; £1,826 less spent on the allotments due to the work in 2022/23 to clear new plots and replace the gate and only £100 spent on rent of land from Oakley Properties compared to £1,813 the previous year as the 2023/24 payment fell into the 2022/23 financial year.

Donations totalling £4,550 were made to the Village Hall, the Youth Club, The Day Centre and Country Days (who run an access to nature project at Felmersham Nature Reserve) and £1,257.44 from the quiz to various youth groups in the village. The difference in quiz receipts and payments was because the proceeds from the March quiz, which will be included in the 2024/25 donations, had already been paid into the Council account and £96 was spent on prizes in 2023/24.

Oakley Village Directory Editor needed for 2025



An Oakley Parish Council Publication
Your guide to the local community
sponsored by OLD ROAD SECURITIES LTD
www.oakleyvillage.co.uk



The Oakley Directory has been produced for over 15 years, listing details of businesses, community groups and clubs in our village. We have a small team of volunteers who collate all the information and plan the layout of the Directory.

The Parish Council are looking for a volunteer for the digital layout and graphic design part of the Directory. Jan Rymarz (Oakley IT) has helped us over many years but is now starting to step back from work and would like to hand over to someone new. Our team start collecting the information in November, and Jan starts to update the new version in January, ready for distribution in early February.

If you would like to be part of our fantastic team,
please email Oakleyvillagedirectory@gmail.com

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	Out	Return
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Oakley, High Street	0905	1325
Oakley, Memorial	0907	1323
Pavenham, Close Road	0910	1320
Pavenham, Weavers Lane	0913	1317
Stevington, West End	0918	1312
Stevington, Cross	0920	1310
Bromham, Grange Lane	0925	1305
Turvey, Station Road	0930	1303
Turvey, The Green	0932	1300
Newton Blossomville, Old Mill	0938	1253
Clifton Reynes, Robin Hood	0945	RR 1243
Milton Keynes, Marks & Spencer	0958	1230
Milton Keynes, The Point	1000	1230



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Oakley Allotments

Our allotments are in their 15th year and the quality of the ground at the site is causing some problems in our unusually wet weather.

The initial preparation of the ground in 2010 was planned as:-

1. Spray-off the dense weed cover that had resulted from the land lying unused.
2. Sub-soil the field to break up any deep compaction due to use of the ground as a builders' yard during construction of The Furlong.
3. Plough.
4. Harrow, to create a reasonable tilth for use as allotments.
5. Plan and mark-out the allotments and access routes, car parking etc.
6. Install the water system.
7. install perimeter rabbit-fencing and gates.

The process had to be abandoned at stage 2, due to the discovery of subterranean stone, some of which actually broke a machine blade. Stage 4 was then carried out, leaving the surface drainage possibly compromised due to the possible, deep compaction.

The field was liable to flooding in parts in winter anyway, being at the bottom of the hill, and run-off being affected by the housing etc. higher up. Some additional drainage had been installed, including a pipe down to the river and the orchard-side ditch to help protect the Willow Vale buildings.

Effective to a degree, and working of the field as allotments improving surface drainage slightly, flooding has not been as extensive. However, recent rain deluges have tested the drainage, and some allotment have been very wet this winter/spring.

Frustrating for some tenants, to say the least! What is the solution? Perhaps, installing raised beds might enable better use of the ground. It is the time to plan this year's planting, and a busy time – planting must be delayed though. Then what? Some are predicting that we will have another hot and dry summer!

Some tenants have developed strategies to suit their lifestyle and their allotment's peculiarities. One tenant has recently installed a greenhouse with a solar-powered irrigation system. Not an expensive option, it will be interesting to see how successful it turns out to be. I hope that we will be able to write about this at the end of the year.

We have some allotments available again, so please get in touch if you want to take on the challenge - yes, I know it looks like quite a challenge at the moment! However, there are lots of good works going on, and we have a great community at our allotments.

Please remember: Oakley Show takes place on the 8th of September. Enter your prize vegetables and flowers, art, crafts etc. There will also be an award for the Best Kept Allotment, judging for which will take place at the end of August.

Steve Nicholas



Oakley Village Monthly Quiz

When the Parish Council started the Monthly Village Quiz in September the main aim was to create a social event to enable villagers to get together, socialise and have some fun. With over 80 people attending each one since that aim is clearly being achieved. It was also agreed that any profits would be donated, at the end of the Parish Council fiscal year, to a selected group of village organisations. Well, that time arrived in March, and it was a pleasure to be joined by representatives from those organisations at the March Quiz.

On behalf of the Parish Council and the Quizzers donations totalling £1,257 were presented to; Matt Kent (**AFC Oakley Junior Football**), Jeanette Letch (**Methodist Messy Church**), Ann Youngman (**St Mary's Messy Church**), Laura Hester (**Oakley Brownies and Rainbows**) and Rachel Clover (**Oakley Scout Group**). **Oakley Youth Club** were unable to attend so received their donation separately. As seen in the photo we were joined by a small group of cubs. One asked me if he "would be famous" because he was having his photograph taken and another asked if they could spend their donation on ice cream !!! I referred them to their Akela



The quizzes continued into Spring, and it is currently planned to hold them monthly for the remainder of the year except for an August break. Please see the posters around the village and posts on social media for more details. If anyone wishes to enter a team, maximum 6 people, then please email me at richworker@hotmail.com.

In the next Newsletter I will provide an update on the quizzes and which organisations will be receiving donations from the profits made this fiscal.

The March quiz was won by "The Spike Islanders", April's honours went to "Call Me Tomorrow" who under a different team name, "The Birthday Party", also won the May quiz. Well done to those teams and all of the participants, your support is greatly appreciated.

Richard Worker



OAKLEY VILLAGE MONTHLY



Run by Oakley Parish Council and held in Oakley Village Hall

Friday 21 JUNE 2024

Friday 26 JULY 2024

AUGUST – NO QUIZ

Friday 20 SEPTEMBER 2024

7.30pm start

Maximum 6 people per team

£3.00 per person (cash payment only please)

Bring your own snacks and drinks (alcohol allowed)

If you would like to enter a team please advise Richard Worker at richworker@hotmail.co.uk

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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

Oakley Kindergarten News

Our busiest term is upon us, as we prepare our oldest children for their transition to their new primary school settings!



To make the transition process as positive as possible, we have been working with Oakley Primary Academy, where the majority of our children still transition to. Mr Brown, the head, has been to visit us here and I have been to visit the Early Years provision at the primary school. Over the next couple of months, we will go to visit the school with the children and the teachers from the primary school will visit the children in the setting here too. This will hopefully mean that the children will be familiar with their new environment and the new people who will care and educate them from September.

The children leaving us in July 2024 have had the opportunity to have their graduation photos taken and we are preparing for a Leaver's Celebration on the final day of the summer term.

Although a distant memory now, our Easter Egg Hunt fundraiser around the village raised £129 for kindergarten funds. Thank you to Oakley Post Office for selling the clue sheets and O for Coffee for having the Golden Egg at the end of the trail and for giving out prizes for us. Thank you very much to all who took part.

Some late spring sunshine has meant that the produce in our kitchen garden and herb garden are flourishing. We have added more seeds, and the children enjoy tending, watering and observing their growth over time. We have also planted cress and broad beans inside to observe more closely how they germinate and the roots and shoots emerge from the seeds.



Mrs Tanya O'Loughlin has now joined our growing team as a Level 3 Practitioner and is settling into our routines. We have also had a new Level 3 qualified supply member of staff join us to help on our busiest days and with our holiday clubs.

We do still have a waiting list for our Rosebuds (Baby Room) but we do have some spaces in our Petals (Toddler Room) and in our Blossoms (Pre-school Room) from September. Do get in contact, if you are interested to have a look around or for your child to join our kindergarten. Please see details below.



Admissions

If you would like to register your child for a place at kindergarten, please contact us on 01234 826452 or by email: info@oakleykindergarten.co.uk Our website is: www.oakleykindergarten.com

Follow us on Facebook to keep up with our latest news and events.

The first part of the Free Childcare for Working Parents entitlement has now been rolled out and we do accept all funding for children who are eligible. The funding offer will be expanded further from September 2024, when children from between 9 months and 23 months may be eligible for 15 hours of funding per week. Then from September 2025, eligible working parents with children between 9 months and up to school age will have access to 30 hours childcare.

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

Oakley Show 2024

This year's show will be on the 8th September, a bit earlier than last year, so we may have some different vegetables ready for showing that had gone over by the time of the show. But who knows, with the very unpredictable weather we have had what on earth will grow well this year.



More predictable are the crafts, although if the weather is really good you may not have as much time for crafting indoors.

Whatever happens we are looking forward to seeing all of your entries, even if you don't think your entry will be good enough just put it in. Everyone else may be in the same situation and you may do better than you expect, I have lost count of the number of people who have said 'if I had entered that class I could have won!'

Under 16s can enter the show for free so if you are stuck for something to do in the summer holidays have a go at one, or more, of the classes.

We love to get feedback from you about the show and in response to requests at last year's show we will be holding a mini craft fair. When you come to view the exhibits at the show and have your cup of tea and piece of cake you may also be able to start your Christmas shopping.

Your show programme should be delivered with this newsletter but if you have any questions you can ask us on our facebook page or contact a member of the committee, our contact details are in the front of the programme but in case you haven't received one you can call us on 07778537427 and we will get one to you.

We are looking forward to seeing you, and all your entries, in September.

The Oakley Show Committee

Vegetable Classes

Any variety may be entered, and should be named where possible.

1. 3 onions
2. 2 sweetcorn
3. 5 beans
4. 1 bulb of garlic
5. 3 carrots
6. 5 potatoes
7. 3 courgettes
8. 1 squash/pumpkin
9. 5 tomatoes
10. 5 chillies
11. 1 cucumber
12. Collection of any 6 vegetables, 1 of each
13. Any other vegetable
14. Longest bean
15. Oddest vegetable

Flower Classes

16. Arrangement of your garden flowers in a jam jar
17. Any 3 blooms you have grown (same or different varieties)
18. Largest sunflower head (diameter of seed-head will be measured)
19. Posy of garden herbs

Fruit Classes

20. 3 cooking apples
21. 3 eating apples
22. 3 pears
23. Any 10 berries (same or different varieties)
24. Any other fruit

Preserves

- 25. 1 jar of chutney or pickle
- 26. 1 jar of jam or marmalade
- 27. 1 jar of fruit curd, butter or cheese
- 28. Home made wine
- 29. Flavoured Spirit – eg Sloe Gin

Home cooking

- 30. Dorset Apple Cake made to our recipe (which you can find on the next page)
- 31. Cake containing a vegetable
- 32. Lattice tart with home made pastry
- 33. Savoury Loaf of bread
- 34. 3 sweet or savoury scones

Art

- 35. Photograph titled "Wonderful Wildlife"

Maximum size A4, unframed, black and white or colour

- 36. Painting or drawing, any medium, maximum size A3

Craft

- 37. An item made with yarn (knitted or crocheted)
- 38. An item made with fabric
- 39. Your hobby corner, show us your hobby.

Childrens' classes: to be judged in the following age groups:

under 5 years, 6-10 years, 11-15 years

- 40. Nature wand made from a stick and decorated with natural materials
- 41. Cress head in an egg shell decorated as you wish
- 42. Cupcake with a hidden centre – eg a Rolo
- 43. A junk model

Wendy Gater Award

Entry not needed for this award as all plots on the Oakley site will be judged,

points will be awarded towards Best in Show

Dorset Apple cake

225g self raising flour

115g butter

115g sugar of choice

450g chopped tart apples

1 large egg + 1 tablespoon milk (or enough to make a thick batter).

55g sultanas or raisins

1 teaspoon mixed spice or cinnamon

Grated lemon rind (optional)

Greased and lined 9" round cake tin

Rub butter into flour.

Mix in rest of ingredients.

Put mixture in the prepared tin. Smooth the top.

Sprinkle with Demerara or brown sugar.

Bake at 200°C convection or 180°C fan for 30-40 minutes until cooked through.

Leave in tin for 5-10 minutes then turn out to cool.



VOLUNTEERS of all ages wanted to PROTECT OUR CHILDREN

Our present volunteers mostly come from the older age bracket and to ensure we continue into the future we would like to appeal to volunteers (over eighteen) to join Oakley Speed Watch.

Are you someone who is concerned about the safety of our children from speeding vehicles. Can commit to one hour per month as part of a team of three to keep our families safe?

Training is done at your own pace and in your own home followed by joining a speed watch session in the village to see how it is done in practice.

Please call Paul Phillips on 07968 122301 and talk it through with him or email him at paulphillips65@gmail.com



Oakley Educational Foundation



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

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

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

Applications accepted in May and November. Receipts for purchases of goods must be provided.

Oakley Village Directory 2025



Do you want your club/society/business to be in the 2025 Oakley Village Directory?

It's **free** to get your details printed, or for a small charge you can advertise. There is no better way to help local people support you than by telling them you live/work in Oakley!

The Directory is printed once a year in January and distributed free to all residents in the village.

To be included in the **2025** directory please contact Oakleyvillagedirectory@gmail.com

Oakley Rural Day Centre

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

Tel: 01234 824935 Mobile: 07733 227374

Email: oakleyruraldaycentre@yahoo.com

Web: www.oakleyruraldaycentre.weebly.com

Registered Charity No: 1060283



SUMMER 2024

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 on all days. Our clients really enjoy taking part and we are finding them to be very beneficial. We also have choirs and entertainers visit the centre.

We serve freshly prepared home cooked lunches and dessert 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 also articles in various publications throughout Bedford and surrounding areas to raise the profile of the centre.

SUPPORT THE DAY CENTRE THROUGH EASY FUNDINGRAISING



Did you know that whenever you buy anything online – from your small to large purchases – you could be raising free donations for Oakley Rural Day Centre with easyfundraising? There are over 7,000 brands on board ready to make a donation – including eBay, Argos, John Lewis, ASOS, Booking.com and M&S – and it won't cost you a penny extra to help us raise funds.

All you need to do is:

1. Go to easyfunding.org.uk and register on the site and choose the Oakley Rural Day Centre as your preferred charity.
2. Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first to find the site you want and start shopping.
3. After you've checked out, the brand will make a donation to Oakley Rural Day Centre at no extra cost to you whatsoever! There are no catches or hidden charges and Oakley Rural Day Centre will be really grateful for your donations.



Thank you for your support.

David Swallow

Bedfordshire Festival of Autumn Walks



Following on from the roaring success of the first Bedfordshire Festival of Autumn Walks - Bedfordshire Ramblers are delighted to announce that plans are well underway for the second Festival.

The dates for 2024 are 7th to 15th September. Please put the dates in your diaries. We are hoping to build on the number of walks being offered and ensure that there is a good spread of walk types to appeal to all abilities across times that should suit all.

We are reaching out to our neighbouring Ramblers groups, inviting them to step across the county border and come and explore our beautiful little county with us!

There are plans afoot to offer the "walk and sail" trip on the John Bunyan boat, along the Great River Ouse, but places are limited and will need to be booked in advance. We are also hoping to offer the opportunity to walk the Greensand Ridge over two days.

As before the Festival offers an opportunity to encourage people to come and experience walking and the Ramblers, along with finding out a bit more about some of the hidden or not so hidden secrets of this little sunn county.

Look us up on our dedicated Facebook page Bedfordshire Festival of Autumn Walks or our webpage at www.bedswalkfest.co.uk/walks, details will be added as they become available. Happy Walking!

Sandra Kelsey North Beds and Pamela Bates Leighton Buzzard Ramblers

North Beds Ramblers walk every Saturday

June Walks

1st pm Wilstead, 6 miles

8th am Bradwell Abbey, Milton Keynes 12 miles, or pm Wilden 6.5 miles,

15th am Southill Walk and Lunch 7 miles

22nd am St Ives 12 miles or pm Keysoe Row West 6.8 miles

29th pm Woburn 6 miles

July Walks

6th pm Blunham, 6.6 miles

13th am Wootton 12 miles, or pm Marston Vale Forest Centre 6 miles,

20th pm Harlington 7 miles

27rd am Woburn 6 miles or pm Woburn 6 miles or all day 12 miles

Contact; Margaret Sawyer 07780933729 Facebook; North Beds Ramblers

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

Sandra Kelsey

Bedfordshire Festival of Autumn Walks

Hosted by



7th to 15th September 2024

Explore our beautiful little county on foot



Most walks are free to everyone and most do not require booking

Full details on

www.bedswalkfest.co.uk/walks

Leighton Buzzard Ramblers, North Beds Ramblers
Lea & Icknield (Luton) Ramblers, Ivel Valley Walkers



At Harrold-Odell Country Park and designed by one of our talented volunteers, we have a range of activities for children to do around the park and they are available to buy for £1 in the café (cash or card). The Children's activities include brass rubbings, colouring in, a nature sudoku and a word search amongst other things. The I Spot booklet takes you around the park to find a variety of wildlife and park structures, gathering points as you go and you award yourself a bronze, silver or gold star at the end depending on how many points you collect. The Children's Crosswords has only recently come out and there are 12 crosswords and the opportunity to create your own.

They are all great activities to occupy the kids in your life and motivate them to get round the park!

We hope you enjoy your visits to our wonderful park. From the Country Park staff and The Friends of Harrold-Odell Country Park. Ed Green



Since the relaunch of Oakley Scouts this January, the Scouts have been very busy! With last term's diverse range of activities, including archery, rifle shooting, pancake making, pizza crafting, and developing map skills, our Scouts have been on an exciting journey of learning and growth.

Our Scouts have also been developing their DIY skills by designing and constructing bird and hedgehog houses. Not only has this experience allowed for the Scouts to be creative but also encourages a sense of responsibility towards our environment and our local wildlife.

If you have a child who would be interested in joining Scouts (10 - 14 years) please get in touch with Hayley Bearcroft-Young, Scout Leader to find out more - 07824531050. Hayley

HOCP PHOTO COMPETITION 2024

THEME: HOCP LANDSCAPE, WILDLIFE AND PEOPLE

The Friends of Harrold-Odell Country Park are running a competition to find the best photographs which celebrate the park, its landscape, wildlife and people. Cash prizes of £50 will be offered for the 12 best photos and these will feature in a high quality A3 2025 calendar to be professionally designed and produced and available in October 2024.

For full details and rules visit
www.hocp.co.uk/news-and-events/special-events

Entries should be submitted by email only to hocpphotocomp@anglemook.com
Please include name of photographer, date and time photo was taken, and a title and brief description for each photo. Closing Date: July 20th 2024

Key things to note

- High quality photos taken from any device are acceptable
- Competition is open to all - no age restrictions
- Maximum 5 entries per person
- Photos should be landscape A4 aspect ratio with minimum pixel dimension of 350x250
- No drone photos
- Photos up to two years old can be entered
- Entries accepted that all photos may be published with accreditation in the calendar or for other purposes

**FREE ENTRY
CASH PRIZES**

Harrold-Odell Country Park | Carlton Road, Bedford, MK43 7DS



News from Oakley Village Agent

Village Agents provide a free, confidential service and are here to help people over 60 with a variety of issues – large or small. We are funded by Bedford Borough Council. We are all DBS checked and operate in the strictest confidence. Andrea is the Village Agent for Oakley.

Support with Blue Badges - if you have a permanent disability or illness that limits your walking ability then you may be entitled to apply for a Blue Badge. This enables you to park in disabled bays closer to your destination. You don't have to be a driver to apply, you can use the badge in any vehicle as long as you are a passenger. Andrea can help you apply.

St John's Hospital Trust - Do you know about the St John's Hospital Trust Grant? It's a small quarterly payment of £75 that is granted to people on a low income who have little or no savings. That amounts to £300 per year. To qualify you must be over 60, not working and have lived in Bedford Borough for at least 15 years.

Disabled toilet access key - Some disabled toilets can only be used by people who have a special RADAR key. If you have a disability that means you need to use a disabled toilet, call Andrea for a free RADAR key

Help with form filling – many older people aren't claiming the benefits they are entitled to. Andrea can help identify which benefits you can claim by doing a confidential benefits check. We can also help you fill in those complicated forms such as Attendance Allowance forms, Carer's Allowance, Council Tax Support and Blue Badges.

Please contact Andrea, your Village Agent on

Freephone 0800 039 1234 email: andream@bedsrcc.org.uk

This is an answerphone service, so please leave your name address & telephone number, & we aim to call you back within 48 hours

THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN

Based on the bestselling novel
by Paula Hawkins and the DreamWorks film
Adapted by Rachel Wagstaff & Duncan Abel

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with
Concord Theatricals Ltd on behalf of Samuel French Ltd
www.concordtheatricals.co.uk

SHARNBROOK MILL THEATRE
24TH-28TH SEPTEMBER 2024

Rewired

Book by
Kaye Vincent

Music by
Kaye Tompkins

Lyrics by

Kaye Vincent & Kaye Tompkins

By kind arrangement with The Sharland Organisation
Originally produced as 'Wired' at The Castle, Wellingborough

SHARNBROOK MILL THEATRE
29th October-2nd November

www.sharnbrookmilltheatre.co.uk

NAO Cattery



BOOK NOW!

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naoservices111@gmail.com

www.naoservices111.weebly.com

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

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

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

NAO Cleaning

- Regular cleaning (Weekly, Fortnightly, Monthly etc)
- Home Care Cleans
- Spring cleans
- Moving In & out clean
- Builders before and after clean
- Tenancy beginning & end clean

FOR A **FREE** ESTIMATE CALL TODAY ON
07411 136691

Bramble Lodge, 29 Oakley Rd, Clapham, Bedfordshire MK41 6AN

www.naoservices111.weebly.com

naoservices111@gmail.com

We cover all of Bedfordshire

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CELEBRATING 50 YEARS!

On Sunday 11th August Oakley Methodists will be celebrating being in their 'new' building on the High Street for 50 years!

A special service is planned at 10.30am and all are welcome to join the celebrations, which also mark 175 years of Methodist worship in Oakley.

If you would like to join us for lunch after the service, please contact Michael Carr on 824504.



MESSY CHURCH FOR ALL SUMMER PICNIC

Join us for our Messy Church for All Summer Picnic on Tues 18th June 3.30pm at Lynch Furlong, Oakley
Picnic food provided—bring a rug to sit on!

Contact: Jan Follett 07740



MESSY CHURCH PLUS!

Do you miss Messy Church in the school holidays? Why not come along to Messy Church Plus! On Monday 19th August at 11.30am in St Owen's Bromham. Children of all ages welcome with a well behaved adult. Light lunch provided. No entry fee.

TEDDY BEARS' PICNIC

Sat June 15th, 11.30am at St Owen's Bromham. Crafts, activities, songs & a Bible story. Bring your own picnic & teddy bear! Watch the teddies slide down a zip wire from the top of the tower, if they feel brave enough. All ages welcome—bring the family! Free event.



TEAS IN CHURCH

St Mary's popular 'Teas in Church' is back! Sundays from 3.30pm to 5pm, begins 26th May- 15th Sept Enjoy delicious refreshments in beautiful surroundings, supporting your local church. Contact-less payment now available.



*For more details on all our events and services visit
www.bromhambenefice.org or www.northbedsmethodist.org.uk
Facebook: CofE Benefice for Bromham, Oakley & Stagsden
Instagram: bromhambenefice



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 Chris Sandy: 01234 860464 christopher.sandy@methodist.org.uk
Church Steward: Jeanette Letch 825204

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)

If you think your child would enjoy being a Brownie and taking part in some of these activities and community events, please sign up on the website: www.girlguiding.org.uk (register a child) or contact

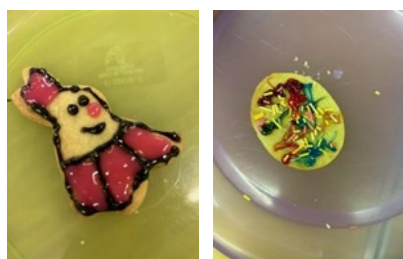
Kathy Jones -leader at 1st Oakley Brownies by emailing snowyowloakleybrownies@outlook.com



Our trip to Wrest Park which I mentioned in the previous newsletter, took place in March. The weather was not great to begin with but thankfully the sun came out and the Brownies had a great time! For one activity they made biodegradable plant pots and planted a sunflower each.



The Brownies planted flowers and decorated pots for Mother's Day. The flowers were kindly donated to us by an Oakley resident.



Delicious Easter biscuits expertly decorated by the Brownies.



Learning to pitch a tent, led by Tawny Owl, for their Camp Stage 2 badge and decorating pebbles on the recreation ground, on a lovely sunny evening in May.

Kathy Jones





Oakley Village Hall

Church Lane,
Oakley,
Bedfordshire, MK43 7RJ

A well-appointed village hall
Main hall with stage and PA system
(Main hall is air conditioned)

Separate meeting room with bar

Well equipped kitchen

For information and bookings
please telephone 07788 796996



For all Pre-School Children

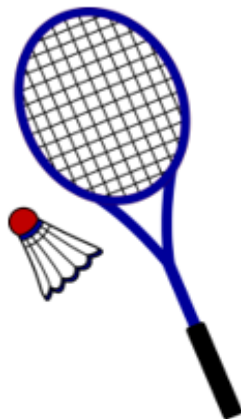
At St Mary's Church Oakley on
Thursdays during School Term 10am to 11.45

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

More detail from Dorothy Palmer at
01234 823959



OAKLEY BADMINTON CLUB



Lincroft Sports Centre

Come and get warm, fixed charge !

Every Wednesday 7.30- 9.00pm

All ages and abilities welcome.

Tel. 07557 441206

Bromham Show

Sunday 14th July
Gates open from
12.00pm

Highlights:

BMX Bike Aerial
Acrobatics

Birds of Prey
Flying Display

Pacesetters Dog
Agility Show

Parade of Classic Cars

Inspire Performing
Arts Dance Group

Childrens Multiple Sports
Challenge



Bromham Show
Bromham's Community Event of the Year



On the playing
field at:

The Village Hall
Village Road
Bromham
MK43 8JP



Entry Prices - Adults £3, Children Free. On-Field Car Parking £3

oakley Motorcycle club

It has been a busy Spring for OMC starting off with the OMC AGM held on 14th March at Oakley Club which saw around 70 members attend. A complimentary buffet always helps with the foot-fall! OMC has me (Roger Bays) as Chair for another year, Bernice Russell remains as Secretary, Derek Brown as Vice Chair and Graham Hardman has taken on the role of Treasurer.

Graham brings a wealth of experience having worked for many years within Beds Police Finance Department and he is also currently the Treasurer of the Beds Branch of the National Association of Retired Police Officers (NARPO). Derek Brown who had stepped down as Treasurer was presented with a £200 gift voucher for all the years of work as the previous Treasurer

Richard Galka was voted as Member of the Year by the attendees. This is the third time he has won the award. A number of other presentations were held including the awards for Pillock of the Year which went to two members. Firstly Neil Henderson for reporting to the committee that his helmet had been stolen off his handlebars one evening last year, later realising he had forgotten that he had locked it in his top box!

The other winner was Steve Eaton who, with Kirsty Eaton as pillion, following a stop in a lay-by with numerous other riders on a ride out last year set off again with the group and after 8 miles was flagged down by another rider who told him he had left Kirsty in the lay-by! Steve now actually has a sticker on his bike tank stating "Don't forget Kirsty"



Member of the Year winner Richard Galka (2nd from right) with Chair Roger Bays, Vice Chair Derek Brown and Secretary Bernice Russell

On 31st March Easter Sunday we held our annual Easter Egg run delivering eggs around the County. Five groups, totalling 45 bikes, set off this year from Bedford Market Square and went to Brinkind (was Sue Ryder) Stagenhoe, Milton Ernest Hall, St Johns Hospice, Moggerhanger, Lomax House Kempston and Lovell Homes in Oakley before returning to Oakley Club for complimentary breakfast rolls.



On Tuesday 16th April OMC were invited by the East Anglian Air Ambulance to their HQ at Norwich Airport for a guided tour of the facilities. It proved to be really informative to have a peek behind the scenes of their operation and to get a feel for what is involved in running such a comprehensive and complex service. OMC left feeling that our contributions over the last ten years or so have been really gratefully received. If any of us had any doubts about our support for the EAAA they were whole heartedly quashed! A cheque for over £700 was presented to them. We have now raised close to £45,000 for them and our name appears on their wall wheel of thanks in the EAAA reception.



On 9th May we had a visit from one of our sponsors, BMW Wollaston based in Northampton who brought over eight new BMW bikes for test riding. Thanks to the lovely warm dry weather it was a very busy night at Oakley Club!



OMC has started its ride out programme and so far group rides have taken place to The Old Prison, Northleach near Gloucester, The De Havilland Museum at London Colney, Bike Stop in Stevenage, The Windmill Tearooms at Wymondham, Warwicks, Ambience Cafe at St Neots and Gilks Cafe at Kineton, Warwicks with more planned for the forthcoming weeks.

OMC has a number of members who race. One who has started this season with great success is Andy Sawford who races in the 125cc category of the Klass GP. Over the weekend of 18-19th May he not only qualified on pole but went on to win both his races at the Paul Ricard circuit in Castellet, France. Hopefully Andy will be bringing the bike and trophies over to Oakley Club on the evening of Thursday 6th June. Well done Andy!



Finally, do not forget the annual OMC

oakley Motorcycle club

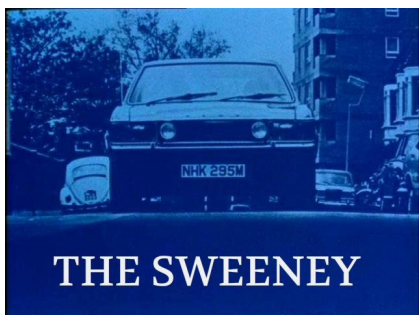
American theme night which is a free event and open to all. It will be on Thursday 11th July and will feature one of our favourite visitors The Blues Brothers and much more

Roger "Baysie" Bays Chair - OMC



This Spring started where last year left off with our first date in April postponed due to the weather, then cancelled as it did not change. However we were luckier on Easter Sunday morning when we had a limited number Breakfast meet at Oakley Club. It was limited numbers as the field was not in a suitable condition to take cars plus there were still a number of AFC Oakley football fixtures remaining. We still managed over 100 cars on the hard standing most of whom enjoyed the breakfast menu provided by the Stewards Adam and Kara.

Not all of you, but many of the of the older generation, will remember the hit TV series from the mid 1970's called The Sweeney starring the late John Thaw and the late Dennis Waterman. Their main squad car which appears in most episodes was a bronze 1973 Ford Granada 3 litre V6 as seen in the advert from the day.



The stars of the series may have passed on but the



CLASSIC CAR MEET BEDFORDSHIRE

original car is still about and in mint condition and made an appearance at Oakley Club on the Breakfast meet!

Although April was a complete wash out thankfully the meet in May, although it had been raining earlier, went ahead and what a great turn out considering the conditions. There were over 200 show cars of all makes, models and ages out on the field!



We are looking forward to the next meets at Oakley Club on Tuesday's 11th June, 9th July, 13th August and 10th September.

We hope for decent weather and to see many of you visit us on these nights!

Luke and the Beds Classic Car Team



Oakley Sports & Social Club

Family & Sports Bar

FAMILY FRIENDLY :: OPEN DAILY

Situated in the picturesque village of Oakley near Bedford, Oakley Sports & Social Club is a registered charity that is home to AFC Oakley, Oakley Motorcycle Club, Bedfordshire Classic Cars and a lot more.

We offer a large recreational play field, well equipped children's play area, tennis courts & pentanque court.

MANY EVENTS HELD THROUGHOUT THE YEAR - SEE OUR WEBSITE & FACEBOOK FOR DETAILS



FANTASTIC FACILITIES



AFFORDABLE FOOD & DRINK



WELL EQUIPPED PLAY AREA



LOCAL + SKY SPORTS & BT

KITCHEN OPEN
THURSDAY & FRIDAY 3PM - 9PM
SATURDAY & SUNDAY 12PM - 7PM



oakley
Motorcycle
club

CLASSIC CAR MEET
BEDFORDSHIRE

HOME OF AFC OAKLEY

Oakley Sports & Social Club is a registered charity who's primary aim is to cater for the local community

OAKLEY SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB, CHURCH LANE, OAKLEY, BEDFORDSHIRE MK43 7RJ :: 01234 824977 :: WWW.OAKLEYSSC.COM