

# Oakington & Westwick Journal



January 2017





**Oakington and Westwick website and email list [www.oakingtonandwestwick-pc.org.uk](http://www.oakingtonandwestwick-pc.org.uk)**

## From the Parish Council

Firstly, I would like to wish a very happy and successful New Year to all readers of the Journal and their families.

### Northstowe

It is going to be an interesting year in a number of ways. We have Northstowe continuing to develop – the first inhabitants should be moving in around May, and work starts on the main Access Road across Longstanton Road just outside Oakington later in the year. We may late this year also see the outline plans for Phase 3, which comes down to the edge of Oakington village and which we hope provides an adequate green separation from us.

### A14

Work on the A14 upgrade will accelerate, and will impact initially on traffic on Dry Drayton Road in particular, as earthworks for the Bar Hill and Girton junction improvements are fed from gravel extraction pits to the south of Dry Drayton Road, and as the initial stages of the local road alongside the A14 get under way.

Neither of these developments should lead to construction traffic passing through the village – there are already signs in place on routes leading from the A14. Please report any transgressions to the contractors, contact details should be published shortly.

### Flooding

Work is also progressing on plans for attenuation ponds just off Dry Drayton Road, which should significantly reduce the risk of future flooding to the village from Oakington Brook.

### Community Plan

The villages' Community Plan activity groups have made significant progress in 2016 and this is expected to continue and grow in 2017. To highlight just one of the activities,



plans are being developed to refurbish the pond and do a proper job of repairing the pond railing to the previous standard. My thanks go to all those involved in all the activity groups.

### Vacancy

Finally, the Parish Council currently has a vacancy for a Councillor. If you would like to join us and help our work for the village please contact the Clerk to the Council, or myself, or see our website for details.

### Parish Council meetings in next months:

10 April      24 April (Annual Parish Meeting)

Each Agenda is published on the website and notice boards about a week before each meeting. We are always pleased to see residents at these meetings.

For any concerns about these or other local matters do please also feel free to contact the Parish Council.

*Mike Oakley, Chairman*

## Oakington & Westwick Village Day 2017



**Oakington & Westwick Village Day 2017** will be held on Saturday 1st July 2017, we are looking for new committee members to help organise and run this much loved event, please email Hanna Lumley on:

[Oakingtonvillageday@gmail.com](mailto:Oakingtonvillageday@gmail.com) to register your interest'  
*Hanna Lumley*

## Oakington & Westwick Journal

*Published on behalf of the Oakington & Westwick Community Association to inform residents of events, activities and issues in the parish.*

*Please send contributions for the next issue to:*  
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*Contributions are encouraged for photos from Oakington or Westwick for the front cover and activities for the next issue – please submit to the editor.*

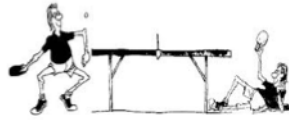
*Front page photograph in this issue by Hanna Lumley.*

*Editor:* Geoffrey Butlin [editor@oakington.org.uk](mailto:editor@oakington.org.uk)

## Oakington and Westwick Table Tennis Club

Come and join us in 2017! The club meets every Tuesday evening at 7.30 pm at the Oakington Sports Pavilion and would welcome new players. We have four tables and spare bats – all you need is a pair of trainers. Please note that an adult must accompany junior players. If you would like any further information, please contact Gillian L'Angellier on C 234758.

*Dawn Stokes*



## Brownies

### 1<sup>st</sup> Oakington Brownies

Is your daughter nearly 7 and interested in joining Brownies?

We meet Wednesday evenings and enjoy exciting activities, life skills, crafts, games, outings, cooking and adventurous days out, singing and unit holidays!

To register your daughter go to [www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk) and follow parents section.

*Elaine Bailey*



## CAMQUIT

Do you want to keep your new year's resolution in 2017?

You do? Then let CAMQUIT help you to quit smoking this January.

We are a county-wide service that offers FREE advice and support to help smokers in Cambridgeshire to quit. We can offer you one-to-one appointments with a trained stop smoking advisor local to your home or workplace. Stop smoking medications are available on prescription and our advisors are there to help you combat your cravings and offer advice on routine changes to help you stay quit in 2017 and beyond! You are four times more likely to succeed using a service than going it alone so what have you got to lose?

If you are thinking about quitting in January contact : CAMQUIT on 0800 018 4304 or visit [www.camquit.nhs.uk](http://www.camquit.nhs.uk) and start your journey to being Smokefree in 2017!

*Lorretta Mason Project Support Worker  
Camquit Stop Smoking Service Public Health  
Scott House SCO22013*

*5 George Street, Huntingdon PE29 3AD  
[lorretta.mason1@nhs.net](mailto:lorretta.mason1@nhs.net) 07836 263786*



## Oakington & Westwick Short Mat Bowls Club



spare sets of bowls for you to use – all you need is a pair of smooth-soled shoes. The afternoon session starts at 2.00 pm and the evening session at 7.30 pm. For further details please contact :

*Dawn Stokes C 236427*

Why not come and give short mat bowls a try in 2017? We play at the Oakington Sports Pavilion on a Thursday afternoon and evening.

We have



## Oakington Singers

We had a very busy end to 2016, with many highlights including our annual joint Christmas concert with the Oaktet to raise money for musical

activities at Oakington School, and carol singing in the Grand Arcade in support of Macmillan Cancer Support – these two events raised £800 between them, a fantastic result.

We have given one concert in early January – an evening of mixed emotions as it was our last ever concert for the **Mackenzie Society of Music and Drama**. After 86 years, the Society is winding down, after a final three concerts this month. Founded in 1931, Mackenzie was set up to give amateur musicians a public platform to perform. We have sung there every year since 2004.

We have one more engagement in January, our annual concert at Gretton Court in Girton; do join us there on **Tuesday 24 January** at 7.30 pm.

We perform a wide variety of sacred and popular music, taking part in a number of concerts and church services each year, and we're always looking out for new singers – particularly tenors & basses at the moment please! – so why not join us? We rehearse every Monday evening from 8.00-9.30 pm in St Andrew's church hall, Oakington. For further details please contact Paul Tann on 01223 235567

And for the diary: Oakington Singers, Concert at Gretton Court, Tuesday, 24 Jan, 19.30, Gretton Court Girton, small charge on door.

For further information please contact:

*Paul Tann C 235 567*

## Tuesday Talk and Tea

A new year - time to take stock of your life - make a commitment to join Tuesday Talk & Tea for company, tea & chat.

- Feb 14th with our speaker from The Norris Museum, St Ives we investigate shopping through the centuries.
- Mar 14th we dip into the archives of Addenbrooke's Hospital via Hilary Richie.

Both events at Oakington School Hall - 2.45 p.m.

*Joan Pettit (Chairperson)*







The new year sees all three Action Groups looking to progress the key issues identified in the village survey with more opportunities presenting themselves. There is a lot to be done and extra support is always welcome in any of the teams. If anything appeals to you in the individual reports below and you feel you would be able to give some time and effort to enhancing the village life, please either contact myself or the leaders of the groups.

*Jim Bryant Chair OWCP-SG*  
*jim.bryant42@btinternet.com or C 237 740*

## Transport Action Group

is looking to get heavily involved in plans to have additional cycle ways with funds available from Northstowe and other sources and to support, evaluate and make recommendations on proposal for a "hub" to be formed adjacent to the guided busway through the City Deal project. For further information:

*Jim Bryant Chair TAG*  
*jim.bryant42@btinternet.com or C 237 740*

## Oakington and Westwick Neighbours (OWN)



### Leaflet

You should have received a copy of the OWN leaflet through your door recently as it was delivered to every house in Oakington and Westwick. It explains what we do and how to get in touch. Since the leaflet went through letterboxes there have been more requests for help, and new volunteers. If you know someone who could benefit from our help, please get in touch via email or mobile (details below)

### Dementia Friends training

We had a really good, well-attended session for volunteers at St. Andrews Church Hall in November. Kirsty Stone led a thought-provoking session on making a dementia-friendly community. It was the first OWN event to feature on the newly launched Oaky Folks Facebook page and again attracted new people to get involved.

### Social event

We all need cheering up during the cold dark months after Christmas so, following the success of the Lakeside Tea and Jazz last September, we are planning a village social event for all ages on Saturday 25 February from 2 - 4pm – look out for publicity on Oaky Folks and around the village nearer the time. Transport will be available to anyone who needs it, and if you can offer a lift please let us know.



### Community Car Scheme

Several village residents now use Cottenham Care Cars to attend appointments, but more drivers for the scheme are needed. If you would like to help, please contact us (details below) and we will pass your name to the co-ordinator.

To contact us, send an email:

*neighbours@oakingtonandwestwick.com*  
*or leave a message on 07902 111 786*  
*someone will get back to you.*  
*Jo Bryant*

## Environment Action Group



### Area between Mead View and the village shop

You may have noticed that this area has been tamed and tidied. This is the result of excellent leadership by James Youd and a team of dedicated volunteers including Arthur Sillet, John Whittington, Stephanie Smith, John Terry, Paul Dover, Edgar Stearn, Mike Watson and Clifford from Arcadia Tree Surgeons. The work has involved a battle with prickly vegetation including brambles but also the thorny problem of insurance. Laura Lawrence, Clerk to the Parish Council, has helped greatly by paving the way to our use of the new County Council Community Volunteering Scheme which provides insurance cover. The plan is to encourage grass back to the area.



James welcomes help for other clearance projects.

Please contact him for more information: C 233 639 or *jamesyoud51@icloud.com*

### Village pond railings

Geoffrey Butlin is leading the EAG discussions with the Highways Department with plans to replace the current tubular steel railings which are damaged. The aim is to upgrade the design to something similar to the original Victorian metalwork but this will mean some extra cash. We have already had some public contributions. Please give if you are able. Geoffrey will be delighted to hear from you (C 234 383).

### Pond restoration

We have put this back to the coming autumn because we are fast running out of time to complete the task by the end of February. We do not want to do the work when wildlife, especially newts and birds, are active. Laura's research has helped us identify who owns the pond.

### Chairing the EAG

James Youd will chair our meetings from now but I will continue as joint Chairman, involved in other work.

### Dealing with Highways complaints

The EAG has organised a working party to deal with a variety of Highways vegetation issues that have been brought to the attention of EAG members.

But otherwise, the EAG encourages residents to report issues directly to Highways by either contacting the call centre on 0345 045 5212 or visiting their website at <http://www2.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/HighwaysReports/Highways/ReportProblem1.aspx> (shortened: <http://bit.ly/1xOomMO>)

For more information please contact:

*John Terry C 977 476 johnterry23@hotmail.co.uk or*  
*James Youd C 233 639 jamesyoud51@icloud.com*

*John Terry*

## District Councillors' Report

All district councils in Cambridgeshire, as well as the county council and Peterborough City Council, have signed up for the most generous **devolution** deal in the country. (In addition, in the Autumn Statement the Chancellor signalled a shift towards directing government spending where it is likely to generate the highest return, not least for the Exchequer.)

**Cambridgeshire and Peterborough** will set up a combined authority, reinforcing the close joint working established over the past decades, enabling the councils to work together ever more efficiently. The leaders of the councils and the Local Enterprise Partnership are meeting regularly so that they will be ready to work with their new chairman as soon as the mayor is elected, on the same day as the county council elections this May. The role has already attracted a lot of interest!

A new **£20m annual fund** over the next 30 years (£600m in total) will support economic growth, infrastructure and jobs. Road improvements will include things like dualling the A10. Rail investment will unblock Ely North Junction, provide new rolling stock, and strengthen the case for a new station at Addenbrooke's.

Cambridge City Council will get a specific **£70m** housing grant. Another **£100m** for "affordable housing", homes for rent and part-ownership provided by the council and housing associations, will be targeted in South Cambridgeshire. We think we can make close to 2,000 of these houses available over the coming five years. These are not extra houses to those in the Local Plan, but we will be bringing them forward earlier than otherwise and within reach of more people.

Local control of the **skills and apprenticeship budget** will offer opportunities for our young people. The next stages in the handover of powers from Whitehall to town hall will extend to community safety (including police and fire services) and integrating local health and social care.

**UK Power Networks** supplies electricity to London, the East and South East, and it's their job to make sure that the lights stay on. Since 2010 they have reduced the frequency of power cuts by 42%. However, when power cuts do occur they can be very worrying, especially for older people, people with chronic medical conditions and parents of very young children. That's why UKPN have set up a 'Priority Services Register' to identify people quickly and get them the help they need.

This winter they are keen to get more people registered. Do you or someone you know need extra (free) support during a power cut? You can find more details and register by visiting [www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/prioritysupport](http://www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/prioritysupport) or calling 0800 169 9970.

The **National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence** is reviewing the way it involves the public, especially those with knowledge and experience of particular conditions and services, in drawing up its guidelines and standards. They are holding a consultation, aimed especially towards *"people with a care or support need, condition or disability; family and friends who provide unpaid care; people who work for voluntary and community sector organisations; and people who have an advocacy role."*

I have to admit that "Arnstein's Ladder of Participation" was a new concept to me, even though he first published the notion in the Journal of the American Institute of Planners

in 1969. (That gives you a flavour of the document, but I think they mean well.) One revealing paragraph comes towards the end: "Evidence-based medicine relies on objective data, whereas involving lay people means using the subjective experiences of individual people. The tension between these two concepts creates complicated challenges for guidance developers, making it difficult to design processes that help lay people to get involved meaningfully and effectively." The closing date is 28 February 2017. <https://www.nice.org.uk/about/nice-communities/public-involvement/consultation>.



Never a day goes by without some attempt to prey on vulnerable people. **Online fraud** is perhaps receiving the most attention, but we are also at risk from telephone and postal scams.

**Lloyds customers** should be on the lookout for a new sophisticated fraud that involves fake bank letters, using a replica template with their logo, address and a signature.

**The letter asks recipients to call a number highlighted in bold to confirm whether some "unusual transactions" on their personal account are genuine. Callers hear an automated welcome message asking them to enter their card number, account number and sort code followed by their date of birth. Victims are then instructed to enter the first and last digit of their security number. Don't!**

If you are ever suspicious about correspondence from your bank you should call the customer service number on the back of their card. To report a fraud or cybercrime, call **0300 123 2040** or visit

[http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/report\\_fraud](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/report_fraud)

2016 saw several milestones passed at **Northstowe**: widening the B1050, excavating balancing ponds to reduce flood risk to Longstanton, opening the first primary school, constructing the first houses; and ending with completion of the legal agreement for phase 2. The first half of the town, 5,000 houses, will be accompanied by financial contributions more than £100m towards education and community facilities, as well as transport improvements including funding for more links in the Cambridgeshire cycleway network. Over 2,000 houses will be offered at prices and/or rents below market rates. The shared **waste service** means that bin lorries can take the shortest routes across both Cambridge city and South Cambridgeshire. Don't forget this means that collection days and times are likely to change from 27 February.



Tim Wotherspoon

District Councillors: **Lynda Harford**@2whit2whoo  
[cllr.harford@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.harford@scambs.gov.uk) 01954 251 775 07889 131 022

**Simon Edwards**@Cllr\_S\_Edwards  
[cllr.edwards@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.edwards@scambs.gov.uk) 07711 079 089

**Tim Wotherspoon**@TimTheMan1  
[cllr.wotherspoon@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.wotherspoon@scambs.gov.uk) 01954 252 108



## OAKINGTON GARDEN SOCIETY



Welcome to the 2017 calendar, we have many interesting talks ahead, our annual plant and produce sale in May, which has become a feature of the Oakington calendar and a visit to a Cambridge college later in July.

Membership has remained at £15.00 per annum, entitling you to a handsome 10% discount at Oakington Garden Centre.

PLEASE NOTE THIS DOES NOT INCLUDE THE OLIVE TREE CAFE.

We meet at 7.30 in St Andrews Church Hall on the last Wednesday of the month.

- **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January Andrew Riley:**  
**'Plants for Dry and Difficult Environments'**  
Andrew, who you may know from Oakington Garden Centre, will be here to offer advice on what to grow in dry conditions. Hopefully, this summer will be like 2016, the climate is changing, we need to re-think which species will thrive best for the future.
- **Wednesday 22nd February Peter Jackson**  
**'Perennials'**  
Peter, from Scotsdales, gave a very inspiring talk last year on container growing, he is back to advise on perennials this season.

*Julie Grove C 233 951*

## Oakington (at Histon) Country Dance Club

Jane and I look forward to seeing you at Histon Methodist Church Hall, High Street, Histon. CB24 9JD, on the following Friday evenings:

- 13<sup>th</sup> January
- 10<sup>th</sup> February
- 10<sup>th</sup> March

at 8.00 p.m. for fun evenings of country dancing. This is a highly recommended way of keeping fit without realising that you are doing any exercise!! We usually have music provided by Heather (violin), Mike (button accordion) and Alison (recorder) and a guest caller each month.

You do not require a partner as we all dance with each other. Recommended footwear is soft shoes or trainers.

See you there. Happy New Year !

*Kathryn Coles*



## Oakington & Westwick History Society

Welcome to our 2017 season of talks and visits. Nick has been working on the new website, which will launch very shortly. Until then we wait with anticipation.

- **Thursday January 19<sup>th</sup> Shane Guy:**  
**55 Days that changed the world.**  
**The American Presidential Election**  
Members Shane and Lesley Guy were in Florida throughout the final weeks of this unbelievable fight for the White House. Come and hear a firsthand view of the ensuing theatre, as it developed.
- **Thursday February 17<sup>th</sup> Alison Dickens:**  
**Northstowe Phase 1 Archaeology**  
Alison Dickens is back with an update on the amazing archaeology found at the first phase site. I know that many of you went to visit the site during the open day, come along to hear the results. Visitors welcome £3.

Membership is to remain at £15.00 single and £25.00 family, visitors £3. All meetings 7.30p.m. St. Andrews Church Hall. I look forward to seeing you.

*Julie Grove*

## Cambridge Ten Sing



We do many performances around Cambridge throughout the year and offer opportunities to travel elsewhere. For example we annually entertain at the London Marathon!

At the beginning of December, we enjoyed singing carols at Cambridge Railway Station. We managed to raise a fantastic £130 for Health Poverty Action! We loved entertaining the passers by.

We also had a wonderful team building day where we went to Clip n' Climb in Cambridge. It was great to enjoy each other's company and build better friendships.

On February 18th, we have an Indian themed fundraising dinner at Histon Baptist Church. The evening will be filled with food, a raffle and entertainment from Ten Sing! Tickets cost £12 for adults and £6 for under 12's, beginning at 6.30pm. It would be great to see you there! To get tickets, please email Terry: [@jking47@aol.com](mailto:@jking47@aol.com)

Also, coming up on March 18th, we have our Ten Sing annual concert at Histon Baptist Church. This is where we perform everything we have learnt in the past year! We would love to see as many people there as possible.

Ten Sing is a group for secondary school and A-level students who enjoy singing, dance, drama and/or technical support. It is run for young people, by young people but

DBS checked adults are always present. It is a fun and friendly environment and a great way to meet other like-minded young people in Cambridge.

Ten Sing meets every Thursday during term time at Histon Baptist Church, 7-9pm. We are always looking for new members, so if you are interested just turn up:) or for more information please contact:

*Administrator: Terry King*  
[jking47@aol.com](mailto:jking47@aol.com)

# Oakington & Westwick Community Diary: Mid Jan '17 – Mid Mar '17

ORGANISATION	EVENT	DAY	DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COST	CONTACT
Monday Café	coffee and chat	every Mon	Weekly	9.30am -12.00	St Andrew's Church Hall	£1	Liz Davis C 232 745
Oakington Singers	rehearsal	every Mon	Weekly	8-9.30 pm	St Andrew's Church Hall		Paul Tann C 235 567
O&W	Table Tennis	every Tue	Weekly	7.30pm	Pavilion	£2.50 per session	Dawn Stokes C 236 427
Cambridge Ten Sing	rehearsal	every Thu	Weekly	7-9pm	Histon Baptist Ch	£45 pa	Administrator: Theresa King jking47@aol.com
O&W	Short Mat Bowls	every Thu	Weekly	2pm and 7.30pm	Pavilion	£4.00 per week	Dawn Stokes C 236 427
O&W	Tennis	Every Mon	Weekly	6-8pm	Recreation Ground		Frank Pinner francispinner@aol.com
O&W History Society Shane Guy: 55 Days that changed the world. The American Presidential Election		Thu	19 Jan	7.30pm	St Andrew's Church Hall	£15 pa or £3 visitor	Julie Grove C 233 951
Oakington Singers Concert at Gretton Court		Tue	24 Jan	7.30pm	Gretton Court Girton	small charge on door	Paul Tann C 235 567
O&W Garden Society Andrew Riley: Plants for dry environments		Wed	25 Jan	7.30pm	St Andrew's Church Hall	£15 annual membership	Julie Grove C 233 951
O&W WI AGM Members' Evening		Thu	9 Feb	7.30pm	St Andrew's Church Hall		Helen Williams C 232 614
Oakington Country Dance Club		Fri	10 Feb	8pm	Histon Methodist Church Hall	Adults £1.50 Children 50p	Kathryn Coles C 233 191 4keac15ow@gmail.com
O&W PC monthly meeting		Mon	13 Feb	7.30pm	Pavilion function room		Laura Lawrence C 232 398 oakingtonpc@btinternet.com
O&W Talk & Tea: talk on The Norris Museum St Ives		Tue	14 Feb	2.45pm	Oakington School		Joan Pettit
O&W History Society Alison Dickens: Northstowe Phase 1 Archaeology		Thu	17 Feb	7.30pm	St Andrew's Church Hall	£15pa or £3 visitor	Julie Grove C 233 951
Cambridge Ten Sing Fund raising dinner		Sat	18 Feb	6.30pm	Histon Baptist Church	£12 £6	Terry King jking47@aol.com
O&W Garden Society Peter Jackson; 'Perennials'		Wed	22 Feb	7.30pm	St Andrews Church Hall	£15 pa	Julie Grove C 233 951
O&W WI Midwinter Feast		Thu	23 Feb	7.30pm	The Old Crown, Girton		Helen Williams C 232 614
O&W Neighbours (OWN) Social Event		Sat	25 Feb	2-4pm	TBD: Watch Oaky Folk FaceBook site		Jo Bryant 07902 111 786
O&W WI A Milliner and her Hats		Thu	9 Mar	7.30pm	St Andrew's Church Hall		Helen Williams C 232 614
Oakington Country Dance Club		Fri	10 Mar	8pm	Histon Methodist Church Hall	Adults £1.50 Children 50p	Kathryn Coles C 233 191 4keac15ow@gmail.com
O&W PC monthly meeting		Mon	13 Mar	7.30pm	Pavilion function room		Laura Lawrence C 232 398 oakingtonpc@btinternet.com
O&W Talk & Tea: Hilary Richie: Archives of Addenbrooke's Hospital		Tue	14 Mar	2.45pm	Oakington School		Joan Pettit
Cambridge Ten Sing Annual Concert		Sat	18 Mar	7.30pm	Histon Baptist Church	tickets	Terry King jking47@aol.com



## HELP!

After 22 years of running the 1<sup>st</sup> Oakington Brownies it has very sadly come time for me to retire! I have thoroughly enjoyed every minute of being Brown Owl and have gained so much from all the girls that have been in the unit from the start in January 1995 in the Old Scout Hut to where we are now in the remarkable Pavilion; what a contrast!

Last term two amazing Brownie Leaders finished helping with the unit Glenda Bate (Tawny Owl) and Jane Young (Snowy Owl) and newly married Jessica Skelton, (Speckled Owl) who has supported Brownies for many years, also wants to finish. Emma Williams (Sooty Owl) is leaving for University in September.

All the Leaders supporting me have been wonderful, sharing their skills and talents and being there for the Brownies.

**I cannot carry on without help and so am asking now for you to consider what role you could do to keep the unit open?**

I would hate to upset the current Brownies and see all the work that Leaders have put into Brownies in Oakington and surrounding villages over the years end abruptly so will keep the unit open until the end of the summer 2017.

Volunteering with Brownies isn't just about games, craft and helping girls to get their next badge - although those are special moments that we all share. It's about empowering girls and giving them new experiences. It's being a role model and helping girls to realise their full potential. It's sharing and developing your skills, and I love it!

Please consider helping – my email address is [elainebailey1@live.co.uk](mailto:elainebailey1@live.co.uk)

I am looking for someone or a team of people to take over the unit and keep it open, please!

### Quote from a Brownie:

*"I think more adults would volunteer if we could show them what Brownies is really like – they might not believe how fun it is!"*

*Elaine Bailey*

## Oakington and Westwick WI

meets every 2nd Thursday in the month at 7.30pm in **St Andrew's Church Hall.**

We ended 2016 in festive mood! At December's meeting our members were unanimous in their enjoyment of a Christmas Craft Workshop during which **EVERYONE**



succeeded (in spite of a few initial misgivings!) in making an impressive fabric bauble whilst partaking in mince pies, a festive drink and the opportunity for a chat with friends. The conversations continued at The Olive Tree a couple of days later when we gathered for a Christmas lunch complete with crackers and novelties.

A new programme has been carefully put together for the coming year that offers variety and 'something for all' to reflect members' interests. Why not give us a try? In addition to our monthly meetings, we are planning theatre trips, a Spa day, meals out and several outings. We are also regularly invited to join neighbouring WI groups for special events. A real 'Pick and Mix'.

If you are interested in joining our group this year, membership for 2017 is now available. Please contact Helen on C 232614 or Pauline on C 233443 for details. You can also visit our Facebook page: **Oakington and Westwick Women's Institute**. Alternatively, come along as a guest to one of our meetings.

Forthcoming meetings include:

- **12<sup>th</sup> Jan** Origins of local place names **TALK**
- **9<sup>th</sup> Feb** AGM Members' Evening
- **23<sup>rd</sup> Feb** Midwinter Feast at The Old Crown, Girton
- **9<sup>th</sup> Mar** A Milliner and her Hats **TALK**

*Helen Williams*

## Nature notes for January

As you put your Christmas tree into the garden for re-planting or recycling, you may give some thought to evergreen trees but also those trees without leaves at this time of the year (broadleaves). As you know, broadleaves shed their leaves in autumn to get rid of toxins and because winter light levels are too low for much growth.

We in Oakington are lucky enough to have two woods to enjoy, both planted by local people on Cambridgeshire County Estates land, farmed by Peter Freeman. The first is Mansell Wood, planted in 1995, and the second, Centenary Wood, planted to celebrate 100 years since the County Estates were established.

Cambridgeshire is the county with the least area of trees in the U.K (4%). The U.K. figure is over twice this, but our county boasts a higher % of food crops than others.

12,000 years ago, most of the UK was covered in trees. These natural forests followed the retreat of glaciers at the end of the Ice Age and are called 'wildwoods'. The first farmers started to remove these, freeing up areas of tillable land and probably half the wildwood had disappeared by the early Iron Age (500 years BC). Domesday Records (11<sup>th</sup> century) suggest a wooded area of about 15% in the U.K.

We therefore have a long history of trees and maybe that is why they arouse strong feelings in us. Indeed, some people feel that planting trees is the essence of conservation. Our two woods attract deer and other mammals, birds, and invertebrates. Do take a walk through and enjoy the wonderful silhouettes of oak, ash, field maple, alder and cherry against wild winter skies. Paths (rides) through the woods allow easy walking and can help you reconnect with nature, whether you are old or young.

*John Terry*