

Oakington & Westwick Journal

May 2018



Victorious
Vikings

Humpty Dumpty
at the top

Pond defies
destiny

WEEKLY

Mon	Toddler Rhyme Time , 9.30-11. Crossways Café, £2 per family. Hanna Lumley - 0755 7090322
Mon	Monday Café , 9.30-noon. Church Hall, £1. Liz Davis - C 232 745
Mon	Tennis , 6-8pm. Recreation Ground. Frank Pinner – francispinner@aol.com
Mon	Oakington Singers , 7.45-9.30pm. Rehearsal, Church Hall. Paul Tann – C 235 567
Tue	Happy Feet , Rhythm & Rhyme, 10-11am. Church Hall. Ben Phillips - familyworker@standrewsoakington.co.uk
Tue	Cubs , 6-7.15pm. Pavilion, £30 per term. Jo Mowatt – oakingtoncubs@yahoo.co.uk
Tue	Table Tennis , 7.30pm. Pavilion, £2.50. Gillian L'angellier – C 234 758
Wed	Tea & Tots , 0-4 yrs, 10-11.30am. Crossways Café. £2 per family. Hanna Lumley - 0755 7090322
Wed	Brownies , 6-7:30pm. Pavilion. Anne Christie – oakingtonbrownies@gmail.com
Wed	Oakington Viking Football Club , 6.30-7.30. Recreation Ground, free. James Wilson – james@selsius.co.uk
Wed	Oakington Chess Café & Games Night , 7-9pm. Crossways CommuniTea Café. Ranko Pinter – ranpin@gmail.com
Thu	Little Steps Toddler group, 10-11.30am. Church Hall. Ben Phillips - familyworker@standrewsoakington.co.uk
Thu	Short Mat Bowls , 2pm & 7.30pm. Pavilion, £4 per week. Dawn Stokes – C 236 427
Thu	Clubercise , 6.15pm. Pavilion. £6/£5 in advance. Marilyn Bailey - 07989137321
Thu	Ten Sing , 7-9pm. Histon Baptist Church, £45 per year. Theresa King – jking47@aol.com
Fri	Over 55s Fitness , 10am. Pavilion. £4.50/£3.50 concessions. Simon – C 236945
Fri	Beavers , 6-7pm. Pavilion, £30 per term. Lou Ellis – kld1001@me.com
Fri	Scouts , 7.30-9pm. Pavilion, £30 per term. Lou Ellis – kld1001@me.com

JUNE

Fri	8 Jun	Country Dancing , 8-10pm. Histon Methodist Church Hall, £1.50. Kathryn Coles – C 233191
Sat	9 Jun	Big Lunch , 12.30-2.30pm. Recreation Ground. Bring & share picnic. neighbours@oakingtonandwestwick.com
Sun	10 Jun	PSA Family Concert , 3pm. School Hall. £3/Family £10. Claire Langston – oakingtonpsa@hotmail.com
Mon	11 Jun	O&W Parish Council , 7.30pm. Pavilion. All invited. Clerk: Laura Lawrence – oakingtonnpc@btinternet.com
Tue	12 Jun	Tue Talk & Tea , 2.45pm. Oakington School Hall. David Latham of the British Cactus Society. Joan Pettit
Tue	12 Jun	O&W WI . Cambridge Arts Theatre: <i>Great Expectations</i> . Helen Williams – C 232 614
Wed	13 Jun	Community Association meeting, 7.30pm. Pavilion. Jo Mills - bjomills@aol.com
Thu	14 Jun	O&W WI , 7.30pm. Church Hall. Gunns Bakery, talk & sampling. Helen Williams – C 232 614
Fri	22 Jun	Art Exhibition Launch , tbc. Crossways Café. Hanna Lumley - 0755 7090322
Sat	30 Jun	VILLAGE DAY , noon till late. Recreation Ground. £1/children free. Hanna Lumley - 0755 7090322

JULY

Fri	6 Jul	Country Dancing , 8-10pm. Histon Methodist Church Hall, £1.50. Kathryn Coles – C 233191
Mon	9 Jul	O&W Parish Council , 7.30pm. Pavilion. All welcome. Clerk: Laura Lawrence – oakingtonnpc@btinternet.com
Tue	10 Jul	Tuesday Talk & Tea , 2:45pm. Oakington School Hall. Strawberry Tea, Oakington School Choir. Joan Pettit
Thu	12 Jul	O&W WI , 7.30pm. Church Hall. Talk by a member of Ladies' Embroidery Guild. Helen Williams – C 232 614
Fri	13 Jul	Soiree , 7.30pm. Vicarage Lawn. All welcome, free entry. John Peters

Oakington & Westwick Journal

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

Journal Team: Jenny Prince & Irène Butlin (*editors*), Nykki Rogers (*Advertising Manager*), Jane Goodyer (*Distribution Manager*), Geoffrey Butlin (*cover photo*), Ranko Pinter (*Chair*)

Send contributions to
oakwestjournal@gmail.com

DEADLINE FOR JULY ISSUE:

Tuesday 3 July

**Delivered week beginning Saturday 14 July
covering period up to 15 Sep**

Where can you find...

Where in Oakington or Westwick can you find Vikings playing where Saxons used to lie? When and where can you find out all about cacti? Where can you find smelling sacks, Pétanque players or a five-a-side game that needs no goals? What were the Red Arrows doing over the village? And what happened at Mile 17?

You'll find all the answers in these pages! Thank you to everyone who's contributed. Lots of exciting events are coming up: a concert of film music, the Big Lunch, an art exhibition and the annual Soirée. But the jewel in the summer's crown is the Village Day, on 30th June. Hope to find you there!

Jenny Prince

Editors: Jenny Prince & Irène Butlin



Rural Travel Hub

At the Annual Parish Meeting on 23rd April, two speakers from The Greater Cambridge Partnership gave a presentation on the proposed Rural Travel Hub, which they suggested could be located next to the guided bus stop at Westwick. The proposal is for about 50 parking spaces and a bus turning circle, plus secure places for bicycles to be stored. The proposal would include a full size cycle and footpath, separate from the road, to run to Mill Road.



Apart from these questions, numerous points were raised.

- That the proposed hub would more likely benefit Cottenham residents and other commuters, particularly if it was free.
- That there would be an increase in traffic in the village.
- That there would be a much larger number of people trying to get on the guided bus at Oakington and Westwick.

Another element of the GCP consists of 'greenways' or proposed cycle routes around Cambridge. We are included in the project, with a cycleway connecting us to Cottenham and Dry Drayton, but are currently 12th in priority out of 12 possible routes. It may be that agreement on a travel hub would promote us on the list.

A variety of questions were then asked – see below. At this stage, the presenters were unable to give full responses, but promised to take the views back to the Partnership for consideration.

The relation to the Citi 6 Bus. Would this be extended to link to the proposed hub? Could the frequency be returned to every 20 minutes, rather than 30 minutes?

Would Oakington and Westwick residents get priority for parking? If so, how could this be done?

Would parking be free?

In the morning the guided bus is already full when it arrives at Oakington; would there be additional buses added to the route – perhaps starting from Oakington?

Would there be parking restrictions introduced in the roads near the guided bus stop?

Brownies

Is your daughter nearly 7 and interested in joining Brownies? We meet Wednesday evenings and enjoy crafts, games, activities, singing, adventurous days out and unit holidays!



To register your daughter go to www.girlguiding.org.uk and follow the parents section. For enquiries contact:

Anne Christie oakingtonbrownies@gmail.com

OAKINGTON C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL PSA
PROUDLY PRESENTS A:

FAMILY CONCERT

OF FILM & TELEVISION MUSIC
BY OAKTET

Fancy dress competition
Refreshments
Try out the instruments
Quiz

Sunday 10 June 2018, 3pm
Oakington Primary School

Frozen • Harry Potter
Jungle Book • Jurassic Park
Pirates of the Caribbean • James Bond
Toy Story • and lots more!

Tickets:

- Adults and Children: £3 each
- Family ticket (2 adults and up to 3 children): £10
- Under 3s free

Available from 28th May from the school office or on the door
All ages welcome
All proceeds to the school

Nature Notes

Spring on the farm

Although this spring arrived in a dramatic fashion with temperatures hitting 26 degrees C, it was still at least three weeks late. The growth of blossom, leaves and grass were well behind average because of cold, wet conditions and this has affected the local sheep. Ewes give birth 21 weeks after being mated, and that timing is not affected by the weather, so lambs started to arrive when conditions were bleak and grass wasn't growing. The ewes had to be fed with concentrated feed to ensure they could provide milk for the lambs. The wet soil also meant it was difficult to sow spring crops, so our local farmers are late with work and incurring extra costs.

Dog walkers are reminded to please keep to the permissive footpaths and to take your dog waste and filled waste bags home with you or use the dog waste bins provided, thank you – there have been a number of left/dumped bags found recently in the nearby fields.

If you are unsure as to where to walk please check out the suggested walks via the Parish website.

<http://www.oakingtonandwestwick-pc.org.uk/page.php?id=716>



The village pond

You may have noticed our village pond looks bigger and cleaner. The ecological destiny of any pond is to fill up with sediment and to become woodland. This is why ponds need clearing out every forty years or so. Ours needed some serious silt removal because it contained some pollutants but the Environmental Action Group (EAG), working with the Parish Council, ensured that some silt, water and plants were left to allow most species to be retained.

The desilting happened in early March, so just ahead of the newts, frogs and toads coming out of hibernation under wood and rocks. We would have liked to have completed the project earlier but the work would have been unsafe for the contractors in the freezing weather. You may have noticed that the water developed a green algal bloom from nutrients from disturbed soil, but it disappeared after a few days.

In the last 100 years, over 50% of UK ponds have disappeared. In Oakington we have lost four, which are now under houses. So, the EAG is pleased to have saved this special habitat and historic feature for at least the next 40 years. As well as the amphibians mentioned, there is also quite a rare species of flag iris in the pond.

The EAG would welcome your ideas of what comes next. Perhaps more plants like water-lilies, introducing fish or leaving nature to come up with the goods?

John Terry (johnterry23@hotmail.co.uk)

Oakington Vikings Football Club

Congratulations to our adult team who have sealed promotion in the first season by finishing second in Cambs FA division 5a. And were so close to winning the league. Well done.

Under 13's have had another great season, and were so close to reaching a cup final, narrowly getting knocked out in the semis.



Under 9's and under 7's have also had great seasons with some fantastic games, goals, and victories...

The Under 5's have enjoyed their first season of training and their skills are developing really well.

Contact us if you have a child who wants to join our club.

- Ronnie and James under 13's 07714 099017
- Josh and Marcus under 9's 07866 635241
- Toby under 7's 07881 496552
- Jamie Altimimi under 5's 07764967460 or jaltimimi@gmail.com.

Thank you to Sam Nightingale, Jo Mowatt, Frank Pinner and all the other locals who help our club run so well. And



thank you to all our supporters.

Thank you also to our village shop who have kindly donated some funds to help seal some training lights.

James Wilson



Under 7's

Under 5's



Short Mat Bowls Club



We are a small, friendly club and would welcome new members. You don't need any previous experience playing bowls – just come along and give it a try as our guest.

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 on Thursdays; the afternoon session starts at 2.00 pm and the evening session at 7.30 pm.

Dawn Stokes 01223 236427

Community Association update



The Community Association (CA) held its first **Spring Market** at the White Horse on 24 March. We were pleased to showcase local produce and had just the right number of stalls and activities to fill the space. A big thank you to the Chess Club who provided chess tuition and games all afternoon, and to all the CA members who came to promote their activities including the

Environment Action Group, Country Dancing and Bowling groups. The WI sold all their cakes! Our profit was over £170 and the White Horse donated £35 that they raised from a 'Guess the number of eggs' competition.

Did you buy an Oakington & Westwick **shopping bag** at the Spring Market?

If not, they are on sale at the Village Shop for only £3, with all proceeds coming to the CA. You can also buy one at the Village Day.



The **Flaming June**

Half Marathon will be coming through Oakington on 3 June. We have agreed to provide 8 volunteer marshals for the event and, in return will receive a share of the money raised by Histon & Impington. We still have space for one or two marshals, to help from 9am – 11am. If you can spare a couple of hours, please get in touch.

The **Village Day committee** is still looking for half a dozen volunteers to **help for one hour** on the day (gate & parking helpers). Please contact Hanna at the Crossways Café.

The next **Community Association meeting** will be on **13 June** at 7.30pm in the Pavilion. Do come along if you'd like to hear the latest plans for the Village Day and also contribute to the discussion about funding community projects. Hope to see you there.

Jo Mills, Chair - bjomills@aol.com/01223 233244

Crossways
CommuniTea Café

A warm welcome to Oakington

Need to Talk?

Help

Relaxed

Guidance

confidence

Safe
& confidential
At your own pace
No waiting
Empathy

Advice

Support

Marriage

Relationship

Every Monday 1pm - 2:30

Book in now

Familyworker@standrewsoakington.co.uk

07342945373

Humpty Dumpty's Wall



It's official!

Humpty Dumpty Pre-School really is the best early years setting

around - not only in Cambridge but in the whole of the eastern region!

The staff were stunned when, in April they received a letter saying they had been awarded a place in the "Top 20 Nurseries in the East of England" by DayNurseries, a company that lists and promotes nurseries all over the country. This is an amazing testament to the hard work and dedication that the staff give to the young children in the area.

If this wasn't unique enough, the pre-school now has a **sensory area** created and developed by Sophie Symonds and funded by the Co-op Community Fund. It has a wide range of equipment such as bubble lights, fibre optic lights, smelling sacks and a collection of toys for helping those children who find it difficult to express themselves, including specially designed puppets and emotion stones.

Already the room has been very beneficial to those children with additional needs, eg speech or behavioural needs through one to one sessions, but all the children are enjoying the calming effect it has in the setting.

The pre-school currently has spaces for new children this and next term and is still needing new committee members to support its work.

Email: manager@humptydumptyoakington.co.uk

Jessica Summers 01223 237504

Communitéa Café update



We've been open for 4 months! So far we've had lots of visitors from Oakington and surrounding villages, people of all ages, meeting friends, joining in with toddler groups, calling in for a cuppa and a chat or to do some work on their laptops.

As well as being open 9-5pm Monday to Friday, we are also **available to hire** in the evenings and at the weekend. If you have visited us you'll know we aren't exactly a huge space so I would say at the most we could fit 15-20 people. We have a projector for movie nights (recently a family hired us over the weekend for a teenage sleepover) or for meetings, we have tables and benches that fold up to make more space, and there's also comfy chairs and a sofa in the smaller room. Oh, and there's toys and games too!

In June we shall be launching our **first art exhibition** with work from local artists. We're hoping to hold the launch event on Friday 22nd June - watch out for more information on our facebook page and posters around the village!

Did you know we are the home of **5-a-side Chess**? It's a cut down version of the full game, so quicker to play! We have chess club with Ranko Pinter every Wednesday from 7-9pm, and **other board games** are available too. You don't have to be a chess expert to come along - all levels are welcome!

Hanna - info@crosswayscommunitéacafe.co.uk

Yvonne Graves

In 1947, Yvonne Graves first visited Oakington having met her husband Roy, and following three years as a sergeant in the Army during the war. The daughter of a policeman, Yvonne was born in Market Rasen, Lincolnshire. Roy and Yvonne corresponded for two years before marrying. They moved to Sheffield following Roy's demob where he graduated with a Diploma in Architecture. The first of their three children (David, Martin and Ben) was born in Lincolnshire before they returned to Oakington to live.

At the age of 91 years young, Yvonne has wonderful recollections of life in Oakington.

The school was not what it is today, as she recalls that it comprised of two main rooms. The infants class was briefly taught in the Baptist Chapel while the school was expanded. Miss Stapleton was the much loved Infants Teacher. News arrived that the Red Arrows would be arriving at Oakington for a short stopover. Excited, the Headmistress unsuccessfully tried to get an invitation to meet the Pilots. On hearing of this disappointment, the Red Arrows put on a display for the children of Oakington School!

Oakington village too was quite different from today. There were many gaps in the village where cottages had once been.

There were two shops and three pubs (the White Horse, the Butchers Arms on Water Lane and one at the Crossroads, the Harvest Home).



Also at the Crossroads there was a garage - with one petrol pump. The WI had a hut on Water Lane, and at Barker's Bakery on the High Street, George Barker always gave the children a bread roll.

Yvonne was told about how the pond was once used for people to drive their horse and cart through to clean the wheels. The church was much the same but heating was improved from the boiler outside.

The main occupants of Oakington comprised of three families, Yvonne remembers, the Papworths, Stearns and Doggetts. These families have lived in Oakington for generations.

Houses were built in Queensway and Arcadia Gardens, once flying from the base began to cease and Oakington became more attractive with less noise pollution.

As a Standard Bearer for the British Legion, Yvonne was drilled and proudly represented the Legion on Armistice Day - something that also took her to events at Hastings, Bournemouth and the Isle of Man. She continued with her love of drawing and worked at Addenbrookes Hospital in the Maxillofacial Department until she was 70 years old.

Yvonne, who now lives in Westwick, has always been active in the *Over 60's* in the village - now known as *Talk and Tea* - and was involved with 'Meals on Wheels' deliveries - which for her was on a bike!

Celine Pinter

What's On at the White Horse

Monday: *Darts (depending on season)*
 Tuesday: *Poker night*
 Wednesday: *Pétanque night*
 Thursday: *Quiz night*
 Friday: *Mexican night*
 Sunday: *Sunday Roast menu*

Soiree 13 July 7.30pm

A warm welcome to a soiree
 on the Vicarage Lawn.
 Come and join us for a lazy evening
 in high summer:
 wine and cheese
 and a little music from
 the Oakington Singers.
 All welcome, free entry, in church if wet.

Men's Breakfast
 Food, Faith & Fellowship
 All Welcome
 Every third Saturday
 St Andrews Church
 In the church
 9am
 only £2.50

for Women
 every 4th Saturday
 3pm in the Church Hall
**Coffee
 Cake
 Conversation**
 with a slice of prayer!
 Contact Sharon Phillips
 07588675621

Tuesday Talk & Tea

A fascinating insight into an author's world and dealings with literary agents and publishers was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Pleased to say our LUNCH in March was a resounding success!

Diary dates:

- **12 June** Talk by David Latham of the British Cactus Society
- **10 July** Strawberry Tea, incorporating singing from the inspirational Oakington School Choir

Both meetings at Oakington School Hall, 2.45 pm. Do step out and join us - you are very welcome !!

Joan Pettit (chairperson)



Chess Café

The chess puzzle in the March issue of the Journal is undoubtedly the most famous chess puzzle of all time, published by Richard Reti almost 100 years ago! On the chess stand at the Oakington Spring Market, several chess players tried unsuccessfully to solve the puzzle - some even suggesting that the puzzle is impossible to solve!

An animated solution is available on line - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U_cMzTQLpRI and, from now, at the Chess Café in the Communita Café, on Wednesday evenings from 7pm.

This month's puzzle is a similar but considerably simpler end-game. White to move needs to draw.

Ranko Pinter ranpin@gmail.com



From the WI

The much anticipated visit by Frances Benton, Pearl lady *extraordinaire*, took place in March. Never had our members seen SO MUCH pearl jewellery in one place! The talk about the origins of pearls and Frances's own passion for them was fascinating.....the shopping opportunity was unique. Top quality pearl jewellery at so much better than shop prices.

April was, by contrast, a home spun affair in several senses of the word. Willow weaving with Denise Ginsberg, known to many in the village as a member of the Oakington Singers, was the order of the evening. Every member achieved a work of art.

Coming up...

- **14 June** Gunns Bakery Talk and sample!
- **12 June** Arts Theatre outing to see Great Expectations
- **Late June** (date to be confirmed) Summer Outing - either evening cruise from Ely including a meal and entertainment on board OR river Trip from St Ives and Afternoon Tea
- **12 July** Embroidery talk (Ladies' Embroidery Guild)

Helen Williams



Oakington Singers

Having sung at a number of church services for Easter and Ascension, we are now looking forward to our summer programme, with a number of engagements already planned, including appearances at the Village Day on Saturday 30 June, and the annual Soiree in the Vicarage garden on the evening of Friday 13 July.

We will be sorry to say goodbye at the end of this term to our accompanist Joan Keating, who has decided to hang up her keyboard after seven years of brilliant piano-playing with us! We are therefore looking for a new accompanist - if you might be interested please get in touch.

We rehearse every Monday evening from 7.45-9.30 pm in St Andrew's church hall, Oakington. If you are a singer yourself and fancy joining us, or if you would like us to sing at your event, please contact Paul.

Paul Tann 01223 235567



Country Dance Club

Meets on Friday, 8th June and Friday, 6th July, from 8.00-10.00 pm at the Methodist Church Hall, High Street, Histon. CB24 9JD. Guest callers and live music each month. All dances are walked through and so it is suitable for beginners, as well as more experienced dancers, so do come and join us. Adults: £1.50

Accompanied Children: 50p.

Jane Williams and Kathryn Coles



Garden Society & History Society

These will both restart in September.



Ten Sing

Ten Sing's year is still as busy as always! Again we attended the London Marathon, and you could tell the difference the temperature made for the runners! This year they were much slower because of the heat and so we sang, with Kingswood Ten Sing, continuously from 9.45 am until 3.30pm. I think the runners appreciated the push up the hill at Mile 17!

We are now looking forward to performing at Oakington Village Day, and rehearsing ready for our trip to the European Ten Sing Festival in Norway in August. We are also hoping to recruit some new current Year 6's ready for the new term in September. We will have Taster Days on Thu 5th and 12th July, 7-9pm, so do join us at one of those sessions, at Histon Baptist Church.

Terry King



Environment Action Group

The Flood Mitigation Group (FMG) is continuing to have debates with the Environment Agency (EA) about a further 'false' flood warning on Easter Monday. Andrew Dennis, Chairman of the FMG, is striving for a trusted scheme. He is also in discussion with Anglian Water (AW) about the covers they put over foul water pipes that cross Oakington Brook at Dry Drayton Road and Cambridge Road bridges.

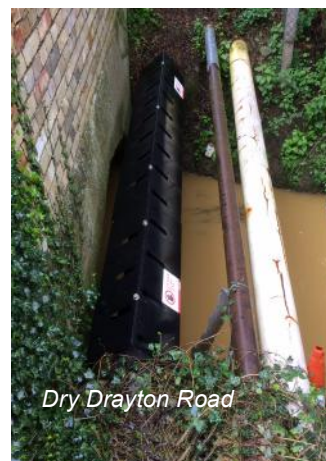
Andrew has encouraged AW to replace the cover at Cambridge Road with fans at each end of the pipe which reduce the risk of trash build-up at times of high flow. The Dry Drayton Road crossing, a bigger trap for debris, has not yet been replaced with fans by AW. These additions to the pipes are aimed at preventing children walking across the pipes but could trap debris floating down the stream, increasing the flood risk.



none of the Alerts or Warnings have resulted in flooding, and so the danger now is the potential complacency of residents if a real flood arrives and no safeguarding action has been taken following the Flood Warning.

The FMG has been successful to some degree. It has persuaded the EA to raise the level of the trigger points on their gauge at Oakington. The FMG thinks it is possible to raise them further with more local input on the flow characteristics of the brook and its response to heavy rainfall. The Agency's first warning, the Flood Alert, is released when it considers the weather forecast combined with the measured water level in the stream suggest that the brook is likely to rise further, and fast. If this does happen then a Flood Warning is issued which highlights safeguarding actions for vulnerable properties. The FMG feels the current trigger points are still set too low and are therefore continuing discussions with the EA to try to create a more meaningful warning system for the village. However, trigger levels must not be raised too high so that

The EA's Flood Warning System comprises Flood Alerts and Flood Warnings and are received by many people in the village, based on the EA's monitoring of water levels in Oakington Brook near the entrance to the Business Park. The Agency strives to provide sufficient time for residents to take 'action' before property floods, such as furniture removal to higher levels. In the last two years



insufficient time is given for residents to take necessary safeguarding actions.

The construction of upstream balancing ponds remains the biggest objective of the FMG and, when provided, perhaps we can rest easier when it rains heavily!

Oakington and Westwick in bloom. Nykki Rogers and James Youd are working to place tubs of flowers to make the village more attractive. Their aim is to get the tubs in place in June and they are very grateful to residents who are happy to have the flowers near their properties and who have agreed to water and care for them. Nykki and Geoffrey Butlin are also exploring ideas for using **open spaces** around the recreation ground for the benefit of all. We had a modest display at the **Spring Market** at the White Horse on 24 March. Thanks to those visitors who gave us their ideas for future projects. Pavement clearing of **unwanted vegetation** continues to make life easier for pedestrians and especially those with buggies and mobility vehicles. We are also liaising with the County Council Highways Department about clearing **blocked drains**. The Highways Department are happy to take reports from anyone who has concerns at <https://highwaysreporting.cambridgeshire.gov.uk>.

The pond restoration work is now nearly complete. We are grateful for the cooperation of neighbours and the contractors and especially the Parish Council and South Cambs District Council's Wildlife Enhancement Scheme for funding the project (see also nature notes).

John Terry – johnterry23@hotmail.com.uk

Stephanie Smith - sgs30@cantab.net

The Big Lunch – 9 June

The Big Lunch is the UK's biggest annual get together for neighbours. It's a simple idea - that for a few glorious hours, cars stop, shyness stops and neighbours come together to meet, greet, share a picnic, laugh, chat and enjoy each other's company. In 2017, 9.3 million people took to their streets, gardens and neighbourhoods to join in for a few hours of community, friendship and fun, and in Oakington it proved to be hugely popular with around 120 people gathered by the sports pavilion on the Recreation Ground for a fabulous picnic on a gorgeously sunny day. Besides all the fantastic food some people even brought gazebos and parasols which was a brilliant



idea. Well, it's happening again on **Saturday 9 June from 12.30-2.30pm** and you are all invited. The sun may not be guaranteed but the warmth of the welcome certainly is! If you need further information or require transport, see the "Oakington and Westwick Neighbours" page on Facebook, email neighbours@oakingtonandwestwick.com, or call 07902 111786. See you there!

Jo Bryant, Oakington and Westwick Neighbours



From our Parish Council Chair



Please see my full report on the Parish Council Website:

oakingtonandwestwick-pc.org.uk

Thanks to those individuals and groups which make the village a lively and pleasant place to live and ensure the Parish Council functions.

Did you know that the Parish Council receives **£34,000** each year to spend on the village? Well, it does! And when not spending the money on facilities and groups in the village, it is busy talking to the District and County Councils, the Environment Agency, the Northstowe Developers and anyone else whose activities can impact on the village.

After many years and much agitation, the **airfield road** will close to all vehicular traffic on 21 May, while roads are built across it into Northstowe. There will be a Pelican crossing constructed to allow cyclists, pedestrians and horse riders to cross over.

At long last the **tall trees of the Tomato Farm** have been cut back, making the road much safer. We are pressing the District Council to have the trees cut lower.

Speeding through the village continues to be a problem. During the year, we trialled a reactive speed control sign in Cambridge Road, recording some shocking speeds - with one driver passing the sign at 74 mph. This in a 30 mph area! The sign did seem to have some effect though, with a significant proportion of people slowing down. We will therefore be installing one of these reactive speed signs this year. Incidentally, if anyone wants to run Speedwatch - contact me.

Congratulations to Mead View and Church View which are both getting their **road surfaces** relaid.

Thank you to the members of the Environment Action Group for **clearing our pavements**.

We obtained planning permission for an **extension to the pavilion** to store the football club equipment and have an extra small kitchen/serving area. We are now in the process of raising money. All ideas or financial offers gratefully received.

We have paid for the construction of a **height barrier** at the entrance to the car park in order to prevent any illegal encampment on the car park or rec itself.

We have received some limited **external funding** and are exploring ways to improve the amenities on the rec. The MUGA is being refurbished this year.

On a sad note, the **Community Orchard** - the result of much hard work by Simon Edwards - was vandalised twice. We have also had some minor vandalism around the pavilion site and so have improved our CCTV system.

Working in collaboration with the Flood Mitigation Group and the Environment Agency, we have been successful in getting various minor works undertaken to ensure **better flow of water** through and away from our village and we will have more works taking place this year. We are also very hopeful that one of the benefits of Northstowe will be very significant improvements in flood attenuation.

Finally, **Northstowe** is now moving into Phase 3, which is the part nearest to Oakington and Westwick. We will be in discussions regarding much improved flood attenuation schemes; new footpaths/bridleways and cycleways in and around the village; funding for village amenities and we will not forget the 100 metre green separation we were promised.

Stephen Moore

From "Oakly Folk" facebook page

Nick Harrison: "I would like to thank **Simon Edwards** for all he has done for Oakington & Westwick over the years and sorry that he didn't get in as our SCDC Councillor again this time, especially by such a narrow margin."

This post received 52 'likes' & comments

From our County Councillor



It's been a busy first 12 months. Chasing the inevitable highway problems from potholes, excessive mud on the road, the Dry Drayton Road speed table, surface flooding, stopping ludicrous traffic diversions, cutting back the Oakington Tomato Farm trees, to name but a few.

I have been working with the Parish and District Council colleagues on a number of issues, such as in the incorrect routes taken by HGV traffic from the Northstowe site, travelling through local villages contrary to planning conditions, being the Chair of the Public Health Committee, and an active member of the Staffing and Appeals, Audit and Accounts, and GPC Committees of the County Council.

I have been asked how many hours I spend on council duties. It averages out at around 30 hours per week during the working day, plus evening work with parishes and residents.

I have received a large amount of correspondence with requests for help on issues that affect people's everyday lives. Over the past twelve months I have received 89 requests from residents for help (down from 148 last year) on issues including local fun run road closures, home to school transport, special educational needs, social care for the elderly and vulnerable adults and council benefit entitlements. Eightyfive of these cases were resolved to the satisfaction of our residents. The remainder were either impossible or the information given was found to be untrue. This individual case work is very satisfying, giving me the chance to get to know many of you.

I have actively continued my work in finding and helping our low income families to take advantage of any free child care they may be entitled to. On top of the existing free 30 hours child care and early learning for 3 and 4 year olds, now your 2-year-old can get 15 hours per week free early education and childcare starting from the term after the child's second birthday. Please contact me if you need any help or advice on this new benefit.

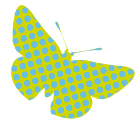
Peter Hudson - peter.hudson@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Lots of fun for all the family - From noon until late



30th June 2018

Oakington Village Day



Adults

£1

**At the Recreation Ground
Queens Way, Oakington**

**Free
Entry
For Kids**



ENTERTAINMENT



The Barre Community Dance School • Local School poems and music • Oakington Singers
Cottenham Junior Brass Band • Ten Sing Youth Groups • Raffle • Storytelling
The Kingston Blues Band • Black Coffee Jazz Band
Play Your Cards Right • Family Disco



ACTIVITIES



Bouncy Castles • 5-a-side football • Plate smashing • Welly wanging
Face painting • Tractor display • Chess • Youth Bus
Crafts for children & more...



FOOD & DRINK*



BBQ • Hog Roast • Fish and chips • Thai food • Beer tent • Tea and cake
Ice cream • And more!

**Corkage Fee for own alcohol*



Contact Hanna at oakingtonvillageday@gmail.com