

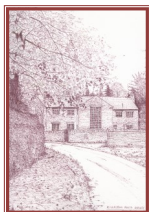


Oakley Newsletter



Winter 2019

Number 81



Front Cover : Riverstone House 2
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

Final copy date for the
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The publishing date is 1st March 2020.

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Hello Children

look out for
Ten more



Parish Council News

Winter 2019

By Jane Walker (Chair)

Happy Christmas

By the time you receive this newsletter we will have switched on the Christmas lights at St Mary's church and hopefully everyone will be feeling Christmassy and ready for the parties and fayres that are going on all around the village. This year, we particularly need to take time to appreciate the Christmas tree lights at the Church and at the crossroads on Station Road/ High Street. For the last few years we have been privileged to have the services of Phil Supple who designed the light show and has then re-installed it each year. Phil is an acclaimed lighting designer who designs many lighting spectaculars around the country including Kew gardens Christmas lights and the Tower of London Poppy displays. He has helped us out each year by donating his time as his family are residents of the village. Sadly, it has become increasingly difficult for him to fit us in as his business has grown, so this will be his last year with us. The Parish council are busy speaking to other contractors who will hopefully take over his designs, but we are extremely grateful to have had these beautiful lights in our village for so many years. We would like to thank Phil for everything he's done for us and wish him to continue success in the future.

Play/outdoor gym equipment

As the parish council look to plan next year's budget, it has been suggested that it would be good to have a small outdoor gym trail with outdoor work out equipment. (If you would like to see one locally, Bromham have one in the playing field behind the village hall.) Please let the clerk or me know if you think this is a good idea and what type of equipment you would like. Each individual item is quite expensive so we may need to plan it in over a number of years.

Continued on page 3

OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

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Whilst I'm talking about the cost of the play equipment, the council thought you might be interested to know how much the parish spends each year on maintaining the equipment on The Green and on The Furlong. So far in this financial year we have spent £1800 on maintenance alone and we are going to spend another £3300 on repairing the safety surface. Earlier this year the see saw was damaged beyond repair so we have removed it as a safety measure, and it will cost us another £500 to replace. Some of this maintenance is routine and will always need doing, but a large part of it is caused by vandalism and misuse. If you see anyone causing damage to the equipment, please report it to the police so that we can try and deter it from happening so frequently.

The Furlong and Farsands parking

Parking at the entrances to these roads remains an on-going problem. Particularly in The Furlong, where there is a small turning immediately to the right of the main turn, the view of the main roads are being blocked by cars parking right up to the junction. This is an obstruction and very dangerous, so we will be reporting all cars that do it to the police. We have been offered double yellow lines by the Borough council but would like to try and stop the problem voluntarily first as the parish council feels there is a danger that the whole village will need yellow lines if we take that option. However, if cars continue to park on corners and at junctions, we will make the decision to have the yellow lines and any cars parked on them will be ticketed and fined. Please let's try and avoid urbanising our village, by parking sensibly and safely without the need for parking restrictions.

Railway Bridge

As I explained in the last newsletter, Network rail have started to re-install the ugly extension to the parapets at Highfield Road bridge. However due to the continued objections from the Parish Council, supported by the Borough Council, these parapets have only been given temporary planning permission. They are needed urgently to allow for testing of the new electrified cables which will start in January. We have been assured that this time limited permission will give them time to find a more acceptable, permanent solution to raising the height of the bridge parapets which they need to do for safety reasons. They have agreed to include the parish council and residents in all design suggestions to replace the concrete coping stones at the end of next year.

Bottle bank

A reminder that the bottle bank is now at the Village Hall. Thank you to the Village Hall Committee who have agreed that we can keep it there. At the moment, most people are keeping it tidy and taking their rubbish home. Please make sure that if you find it is full over the Christmas period, you do not leave empty bottles beside it. We do our best to empty it as quickly as possible, but as I am sure you are aware the demand on the bottle banks is very heavy at this time of year. If possible, please try and keep your glass at home until January when it should be much quieter.

20MPH zone

The Borough council is in the process of installing 20mph zones in Stevington and Pavenham, so we have requested that Reynes Drive and surrounding streets are added to the list of areas needing a speed restriction. We will keep you informed about whether our request has been granted.

Bollards on Grange Close

As reported in the last newsletter, these have now been ordered and should be installed towards the end of November. Their purpose is to deter Traveller incursions.

Remembrance Sunday

Thank you to the Churches together who put on a wonderful service and managed to accommodate everyone in the Methodist church on Remembrance Sunday. We know that there were 150 chairs put out and all were taken so thank you all for coming along. Because of its proximity to the war memorial, most people were also able to walk there after the church service and I have been told it was the best attendance at the Memorial part of the service that we have ever had.

Jane Walker (Chair)



BEDFORD BOROUGH NEWS

Bedford unites to make a “real change” for rough sleepers

Posters have been going up across the borough to raise awareness with the public about services and support for rough sleepers. Alongside this, the Bedford Homeless Partnership has established an alternative giving fund, which will be known as “Real Change”.

The Real Change Fund will pay for projects and items rough sleepers need to build lives away from the streets. Examples would be a copy of a birth certificate, to help claim benefits; clothes for a job interview, or a deposit for a flat.

The campaign is backed by the main homelessness services in the Borough, as well as Bedfordshire Police, Bedford BID and Bedford Borough Council.

The campaign will be launched just ahead of Homelessness Awareness Week, which runs from the 1st to the 8th December.

Parking Charge Freeze Announced and Free Parking Deals to Continue

Parking charges are set to be frozen once again for 2020, in a major boost for Bedford Town Centre.

The Mayor’s Cabinet confirmed the retention of the full array of free parking deals across Council car parks. This includes the flagship 2 free hours on Saturdays in Bedford town centre.

With recent figures confirming that UK high streets are in deep crisis, the Council’s third successive annual parking charge freeze is a major boost for Bedford’s retailers and shoppers.

Meanwhile, the retention of the wide range of free parking deals means will see businesses and visitors benefit from the availability of free parking options every day and night in Bedford town centre.

Transporting Bedford Update – Manton Lane

Over the summer, work has been completed to construct a retaining wall alongside the playing fields on Manton Lane so the road can be widened. A number of underground utility services

have been diverted and new drainage systems have been installed.

Over the next few weeks, this section of road widening will be completed and a new traffic light junction will be built at the entrance to Bedford Modern School. Work has also started to widen the north side of Manton Lane on the corner of Clapham Road. The works in this area are expected to be completed before Easter 2020.

Save Time, Do It Online with Bedford Borough Council

Bedford Borough Council is making it much easier for local residents to save time by offering lots more online options at www.bedford.gov.uk

Maybe you need to pay for a Council service or maybe you want to book a sports pitch, apply for a school place or tell the Council about a problem in your area.

The Council is committed to making services easy to access and has worked hard to make its online services easy to use. Support for those who need help to get online will continue to be available from the council’s Customer Services centre.

The new online systems also mean that your reports and requests are dealt with efficiently by front line teams that are being equipped with mobile devices so that they can pick up and deal with new jobs straight away.

You can still get in touch with the Council in other ways, all the same channels as you can now.

Don’t forget to vote on 12th December

As you will have heard by now, there is a general election on the 12th December, please do not forget to vote. It is your chance to have a say in how the country is run.

Councillor Jon Abbott

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Email: jonathan.abbott71@icloud.com



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Oakley Neighbourhood Plan

The examiner has stated that our Neighbourhood Plan has met all the criteria.

Oakley has a complete plan with all the examiner's modifications included. The Borough and Tony, Ann and I have checked each other's modified plan and it is now complete.

The complete plan will go to the Borough.

The Borough will have 5 weeks for an executive decision to accept the plan. Once the Executive decision is made the referendum must take place within 56 working days.

The Borough must ensure that the date, the place, voting cards and postal votes are ready within 28 working days of the executive decision.

The Polling date must be within the total of 56 working days and polling will take place between the hours of 7 a.m. and 10 p.m.

Congratulations to the NDP group, the Parish Council, the residents of our village and the Borough Planning department for all their hard work and commitment to bring the plan to a successful conclusion.

Please look for the date of the referendum in January or February 2020 and please vote.

It is important that as many people as possible vote.

Remember it is **your** Plan not the Parish Council's or the NDP's plan.

A New Year a New Positive Start for Oakley.

A Happy Christmas and a good New Year. Pat Olney Chairwoman, Oakley Neighbourhood Plan



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Oakley is very lucky to once again have The Bedford Arms as a relaxing, comfortable and beautifully decorated pub.

The atmosphere in the pub is extremely friendly and welcoming, with full attention provided from the moment you enter the pub by the owners themselves and their team.

From only under two months of new ownership, they have held special events in-



cluding live music and entertainment which contributes to the warming atmosphere and enjoyment. Recently, they have released special Christmas Menus to cater from small groups to large parties which can be found at www.thebedfordarmssoakley.co.uk

With a choice from a delicious selection of foods, from my personal experience, this is first class. It is a real pleasure to eat at the pub and take family and friends. The pub leaves one feeling very satisfied and very full.

Phyllis Jones



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The Oakley Show



The Show which took place at the end of September was again a success. There were fears that it would be a no-show show as the entries did not start to tumble through my door until a couple of weeks before the event.

There were some major past-competitors absent, they were elsewhere that weekend, that gave others a chance to win a prize. Owing to a mixed bag of weather this year the fruit and vegetable classes had less to display. The cakes containing a vegetable showed that there is more variation than carrot or courgette cakes.



Some of the artwork was amazing, there is a lot of talent in Oakley. The Brownies, Rainbows and Beavers produced many entries, thank you to their leaders for encouraging them.

Whilst a few people who normally enter were absent there were some new competitors willing to display their talents.



The prize winners were:

Flowers : Yvonne Keyte
Preserves : Yvonne Keyte
Baking : Barbara Kenney
Art : David Exon
Photography : David Exon



Overall best in show
Yvonne Keyte,
a well-deserved winner.

Monies from the entry fees, raffle, teas and sale of produce was £460,

this goes towards the upkeep of our much-used village hall.



If you have any suggestions about the show, it will be on September 13th next year, please let me know.

Kiri, who keeps the show's Facebook page up to date, cannot do it next year as she has a grand event happening soon after the show and wedding fever will be taking over! If you can help to keep our Facebook page going, to do what is necessary, we would be very grateful as we members of the committee are not very computer savvy, please let me know.

Thank you to the raffle ticket sellers, the Village Hall committee for providing the tea and cakes and other people who helped on the day.

Jean Weston

AMIGO

The new session of Amigo activities began on the 24th September with an exciting and closely fought skittles match at the Bedford Arms, Soul-drop. The winner was Jan Follett. Congratulations to Jan.

Although few in numbers, those who came to a Poetry evening at Oakley Methodist Church on the 22nd October had a very enjoyable evening reading their own poems and from anthologies.

The activity for the 26th November is a Ukulele evening with Alan Goodger. This promises to be a lively evening and a report will appear in the March issue of the Parish Newsletter.

Tuesday 17th December - Carol singing and hand bell ringing has been arranged at the Bedford Arms, Oakley beginning at 7.30 p.m.



Tuesday 25th January - A film evening at Oakley Methodist Church beginning at 7.30 p.m. when the film **"Fishermens' Friends"** will be shown.

Tuesday 25th February - A light hearted **Quiz** hosted by Sue Brecknock to be held at Oakley Methodist Church beginning at 7.30 p.m.

Tuesday 24th March - My approach to Natural History Photography. An evening with Alan Goodger at Oakley Methodist Church from 7.30p.m.

Tuesday 28th April - A presentation by Sue Keen from the Sue Ryder Homes entitled **"Vintage Wedding Dresses and Christening Gowns"** beginning at 7.30 p.m.

Tuesday 26th May - You are welcome to attend **a garden party** at Pat Olney's house 33 Station Road, Oakley from 7.00 p.m. Drinks and light refreshments will be available

Thursday 25th June - Another opportunity to visit a part of **London** with our excellent guide, Charlie de Wet. See below for proposed itinerary

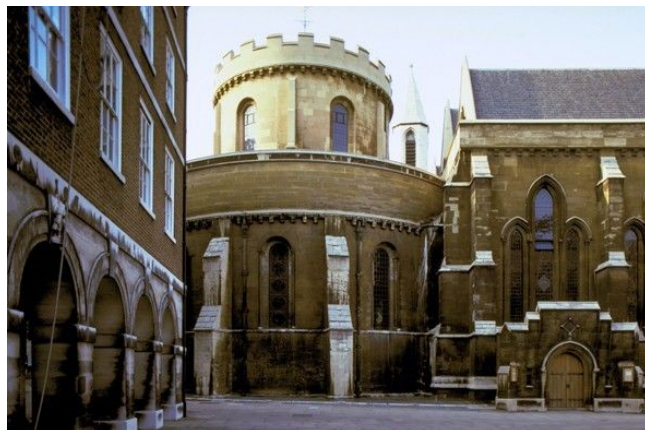
Tuesday 28th July - An **evening ramble** led by John Dixon. Details to follow.

Proposed itinerary for London Coach trip - Thursday 25th June 2020. This is a preliminary note and I will provide further details of the total cost shortly. Please make a note in your diary.

Leaving Oakley Village Hall at 8.00 a.m. and arriving hopefully at the café in the crypt of St. Martins in the Field between 10.00 and 10.15 a.m. where we will be met by our Guide Charlie de Wet. I am planning for a party of 30 people.

After a cup of tea or coffee, the cost to be confirmed, and the use of the facilities, we will walk down to the Embankment which will take about 10 minutes. Charlie will then take us on a Guided Walk led east passing the site of the huge mansions of Arundel and Durham, the Palace of the Savoy, Somerset House, Strand Lane Roman Bath, Waterloo Bridge and HMS Wellington. On

the way we will hear about characters including Joseph Bazalgette, the Duke of Buckingham, Samuel Pepys, Robert Adam, Sir Arthur Sullivan, Michael Faraday, and Isambard Kingdom Brunel.



We intend to reach Temple Church by noon where we will have the opportunity to marvel at the stone effigies of knights who reside there. Probably the most famous figure depicted is that of William Marshal, who was described as the "best knight that ever lived". The cost of the visit is £5.00 a head (£3.00 concessions) and I will arrange for the cost to be included within the overall cost of the trip.

I am proposing that we have lunch at the Punch Tavern in Fleet Street, and further details will be provided shortly.

After lunch, the group will walk to Dr. Johnson's house at 17 Gough Square, which is just off Fleet Street. I have arranged for the group to be at Dr. Johnson's house, say, by 2.30 p.m. or at the latest by 2.45 p.m. The cost per person is £7.00 reduced to £3.50 upon production of a current National Trust membership card. I will arrange for a guide to take us round. The cost of the guide is £25.00 for the whole group. The total cost of the visit to Dr. Johnson's house will be included within the cost of the trip.

After the visit to Dr. Johnson's house which will last for about an hour, I am proposing that we walk a few yards to The Old Cheshire Cheese, a historic tavern frequented by Dr. Johnson for a cup of tea or coffee and light refreshments before we walk up Fleet Street to the Church of St. Clements Dane in the Strand where we can board the coach home. I am proposing that we leave London at about 4.30 p.m.

P.S. I have now heard from St. Martins in the Fields who have confirmed that they can accommodate us. They have responded as follows:

We open at 10.00 a.m. and should have plenty of space to seat your group in the Crypt. Tea and coffee ranges from £2.15 (filter coffee or English breakfast tea) to £2.80 for more specialized hot drinks.
John Dixon

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October 15th 2019 Christina Rossetti & her Artists <i>Dr. Susan Owens</i>	February 18th 2020 The Art of Seduction <i>Lynne Gibson</i>
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Oakley Pre-school News



The best term of the year to work with young children is well underway and the children are looking forward to all the Christmas festivities within the village. We have been busy decorating the pre-school and making our wreath for the Christmas tree lighting ceremony. We will celebrate with a party for all the children and a visit from Father Christmas.

This year we will again be working with Merri Christmas Trees in Oakley. Any customer purchasing a tree can nominate Oakley Pre-school as their chosen charity and we will receive £5 towards pre-school funds. Please do remember to buy local and help us too!

Our Halloween Trail was popular again and raised £127. Thank you very much to Oakley Post Office for selling the trail sheets over October half term and to 'O' for Coffee for giving out the prizes.

Santander's Milton Keynes Head Office supported our fund raising efforts and held a Pool Competition for us at Herald Snooker Club in Bletchley. They raised around £1500 for us on the night, with final figures to be confirmed. Thank you to Josh Martiello and colleagues for supporting us. Thank you also to the local businesses who donated to our auction and raffle on the night. These included Hazel Kaye, Inked by Adua, Active Life Therapy, Forestry Fuels, Bedford Arms, Oakley Post Office, Bedford Swan Hotel, Planet Ice Milton Keynes and Center Parcs Woburn Forest and to Parents and staff who donated prizes too.

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: 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



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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Registered Charity No: 1060283



NEWSLETTER November 2019

Welcome to our latest Newsletter. If anyone has access to the internet please visit our website, www.oakleyrural.org.uk The site is 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 with a place where they can make friends in a warm and comfortable atmosphere. A range of activities including crafts, entertainment, quizzes and good old conversation are at the heart of our day.

We serve freshly prepared home cooked lunches together with tea, coffee and toast at the start of the day with beverages throughout. The Centre is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. For details of costs and advice please contact Lynne on 01234 824935 or 07733 227374. **Enquiries welcome from Bedford and surrounding villages in North Bedfordshire.**

ACTIVITIES

Clients have had plenty to keep them busy over the last quarter. They have made Tiffin



Bars, Rocky Road and Halloween cakes with scary fingers made from marzipan. We have also made carnations from tissue paper, decorated gift bags, designed fridge magnets from wooden slices and made bird feeders.

Added to this we take part in various word games, quizzes, colouring, crosswords, Triominos and Dominoes. Volunteer Ann also takes a chair based exercise class every Wednesday morning. Pictures of these activities can be found in the news section on our website or on our Facebook page.

ENTERTAINMENT

Steve Orton, pictured left entertained us in October singing some popular tunes from the 50's through to the 70's. Everyone really enjoyed the afternoon and he even had some of our ladies dancing!

Kempston Hammer Choir also visited us, singing tunes from the past. They are also due again by the end of November and we are always grateful for their support.

Thanks also to Sharnbrook Singing for Pleasure who will also be attending in November to sing for our clients.

OTHER NEWS

Our bring and buy sale which we held in October raised £191.00. The monies raised will go towards Christmas festivities. Many thanks to all who donated and purchased items. The children from Oakley Primary Academy brought in some very welcome Harvest Festival gifts and entertained us with some of their songs. We look forward to them visiting again a little nearer Christmas. Many thanks to Village Agents who also attended the centre giving advice on access to services and support where needed.

CHRISTMAS CLOSING DATES

The last day centre will be open before Christmas will be Thursday 19th of December and will re-open on Tuesday the 7th of January.

David Swallow





Some of us may not like the dark evenings, but for Oakley Scout Group it means night hikes and bonfires!

On the 6th November, the Group held a family campfire evening at Leslie Sell Activity Centre in Bromham. A candlelit path led the way to a roaring bonfire. We had a great turnout, and everyone enjoyed campfire songs and toasting marshmallows. We hope this will become an annual event for the Group.



Dragons Explorers hiked 3 miles from Oakley Scout Hut to the chip shop in Great Denham, while the Cubs enjoyed a very muddy moonlit hike from Twinwoods to Clapham chip shop – there seems to be a theme here!



Meanwhile, the Scouts have been having a go at air rifle shooting, again at Leslie Sell Activity Centre, under the watchful eye of qualified instructors.

Beavers have been having 'Bring a friend' evenings so their friends can see what a fun time Beavers have and can join if they want to.

What's coming up at Oakley Scout Group?

As an end of term Christmas treat, the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts are going tobogganing at the Milton Keynes Snozone – an event which has been subsidised by the Group. Dragons Explorers are looking forward at their annual Christmas meal at The Bedford Golf Club.

We are planning our annual quiz night, which will take place at the Scout Hut on the 1st February 2020 (date to be confirmed). It's an evening of food and fun, and tickets will be on sale in January.



A bingo night is also on the agenda for April/May 2020. More on that to come.

How to get involved?

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

Beavers (for 6 to 8-year olds) runs on Wednesdays 18:15-19:30 (contact Sarah Davey, on 07935 796620); **Cubs** (for 8 to 10.5-year olds) runs on Thursdays 18:30-20:00 (contact Chris on 07805 175521); **Scouts** (for 10.5 to 14-year olds) runs on Tuesdays 19:00-21:00 (contact Brian on 07746 294138 or Karen on 07918 181815); **Explorers** (for 14 to 18-year olds) runs on Wednesdays 19:45-21:30 (contact Michelle on 07760 315417).

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



Your Bell Tower Needs You!

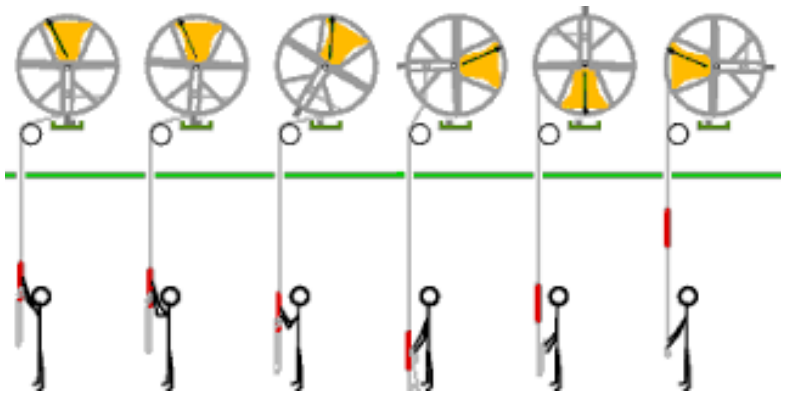


You may have heard the sound of church bells ringing out across Oakley on a Friday evening (practise night) or a Sunday morning. St Mary's Church has a ring of six bells ranging from the small treble bell, which weighs 205kg, to the large tenor bell, weighing in at 509kg. The oldest bell in the tower dates from 1711. What is now the treble bell was installed in 1978.

Oakley Band of Bell Ringers are a very friendly group, who are a mix of ages and abilities. We practise on a Friday evening and ring before the Sunday services at St Mary's, special services, and for weddings and funerals as required.

Recently our band has become depleted as some members have left to go to university or moved away from Oakley. We could really do with some more members and would welcome both experienced ringers and beginners. Perhaps you learnt to ring in the past and would like to take hold of a bell rope once again! Perhaps you've listened to the bells and thought you'd like to have a go!

If you are interested in finding out more about bell ringing at St Mary's please contact our Tower Captain, Bill Sellars, on 07980 745292 / the-sellars@btinternet.com to find out when the next practise night is taking place. We look forward to teaching you the ropes!



Brownies

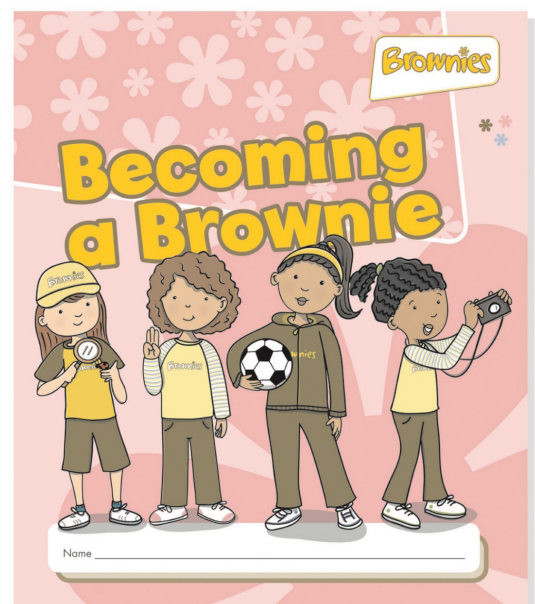
OAKLEY

It has been an eventful term for the Brownies. In September we welcomed seven new starters to the group, who have all settled in very well and are enjoying our weekly meetings. We have been working towards our 'Feel Good' badge, which so far has included fun games with balloons and making superhero tool belts! Other activities have included making our own 'mocktails' and a relaxing yoga session from experi-

enced yoga teacher, Vicky Young.

In November a number of Brownies attended the remembrance service at the Methodist Church, followed by a march to the war memorial. The girls showed a great deal of maturity and respect for the occasion and did themselves and the leaders proud.

Last, but certainly not least, we have some news regarding the Brownies meeting place. We have been meeting at Lin-croft for many years but unfortunately, due to a significant increase in hire costs, we are unable to continue to hire the hall. Luckily, Oakley Scout Group have agreed to hire out the Scout hut to Brownies on Friday evenings which means that we are able to keep the unit running in the village. We would like to say a huge thank you to all the trustees of the group, who have proved that community spirit is alive and well in Oakley! We look forward to moving to our new venue on the 29th November.





Our Resident Artist is Retiring: Terry Youngman

When I took on the role of Volunteer Editor, I discovered we also had a Volunteer Artist in Residence – Terry Youngman - who for the last 10 years has been providing the Newsletter with an artist's impression of scenes from the village. I always looked forward to dropping by ahead of the next publication for our editorial meetings to discuss with Terry what options he had to grace the front page. Unfortunately, Terry's health has failed to such an extent that he can no longer put pen to paper and so this will be the last time the Newsletter will bear his artwork. At our final editorial meeting I suggested that we celebrate his involvement with the newsletter with another chapter from the "Locals with Interesting Lives".

Terry was a "war baby" – one of eight children, seven of whom are still alive, born in Costessey, Norfolk. He enjoyed sport at School, playing football for the Costessey Bush Rangers and the great outdoors with Scouts but found he was very comfortable expressing his love for nature through art. Terry has a picture on display that he painted at nine years old and remembers fondly his School Art Teacher, Mrs Brett, who was key in pushing him towards Art as a Career. She encouraged him to complete a Mural on the School wall although as he had time off other lessons to complete it, I am not sure how much encouragement was needed! Mrs Brett also took him out on trips through the Norfolk Broads to widen his horizons. After School Terry studied at the Norwich School of Art and post college worked for Gamers Cider Company in Wymondham, Norfolk, before finding a job at Bedford Town Hall in the Reprographics Department. He stayed in digs with a lovely couple in Ampthill Road. Unbeknown to Terry his future also awaited him in the Town Hall, for tucked away in the Register of Electors Office was Anne, his future wife.

Terry and Anne moved to Oakley in 1970 with a bit of trepidation as it was a new estate but found themselves surrounded by other young couples starting families. Terry was soon involved in helping to start the Oakley Rangers football team, starting a fishing club and helping to expand the Oakley Colts Cricket team. Terry played cricket for Sharnbrook and Oakley over the years and his affinity for playing on grass also led him to Bowling at Bedford Park where he represented the Town Hall.

After a few years at the Town Hall Terry moved on to the W H Allens and he was soon asked to take charge of the Printing Department. Terry remembers Allens fondly as a friendly place to work where the owners always came and wished you a happy birthday. Allens at that time was a family firm and the family members soon got to know Terry was the person to go to for personal art tasks (no home computers and printers in those days).

Terry worked at Allens for twenty-five years until the company was sold. He was then made redundant but that gave him the opportunity to buy the Allens printing equipment and set up a new family firm TAY Printing (Terry & Anne Youngman!) in Rushden and further employ his talent for



creative design. At the busiest times all the family got involved with even Nanny and the boys collating large printing jobs that required urgent delivery.

Terry reflects that whilst TAY Printing made a living it was never a fortune. Work often ran into the early hours of the morning and over weekends and meant never taking time off even when ill. Allens, under their new ownership, found they still had the need for printing supplies. They offered Terry premises next to the Bedford Works gate house and from there he continued TAY Printing. Anne moved into the office above to work for the Institution of Diesel & Gas Turbine Engineers, recently relocated there. Now they had a wider client base which helped cash flow as a lot of them were local family businesses who knew you needed to be paid on time. I remember at one of our early editorial meetings Terry referring to the tribulations of self-employment! But the advent of personal computers and printers meant the demand for the stock in trade - headed letters etc. - started to disappear.

So after eleven years Terry returned to a full-time position with the Reprographics department at the Town Hall where he received a permanent wage, he could take time off for holidays and if he was sick did not feel the need to drag himself into work. Terry was also relieved that he no longer needed to go to clients' premises to collect the funds due to him. Terry thoroughly enjoyed his time at the Town Hall and made many friends. Which was clearly reflected when he received over 100 cards when he eventually retired from the Town Hall.

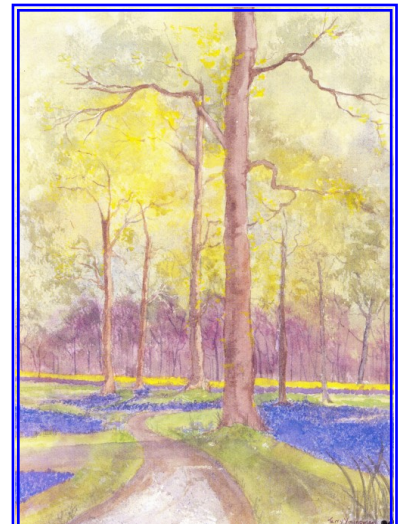
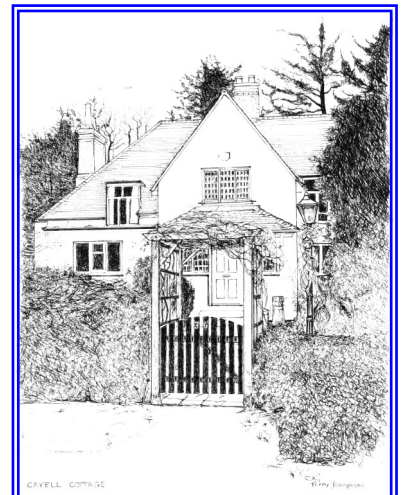
Whilst Terry's occupation satisfied part of the need to express his gift, drawing and painting remained his greatest pleasure, especially when he could draw whilst sitting by the river enjoying the beauty of the trees and the water around him. He has also used this gift to help others providing pictures for raffles for charities including the Primrose Appeal and Adenbrookes Hospital.

Thus, another era closes, and we say thank you for his ten years' volunteering on the Newsletter and for the kind donation of his skill and his artistry. Terry reflects that he has had a wonderful journey through life and has gained loads of friends and watched his family grow and blossom. But he clearly articulates his exasperation that he has been robbed of the ability to continue to express himself artistically. An inner fire still burns and his passion for art comes across so clearly when you sit and talk with this lovely man. Thank you, Terry, from those of us with your pictures on our walls and those who have enjoyed your newsletter covers. We also wish the mouse a happy retirement from hiding on the front pages.



Bill Chalker,

Editor



College Farm

Our apologies for missing the deadline for the last Oakley newsletter, summer is a very busy season for us, and the days and weeks just fly by.

As farmers we cannot help but talk about the weather, but what an extraordinary year it has been. Coming out of winter the soil was exceptionally dry for the time of year, this allowed us to drill our spring crops into great seedbeds in good time. However, the dry weather continued through April and into May. This was getting concerning as crops were suffering from the lack of moisture and the grass had not grown much so early cuts of hay and silage were low yielding.

It did have its upsides however, getting the work done was relatively easy, as for once the weather was with us, not against us and we had a glorious Easter weekend for a tractor run around the Ouse Valley villages in memory of a relative.

June came and still very little rain, crops were days away from shrivelling up when the heavens opened for 10 days. The rain was soaked up by the grass and the crops, they bulked up in front of your eyes. This meant the silage and hay crops made in July were plentiful, so the cows have plenty to eat over winter.

Then harvest duly followed starting on 12th July, from this day on it was a stop/start affair due to showery rain, ironically we even got rained off on the hottest day of the year when the combine was telling me the temperature outside had

reached 42°C!

The last week of August was hot and dry, this allowed us to get the harvest completed, in ideal conditions and after a trying few weeks it was great to be combining in the sun with dust flying listening to the England Cricket Team (Ben Stokes) beat Australia!

The dry fine weather continued through September, this allowed us to complete all the cultivations and muckspreading, towards the end of the month it was getting dry again, we needed rain and it did!

To date I do not think in the last 7 weeks we have managed 4 dry days in a row. This has made drilling autumn cereals very difficult and to date we have only managed to sow half of our planned area. We should be grateful though as we have fared considerably better than other farmers in the country whose farms and un-harvested crops are under flood water.

We are now hoping for a dry crisp December so we can get back on the land and get the drilling completed before Christmas.

The cattle are all now back inside for winter and have begun calving, nothing gives you a bigger boost on a dull November morning than finding a healthy new-born calf suckling its mum.

With this being the last article ahead of Christmas we wish you all a very Merry Christmas, Enjoy!

From all at College Farm





Nearly Christmas for us at Oakley Youth Club and we have had a great term since the sunny days have left us. There is a healthy number of members and we really have a great bunch of young people. Over the summer we updated some equipment and added some new items. I love the sessions when every member is doing something or chatting to friends and listening to music, considering we have school years 7, 8, 9 and 10 it is great to see them all mingling and having fun.

This term we have enjoyed making pizza's and cookies, decorating biscuits and the table (DOH), playing games, competing in a group quiz and playing on the new Ice Hockey Table. Our members also enjoyed our Halloween party and are looking forward to the Christmas party on the last day of term.

Since September we are lucky to have the extra help with our Duke of Edinburgh volunteers, this means I have time to chat to our members instead of running around like a loon. Oakley Youth Club also said goodbye to our Rachel who has gone off to University and we welcome Naomi. I love that we can offer young people the opportunity to work and help them on their way with their working life. Rachel has gone on to become Student Ambassador at the University she attend's and we couldn't be prouder of her. If your child is thinking about doing their DOFE next year and need some voluntary work feel free to get in touch.



We are still thinking about having another session for young people aged 14 – 16, this will be on a Saturday twice a month in the afternoon. If your child is interested, please email me at info@oakleyyouthclub.co.uk.

In the new year we hope to hold a family quiz night to raise money for our little club so we can update and add equipment ready for the summer. If you would like to support the youth club then we do have a collection pot at the post office you know if you have any loose change. We do love those loose coins and you will be supporting our club for the young people of Oakley.

Finally, I just wanted to send out a massive thank you to our volunteers and parents for your continued support and to wish you all a very Merry Christmas.

Dawn Pither

Messy Church entry for Scarecrow trail this year.

Special mention was made of the Scarecrow from Messy Church which was a runner up as it was a difficult decision to choose between the teams. Thought we ought to have a picture in the Newsletter to celebrate their contribution and hard work.

Jenny Sudworth



Granny Purl

MERRY
CHRISTMAS



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Oakley Allotments



As another year draws to a close it is a quiet time at the allotments – the sometimes excessive warmth of the summer is a distant memory and the frequent trips to water and much successful harvesting are now replaced by a vista of damp, cold and bare ground. The remains of beans, peas, and other spent plants need to be tidied and composted or consigned to the green bin.

It is not entirely doom and gloom: late vegetables and over-wintering plants are showing promise, but I won't be enjoying any chard until the new season next year as this year's crop has been decimated by voles.

At first, I thought the culprit must be a rat as the stems of the plants had been gnawed through by something that appeared to have quite a large bite. I attempted to save the surviving plants by putting bricks and substantial wire-mesh collars around them, but they were attacked by some burrowing creature,



Whilst surveying the premature end of my beloved chard a vole came out of its burrow to greet me, so the mystery was solved. Further action must be taken, and research carried out to determine the best way of deterring the creatures – I never mind sharing a crop but this destruction is not acceptable.



Fortunately, the little blighter(s) spared a lot of our earlier efforts and we have quite a stock of butternut squash and courgettes (still), plus many jars of jam. Potatoes were quite successful but have now been used as we never sow many. Runner beans had been late this year and not as prolific as we like. Fennel was disappointing and never formed bulbs. Carrots were not successful...again, so next year I will try growing them in containers.

Garlic is sprouting - the vole is living next to it and doesn't seem to like it, fortunately. Elsewhere I have a brassica cage full of kale and sprouting broccoli – we grew marigolds close-by these plants this year and whitefly damage has been reduced. Parsnip tops were still green but we have had the first frost so the parsnips can now be investigated before the vole finds them.

On other matters, both of the foot-access gates have been a problem this year: the posts have rotted causing the gates to become very unstable. The Pavenham Road gate has now been removed and we await the installation of new posts. The water has been turned off and some of the taps will have to be renewed before it is turned on again next year.

If you enjoy close encounters with wildlife and think you might enjoy growing vegetables for voles and other visitors to feast on, then please get in touch – we have a short waiting-list at the moment.
Steve Nicholas

Snippet No.41

I have just returned from a trip to New Zealand and Australia and experienced changes in technology that made the trip quite different to the one I made 6 years ago.

Most notable is that it is possible to completely avoid having to carry cash: some establishments don't actually accept cash, although they were not yet as common as I'm sure they soon will be. Everyone presented us with the ubiquitous EFT-POS card machine and the transaction was (usually) completed effortlessly. I was carrying a new (to me at least) type of debit card, which enabled me to exchange different currencies at the best available rates using an app on my phone. The same app gave me considerable control of the card by enabling me to switch certain features on and off, including the ability to make contactless payments, and to set a limit for them.

One cafe had a small machine that enabled the willing to make a contactless donation of \$3 to a named charity. In other places more traditional means of extracting charitable donations were in evidence...

Oakley Speed Watch

Oakley Speed Watch has been operating for a while now and when we started we had 10 members and in that time we have lost two members, but gained another two. I think it is fair to say that during the time we have been operating, together with the average speed cameras, we have made an impact on driver behaviour in the village. When we set up initially our aim was not necessarily to catch people, but to educate all road users and in doing so make the roads in Oakley safer.

Speed Watch needs a minimum of three people to operate and we try to operate twice a month with each session lasting no more than 1 hour. From that you will gather that each member, in theory, need only commit 1 hour per month to Speed Watch and the safety of the good people of Oakley. Unfortunately in practice it doesn't work like that and of late we have found that most operations are being undertaken by the willing few! The hard core will say that it is not a chore; it is enjoyable; it is social; we get to meet other people and have a good chinwag.

All volunteers have to be checked by the Police and are required to attend a training session at Bedfordshire Police Headquarters lasting a couple of hours or so.

We really could do with say another 6 volunteers minimum, male or female, 18 years and above, who can commit to at least one session of an hour per month. Operations take place during the daylight hours, so that is when availability is paramount and as far as possible we don't get the equipment wet and we prefer not to get wet ourselves as well!

What Speed Watch also enables us to do is, in the cold light of day, observe other peoples behaviour and believe me we see the extremes from excellent driving to hideous, arrogant and reckless. Life today is hectic and none of us have a minute to live so to speak. We all have many things on our minds, but ideally when we are behind the wheel of the car we SHOULD be thinking of driving and driving alone, always looking ahead and anticipating likely dangers. I can hear some of you saying, "Where is he coming from?" "He must be in cloud cuckoo land!" I accept and understand such feelings, but cars and cars at speed are lethal weapons and when the unspeakable may happen, sadly it is too late.

Please put yourself forward to join and support us and if you are not able to do that, then please support the spirit of what we are trying to do and make sure you observe the laws of the road whilst in Oakley and indeed everywhere else.

I would like to think some volunteers will be forthcoming please and if you are interested please call me on 07968122301 or email paulphillips65@gmail.com or call Neil Walker on 07889081534 or email walnel@yahoo.com

Your village needs you! We look forward to working with you soon.

Kind regards Paul Phillips.

Snippet No.41 Continued :-

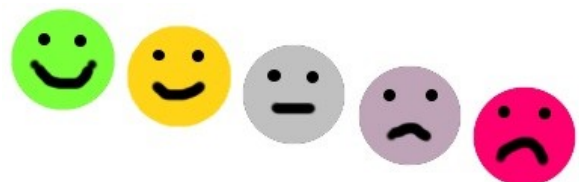
There were more street beggars: they didn't yet have their own card machines so we were unable to make any donations, had we even wanted to, just telling them that we did not carry cash. I imagine that they were not doing well with this new type of cashless tourist and may have welcomed a means of registering disapproval, such as the fairly commonly-encountered feedback terminal.

I have yet to see (or notice) a feedback terminal back here but noticed quite a few on my travels. From car-hire offices to public conveniences, you would notice, on leaving, that there would be a small device inviting you to rate the experience. Presented with a row of 5 buttons to press from a broad smile, through indifference to sheer horror, one was able to express joy or anger without immediately confronting anyone.

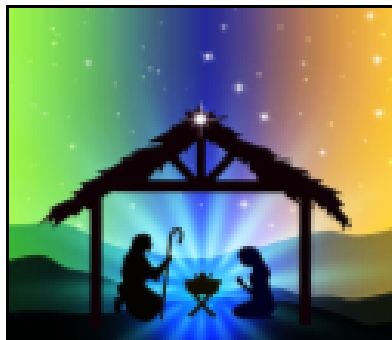
Generally, I have found that praise or criticism are good to give with a more direct approach – I am not shy when it comes to either as problems can be remedied when people are aware of them and good service can be shown to be appreciated.

Eventually we will all accept contactless payments by just allowing someone to wave a piece of plastic towards us and then rate the experience using the 5 buttons attached to our collars.

How are we doing so far...



Steve Nicholas



CHRISTMAS SERVICES & EVENTS

Saturday 30th Nov	Christmas Tree Lighting- 5pm St Mary's with refreshments
Sunday 8th Dec	Churches Together Christingle Service- 10.30am Methodist Church
Tuesday 17th Dec	Messy Christmas for All- 3.30pm Methodist Church AMIGO Carol Singing- 8pm Bedford Arms
Sunday 22nd Dec	Carol Service- 10.30am Methodist Church refreshments Candlelit Carol Service- 6pm St Mary's with refreshments
Christmas Eve	Crib Service- 4pm St Mary's Midnight Communion- 11pm St Mary's
Christmas Day	Family Worship with Communion- 10.30am St Mary's Christmas Day Service- 10.30am Methodist Church

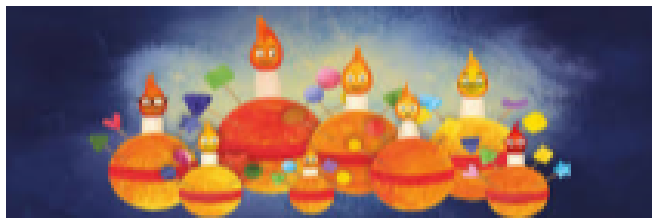
SUNDAY 8th DECEMBER

10:30am Methodist Church

Come and join us for our

Christingle Service

An enjoyable, memorable and child friendly way to begin your preparations for Christmas!



Richard, Bishop of Bedford is visiting St Mary's on Sunday 5th Jan to lead the 9.30am service and rededicate the newly refurbished organ.

Please do join us!

CONTACTS

St Mary's: Rev Catherine Wilson 01234 825665 vicar@bromhambenefice.org

Church Wardens: Hilarie Warley 262166 & Graham Palmer 07710 462535

Oakley Methodist Church: Rev Gill Badham 01234 930025 gill.badham@methodist.org.uk

Church Steward: Jeanette Letch 825204

Oakley Toddlers Group



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

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

Your first visit is free then only £1.50 for your first child and £1 for each child thereafter.

Children must be supervised at all times (we do not offer childcare)

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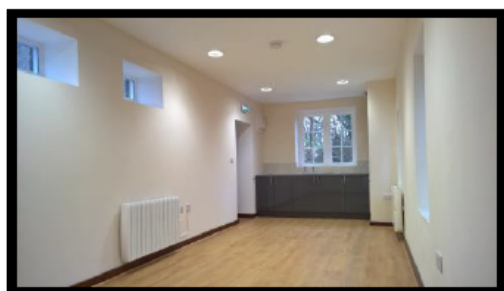
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On the 15th December we will be hosting a Santa's Grotto for members' children in the lead-up to Christmas. Check out our website (www.oakleyssc.com) and / or Facebook (facebook.com/oakley.ssc) for more information.

Following a successful summer that saw several village fun days and the Oakley Carnival, Oakley Sports & Social Club held its annual firework display on the 2nd November. The display was a great success despite the weather.

The firework display boasted fun fayre rides, stalls selling LED wands and candy floss (courtesy of Oakley's local bouncy castle company Sundorne Bouncy Castles), hot food served by our kitchen team and a guest appearance from Captain America raising money for our nominated charities too.

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.

Looking ahead, Oakley Sports & Social Club will be hosting Superbrands on the 1st December. They sell ex-airline designer aftershaves and perfumes at heavily discounted prices. Come down and get your Christmas presents sorted!

Our opening hours over the Christmas period are as follows:

Friday 20th Dec:	1pm – 11pm
Sat 21st Dec:	12pm – 11pm
Sun 22nd Dec:	12pm – 11pm
Mon 23rd Dec	1pm – 11pm
Xmas Eve:	12pm – 11pm
Xmas Day:	11:30am – 1:30pm
Boxing Day:	12pm – 11pm
Fri 27th Dec:	3pm – 11pm
Sat 28th Dec:	12pm – 11pm
Sun 29th Dec:	12pm – 11pm
Mon 30th Dec:	3pm – 11pm
New Year's Eve:	12pm – 9pm
New Year's Day:	1pm – 11pm

The Oakley Sports & Social Club wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!





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Saturday, 7th December from 6.45pm for 7.30pm

Now booking at Pick-a-Lily, Sharnbrook or from our website
In aid of our Cool-Down Appeal

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Join us for a joyous evening concert with the
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The fundraising events Ruby Reflections, Lunch with Christine Twell, An Evening of Clairvoyance, Nocturne, & 'Gilbert and Sullivan', are all in aid of Sharnbrook Mill Theatre Cool-Down Appeal



JOIN US ON STRIKE!

Show dates:
1st – 6th June 2020

Workshops:
5th & 12th December, 7.30pm
Auditions, all at The Mill
14th December from 12 pm
Rehearsals: Tues. & Thurs.

This musical is based on the 2010 film
Made in Dagenham, which in turn centred around
the true-life events of the
Ford sewing machinists' strike in 1968.
See our website for synopsis, cast & characters



Wednesday 12th February
12 for 12.30pm
2-COURSE LUNCH
AT THE MILL THEATRE
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Speaker: Christine Twell

Cheese-maker from Neneview Dairy
will delight us with stories of
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brianwoodrow38@gmail.com

Is there anybody there?



Saturday
18th January 7.30pm

AN EVENING OF CLAIRVOYANCE

with Wayne Marriott
from The Open Circle

Wayne, who was Francis Nurse in our
recent production of *The Crucible*, will
take us on an exciting adventure exploring
the world of the supernatural.

Tickets £15 are available now on-line
and from Pick-a-Lily, Florists, Sharnbrook



NOCTURNE at The Quarry Theatre, Bedford COMPOSER PORTRAIT OF FRÉDÉRIC CHOPIN SUNDAY 23RD FEBRUARY 2020 - BOOK NOW!

Champagne Reception 6.15; Performance 7.00pm

LUCY PARHAM,

World Renowned Pianist, with narrators
PATRICIA HODGE & ALEX JENNINGS
(subject to other engagements).

Programme of words and music scripted and adapted
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chronicle the romantic life of one of the greatest and
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with a special matinée performance on
Saturday, 7th March at 2.30pm

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28th March 2020 at 7.30pm
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Sir Arthur Sullivan.
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www.sharnbrookmilltheatre.co.uk



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theWI

OAKLEY WI

Meets at 7.30pm on the second Tuesday of the month at Oakley Village Hall.

14 January

David Kerr will give a talk on 'Dudley Romance'



11 February

Mel Rees will give an entertaining talk on 'Another thing I meant to say'

10 March

This is our Annual Meeting during which we entertain ourselves.

New members and visitors are most welcome at our meetings. To find out more call 822087 or 825688.



OAKLEY GARDENING CLUB

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

Meetings are held at Oakley Methodist Church on the third Monday of the month

New members and visitors are very welcome at our meetings.

For further information contact Denise Hookham on 01933 312119

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oakley Motorcycle club

As the weather turns wetter and colder and the nights draw in, most motorbikes and their riders go into hibernation until Spring. Although we are still getting the odd "hard core" member attending Thursday nights on 2 wheels but the majority attend in the warmth of the car.

Our two wheeled season ended with two main events of note, firstly the annual OMC Memorial Ride which commemorates those members who are no longer with us. This had been planned for Sunday 29th September but due to the heavy rain forecast, was brought forward to the Saturday. Despite the last minute change we still had 42 bikes with over 60 riders and pillion meeting at Oakley Club. Then taking a leisurely ride to The Tap and Kitchen in Oundle for tea and coffee before returning to Oakley Club for the complimentary sausage and chips lunch.

The second notable event was the PC Andrew HARPER Ride of Respect which was in tribute to the 28 year old recently married Police Officer who was killed after he was dragged along the road by a vehicle in Sulhamstead, Berkshire while he was investigating a burglary on 15th August 2019. PC HARPER was a keen motorcyclist. The ride took place on 28th October from RAF Benson to Abingdon Airfield. In total over 5,500 motorcyclists turned out from all over the Country which included a contingent of 22 bikes from OMC who met at Oakley Club on the morning and rode down to RAF Benson. It was also a tribute to the

thin blue line of emergency workers who put their lives on the line daily.

Thursday 5th December sees the ever popular OMC Xmas quiz night at Oakley Club. As this is a general knowledge quiz, all OSSC members are welcome to come along and participate. All funds raised on the evening go to the East Anglian Air Ambulance charity, which to date, OMC members have raised over £35,000 for.

It has been a record year for OMC as we continue to grow, with record numbers of bikes attending and more new sponsors coming on board. We now have a record annual membership which has for the last few years been in the four hundreds and is now standing at 507 paid up members for 2019. We all renew on 1st January, in line with OSSC membership, so let us see what 2020 brings!

The next notable event planned will be the AGM held at Oakley Club on 13th February 2020 which normally sees in excess of 100 members attend.

For further information on OMC go to www.oakleymc.net

Kind regards Baysie - Roger Bays - Chair OMC



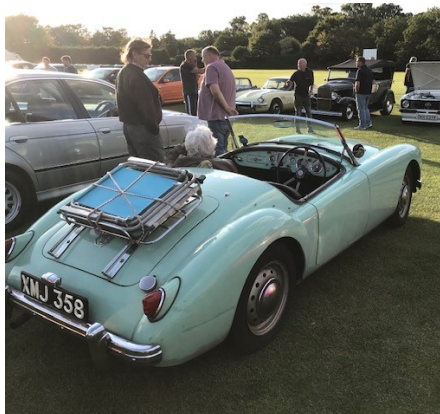
Classic Car Meet

The last of the Classic Car Meet nights took place on Tuesday 10th September with 126 show cars in attendance and again many new vehicles and owners attending for their first time.

The feedback for the first season of this meet has been very good with great attendances from classic car owners and the general public particularly Oakley villagers. Over the course of the six meets we had one rained off and the other five had between 70 and 126 show cars which we anticipate will only get bigger and better in 2020 as word spreads. The car owners love the place as OSSC has fantastic facilities for them and the kitchen is open with great food

We are planning for the same again next year. If you are a bit of a petrol head, love classic and custom cars, like cheap decent beer, quality food and ice cream, it is the 2nd Tuesday in the month starting in April 2020. Why not stick Coronation Street on record and bring the family. OSSC has a great modern kids play area and do not forget it is free entry as well

OSSC Committee



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Oakley Sports & Social Club
Family & Sports Bar



Opening Hours

Santas Grotto
15th December

Christmas Eve - 12pm - 11pm

Christmas - 11:30am - 1:30pm

Boxing Day - 12pm - 11pm

New Years Eve - 12pm - 9pm

New Years Day - 1pm - 11pm

