

Oakington & Westwick

February/March 2021

Journal



Tool Share
Virus
Vaccinations

New Year Goals

What's On & Notices

Every Thursday	Ten Sing , 7:30–9pm. By Zoom. Contact jking47@aol.com
Mon 8 Feb	O&W Parish Council , 7:30pm. By Zoom. All invited – contact clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk
Mon 8 Feb	Board Games Evening , 7:30pm. By Zoom. Jenny Prince – oakingtongames@gmail.com
Thu 11 Feb	O&W WI , 7:30pm. By Zoom. “Christmas and other traditions in New Zealand.” Helen Williams – C 232 614
Mon 8 Mar	O&W Parish Council , 7:30pm. By Zoom. All invited – contact clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk
Mon 8 Mar	Board Games Evening , 7:30pm. By Zoom. Jenny Prince – oakingtongames@gmail.com
Thu 11 Mar	O&W WI , 7:30pm. By Zoom. “Victorian Manners.” Helen Williams – C 232 614

Oakington & Westwick Sports Pavilion Monthly Lottery 2020 - Winners			
Month	Ticket No	Area	Winnings
March	422	Cherry Orchard	£100
April	220	Days Meadow	£100
May	244	Saxon Close	£100
June	201	Longstanton Road	£100
July	424	Water Lane	£100
August	350	Water Lane	£100
September	054	Histon	£100
October	023	Coles Lane	£100
November	053	Coles Lane	£100
December	310	Saxon Close	£150



CORRECTION to web address for Frankie and the Sewing Machine
www.etsy.com/shop/frankiesewingmachine



To ask for or to offer help:
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07375 945284

Email
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- If you are self-isolating and need practical help such as a prescription collected or some shopping
- If you need some technical help getting online, using Zoom, or contacting friends and family on your mobile, tablet or computer
- If you're feeling isolated or have had enough of your own company
- If you'd like to be kept in touch with what's going on or about local services in the village
- If you could spare a little time to volunteer

If you are experiencing financial hardship or are in need:

call or text Ben on
07342 945373
 or Jo on **07714 760582**,
 or email
oak.west.hardship.fund@outlook.com
 Your confidentiality will be respected.

QUIZ – Spot the Location!

This photograph was taken in about 1933, but where in the villages?



Answer to quiz in the last Journal on page 22.

BIN DAYS

Thu 4 Feb, Thu 18 Feb, Thu 4 Mar, Thu 18 Mar	Black bin
Thu 11 Feb, Thu 11 Mar, Thu 25 Mar	Blue & green bins
Thu 25 Feb	Blue bin only

The pandemic seems to have entered its darkest hour, with many cases occurring also in Oakington and Westwick. However, read about the vaccination programme now under way, giving us hope for an easier future. And despite the virus there are new and neighbourly initiatives to lift our spirits. The community continues to quietly look out for one another through this difficult time, keeping in touch and helping out. Lockdown notwithstanding, many have been busy – sewing quilt squares or doing face yoga, for example!

To support local businesses the Journal Team has decided to

hold advertising rates at last year's prices. Contact us if you'd like to take advantage of this.

We would like the Journal to reflect the interests and activities of people across the village. So please get in touch if you have a book or recipe to recommend, a hobby to enthuse about, memories of local life, or any other factual piece that other people may enjoy reading!

Irène Butlin & Jenny Prince, Editors



The Journal is published on behalf of the Oakington & Westwick Community Association, to inform residents about events, activities and issues in the parish. It's delivered free to all residents and is 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*)

Send contributions to
oakwestjournal@gmail.com

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

DEADLINE FOR APRIL/MAY
ISSUE:

Tuesday 16 March

To advertise in the Journal,
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Adverts	For 1 year	One off
Business card	£69	£16
¼ page (portrait)	£102	£27
½ page (landscape)	£198	£48

Adverts for the next issue must be received by **9 March**.

Inclusion of an advertisement does not imply endorsement by the Oakington & Westwick Journal of the product or service advertised.

Gigabit Broadband

A proposal has been put forward by village businessman James Douglas, and endorsed by the Parish Council, to bring the Gigabit Broadband (Fibre To The Premises FTTP) into the village.

However in order to get it going, we need between 70-100 residents or businesses to register.

If your broadband is too slow for the needs of you and your family, there is a solution on the horizon.

- Are you working from home and are finding that, with the rest of the family online, your business calls are interrupted by frozen screens, garbled voice or drop-outs?
- Are your film experiences on Netflix, TVnow or iPlayer marred by buffering?
- Does it seem to take forever to download some large files, games or films?

If you suffer from any of these problems, there is a time-limited opportunity to make them all a thing of the past. You can have the futureproof technology of optical fibre connection brought right up to your house, which is capable of providing broadband with speeds of up to 1 Gb/sec, and get the government pay for it!

A local company Cambridge Fibre is ready to install brand new full-fibre gigabit broadband in Oakington and Westwick by using the government funded rural broadband voucher scheme.

In order for the households and the businesses to qualify for the vouchers, they have to register with Cambridge Fibre before the end of March when the government scheme expires.

If you are interested, please register directly with Cambridge Fibre, following these steps:

1. Go to website: www.cambridgefibre.uk/residential-full-fibre-broadband
2. Choose one of the four 'True Fibre® Residential Broadband Packages' available
3. Select between one and two-year contract, then click "Order Service"
4. Select "add to basket"
5. Fill in your details, read the terms and conditions, then select "order service"

Please note there is a flexible cancellation policy and **you may cancel your pre-order without penalty** at any time until Cambridge Fibre have agreed delivery date with you.

For more information please email: oakingtonfibre@gmail.com.

Ranko Pinter



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Parish Councillors

Chair: Stephen Moore

Vice-Chair: Tony Starling

John Bailey Geoffrey Butlin
Julie Grove Luis Navarro
Ranko Pinter David Reeves
Lis Warboys

Email address for all councillors
clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk

Parish Website

www.oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk

Correspondence to the Council should be addressed to the Clerk:

Mrs Laura Lawrence - Email:
clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk

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

County Councillor

Oakington, Westwick, Longstanton,
Northstowe & Over

Peter Hudson – 07518 417432
peter.hudson@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Member of Parliament

Anthony Browne – 01223 662171
anthony.browne.mp@parliament.uk

From our Parish Council Chair

Dr Stephen Moore –

chair@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk



In the last Journal, I wrote about the issue of lorries thundering through the village linked to construction work in Cottenham. Our District Councillors, Sarah Cheung-Johnson and Alex Malyon, organised a meeting with the relevant Planning (South Cambs District Council) and Highways Officers (Cambs County Council).

The meeting started with some worrying news – that yet another large new housing development was likely to be approved and that all the lorries associated with this new development were to be routed through Oakington. The arguments put forward by County Highways was that it was a shorter route through Oakington from the A14 and that Cottenham Parish Council had asked that the lorries should not pass through Cottenham! Interestingly, the County Highways Officer used an out-of-date map provided by the developers and did not seem to appreciate that using the Histon to Cottenham route actually disturbed fewer residents than the current route through Oakington and Westwick. The District Council Planners were concerned that there was no way to enforce a ban on lorries coming through Oakington and Westwick and without enforcement, lorries would continue to come through our villages. Of course, the next question is why would there be no enforcement? The issue will go forward to a Planning Committee meeting when our District Councillors and I will continue to press our case.

It seems that in every Journal I comment on **flood and drainage** issues. In terms of the roads and, in particular, the disgraceful situation in Water Lane and the Crossroads, the Parish Council has complained again and again over this. Indeed, Water Lane has been logged as ‘an emergency’. Our County Councillor, Peter Hudson, is tireless in his complaints to Highways over the drainage situation. Peter has now gone straight to the leader of the County Council and as a result, a meeting of all agencies involved in the issue of road drainage is being arranged. I will update you of the outcome.

Flooding of the village related to the inadequacy of Oakington Brook to carry away the water, is the responsibility of the Environment Agency. After considerable lobbying by the Parish Council, but particularly by Andrew Dennis – the flood czar of Oakington (!) – the EA are doing clearance work along the Brook, which will allow water to flow away faster. Indeed, I have just returned from a (very cold) meeting with them at the Brook and further clearance work is being undertaken in February. This work might improve the situation, but will not resolve our problems; only a large flood attenuation scheme will do this. We have argued very forcefully to the planners that Phase 3a of Northstowe should only go ahead if Homes England use the land they own around the ex-Tomato Farm for flood attenuation.

Next, flooding concerns in the Longstanton Road area of the village. There appears to be unusually large amount of water pooling in the fields and running in the ditches along Longstanton Road. There has been, admittedly, a lot of rain recently, but we are concerned that the two new roads which have been built by Homes England may be having a detrimental impact. We are meeting the relevant officer from SCDC about this and we have contacted Homes England to express our concerns.

While on the topic of Longstanton Road, many of you may have noticed flooding outside the shop. The contractors who installed the gas pipes apparently damaged a culvert under the road, so the County Highways and the contractors are currently discussing what needs to be done. I do hope they hurry up!

Continued on page 17

VILLAGE INFORMATION

Pavilion Booking Administrator

Tony Leadley – 07936 024587
oakingtonpavilion@gmail.com

Neighbourhood Watch

Jillian Wilkinson – 01223 233 585
oakwestnhw@gmail.com

Oakington & Westwick Neighbours (OWN)

07902 111786 or 07375 945284
OWNeighbours@gmail.com

Oakington Primary School

Office – 01223 232328
office@oakington.cambs.sch.uk

Village Stores & Post Office

Raj & Kanwal Sanghera - 01223 232327

From our District Councillors

We hope that you have all been staying safe and well. The start of 2021 has been exceedingly difficult as we faced another national lockdown. Our thoughts are with everyone who is being affected by Covid-19. Please continue to follow guidelines so we can all stay safe as the NHS works to roll out the vaccine. We would like to thank all the volunteers, coordinated by OWN, who continue to do an incredible job supporting vulnerable members of the community. We would like to thank them for distributing the SCDC funded Christmas meals to residents.

Cottenham Development

We would like to thank those of you who took the time to write to planning officers to object to plans to route construction traffic from the latest Cottenham housing development via Oakington. With the Parish Council, we met with both District Planners (who approve housing) and County Planners (who look after highways) to raise our objections. We are still awaiting a response, but will push for this decision to go to full planning committee for final review. The original application was decided before we were elected, and the Parish Council were not consulted on the plans, so we are trying our best to influence the process at this late stage.

Flood Alleviation

We watched with great concern the reports of the flooding in the village over Christmas. Our sympathies are with those

who were impacted. On our request, Homes England have cleared the Brook on the Tomato Farm land where there was a partial blockage downstream from Oakington Business Park. We have also worked with Cllr Hudson to get the drains cleared again. This work was completed before Christmas, but due to the volume of rain drains were still overwhelmed. We will continue to work with Oakington Flood Mitigation Group on measures to improve this situation for the village. We would like to thank the Flood Mitigation Group for all their hard work on this issue. We have been keeping Homes England up to date to ensure they are prioritising plans for flood alleviation.

New Blue bin? If you regularly find yourself filling your blue bin with recycling, you can order up to three additional blue bins from the council for free. Please visit: www.scambs.gov.uk/bins/report-or-request-a-bin/

South Cambs District Council recycles far more plastics than other areas. For example (clean) cling film, plastic bags and wrap that goes around food can all be recycled. To check the full list of what can be recycled visit: www.scambs.gov.uk/bins/what-goes-in-which-bin/

Do get in touch about any issues - see details on page 5.

*Sarah Cheung Johnson
& Alex Malyon*

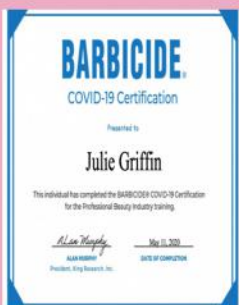


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From our County Councillor

The Covid-19 Vaccination Programme is now well underway in Cambridgeshire and will continue throughout the current national lockdown. This is an update of the programme as it stands at the time of writing.



Vaccination sites

All staff and external colleagues are working incredibly hard to open up additional vaccination sites over the coming days and weeks, to expand the number of vaccination sites and vaccination appointments available across Cambridgeshire.

A number of sites are live and delivering vaccinations, including

- Addenbrooke's Hospital
- Royal Papworth Hospital
- Hinchingsbrooke Hospital
- Ely South and Ely North Primary Care Networks
- Lakeside St Neots
- All of the Primary Care Trusts throughout the County including large pharmacies.

Vaccination appointments

Medical staff have already booked in and vaccinated thousands of people aged over 80, care home workers and frontline NHS staff across the area but know that there are many more people still to contact and book in as more slots become available.

If people are registered with a local GP, they will be contacted via email, text, phone or letter when it is their turn to book an appointment. This may vary slightly between different areas in our region, due to how the vaccines are made available and distributed from the central distribution system.

Local residents who fall into the priority groups (as determined by the JCVI) will be contacted by their nearest vaccine centre as soon as the vaccine is available for them. Local people should not contact the NHS to seek a vaccine, unless invited to do so.

Delivery of second dose

National guidance from the UK's Chief Medical Officers now recommends that the second dose for both PfizerBioNTech and OxfordAstraZeneca vaccines can be delivered up to 12 weeks after the first vaccination. The new medical advice states that the second dose of the vaccine remains effective when given up to 12 weeks after the first dose and should be given towards the end of this 12 week period. Two doses of the vaccine are still needed to get the best protection from the virus, but significant protection is provided after the first dose. The new guidance will therefore help ensure that as many vulnerable people as possible benefit from the protection offered by the first dose of the vaccine as soon as possible. There are no safety concerns in the new guidance, and it will not impact on how effective the vaccination is in protecting people from Covid-19 once the course is complete.

The National plan sets out how they will expand and accelerate the rollout, creating the largest vaccination programme in British history, with:

- **206 active hospital sites**
- **50 large vaccination centres**
- **1,200 local vaccination sites**

This means that by the end of January everyone in England will be within 10 miles of a site or have a vaccine brought to them in highly remote areas. By mobilising a workforce of over 80,000 from the NHS, the armed forces and the government, with the support of potentially over 200,000 members of the public, they are working to the following timetable:

1) End of January – all residents and staff in over 10,000 care homes across the country will be offered a vaccine.

2) February 15th – all those in the top four priority groups, who account for 88% of fatalities, will be offered a first dose.

3) Spring – all nine high-risk groups for phase one of the programme (32 million people accounting for 99% of deaths) will be vaccinated.

4) Autumn – All UK adults will have been offered a vaccine.

Peter Hudson

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Environment Action Group



Our **Flood Mitigation Group**, headed by Andrew Dennis with support from Parish Council chairman Stephen Moore, continues to put pressure on Homes England (the Northstowe developers) regarding the promised attenuation ponds on Oakington Brook and drainage issues relating to the development. Progress on the former remains elusive. Regarding drainage, we have been given assurances that water run-off towards Oakington from both phase 2 infrastructure currently being constructed and from future phase 3A infrastructure will be properly attenuated: if the developers do all they say they are going to do this will represent an improvement on the current situation. We continue to monitor developments.

Our **information boards** project (joint project with the History Society) that we reported on in the previous Journal is proceeding. We are very grateful to the Parish Council for offering to fund an initial four boards, which it will own. A further board will be financed and owned by St Andrew's Church and located in the churchyard. Special thanks to Nick Harrison who is procuring the parts for the boards and has engaged an artist.

The **Open Spaces project** to develop the recreation ground is moving forward with two small contracts, funded with the Parish Council's 106 money, to prepare the necessary documentation for a planning application and Environment Agency approval of landscaping.

We continued the never-ending task of **footway sweeping** in December, with enthusiastic work parties doing a tremendous amount of leaf



clearing on footways around the village. We are very grateful to all those who took part in helping to keep our paths and verges clearer, tidier and safer for users. We always need more volunteers, so if you would be interested in helping please contact James Youd (jamesyoud51@icloud.com, 01223 233639). All work is done under strict 2 m social distancing.

In December we also planted some flag iris (donated by Edgar Stearn) in the **village pond**. We hope they will help to stabilize the bank and indirectly help control the growth of the green duckweed and water meal on the surface of the pond by reducing the flow of nutrients from the bank. We plan to again physically drag the duckweed and water meal off the surface in February/March. We are planning to aerate the pond and we continue to investigate plants that could also help the aeration process.

Stephanie Smith

Oakington & Westwick Neighbours

A year ago we were just beginning to hear about a virus in Wuhan. Little did we know how much it would impact everyone's daily lives. While the vaccines give us hope, it will take a while for life to return to normal and the



government advice is still "Stay at Home".



Several years ago, Oakington and Westwick Neighbours was formed to give local, personal and targeted support to whoever needed it in

our villages. As people needed to isolate during lockdown, collecting shopping and prescriptions was essential; and as the pandemic affected many practically and financially, a local foodbank and Hardship Fund was created. The foodbank has been wound up for the time being as supermarket vouchers are currently a better alternative.

The latest challenge is how to ensure that children in local families can access their school curriculum, especially as the government has emphasized the importance of continuing learning during lockdown. We are all aware that families sometimes struggle to support home schooling with inadequate tech resources, so it has been decided to extend the remit of the Hardship Fund to enable us to help with this. Some of the funds have been used for buying Raspberry Pi computer set-ups, and some free iPads have also been sourced, for Oakington School to distribute to those families who need better access. A request has been made for spare serviceable laptops and tablets (up to five years old) to be donated for this purpose. If you are able to help, please contact OWN. SCDC is also offering financial and practical help via Cambridge Online: www.scambs.gov.uk/winter-grant-funding-will-help-south-cambs-children-get-online/



If you need help and advice, please contact OWN'S Hardship Team: Ben 07342 945373 or Jo 07714760582 or email oak.west.hardship.fund@outlook.com.

Christmas feels a long time ago already, but OWN was happy to partner with the Community Association to promote the Advent Calendar windows through the village, and the Kerbside Carol Singing to lift people's spirits. In addition, OWN was involved in the arrangements for delivering Christmas meals in the villages as part of a scheme organised by SCDC with food provided by C3 Church in Cambridge. The meals were very much appreciated so a big thank you to all those who helped.

If you do not have online or email access to the OWN Updates and you would like to see them, please contact us as below:

07902 111786 07375 945284
Email owneighbours@gmail.com.

Jo Bryant

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Neighbourhood Watch

A timely reminder from Action Fraud:

Pauline Smith, Head of Action Fraud, says: "The vaccine is a crucial tool in fighting the coronavirus and keeping people safe. Thankfully, the number of reports into Action Fraud are relatively low, but we have seen an increase in the last two months, particularly around scam text messages."

"Remember, the vaccine is only available on the NHS and is free of charge. The NHS will never ask you for details about your bank account or to pay for the vaccine. If you receive an email, text message or phone call purporting to be from the NHS and you are asked to provide financial details, this is a scam."

In the UK, coronavirus vaccines will only be available via the National Health Services of England, Northern Ireland, Wales and Scotland. You can be contacted by the NHS, your employer, a GP surgery or pharmacy local to you, to receive your vaccine. Remember, the vaccine is **free of charge**. At no point will you be asked to pay.



- The NHS will never ask you for your bank account or card details.
- The NHS will never ask you for your PIN or banking password.
- The NHS will never arrive unannounced at your home to administer the vaccine.
- The NHS will never ask you to prove your identity by sending copies of personal documents such as your passport, driving licence, bills or pay slips.

If you receive a call you believe to be fraudulent, hang up. If you are suspicious about an email you have received, forward it to report@phishing.gov.uk. Suspicious text messages should be forwarded to the number 7726 which is free of charge.

If you believe you are the victim of a fraud, please report this to Action Fraud as soon as possible by calling 0300 123 2040 or visiting www.actionfraud.police.uk.

Jillian Wilkinson
oakwestnhw@gmail.com

Community Association



My thanks to all those who took part in the CA and OWN activities in preparation for Christmas, both the *Village Advent Calendar* which turned our village into one big calendar and the *Kerbside Carol Singalong*. The events proved popular both with the young and the old. Together with our traditional Village Christmas Tree, kindly donated by the Garden Centre, they helped towards dispelling our winter blues!

The community spirit was also greatly helped by the efforts of the Journal editors and the deliverers, who ensured that the publishing schedule was unaffected by various lockdowns, thus keeping us all in touch with each other

during these difficult times.

We held a Members Meeting on 8 December which provided some useful feedback. We will pass this on to the new Committee elected at the AGM on 26 January, for planning the future activities of the CA. At recent meetings the CA Committee identified the need for some of the policies to be updated, and proposed some amendments to the Constitution for approval at the AGM.

Webmaster?

Finally, we are at present urgently looking for a volunteer, who could look after the Association's website by keeping it updated and relevant - a person who may also be, but does not need to be, a member of the Committee

Ranko Pinter, chair
oakington.westwick.ca@gmail.com



Oakington Vikings

News – new portable goals for all age groups, funded by the club.

The Vikings wanted to let you all know that when not in use by the club, the goals will be out on the rec for local families/children/adults to use.

Please be respectful and use at your own risk.

The club's permanent goals will be removed.



FA Charter Standard

Can we politely ask that no one moves the new goals around the rec. The goals are chained together so please do not attempt to move them. Feel free to use them. But only where the Football Club positions them please.

Thank you. Enjoy!







James Wilson

Club Contacts – Our Teams and Coaches

- First Team James and Toby 07834 465188
- Under 16's James and Ronnie 07714 099017
- Under 12's Marcus and Josh 07866 635241
- Under 10's Winston and Toby 07968 716290
- Under 8's Jamie 07764 967460
- Under 6's Matt 07990 900600
- Welfare officer Frank 07841 995713

Back soon...

Groups not able to meet at the moment due to the coronavirus situation:

- Tuesday Talk & Tea 
- Oakington & Westwick Table Tennis Club 
- Oakington & Westwick Short Mat Bowls Club 
- Oakington And Westwick History Society – postponed until September 2021 
- Oakington Garden Society – postponed until September 2021 
- Country Dancing - Jane and Kathryn hope that the Country Dance Club will be able to start up again during the Summer – Government guidelines permitting. 

Cambridge Ten Sing



So how do you keep a performance group going in a lockdown? Answer – be creative!

As you can imagine, running a performance group in the current climate is challenging, to say the least. However, Ten Sing has a brilliant Young People's Committee who meet every month to plan our weekly sessions, and they are coming up with great ideas to keep everyone entertained. We are meeting on Zoom, but we are still managing to fit in lots of games, crafts, and conversation, helping to give our young people a focus outside of education and provide a distraction from online learning, although they are all really keen to get back to face to face meetings as soon as possible. Just Dance on Zoom is quite interesting and pretty tiring!

We are going to work out alternatives to our Annual Concert so we can perform something this year, so watch this space later in the year. Hopefully, we will be back performing at some point, and we welcome anyone who would like to join our group, just message us for information, at cambridgetensing@gmail.com, or find us on Instagram to see the kinds of things we do!

Terry King, Ten Sing Administrator

Seasonal Tip from the OCOP Team

Winter Pruning



Now is the time to prune your apple and pear trees (assuming it stops raining for long enough). These trees should be pruned while they are dormant, to reduce the risk of disease; ideally you prune them as winter ends (end of February/March), just before the new growth starts.

If you have an old tree that has had little attention, you will probably want to do some formative pruning; you need to be careful not to remove more than 1/3 of the branches. If the tree requires a lot of work, you should spread it over a few years. You are aiming to open up the centre of the tree to let more light in and should cut branches right back to where they join the rest of the tree, not part way along their length.

You will only want to do maintenance pruning on trees that receive regular attention. Although for both, concentrate on removing dead, diseased and damaged branches first. Then look to remove any that are growing in, towards the centre of the tree or across other branches – particularly if they are rubbing (as this will damage the bark). On small trees, if you wish to stimulate growth and spread, cut outside branches back to a suitable outward facing bud.

For more information or our leaflets on pruning (with pictures) email us:

Oakington Community Orchards Project Team (OCOP)
oakcomorchards@gmail.com

Keep up to date with what's going on in Oakington and Westwick...



Oaky Folk



To join the email list, email
clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk

Oakington & Westwick WI

Oakington and Westwick WI continues to thrive whilst also being completely Covid-19 compliant... we now meet on Zoom!



We ended 2020 donning our Christmas hats and coming together for a virtual Christmas Craft session, successfully making a pine cone tree decoration. The proof is below.

We even managed to continue the tradition of a Secret Santa gift. With so many of our members involved in making face masks for our Village Shop this year, it seemed appropriate, practical and symbolic of 2020 to surprise everyone with a double sided Face Mask (one side made of a Christmassy material, of course!). Many thanks to chief seamstress, Pauline Marsh! It is Pauline too, who ends our meetings with memes designed to send us off with a smile and a giggle, such as...



So now on to 2021. A full programme of speakers and events has been planned and our usual information postcard printed. If you would like one of these, please contact Helen Williams on C. 232614. All of our speakers can present online via Zoom, or talk in person once it is safe for us to reconvene our monthly meetings in St Andrew's Church Hall. Either way, we meet every **second Thursday in the month at 7.30pm**. Our January meeting was an active Face Yoga session which proved very popular in spite of involving some rather interesting, if not somewhat comical, though definitely therapeutic, facial contortions!

We think you might agree that forthcoming meetings seem to reflect a certain preoccupation with trying to escape the confines of Lockdown:-

- **11 Feb** AGM and talk by J. Wilkinson on Christmas and other traditions in New Zealand
- **11 Mar** Victorian Manners, D.Allen
- **8 April** Travelling in Turkey, J. Gibbs

Helen Williams

Community Quilt

The squares just keep on coming! Try your hand at a bit of crochet, or represent your hobby in expert machine embroidery – all contributions of any skill are more than welcome. We will be accepting squares until Easter, after which we shall sew them all together. We are delighted to have been given the go-ahead to display the finished effort in the pavilion. The quilt will be a symbol of our resilience, as we express our experience of the lockdown in craft form. All squares need to be 20x20cm, in any material, and depicting something that makes you happy or has helped you get through. This could be by means of a technique you enjoy, or showing what you've been up to.

If you want more details, please email us at owneighbours@gmail.com

Alice J



Chess Club

Solution to a slightly more complicated 'Mate in Two' chess problem from the last issue: White Bishop plays c6 check+.

If Black King goes to c8, White Rook moves to f8 and check mate ++. By moving Black King to the e-column - e7 or e6, this enables the White Rook to give check on e4 and in the following two moves capture both black pawns.



The chess problem in this issue is White - to move, and mate in 3 moves.

*Ranko Pinter
ranpin@gmail.com*





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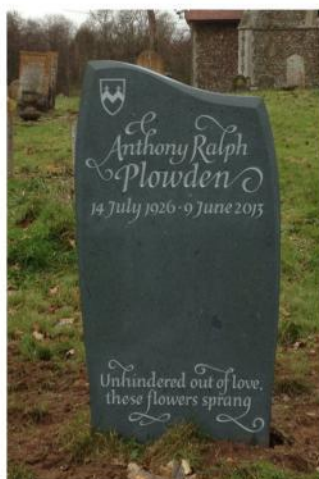
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Westoby**
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I'm a Lettering artist based in Cambridge. My work consists of hand carved memorials, house plaques, garden ornaments, and painted lettering for births, anniversaries and weddings. All my work is bespoke. You can see more of my work on my website : www.pippawestoby.co.uk or on my Facebook page : Letter Carving in Stone - Pippa Westoby.

Contact email :
pippa_westoby@yahoo.co.uk



Where are they now?

A number of children who grew up in Oakington in the 70s and 80s have moved to live abroad. We are catching up with some of them in the coming months.

Irène Butlin

Charlotte (Griffiths) Boateng - Vancouver Island, Canada



Grew up in Mead View



Private Life:

Married to Castro, two children

Work: "House of Boateng" café

Love: Living by the sea, travelling and exploring new places

Miss: Oakington Riding School with

Charlotte and Lillan and Mrs Miller as Father Christmas

Surprise: Within two years of opening café being awarded "Best New Restaurant", "Chef of the Year" and listed in the top 10 of Canada's best new restaurants

William Ison - Pennsylvania, USA



Grew up in Longstanton Road

Private Life:

Four children and two grandsons

Work: From working in UK for Dutch company within the fresh produce industry, was offered irresistible relocation package to the US

Love: Cooking (incl Toad in the Hole); extensive travelling all over the world (except the Far East); fan of local icehockey team

Miss: Warm beer/ale; the older history; family and friends (used to visit UK several times a year)

Surprise: Source and supply 500 million lemons and limes annually to the US market



Ian Wisbey - Boston, USA

Grew up in Orchard Way

Private Life: Married to Dawn, two children

Work: Payments/E-commerce, which provided the opportunity to move

abroad for "3 years". That was 14 years ago

Love: Travelling (Hawaii); sports (9 Marathons); hot summers (6 months), cold winters (4 months)

Dislike: Picking up leaves (2 months)

Miss: Oakington Primary School and Bell Ringing Captain

Surprise: Met a number of famous people, including the Queen, President Bush Jr and "Mr Facebook". Now a US citizen

David B Chapman California, USA

Grew up in Coles Lane

Private Life: Married to Sarah

Work: Prison Service

Miss: UK family

Dislike: Suffering 'Long Covid'

Surprise: Keeps a 12-year old Boa Constrictor as a pet



Caroline (Driver) Cooper - Innsbruck, Austria

Grew up in Longstanton Road

Private Life: Married to James, two daughters. A family "gap year" in 2012 turned into something more permanent

Work: In accounts. Supports teenage daughters' activities

Love: Outdoors - mountain bike/hike in summer and ski days in winter

Surprise: Daughter Mani participated in *Nordic Combined* in the Youth Olympic Games, Lausanne

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“The National Grid won’t cope” – ?

Perhaps you’ve seen the media story that if we all drove electric vehicles (EVs) the National Grid would collapse! Well, perhaps, if overnight everyone miraculously got an EV... but Santa didn’t make that happen last Christmas so we’ve got at least another year.

What’s actually happening is a transition period as EVs are slowly adopted, starting over ten years ago, and during which the infrastructure has every opportunity to adapt. This change and adaptation of infrastructure has been going on since before the Romans straightened a lot of our roads for us.

Part of the solution could be within the cars themselves. Two years ago I applied to join a public trial of Vehicle to Grid (V2G) technology. Utilising a Smart Meter, a bit of extra wiring and bobbins, the EV’s battery is used to store electricity when there is excess production, helping to balance the Grid, and to sell it back during high demand.

My property was surveyed and deemed suitable, so I became one of about 400 people across the UK in the trial. Now at 18 months into the 24 month trial, I can say that it has worked really well for me. The smartphone app puts me ultimately in control, allowing me to set the parameters of maximum and minimum state of charge for the battery, and

manually override if I need to charge the battery. Charging has taken place overnight, which most EV owners do anyway, with the occasional half-hour during the day; while

exporting has been mostly in the early evenings, but mornings and weekend days also create peaks.

It’s a 40kWh battery in the car, and exports have been about 400kWh every month; and the rather beneficial selling rate during the trial has meant that I drive for free and has even reduced my energy bill. Also, the regular charge/discharge cycle keeps the battery in better health.

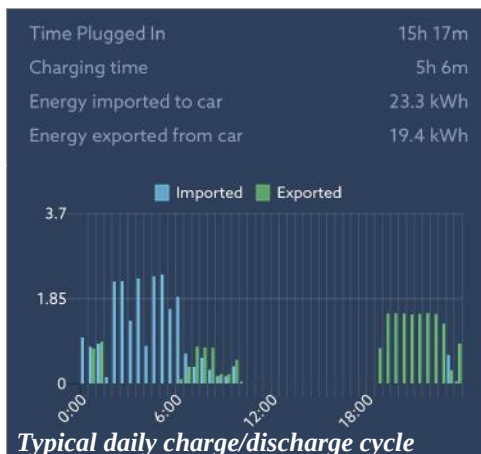
This was the first of a couple of V2G trials now ongoing in the UK, and as a consumer I hope it proves

successful and has a more widespread roll-out.

The electricity market is evolving, through smart meters and agile tariffs, solar panels and batteries, and with government plans for offshore wind to power every home in the UK by 2030 it is also getting greener and cheaper (now that offshore wind is the cheapest way to produce electricity).

Cars, let alone EVs, are expensive, and for 90% of the time most cars do nothing... except depreciate.

Paul Kershaw



From our Parish Council Chair

(continued from page 5)

As many of you know, the pre-school playgroup was wound up towards the end of last year. The building, situated next to the school, is in good condition and it does seem sensible to consider using it for community purposes, if the owners, Cambs County Council would agree. Tentative proposals have been put forward to the PC for a possible ‘rescue’. If you have any views on helping create a financially viable community space, please feel free to contact me and I will put you in touch with the small group seeking to take on the building.

I have written previously about our plans for the cemetery. We have now agreed with a contractor to put in new paths and to cut back the overgrown yew trees. This will then enable us to site the three new benches which have been donated.

Last, you will see a brief statement in this Journal regarding the possibility of **superfast broadband** being brought to the village as a result of the government’s rural broadband

scheme. Essentially, the government will subsidize a broadband provider to install new fibre connections to houses in the village who register their interest. This will massively increase broadband speeds. The only problem is that there needs to be adequate numbers of households interested (70-100) to make it feasible for the provider to consider installing the fibre connections. The Parish Council are very keen that everyone is informed about this scheme. You will find more information and links on page 3.

Stephen Moore



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What did 2020 bring to our natural world?

There have been two big influences on wildlife in 2020 as in all years: the weather and human activity. Last year was one of the three warmest years ever recorded. This helped butterflies and moths including the arrival of some very rare migrants attracted to our ever warming shores. May, you will remember, brought us a record number days of sunshine.

Human influence continues to affect our biodiversity, usually negatively. But last year, Covid-19 lockdowns stopped us getting about and our nature-damaging behaviour was reduced. Apparently, our time spent at home increased by nine times and journeys on public transport dropped by 82%, demonstrated locally by the sad sight of so many empty buses. Journeys by air dropped by 90%. Greenhouse gas emissions in the UK reduced by 60% and vibrations caused by traffic were halved so scientists picked up natural earth movements and noises more readily. The terns at Blakeney Point in Norfolk produced 200 chicks because fewer visitors disturbed their nesting areas on the beach. This number has not been achieved since 1994.

Birdsong is a soundtrack for survival of birds: it is how birds find mates and defend their territory. Noise pollution affects all animals, causing stress and reducing growth and development. So, 2020 was good for birds but also good for humans who count birds and delight in listening to bird song: they had more time to survey and record. The British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), who bring all the data

together, had 20 times more records than previous garden bird surveys. Garden bird sightings increased dramatically. Lockdowns meant more recorders and more records.

Other wildlife sightings were also well up. The Biological Records Centre at the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology recorded the following increases for 2020:



Bees, wasps, ants and sawflies	+65%
Squirrels and other rodents	+33%
Deer and hoofed mammals	+13%
Bats	+143%
Dragonflies	+11%
Butterflies and moths	+97%
Hedgehogs	+18%

All this seems to herald some good news. Unfortunately, the long term analysis is still bleak. The State of Nature Report 2019 recorded 41% species which have reduced in abundance, 26% with increases and 33% with little change, all since 1970. The main reasons for these reductions are intensive agriculture, the higher temperatures caused by climate change, pollution in air, water and land (especially phosphates and nitrates), and land lost to nature because of new building. Many species, including butterflies, moths and dragonflies have shifted their ranges northwards (18-23km per decade) in the last few years because of warming temperatures.

We can all do our bit for nature by having wild areas in our gardens, more species of plants that produce flowers and fruits and some standing water.

John Terry

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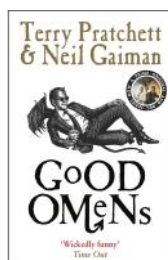
Book Corner

Good Omens by Neil Gaiman & Terry Pratchett

Published in 1990, this comedy fantasy novel of 20th-century Armageddon (featuring an angel and a demon who are friends, the 11-year-old Antichrist and his gang, and a host of other fantastic characters) is a read which will have you thinking and laughing all the way through.

With an endless supply of details, a unique sense of humour and an intricately plotted plot, it explores a beautiful viewpoint on childhood and friendship. Not only does it bring a smile, but it also raises questions about the world still very relevant today.

Z Prince (age 16)

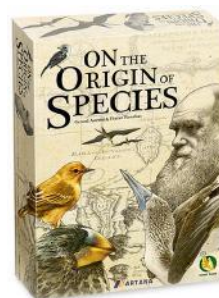


Board Games Chest

On the Origin of Species

The game *On the Origin of Species* started life as a very successful crowdfunding campaign by Artana LLC. During this strategic game you travel on the famous Beagle through the Galapagos Islands, while doing research and discovering new species. Every turn you can choose to do research into the habitats you encounter, by placing cubes on already discovered species. The other option is to use those cubes to discover new species, which also gives you access to cards to help you on your journey. The stunning artwork and finish of the game make this an interesting game to play, especially living so close to Cambridge! The game is suitable for 2-4 players of 9 and older, and takes about an hour to play.

Vincent Udo



My Hobby

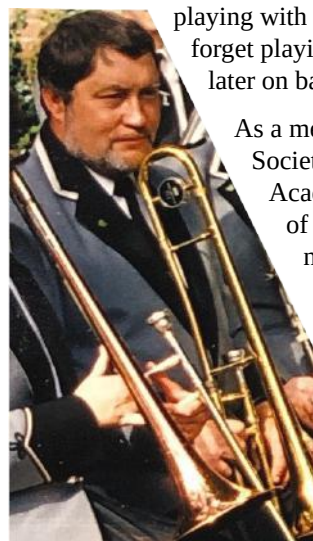
On my birthday in 1992 I was given a large box, a present from my wife. Liz knew that because of a complete change of career I was going to need something new to occupy my spare time and our friend Annie suggested hiring a trombone for me as I had mentioned liking that instrument.

Having no other musical experience other than my primary school choir we approached Cottenham Brass Band to see if they would take on a complete beginner. The Bandmaster Colin Watson allowed me to practise with their Junior Band for twelve months and after that I was given a uniform and joined the big "boys and girls".

I practised hard to try and read all those funny marks on paper and went out on gigs where I confess that I played some notes and mimed the rest!

Working at Cottenham Village College, I was asked to join the School Orchestra and the Jazz Band which were all new to me, and I soon realised that 11-16 year olds learn a lot faster than we oldies do.

The music groups put on performances of their own as well as college musicals and carol services. I especially loved playing with the Jazz Band and will never forget playing with them in Hyde Park and later on bandstands around Paris.



As a member of the British Trombone Society I played in the Royal Academy of Music and on the steps of the Royal Albert Hall, though not inside yet!

Every summer I go to a Band Summer School and there I have met musicians from all over the world. At the end of those weeks about a hundred of us, plus our tutors, put on the most amazing concerts.

Virtual Board Games Evening

A sociable session of board games online with other players from Oakington and Westwick. We meet on Zoom to arrange what to play then use the Board Game Arena website which lets you talk while you play and has a good variety of games available. The next Board Games Evenings are **Monday 8th Feb** and **Monday 8th March, 7:30pm**. Experienced and new players welcome - contact oakingtongames@gmail.com for the Zoom details.

Jenny Prince



Village Shop – "Use it or lose it"

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Sunday: 8am – 4pm

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Wednesday: 9am – 1pm
Saturday: 9am – 12:30pm

Learning about music has also encouraged me to sing and two of my favourite memories are of finally going IN to the Albert Hall to sing Handel's "Messiah" and attending John Rutter and Choir 2000 workshops locally.

I am now the Chairman of CBB and we have more than 40 adult members plus the same number of children in the Junior Band. You can look at our recent "virtual" concerts on our website and they were great fun to do but more than anything I want to see the back of Covid so that I can get back to "real" Banding!

Peter Davis

New to the Archive

Alongside our regular articles "From The Archives" we thought we would share with you some of the new additions. The Village Archive is constantly growing in size with all sorts of photos, documents and items, so here is a bit about some that arrived in 2020.

The photograph shows some typical examples. The tapestry of Avro Lancaster MG-R, which was based at RAF Oakington in 1944, was stitched by D.M. Powell in 1995. The undated "Welcome to R.A.F. Oakington" guide is packed full local information and amenities including an advert for the "White Horse Inn – Oakington" which boasted "Greene King's Fine Ales" and "Fresh Sandwiches Daily". Arthur John Smith was landlord from 25th July 1936 until 25th July 1958. Again from RAF Oakington is a menu from Christmas Day 1945. I am sure as it was their first Christmas, after the end of WWII, all who were present especially enjoyed their Turkey or Pork with all the trimmings, followed by pudding, beer and cigarettes! The small photo is of Dakota YS-P, again from RAF Oakington.



Moving back to the village, the postcard of High Street, shows the old Lion & Lamb pub in the foreground, Barker's Bakery behind and Mafeking Cottages furthest away. It was posted from Detroit in the States to a Miss Isabel Sheen in High Wycombe. It reads: "Dear Isabel, I have been thinking about your lovely Garden. The weather I hope is wonderful. This is a photo of the village where my sister lives. It is not far from Cambridge."

The "Air Raid Precaution Handbook No.1", donated by Richard Barker, was printed in 1943. The handbook contains lots of advice that is relevant to our current times!

Finally the sale particulars of No. 1 Wheeler Street dates from 1927. The building no longer exists, but readers of the last Journal will remember Wheeler Street is now Dry Drayton Road. The property, "Small garden, Wash house and Closet at the rear of the house", was to be sold by auction at the Lion Hotel, Cambridge on

Sat 12th November 1927. The two bedroom semi-detached house also benefited from a "Brick Manure Pit"!

Nick Harrison, archives@oakingtonhistory.co.uk

Spot the Location - answer

The quiz photo in the last Journal was taken in around 1924, on Coles Lane, with Providence Cottage and East View on the left.



New Facility Offered to Oakington

The *Office of National Statistics* report the average cordless electric drill is used for 13 minutes during its lifetime! Yet most households own one and spend an average of £110 per year on DIY tools. Mulcher, hedge trimmer, strimmer, power saw, jig saw, scaffolding ... much the same. Some communities are sharing tools to:

- save money
- save space
- save the planet
- build community.

One group saved its members **£875,000** over five years compared to what they would have spent.



As a village we have the offer of a **central double garage to store shared tools** and we have **two volunteers willing to spend some time each week** managing and organising it. Do you have tools to share? Would you like to have access to some tools you don't own rather than having to buy or hire when you need them?

Contact Gerry@cambridgereuse.org.uk / 0785 7704 636.

Gerry Cavander

The Manor, Oakington

This was a talk given by Mrs Pamela Ravensdale, President of the WI, to the WI in 1959, describing both the house and the history of Oakington Manor. This article was originally published by Ralph Warboys, who along with Terry Chapman was responsible for us having so much of our village history recorded.

This really is the story of how our house grows older, every time we learn a little more about it.

We heard about it one winter day in 1956, when John Belowe (who was the vicar of Oakington) phoned my husband to say that some bricks, which he had thought were possibly Tudor, had been uncovered by workmen when digging out the back of the Manor House. Would he like to come over and have a look at them? He did; and came home to ask me if I wanted to live in an old Victorian farmhouse at Oakington. I said, "Of all houses I would like to live in, that was not one of them."

But a few weeks later we came to see it on a wet Sunday afternoon in February, with trees damp and dripping, and the house dark and derelict, full of dark brown paint and peeling wallpaper, and other people's dusty furniture. We hated it and decided we would not have it as a gift. However, we came again, and we took the children around and into the garden which was overgrown and horribly neglected but still beautiful. I can remember looking back at the house from the garden and that did it. So, we bought the Victorian farmhouse brown paint and all.

We soon discovered it was much older than Victorian. The main part of the present house is Georgian. It was built by Alderman Guy Sundrey (who was Mayor of Cambridge), who had taken the Manor from Queens college on a lease of "three lives". He rebuilt the house as a gentleman's country residence. The Sundreys' connection ceased in 1772 when his wife (the last of the three lives) died. There were no passages upstairs in the house as he built it in the 18th Century; all these were added later, as was the whole of the front part of the short wing, (where our kitchen is now), the bathroom and the hall by the front door.

The L-space-shaped plan is typical of a medieval country house and the lower courses of the main wing, (with our sitting room hall and study), and much of the cellars are of handmade brick, probably 17th Century. *[In view of the next sentence, should this be 18th Century]*. The ceiling beams in the cellar are studs from the older 17th [SIC] Century house

which was here before the Sundreys.

The Manor was owned by Queens' College up until 1940, and seems to have been bought by the College about 1590, although they had leased it since 1568, and bought the



"advowson" of the Church (the right to present the Vicar to the living) in 1558. Before the dissolution of the monasteries in Henry VIII's reign, the Manor had been held continuously by Crowland Abbey since

about the year 950, when Turketyl (a Saxon courtier), impressed by the resistance of the monks of Crowland to the Danes, gave them amongst other gifts, his Manors of Oakington, Cottenham and Dry Drayton. He himself became a monk and died as Abbott of Crowland in 975.

The early Saxon settlement left this mark in the names of the two paddocks behind the Manor, of Highbury and Lowbury (the two enclosures around the Saxon house). Before the Saxons, the Romans lived here in common with almost every village nearby. *[We now know from extensive test pitting around the village that although the Romans lived nearby it was not in the village of Oakington – most likely to the north – airfield/Northstowe and it was the Saxons that first settled here. Other than prehistoric occupation.]*

Oakington was founded when the Saxons picked the site of



one of the two small Roman farms to settle on. Before we came my husband thought there should be traces of a Roman farm in the village, but

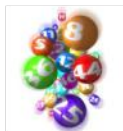
we never expected to find the site in our own garden! We have cereal packets full of pieces of Roman pottery all over the house; but the only coin dug up so far is a silver halfpenny minted somewhere between 1422 and 1425, thin as a wafer and no bigger than the nail of a little finger.

And so, on the site of the "Victorian farmhouse" which we bought five years ago with its garden and paddock, is all that is left of a 500 acre farm. Even the name of the paddock, Camping Close *[the paddock on which Church View estate now exists]*, takes us back to the middle ages – this enclosed field was used for playing Camping ball, a kind of group football in which all the village boys and young men would have taken part on feast days. Men have lived and worked for more than 1500 years where the Romans lived and farmed what the Saxon Turketyl, nearly 1000 years ago, called my Manor of Oakington.

Pamela Ravensdale

Edited by Ralph Warboys and Nick Harrison
archives@oakingtonhistory.co.uk

Oakington & Westwick Sports Pavilion



2021 Monthly Lottery



Please join the lottery & support The Pavilion.
2020 was a challenging year for us all and the Pavilion suffered too with reduced income and increased costs due to Covid-19.

To join Please text JOIN plus your name, house number & postcode to 07831 828898.

or

Complete the form below & return to the Pavilion with your payment. Thank you.

The Lottery is run by the Oakington & Westwick Sports Pavilion Management Committee. This has been very popular and successful over the years with all profits from the lottery going towards the future development of facilities at the Pavilion.

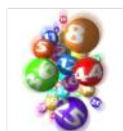
The lottery commences at the end of March. The monthly prize is £100 with a prize of £150 for the December draw.

The cost of one annual ticket is £10 for 10 draws (March - December 2021). Tickets must be applied for and paid by 31st March 2021. There is no limit to the number of tickets that you can buy.

We hope that you will take part, you could be lucky and it helps raise funds to develop facilities at the Pavilion which in turn are enjoyed by many local clubs & groups.

Please text the number above or complete the form below and we can either call to collect your payment or you can take it to the post box at the pavilion. Please make cheques payable to Oakington & Westwick Sports Pavilion. On receipt of your payment your ticket will be allocated and delivered to you in due course.

Thank you to all those that have supported the lottery in the past and to all newcomers for 2021. Please call 01223 235187 if you would like us to collect your payment! Thank you.



Promoter: Oakington & Westwick Sports Pavilion Management Committee,
Queens Way, Oakington, Cambridge, CB24 3AW
Registration Number: SL0120



Number of tickets required @ £10.00 per ticket per year: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____ Telephone: _____