

# Village News

## LOWER SCHOOL LEAVERS' SERVICE

On Friday 20th July, Oakley Lower School had a year 4 leavers' service for the children who were leaving Oakley Lower and moving to middle school. They showed some of their talents, which included dancing, gymnastics, puppet shows, magic shows, football, piano, violin, euphonium and some other talents.

Towards the end, Mrs Wathen helped the children put together a drama production called Robbing Hood of Sherbet Forest. Then there were some presentations made for performing arts, sport, music, science, handwriting, neatness, endeavour, service to school and Anne Clarke essay. The children were also presented with a tie for their new middle school by Mrs Marshall, Chair of Governors.

To finish, all the year 4 children sang a song to the tune of Any Dream Will Do from the Joseph musical, saying goodbye to Oakley Lower School.

*Bethany Guerin*

## FOOTPRINTS

Footprints will be starting again on Tuesday 11th September, starting at the new time of 4.30 p.m. until 5.30 and will run each week during term time.

If you have not been before and are aged between 5 and 10 years old, you are more than welcome to come and join us at Footprints. We meet at the Methodist Church to explore together the Christian faith in a fun way through games, songs and storytelling.

For more information, please contact Brian Leeson on 305347 or Martin Hartley on 823130.

## REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

On Sunday 11th November 2007, the Churches Together in Oakley will be having the remembrance service at Lincroft Middle School. As you may be aware as part of that service, traditionally the names of local servicemen and women who died in either of the great world wars are read out.

The war to end all wars sadly didn't. As part of the remembrance service, we would also like to read out the names of servicemen and women who have died in subsequent wars.

It would be an honour to be able to pay this sort of tribute to any serviceman or woman who has died

in serving their country at war, but we need your help to do this. If you are aware of or knew any local servicemen or women who have died in service to their country would you please contact either the Rev Jacqueline Owen on 822143 or the Rev Di Harpham on 823222.

## PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP

It was with mixed feelings that the staff and committee said goodbye to the older children at their end-of-term concert. We are always sorry to see the children and their parents leaving the pre-school but the children all sang beautifully and the adults' tears were also of pride at how well the children have grown up during their time with us. Our links with Oakley Lower are very strong. The children have been to the school on several occasions and the Reception teachers and Head, Mrs Lovett, have visited the older children's sessions many times during the year so we're sure the transition will be very easy for them. The Staff and Committee would like to wish them all well at their new school.

We have a large number of new children starting in September and an even larger number after Christmas. If your child is due to start at Pre-school any time in the coming academic year, please contact Jane Walker as soon as possible as we are very close to capacity. Telephone 07910915534 or email [admin@oakleypreschool.org.uk](mailto:admin@oakleypreschool.org.uk). Children are eligible to start at pre-school the term after they are two and a half years old.

Important message for children born between 1st September 2003 and 31st August 2004

If your child was born between these two dates they will be due to start at the Lower School in September 2008. New admissions arrangements mean that you must apply centrally to the County Council for your child's school place. This new application must be at County Hall or Oakley Lower before September 28th, 2007. Those parents who have already filled in a form at Pre-school for admission to Oakley Lower will still need to fill in the new admissions form. These forms along with an information booklet are available from the school, Pre-school or online at [www.bedfordshire.gov.uk/onlineadmissions](http://www.bedfordshire.gov.uk/onlineadmissions).

## OAKLEY WI

Φ Our September meeting on Tuesday 11th will be a Games Evening, nothing too serious, just a bit of fun and an opportunity to have a chat.

Φ On Tuesday 9th October, Marie Carden will be talking about dogs for the disabled.

Φ On Tuesday 13th November, our speaker Mr Bone will talk about his experiences as a prison officer.

Φ In December we have a Christmas party with a festive meal and a return from the popular Billy Keys.

All the meetings begin at 7.30pm and are held at the Village Hall. New members and visitors are always welcome. For further information contact Margaret on 826424 or Anne on 823788.

#### OAKLEY DAY CENTRE

The day centre is beginning to enjoy some of the warmer summer weather and has taken our groups out on rewarding trips, our more mobile Tuesday clients had a enjoyable day out to Wicksteed Park, some said it brought back so many wonderful memories for them, a few had not visited for over 30 years, they also said it hadn't changed much! They were also treated to a picnic in the park afterwards.

Our youthful Thursday group enjoyed Tea and Tunes at Bedford Park where there were displays of belly dancing, tea dances and keep fit exercises, all generously provided by Bedford Borough Council.

We are hoping to continue the outings for the Wednesday group with a trip in August to Willen Lake at Milton Keynes, to have lunch by the lake and a slow wander to see some of the activities available on the lake in the school holidays.

We are at present offering our clients reflexology, which has been kindly offered by Mrs Woods who lives in the village, also we have been lucky enough to get two 1st year students from Bedford College to come in and perform hand and arm massages, and feet, neck and shoulder massages to our clients, who have thoroughly enjoyed this experience as it encourages one to one interaction.

We have recently been able to offer all clients a chiropodist, Roz Pruden, who visits once a month to care for their feet.

We are currently in need of enthusiastic, lively volunteers to spare a couple of hours a week to help with exercises and activities that are provided as part of the daily programme at the centre. If you are interested please telephone Lynn Defeo on 07733227374

#### SUMMER GARDEN PARTY

The Oakley Conservatives will be holding a late summer garden party at College Farm, Lovell Road on Saturday 15th September 2pm to 4.30pm. There will be a plant stall and tea and home-made cakes. Everyone is welcome to just drop in and hopefully enjoy a late summer afternoon in a beautiful garden. Non-members are welcome. Entrance is free.

#### OAKLEY CARNIVAL

As the newly selected Labour prospective Parliamentary candidate for the constituency, I attended the Oakley carnival on 14th July. The carnival was the first visit that I have made to the north of the constituency, after spending several weekends in Biggleswade and elsewhere. No doubt most readers of the Oakley Newsletter came along. Indeed, guessing the numbers watching the parade and at the carnival over the weekend, it seems that most of the two and half thousand residents of Oakley and a fair few visitors from elsewhere turned up too.

Helped by the fantastic sunshine and the fun atmosphere, I found the occasion thoroughly enjoyable. The marching band and parade proved a highlight. The verdict of other visitors from outside of the village, who I chatted to as the parade marched by, was in firm favour of such a colourful and traditional event. One family, new to the area, were already firm fans and commented on how welcoming it felt to be able to join in.

I was successful on the tombola (not too difficult as apparently every ticket was a winner, despite costing a mere 50 pence), but failed to guess which of the Carpet Bowls Club's bottles of wine remained corked. I imagine it wasn't too difficult finding willing participants to drink the necessary bottles in order to prepare for that game. I was similarly unlucky in my attempt to win a wheelbarrow full of assorted bottles, but did score two of my three penalties against a talented young goalkeeper.

Carnival visitors who were not sidetracked by the games were able to watch a series of events. Dance routines from younger Oakley residents provided the entertainment. Oakley toddlers had their faces painted and ran around on the lawns. Young and old took the opportunity to relax in the lovely atmosphere.

On my way out towards the end of the afternoon, I bumped into a Bedford Councillor who mentioned that he was expecting an official delegation to arrive any time soon. Whether they had come to stock up on supplies of spicy apple cake to take to the family in Rovigo is unclear. It would have been worth it if it had.

I look forward to returning in two years after the Bedford River Festival next year. The great success of the carnival is to the credit of the organisers and to the village. Long may it continue. *Ed Brown*  
M: 07830 352802  
Hello@edbrown4nebedslabour.co.uk

#### CALLING ALL MAD HATTERS

Have you recovered from the Carnival? (a distant memory?) Do you want to start again? Yees!

We start another 'party' on Thursdays commencing on 13th September at 4pm until 5.30. All Mad Hatters are welcome, and if you have made any new friends who would like to join us – just bring yourselves along to the Methodist Church Hall, when we look forward to hearing all your news of the summer holidays, and thinking about our next project. See you there!

Special note to mums and dads – thanks for your past support, and we hope you will continue to do the Mad Hatters' 'deposit and collection' run with the children. Bless you!

Wanted a keyboard wizard

We desperately need a patient pianist to help with the musical numbers for the Mad Hatters childrens' group. We meet at the Methodist Church Hall (see above). If you can help at all, please get in touch with Roberta Hatt on 825109.

#### CLAPHAM ALLOTMENTS

There are over 120 allotments in Clapham, and early autumn is an ideal time to select a plot. Then you can spend the winter digging and planning. A plot can be yours for £6.50 per year.

Plant onions and broad beans in the autumn for an early harvest in the spring 2008. Everybody is welcome. If you are interested, call Steve O'Driscall on 405029 or Louise Marshal on 217532.

#### JUDGES SPINNEY

Not a lot to report this time. The only work carried out has been more clearance of trees that have blocked the central pathways. One is now clear and the second will be cleared in the coming weeks.

Additional funding has now been received for the work in the spinney, a meeting is being arranged with the County Council staff to agree how this will be allocated.

#### GARDENING CLUB

The summer programme did not work out as planned, with one visit cancelled due to illness and the other due to the adverse weather. However, the visit to members' gardens was very successful at the earlier time.

Ever wondered what to do on a dull autumn / winter Monday evening, then why not come along to the Gardening Club? Not only will you meet new friends but as you can see from our programme there will be suggestions as to what you can do in your garden at this time. The meetings are held once a month at the Methodist Hall at 19.45 so put this in your diary.

The following winter programme has been agreed so far.

*Monday 24th September.* – Rob Lawrence giving ideas on 'Clearing up the garden for winter.'

*Monday 22nd October* -- AGM. The evening will also give opportunities to discuss your gardening problems with other members.

*Monday 19th November*-- Lamorna Thomas winter hanging baskets demonstration

The 2008 topics will be published in the next newsletter.

#### PRIMROSE FUNDRAISING

My 12 months has now come to an end and I am now absolutely amazed and delighted to have raised a total of £10,350.00!

On Friday 3rd August, together with a group of friends, I proudly handed over the cheque to Dr Bulusu and the nursing staff and was finally able to to say a big thank you for the wonderful care I had received.

I would like to take this opportunity to say an enormous thank you to everyone who helped make this possible, especially my husband and daughter who have always been so supportive, my very special group of friends who have helped at each and every event, all the many people who have donated so much, raffle prizes, items for jumble – car boot, time expertise and of course money – the list is endless. Lastly all the residents of Oakley who have bought tickets and generously supported each event, helping to make them such a success, and so much fun.

Thank you everyone!

*Sheila Phillips*

#### OVERHANGING TREES

The Parish Council has received several complaints regarding trees or bushes overhanging the footpaths. The village paths have been surveyed, and probably thanks to the very wet summer this year, it was found that there are many places where a footpath is impeded due to overgrown gardens.

Please will villagers check their gardens both front and rear where footpaths run alongside their property to see if remedial work is needed to overcome the problem of overhanging trees, shrubs, bushes or flowers growing out over the footpaths.

The Parish Council plans to make another survey in about a month's time. If any overhanging foliage presents a danger to the public the County Council can do the work and then charge the householder. However, it is hoped that this general appeal will resolve the problem.

#### OAKLEY CARNIVAL SERVICE

After it seemed weeks of rain and much crossing of fingers the morning of the Carnival Service dawned bright and sunny. I arrived at the Lovell

Homes where the service was to be held. Chairs were set out, microphone was ready and the sun was shining. The theme was the Tower of Babel, ably presented by Rachel Hartley and the Mad Hatters, showing us how according to the Bible so many languages came about and peoples scattered around the world. A story really showing what happens when people quarrel, but if we strive, not easy I know, to have good communication, tolerance and understanding then we can celebrate differences and we can make it easier for everyone to get along together.

We had some delightful singing and time for reflection before we enjoyed a tea or coffee,, a chat with everyone and time to go home before the skies darkened again.

The Carnival Committee wish to thank Angie and John for being able to hold the service at the Lovell Homes and for their help on the day, to the Churches Together, in particular Di Harpham and Martin and Rachel Hartley for leading the service, Mad Hatters and all the helpers for a thoughtful service in beautiful and peaceful surroundings.

*Pat Olney, Carnival Committee Member*

#### CALLING ALL SPORTS CLUBS

Do you need more players in your club? Do you need to keep up with the latest legislation and good practice?

The teamBeds&Luton can help you. They are a partnership formed by the local authorities with Sport England to enhance sporting opportunities in the whole of Bedfordshire and Luton.

They have set up an online countywide directory of sports clubs for people to view and postcode search for their nearest clubs and facilities. If you would like to become part of this database they need your club details and gain permission to publish these online. Please take two minutes to fill in the club details form on our website by following this link  
<http://www.teambedsandluton.co.uk>

September's courses are one-day workshops free of charge: *Managing and Developing your staff* Thurs 6th September at Bedford College 9.30 --4.30pm.

*Using Mentoring & Coaching* to help improve performance Mon 10th September Forest centre Marston Vale 9.30 -- 4.30.

*Managing Successful Projects* -- Thurs 27th September, again at the Forest Centre. Booking at [www.teambedsandluton.co.uk/training-courses/generic-courses](http://www.teambedsandluton.co.uk/training-courses/generic-courses). You can use this website to find other courses that could be useful to your club.

#### FRIENDS OF THE OLD SCHOOL

Oakley Charities own the building and land of the Old School Community Hall. The monies that the Oakley Charity gains from renting The hall out to

community groups is divided up, half to grants to young people for books and equipment to further their studies or needed as part of their work, and half to renovations to St. Mary's Church, Oakley.

The Friends are a charity and have been set up to manage the Old School Community Hall on behalf of the Oakley Charity. Their objectives are to raise money to renovate the building and manage the hall.

The Community Hall houses the part-time Doctor's Surgery, a room for the Oakley and Clapham Police Community Support Officers, the Oakley Day Centre, Dance School, Guides and is available for hire for parties and other functions.

If you would like to hire the hall please contact Bill Sellars on 823473 or email [sellarsfamily@btopenworld.com](mailto:sellarsfamily@btopenworld.com).

# *Borough Council*

## *News* By PAT OLNEY

#### SKIPS

They will be in the village the weekend of September the 8th and 9th at the usual places and times.

#### PLAY SCHEMES

The Borough Play Bus was in the village Monday and Tuesday afternoons during August. Many children enjoyed a variety of activities run by qualified staff. The activities included sport coaching, art and games. The play schemes run at a variety of venues throughout the Borough during the summer holidays.

#### CONCESSIONARY TRAVEL SCHEME

Travel permits are available for over 60s and people with disabilities. They are free, you can use them any time and they entitle you to travel on bus services that start or end in Bedfordshire or Luton except for 321 beyond Watford Town centre, 757 south of Luton, London Road and X5 west of the last fare stage in Bedford. So you can enjoy a visit to Northampton, Cambridge, Aylesbury, Stevenage, Hatfield among other towns or travel to Bedford for the markets, leisure facilities or enjoy a day by the river, visit the museum or parks, or visit Luton or Hitchin.

You can use your passes not only on Stagecoach but also on a variety of other buses. When you get your pass you will get a list of companies, or pick up a brochure at the Town Hall.

To obtain a permit an application form can be obtained from Bedford Town Hall main reception, from the website, or by post. Please contact Bedford Borough Council, Town Hall, St Paul's Square, Bedford MK40 1SJ, 01234. 227488 or [www.bedford.gov.uk](http://www.bedford.gov.uk)

So leave the car at home and let the bus take the strain. We have a very good service in Oakley, buses mostly every 20 minutes. Please check the timetables in the bus shelters or get all the timetables you need at the bus station.

#### CECIL HIGGINS ART GALLERY & MUSEUM

The Borough Council is undertaking a major refurbishment programme for this award-winning museum and art gallery. The Bedford Gallery is being refurbished and an off-site storage is being updated to modern specifications at the moment, funded by a government grant of £2.5 million. The Art Gallery is closed while these works are being undertaken as the artefacts and pictures are vulnerable to vibration and dust. However, the Museum is open and has a very exciting display 'Gold, Gods and Kings, The Saxons in Bedfordshire'. This display is in partnership with the British Museum. There is only one of seven gold coins. These are very rare and this one was found at Biggleswade and a unique gold and silver buckle from Kempston.

There is a full programme of activities during the autumn ranging from family days, children's activities and also adult lectures and have a go sessions. Look in the local press or pick up a brochure from the Tourist Information Centre or the Museum, [bmuseum@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:bmuseum@bedford.gov.uk)

#### UNITARY AUTHORITY

Unitary Status -- the ongoing saga.

As you have seen the government announced on the 25th July that the Borough's bid was successful. The Bedford Borough Council will administer all services at present delivered by the County Council in the Bedford Borough area, as well as those they presently deliver.

However the Borough's bid is dependent on:  
1 The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill completing its run through Parliament and coming on to the Statute Books in the autumn.

2. A final health check on the bid. The Borough will know the specific details by the time this article is printed, but the Borough is very confident that they can overcome this as the financial model has been verified by IPF

Ltd (the trading arm of CIPFA), the financial professional overseeing organisation for local authorities etc. Other bids are in the same situation e.g., Ipswich and Exeter.

3. The government has asked Mid Beds, South Beds District Councils and the County Council to make a Central Bedfordshire submission to the government by the end of September. Bedford Borough will be working with these authorities.

This mean all local services will be accountable to the people of Bedford Borough. The same will be true for Central Bedfordshire in their area.

All the districts and the County Council signed an agreement that although they could not fetter their Councils they would agree to the government's decision.

Subsequent to the above the County Council has said they will challenge the decision through the courts. This could take between 6 to 9 months. Other councillors have asked for this to be debated by all the County Council and a decision made by the Full Council whether to endorse this action.

In the meantime the Borough Council will continue to provide our services as promptly as we can and work with all our partners in the delivery of those services whatever the final decision on unitary status.

The Borough Council was very pleased to hear that we had gained an 'Excellent' grade for the delivery of our services and for our financial management.

I thank everyone who sent in the postcards supporting the Borough Council's bid for Unitary Status and who signed the petition in the Town Centre.