

Oakington & Westwick

August / September 2023

Journal



**Bee Surprised
Footpath News
Meet a Magistrate
September's Yard Bargains
East-West Rail Goes South?**

Weekly

| | |
|-----|--|
| Mon | Monday Cafe , 9.30–noon. St Andrew's Church Hall, £1 Liz Davis – 01223 232745 |
| Mon | Beavers , 6–7pm. term time. Pavilion. beavers@oakingtonscouts.org.uk |
| Mon | Youth Club , on a Bus, 7–9pm. Recreation Ground, School Year 7 and above. Free. 07853 795256 |
| Mon | Oakington Singers , 7.30–9pm. Church Hall. Elaine Bailey – elainebailey1@live.co.uk |
| Tue | Happy Feet , 10–11am term time. Church Hall. For under fives. Ben Phillips – familyworker@standrewsoakington.co.uk |
| Tue | Senior Pilates , 11.30–12.30pm. Pavilion. Classes through out the week. Contact: Claire Young – 07766 554413 |
| Tue | Cubs , 6–7.15pm term time, Pavilion. Iain Ramsay – iain.ramsay@oakingtonscouts.org.uk |
| Tue | Table Tennis , 7.30–9pm. Pavilion. Gillian L'angellier – 01223 234758 |
| Tue | Poker Night , 7.45pm. White Horse Pub. 01223 232417 |
| Wed | Mixed Ability Pilates , 10–11am. Pavilion. Classes throughout the week. Contact: Claire Young – 07766 554413 |
| Wed | Yoga , 7–8.15pm. Pavilion. Denise Sibley-Moore – 01954 202235 |
| Thu | Mature Movers , 9.30–10.15am. Pavilion. Katie Harknett 07541 721059 / info@elementalfitness.co.uk |
| Thu | Little Steps , 10–11.30am term time. Church Hall. Ben Phillips – familyworker@standrewsoakington.co.uk |
| Thu | Ten Sing , 7–9pm term time. Histon Baptist Church. Terry King – cambridgetensing@gmail.com |
| Thu | Short Mat Bowls , 7.30–9.30pm. Pavilion. Dawn Stokes – 01223 236427 |
| Thu | Quiz Night , 8pm. White Horse Pub. 01223 232417 |
| Fri | Tool Share , 4.30–6pm by appointment. Gerald Cavander – gerald@cambridgereuse.org.uk / 07857 704636 |
| Fri | Scouts , 6–8pm. Pavilion. Cara Hanman – cara.hanman@oakingtonscouts.org.uk |

| | | |
|-----|--------|---|
| Fri | 4 Aug | Minibus to Bar Hill , 10am. To book ring Teri Seaber – 07711 531004 |
| Fri | 4 Aug | Mobile Library , 1.50–2.20pm. Coles Lane |
| Sat | 5 Aug | Village Walk & Talk , 10.30am. Meet by Church on High Street. Alice – OWNeighbours@gmail.com |
| Tue | 8 Aug | Neighbourhood Policing Community Meeting , 7–8pm. Online – tinyurl.com/bp8wr8x5 |
| Thu | 10 Aug | Chess Club , 7pm. 5asideCHESS Cafe, Crossways. April Cox – acox700@gmail.com |
| Thu | 17 Aug | Philosopher's Café , 7pm. 5asideCHESS Cafe, Crossways. Ranko Pinter – ranpin@gmail.com |
| Sun | 27 Aug | Bingo Night , 6pm. White Horse Pub. 01223 232417 |
| Mon | 28 Aug | Live music at the pub , 2–5pm. White Horse Pub. The Peg Leg Pub Band. 01223 232417 |
| Wed | 30 Aug | Book Club , 7pm. White Horse Pub. Maria Varallo – 07974 952724 |

| | | |
|-----|--------|---|
| Fri | 1 Sep | Minibus to Bar Hill , 10am. To book ring Teri Seaber – 07711 531004 |
| Fri | 1 Sep | Mobile Library , 1.50–2.20pm. Coles Lane |
| Sat | 2 Sep | Village Walk & Talk , 10.30am. Meet by Church on High Street. Alice – OWNeighbours@gmail.com |
| Sat | 2 Sep | Village Yard Sale , 10am–2pm. Around the village. See page 23. psa@oakington.cambs.sch.uk |
| Mon | 4 Sep | Transport Action Group , 7.30pm. White Horse. For agenda contact – owcp.tag@gmail.com |
| Sun | 10 Sep | Lakeside Tea & Jazz , 3–5pm. 9 Longstanton Road. OWN – OWNeighbours@gmail.com |
| Mon | 11 Sep | O&W Parish Council , 7.30pm. Pavilion. All invited. clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk |
| Tue | 12 Sep | Tuesday Talk & Tea , 2.45pm. Church Hall. Card making demo. Marian Cleaver – 01223 232897 |
| Thu | 14 Sep | Chess Club , 7pm. 5asideCHESS Cafe, Crossways. April Cox – acox700@gmail.com |
| Thu | 14 Sep | O&W WI , 7.30pm. St Andrews Church Hall. Talk on Diabetes. Elaine Bailey – elainebailey1@live.co.uk |
| Thu | 21 Sep | Philosopher's Café , 7pm. 5asideCHESS Cafe, Crossways. Ranko Pinter – ranpin@gmail.com |
| Sun | 24 Sep | Bingo Night , 6pm. White Horse Pub. W01223 232417 |
| Tue | 26 Sep | Book Club , 7pm. White Horse Pub. Maria Varallo – 07974 952724 |
| Wed | 27 Sep | Sustainable O&W , 7.30pm. Church Hall. sustainableow@gmail.com |

| | | |
|-----------------|--|------------------------------|
| BIN DAYS | Thu 3 Aug, Thu 17 Aug, Fri 1 Sep, Thu 14 Sep, Thu 28 Sep | Black bin |
| | Thu 10 Aug, Thu 24 Aug, Thu 7 Sep, Thu 21 Sep | Blue & green bins |



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 the defibrillator – open box, take out defibrillator, shut box (alarm goes off), open defibrillator and it talks to tell you what to do.

| Oakington & Westwick Sports Pavilion Monthly Lottery 2023 - Winners | | | |
|---|-----------|------------------|---------|
| Month | Ticket No | Area | Winning |
| June | 224 | Church View | £100 |
| July | 231 | Manor Farm Close | £100 |
| if you would like to enter the lottery, please text JOIN plus your name, house number & postcode to 07831 828898. | | | |

The Open Spaces Project was formally “opened” on Village Day. This major improvement to the Recreation Ground provides more opportunities for people to stroll, socialise and enjoy the area. The project’s success has been due to the hard work and persistence of members of the Parish Council, the EAG and Geoffrey Butlin in particular.

You may also have spotted around the village new information boards about the history and heritage of Oakington and Westwick. Finding out about the past of where we live can help us feel more rooted and connected to

earlier generations, whether we’ve lived here ourselves for months or decades.

Another way to feel more connected is to get more involved, and there are several opportunities mentioned in the Journal – from an hour’s litter-picking to taking a lead in the Community Association. Many village volunteers are now over 70, and we need a succession plan!

Jenny Prince & Graham Tregonning,
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 & Graham Tregonning (editors),
Jane Goodyer (advertising),
Irène Butlin (advert layout),
Jenny Broadway (distribution),
Ranko Pinter (chair).

Send contributions to
oakwestjournal@gmail.com
or phone: 01223 233510 (Jenny)
or 01223 233208 (Graham)

DEADLINE FOR
AUGUST/SEPTEMBER ISSUE:
Tuesday 19 September

To advertise in the Journal,
please email
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| Adverts | For 1 year | One off |
|--------------------|------------|---------|
| Business card | £75 | £17 |
| ¼ page (portrait) | £117 | £29 |
| ½ page (landscape) | £216 | £54 |

Adverts for the next issue must be received by **12 September**.

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

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This year alone our heating bills are over £6000. Next year they are estimated to be over £8000. We cannot sustain these expenses and need to find a way of generating revenue. How can you help?

Do you know someone who has a business that might want to hire out our function room? We also have a perfect meeting room that is available during the week.

We are trying our best to use the building as efficiently as possible; we need to generate more income to keep the building going.

To hire the building please contact Tony Leadley on 07936 024587 or by email on oakingtonpavilion@gmail.com.

Please support your Pavilion!

Elaine Bailey
Pavilion Committee Chair

Oakington C of E Primary School

The summer term has been extremely busy as usual at Oakington Primary School. The Key Stage 2 put on a fantastic summer play called Cinderellas, written by Mr Bailey, and the children did us all proud with their acting, singing and performing. The Summer Fayre was a huge success, raising around £1300 for the PSA. We are extremely grateful for all the effort and hard work they put in to all the events over the year to help fund additional resources and experiences for our children.



This year our Year 6 pupils achieved brilliantly in their end of Key Stage 2 SAT tests, scoring 91% in maths, 86% in reading and 86% in writing, with 81% of children achieving the age related expectation in all three subjects. These are our best results to date and we are incredibly proud of all the pupils, and our amazing teachers who have taught and supported them so well to get to where they are. Well done all! We are very sad to say goodbye to our Year 6s, and we wish them all the best as they move onto secondary school. We would like to say a huge thank you to all of our parents for the support they have shown this year. We wish everyone a relaxing and enjoyable summer break.

Nathan Clark, Headteacher



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Parish Councillors

Chair: David Reeves

chair@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk

Vice-Chair: Tony Starling

| | |
|---------------|----------------|
| John Bailey | Julie Grove |
| Stephen Moore | Ranko Pinter |
| Matt Davidson | Jake Camilleri |
| One Vacancy | |

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

O & W, Longstanton, Northstowe

Natalie Warren-Green

cllr.warrengreen@scamb.gov.uk

Tom Bygott – 07765 475 513

cllr.bygott@scamb.gov.uk

County Councillor

O & W, Longstanton, Northstowe, Over

Firouz Thompson – 07974 680875

firouz.thompson@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Member of Parliament

Anthony Browne – 01223 603677

anthony.browne.mp@parliament.uk

VILLAGE INFORMATION

Community Association

oakington.westwick.ca@gmail.com

Neighbourhood Watch

Jillian Wilkinson – 01223 233585

oakwestnhw@gmail.com

Oakington & Westwick Neighbours (OWN) – 07902 111786

OWNeighbours@gmail.com

Oakington Primary School

01223 232328

office@oakington.cambs.sch.uk

Pavilion Booking Administrator

Tony Leadley – 07936 024587

oakingtonpavilion@gmail.com

Village Stores & Post Office

Thiru Kunaratnam – 01223 232327

Hardship Fund

Contact Ben on 07342 945373 or

Jo on 07714 760582 or

oak.west.hardship.fund@outlook.com

From our Parish Council Chair

What can anyone say about the **Village Day** except what a success! How much hard work went into preparing for the day? How hard did people work during the day to keep everything running smoothly? And just how hard did the clearers-up graft on Sunday morning? Just amazing!

Crockery was smashed, teas were served (not in the same place it must be noted), raffle prizes won, mouthwatering food stalls excelled on a beautifully warm day. Thanks to all who made Village Day another memorable event.

Around two o'clock Stephen Moore declared the '**Open Spaces**' project officially open and cut a ribbon to mark the occasion. There are very few little things left to finish off – a small amount of mulch to spread here and there, and rolling the track, maybe a few more times, to ensure the stretch of path between the pavilion and the zip wire does really bind to a hard surface.

Walking in the village. The fields at the end of the Drift (opposite the White Horse) have always been in private ownership, and no public right of way over the land has ever existed. The Drift itself is however a public right of way up to the red gate that is not securely locked. It was used to gain access to 'allotment gardens' a century before Mead View and most of the houses in The Drift were built. The two farmers who successively farmed the fields used to allow people to walk along the field edges. Homes England, who now own the land, have put a 'no entry' sign on the gate and so it is not possible to go any further than the end of the Drift.

Recent efforts by our previous chairman to create a circular route from the end of the Drift up to Poplar Cottages and back along the rear of the garden centre to Cambridge Road have come to nought, not through lack of trying, but due to lack of agreement from various landowners. Efforts to create the circular route will continue however. Maybe we can celebrate a change of heart in a future Journal.

Recreation Ground. I remember how, when we first came to Oakington, the playground was a 'Wicksteed' horse and a few crumbly swings. The Scout hut had all but disintegrated and the playing field was, well, a bit rough. The Wicksteed horse is still there, a long-term witness to all the changes – a pavilion, a play area, a good quality sports surface, the seating areas, an all-purpose path and soon (funding permitting), a brand new all-weather 3G football pitch.



It all takes some looking after. May I ask you a favour through this article? If you see damage, please report it, if you see litter and it's safe to do so, please pick it up. Recently four bolts were removed from some of the play equipment. Fortunately the safety of the equipment was not compromised. The parish council has a programme of regular safety checks for the play area and volunteers do litter picks regularly too, but many pairs of eyes and ears are better than just a few, so please do join in with the care of the Rec. If you have ideas for future additions or projects then please write in or come to a parish council meeting and say what you'd like to see happen.

Welcome to Jake Camilleri who was co-opted onto the parish council recently. There is still one vacancy; if you are interested in becoming a parish councillor, please contact the clerk (see above left) or any of the councillors. All contact details are on the website.

David Reeves




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From our County Councillor

Early Years providers

Little Flames will provide the new preschool provision within Oakington. Spaces will be for children between the ages of 2 and 4. For registration and joining the team do look at their website oakington-preschool.co.uk.

In May, following my experiences of the Phase 1 Northstowe development, I took a motion to CCC Full Council on "Childcare in Domestic Premises" which the Council unanimously agreed.

Some house builders place restrictive covenants on their properties which prohibit residents living within them from running a business from home, including childcare. As a restrictive covenant does not expire, it will be applicable indefinitely, even if the building is sold and the ownership changes.

Childminders play an important role within the childcare sector, offering flexible childcare for families. Data shows there has been a downward trend. In 2019, there were 641

childminders registered in Cambridgeshire (56% of the sector), compared to 456 childminders in 2023 (39% of the sector).

My motion also asked that district and city councils highlight the importance of such changes with developers and house builders to ensure that they are aware of the barrier that these covenants can cause. District Councillor Natalie Warren-Green took a follow-up motion to SCDC at the July meeting, which was also unanimously approved.

Highways

Thank you to everyone who has highlighted issues following my article about potholes in the last issue, and please keep logging the faults in the County's reporting system as this really helps officers to organise their work highwaysreporting.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/.

Please see my contact details on page 5.

Firouz Thompson



From our District Councillor

East West Rail

The East West Rail company made its long-awaited announcement on 26th May on the route that the proposed railway will follow. The official routes that were consulted on pass by Cambourne, with a station either north or south of that town, before heading south to join with the existing line from Royston near Harston. Two pressure groups - the Cam Bed Rail Road (CBRR) and Cambridge Approaches (CA) - had been campaigning for a "northern route" to pass through Oakington with a station on Cambridge Road.

The route that will be put to the official statutory consultation, probably later this year, is very similar to one of their earlier preferred routes. It will have a station north of Cambourne before heading south at Caldecote and passing close to the villages of Toft, Comberton, Little Eversden and Haslingfield before joining the line from London King's Cross near Harston and then entering Cambridge from the south and passing through the new Cambridge South station near Addenbrooke's hospital.

The announcement and maps of the proposed route can be found at: eastwestrail.co.uk/routeupdate. The map from Cambourne to Cambridge can be found at:

eastwestrail-production.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/public/ListsBlockMedia/a5b8b573ee/Approaching-Cambridge-v2.pdf

Thirty new electric buses

The zero-emission, double-decker buses, which came into service on 14 May, will see the Cambridge Park & Ride network and Citi 2 service become fully electrified and carbon-free.

All 30 buses now in operation signify a major milestone in the commitment to a rolling bus replacement programme, to replace 30 vehicles a year across the Combined Authority area. There is an ambition to convert the entire bus fleet

from diesel buses to zero emission vehicles within the region by 2030 to hit carbon emission targets and help tackle climate change.

The announcement represented a significant investment in green travel for the region, with the new vehicles costing close to £500,000 each. The new fleet is being funded by the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority, Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP), Department for Transport and Stagecoach East.

Housing disrepair online signposting tool

The UK Ministry of Justice has developed a housing disrepair online signposting tool for private rented sector tenants with housing disrepair issues. The tool was developed in collaboration with other government ministries and third sector organisations such as Shelter to give users the information and guidance they need to resolve their housing disrepair issues before they worsen. The tool asks users a series of targeted questions before providing tailored information, guidance, and signposting to relevant advice and support. This helps users identify an appropriate next step when trying to resolve their housing disrepair issues. check-how-to-get-repairs-done-in-your-rented-home.form.service.justice.gov.uk/

Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service public survey

The fire service is required to create a 3-to-5-year plan that identifies the fire and rescue related risks in the county and how it plans to mitigate or be prepared for them. They are seeking views from people in the communities they serve, so their thoughts and expectations of the service can be reflected in the plan. It takes 10-15 minutes to complete the survey at bit.ly/43pzLHU

Tom Bygott



For district councillors' contact details see page 5.

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Environment Action Group

The hard path, seating areas and new planting that have been installed around the recreation ground as part of the Parish Council's **Open Spaces project**, supported by the EAG, was officially opened at the Village Day in June. The information boards at the two new seating areas featuring Anglo Saxon

Oakington and RAF Oakington are now in place, the path is complete, and the plants are looking good. Do go and take a look if you haven't already, and please help yourself to any of the wildflowers that you want to pick from the wildflower areas.



The final task on the project, spreading woodchips around the hornbeam trees on the far side of the rec (near the RAF seating area) was completed by EAG volunteers at the end of June (see photo). These trees have been intentionally planted close together so that they will grow into each other and form one giant natural climbing frame for children and young people in about fifteen years' time. Meanwhile, we expect the grass to return to the areas where it has been displaced by the construction work much more quickly, and within a few years there should be no sign that it was ever disturbed. This was what happened following the archaeology work some years ago.

The EAG are also currently assisting with **watering** the newly planted trees and shrubs over the summer while they



get established, and also with **litter picking** on the rec. We always need volunteers, so if you would like to help please contact James Youd on jamesyoud51@icloud.com. We held a thank you event for our volunteers back in early June at the new Anglo-Saxon seating area at the rec (see photo) and are very grateful for the ongoing commitment of our volunteers.

As you may have seen, the **Oakington and Westwick in Bloom** flower tubs have been restocked with summer plants, and are already looking good, thanks to the efforts of the volunteers who water and look after them. Our **information boards** project (joint project with the History Society) also continues, and as you may have seen three boards (in

addition to the two at the Open Spaces seating areas) have now been installed: one at each of the Mill Road and Recreation Ground Community Orchards and one on the wall of the pavilion. A further information board



will be installed on the wall of the White Horse pub, and it is hoped that more can be added in the future. We are very grateful to the Parish Council for funding this project.

Work also continues on our other projects, including on Nature Recovery (see the 'Nature Notes' article) and flood mitigation.

Stephanie Smith

Oakington & Westwick Neighbours



Recent activities have included the minibus trip to the seaside – see page 24 – and we welcomed lots of people to our Village Day stall.

Hardship Fund

Did you know that Oakington and Westwick has a Hardship Fund?

The Fund provides small grants between approx. £50 and £100 for everyday essentials such as food, utilities, travel, children's clothes, school items or any sudden emergencies.

For support call Jo on 07714 760582 or Ben on 07342 945373 or email oak.west.hardship.fund@outlook.com.

For more information see owneighbours.wordpress.com/hardship-fund

Lakeside Tea & Jazz. This popular event returns on Sunday 10th September. Enjoy tea, delicious cake and live music by local groups Black Coffee Jazz and Oaktet in the wonderful setting of the private lake at 9, Longstanton Road. Some seating will be available but feel free to bring a rug or folding chairs. To limit numbers in the garden, we are only advertising this event within the village. It is OWN's main fundraiser and this year is also raising funds for the school PSA. We hope to see you there!

OWN will be running an **Online Safety Workshop**, Saturday 28 October, 10:30 am – 12:00 in the Meeting Room at Oakington Pavilion.

Topics such as emails, passwords, online shopping and how to keep your computer healthy and happy will be covered. We want to give you the confidence to navigate the online world safely and securely and enjoy the benefits that it provides. This workshop was first run in February 2020 and participants found it very useful, so if you missed out then (or even if you want a refresher) please contact OWN: email OWNeighbours@gmail.com or leave a message on 07902 111786.



Jenny Prince



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Transport Action Group

Speed reduction in the villages. Average speed through Oakington has dropped overall since the introduction of the 20mph zone throughout the village. Data from the MVAS radar equipment has shown for both Cambridge Road and Water Lane the typical speed is 25mph, although still well in excess of the 20mph limit. There are occasional exceptions and the incidence of these has been creeping up over recent months, with speeds of more than 50mph being recorded on eight occasions during a two-week period along Cambridge Road. Police enforcement has been requested.



The Parish Council in collaboration with Girton Parish Council have had a successful Local Highways Initiative bid approved to reduce the 40mph section between Oakington and Girton to 30mph. This is expected to be implemented this financial year.



A proposal for extending the 20mph zone from Water Lane through Westwick has been made and a decision is expected in October.

Cycle/Foot Path to Bar Hill. At the time of writing the Southern Access Road West from Northstowe towards Bar Hill, which can be accessed along the old airfield road, is due to open sometime in July. This will have a parallel cycle/footpath down to the new roundabout with the B1040. This will provide access to the new bridge carrying the Wilson's Road bridlepath which links to the bridlepath from opposite Poplar Cottages in Dry Drayton Road.



A safe cycle/footpath down Dry Drayton Road to access the bridlepath is considered to be "nice to have" by the County Council Highways Department, but there is no budget. Homes England (prime developer for Northstowe) have suggested that they might provide one when the Southern Access Road East is built, which is expected around 2030.

East West Railway. The formal preferred southern



approach route for the East West Rail link between Oxford and Cambridge has been published and there now needs to be formal consultation. Several members of TAG are continuing to monitor any developments that would indicate that a northern approach to Cambridge was seriously considered, which would have a severe impact on Oakington, in case we need to mount a concerted opposition to such a proposal.



Noisy Aircraft. This informative article is borrowed from Histon and Impington who have had a meeting with Luton Airport management regarding the changed flight path into the airport that has meant significantly increased flights that pass directly over both our villages. This is the summary from the meeting:



Around 10% of the incoming flights to Luton short-cut the flight corridor and turn and descend from 12,000 to 10,000 feet using a combination of air brakes and alertons – this can cause a loud sound with a 'doppler' effect that can wake you up from 6.30 in the morning and after 10.30 at night (sometimes into the early hours).

The number of complaints from Cambridge residents has increased by 300% but is now levelling off as it would seem that people are suffering from complaint fatigue.

If you are impacted by this change then please either log your complaints on <https://travisltn.topsonic.aero> (the best way) or email noise.enquiries@ltn.aero, stating: flight number, time, and your name, address and contact number.

Please continue to raise complaints about any noisy flights that are concerning you.

Join Us. TAG meets on the first Monday bi-monthly – the next meeting is scheduled for **4 September** at 7.30pm in the White Horse. If you have any comments on this article or would like to join us, please contact us and we will email the agenda and meeting details.

Jim Bryant, Chair

owcp.tag@gmail.com 07807 184691

Neighbourhood Watch

Protection against doorstep scammers – good advice from the national Neighbourhood Watch:



The problem is that many legitimate companies and charities also ply their trade door to door. So how can you protect yourself against doorstep scammers?

- Trading standards advise all householders **never** to buy goods and services on the doorstep.
- Display a 'No Cold Calling' sticker on your front door. Download a printable version here: www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk/NCC, or you may be able to obtain a free 'No Cold Calling' sticker from your local council or local police.
- It's not rude to ask someone to leave. If you're in any doubt at all, ask the person to leave. Here are some things you can say to get rid of callers on your doorstep:

"I never deal with cold callers at the door. Please would you leave."

"I have a neighbour who helps me, so please go and knock on their door first."

"I don't know who you are, so would you please leave."

Unfortunately there are more **scams** about, whether by telephone, mobile phone, or social media. Do not engage with any person or organisation you don't know: if it's a genuine call from someone you do know, then still be cautious if any money is demanded, or your postal address is wanted. One of the persistent scams is from someone claiming to be a son or daughter, who has lost their mobile phone so is calling from an unknown number. This scam will ask you to send money to an account they give details for. Stop and think! I was nearly caught by one of these, and wanted to help my "daughter". Fortunately something seemed fishy so I stopped the call.

Jillian Wilkinson 01223 233585

Tuesday Talk & Tea

At our meeting in June Rev. Jenny Hill gave us a really interesting talk on Julian of Norwich. She explained that what we know of her came from two writings: a shorter version and a later more detailed version of the visions from God she received when she was so ill they thought she was on her deathbed. She called these 'A Revelation of Divine Love' and it led to her becoming an Anchorite in the Church of St Julian in Norwich. This meant that she was sealed up in a cell in this church, which gave her the name, Mother Julian or the Lady Julian. She remained there until the day she died. Despite being sealed up she was not totally cut off from the world. Many people came to her for advice or spiritual help. The book is notable for being the first book written in English by a woman. It was a fascinating picture of a very special fourteenth-century woman.

Our July meeting was our annual delicious Strawberry tea which was preceded by a game of Cat Lotto ably run by Kathryn – it was great fun.

We do not meet in August but start again on **12 September**. We will have a brief report on the past year's activities and finances. The main event at this meeting will be a card making demonstration from Moira Neal of Histon.

All our meetings finish with a tea of freshly made sandwiches, scones and cake, and much chat and laughter.

Marian Cleaver



Tuesday Talk and Tea meets at the Church Hall at 2.45–4.45pm on the second Tuesday of the month, for talks, and a delicious home-made tea. We welcome all comers, especially if the subject that month is of special interest to you. More info: 01223 232897/marianccleaver@gmail.com.

Oakington Vikings Football Club



FA Charter
Standard

Our Teams and Contacts

- First Team James & Ronnie 07834 465188
- Under 15s Marcus & Josh 07866 635241
- Under 13s Winston 07968 716290
- Welfare officer Frank 07841 995713

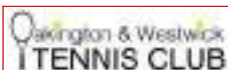
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Oakington & Westwick Tennis Club

Has Wimbledon got you longing to be on court again?

If so, Oakington & Westwick Tennis Club would very much welcome you! There's still plenty of time to get some games in on this year's subscription which runs until the end of next March, with great value rates – see below.

Gill Attmore



Club members can use hard courts at the Recreation Ground. Coaching and social events. Our subscription year runs 1 April – 31 March. Membership: £65 family, £45 adults, £20 for juniors. To join or for more info, contact oakingtontc@gmail.com.

Oakington and Westwick WI

At our June meeting, we welcomed Alison Giles. After learning about the history of Molly Dancers and the outfit – colourful, bright leggings, short skirt, waistcoat, hat – and don't forget the coloured face – it was time to have a go.

Although we had to wear hats, we didn't have to paint our faces green! Dancing the Molly dance was great fun... lots of laughter!



July was our bring and share Summer Social. We started in the Vicarage Garden, all the food laid out ready... when the rain came. We had just managed to get ourselves drinks! Just a few spots to start with, so people sheltered under the trees. The decision had to be made to move, mass exodus to the church hall! We still had our social, albeit a little damp!

Sadly, no scavenger hunt that Anne Williams had organised but weather permitting we will try again another time!

Elaine Bailey



We meet on the second Thursday of each month at 7.30pm at the Church Hall. We are a friendly group and if you want to try us out the first meeting is free. Contact Elaine Bailey elaïnebailey1@live.co.uk for more information.

Oakington & Westwick Table Tennis Club



We are a small, friendly club, of mixed ability. We play throughout the year, every Tuesday at 7.30pm at the Pavilion, and welcome new players. We have four tables and spare bats – all you need is a pair of trainers. Junior players must be accompanied by an adult. For more information contact Gillian L'angellier on 234758.

Oakington & Westwick Short Mat Bowls Club



If you would like to give bowls a try, come and join us as our guest. We play throughout the year at the Pavilion, on Thursday evenings 7.30–9.30pm. We have spare bowls and you just need some soft, flat-soled shoes. If you would like more information, please contact Dawn Stokes on 01223 236427.

Sustainable Oakington & Westwick

At the village day, SOW and the EAG invited people to plot their wildlife sightings onto a local map to begin the Nature Recovery Plan Project. This got off to a strong start with over 60 people adding sightings. SOW also shared information, free plants, and conducted a short survey. Of the 26 survey respondents, environmental issues that concerned people the most were climate change, water concerns, biodiversity loss, destruction of wildlife habitats and landfill/recycling. People also commented on what they currently do to live more sustainably, including gardening for wildlife, growing vegetables, composting, recycling, sustainable travel (walk, cycle, bus), installing solar panels and sustainable shopping choices (plastic free, second hand). Finally, when asked what they would like to do but cannot, over 50% of people answered that they would like to install renewable energy or buy an electric car.

See sustainableow.co.uk for more about recent SOW activity and notes from many previous talks. The next SOW meeting is on Wednesday **27 September**. Please join us, everyone is welcome!

Lucy O'Donovan



For everyone who's concerned about nature and the environment. All are welcome to SOW meetings, at 7.30pm in the church hall on the last Wednesday in the month.

sustainableow@gmail.com / sustainableow.co.uk

1st Oakington Scout Group

The Cubs and Scouts were represented once again at the Village Day with the traditional Plate Smashing Stall and the Soak a Scout (or leader) Stall. As well as being great fun and good fundraising activities for the group, they also offer the scouts a chance to show the village who they are and what fun scouting can be. For the leaders, it is an opportunity to let the personalities of our young people shine in a public setting and we are always proud of how they manage themselves in such a public facing environment.

As the term ends, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts have looked back at a busy year of activities. We've learnt how to light fires and do backwoods cooking, learnt new knots, earned plenty of badges, done some charity fundraising, had camp-outs, slept at Shepreth Wildlife Park and gone on hikes all over the area.

Beavers and Cubs are seeking new leaders urgently. To find out more, or if you're ready to join in the fun, help enrich the experiences our young people have and enrich your own experiences – please get in touch:

- Beavers@oakingtonscouts.org.uk
- Iain.ramsay@oakingtonscouts.org.uk

Cara Hanman



Beavers (aged 6–8), Cubs (8–10½) and Scouts (10½–14) meet weekly in term time at the Pavilion. More details on page 2.

Oakington Community Orchard Wild Flower Area



Close encounters of the Carrot Kind

With No-Mow May and the Council policy to reduce mowing of the verges we have seen far more species of wild carrot this year. So this is a chance to brush up on your knowledge, to avoid brushing against the wrong plant. At the moment the community orchards have nothing worse than nettles and thistles.



Cow Parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*) grows to around 1.5m, has almost hairless branched stems and fairly delicate leaves and closely packed flower heads.

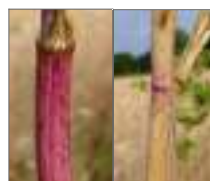


Hog Weed (*Heracleum sphondylium*) grows to around 2m, has distinctive hairy stems and a fairly large flat and less compact flower-head. The flowers form large distinctive seeds.



You can find these in the Recreation Ground Orchard, along with **Yarrow** (*Achillea millefolium*), from the daisy family, a much smaller, delicate plant, with frilly fern-like leaves as its name suggests.

Hemlock (*Conium maculatum*) is a less desirable member of the carrot family. Famous as the poison of choice used by Socrates to commit suicide, it grows to more than 2m. It is



distinctive in having smooth stems, with purplish-red blotches, which gradually spread to colour the whole stem. Fortunately we have none in the orchards, but there is a lot on Gatehouse Road and the Guided Bus

path. John Terry writes: "Most grazing animals will not touch it because it is very smelly. It is worth warning children about it and please encourage them to leave it growing and untouched."

Giant Hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*) grows to around 3m. It is easy to distinguish because of its size, is an invasive species and very poisonous. In previous years the EAG have removed it. Fortunately there does not seem to be any around the village this year.

For more information, leaflets on fruit tree pruning (with pictures), or if you would like to join us, email Oakington Community Orchard Projects Team (OCOP) at oakcomorchards@gmail.com.

Graham Tregonning

Country Dance Club

No dancing in August – please contact Kathryn Coles on 01223 233191 for the September date.



Meets in Histon Methodist Church, one Friday a month, 8–10 pm. Adults £4, accompanied children: 50p. Soft shoes or trainers are recommended.



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Church View

Church View, or to give it its correct title, Camping Close, was owned by Queens' College as part of the church estate and later owned by the Manor. Jack Ravensdale, famous local historian, owned the Manor around 1959 and it is mentioned in our house deeds. Camping Close was used for all religious festivals, feasts and fairs; the name comes from Camp Ball, a forerunner of football, played with an inflated pig's bladder. Inter-village matches were played on Good Friday as part of the Easter celebrations. (For interest type medieval football into Wikipedia). An aside here: in medieval times, the Churchwardens often brewed small beer to sell at these events, in order to help with church finances.

Camping Close sat on the junction of Mill Road, previously Gravel Pit Lane. The village gravel pit was situated along the lane behind Camping Close; houses on this side of Church View are piled and have suspended floors, up to No 17. We have some gravel patches in our garden. The



entrance to the Close was through a five-bar gate, situated in the garden of No 20 for some years. Villagers may



remember the small spinney at the entrance, loved by children – great cycle track, now drawn into Northstowe. A famous resident prior to the build has to be mentioned – “Hopeful”, a lovely old mare owned by John Bull. You may remember Mr Bull lived in the bungalow opposite the school which had a small farmyard attached, bordering the Stocks Green footpath. Hopeful used to look over the gate and wait for the children to make a fuss of her.

Around 1973 the land was sold as building land by the then owners of the Manor. The first builder went into liquidation; R & H Wale builders from Gamlingay took the site over in 1979 and the first residents started to move in around late 1980. Early residents included Eric and Grace White. Some may remember Eric, who taught Woodwork at Impington Village College for years; in later life Grace made violins. Other, now famous, local residents are the Grove family who purchased No 17 in January 1981, but were not able to move in until May 7th as the builders dragged their feet.

Church View is rich in archaeology. We have had several test pits, revealing Roman, Saxon and Medieval finds, pottery, bones, ditches and the only Roman coin found in Oakington. A beautiful place to live in the spring, all houses have front gardens which are rich in spring blossom and flowers. A quiet road, we all love living here. Until the pandemic we never saw many ‘outsiders’, but during lockdown more villagers ventured further afield, many heard to remark ‘how lovely’ as they wandered round.

Julie Grove

My Volunteering

I started my journey as a magistrate at the tender age of 34 when I worked at Sellafield in Cumbria. Back in 1992, most recruitment to the bench was done by word of mouth. Thankfully, thirty-odd years later that process is more open and accessible.



So what is a magistrate? Magistrates are judicially appointed to sit in both criminal and family courts to adjudicate on the less serious criminal cases (so called summary matters) like speeding and drink driving and some more serious ‘either way’ offences such as theft and assault. (‘Either way offences’ are those that can be heard in either the crown or magistrates’ court – Ed.) More substantial ‘either way’ offences, and the most serious cases, such as causing death by dangerous driving through to murder, are tried before a judge and jury at the crown court. However, even these cases initially come before magistrates who decide whether to grant bail or remand in custody until the crown court appearance. Magistrates are often called on to grant the police extra time to question a suspect and to authorise search warrants. Family courts decide matters to do with children including safeguarding and applications by the local authority to place at-risk children on a care order, as well as private disputes between parents such as the time spent with separated parents. I began sitting in family courts

in 1995 and this very specialised area of court work can be very rewarding but onerous.

So who are magistrates? The answer is anybody, provided they are of good character and can make sound and reasoned judgements based on the evidence and facts placed before them. You don't need to be legally qualified as there is always a suitable professional legal adviser who sits with magistrates to guide them through the law. Magistrates usually sit as a 'bench' of three, with the more experienced ones sitting in the middle, as the ‘presiding justice’. Magistrates sit as both jury, hearing the evidence and deciding if someone is guilty or innocent, as well as judge for those found guilty, deciding what is the most appropriate sentence. This can include a term of imprisonment of up to a year. I was fortunately able to transfer to the Cambridge bench when I took up a post at the Foreign Office and clearly would be seen as a classic 'establishment figure'. In truth the magistracy needs a wide and diverse mix of people, both older and younger and from the private as well as the public sector. If you think you would be interested and can find the time to sit (a minimum of 13 days per year but often more is needed) then please consider this vital public duty. Employees and employers can derive real benefits from the decision-making expertise that you will develop. Please go to gov.uk/become-magistrate or visit the magistrates association website magistrates-association.org.uk

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Contact email :
pippa_westoby@yahoo.co.uk



Getting Together in Nature Recovery Project

Sustainable Oakington and Westwick (SOW) and the Environment Action Group (EAG) got together at Village Day to promote a plan to improve biodiversity in the village.



You may know Cambridgeshire is at the bottom of the UK league for biodiversity, hence the County Council aims to ‘double nature’ in the next ten years.

The visitors to the Nature Recovery exhibit showed there is plenty of

interest in Oakington at being involved in Nature Recovery. Over 60 people put notes on a map of the village in the places where wildlife have been seen recently. Most people indicated how they would like to be involved in the project. Species included stoats and weasels, which are usually very shy and difficult to observe. Sightings of hedgehogs were also recorded. This was encouraging given that a Wildlife Trust survey in Oakington ten years ago failed to record one. This underlines the benefits of local people being involved in observations, because we tend to know where to look. Other mammals included foxes, badgers, bats, squirrels, both grey and black (black being a genetic variation of grey), rabbits, rats, mice, roe deer and muntjac. Muntjac are known as barking deer because of their dog-like bark, not always a welcome noise at 4 am.



There were also records of snakes, frogs, newts, fish, dragonflies, freshwater mussels and various aquatic invertebrates (animals without backbones). Land invertebrates included butterflies and bees including bumblebees.



The biggest number of records came from birds. These included the tiny goldcrest to the much bigger ‘little’ egret and grey heron. Birds of prey included buzzards which feed on rabbits, especially around the rough grass behind the garden centre, red kite, probably from the Northants/Cambs border, and kestrel. Barn owls have been spotted, as have tawny owls (the ones that hoot twit twoo) and little owls, the only owl seen around in daylight. Birds are more easily observed than other wildlife because they can be seen flying, resting on trees and of course, they each call in a distinctive way.

A few plants were also recorded. It would seem we are drawn to species that move rather than to sedentary plants. But clearly without plants to catch solar energy, there would be no animals. We also collected no records of fungi, lichens or mosses.

We are not expecting people who join this project to be ecologists. Interest and enthusiasm are the only qualifications needed. You tend to learn as you get to see and hear more. If you want to be involved in any way, at a commitment level chosen by you, please get in touch. Our next step is to get together to decide on our objectives and to create a local map of habitats. Don’t forget that there is good evidence that contact with nature is good for our well-being and a healthy state of mind.

John Terry

Contact John at johnterry23@hotmail.co.uk or SOW at SustainableOW@gmail.com.

“No-mow” May not be over!
It continues throughout the summer
around the village





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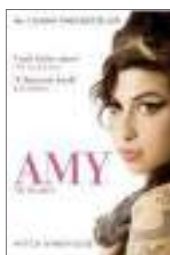
Amy, My Daughter by Mitch Winehouse

It wasn't a book I would have chosen, but I thoroughly enjoyed it. Mitch Winehouse isn't a natural writer, but I wanted to keep reading more. It was heartbreaking reading about the struggle with addiction that Amy faced and how hard she tried to overcome it, and how hard it was for the family—they had so many resources available to them and they still couldn't save her.

This book is an example of why I love the book club—I'm trying different genres of book, rather than always reading what I know I'll enjoy.

We're a friendly bunch and meet in the White Horse Oakington at 7:30pm once a month. If you want to join us, our next meetings will be 30 August and 26 September. The book for August is **The Woodlanders** by Thomas Hardy.

Natalie Meredith



Podcast Review

It's a Fair Cop – Alfie Moore.

I highly recommended this laugh-out-loud series. Thankfully all 34 episodes are still available on BBC Sounds. bbc.co.uk/sounds/brand/b060fj66

The format has former police sergeant Alfie Moore engage with an audience to make policing decisions as he takes them through real-life crime scenarios. He goes through his case files that in the last series dealt with theft, exposure, and sudden death. Alfie's experiences and anecdotes, along with the audience's opinions, makes this show both funny and informative. I think it encourages the public to trust the police to do a difficult job. I savour each show, reserving them for short car journeys.



Hugh Corr

Chess Corner

Solution to chess puzzle 3-23 from last Journal:

| | | |
|-------|---------------------------------|--------|
| White | Black | White |
| Bd1 | If Rg1/ f1 | Qh3# |
| | If Rh2 | QxBe1# |
| | If Bg3 | Qh6# |
| | If Ba5/b4/c3/d2 | Qf2# |
| | If e5-e4 | Qf4# |
| | If f6-f5 | Qg5 |
| | x capturing a piece # checkmate | |



Chess puzzle 4-23

White to move and checkmate in two moves.

Ranko Pinter

Philosopher's Café

Following the hiatus during Covid this year I have restarted the Philosopher's Café at the Crossways. The philosophical approach taken is practical, rather than academic; it draws on sources from East and West, past and present.



The topics for discussion have been largely driven by those attending. Some of the topics covered so far include: "Love and How to be Loved", exposing the myth of romantic love, "The Philosophy of Health", with a focus on how to build healthy relationships, and "Sex & Gender", exploring the science behind non-binary variants.

If you are asking yourself what philosophy offers that can be useful, one way is to consider it as a satnav for life.

We all want to be happy, but it can be hard to understand

- who we really are,
- what we need
- and why we feel and react the way we do.

This lack of self-knowledge can lead to dissatisfaction

- with our relationships,
- with our jobs
- and even the way we spend our money.

The following words were inscribed above the entrance to the temple of Apollo at Delphi, site of the sacred oracle: 'Know Yourself'. The famous Greek philosopher Plato said, "An unexamined life is not worth living."

Most of the time in life we cannot change our circumstances—the people, the situations, the events—but if we change our perspective then new possibilities start to emerge. It is not what we are looking at, but where we are looking from, that determines what we see. Different perspective, different world. Practical philosophy helps us to experience this wider perspective.

No prior knowledge is required to join. Only an open mind. If you would like to follow Plato's advice, come and join the Philosopher's Cafe, held every third Thursday in the month from 7pm. Admission is free, but donations towards running costs are welcome.

Ranko Pinter

Rare Plant Back – Bee Orchid



The Bee Orchids are back in Oakington this year. These are mimic plants; the plant impersonates the female bee. This lures male bees to fly in and pollinate the flower. However, there's a twist to the story. The specific bee that has this behaviour is not present in Britain, so here they must self-pollinate instead. Nature is more complicated than at first appears!

Charlotte Jordan



Village Day 2023



Oakington Village Day Delights visitors with fun-filled festivities

Our Recreation Ground came alive on 24 June as the much-anticipated Village Day attracted nearly 500 visitors. The event, organized by a dedicated group of volunteers, offered an array of exciting activities and entertainment for all ages.

The heart of the event lay in the crafts stalls that dotted the venue. Talented artisans showcased their creations, capturing the admiration of visitors. Local vendors added to the vibrant atmosphere. The Monday Café's bric-a-brac stall delighted treasure hunters, while information stalls from OWN, SOW and EAG provided valuable insights into community initiatives.

Sports enthusiasts had their fair share of excitement as well. The Vikings' football stall drew both aspiring athletes and enthusiastic supporters. The Scouts' plate smashing and sponge catapult stalls challenged participants' aim and precision, resulting in bursts of laughter.



The younger attendees revelled in a world of amusement, bouncing and sliding on the Giant Bouncy Castle and Helter-Skelter. The Bungee Trampoline offered thrilling heights and somersaults, leaving children and adults alike with beaming smiles. Miles's 'Play Your Cards Right' game proved to be a crowd favourite, as participants tested their luck and strategic skills. For those seeking a mental challenge, the giant chess stand provided an entertaining battleground for some intense matches.

As the day turned into night, the musical talents of Dark Surrender, The Bluetones, What'sNext, and The Peg Leg Pub Band took centre stage, captivating the audience with their blend of old and modern classics. The energetic performances kept spirits high and feet tapping late into the evening.



Sustenance was in no short supply, with local establishments stepping up to satisfy appetites. The White Horse's bar ensured no one went thirsty, while the WI served up steaming cups of tea and coffee, perfectly paired with delectable

homemade cakes. The tantalizing aromas wafting from the Thai food and Hog Roast stalls tempted taste buds and offered a diverse culinary experience.

The success of the Village Day is not just measured in smiles and laughter but also in the positive impact it will have on the community. The financial surplus generated will enable Fireworks & Bonfire Night to take place later this year. The excellent outcome highlights the efforts of the team of volunteers – both those who organised the event and those who helped on and before the weekend itself. Thank you all very much!

Community Association Update



Bonfire Night Volunteers

Following the successful Village Day we can now focus on organising the Fireworks & Bonfire Night. (We required a surplus of some £1,500 in order to purchase the fireworks in advance of the event.) So once again we are dependent on VOLUNTEERS, both for the Event Committee and to help with a variety of tasks. As you may have noticed, many of us are getting a bit long in the tooth and unable to deal with much of the physical work, e.g. putting up fencing and gazebos. Please email oakington.westwick.ca@gmail.com if you are able to help.

CA Committee Members

As some of you already know, Ranko and Irène are not standing for re-election at the Community Association's AGM in January 2024. They are giving this early notice so that members of our community groups have got plenty of time to consider their own involvement. (The elected committee members decide amongst themselves who takes on the various roles.)

What's involved? Perhaps the most visible task of the committee is to ensure the Village Day takes place, including recruiting volunteers. The Village Day is the Association's main fundraising event and money is required to run community events. There is the annual insurance of some £800, meeting room hire, Journal expenses not covered by advertising, and upfront payments ahead of the actual event.

Being on the committee is interesting and rewarding and provides an opportunity to meet and work with a cross-section of our community.

If you would like to find out more, you are welcome to attend our committee meeting on **Wed 13 September**. Please email oakington.westwick.ca@gmail.com for details.

Irène Butlin, Secretary



For those new to the village and eager to immerse themselves in the vibrant community life, volunteering for Village Day and Fireworks & Bonfire Night presents an excellent opportunity to get involved. By joining the present team of volunteers, newcomers can forge meaningful connections while contributing to the continued success of these village events.

*Ranko Pinter,
Village Day chair
(Edited)*



Oakington Primary School Parent Staff Association



End of year round-up

The PSA has had a fantastic year, with a number of big events which have succeeded in bringing the school and local community together, and resulted in a vital source of funds. We are also very grateful for the generous donations from village events, including the village carol singing and the Christmas concert.



Our highlights have been the Summer Fete; in which the sun shone and the school choir, and gym and musical theatre groups provided some fabulous entertainment. The Christmas Fayre; where the school was a hive of activity with visitors enjoying the festive stalls and many enjoying storytime with John Barnett. A new event for the school this year was our Quiz night; which we repeated due to demand, hosted by Dave Barrett and catered by The Hogfather. Finally we were delighted by the success of our refreshments stall at the Village Fireworks; Blue Barrel Cider's delicious mulled cider and apple juice were very popular, alongside the deluxe hot chocolates!



We have enjoyed a number of events in the school itself, including "present rooms" for Christmas, Mother's Day and Father's Day. The children really enjoy the freedom the "present rooms" offer, enabling them to choose a surprise gift for their loved ones.

This year we set up a working party day, as time is also a valuable resource we have available to help the school. We constructed some outdoor learning



resources and prepared the gardening area ahead of gardening club resuming for the growing season. This area is continuing to thrive and we are looking forward to harvesting courgettes, squash, peas and beans, tomatoes, rhubarb and sweetcorn over the summer. We will make produce available over the summer holidays, so do look out for our Facebook posts.

We are very grateful for all the contributions of baked goods which have supported a series of excellent end of term bake sales. The summer term we have also enjoyed 'Ice Pop Fridays' when the sun was shining!

Forward look – dates for your diary

We are delighted to be coordinating this year's **Oakington and Westwick village yard sale**, which will be held on 2 September, 10am–2pm.

There is a small fee of £5 for each stall holder to get your house on the map. Any money you make is yours to keep!

You can sign up using the QR code or this link: forms.office.com/e/7LKCtRe3K1



The deadline for sign up and payment is midnight on Friday 25 August, to enable us to finalise and promote the map ahead of the yard sale.

Enjoy going round the village on 2 September and picking up some bargains!

Our **Christmas Fayre** will be on Saturday 2 December, 1–4pm so if you are interested in hosting a stall with crafts, gifts or Christmas themed items, please contact us by email: psa@oakington.cambs.sch.uk.

Angela Barber

"Healthy You"

The new name for Healthy Lifestyle Services in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. They are a free service for residents who are looking to make changes to their lifestyle. So, whether you want to stop smoking, lead a more active lifestyle, lose some weight, or simply take advantage of the free NHS Health Checks, "Healthy You" can help you: Text HEALTHYU to 60777, call 0333 005 0093 or visit healthyyou.org.uk.



Editors

Welcome a New Neighbour

If somebody has moved in near you, a village 'Welcome' leaflet will help them feel at home. This has a map of the villages and some key information for new residents. Either let Bruce Sutherland know and he will deliver one, or pick one up from him and take it yourself – it's a good excuse to knock on the door and say hello! Contact Bruce via brucessutherland@aol.com or 07730 817350



RECYCLING TIP... How do you recycle Disposable Vapes?—You can't! Please do not put them in any of your bins — they can cause refuse truck fires. The only options, if you use them or find them, is to take them to the Milton Waste Recycling Centre or Tesco Extra's Customer Service Desk at Bar Hill.



Six Must-Do's for Buying Solar Panels

Investing in solar panels? Making informed choices upfront is vital. As experienced roofing professionals at CRL Energy, we understand the importance of a reliable system.

Here are six essential factors to consider:

1. **Check Your Roof's Warranty:** Review your roof warranty thoroughly; some may be voided by installing solar panels. Understanding the terms prevents conflicts or warranty issues. Around 29% of UK residential roof area is suitable for panel installation.
2. **Do Not Skip Structural Inspection:** Prioritise a comprehensive inspection to determine if your roof can bear the weight of the panels. Addressing structural issues ensures safety and maximises returns. The average weight of a solar panel system is 15-20 kg/m².
3. **Utilise the Elements:** Consider sunlight exposure and shading when placing panels to optimise energy production. The UK receives an average of 4.5 hours of peak sunlight per day, ideal for solar energy generation.
4. **Have Adequate System Designs:** Tailor designs based on energy consumption, prices, shading, batteries, and installation space for efficient solar panel systems. The UK had over 13.5 GW of installed solar PV

capacity by 2020, showing the growing adoption of solar energy.

5. **Be Cautious of Inexperienced Design Companies:** Inefficient installations can reduce energy generation potential and pose risks. Choose companies with qualified electrical engineers to minimise defects and failures. Poor installation practices account for about 80% of panel defects.
6. **Assess Company Accreditation:** Prioritise solar panel installers with MCS accreditation for reliability and expertise. Over 80% of installations without it face a higher risk of performance issues and reduced savings.

Investing in solar panels has a profound impact on energy consumption, savings, and the environment. With our roofing expertise, we understand the intricacies of solar panel installations. Research thoroughly, choose reliable installers, and make informed decisions.

George Sugden

About the author:

George Sugden, an expert in roofing and solar services and a lecturer on waterproofing at the annual Roofing Cladding & Insulation (RCI) Convention.



Advertorial

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Seaside Trip to Hunstanton

OWN organised a day out at Hunstanton in June which was very much enjoyed by all who came along. Sunshine and sea air, ice creams and fish and chips, and above all, good company, made it a day to remember. A big thank you to Kris who drove both the plan and the bus, and to Teri and Maria for their help too.



Don't forget the regular minibus service direct to Bar Hill on the first Friday morning of the month. To book your doorstep pickup, ring Teri on 07711 531004 by midday on the Thursday before.

Jenny Prince, Oakington & Westwick Neighbours



LAKESIDE JAZZ & TEA



Tea and cakes, live music and garden games
beside a beautiful lake in Oakington

Sunday 10 September, 3 – 5pm

In aid of OWN (Oakington and Westwick Neighbours)
and Oakington School PSA

Music from Black Coffee Jazz & Oaktet

£5 for adults; £1 for children up to 12

Venue: The lake at 9 Longstanton Road, Oakington



Oakington and Westwick Yard Sale 2023

SAVE THE DATE

**Saturday 2nd
September 2023
10 - 2pm**

After the success of last year's yard sale, we are delighted to be coordinating the 2023 village yard sale on Saturday 2nd September.

Have you had a clear out, or are keen to have one over the summer? Then please consider being part of our yard sale.

It's £5 per household to join in! This gets you a spot on the map that all the bargain hunters will have access to.

Money raised from the £5 will be donated to Oakington Primary School Parent Staff Association.

The sign up link is accessed by the QR code or the link shared via Facebook and the village journal article.

Deadline for sign up is midnight on Friday 25th August 2023

