

# Oakington & Westwick Journal

A close-up photograph of a large group of white primroses. Each flower has five petals and a bright yellow center. They are surrounded by large, green, serrated leaves and some thinner green grass blades. The background is slightly blurred, showing more of the same plants.

March 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 welcome a **new Parish Councillor**, Lis Warboys, replacing Roger Everton who resigned recently.

The **Phone Box Library** in Longstanton Road is proving very popular, with plenty of residents exchanging books there. Could I ask though that if the shelves are all full, people wanting to leave a book there wait a few days – it is sometimes difficult to get in there with books all over the floor.

I am pleased to say that the District Council has finally agreed to position another **Dog Waste Bin** in Longstanton Road, and this should be in place soon. We ask for further bins when we are told of a requirement in a particular area of the village, but of course these are only of use if residents walking dogs actually use these facilities.

The 2017 Oakington and Westwick **Annual Parish Meeting** is on April 24<sup>th</sup>, at the Pavilion at 7:30pm. This is where the various Clubs, Groups and Societies in the area have a chance to talk about their plans for the year, and residents have a chance to discuss issues of concern within the area with each other and with the Parish Council. Do come along and find out what everyone is planning for the year, or tell us what you would like to see in the village.

You will see elsewhere in the Journal that the **Community Association** is to hold a Special General Meeting on April 25<sup>th</sup> to determine its future. Please read that article and come along to the meeting if you would like your opinion to be heard.

And finally, **car parking** problems in the villages have come to the attention of our MP, Heidi Allen. She is gathering information about these issues, and you can report problems in your area to her by using the Internet link <http://tinyurl.com/SouthCambs-Parking>.

On May 4th, there will be elections to elect your **new County Councillor**.

Due to constituency changes, Oakington & Westwick will be part of a new division called Longstanton, Northstowe & Over, with Cottenham forming a division with Willingham whilst our current County Councillor David Jenkins is standing for the new Histon & Impington ward.

#### Upcoming **Parish Council** meetings:

- Mon 10 April Monthly meeting 7.30 in the pavilion;  
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.
- Mon 24 April Annual Parish Meeting 7.30 in the pavilion



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

Chairman: [oakingtonchairman@gmail.com](mailto:oakingtonchairman@gmail.com)

Clerk: [oakingtonpc@btinternet.com](mailto:oakingtonpc@btinternet.com)

*Mike Oakley, Chairman*

### Update on the Oakington & Westwick Community Association

For the last few years the Community Association has managed the Village Journal and organised the annual Village Day.

The Community Association held its Annual General Meeting on 10 January. The meeting was attended by representatives of nine village groups plus the Chair of the Parish Council and the editor of the Journal.

At the AGM, the then Chair and Secretary both stepped down, and were thanked for all their work over the last three years. There was a discussion about the relevance of the current Constitution and the future of the CA. It was agreed that a temporary Chair and Secretary should be appointed to develop proposals for the future of the CA. Two additional members at the meeting volunteered to assist with this task and to form a working group with the Chair and Secretary.

**There will be a Special General Meeting of the Community Association on Tuesday 25 April at 7.30pm, in the Pavilion.** The working group will present proposals for the future of the CA and invites representatives of all village groups and individual members of the Community Association to attend.

Please come along to help shape the next phase of the Community Association.

If you would like to know more, please contact:

*Jo Mills, Temporary Chair, C 233 244 [bjomills@aol.com](mailto:bjomills@aol.com)*

*Irene Butlin, Temporary Secretary, [irene@thebutlins.net](mailto:irene@thebutlins.net)*

### 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:  
[editor@oakington.org.uk](mailto:editor@oakington.org.uk)*

*Advertisements: for the time being please contact the editor.*

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

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

## Oakington and Westwick Table Tennis Club

We are a small, friendly club, of mixed ability and we meet every Tuesday evening at 7.30 pm at the Oakington and Westwick 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 234 758

*Dawn Stokes*

## BEAVER COLONY STARTING IN OAKINGTON

Calling all 6-8 year olds! On Friday 21st April there will be an open night at the pavilion, 6 - 7pm, for you and your parents, to experience a Beaver meeting. If there is enough support, a Colony will be started with more meetings after the May half term. For more information please contact:

*Jo Mowatt, 07747 041 017.*

## Oakington and Westwick WI

meets every 2nd Thursday in the month at 7.30pm in St Andrew's Church Hall. Our aim in 2017 is to enrich our monthly programme with additional outings, workshops and social occasions. Members enjoyed a Midwinter Feast at the Old Crown in February as well as a members' night of cheese tasting that produced some unpredictable results. Don't ever think you have to impress your guests with cheese from specialist shops. The best flavours were often the cheaper supermarket versions!

**Sandi Toksvig's** new comedy 'Silver Lining' got a group of us hooting with laughter at the Arts Theatre recently whilst another trip is planned soon to see **James Bolam** in 'Fracked'.

Our very popular Spa Day will be repeated in June this year...a sociable day of indulgence gathered around hot tub, steam rooms and sauna including individual treatments for all and a shared lunch. Coming soon: a cookery workshop, a return visit to Amanda MacPhail's 'Create a Plate' workshop and a Christmas craft workshop.

If you are interested in joining our group this year, it's not too late as you can now take out membership at any time and be charged the remaining months only! Why not give us a try? Come along as a guest to one of our meetings. also Our Facebook page: **Oakington and Westwick Women's Institute**.

For forthcoming meetings, see Community Diary, page 15.

For more information, please contact:

*Helen C 232 614 or Pauline on C 233 443*

## Oakington & Westwick Short Mat Bowls Club

Join us as our guest and give short mat bowls a try at either our Thursday afternoon or evening session. We have spare sets of bowls for you to use – all you need is a pair of smooth-soled shoes. We play at the Oakington and Westwick Sports Pavilion and 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*

## READY FOR ADVENTURE? TRY SCOUTS!



Scouts is for girls and boys aged 10-14 and our Scout Troop in Oakington is thriving under our



**three new Scout Leaders**



This term the activities have all been getting ready for Easter camp, and have included fire lighting, campfire cooking, making gadgets using knives and saws, and pitching tents. Plus lots of exciting games - ever tried hide and seek in the dark? If this sounds like something you - or a young person you know - would enjoy, please get in touch, or come along to the pavilion one Friday at 7:30 pm.

*Jenny Prince [jenny@theprinces.me.uk](mailto:jenny@theprinces.me.uk).*

## Brownies



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

Is your daughter nearly 7 and interested in joining Brownies? We meet Wednesday evenings and enjoy adventure, 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. For enquiries contact:

*Elaine Bailey [elainebailey1@live.co.uk](mailto:elainebailey1@live.co.uk)*

## Oakington Singers



After a very busy start to the year, with two concerts in January (our last ever appearance at the MacKenzie Society of Music and Drama, and our annual appearance at Girton's Gretton Court),

we are now looking forward to singing Easter music at services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday (13 and 14 April) at St Andrew's Oakington. Then in early May we will be performing for the Friends of St Mary's Church, Over, so do join us there if you can on Saturday 6 May at 7.30.

We rehearse every Monday evening from 8.00-9.30 pm in St Andrew's church hall, Oakington. So if you are a singer yourself and fancy joining us, or if you would like us to sing at your event, please contact:

*Paul Tann C 235 567*

## Tuesday Talk and Tea

Tuesday Talk & Tea for company, tea & chat.



- April 11th Local actress, Jane Bower shares her career in the Arts and reminiscences of varied events that effected her life -i.e. Maureen Lipman's handbag !
- May 9th Foot care by local chiropodist **Casey Javed**

Both meetings 2.45 pm at St Andrews Church Hall - would love to meet you. Joan Pettit (chairperson)

*Joan Pettit (Chairperson)*





## Transport Action Group

Of the three action groups formed as a result of the questionnaires, the Transport Action Group (TAG) was considered to be the most difficult to make any impact on the issues raised as changes to the highways in relation to changes to the speed restrictions need the support of the **local councils and the police**. The role was initially perceived as one of lobbying various parties in the interests of the villages.

The Parish Council has submitted a **Local Highways Initiative**, the result of which will be known later this year, for a mobile traffic monitoring device which will provide data (quantity & speed but not vehicle registration details) to support traffic safety issues.

With the pending significant housing developments in **Cottenham and the A14 improvements** there will be an increase in traffic through the village. A particular concern is the volume and speed of through traffic past the school in Water Lane and the rat run traffic down the Longstanton Road (officially a No Through Road). In the longer term it is expected that **Longstanton Road** will be finally closed across the airfield, due to the Northstowe southern access road. If we are to make any progress in getting a satisfactory result the data from the monitoring device will be critical to enlist police and highways department support. The transport team will support the PC in using this equipment.

There are **three sensors**, that record traffic volume, that are embedded in the roads that converge in to the villages, the one in Cambridge Road is situated near Millfield Lodge, there is another in Dry Drayton Road near the entrance to the Business Park and, finally, in Longstanton Road just beyond the junction with Lowbury Crescent. Curiously there is no sensor in the Cottenham Road.

The TAG will be lobbying for a **parking and bus turning** circle at the Oakington and Westwick Guided Busway stop. This will assist those who find the guided busway too far to walk and to enable the Citi 6 bus to link with the busway.

The TAG have been asked to look into where additional **cycle ways** can be positioned to link up with the proposed cycle ways being provided by both the Northstowe development (Southern Access Road) and also the cycle way that will run alongside the A14 upgrade. Although there is some funding available it is insufficient.

The **TAG meets once a month** usually on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month over coffee at the Olive Tree café in the Garden Centre. So, if any of the issues above have fired your enthusiasm or you have a particular issue you would like to suggest the TAG looks at please let us know through the contact details below.

Jim Bryant Chair Transport Action Group  
jim.bryant42@btinternet.com C 237 740

## Environment Action Group

The EAG was awarded a special SCDC Community Award, for “*making a big impact on the village, clearing footpaths, cleaning signs and making the community greener, cleaner and safer for everyone*”. James Youd (centre in photo who has project managed this action) attended the award celebration at Cambourne on 9<sup>th</sup> March.

Hanna Lumley added on OakyFolk FaceBook:

*Congratulations to James Youd and the community action group and to Pat and Colin Bradley, who, despite, in their own words, are getting on a bit, are out day after day keeping our village tidy with their litter picking, they are fantastic!*



Behind the scenes, James, Andrew Dennis, Stephanie Smith and John Terry have been putting together an application for a grant to help pay for the restoration of the village pond. We would be most grateful to hear from anyone who can offer us memories, records or photographs of the pond and its surroundings to help us put together a book describing the heritage of that part of the village. We have had a great letter of support from Julie Grove of the History Society and hope for more help. The application will be provided to the Parish Council, who will officially make the application on behalf of our residents: we are very grateful to Laura and Mike for their cooperation and encouragement.

The replacement pond railings have been delivered. Highways have started work on the foundation wall. We are expecting them to be in place by the middle of the March. We extend our thanks to Geoffrey Butlin for his work alongside our County Council Highways Department contact, Simeon Carroll, in pushing for a better design, than the damaged railings.

The EAG is working with Ron Koehler, Nykki Rogers and Paul Dover to look for land where we can explore ways of setting up a Community Garden and more allotments. Ideas would be welcome - 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

This year began with announcement of two major pieces of government policy. The first was the **Industrial Strategy** green paper. This takes forward ideas of empowering local areas to boost their own economies, that were initiated and elaborated by Michael Heseltine, Peter Mandelson and Vince Cable in previous administrations. Cambridge and its surroundings are well placed to benefit both from an area-based approach – especially tying in with London and Oxford – and a sector deal concentrating on life sciences. One of the main objectives of the Industrial Strategy is sharing prosperity, both across the country and among all sections of society.

The second was the **Housing White Paper**. While there may have been some disappointment with the emphasis on requiring local authorities to get houses built, when landbanking by big housebuilders and controlling the release of houses to keep prices up are commonly cited as contributory factors limiting the number of new houses, two shifts were generally well received. The first is a set of measures to make it easier for small building firms to get back into the business of building houses, and the second is a greater willingness to allow local authorities to build houses again. (The public sector used to build half the houses the country needed.) Councillors and staff have already had meetings with Gavin Barwell, the Housing and Planning Minister, and more are expected as we put together a package of measures best suited to the circumstances of South Cambridgeshire.

At the meeting on 23 February the district council element of **council tax** was increased by five pounds a year on a Band D property. We are still one of the lowest-spending local authorities in the country. Remember that the bill you get from us includes the amounts being charged by the other councils and public services, in particular the county council, the parish council, police and fire.

As our grant from the government is steadily reduced to zero, we have been successfully substituting revenue from commercial activities so that we can maintain the high quality of our services. As well as continuing our core services such as emptying the bins, planning, housing and environmental health, our corporate plan for the coming year includes:

- Enhancing our Rates Relief system to give more help to our local shops and businesses.
- Making plots available for people to build their own homes.
- Setting aside extra money to help with Neighbourhood Plans.
- Allocating £675,000 for renewable energy schemes.

Recruitment of a **new chief executive** is well under way – and it is possible that an appointment may have been made by the time this issue comes out.

Major progress was made over Christmas at the site of the new **Cambridge North station**, which is now 80% complete, to get it ready for its opening in May this year. Work took place over the festive period to build platforms, install tracks for a new bay platform and to fit overhead wires. The footbridge, lift shafts, stairwells and main station building were all built over the course of last year. The new station, which is expected to handle 3,000 passenger journeys a day, will alleviate the pressure on the

existing Cambridge station, where people currently leave the train in order to travel by other means to the science and business parks. An interchange between the northern leg of the Busway and the King's Cross to King's Lynn railway line has enormous potential, which is just as well because there is huge pressure growing on the A10 North corridor.

Urban&Civic plc is the development manager appointed by the **Defence Infrastructure Organisation** (the government agency charged with disposal of surplus MoD land) for Waterbeach Barracks and Airfield. South Cambs supports the principle of development of this large area of publicly-owned previously-developed land. A new town north of Waterbeach village is included in the Local Plan still going through examination. Opportunities for broadening the range of new housing are welcomed, as well as innovative approaches to construction. The outline planning application for 6,500 houses, however, raises many questions relating to comprehensive delivery of a whole new settlement, in particular integration with the land held by the other promoters (RLW Estates). It is on their land that a new railway station could be built. We also need to be clear how transport improvements, especially the A10, will go hand-in-hand with occupation of more houses. These issues are fundamental to understand fully before any decision is made.

The county council, City, South Cambs, East Cambs, and private sector interests north and south of the A14 junction have all contributed towards funding a study from transport consultants examining options for a **major upgrade of the A10**, as well as the contribution that other modes of travel can make to easing congestion. Funding would come from a combination of developer contributions, the City Deal, the Devolution infrastructure grant, Growth Deal money channelled through the Local Enterprise Partnership, and Department for Transport major scheme funding.

**Cambridge** finds itself the centre of attention from all four cardinal points of the compass. From the **south** we have the London Stansted Cambridge Consortium, which has set itself the goal of joining the ranks of the top five global knowledge-intensive business clusters. From the **east**, a newly formed Cambridge-Norwich Tech Corridor seems keen to further the agri-tech and clean-tech interests we have in common. To the **north**, Peterborough is enlisting our support for the establishment of a university there. And the National Infrastructure Commission is very keen to facilitate links with the other place and points in between. East-**West** Rail is working out how to bring back a rail link between Bedford and Cambridge, and the next stage of the Oxford to Cambridge expressway is the dualling of the A428 from the Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet, scheduled to start in spring 2020. Three route options were published on 6 March. The public consultation runs for six weeks until 23 April. More information can be found at <http://roads.highways.gov.uk/projects/a428-black-cat-to-caxton-gibbet/>



*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



## SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESSES

### Dog Day Care that you and your dog will love!

At **Oakington Dog Day Care** we love looking after your dog! We have extremely high standards of dog day care and our team are really passionate and dedicated about providing your dog with the best day out they can have. We are all dog lovers and understand what they need to be happy whilst in day care. All of our services cater to your dog's individual needs. We have large enclosed spaces where they can run off some steam and investigate and some great doggy play toys to ensure that they are happy all day. We look after puppies through to mature dogs, and all breeds of dogs - we love them all. Your happy dog will enjoy supervised exploration in our enclosed secure field and paddock area, or have fun in our indoor play area with lots of toys, and activities to keep them entertained - we'll be with them all day so we'll have fun too!

**Spruced Goose Dog Grooming** is on site so you can either bring your dog in for grooming, or you can pick them up freshly groomed at the end of their day's dog care with us. **All4Pets Cambridge** provide *on-site dog training classes* that come highly recommended. We offer *secure field hire* at weekends so you can bring your dogs along for some lead free time knowing they're safe and secure. We look forward to seeing you and your dog at **Oakington Dog Day Care**. Your dog will thank you for it!

07704 729 299 [oakingtonddcc@gmail.com](mailto:oakingtonddcc@gmail.com)

[www.oakingtondogdaycare.co.uk](http://www.oakingtondogdaycare.co.uk)

*David Chapman*

### Slim for the summer with Slimming World

It's that time of year again when we look to shed those extra pounds we have put on over the winter months and get ready to bare all for the summer. And, for a lot of people, the thought of sitting on a hot beach, being overweight, is more of a nightmare holiday than a dream holiday. "I can still remember how uncomfortable I used to feel whilst on holiday" says Waterbeach Slimming World consultant Jo White. "That's when I decided to join my local Slimming world group. I was amazed how easy the plan was to follow and just how much I could eat! It didn't feel like a diet at all. Going along to the group each week became the highlight of my week. With all the support and inspiration from the consultant and fellow members my weight soon started to fall away."

Food Optimising is the ultimate healthy eating plan; it's the easiest, most flexible, most generous weight loss plan you'll ever find. Based on healthy, inexpensive, basic foods, including vegetables, fruit, lean meat and complex carbohydrates, it's ideal for every taste, culture and pocket... and it can give your health a super-boost!

Jo now runs the Waterbeach group on a Tuesday evening. If you too would love to have that beach body this summer, why not join us? With so many groups in our local area there will be one to fit in with your week. Check out our advert for more details.

*David Chapman*

## Cambridge Ten Sing



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. We do many performances around Cambridge throughout the year and offer opportunities to travel elsewhere. For example we shall again entertain at the London Marathon, 23 April.

This February, we had our annual **fundraising dinner**. This year we decided on an Indian theme and provided a three course meal for over 60 guests! We all enjoyed helping out in the kitchen, making the decorations and rehearsing our entertainment for the evening! Both Ten Singers and the guests enjoyed themselves and we were fortunate to make a £401 profit.

On March the 18<sup>th</sup>, we have our **annual Ten Sing concert!** We are currently hard at work rehearsing, with the theme this year being "Perspective". We

would love as many people to come as possible, so please come along and support! Tickets are £6 for adults and £4 for under 16's.

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)

*Annie MacDonald*



## Oakington (at Histon) Country Dance Club

Jane and I look forward to seeing you at Histon Methodist Church Hall on Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> April and Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> May at 8.00 p.m. for another evening of fun, friendship and fairly easy dances! Live music and a guest caller each month. Adults: £1.50 Accompanied Children: 50p. See you there.

*Kathryn Coles*

## Neil Cook



Beryl, Adrian, Jeremy and Natalie would like to thank everyone who helped to make the after funeral gathering at the pavilion for the late Neil Cook a great tribute. The shortmat bowls club kindly cancelled their session for us. An amazing £1,500 was raised from donations and will be used towards helping to fund a counselling service at the IBD clinic in Addenbrookes to support young people with Crohns and Ulcerative Colitis.

*Adrian Cook*

# Oakington & Westwick Community Diary: Mid Mar '17 – Mid May '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
O&W		Tennis	Every Mon	Weekly	6-8pm	Recreation Ground		Frank Pinner francisspinner@aol.com
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	Gillian L'angellier C 234 758
O&W		Brownies	every Wed	Weekly	evening	Pavilion		Elaine Bailey elainebailey1@live.co.uk
Cambridge Ten Sing		rehearsal	every Thu	Weekly	7-9pm	Histon Baptist Church	£45 pa	Administrator: Theresa King jking47@aol.com
O&W	Short Mat Bowls	every Thu	Weekly	2pm & 7.30pm	Pavilion	£4.00 per week	Dawn Stokes C 236 427	
O&W		Scouts	every Fri	Weekly	7.30pm	Pavilion		Jenny Prince jenny@theprinces.me.uk.
Oakington Country Dance Club			Fri	7 Apr	8pm	Histon Methodist Church Hall	Adults £1.50 Children 50p	Kathryn Coles C 233 191 4keac15ow@gmail.com
O&W PC monthly meeting			Mon	10 Apr	7.30pm	Pavilion function room		Laura Lawrence C 232 398 oakingtonpc@btinternet.com
O&W Talk & Tea: Jane Bower shares			Tue	11 Apr	2.45pm	St Andrew's Church Hall <b>NOTE</b>		Joan Pettit
O&W WI Line Dancing (optional participation) Talk, Demo				Thu	13 Apr	7.30pm	St Andrew's Church Hall	Helen Williams C 232 614
Beaver Colony Open night			Fri	21 Apr	6-7pm	Pavilion		Jo Mowatt 07747 041 017
O&W PC Annual Parish Meeting			Mon	24 Apr	7.30pm	Pavilion function room		Laura Lawrence C 232 398 oakingtonpc@btinternet.com
O&W Community Ass'n Special General Meeting			Tue	25 Apr	7.30pm	Pavilion function room		Jo Mills C 233 244 bjomills@aol.com
O&W Journal May issue deadline			Wed	3 May	midnight	editor		editor@oakington.org.uk
Oakington Singers Performance			Sat	6 May	7.30pm	St Mary's Church Over		Paul Tann C 235 567
O&W Talk & Tea: Foot Care: Casey Javed			Tue	9 May	2.45pm	St Andrew's Church Hall <b>NOTE</b>		Joan Pettit
O&W WI Members' night and NFWI Resolutions				Thu	11 May	7.30pm	St Andrew's Church Hall	Helen Williams C 232 614
Oakington Country Dance Club			Fri	12 May	8pm	Histon Methodist Church Hall	Adults £1.50 Children 50p	Kathryn Coles C 233 191 4keac15ow@gmail.com
O&W WI "Fracked" at the Arts Theatre TRIP				Tue	23 May	7.30pm	Arts Theatre, Cambridge	Helen Williams C 232 614

## PARENT ALERT MULTI USE GAMES AREA (MUGA)

The Committee of the Sports Pavilion have a serious dilemma ...

We are very concerned that young people are illegally climbing over the MUGA fence on a regular basis. We are worried that someone is going to get seriously hurt.

The people who pay to use the MUGA on more than one occasion have been given verbal abuse by these young people, refusing to get off the pitch.

We could add outward fencing above the current fencing

but this is going to be extremely expensive.

We need you as parents and residents of Oakington to talk to your children and young people and get them to co-operate with us!

No-one illegally climbing in and using the MUGA without officially booking it is insured. Please let's work as a Community and solve this.

You cannot book the MUGA without adult supervision but we would welcome more youth group official bookings, please contact:

*oakingtonpavilion@gmail.com*  
*Elaine Bailey*

# Oakington & Westwick

## Village Day 2017

Saturday 1st July 2017

Get involved in our Village Day - a fun event with neighbours, family and friends.

A Village Day committee has already got the basic plan for the day organised. However, we will be asking for volunteers to help for just an hour or so on the day (for instance with car parking).

There will be:

- a bbq and hog roast
- beer
- tea and cakes
- interesting stalls
- fun activities and a variety of entertainment



### Your stall

If you haven't already booked your stall, please get in touch with Hanna Lumley:  
oakingtonvillageday@gmail.com

### Entertainment

We will be having:

- 'busking' type acts
- as well as 'stage' performers

If you would like to entertain, please contact:  
irene@thebutlins.net

The Village Day is for the benefit of the whole community, so if you have any ideas and comments, please let a committee member know :)

*Hanna Lumley (chair), James Youd (treasurer)  
Andy B, Irène Butlin, Ben Phillips*

*All enquiries - please email Hanna Lumley on:  
oakingtonvillageday@gmail.com*

### Telephone Box Library

Just a reminder that the redundant telephone box near the pond now houses our community library. Anyone can take any volumes that they like and donate books without any payment changing hands! All types are welcome, fiction and non-fiction, for adults or children. Please make as much use as you can of this unique facility. Any queries:

*Parish Clerk (C 232 398) or to Liz Davis (C 232 745).*

### Nature notes for January

'Spring is when a young man's fancy turns to thoughts of love.' Wild animals are also stirred by the arrival of spring and there are no more obvious signs than the boxing of brown hares (March hares). Males chase and stand on their hind legs and box but recent research suggests that males also box with females. You are probably aware that female hares nest in forms. These are shallow holes that they dig in the soil. A female often produces 4-6 leverets and she distributes them around, one infant per form, to decrease the chances of a predator killing them all in one visit. She visits each form to provide each infant with milk.

Brown hare numbers have almost halved in the last thirty years. This is mainly because of changes in farming practice but hare coursing has also contributed. Hares are grass grazers. While cereal crops are green they can graze happily but as the crops brown off near harvest, hares need grass. In East Anglia, the shortage of mixed farming means little grass but hares survive in Oakington thanks to grass margins around arable crops. They are amazing beasts in that they can travel at up to 35mph and in a zig-zag route to get away from foxes.

Other amazing mammals that show up in spring include stoats and weasels. They are both carnivores that can outwit prey bigger than themselves. I have witnessed a stoat encircle a large rabbit until the prey was giddy and paralysed with fear. The kill quickly followed.

The difference between stoats and weasels? The stoat is the one with the black end of tail and is bigger. Weasels tend to eat mice and voles. You may prefer the very helpful and traditional distinction; the weasel is weasely distinguished, and the stoat is stoatly different. Or you may not.

*John Terry*

**BEAVERS**

# OPEN NIGHT

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2017  
6 - 7 pm  
The Pavillion, Oakington  
For Girls and Boys  
Aged 6-8 years.

For more information contact:  
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