



Oakley Newsletter



Winter 2018
Number 77



Front Cover : Redwing Visitor
By Terry Youngman

The Oakley Newsletter

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

Opinions and information

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

Next issue

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Hello Children

look out for
Twelve more



Parish Council News

Winter 2019

By PAUL PHILLIPS (Chair)

Hello Everyone

It is hard to believe that the end of the year is fast approaching, but nonetheless it is a lovely time to look forward to. Christmas is so magical for so many of us, starting with our Christmas Lights switch on with Carols, adequately punctuated by mulled wine and mince pies. This event will have taken place by the time you receive this newsletter. I hope lots of you remembered the date and turned up to give your Christmas excitement a kick start.

Train Companies Delay/Repay

For a long time now, we have heard about changes to our rail travel, time tables etc. It was decided at a recent Parish Council Meeting to remind rail users of the Delay Repay Scheme that train companies use to compensate users for unexpected delays and cancellations. Claims for compensation can be made online or by post within 28 days of a delayed journey. Full details can be found online.

Village Planting

I am sure residents will have noticed that our volunteer Elspeth has been replanting the flower beds around the village. As always they look really nice and once again on your behalf I would like to thank Elspeth for giving up her time in order to make our village look so attractive. Also for always doing it in good time prior to Remembrance Sunday. Talking about Remembrance Sunday I would like to draw residents' attention to the work done at the Village War Memorial at The Cross Roads. This work has included clearing branches from overhanging trees, staining the woodwork, cleaning the masonry, building a structure to enable wreaths to be anchored, creating a shelf, ground work including constant removal of leaves, cyclamen in troughs and placing of tubs planted with shrubs.

Continued on page 3

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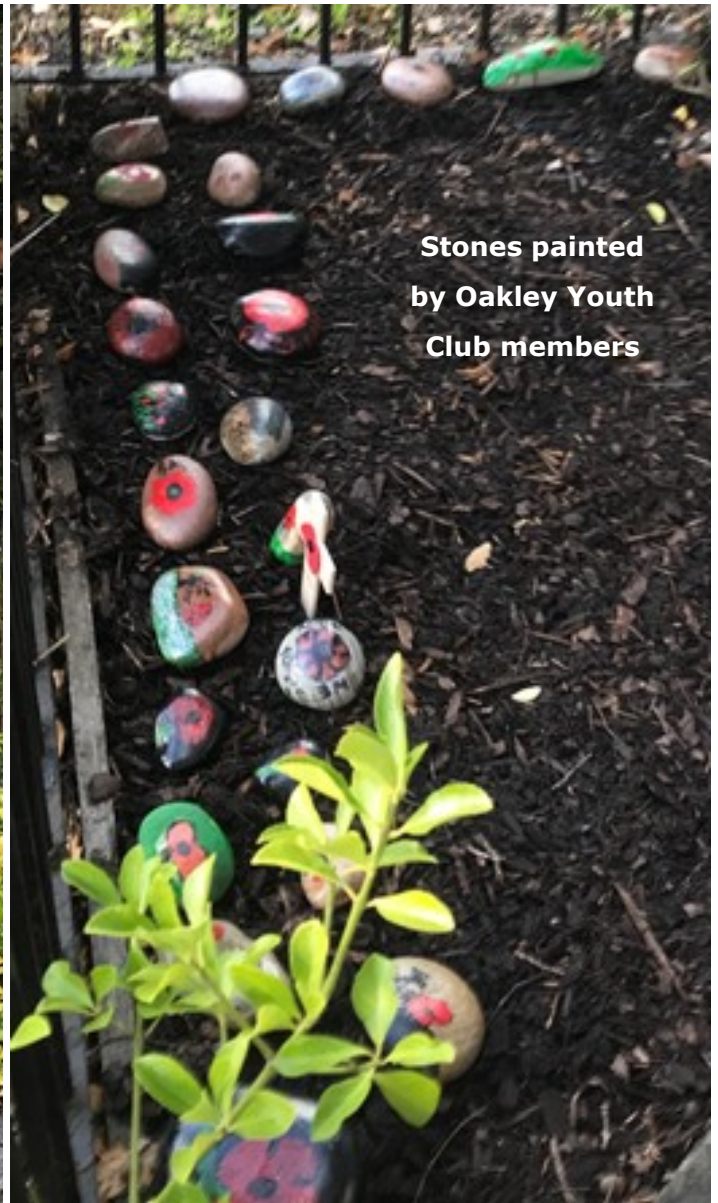
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**Stones painted
by Oakley Youth
Club members**

More work is planned for next year. I am sure this work made those attending the Remembrance Service at the memorial on 11 November 2018 immensely proud to see what had been done. In addition to Elspeth, this work has been carried out by an enthusiastic group from Highfield Road, namely Dave (who masterminded it all) and Val Ursell, Jenny and Lionel Shopland and Chris and John Cooper. On your behalf I thank them for what they have done. They got on with something that others of us only think about doing!

John and Chris Cooper were also responsible for mowing the footpath around the field off Highfield Road bordered by the railway and the river. I know what they did was very much appreciated by dog walkers and ramblers alike. Whilst talking about volunteers from Highfield Road I would also like to thank Trevor and Christine Turvey for what they do; particularly clearing litter from Highfield Road from top to bottom and on the slip roads to and from the bypass. Trevor has been doing this for many, many years now and we should be very grateful.



I can only comment about volunteers who I know about. If you know of similar such work being done by willing volunteers, then feel free to write about them yourselves or tell me.

Continued on page 4



Lovell Road – Parrotts development

This development on Lovell Road is steaming ahead now with the outline structure of a large number of the houses already in place. We have had some issues with lorries parked on the path opposite, blocking the only footpath heading from the village towards the town and causing problems for mobility scooters and pedestrians. The developer has now erected signs to say no parking, but please contact Ann Paice immediately, if you see that these signs are being ignored.

We had also asked as a condition of the planning permission that a pedestrian crossing be provided from the development as there are no footpaths on that side of the road. This wasn't included however so the parish council are now pushing the Borough and the developers to help fund it. The initial money that will come to the parish from the developer, called CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) will be used to create a design and costing plan for the crossing. Any future monies will then be used to pay for the crossing.

Play equipment

The Parish council would like to apologise to the young people in our village for the problems we have been having with the play equipment on the Green and on The Furlong. We have had a year

long battle with the manufacturer to get the installation finished properly and now the Zip -wire needs re-tensioning to avoid users hitting the floor when they are riding it. Hopefully by the time you read this it will have been done, but please be assured that we have not yet paid the bill for the new equipment and we will not pay it until we are satisfied that everything is complete and useable.

Litter Picker and Bus Shelter Cleaner

Matthew Lewis, our previous Litter Picker, has resigned and has gone to University. We thank him for his hard work and wish him well for the future. The position was advertised, Susan Lewis was appointed on interview and has started her work forthwith. We look forward to meeting her and seeing the results of her labours. Although better still let us lighten her load by not depositing litter in the first place or indeed picking up litter ourselves.

As usual thank you for reading the newsletter and for your support. Continued thanks to our Editor Bill Chalker for this excellent publication. On behalf of the Parish Council I wish all our readership a Very Happy Christmas and a Healthy and Prosperous 2019.

Kind regards

Paul Phillips. Chair





Oakley Methodist Church

Oakley Methodist Church in the High Street has been active for many years. The Church wants to publicise aspects of its life to create a better known understanding of its role in the local community. It hopes to do this in all future editions of the Oakley Parish Magazine. The first topic concerns Pastoral Care.

Pastoral Care

Caring is a fundamental expression of the Christian Faith, and has always been a real strength of this Church. Five members are responsible for exercising the pastoral care of five different groups of its members. This involves very much talking with them about any problems or worries they may have. As the numbers of the elderly have increased in recent years, their needs have become more widespread and significant. Concerns, such as loneliness, lack of mobility, forgetfulness, lack of faith and even the fear of dying, amongst others, have become more recognised. The Church has also always tried to respond to any person in the village as part of its pastoral care and is pleased to talk with them about any concerns they may have.

Saturday Coffee Mornings

The Church wants to promote pastoral care through its regular Saturday Coffee Mornings, which take place at the Church on the 3rd Saturday of the month between 10.30 am and 12 00 noon. People, not necessarily connected to the Church, are invited to come and enjoy coffee and cakes, and chat about any concerns they might have. The following Saturday Coffee Mornings are planned:

Sat. 19th January : Sat. 16th February : Sat. 16th March

Special Methodist Church Events

Sunday 9th Dec . A Christingle Service at 10.30 am- with members of St. Mary's Parish Church.

Tuesday 18th Dec. A Christmas Messy Church for All, from 3.30 to 5.30pm. Adults, parents and their children enjoy company, crafts and a meal.

Sunday 23rd Dec. A Family Carol Service at 10.30 am, with children of all ages.

Tuesday 25th Dec A Christmas Day Family Service at 10.30 am.

Tuesday 15th Jan. Messy Church for All, from 3.30 to 5.30 pm. Adults, parents and their children enjoy company, crafts and a meal.

Saturday 19th Jan. Saturday Coffee Morning from 10.30 am. Open to all.

Sunday 10th Feb. A Covenant Service at 10.30 am, with Members of St. Mary's Parish Church.

Saturday 16th Feb. Saturday Coffee Morning from 10.30 am. Open to all.

Tuesday 19th Feb. Messy Church for All, from 3.30 to 5.30pm. Adults, parents and children enjoy company, crafts and a meal.

Saturday 16th March Saturday Coffee Morning from 10.30 am. Open to all.

Any enquiries to Brian Leeson, Church Steward (tel. 823441)

Borough Council News

by Cllr Pat Olney

Speedwatch on Bedford Borough's Streets

Bedford Borough Council's Community Speedwatch Vehicle is out and about on the Borough's streets.

Speeding is a common concern for local communities. The Council has heard those concerns and has created the 'Speedwatch vehicle', in partnership with Bedfordshire Police.

This van will travel around the Borough with trained staff tracking the speed of vehicles. If a driver is speeding they will receive a warning through the post. They may also be visited by the Police, particularly if they are a repeat offender or are travelling at excessive speeds.

Mayor Dave Hodgson said "Speeding is consistently one of the biggest concerns people raise with me, in communities across the Borough. We have already introduced average speed cameras in a number of hotspot locations in response to local concerns. The Speedwatch vehicle will give us an additional mobile means of responding to people's concerns and will enable us to cover a wide range of locations. We will be able to send the van out, be a presence on roads across the Borough and help make those roads safer for everyone."

Inspector Paul Ayling from the North Bedfordshire Community Policing team said: "Speed is one of the 'fatal four' driving offences and we urge drivers to comply with the limit. It is vital we pay attention to the speed limit and conditions and drive responsibly. Our community policing teams work alongside the Speedwatch schemes, which enables volunteers to work within their community to raise awareness of the dangers of speeding and to help control the problem locally.

We all lead busy lives and there are times when we may be in a hurry and there's a temptation to put your foot down to make up a little bit of time. We want all motorists to be aware that the speed limit on a road is just that, a limit not a target, so to drive sensibly for the road conditions they face. The consequences of speeding can be deadly so drivers need to take care on the roads all year round."



Bromham Road Bridge over the railway

Electrification means the bridge needs to be raised which necessitates the road being closed. The Borough has been working hard with Railtrack to keep a route into town for cyclists and pedestrians. A pedestrian and cyclist track will be installed whilst the work to a new bridge is undertaken. Bromham Road will be closed towards the end of June 2019. There will be diversions put in place. For more news about road updates www.bedford.gov.uk/transportingbedford2010.

Bedford Borough Local Plan 2030

The officers are finalising the Local Plan. It is expected to go to the executive meeting in December and then, if approved, will be submitted for examination by the inspector at the end of December 2018 or early January 2019.

Garden Waste Collection and Christmas and New Year collection times.

The last Green Bin was November the 30th and the next collection will be 1st March 2019. However still put out your Orange and Black Bins. The new collection calendar will be out in December and give the times of the waste collection over Christmas and the New Year.

Household Waste Recycling Centre Barkers Lane - Times Over the Holiday

The Centre will be open on Christmas Eve and New Years' Eve from 9am to 1pm.

It will be closed on Christmas day, Boxing Day and New Years' Day.

Usually the centre is open from 9am to 5pm every day to collect your Waste.

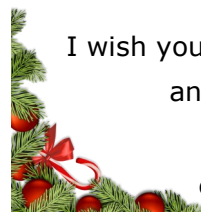
Sports Awards

Our local sports people will be having their efforts rewarded at a ceremony in December. This is organised by Bedford Sports department and will be held at the Bedford Corn Exchange.



Remembrance Sunday, Beacon Lighting and the Memorial

The commemoration of the centenary year of the First World War was magnificent. The Ceremony at Lincroft School was very moving with the addition of the stones painted by the Youth Club members. The Memorial was renovated by Mr and Mrs Ursell and helpers and looks lovely with the poppies and the Youth Club stones. As a final event that evening the beacon shone out. The prayers and singing was led by the Vicar of Clapham.



I wish you a Merry Christmas

and a Happy New Year.

Pat Olney Tel. 01234 824384

email pat.olney@btopenworld.com

Oakley Carnival

6th July 2019

Help urgently needed-

Could you get involved by....

**Joining the committee;
Helping with fund raising
events;
Helping on the day?**



Also..... if you were involved in organising previous carnivals please get in touch to revive memories. If anyone has historical carnival photos please forward them for the landmark celebration!

Finally....do you have any pearly or white shirt/blouse buttons to help with our Pearly theme (we can collect)?

Next committee meetings 8th Jan / 12th Feb 2019, 7.30pm Oakley Social Club

Facebook: Oakley carnival

Email: oakleycarnival@gmail.com



Oakley Educational Foundation

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

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

For further information, or for an application form, please contact Louise Tunley on 07917 462213, by post at 19 Goldington Road, Bedford, MK40 3JY or by email at louise_tunley@yahoo.co.uk.

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Oakley Park (Unit 1), Station Road, Oakley!

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Fund Raising Quiz



23rd February 2019 7.30 pm

£5 Adults and £3 children

Slice of Pizza included

Licenced Bar Available

Come and join the Fun,

Support the Carnival

in Oakley Village Hall

Tickets: email; oakleycarnival@gmail.com

or via Oakley Carnival Facebook Page



For all Pre-School Children

At St Mary's Church Oakley on

Thursdays during School Term 10am to 11.45

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01234 823959



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Oakley Rural Day Centre

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

Tel: 01234 824935 Mobile: 07733 227374

Welcome to our latest Newsletter. If anyone has access to the internet please visit our website, www.oakleyrural.org.uk The site is now updated regularly with the latest news from the centre. We have also produced a **Facebook** page for anyone who has a Facebook account, This will be updated with the latest news and photographs of events at the centre. The Facebook page can be found at www.facebook.com/oakleyruraldaycentre. We are also producing articles in various publications throughout Bedford and surrounding areas to raise the profile of the centre.



PLACES AVAILABLE

Our Day Centre provides our older people a place where they can make friends in a warm and comfortable atmosphere. A range of activities including crafts, entertainment, quizzes and good old conversation are at the heart of our day.

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

ACTIVITIES

Since our last newsletter our clients have been busy with various craft activities. One week we made spoon dollies. Clients also made their own pasties for lunch. We also made keyholders from wooden spoons. Other activities were making decorative notebooks and coat hangers with lavender bags.



Our clients also love word games. One of the favourites is to place a word on the board and try and make as many words from those letters. At some points we have hit the 200 mark which is a marvellous achievement. We usually have some sort of quiz every day and we always finish off with a game of bingo.

EVENTS

Over the run up to Christmas we have visits from **Kempston Hammers Choir**, **Sharnbrook Singing for Pleasure** and **Oakley Primary School** children are coming in to sing Christmas carols for the clients. The centre really appreciates them giving their time to come and entertain everyone.



In the run up to Christmas clients will be making decorations for the tree. We recently held our bring and buy sale raising **£208.95** for the centre. I would like to thank everyone who contributed items and also purchased at the sale.

Can you help those most in need in the community this winter?

Bedfordshire and Luton Community Foundation (BLCF) are an independent registered charity providing support to local community groups and charities, many of whom are working with some of the county's most vulnerable and in need.

They have just launched their Surviving Winter appeal to support those who may struggle with food or fuel poverty during the winter months. It is estimated that over 41,700 households in Bedfordshire live in poverty- with many people not able to afford to heat their homes or having to make a choice between eating or heating.

BLCF are partnering with local grassroot organisations who work with those most vulnerable in the community. They are working with local Foodbanks, The Need Project, FACES & Age Concern to provide essential items like food parcels, winter kits, or even helping towards paying fuel costs for those most in need.

The appeal is running between November through to Jan 2019 and aims to raise £20,000 to support individuals and families across the county during the winter months.

If you are a local business or individual that would like to support this appeal please get in touch on 01234 834930. Alternatively you can donate by text to: 'BLCF10' followed by the amount (£5 or £10) to 70070 **Or** visit our website link: <http://www.blcf.org.uk/giving/donate/winter/> Thank you



Oakley Sports & Social Club

Following a successful summer that saw several village fun days (including one that featured a number of stalls and a small zoo), Oakley Sports & Social Club held its annual firework display on the 3rd November. The display was a great success. Blessed with mild weather over 2,000 people enjoyed their Saturday evening with us.

Additional attractions included a teacup ride, stalls selling LED wands and candy floss (courtesy of Oakley's local bouncy castle company Sundorne Bouncy Castles), ice-cream van (and yes, there were many people who bought ice-creams on a cold November evening!), hot food served by our kitchen team and a guest appearance from Captain America raising money for the Sue Ryder charity. This year we extended our attractions by having a bouncy castle in the village hall, which proved to be a great success in its own right too.

The display was the best we've hosted yet, and lasted for nearly 20 minutes, which we understand to be on a par with the Bedford Rugby Club display.

The committee would like to extend our thanks to Mick & Barbara Hewitt and their team for their great work on the night, in addition to the local businesses which makes our firework display the best in north Bedfordshire.

We will be hosting a Santa's Grotto for members'



Oakley Sports & Social Club
FAMILY & SPORTS BAR

children in the lead-up to Christmas. Check out website (www.oakleyssc.com) and / or Facebook (facebook.com/oakley.ssc) for more the date.

Our opening hours over the Christmas period are as follows:

Friday 21st Dec:	1pm – 11pm
Sat 22nd Dec:	12pm – 11pm
Sun 23rd Dec:	12pm – 11pm
Xmas Eve:	1pm – 11pm
Xmas Day:	11:30am – 1:30pm
Boxing Day:	12pm – 11pm
Thurs 27th Dec:	3pm – 11pm
Fri 28th Dec:	3pm – 11pm
Sat 29th Dec:	12pm – 11pm
Sun 30th Dec:	12pm – 11pm
Mon 31st Dec:	12pm – 11pm
New Year's Eve:	12pm – 9:30pm
New Year's Day:	12pm – 11pm

The Oakley Sports & Social Club wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy new year!

What an extraordinary year for farming...

Well we are coming to the end of another extraordinary year. We as farmers have just about seen it all; a cold snowy February, the wettest March and April I can remember which delayed spring drilling by about 6 weeks, followed by the longest, driest summer since 1976. When drilling spring crops at the end of April we all thought they would not be ready to harvest until mid-September. How wrong could we be. The long, hot dry summer meant crops raced towards harvest and this year for us harvest began on 7th July, 3 days later than last year but still exceptionally early. The hot dry weather meant we raced through harvest and were 95% complete by the end of July. My Grandfather was disappointed we broke his record finishing date that he set in 1976 at College Farm.

One of the biggest risks, due to the hot and dry weather, was fire. Every day we were hearing reports of combines going up in flames which focuses the mind a bit when you are sat in the cab. I was constantly looking around for black smoke or burning smells and a close eye was kept on engine temperature. We bought extra fire extinguishers and all the tractors had buckets of water just in case. Luckily for us it all went well apart from the air-conditioning packing up on the hottest day of July. When we finally got it fixed it made us realise how much we take it for granted!



This led on to probably the most relaxed August I have ever had. Most of the crops were harvested, the ground was too hard to cultivate, the balers were baling up the rows of straw the combine had left behind into round or square bales to bed the livestock down over winter and the last of the hay was made. As the ground was so hard we spent several weeks spreading muck on lots of farms across the county. We decided that, at some point, it must rain so made a start drilling next years oilseed rape. Drilling a small seed into dry, hard, cracked ground was always a risk and although small amounts of rain came it was never

enough. A lot of the oilseed rape crops in this area have failed due to drought. Ours at College Farm has survived so far but only just.

As we got into September we had to start cultivating the ground for next year's crops. With the ground being so hard it was incredibly tough on the tractors and cultivators. The points on the machine after being pulled through the ground were too hot to touch. This meant they wore out fast and we burnt a lot of diesel in the tractors pulling them.

Also in September we had seven calves born at the farm which were in the front field by the church with their mums. This was a lovely sight and it was nice to see so many people looking down the drive and over the wall at them. One Sunday on our way to set up for teas in the church and in smart clothes, I peered over the wall and noticed one of the cows was calving. I jumped over and helped her out. A lady passed and promptly remarked "shouldn't the farmer be doing this" to which I replied "I am the farmer".

The only problem for the cows this summer was a lack of grass. This meant most days they were getting a supplementary bale of hay to make up for the lack of grass growing in the fields.

As we neared the time to begin cereal drilling I genuinely believed this seemingly endless dry hot weather was going to break and it would be the end of land work for the season but as yet it has not. I am writing this on 19th November and the drill is still out working. We have two days work left to do 160 acres and if the forecast is right we will be done by Wednesday evening. The fine autumn weather has allowed us to complete nearly 3,000 acres of drilling which is a record for us.

Most of the cattle are still out in the fields, the river is at its lowest level for a long time and the fields are not too wet to allow the completion of autumn sprays. I have never known it as dry as this so late in November, the pessimist in me says we will pay for it and my money is on a cold winter!



Farming wife duties

Summer for me has been very different this year, the birth of our daughter Emily in January certainly changed things. As Henry was working such long hours I would take him out his dinner and Emily would go for a ride on the combine with him. I am fairly sure she will be taking after her father in a few years as she absolutely loved it. I have also been kept on my toes by the cows, which have occasionally managed to escape their fields, so Emily and myself have had to help get

them back in. Whilst on my maternity leave I have also started taking on some of the farm office work which I quite enjoy, along with a few art commissions and currently trying to promote my artwork for Christmas. I had an open gallery on 24th November but if anyone wants to have a look please pop down and I will be more than happy to show you my work, you never know you might find the gift you have been looking for.

Henry and Laura Saunders

Merri Flowers / Christmas Trees

Where has this year gone? Our flower season finished at the end of October when our Dahlia got blackened, and they are now all dug up and in storage until next year.

Our Spring flower seedlings are beginning to flourish in our polytunnel, whilst the Chrysanthemums are happy flowering for our loyal customers still requesting flowers for themselves or gifts.

We cut our first Christmas Tree in October for an early Christmas celebration (a family were moving to Australia – so wanted to celebrate Christmas early), and our Merri Christmas Tree business is now in full-swing. We have Spruce orders for Wreath Making Workshops from local florists and ones further afield coming in thick and fast, including a massive order for Workshops to be run at The Tate Modern and the V&A. We are even running a few Wreath Making Workshops ourselves this year at the farm during daylight hours (until we are in a position to afford solar lighting).

Our investment in fifty Eucalyptus trees two years ago is also paying off, thankfully they survived the summer heatwave. They are enjoying this cold weather and local florists are loving the fact that we sell it by the stem (instead of per ten stems when they buy from wholesalers). We have even harvested buckets of Hawthorn berries and teasels from the farm to use with our Merri Christmas Wreaths.

Social Media has been an absolute must to promote our business. We now oversee two Facebook pages, two Instagram pages and our website. Advertising is free and, with the support of the local facebook pages, our followers are increasing by the day. But...sometimes there is nothing like flicking through the pages of a local newsletter (namely the Oakley Newsletter!) and I hope this article will again increase the awareness of our local business, especially because the farm is within walking distance.

With Christmas soon upon us, we knew we had to create a clever marketing idea to entice real Christmas tree buyers to purchase their tree from us. It was only by chance that we saw a request on Facebook for a local tree grower to attend a School Christmas Fayre and the idea of running a **Christmas Tree Fundraiser** came to us. Since that request we have got a further five schools, including Lincroft, Oakley Primary and Colworth Science Park, taking part in the fundraiser.

All people have to do is buy a tree from us and we will give a nominated school £5 per tree. We hope it will be a success, but it does require local people to support the idea.

Anyway, once again, it is time to end this article and attend to our emails and make sure requests to tag a tree, order a tree, buy a Merri Christmas wreath and buy spruce are replied to.

So...if you have not bought your tree (yet) or want to buy a 2019 Gift Voucher for a Christmas present, do not forget...#buylocal.

For further information contact Julian on 07946519737 or

info.merrichristmastrees@yahoo.com

Rachelle Merril



Oakley Neighbourhood Plan

Thank you to everyone who replied about the draft Neighbourhood Plan during the six-week consultation period. The replies are being analysed and the responses will be recorded. Once this has been done they will be put on the website with the responses. Each person who gave us their address will receive a reply.

Once this work has been done we will review the draft plan and adjust it as required. Our consultants are working on the Basic Conditions Statement, the Consultation Statement and the Habitat Screening. When all this work is complete the plan will go to the Oakley Parish Council for signing off.

The Next Stage

The plan will be submitted to the Borough Council who will check that the proper legal process, such as the neighbourhood area being designated, the legal requirements for consultation and publicity have been followed.

The Borough Council will, if the above has been followed,

- Publicise the plan for a six-week period. Following the publicity period, any representations made will be passed to the independent examiner. This means that they will only be considered within the remit of the independent examination (i.e. whether the neighbourhood plan proposal meets the basic conditions and other requirements set out by law).
- Submit to the inspector for an independent examination.
- Review the examination results, and if appropriate request adjustments to the plan.
- Organise a referendum.
- Confirm the outcome of the referendum and the plan status.

This has been a long process to get the plan to this stage. A Big Thank You to the Neighbourhood Plan Sub-committee for all their discussions and work to get the plan to this stage. A thank you to our clerk who has produced minutes, maps etc. and thank you to the Parish Council who have considered all our minutes and made comments.

Pat Olney, Chairwoman Neighbourhood Plan Committee

EAST MIDLANDS TRAINS

Essential route improvement work will be taking place over Christmas and New Year

Over Christmas and New Year, our London route north and south of Bedford will be affected by planned engineering work. This is so improvements can be made, to upgrade the track and signalling equipment to offer a faster and more reliable service. Services will be affected on :-

Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd December

Christmas Eve (Monday 24th December)

Christmas Day (Tuesday 25th December)

Boxing Day (Wednesday 26th December)

Thursday 27th December

Friday 28th December

Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th December

New Years Eve (Monday 31st December)

New Years Day (Tuesday 1st January)



More information for each day is available from <https://www.eastmidlandstrains.co.uk/information/media/Disruption-Information/>



With lots of new faces this term Youth Club is thriving drawing from years 7, 8 and 9. Our members enjoy many activities such as pool, badminton, basketball and table tennis. We have a fab tuck shop with lots of delicious treats and drinks. Our members enjoy music, crafts (if they want), games, quizzes, music and our infamous 'minute to win it' nights.

This term we painted some small rocks for the memorial service held at the school. We were really honoured to be asked to put them down at the memorial. As our members painted them it was great to hear some war stories that their grandparents had told them.

Over the summer Sara and myself have worked hard to update our policies and procedures including the new GDPR regulation. We have also created a website, well Robbie from Bays Media has, and he has done a fabulous job for us. This will be live by the end of the November. The main purpose of the website is for our members' parents to view our policies and procedures and to bring them up to date. We also like to show you what we have been up to and how our Youth Club is progressing. You can access the website by logging on www.oakleyyouthclub.co.uk.

On average we have 30 members a week who are mainly year 7 and 8. Opening times are 7.30-9.00pm and entry costs £1. We would love to have some older members too. If there is enough interest we may look into changing our times so we can have years 7 and 8 followed by years 9 and 10 for a later session. This would be for our older members to chill, listen to music, chat with their friends and be in the safe and warm. We may even serve hot chocolate, tea, coffee and biscuits. If this is something your teen may be interested in, then please email us at info@oakleyyouthclub.co.uk.

If you are having a clear out over the Christmas period, please can I ask you keep the Youth Club in mind as we may be able to make use of what you do not need. We do have equipment but with over 100 members coming through our doors since we re-opened some of our equipment needs to be replaced or is now looking a bit tired. We are always looking for balls, craft items, beauty accessories, cooking items and things that can make our Youth Club fab. We do hope to have a fundraising event in the new year where our members will be serving refreshments and home baked cakes. We also hope to have a stall at the Oakley Carnival next year.



Lastly, once again I would like to thank all our volunteers that have come to help us at Youth Club, we really appreciate it. I would also like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

From Dawn, Rachel and Hannah



Oakley Show 2018



WE WERE VERY WORRIED

Two weeks to go to the Oakley Show and very few entries had been received. Was this the end? Several people had said that owing to the peculiar weather patterns this year they had decided not to enter the fruit and vegetable classes.

Then, relief, pieces of paper were posted through my door and the show was definitely ON.

The number of entries was down on last year, but only by a few. Most of the classes had something in them. The technical challenge of the lemon drizzle cake was popular, who would have thought that a precise set of details could produce different results!

There were a few new entrants, and the younger children of the village were evident hopefully even more will have a go next year. Three people excelled themselves, putting in thirteen entries each, mostly people did rather less and several only entered one class.





The judges came and did their work, the winners being:

Flowers	Mrs. Ellie White
Children's	Aiden Gray
Fruit	Mrs. Sandra Frampton
Vegetables	Mr. Ian Percival
Photography	Mr. Ian Percival
Baking	Mrs. Donna Peckham
Preserves	Mrs. Yvonne Keyte
Art	Miss Barbara Smart

Best in show, for a second time,
Mr. Ian Percival, well done to him.

Overall £574.91 was raised towards the fund
for upgrading the Village Hall heating system.
So thank you to everyone who put in an exhibit,
bought raffle tickets and to those who stayed
and bought the produce at the end of the show.

Next years show is slightly later. Put **22nd
September 2019** in your diary and we hope to
see you there. Jean



Oakley Toddlers Group



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

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

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Brownies

OAKLEY

When we agreed to take over 1st Oakley Brownies from Brenda, Lindy and Helen we knew we had big shoes to fill, but we were lucky to inherit a well-organised, richly resourced group with a lovely group of Brownies. We were grateful for the comprehensive handover and valuable tips which the previous leaders provided us with. So now we have three new leaders: Lindsay (Brown Owl), Mel (Barn Owl) and Kathy (Snowy Owl); a new Treasurer (Victoria) and this term six new Brownies have joined too.

It has been a busy term with Brownies working towards their Artist's Badge as well as having some taster sessions of the new programme which is being rolled out this year and will be fully functional by next September. Our first impressions of the new programme have been good as it offers well-thought out activities for us to follow and these activities will eventually lead to badges.

Apart from the usual Friday night meetings, eight Brownies were invited to participate in a district sleepover at the Guide Centre (Mollivers Lane) in Bromham. Everyone had a lovely time doing woodland activities, as well as games and crafts and of course singing around a campfire and eating toasted marshmallows. There may even have been the odd hour or two of sleep as well. We were also pleased to join the Remembrance Sunday service and parade.

We have a few places available in our unit for girls aged 7-10. If you would like to join, please contact Lindsay (07519 690347) or Mel (1stoakleybrownies@gmail.com).

OUR PROGRAMME



KNOW
MYSELF



EXPRESS
MYSELF



BE WELL



HAVE
ADVENTURES



TAKE
ACTION



SKILLS FOR
MY FUTURE



and that was great. Anne and I enjoyed watching them frolic in the snow along with all my other feathered friends.

Front Cover

When Bill contacted me about the front page for the 2018 Winter Newsletter I asked him if we could use this picture that had a special place in my heart.

I have been feeding birds in my garden for years and I have started to draw them from pictures that I have taken from time to time.

On 1 March when the "beast from the east" had arrived, bringing snow and freezing temperatures, I spied a most unusual visitor to our patch - it was a fieldfare. It came into my feeding area very cautiously watching the collared doves and all my other visitors; sparrows, starlings, blue tits, robin, black-bird and thrush. The wood pigeon gave it a funny look. The fieldfare sat on a trellis and observed its surrounding, finally joining in feeding on windfall apples and rosehips, and enjoying the snow.

This called for the camera! I managed to get some pictures, not brilliant, but I was pleased to get a photograph of the fieldfare in the conifer from which I have since done a drawing. I used a sepia pen to capture the bird's colourful plumage as she or he sat there with its feathers puffed out.

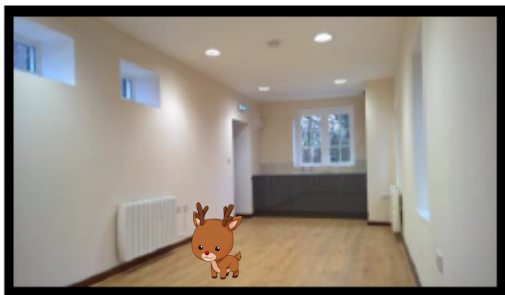
The next day two more fieldfares turned up
Terry Youngman



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Oakley Pre-school News



This term two practitioners from our setting attended an 'In the Moment Planning' course. We loved the way that this small change enabled practitioners to integrate spontaneous planning and rich adult-child interactions into their everyday practice. We decided to put it into action from half term. It has meant some changes to the environment and our paper work, but the children and staff are embracing it. It has led to our children demonstrating higher levels of interest and involvement, perseverance and showing a 'can do' attitude. Creativity, critical thinking, motivation and independence for all, is evident in the constant hum of activity during each session. This change has further enabled us to teach in accordance with children's needs and in a way that is nourishing for both children and adults alike. The change in environment means that we are looking for natural resources for our role play areas and mud kitchens. Could you please let us know if you have any cutlery, pots, pans, kettles and any general kitchen equipment that you no longer need. We would also love

some go kart tyres, if anybody has any. Logs and any natural wooden resources would be great too. If you have any of these that you would like to donate to us, please give us a ring or drop by.

As part of our fundraising this term, we again held a Halloween trail around the village, which concluded at O for Coffee. This was very successful and it was great to work with a local business again. We raised £102.50, so thank you very much to all who took part. Christmas is fast approaching and the children are looking forward to an end of term Christmas party and celebration concert for the older ones. We have also hosted a Crafty Christmas fundraising event.

Admissions

If you would like to register your child for a place at pre-school, please contact us on 01234 826452 or by email: info@oakleypreschool.com

Our website is updated regularly; please do visit it for an insight into Oakley Pre-school.
www.oakleypreschool.com

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

For information on funding you can contact the Family Information Service 0800 023 2057

Sally Martiello



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What is new in Oakley Scout Group?

In the last issue of the Oakley Village Newsletter we were seeking new adult leaders for Oakley Scout Group. We are very happy to report that we have found super people to take on roles within the Group, therefore ensuring that Scouting within the Village continues to go from strength to strength.

Our new Group Scout Leader, Sarah Davey, has a lot of Scouting experience, having been a Group Scout Leader and a Deputy District Commissioner in another District. Sarah is brimming with great ideas for taking the Group forward and introducing even more fun!

We also have a new Scout Leader, Brian Diskin, who again has a lot of Scouting experience and ideas for fun activities.

Remembrance Parade

Remembrance Sunday is an important event in the Scouting calendar, and in Oakley the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts take part in the Remembrance service and parade to the War Memorial. This year we were pleased to be joined by the Dragons Explorer Scout Group, who now meet at Oakley Scout Hut each week during term-time.



As Sunday 11th November 2018 marked 100 years since the end of the 1st World War, it was heart-warming to see such a strong turn-out of Scout Group members.

What's coming up in Oakley Scout Group?

Planning is underway for an off-site Christmas activity and a Christmas party, and the Explorers will be enjoying a winter camp!

Next year we are holding our popular Oakley Village Bake-off and we will be taking part in the Carnival, among many other activities like camps, backwoods cooking, hikes, badge work, sports, and pioneering.

How to get involved?

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

Beavers (for 6 to 8-year olds) runs on Wednesdays 18:15-19:30 (contact Chris on 07805 175521);

Cubs (for 8 to 10.5-year olds) runs on Thursdays 18:30-20:00 (contact Matt on 07552 217267);

Scouts (for 10.5 to 14-year olds) runs on Tuesdays 19:00-21:00 (contact Brian on 07746 294138 or Karen on 07918 181815);

Explorers (for 14 to 18-year olds) runs on Wednesdays 19:45-21:45 (contact Michelle on 07760 315417).

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

OAKLEY VILLAGE HALL

SEEKING NEW

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Village Hall Committee administers Oakley Village Hall, a vital amenity for the Village. Two of our members have recently retired from the committee, and we need to replace them.

There is one committee meeting each month; it is not a very time-consuming role but it is interesting.

For further details please contact the committee Chairman, Paul White, at paulwhite20rd@gmail.com or 01234 825472,

or the Secretary, Ruth Bender, at r.bender@cranfield.ac.uk or 01234 824239.

WHY CHOOSE HIIT?



Now the dark cold nights have set in it can be hard to find the motivation to go back out into the drizzle in order to push ourselves when we already feel tired. I saw a 'cat-poster' style meme recently that said something along the lines of "you never hear someone say they regret exercising, but people regret having not done it" which I think is true and you always feel great and have a sense of achievement afterwards, especially on those days when it is an effort to go. Luckily, HIIT sessions can be done inside with an awesome soundtrack (or at least what I think is an awesome soundtrack anyway!!).

What is High Intensity Interval Training?

High Intensity Interval Training or HIIT, as the name suggests, is training that involves a period of high intensity work followed by a period of low intensity work or rest. This sequence is repeated for a predetermined period of time based on training goals.

Benefits of HIIT?

Time Efficient: One of the most common barriers to exercise is not having enough time; family, life and work commitments take priority. HIIT training can be programmed to last for as little as **30 minutes** including warm up and cool down. Studies have shown that three HIIT sessions per week can deliver results comparable with many hours of continuous training e.g. walking, running or cycling at a steady pace.

Enjoyment & Variety: Research suggests that people enjoy HIIT and prefer it to more traditional continuous exercise. It allows the participant or trainer to select exercises that they find enjoyable or are best suited to their training needs. I also think it is important to add that HIIT allows for a full body workout whereas an activity like running or cycling tend not to. This ensures that you are working and developing all muscles within your body.

Fat Loss: Ultimately if you eat fewer calories than you use you will lose weight. Any form of exercise can assist with this. However, HIIT can lead to the burning of Kilocalories for hours after your session if done effectively! This is because after a HIIT session there is a period of increased metabolic activity also known as 'EPOC'.

Without getting into the science (which is my favourite and would make this article many pages long!!) 'Excess Post-exercise Oxygen Consumption' is the period when the body is resetting itself, restocking the muscles with energy which you have used during the session and removing waste products such as lactate and hydrogen ions etc. all of these processes require energy or kilocalories and the highest levels of EPOC are generated by HIIT.

Other Health Benefits: There are many other health benefits associated with HIIT and exercise in general such as reducing risk factors associated with high blood pressure, diabetes and cardiovascular diseases, improving aerobic and anaerobic fitness and raising mood.

Whatever exercise you decide to do, it is important to remember to be safe and enjoy your sessions. It should be something you look forward to doing, not a chore you feel you need to squeeze into your week.



Lucy Herceg



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Oakley Allotments



Finally, as I write, the weather has turned seasonably colder. We cleared the squashes, tomatoes and runner beans from our plot some weeks ago in anticipation of this, rather late, change. Despite a few mild frosts a few weeks ago we had to water some plants as the ground was still dry. The water-butts were low and we had to use the taps – something unheard of in past years.



We now have a small number of late-developing but large butternut squashes ripening at home – much better than last year. Jars of jam are in the cupboard and more fruit is in the freezer. The late runner beans are reserved for next season's seed as they became far too stringy to eat. Some carrots and beetroot grew eventually and are still in the ground for a while until needed. Kale and broccoli are ready to over-winter and the chard (I just had to mention it) is covered in fleece to extend its usefulness. Onions and garlic were planted at the beginning of November and I am imagining harvesting them in next year's warmer weather.

The water has now been turned off for the winter, which required some intervention from the supplier as the valve at the meter was partially seized. We are considering some essential maintenance over the next few months and are seeking quotations for the work. Hedges have not been cut for a few years and installation of a more accessible control-valve for the water supply is under consideration. Clearing of vacant allotments and extension of the community orchard are also being considered.

Most people have renewed their tenancy for another year with only two remaining unconfirmed. We now have plots available and a short waiting-list so I will be contacting those people when we have final numbers for renewals.

Despite the difficult year we have experienced our own allotment has been very enjoyable. It is easier to maintain now that the soil is in better condition and we have learned more and worried less –

as I have said before, I am sure the plants can sense fear!

Happy gardening is the key. Please get in touch if you would like to join us.

I encountered a different approach to community gardening on a recent trip. More about that in the next Snippet.

Snippet No.33

Returning from Cornwall recently we decided to abandon the now-monotonous A30 and take a detour over Dartmoor, something we have not undertaken for some years now as the journey time is lengthened considerably and we are usually on a tight schedule, or imagine that we are...

The western approach to Dartmoor from Tavistock was very wintry in aspect as the recent winds had stripped autumn colour from the trees and hedges. In sheltered places some colour remained and its scarcity made it all the more beautiful.

The moorland was lovely to behold. The sky was mainly blue, the clouds grey but sparse and the light was clear and bright. I didn't stop to take many photographs except at the eastern edges, where the distant Teign estuary comes dramatically in to view from the heights of the moor near Haytor Rocks.



We continued down towards Bovey Tracey through more sheltered lanes where autumn colour still remained, still fairly sparse but in places the better for it. The dark, bare tree branches accentuated colours which were the memory of a long and hot summer.

It was nearly lunchtime and we usually stop off at a National Trust or English Heritage property for a break, short exploration and assessment of the catering facilities. Not having planned any particular stop on this section we passed by the entrance to Parke (Parke House Estate – but the house itself is not open to the public, so it is just the park, Parke). We turned around and went back.

Parke is unusual in that it has a number of interesting attractions, which include views, walks, a medieval weir and leat, medieval orchard (the site of, mainly, rather than the original trees), rather good cafe and a community garden within the

Snippet No.34

From my article on Linch Furlong in the last newsletter:-

"...classes would regularly venture out into the wilds to be instructed in the ways of the countryside by a keen and knowledgeable teacher. There was so much about this type of education that was good for society and individuals but is not recognised or encouraged nowadays."

I was taken to task on this by a reader, who has pointed out that there is a rise in the popularity of Forest Schools, which provide part of a solution to this.



walls of the original walled garden. Flat ground seems to be at a premium here and so the walls of the garden necessarily follow the contours of the sloping site.

The community garden is run on the basis that participants qualify by donating their time - an initial 10 hours, followed by a small membership fee and 3 hours a month. I wondered for a moment whether this might be successful for part of the allotments in Oakley. Many people do not want to take on an allotment but would be willing to give a bit of their time to such a shared project.

Is there any interest out there?



Whilst Forest Schools are not part of mainstream education, they are available as an additional activity for young people and we have one locally, based in Marston Vale.

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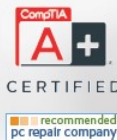
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Lucy Parham
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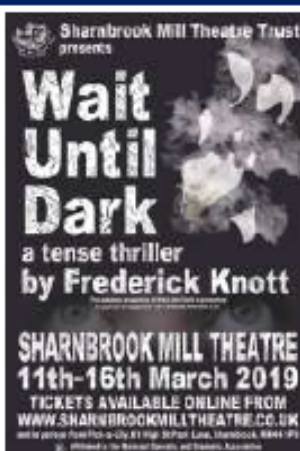
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TUESDAY 9th APRIL 2019



FRANCES BENTON shares with us her passion for pearls, dipping into the science, the history, the real and the fake, the myths and the legends. A selection of jewellery items will be on sale.

Visitors are most welcome at our meetings. To find out more, call 824296 or 826844



OAKLEY GARDENING CLUB

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

Looking ahead to next year.

Monday 21st January 2019

Richard Dowsett on Bees and Beekeeping



Monday 18th March 2019

Peter Holden on Birds and nesting



Monday 15th April 2019

Amanda Goody on Margery Fish, her Life and Gardening.



New members and visitors are very welcome at our meetings.

For further information contact
 Anne McNab 823788 or
 John Donovan 824703

oakley *Motorcycle* club



OMC finished off the riding year with the annual Members Memorial Ride which took place on Sunday 7th October. Exactly 50 bikes left Oakley Club for a 76 mile round trip of North Beds and Northamptonshire villages. We made a coffee stop at The Olde Three Cocks at Brigstock (quite an apt name for some of our members some would say) before returning to Oakley Club for a complimentary sausage and chip lunch.



We are now planning events over the winter months and will be starting with an evening at St Neots Motorcycles. The owners, the Sawford family including Peter Sawford the 1992 and 1996 British 250cc Champion, will be hosting 30 OMC members. We will be shown their rare and expensive collection of 80's and 90's racing 250cc Yamaha and Honda machines and told how they have been professionally rebuilt.

Other events include the annual OMC general knowledge quiz on 6th December and plans are afoot for a special Thursday evening on 14th Feb 2019 as it falls on Valentines Night.



We are also privileged to have been approached by the Police to run Bike Safe next year from Oakley Club. This is a Police initiative to improve riding skills and includes a day of classroom based training followed by a one on one riding assessment by a Police Motorcyclist.



Our Winter edition of the OMC magazine has now been printed and is available at Oakley Club or to download online at

<https://oakleymc.net/magazine>. The OMC website gallery has been uploaded with a lot more photos of events from earlier this year.

Go to www.oakleymc.net to view.



It has been a fantastic year for OMC and we have broken our membership record with an astonishing 479 paid members as I type. We are now one of the largest and most popular family orientated bike clubs in the country.

A Merry Xmas and Happy New Year to all from OMC
Baysie - Roger Bays - Chair OMC





Burglary: Through the eyes of an offender

Ever wondered what a burglar is looking for when deciding which houses to target? An ex offender, who has worked hard to turn his life around, spoke to us about what he would have looked for in the past and how people can protect their homes.



Breaking into someone's house is quick. I could be in someone's home within minutes.

I wouldn't go around the back of houses and I would stick to front doors as I could get in the house so quickly. Anyone walking past would just assume that I'd got a key and let myself in.

PVC doors were easier targets as I would also test the handle first to see if people had locked them properly.

If the doors were double locked I would use a screwdriver to get in. However if people had high quality locks it would be difficult.

Once in the house, I would be in there for 10 minutes at the most, I would look for easy grabs, anything that would be small enough to fit in a backpack or a holdall.

I often made off on foot or sometimes a bike, so I'd grab laptops, jewellery, money, handbags. Anything small that would be easy to sell and easy to carry. You'd be surprised the amount of valuables people would leave lying around.

The best deterrent for me, was when a house had an alarm box, a CCTV camera or even a sticker saying there was a dog there, I would automatically avoid it. For me it wasn't worth the risk.

Also a house with a TV or radio on, any sign of someone in there, I would avoid it. The same applied to houses in the evening with lights on.

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Oakley Sports & Social Club

Family & Sports Bar

Fun for kids Quality Ales Fantastic Facilities
Friendly Atmosphere



Below Average Prices Freshly Cooked Food
Sky Sports & BT Sport

Christmas Eve - 1pm - 11pm
Christmas - 11:30am - 1:30pm
Boxing Day - 12pm - 11pm

New Years Eve - 12pm - 9:30pm
New Years Day - 12pm - 11pm

OSSC Kitchen

Download the full menus
from our website

Thursday Saturday

6pm - 9pm

4pm - 6pm

Full Menu

Full Menu



824977



info@oakleyssc.com



http://oakleyssc.com