

Oakington & Westwick

November 2019

Journal



**Christmas
Events**

**Children
Remember**

**Disappearing
Village?**

What's On

Mon		Monday Café , 9:30–noon. Church Hall, £1. Liz Davis – C 232 745
Mon		Bodysculpt Pilates , 9:30–10:30 am. Pavilion
Mon		Senior Pilates , 1:30–2:30 pm. Pavilion
Mon		Brownies . For further details please contact Anne Christie – oakingtonbrownies@gmail.com
Mon		Good Exercise , 7–8pm. Pavilion
Mon		Oakington Singers , 8–9:30pm. Rehearsal, Church Hall. Richard Hinitt – richard@organistanywhere.co.uk
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 – cubs@oakingtonscouts.org.uk
Tue		Table Tennis , 7:30pm. Pavilion, £2.50. Gillian L'angellier – C 234 758
Wed		Pilates , 10:30–11:30am. Pavilion
Wed		Vikings Football Club , 5:30–7pm (U15s) & 7–8pm (adults). Recreation Ground. oakingtonvikings@yahoo.com
Wed		Chess Café & Games Night , 7:30–9:30pm. Crossways. Ranko Pinter – ranpin@gmail.com
Wed		Yoga , 7:30–9pm. Pavilion
Thu		Little Steps Toddler group, 10–11:30am. Church Hall. Ben Phillips – familyworker@standrewsoakington.co.uk
Thu		Short Mat Bowls , 7:30–10pm. Pavilion, £4 per week/reduced for members. Dawn Stokes – C 236 427
Thu		Ten Sing , 7–9pm. Histon Baptist Church, £45 per year. Theresa King – jking47@aol.com
Fri		Over 55s Fitness , 10–11am. Pavilion. £4.50/£3.50 concessions. Simon – C 236 945
Fri		Beavers followed by Scouts . £30 per term. For more information contact Lou Ellis – lou.ellis@oakingtonscouts.org.uk
Sat		Yoga , 10–11:30 am. Pavilion
Sat		Vikings Football U5s Training , 10–11am. MUGA. All welcome. James Wilson – oakingtonvikings@yahoo.com
Wed	27 Nov	Garden Society , 7:30pm. Church Hall. “ <i>Gardens from Scratch</i> ”. Julie Grove – C 233 951
Thu	28 Nov	Eco-Worriers , 7:30–9pm. Crossways. Gerry Cavander – gedcavander@hotmail.co.uk
Sat	30 Nov	Christmas Fayre , 2–4:30pm. Primary School. £1/50p
Sat	30 Nov	Tennis Club Quiz , 6:30pm. Pavilion. £40 per team inc food. Sue Heaver – heaver.sue@hotmail.co.uk
Wed	4 Dec	Carols and Cocoa , 9:30–10:30am. School. All welcome
Fri	6 Dec	Minibus to Bar Hill , 9:30am. To book ring Teri Seaber – 07711 531004
Sat	7 Dec	Carol concert , 2–4pm. Pavilion. With the beavers, cubs, scouts & brownies. cubs@oakingtonscouts.org.uk
Tue	10 Dec	Tuesday Talk & Tea , 2:45pm. School. School choir, carols and Christmas tea. Joan Pettit
Thu	12 Dec	Biography Book Club , 7:30–9:30pm. Crossways. Gerry Cavander – gedcavander@hotmail.co.uk
Thu	12 Dec	O&W WI , 7:30pm. Church Hall. Christmas social - “ <i>All Things Gingerbread</i> ”. Helen Williams – C 232 614
Fri	13 Dec	Country Dancing , 8–10pm. Histon Methodist Church Hall. £1.50/50p. Kathryn Coles – C 233 191
Mon	16 Dec	Community Governance Review drop-in session, 6–7pm. Pavilion
Mon	16 Dec	Christmas Concert , 7pm. St. Andrew's Church. Donation. Oakington Singers & Oaktet. Refreshments
Mon	16 Dec	O&W Parish Council , 7:30pm. Pavilion. All invited. Clerk: Laura Lawrence – oakingtonnpc@btinternet.com
Wed	18 Dec	Village Carol Singing , 6:30pm. By White Horse pub. Refreshments. oakington.westwick.ca@gmail.com
Thu	19 Dec	Philosophers' Café , 7:30–9pm. Crossways. crossways.ca@gmail.com
Fri	3 Jan	Minibus to Bar Hill , 9:30am. To book ring Teri Seaber – 07711 531004
Thu	9 Jan	O&W WI , 7:30pm. Church Hall. “ <i>Tales of the Orient</i> ”. Helen Williams – C 232 614
Thu	9 Jan	Biography Book Club , 7:30–9pm. Crossways. Gerry Cavander – gedcavander@hotmail.co.uk
Mon	13 Jan	O&W Parish Council , 7:30pm. Pavilion. All invited. Clerk: Laura Lawrence – oakingtonnpc@btinternet.com
Tue	14 Jan	Tuesday Talk & Tea , 2:45pm. Church Hall. Talk by Emma Sanders of MAGPAS. Joan Pettit
Wed	15 Jan	Deadline for online consultation on Community Governance Review proposals
Thu	16 Jan	History Society , 7:30pm. Church Hall. “ <i>The Archaeology of the A14 Upgrade</i> ”. Julie Grove – C 233 951
Thu	16 Jan	Philosophers' Café , 7:30–9pm. Crossways. crossways.ca@gmail.com
Tue	21 Jan	Board Games Night , 7:30–9:30pm. Crossways. Scrabble & other board games. alice3000@mail.ru
Tue	28 Jan	Community Association AGM , 7:30pm. Pavilion. All welcome. oakington.westwick.ca@gmail.com
Wed	29 Jan	Garden Society , 7:30pm. Church Hall. “ <i>The spring flowers of N.W. Turkey</i> ”. Julie Grove – C 233 951
Thu	30 Jan	Eco-Worriers , 7:30–9pm. Crossways. Gerry Cavander – gedcavander@hotmail.co.uk

For other events at Crossways, see the calendar in the window there or on the notice board near the shop.

Pavilion Booking Administrator

Tony Leadley – 07936 024587
oakingtonpavilion@gmail.com

Oakington Primary School

office – C 232328
office@oakington.cambs.sch.uk

Oakington & Westwick Neighbours (OWN)

07902 111786
OWNeighbours@gmail.com

Village Shop

C 232327

Parish Councillors

Chair: Stephen Moore

Vice-Chair: Tony Starling

John Bailey

Geoffrey Butlin

Julie Grove

Luis Navarro

Ranko Pinter

Lis Warboys

Email address for all councillors
oakingtonpc@btinternet.com

Parish Website

www.oakingtonandwestwick-pc.org.uk

Correspondence to the Council should be addressed to the Clerk:

Mrs Laura Lawrence

Email: oakingtonpc@btinternet.com

Post: 4 Meadow Farm Close

Oakington CB24 3AS

Phone: 01223 232398

District Councillors

Sarah Cheung Johnson – 01954 489089
cllr.cheungjohnson@scambs.gov.uk

Alex Malyon – 01954 202859
cllr.malyon@scambs.gov.uk

www.sclibdems.org.uk/longstanton/news

County Councillor

Oakington, Westwick, Longstanton,
Northstowe & Over

Peter Hudson – 07518 417432

peter.hudson@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Changing Times

Oakington and Westwick are busy and interesting communities – as always. But most things change as the years go by: people's lives, business, infrastructure, the environment - examples of all in this edition. Do keep ideas coming of people and things you would like to read about.

Times are changing for the Journal too. From next year it will usually come out on the weekend closest to the beginning of the month, with each edition covering two calendar months. The copy deadline will generally be the third Tuesday in the month before.

As the festive season approaches there are concerts, carol singing and the school fair to look forward to, not forgetting the famous Tennis Club Quiz.



**A Happy Christmas and best wishes
for the New Year to all our readers!**

Editors: Jenny Prince & Irène Butlin

Oakington & Westwick Journal

Published on behalf of the Oakington & Westwick Community Association, to inform residents of events, activities and issues in the parish. Delivered free to all residents and funded by advertising, the Parish Council and the Community Association.

Journal Team: Jenny Prince & Irène Butlin (editors), Jane Goodyer (distribution manager), Geoffrey Butlin (adviser), Ranko Pinter (chair), Jenny Broadway (advertising)

Send contributions to
oakwestjournal@gmail.com

or phone: 233510 (Jenny) or 234383 (Irène)

**DEADLINE FOR FEBRUARY ISSUE:
Tuesday 21 January**

(DEADLINE FOR ADVERTS: Tuesday 14 January)

Delivered week beginning Sat 1 Feb
and covering February and March

To advertise in the Journal, please email

oakwestjournal@gmail.com

Adverts	For 1 year	One-off
Business Card	£69	£16
¼ page (portrait)	£102	£27
½ page (landscape)	£198	£48

BIN DAYS

Thu 28 Nov, 12 Dec, **Sat 28 Dec**

Fri 10 Jan, Thu 23 Jan Black bin

Thu 5 Dec, 19 Dec, 16 Jan Blue & Green bins

Sat 4 Jan, Thu 30 Jan Blue bin



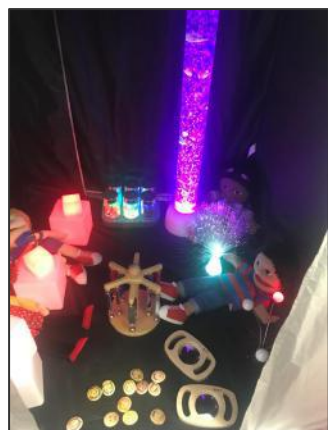
Humpty Dumpty's Wall

Writing on the 'Wall' this month is Sophie Symonds, who has worked at the pre-school for eight years as deputy manager, special educational needs coordinator and behaviour coordinator.



Sophie's background includes working with children with autism and severe learning difficulties and she is passionate about creating an inclusive and nurturing learning environment for all children.

Sophie says, "I have always wanted a special area in the pre-school for a sensory/light room. This was possible last year when we raised money for a special sensory tent with equipment for specialist teaching, for those children that need it most but for the benefit all children that come to Humpty Dumpty's. The benefits have been clear for those children with



limited speech, behaviour difficulties and those children who have additional needs. We are very proud to have this facility at the pre-school and to be able to benefit all children in the community and wider area". The pre-school would like to add to their specialist equipment which they will be fundraising for over the next year.

If you are interested in coming to have a look round or to have a chat about the pre-school for your child, or are interested in getting involved with fundraising, please contact either Laura Peat (manager) or Sophie Symonds (deputy manager) on 01223 237504.

Sarah Stokes

Oakington Primary School



It has been a busy few weeks at Oakington C of E Primary School. Over the October half-term holiday we had an outdoor classroom installed. This is very exciting as we look to develop and embed our outdoor learning curriculum. The children have been busy writing bonfire poems and creating fireworks artwork. We were very pleased to be asked to create the Guy for the village bonfire and fireworks event – the children thoroughly enjoyed making it. For Remembrance Day we were very grateful to have Lynda Fentiman from the village come and speak to the children about her son Andrew who died in Afghanistan 10 years ago. The children had made poppies from recycled bottles and held a minute's silence to remember those who have died in conflict. Mr Clark played the Last Post and Ben Phillips led the children in prayer.



Recently, a scientist from MundiPharma spent three days in school doing some very exciting experiments with the children. It has also been lovely to see so many new faces during our Open Days.

The children are now working hard practising Christmas carols and will soon be learning lines for the Christmas Plays. We warmly invite you all to both of our upcoming events, our **Christmas Fayre on Saturday 30 November from 2-4:30pm** and our **Carols and Cocoa morning on Wednesday 4 December at 9:30am**. For up to date information and details on our forthcoming events please visit our new website – www.oakingtonprimary.co.uk

Nathan Clark - Headteacher

Ten Sing Update



Autumn term has started well for Ten Sing. It's great to be back for the new year and get into a routine. We have a couple of new joiners, who have taken advantage of us allowing young people to join us in the academic term they turn 11. It is lovely to have some new blood as well as the regular loyal Ten Singers. We would still love to have some more Oakington and Girton members! I think joining us in Year 6 when you have just turned 11 allows you time to get used to the Ten Sing routine before secondary school, as well as getting to know a few faces you may see around at your next school.

We have a busy timetable planned for the autumn, and into the New Year, with some key dates as follows:

Fri 6 Dec - Guest appearance at Choir 2000 Advent Concert at Histon Baptist Church

Thursday Dec 19 - Christmas Party - Bring A Friend!
All welcome, come and try Ten Sing for an evening!

Sat 8 Feb 2020 - Fundraising Dinner: Greek Theme

Do get in contact if you need any more information.

Terry King, Ten Sing Administrator
Jking47@aol.com - 07880 697230

Transport Action Group

HGVs. Following comments on Oaky Folk facebook page the issue of increased traffic and HGVs in particular through the village was flagged up to the Parish Council, the District Council and the County Council, the latter being the authority for the highways throughout Cambridgeshire. Whilst we do have speed monitoring equipment, the vehicle count data it provides is not reliable enough to use as evidence, and the County Council automatic traffic counting (ATC) equipment embedded in the road by the Business Park hasn't been functional for the best part of 18 months. In order to get any leverage and rule out A14 and Northstowe construction traffic, we were requested to provide detailed information of vehicle registration plate, date, time and direction of travel (either towards or from Cottenham). Members of TAG have undertaken a number of surveys to get this information and have passed it onto both the District and County Councillors to use. We are grateful to Peter Hudson (County Councillor) for taking the available information directly to the senior person in the Highways Department of the County Council along with our request for the ATC to be used to monitor detailed traffic flows along Dry Drayton Road. We believe that there are a number of factors that are influencing the perceived increase in traffic:



1. The movement of soil/spoil to the Cambridge Gun Club rifle range in Long Drove Cottenham for building large safety bunds around the shooting ranges.
2. Construction lorries and delivery lorries for the new development on Oakington Road, Cottenham, are directed through Oakington as they leave the site – presumably they have been told to enter the site from our direction as well.
3. Excessive HGV traffic through the parish during the night (corroborated by the Homes England Arkadis Traffic Report)
4. Night closure on the A14 with either inadequate or missing diversion signs.
5. HGV drivers ignoring the diversion signs.



TAG will be conducting more surveys over the coming weeks and will report back on any information that we receive.

Bus Services. The Cambridge and Peterborough Combined Authority are looking for public views (from both users and non-users) on the future of running bus services across the county. Please note the survey deadline is 15 December. For details see page 21.

If you would like to get involved, eg helping with traffic surveys, or would like any more detail on the above and other aspects of TAG activity, please get in touch.



Jim Bryant

Chair: Transport Action Group

Email: owcp.tag@gmail.com

Mob: 07807184691

ADVERTS REMOVED FOR ONLINE VERSION

Environment Action Group

Our **Flood Mitigation Group (FMG)** lead by Andrew Dennis with support from PC chairman Stephen Moore continues to press for the promised flood attenuation ponds on Oakington Brook. Despite previous promises by the Northstowe developers that work would begin in 2017 it now appears that there may be an even longer delay as the funds available from Northstowe Phase 2 Section 106 money may not be sufficient for the construction of the ponds. It is possible there may be more money available linked to the construction of Northstowe Phase 3A but not for some time yet. The construction of the ponds is the single most important action which could be taken to reduce the risk of extensive flooding in the village, and we are therefore very concerned by these developments and projected delays. Stephen Moore has already met with the planning officer at South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC), and more detailed discussion between them, Stephen, and the FMG are anticipated.

Meanwhile, you may have noticed that the **Oakington and Westwick in Bloom** flower tubs have been restocked with winter plants. We are hoping that restocking slightly earlier this year will give the plants more time to get established before winter arrives. We continue to be very appreciative of all the volunteers who water and care for the tubs, as well as to Oakington Garden Centre for supplying and planting the plants and to the Parish Council (PC) for funding this project with a little help from the Community Association (CA).

We have also been continuing with ongoing maintenance of the **village pond**, with an enthusiastic group of volunteers pulling out the aggressive bulrushes that were threatening to take over. Further **working parties** are anticipated over the next few months, with tasks including sweeping up the leaves from our footways. We are always happy to have more volunteers to help, so if you could spare an hour or two occasionally to help make our village safer and more attractive please contact James Youd on jamesyoud51@icloud.com or 01223 233639.

Finally, work continues on our other projects, including to develop **open spaces** around the recreation ground (joint project with the PC) and to install **information boards** at historic sites around the village (joint project with the History Society).

Stephanie Smith



Village Shop – “Use it or lose it”

Monday-Saturday: 6am – 8pm
Sunday: 7am – 4pm

Post Office opening times

Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri: 9am – 1pm, 2 – 4:30pm
Wednesday: 9am – 1pm
Saturday: 9am – 12:30pm

OWN

We are now heading towards winter, a time when many of us don't exactly hibernate but we do hunker down in our homes and perhaps see less of our neighbours than during the warm, light summer months. If you are beginning to feel isolated and would **welcome some company**, OWN can arrange for one of our volunteers to visit. Perhaps you would



enjoy a game of Scrabble or simply a cup of tea and a chat. Or it may be that you know a neighbour who might be finding things difficult. The Monday Café or Tuesday Talk and Tea always welcome new visitors, but if the problem is getting there, let us know. We can also help with your **shopping** at the village shop. Call OWN's mobile number (07902 111786) and if we're not able to talk to you immediately, leave a message and someone will get back to you.

A new service is now being made available for village residents. OWN has arranged a **minibus service** to Tesco's on the first Friday of the month to help with those things you might not be able to get locally as part of your weekly shop. You can be picked up at your door from 9.30am and the return time is arranged on the bus. If you'd like to use the bus or just want to know more, please ring Teri on 07711 531004 by midday of the day before the trip. The upcoming dates are: Friday 6 December, Friday 3 January, and Friday 7 February. At present, the service is free for a trial period.

By the time this Journal appears, OWN will have had its AGM to review our activities over the past year and make plans for the future. Sefanit Inquai, the Mental Wellbeing Worker in Histon and Impington, and Claire Harris who provides mental health first aid training were to be the speakers at the meeting which launches **Mental Wellbeing Year**, OWN's focus for 2020. As part of this, there are plans for a Mental Health First Aid training day in March. More details in January's Journal. If you are interested in becoming involved with Oakington and Westwick Neighbours please do get in touch. Leave a message on 07902 111786 or email owneighbours.wordpress.com. We are also on Facebook.

Jo Bryant



The ponies were a sideline

An era has ended in Oakington. Gone is the familiar sight of a line of horses and riders winding through the streets, shepherded by Charlotte Jordan or Lillon Harrison on a bicycle. So here we take a look back at how a “hobby that paid for itself” became a village institution.

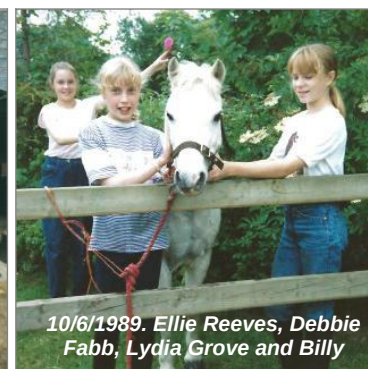
Sisters Charlotte and Lillon grew up with horses. Born in St Ives but from a long-established Oakington family, Charlotte moved into the house on High Street in which her mother and grandmother had been born, and which had stables and an orchard field.

The riding school began in 1978 when teacher Lucy Livingstone knocked at Charlotte’s door and asked, in her delightful Scottish accent, if she would teach her four-year-old daughter Catriona to ride. Charlotte had just bought Billy, an eleven-hand Welsh pony, from the Barister family at Mansell Farm. She was happy to have a break from looking after her young son, go out with Catriona on Billy, and earn 50p as well.

Soon other girls were pestering their parents to have lessons too. Charlotte bought a second pony, Kitty, and applied for a Riding School licence. Around this time Lillon moved back from teaching in Greenwich, and, when the numbers of pupils became more than Charlotte could manage, stepped in to take the Sunday lessons.

The school was never advertised – pupils arrived through word of mouth from the village and beyond. For many years there were ten ponies or more, and around sixty pupils a week: five rides or field lessons on each weekend day, plus others during the week, including “housewives’ hacks” for adults. School holidays were even busier. Some of the girls – “they were mostly girls” – came for years, and were keen to help in the stables as well. “You’d have to get a crowbar at the end of the day” to force them home.

But Charlotte and Lillon recognised that they were doing far more than simply teaching children how to ride. They remember girls who were enduring harrowing home lives and who found that their time with the horses “kept their feet on the ground.” They have moving stories of children with special needs, who got so much from the experience of riding, or from chatting to their instructor



10/6/1989. Ellie Reeves, Debbie Fabb, Lydia Grove and Billy

during their hour in the countryside. Both trained teachers, the sisters felt they were putting their skills to good use, and not just for riding. Hacks were nature lessons, identifying wild flowers or looking for birds. “The ponies were a bit of a sideline, a means to an end,” Charlotte explains.

Once a year the whole village was invited in for the charity gymkhana. Over the decades these raised thousands of pounds for local and international charities. The highlight of the day was the fancy dress competition, with both horses and riders imaginatively attired. In the 1980s the Village Day celebrations included a procession of floats, and the Riding School regularly took part. “Walter Stanford would always drive the tractor.” A favourite was the ‘Chariots of Fire’ float, featuring 1920s athletes and Lillon as professor.

The girls were clearly a community of friends and Charlotte and Lillon talk fondly of them, especially their early pupils. Charlotte Griffiths, Suzy and Lizzy Barker, Leah and Hannah Webster, Sarah Nunn, Rebecca Chapman, Helen Fabb, Lydia Grove, Helen Friend, Ellie Reeves...

They can tell you what many went on to do in later life. Some became vets or professional equestrians.

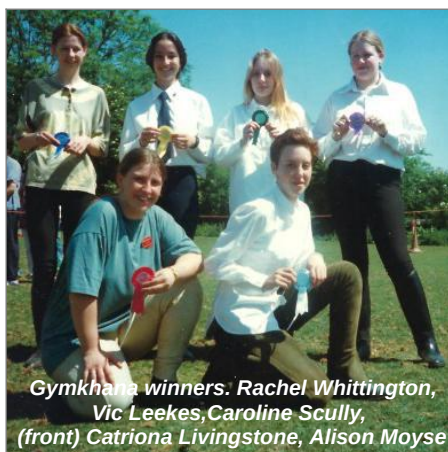
Just as the riding school began gradually, slowly it wound down, as elderly ponies were not replaced. In spring this year Charlotte did not renew their licence. After 41 years the field and stables are empty again.

It’s hardly an idle retirement. Charlotte and Lillon are busy with their large garden, raising money for the Pipka refugee camp on Lesbos, and Charlotte has taken up the violin.

What will happen to the horse field? “We’re not making hasty decisions,” she says.

Do they miss the ponies? “It’s very strange,” says Lillon, “not being on tenterhooks during fireworks or thunderstorms.” She confesses to a feeling of relief, though, when waking on a torrential Sunday morning, not to have to get up and lead five rides!

Jenny Prince



Gymkhana winners. Rachel Whittington, Vic Leekes, Caroline Scully, (front) Catriona Livingstone, Alison Moyse



Chariots of Fire float, c. 1984, with Charlotte and Lillon in the front

From the WI

Why not give us a try? We meet in St Andrew's Church Hall on the second Thursday of the month, 7.30pm. Visitors £5. New members can join anytime! For more info contact:

- H. Williams, C 232614, helenwilliams5@outlook.com
- P. Marsh, C 233443, marsh145@gmail.com.

In September, Mike Petty enthralled our members with a talk on Cambridgeshire poet James Withers, a contemporary of Byron and Keats and rated by Charles Dickens and Queen Victoria! In October, members enjoyed a very sociable craft evening making paper flowers under the direction of our very own Jane Ryan!

- **14 Nov** an evening of Aromatherapy
- **12 Dec** a Christmas social on the theme of all things Gingerbread, not just to eat but crafts as well.
- **9 Jan** "Tales of the Orient"

We look forward to sharing our New Programme for 2020 with readers in the next Journal. Do come and join us!

Helen Williams



Garden Society

We meet on the last Wednesday of the month Sept-April, 7:30 pm at St Andrews' Church Hall. New and regular members always welcome – we are happy to discuss all aspects of gardening. Membership (£15) includes 10% discount at Oakington Garden Centre (excluding the Olive Tree Café.)



- **27 Nov** 'Gardens from Scratch' – Andrew Sankey

Andrew makes a welcome return, this year to advise on how to tackle a new garden from scratch or renovate a neglected patch.

- **29 Jan** 'The spring flowers of Northwest Turkey' – Joe Sharman

Local plant hunter Joe Sharman talks about the spring bulbs and plants from the North West region of Turkey and how they have influenced our spring borders.

See you all next year for another journey into the world of the garden.

Julie Grove C 23351

Country Dance Club

Jane and I look forward to seeing you at Histon Methodist Church on **Friday 13th December** at 8pm, for another evening of fun, fellowship and dancing. Bob Ridout will be our caller for the night and so we can cater for all abilities from beginner



to more advanced. We shall also have live music provided by our usual group of musicians. And, as it will nearly be Christmas, we shall have bring-and-share refreshments in the interval.

Adults: £1.50 Accompanied Children: 50p.
Everyone most welcome.

Kathryn Coles

Vikings Football Club

The Oakington Vikings have had a great start to the new season with every team producing some fantastic results.

The Under 15s have been particularly strong and are currently a point off top of their league with a game in hand. The Under 11s and Under 9s have also produced some impressive displays with the Under 9s qualifying for the latter stages of the Cup competition.

New to playing matches this season are the Under 7s who are enjoying a flying start with a number of the young Vikings getting on



FA Charter
Standard



the score sheet.

Finally, starting this month and new to the Viking's family are the Under 5s who have begun training Saturdays 10am-11am on the MUGA (all are welcome).

For further details about the Oakington Vikings please contact oakingtonvikings@yahoo.com.

James Wilson

Oakington Vikings U9s before a recent match respecting a minute's silence. We will remember them.

Oakington Vikings U9s training under floodlights



Club Contacts - Our Teams and Coaches

- Under 5's Matt 07990 900600
- Under 7s Jamie A 07764967460
- Under 9s Toby 07881496552
- Under 11s Marcus and Josh 07866635241
- Under 15s Ronnie and James 07714099017
- Adult team James and Toby 07834465188



SATURDAY 30TH NOVEMBER

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

2PM - 4.30PM

Festive stalls, Crafts, Games, Refreshments,
Chocolate Tombola, Raffle and Santa's Grotto*.



Oakington
C of E Primary School

ENTRANCE:

£1 for Adults & 50p for Children.

(*£2.50 extra to meet Santa)

1st OAKINGTON BEAVERS,
CUBS, SCOUTS AND BROWNIES
would like to invite you to our

CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT

December 7th

2pm to 4pm

at
Oakington & Westwick Pavilion

Refreshments and Grand Prize Draw

Supporting the Ruth & Poppy Fund

Christmas Concert

Monday 16th December 7pm

Oakington Singers • Oaktet

St Andrew's Church

Free entry

oakingtonsingers.co.uk

HOLIDAY FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

OAKINGTON & WESTWICK

Village Christmas

WEDNESDAY 18th DECEMBER
from 6.30pm

WHITE HORSE PUB

COME & JOIN US FOR

CAROL SINGING AT 6.30PM WITH
COTTENHAM BRASS BAND
AROUND THE TREE

MULLED WINE & WINTER
COCKTAILS

HOT DOGS

Our village tree is
provided by
Oakington Garden
Centre

A Joint Event from the Community Association and White Horse

History Society

Oakington and Westwick History Society meets on the third Thursday of the month, September to April, at St Andrew's Church Hall at 7.30pm. Our membership is £15 single, £25 family, visitors £4.



As we outlined in the last Journal, next year marks the 75th anniversary of VE Day, with nationwide events over 8-10 May. We have received some very interesting stories and memories so far; please keep these coming in. Our aim is to have an archive available for future village use.

- **16 Jan** The Archaeology of the A14 Upgrade.

For those of you who have been wondering when the A14 will ever be finished, on January 16th 2020 Tony Walsh of the A14 Archaeology Team will be here to talk about the amazing finds that have been uncovered during the build.

Julie Grove C 233951

Tuesday Talk & Tea

A flower arrangement afternoon and luncheon at Waresley Garden Centre are two events members enjoyed recently. Join us on



- **10 Dec** School Choir, carols and Christmas tea at **Oakington School**, 2.45 pm
- **14 Jan** Talk by Emma Sanders of MAGPAS at **St Andrew's Church Hall**, 2.45 pm

Start the New Year right - join Tuesday Talk & Tea for chat and English tea.

Joan Pettit (chairperson)

Cubs and Beavers



At the Remembrance Service this year we did something different. All the cubs and beavers painted pebbles red and wrote on names of people they wished to remember. And then during the service they and the brownies walked up and laid them in the shape of a poppy. It looked amazing.



Jo Mowatt

Tennis Club Quiz Questions (and answers!)



You've waited all year and it's finally here. It's time for the Tennis Club Quiz!

Here are your quiz questions answered.

Q: When is the Oakington and Westwick Tennis Club Quiz?

A: Saturday 30th November at the Oakington Pavilion.

Q: It's always such a great quiz. Will it be hosted by John Barnett again?

A: We are delighted to say that yet again, John will be keeping us all thoroughly entertained and scratching our heads.

Q: When does it start?

A: Nibbles will be served from 6.30pm, and the quiz starts at 7.00pm.

Q: Will there be delicious homemade food again?

A: You bet! A main course and dessert will served at the interval.

Q: Will there be drinks to help lubricate my brain cells?

A: Absolutely. We will be running a licenced bar serving a variety of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages. There should be a local ale on tap!

Q: How much does it cost to enter?

A: Entry is £40 per team with a maximum of 4 people, including food.

Q: Wow, that's amazing value! The price hasn't changed for years and it's a real highlight of the village calendar. How do I sign up?

A: For an entry form please email heaver.sue@hotmail.co.uk

Q: One last question - where do the profits go?

A: Profits will go to the Addenbrookes Charitable Trust, Cogwheel and to keeping the tennis club going.

We hope we've told you all you need to know, but if not, just drop Sue a line!

Frank Pinner, Tennis Club committee.

Short Mat Bowls Club



This year's in-house competitions are now well underway with one or two matches being played each evening alongside the normal games. It's good to be using all three mats and we would welcome new members at any time. You don't need any previous experience – 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 throughout the year at the Sports Pavilion in Queensway, Oakington and meet on Thursday evenings from 7.30 pm to 10.00 pm. Come along and join us or contact Dawn on 01223 236427 for further information.

Dawn Stokes

What the Parish Council has done

This is the last in the series of articles in the Journal over the past year in which Councillors have explained the powers and duties of the Parish Council. I briefly want to summarise how these powers and duties have actually been translated into action by the PC in the last 18 months and our plans for the near future. It might be clearer if I split them into four categories.

Community

The PC is a key element in helping the village to have a sense of community. We liaise with all local groups, in particular funding (when requested) and supporting the activities of the Transport Action Group, the Environment Action Group and Oakington and Westwick Neighbours. We represent the views of the village to the County Council and South Cambs District Council, and many of the actions which these organisations undertake have been through the lobbying of the PC on your behalf. We are keen for any organisation to ask us for funds and have for example supported young people's football and the Oakington Singers. We remain open to requests for funding by any active group seeking to improve the life of the village.

Environment

In terms of the environment, we have maintained and paid for the upkeep of the Recreation Ground, including the excellent Play Area. We have looked after the Cemetery, and Community Orchards, both of which are also provided by the Parish Council. For those of you who like to have a sit down after shopping at the Village Shop, we also paid for the seat on the Green nearby.

Traffic Issues are a constant source of activity for the Parish Council and we have co-purchased an interactive speed monitor for the village and have negotiated and paid for new parking restrictions which are about to be introduced outside the school. Jointly with TAG, we persuaded the County Council to introduce a new 40 mph speed limit from the Business Park into Oakington. For cyclists, we have (again with TAG) agreed plans with the County Council for improvements to the cycle/pedestrian path to Girton. We have been complaining bitterly to the

County and District Councils about the number of lorries coming through the village, and liaising with TAG.

We also hold monthly meetings with the County Council to raise issues regarding pavements and roads in the village. Unfortunately, lack of County Council finances enable little, other than the absolute minimum, to be done. Finally, we are still fighting the Rural Travel Hub.

Protection of the Village

The final area of our work is to try to protect the village. First, we view and can comment on all planning applications in the village. You might now know, but we have developed a detailed plan to respond to any village emergency. We have also obtained a kit from the Environment Agency to be used in a flood emergency. We have also successfully lobbied for work to be carried out on the drainage ditches and culverts along Longstanton Road through to Water Lane. We hope this will help alleviate flooding issues. Perhaps most importantly, we have endlessly been lobbying the developers of Northstowe to provide flood protection for us.

We do lots more! To find out, you are encouraged to attend our monthly PC meetings (normally the second Monday in the month) which are open to the public. Also, the minutes of these meetings are available online.

Current actions

So, what are we doing at present? In terms of traffic and travel, we will be introducing physical speed reduction methods into the village in the next year and repairing the current speed tables, so they will be effective. We have just paid for, and had installed, a new bus shelter in Cambridge Road. We are likely to install more in the coming year. For the environment, we have ambitious plans for the Recreation Ground and, for a start, we will be planting new trees around the Recreation Ground in the very near future.

Finally, we have a **vacancy** on the Parish Council. Fancy being an active Councillor who can help us with all the issues above? If so, please contact me.

Dr Stephen Moore - oakingtonchairman@gmail.com



What is the Future of Oakington & Westwick?

The northern boundary of our parish currently runs near the top of the airfield, just south of where the hangars were. Northstowe Phase 3 will see 10,000 houses built on land which is presently within our parish and that of Longstanton. It makes little sense for parish boundaries to cut right through Northstowe and for the new town to belong to two villages.

But what should be done to resolve this? Move the old boundary to wriggle around a new town council area? Merge Longstanton, Northstowe and Oakington & Westwick together? Boundaries matter – and not just to define the area of jurisdiction of parish and town councils. They affect local services as well as people's feelings of identity.

This is what is behind the obscurely named 'Community Governance Review of Longstanton and Oakington and Westwick'. There was a flyer through every door, mixed in with the junk mail! The objective is to find out how the two parishes wish to function in the future as Northstowe grows and overshadows both existing communities.

It's clearly important that we don't let these decisions be made for us. The next local drop-in session is in the pavilion, **Monday 16th December, 6-7pm**, where we hope to find out more. Sessions in Longstanton and Northstowe are listed on the flyer and on the South Cambs website – where you can also "have your say" – but only until 15th January.

Jenny Prince

From our County Councillor

Visit from the Housing Minister

It was a pleasure to recently meet and speak with Esther McVey, the Housing Minister, at Northstowe. We met



many residents who spoke about their experiences living within the building of a new town, and working in the local area. We also spoke and agreed that it is essential that the required infrastructure is in place before any occupations in all new and future developments within our area.

Cambridgeshire schools on the up!

Four years ago, fewer than 50% of our schools were graded as good or better by Ofsted. This figure today sits at 93.5% of schools meaning that Cambridgeshire is ranked 16th out of 150 local authorities nationally. And this year saw improvements in results at both Key Stage 2 (end of primary school) and GCSEs.

Innovation boost for Cambridgeshire

More great news is that Cambridgeshire County Council is one of 20 councils who will be working together to share ideas and best practice with each other and with innovation experts Nesta. The County Council's participation will focus on their groundbreaking Best Start in Life Strategy, which aims to improve the development, educational attainment and life chances of children (pre-birth to 5 years) in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

It is an integrated initiative - working across local authority children's services in Cambridgeshire, health visiting services commissioned through the County Council's public health teams and NHS maternity and community children's health services.

Cambs Drive iQ

This online driving programme supports young people as they prepare to get into the driving seat. Designed for students aged 16 and above, it aims to reduce the number of young people involved in incidents and crashes on the roads.

Delivered by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Road Safety Partnership in schools and colleges, it provides young people with a virtual experience of different driving situations they may find themselves in, preparing them to become better and safer drivers once they have passed their test. The course uses examples of local roads so young people can experience specific challenges they might face around the county. Celebrating its second anniversary, Cambs Drive iQ was delivered to more than 3300 students last year in 22 schools/colleges across Cambridgeshire.

As always it has been a fantastic meeting, talking, and helping so many of our friends and neighbours over the past year, and I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a safe and enjoyable New Year.

Peter Hudson, County Councillor for Oakington, Westwick, Longstanton, Northstowe and Over

From our District Councillors

We start with news of the **Community Governance Review**. South Cambs District Council (SCDC) started the process for the Parishes of Longstanton and Oakington and Westwick on 11th November with publication of the Terms of Reference which include timings for the year-long process. These can be found here: www.scambs.gov.uk/content/community-governance-reviews

Officers were at the Oakington Village Market earlier this month speaking to residents about the review. Another drop-in session will be held on **Monday 16th December** 6pm-7pm at the Pavilion Meeting Room in Oakington. Additional sessions are available in Northstowe and Longstanton; please see our Facebook page for details or find the full timetable via the link above.

We strongly encourage people to attend these briefings and give their views via the SCDC website above.

We have had reports of increased **heavy construction traffic** travelling through Oakington. We know that TAG have been monitoring this and working with our County Councillor to try and arrange for traffic monitoring to be reinstated so we can get some data on the extent of the problem. We believe that there may be three sources for this increased traffic:

1. Northstowe – we have been working to ensure that Northstowe traffic is using approved routes and not travelling via Willingham. Unfortunately, we fear that contractors may be re-routing through Oakington. We are pushing for CCTV to be installed on the Northstowe site so we can track vehicles using non-approved routes.

2. A14 works – this traffic is not permitted to use Oakington as a transport route. We have raised this with Highways England and passed traffic survey data collected by TAG to them, so they can check whether registrations match vehicles from their sites.

3. Work at the Cottenham gun club – work is being carried out to build up banks at the gun club and waste is being transported on to site by HCVs. We think a significant amount of the traffic may be related to this. We have asked Planning and Enforcement Teams at South Cambs to investigate this work and whether any planning conditions have been breached.

Oakington Drains. We had a productive meeting with officers from SCDC and Oakington Parish Chair and Flood Mitigation group to discuss the drains in Oakington. SCDC agreed to clean out the section of pipe by Holme Close and will be meeting with Homes England to review the CCTV data for the pipe work. We will reconvene when these items have been completed.

Finally, we would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and hope to meet some of you at the village festivities.



Alex Malyon & Sarah Cheung Johnson

Fighting the Decline

This latest Government Report on the state of UK's biodiversity makes sad reading. To quote the headline of the report, 'There has been no let-up in the net loss of nature in the UK'. 41% of species are showing strong or moderate decreases since 1970 while only 26% of species have greater numbers than in 1970.

The reasons quoted for the decline are intensive land management, a 1°C temperature rise and loss of habitat through new building to meet the needs of a growing population. In other words, the way we produce food, use fossil fuels and build shelters is ignoring the needs of nature. This not only presents us with a moral issue, but means we are destroying natural systems that are so valuable to the human race.

Perhaps help is in hand in the shape of the Government's new Environment Bill. One proposal is that developers should improve biodiversity when building rather than reduce it. They will need to prove a 10% improvement, probably by improving habitat on nearby farmland, and paying farmers for their cooperation. Cunning plan? The new bill also includes better farm conservation schemes.

We can certainly look for improvements in our own county. 'Doubling Nature in Cambridgeshire' was launched in July with Tony Juniper, Chair of Natural England (the Government's Adviser on Nature) among the speakers. This vision aims to double the area managed for nature in the county from 8 to 16%, which would bring us in line with the current national average. The plan includes improving and expanding important areas of habitat like the Great Fen Project near Peterborough and Wicken Fen but also increasing woodland, wetland and wild areas throughout the county.

There is some concern about the condition of our village pond. The water is currently covered in duck weed (*lemna sp.*), not to be confused with algal growth. The EAG have removed some bulrushes and will see what changes winter brings.

John Terry – johnterry23@hotmail.co.uk



ADVERTS REMOVED FOR ONLINE VERSION

Oakington and the Black Death

From Marion Chapman: A friend, who at one time lived in Oakington, died recently. Family members, when carefully going through papers found the following, which was sent to me.

Black Death 1349-50

Cities, as centres of transportation, were more likely to be affected by the Plague, although in one village, Oakington in Cambridgeshire, manorial records show a death rate of 70% when the last survivors moved away. A deserted village sank back into the wilderness, leaving only a grass-covered ghostly outline.

Does anyone know any more about our locality at this time in history?

Reply from Editors: Other input most welcome, but we found the following from an Archaeological Report of 2009.

Oakington was a prosperous and populous community in the Middle Ages with 90 landholders in 1348. The Black Death in the following year devastated the place and many dwellings were reported as being wasted and unrepaired in the late 1360s. Many villeins quitted the village during this period. By 1500 the population had been halved, but grew slowly to peak in the mid 19th century, when poverty and unemployment led to another decline with large-scale emigration to the cities and to South Australia.

Founders sell Scallywags

So after 25 amazing years we (Ian and Alison) are retiring from our wonderful nursery and saying goodbye to our Scallywags family.

It has been an amazing journey and one that we have enjoyed every minute of. We wish our Outstanding team all the very best for the future and we truly appreciate everything you have done for us - we simply couldn't have done it without you!

We also pass on our most sincere and heartfelt gratitude to all the children and their families who have supported us over the past 25 years. It truly has been our pleasure to serve you.

The new owners Busy Bees will continue to provide the best possible childcare for your child, carrying on our legacy and our unique Scallywags ethos.

Wishing you all the very best for the future.

Ian & Alison Bradley



ADVERTS REMOVED FOR ONLINE VERSION

Ideas and Influence

The Environmental Action Group is planning a workshop in the village in February 2020 with the aim of discussing with you your climate concerns and plans. Apparently, one of the major causes of stress is worries that are not addressed with action. So, here's your chance to discuss the subject and develop action plans.

In an effort to come up with some original ideas, some of us have attended sessions in the Festival of Ideas sessions at Cambridge University. Some delegates reckon we have to dismantle capitalism to save the planet. Someone quoted Frederick Jameson's line from his book *Future City*, 'It is easier to imagine the end of the world than the end of capitalism'. Interestingly enough, Mark Carney, Governor of the Bank of England, announced that week that he would meet scientists from the climate activists Extinction Rebellion to discuss their concerns. He has also warned global banks not to ignore climate change dangers.

Ed Miliband, MP for Doncaster, reflected that many of his constituents in Doncaster are struggling to get to the end of the week, rather than worrying about the end of the world. He believes that a new Zero Carbon deal must be just and

include lots of jobs in the clean energy industries to replace those lost in fossil fuel companies. He claims that economics and environmental care must work together and that products and services with high carbon footprints, like flying and fast fashion, should be more heavily taxed.

Emily Shuckburgh, Director of Cambridge University Carbon Zero, described helping to reduce the University's food carbon footprint by 33% by offering alternatives to meat.

It may be difficult to change the thinking of some politicians and business leaders but each of us can do our bit locally. Turning off lights when you don't need them really helps and there is no truth in the old myth that turning on/off uses more electricity than leaving the switch alone. We can compare ideas and encourage each other at a local level. We recently met Stephan Haselwimmer of Cambridgeshire Climate Emergency, who suggests that villages and towns in the county can be more potent and more confident if we stay in touch. We welcome your ideas.

John Terry – johnterry23@hotmail.co.uk



There is currently a **refill shop** in Histon on Saturdays (Full Circle, at the back of Gin House Flowers) where you can take your own container and buy cereals, baking ingredients, pulses, nuts etc and cleaning products packaging-free.



There is a **DEFIBRILLATOR** at the pavilion (hanging outside the patio doors). If you come across someone who has had a cardiac arrest, call 999 and start CPR, while sending someone to fetch it – open box, take out defibrillator, shut box (alarm goes off), open defibrillator and it talks to tell you what to do.

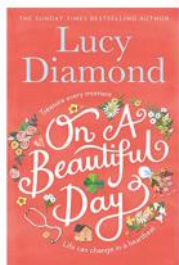
Book Corner

'On a Beautiful Day' by Lucy Diamond

'Treasure every moment, life can change in a heartbeat.'


This is such a lovely book! When I was asked to do a review for the journal I thought about which kind of book to choose, and decided that with winter creeping up on us I should go with a heartwarming, life affirming story, and that's exactly what this is!


The book is based around four women and their relationship, and how they cope with what life throws at them, and how they help each other cope. It's uplifting, sometimes sad, and also funny, all in all a wonderful read!



Hanna Lumley

Keep up to date with what's going on in Oakington & Westwick!

 Oaky Folk

 To join the email list, email oakingtonpc@btinternet.com



Help shape public transport services in Cambridgeshire & Peterborough

TELL US YOUR VIEWS

Prize draw to win £100 of high street shopping vouchers

Complete the survey by:

 calling:
07377001512

 online:
WWW.SMARTSURVEY.CO.UK/S/FUTUREBUS

Survey Deadline

SUNDAY 15TH DECEMBER



Chapel People

Mrs. A Doggett – heard of her? You’ve passed her name every time you’ve walked down Coles Lane to the shop or pub. In 1875, she laid the foundation stone of the Methodist Chapel, a building which has become part of the village landscape. But she was just one of a community of remarkable people who were Methodists in Oakington and Westwick.

This wasn’t the first Methodist Chapel in Oakington. “Primitive” Methodists (a splinter group from the main Wesleyans, concerned to reach working people with the gospel) from Cambridge began to hold meetings in cottages here in 1845. In January 1862, the Oakington Society resolved “that the Revd. W. Swindills be empowered to offer £10 to Mrs.



Stone tablet originally above porch. Note that the word ‘PRIMITIVE’ has been removed.

Chapman of Oakington for a site of land on which to build a Chapel, if he cannot obtain it for £8.” The Circuit Building Committee objected, wanting to know why so small a Society needed a Chapel. They were told “that the Society remained small because it only had a small house in which to preach the word and that it could not contain all those who wished to hear.”

The original Chapel was completed by September that year, but was outgrown in a

decade. Its successor, twice the size, was to remain in use for 139 years.

A centenary booklet from 1975 includes stories of the earliest Methodist members in Oakington, then still within living memory of the oldest chapelgoers. William Doggett was a teenager when the first Chapel was built, and he served for more than fifty years in various capacities. Age diminished his hearing but he sat right under the pulpit with a hand cupped to his ear, unafraid to interrogate the preacher.

Another Mr. Doggett, Edwin, looked back on Chapel activities in the first part of the twentieth century. The choir, taken to sing in neighbouring villages by farm wagon or a Model T Ford grocer’s van. The annual camp meeting in August, with a wagon for a pulpit – “in those days the open-air preachers could send the word echoing to the hundreds who gathered without the aid of any amplification.” Sunday School treats – teas and races in the meadow, or outings to the seaside in an open-topped charabanc.

In the 1960s and 70s the Chapel was well attended, with lots of activities outside the regular services – including Sunday School, youth club, and a ladies’ group. Mead View had replaced the meadow where many of the events recalled by Edwin Doggett had taken place. It was decided to remodel the interior to make it more flexible. The pews – some from the 1862 Chapel – were replaced by chairs, and a moving



The opening of the extension, 1976

(photo from Liz Davis)

pulpit and screen to close off the Table were installed in 1965. Ten years later, it was felt that the life of the Chapel and the whole community would be enhanced by the addition of a kitchen, toilets and ‘schoolroom’ extension. At the time there was no other public meeting venue of this size in the village, and the room was also designed to be suitable for the playgroup, although in the event that got its own building. The schoolroom was redecorated about thirty years ago.

The building was still well-used by the community in 2014, but the congregation had dwindled to three: Brenda Mahoney, Liz Davis and Kathryn Coles. Along with

Methodists from Cottenham and Papworth, they were brought into the Histon Methodist Chapel, and September 2014 saw the last service held in Oakington. Cottenham’s Chapel has been turned into a community centre; despite a well-attended meeting expressing enthusiasm for a similar outcome here, that did not prove possible, and the Methodist Circuit sold the building.



The Chapel is now being converted into a three-double-bedroomed house, with a sunny courtyard garden where the rear part of the schoolroom stood. Cambridge builder Stefan Dopadlik has tried to keep the exterior in its historic form. The characteristic long windows, which will have clear double-glazing, are bisected internally by the first floor.

The spirit and energy of Oakington and Westwick’s Methodist tradition has left another permanent mark on the villages. The Monday Café, originally held in the schoolroom and now in St. Andrew’s church hall, goes from strength to strength – an asset to the community set up by the last of the remarkable Chapel people.

Jenny Prince, with material from “A Brief History of Methodism in Oakington” by ?Edwin Doggett.

The next local **Repair Café** is in Cambourne on 7 December.

See circularcambridge.org/repaircafe for more details.

Community Association & Neighbourhood Watch

Bonfire and Fireworks Night. A big thank you to everyone who helped with the bonfire and fireworks night, and also to everyone who came. Together, we kept our nerve about the wind and rain, and were lucky that the wind dropped and rain waited whilst the bonfire burned and the fireworks were lit. The children from the After School Club at Oakington Primary School made a fantastic Guy. This was a first, and I hope it's the start of a new tradition. As in previous years, Humpty Dumpty Pre-School provided the bar with profits going to Humpty Dumpty's new garden; and the school's PSA sold light sticks with profits going to their funds.

The Community Association has now run the bonfire and fireworks night for three years, and thankfully each time it has been without incident or accident.

Autumn Market. By the time this is published, we will have held our first Autumn Fair at the White Horse. In addition to stalls, we were pleased to host the consultation on the Community Governance Review for South Cambs District Council.

Carols by Christmas Tree. Do make a note in your diary to join us for carol singing around the Village Christmas Tree at the White Horse at 6.30pm on Wednesday 18 December.

Many thanks to the White Horse, Oakington Garden Centre, Daniel Wright of Brookfield Contracting and Pete Davis with others from Cottenham Brass Band.

Future Plans. In the new year, we will be setting up a website for the Community Association; and we would like to thank the local resident who has come forward to help. We shall be holding our **Annual General Meeting** at 7.30pm on Tuesday 28 January at Oakington Pavilion. All local residents are invited.

Jo Mills, CA chair – C 233244



Neighbourhood Watch

A few events have been reported in Oakington and Westwick over the last month: most distressing was someone who was approached by young men unknown, who offered to help carrying shopping, then entered the house and stole items. Please remind yourselves and neighbours not to accept 'help' from people unknown to them. As always, we can help each other by being alert to anything unusual or out of place.

For regular updates from County organisations, you can subscribe to alert@neighbourhoodalert.co.uk, for news of a speeding survey, or scams and frauds which are known to be circulating. Also look at cambsnhw.org.uk for other useful advice on protecting yourself and property, and to keep an eye out for neighbours now that the nights are so dark and cold and often wet. They also warn of thefts of catalytic converters from cars; those who know they have such things should be aware.

Jillian Wilkinson, co-ordinator - C 233585



Crossways House

Crossways continues to be run exclusively by a small group of volunteers and provides a colourful and cosy space that is available for a wide range of activities. It hosts regular 'open café' sessions where people can drop in for a chat or a game or do some work over a cuppa at one of the tables. Drinks are available on a 'Pay-As-You-Can' basis and the opening times are listed on the calendar in the window and on the village notice board next to the shop. For Crossways to develop into a lively and sustainable community hub that is open most days of the week, however, it needs a larger pool of volunteers to make it worth keeping the rooms heated etc. and available for community use. If you can spare a few hours per month during the day, in the evening or on a weekend, or know someone else who might, please e-mail crossways.ca@gmail.com or contact someone of us on the team: Adrienne Chaplin, Ranko Pinter, Alice Jondorf and Lynne McAulay.

Adrienne Chaplin