


Oakington & Westwick

April / May 2024

Journal



**CA Revival
Green Hearts
School GRACE
Happy Hundredth
Snowy's Cabbages**

What's On

Weekly

Mon		Monday Cafe , 9.30–noon. Church Hall, £1 Liz Davis – 01223 232745
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 throughout 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		Beavers , 6–7pm. term time. Oakington Primary School. beavers@oakingtonscouts.org.uk
Fri		Scouts , 6–8pm. Pavilion. Cara Hanman – cara.hanman@oakingtonscouts.org.uk
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Fri	5 Apr	Minibus to Bar Hill , 10am. To book ring Teri Seaber – 07711 531004
Fri	5 Apr	Mobile Library , 1.50–2.20pm. Coles Lane.
Sat	6 Apr	Village Walk & Talk , 10.30am. Meet by Church on High Street. Alice – OWNeighbours@gmail.com
Mon	8 Apr	O&W Parish Council , 7.30pm. Pavilion. All invited. clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk
Tue	9 Apr	Tuesday Talk & Tea , 2.45pm. Church Hall. Indian Culture & Costume, Marian Cleaver – 01223 232897
Thu	11 Apr	Chess Club , 7pm. Crossways. Ranko Pinter – ranpin@gmail.com
Thu	11 Apr	O&W WI , 7.30pm. Church Hall. Elaine Bailey – elainebailey1@live.co.uk
Wed	17 Apr	Book Club , 7.30pm. White Horse Pub. "Lessons in Chemistry". nataliewant@hotmail.com
Wed	17 Apr	Community Pub Night , 7.30pm. White Horse Pub. bjomills@outlook.com
Thu	18 Apr	Philosopher's Café , 7pm. Crossways. Ranko Pinter – ranpin@gmail.com
Mon	22 Apr	Annual Parish Meeting , 7.30pm. Pavilion. All invited. clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk
Wed	24 Apr	Sustainable O&W , 7.30pm. Church Hall. "Communicating about Climate Change". sustainableow@gmail.com
Fri	26 Apr	Country Dancing , 8–10pm. Histon Methodist Church. Kathryn Coles – 01223 233191
Sun	28 Apr	Bingo Night , 6pm. White Horse Pub. 01223 232417
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Fri	3 May	Minibus to Bar Hill , 10am. To book ring Teri Seaber – 07711 531004
Fri	3 May	Mobile Library , 1.50–2.20pm. Coles Lane.
Sat	4 May	Village Walk & Talk , 10.30am. Meet by Church on High Street. Alice – OWNeighbours@gmail.com
Thu	9 May	Chess Club , 7pm. Crossways. Ranko Pinter – ranpin@gmail.com
Thu	9 May	O&W WI , 7.30pm. Church Hall. Elaine Bailey – elainebailey1@live.co.uk
Fri	10 May	Country Dancing , 8–10pm. Histon Methodist Church. Kathryn Coles – 01223 233191
Sat	11 May	Beavers, Cubs & Scouts Jumble Sale , 10-12. Pavilion. treasurer@oakingtonscouts.org.uk
Mon	13 May	O&W Parish Council , 7.30pm. Pavilion. All invited. clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk
Tue	14 May	Tuesday Talk & Tea , 2.45pm. Church Hall. "Hats Galore". Marian Cleaver – 01223 232897
Wed	15 May	Book Club , 7.30pm. White Horse Pub. "Roughing it in the Bush". nataliewant@hotmail.com
Thu	16 May	Philosopher's Café , 7pm. Crossways. Ranko Pinter – ranpin@gmail.com
Sat	18 May	Plant Swap Stall , 10am–noon. 36 Coles Lane. OWNeighbours@gmail.com
Sun	19 May	Plant Swap Stall , 2–4pm. 36 Coles Lane. OWNeighbours@gmail.com
Wed	22 May	Community Pub Night , 7.30pm. White Horse Pub. bjomills@outlook.com
Sun	26 May	Bingo Night , 6pm. White Horse Pub. 01223 232417
Wed	29 May	Sustainable O&W , 7.30pm. Church Hall. "Composting for wildlife". sustainableow@gmail.com
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Sat	1 Jun	Village Walk & Talk , 10.30am. Meet by Church on High Street. Alice – OWNeighbours@gmail.com
Sun	2 Jun	The Big Lunch , 12.30–2.30pm. The Recreation Ground & Pavilion. OWNeighbours@gmail.com

Welcome & "Why I love ..."

With so many tragic stories in the news at the moment, we hope the latest Journal will brighten your Easter weekend. We celebrate an Oakington centenarian and learn more about a local music group. In addition to our regular features, *Up My Street* and *My Volunteering*, we are trialling a new one, *Why I love ...* We would love to share what you love to do in the next issue, so please get in touch: you can email or just phone and someone will pop around and pick up your contribution.

A new committee for the Community Association has been

established following the emergency meeting, which guarantees the future of the Journal for another year. It also means we have another Village Day to look forward to on 29 June. Plus look out for the community pub nights which kick off again in April, organised by Jo and Sean. And the bring and share Big Lunch on 2 June is always a great community event. See you there!

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:

Graham Tregonning & Jenny Prince (editors), Adrienne Chaplin (distribution), Jenny Broadway, Ranko Pinter (chair), (advertising / advert layout – vacancies).

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

DEADLINE FOR JUNE/JULY ISSUE:
Tuesday 21 May

To advertise in the Journal, please email oakwestjournal@gmail.com

Advert costs	Single	1 year*
Business card	£20	£80
¼ page (portrait)	£32	£128
½ page (landscape)	£60	£240

* Six for the price of four

Adverts for the next issue must be received by **14 May**.

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

Why I love ... my allotment

Before the season starts



While I struggle to give the attention needed to manage a proper allotment, there is nothing like picking your own produce. In my case it's lovely rhubarb, black and red currants, delicious gooseberries and in the autumn apples and pears.

But being on the allotment allows me to chat to fellow growers, chat about daily life while enjoying our home-grown produce.

Adam

I have now had an allotment for a number of years. It was a lot of work to get the plot in order but having done so, each year is much easier, apart from dealing with the pesky critters that we have to contend with – muntjac, rabbits, pigeons, jackdaws, snails, slugs, mice etc.

Having said that, it is very gratifying to be eating food that you have grown yourself. It is also a great community of plot holders who are around for a chat and advice. A good part of each visit is always taken up with chatting and comparing notes!

Bernie



Glorious Summer Days!

What do we like about the allotment? Well first of all there is the opportunity to have a really good grumble with like-minded friends. Topics are nearly endless but include: too much rain/too little rain; too hot/too cold; late frost/early frost. And that is before we have even started on the pests: blackfly/greenfly; slugs/snails; rabbits; rats/mice; muntjac deer; potato blight/tomato blight.

However the overwhelming considerations are the friendship and camaraderie of the other allotment holders, coupled with the pleasure and sense of achievement from growing really fresh organic vegetables.

Ann and Peter

BIN DAYS

Fri 12 Apr, Fri 26 Apr, Fri 10 May, Fri 24 May. **Black bins**

Fri 5 Apr, Fri 19 Apr, Fri 3 May, Fri 17 May, Fri 31 May. **Blue & Green bins**

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Contact email :
pippa_westoby@yahoo.co.uk



Parish Councillors

Chair: David Reeves

chair@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk

Vice-Chair: Tony Starling

John Bailey Julie Grove
Stephen Moore Ranko Pinter
Jake Camilleri
Two Vacancies

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: 07903 295860

District Councillors

O & W, Longstanton, Northstowe
Natalie Warren-Green – 07990 553997
cllr.warrendgreen@scambs.gov.uk
Tom Bygott – 07765 475 513
cllr.bygott@scambs.gov.uk

County Councillor

O & W, Longstanton, Northstowe, Over
Firouz Thompson – 07974 680875
firouz.thompson@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
On Facebook:
longstantonoakingtonnorthstowe

Member of Parliament

South Cambridgeshire
Anthony Browne – 01223 603677
anthony.browne.mp@parliament.uk

VILLAGE INFORMATION

Community Association

oakington.westwick.ca@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

County, District and Parish Councillors gathered at the start of last month's meeting to commemorate the death of **Mike Oakley**, parish councillor, and Chairman of the Parish Council 2014–17. He worked hard and enthusiastically for our community. One of his achievements was to produce a leaflet of walks around the neighbourhood. It is available on the Parish Council website. He spent many hours poring over Northstowe planning applications, to ensure the best outcome for the Parish. He was instrumental in setting up the new website. Thanks Mike, for giving your time, expertise and experience so generously.

Thank you to those who volunteered to form the new **Community Association committee**, and the management group needed to plan and oversee the Village Day celebrations. Members of the community are needed to come forward to help.

The **Crossroads traffic lights** have been a source of frustration for some time now. The lighting control system has been declared obsolete by Cambridgeshire Highways and a new sensor-based system will be put in place in the summer. Work will coincide with the top dressing of the roadworks along Dry Drayton Road.

Flooding in the village seems to have been less of a threat in the past few years. I remember kayaks at the Crossroads not so long ago. But the threat is ever-present, as the water levels in Westwick field have shown this winter. The Environment Agency is responsible for the maintenance of Beck Brook which flows through the village from the Scotland Farm direction through Bar Hill and on to Rampton Cut and Cottenham Lode. The EA will investigate the Brook from Westwick Bridge through to Cottenham in the next weeks to ensure water flow is as good as it can be. Water flow at Westwick is complicated by additional flows from Girton and Histon, making pressure on the local system very much greater in the wet winter and spring we are having this year.

The **Multi-Use Games Area** on the Recreation Ground is in the process of being brought up to date with a new playing surface, called 3G. There have been several delays due to extra demands by the funding organisation for surveys of items. Hopefully we have solved or are in the process of solving the latest round of demands and can expect a new surface sometime in the summer. Which is what we had hoped for last year! Watch this space...

David Reeves



From our District Councillors

Tax increase to pay for subsidised £1 bus fares. The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) set its 2024–25 budget on 31 January. The Mayor Nik Johnson proposed to increase the Mayoral General Precept to fund an increased contribution to passenger transport. The centrepiece of this is a proposal to cut bus fares in half to £1 for a single journey across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

The mayoral precept, first added to council tax bills in April 2023 at a cost of £12 for a band D property, is proposed to increase to £36 this April. It was initially introduced to help subsidise bus routes.

What our public transport system needs is investment, and subsidising bus fares is not an investment, because as soon as the subsidy stops, services are withdrawn and there is no lasting impact of the spending. The rising cost of living means that bus drivers' salaries need to rise, but then bus fares also need to rise, otherwise bus services will become more and more economically unviable. *(Continued on page 7)*

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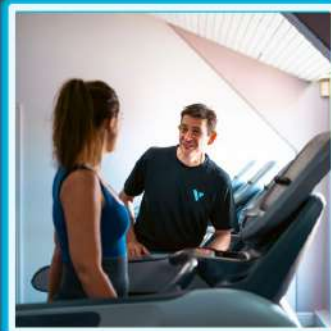
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From our District Councillors

(continued from page 5)

Home energy support for South Cambs residents. Action on Energy, www.actiononenergycambs.org, is a partnership made up of the six councils across Cambridgeshire – including South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) – helping to support people to create more energy efficient homes, which, in turn, makes them cheaper to heat and more comfortable to live in. The partnership coordinates and offers advice on a number of grants.

Four-day week data published. On 22 January, the administration finally published on the council's website the four-day week performance data that are being sent to government under the Best Value Notice. This data can be found at tinyurl.com/2nmscund. The publication of the data follows my team's hard-fought battle to gain access to this information for residents and councillors.

While we have succeeded in getting the administration to share the data they are sending to government, things will not stop here. I will continue to push for more transparency in relation to the four-day week to enable residents to see where their money is going.



Cllr Tom Bygott

Budget. This Journal issue follows the Spring budget for central government and for councils. I'm pleased to share that unlike many other councils, SCDC is on a very sound financial footing. Well targeted commercial investments bring in around £7M per year, which mitigates the huge cut in Government support that all councils have endured in recent years. If it were not for the threat of the Government's Fair Funding Review, which threatens to strip district councils of business tax revenue and give it to bigger, unitary councils, SCDC would have a projected surplus all the way to 2029. Few councils can say that, which is very positive for South Cambs.

When it comes to Council Tax, SCDC remains one of the lowest taxing authorities in the country, with a £5 per year increase – 42p a month – for the average band D home, equivalent to a below-inflation rise of around 3%. The Council Tax relief threshold has been increased in line with inflation so that people on the lowest incomes can continue to claim. SCDC is one of the few councils offering up to 100% relief for those residents in most need.

Environment. Two more Environmental Enforcement Officers (Envirocrime) are being employed to tackle the increasing problem of fly-tipping, and two new posts were created for highways litter-picking. SCDC is also adding more staff support to the Zero Carbon Communities Grant scheme – so it should be easier than before for parish and town councils to get support from SCDC on projects to help save energy or generate it.



Cllr Natalie Warren-Green

Contact details for all Councillors are on page 5.

From our County Councillor

Dry Drayton Road. Dry Drayton Road has been added to the 2024 Surface Dressing and Gripfibre programme. The section from the Traffic Lights to the raised table will be Gripfibre surface treated. The section from the raised table out to the new surface joint near the A1307 roundabout will be surface dressed. These works are likely to take place on Tuesday 4 June for half a day; details to be confirmed nearer the time. In March preparation patching works were carried out where necessary in order to bring the road up to the standard for treatment, including the edge damage. More about the road surfacing treatments: tinyurl.com/ycar43uj

Flood Risk. The Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Flood and Water Partnership agreed to start publishing a Community Flood Risk newsletter to help support residents, businesses, and communities; including input from the Environment Agency, Internal Drainage Boards and water companies.

Little Flames Preschool, Oakington. We have been informed by the management of Little Flames Preschool that they will be closing the setting permanently at Easter. This is due to the low number of children attending, currently six children on roll. The setting has communicated with parents, and County Council have sent out a letter, signposting parents to the Families Information Service. There is no indication that there will be a childcare sufficiency issue as a result of the closure.

Budget proposals. The council agreed its budget in February. This was a difficult budget process as many residents continue to feel the squeeze from cost of living pressures, but the council also faces significant cost increases. A balanced council budget for the coming year is no mean feat after more than ten years of national underfunding, when so many county and unitary authorities are struggling.

Those on the lowest incomes are also those who are often most reliant on services provided by the council. The County Council had to close a gap of £37.4M, with 75% of the Council's net spending now being funded from Council Tax. Councillors have prioritised a number of key areas, based on residents' feedback from last summer's Quality of Life and budget survey. The budget

- sustains critical adults' & children's social care services;
- includes record levels of highways funding to strengthen and improve the standard of roads and pavements, including tackling potholes, weeds and gulleys – in direct response to residents' concerns;
- prioritises support for vulnerable communities, including continuing to providing holiday supermarket vouchers for those children most in need.

The council agreed a Council Tax rise of 4.99% – 2% for Adult Social Services, and 2.99% for general services – raising £17.5M of local income to help maintain and protect critical services for the most vulnerable communities. For the majority of residents in Band A – D properties that will mean an extra 99p to £1.48 a week.



Cllr Firouz Thompson

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Environment Action Group



Following the removal of bulrushes from the **village pond** in January by a lorry with a grabber from Meads (funded by the Parish Council), some displaced and dead bulrushes were removed during February. Some other weeds and ivy were also removed from the pond edge. It is very pleasing to see the pond looking good these days free of the green duck weed.

EAG volunteers also undertook some tidying up of the central flower beds in the **recreation ground** seating areas on Saturday 16 March. The Verbena bonariensis were trimmed, the ground cover Pachysandra terminalis was weeded and the Viburnum × bodnantense 'Dawn' was replanted, having been killed off by last winter's heavy frost.



The EAG also worked under the direction of South Cambridgeshire Rotary Club on Tuesday 19 March to **clear litter** along both sides of Dry Drayton Road from the

Garden Centre to the end of the fenced wood. Of particular note was the enormous number of beer bottles along the whole of the east side. This is not the first time that a lot of bottles have been cleared from this area.

Our involvement with the **Nature Recovery Project**, in partnership with SOW, is continuing, led by James Heywood and John Terry. We plan to begin wildlife monitoring in earnest in April.

Our monthly **volunteer meetings** at the Garden Centre (Olive Tree) café are also continuing. These meetings are often the birthplace

of new ideas, as well as providing a good opportunity for social chat. We are always on the lookout for more volunteers to help with our work, so if you would like to

contribute in any way to any of our projects please get in touch with James Youd on jamesyoud51@icloud.com.

Finally, our **Flood Mitigation Group** remains active behind the scenes. Stay tuned for future updates!

Stephanie Smith

Transport Action Group

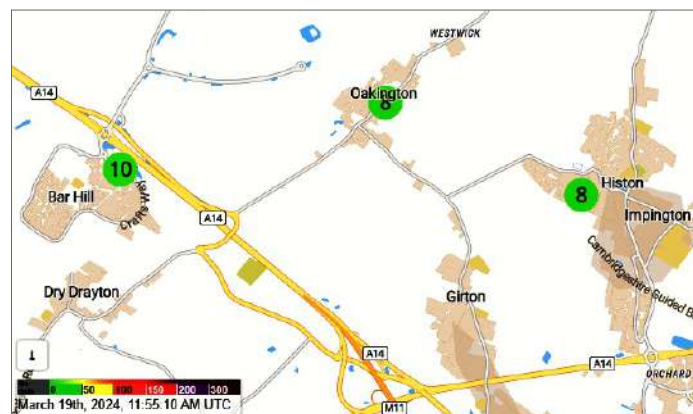


MVAS Speed Camera

As many of you will have noticed the speed monitor has been relocated to a position outside the primary school in Water Lane. The most recent statistics, from 20 February – 11 March, show that whilst 62% of vehicles exceeded the 20 mph speed limit the overall speed has dropped by approximately 10 mph compared to when the speed limit through the village was 30 mph. Now 85% of all drivers are not exceeding 26 mph. Such a reduction increases the safety of pedestrians and cyclists. A reckless maximum speed of 62 mph was recorded one Tuesday night between midnight and 01:00hrs.

Pollution Monitoring

The map below shows the location and readings for the



Purple Air pollution monitors in the area. The map can be accessed in real time by going to the Purple Air website (map.purpleair.com/). Our own monitor is positioned at the Oakington Primary School who also host the link to the internet. From the Purple Air website map page, you can access every similar pollution monitor across the rest of the UK and globe to give a comparison with our local readings.

Citi 6 Improvements

TAG has been lobbying for an improved Citi6 bus services through the village which is currently hourly outside peak times with no buses after about 18:00. Stagecoach who run the service will only consider increasing the number of buses if the usage goes up. We have also lobbied the County Council and Mayor's Office to seek his support to increase the number of buses and re-instate the pre-covid Citi5 evening route that came through the village to Bar Hill via Girton, Cambridge Road and Dry Drayton Road. Unfortunately, we have not been included in the mayor's proposed service improvements across the rest of the county.

There is some good news for users of the Guided Busway. The St Ives to Cambridge Route A frequency is increasing to every 15 minutes.

If you would like to get involved or would like any more detail on the above and other aspects of TAG activity, please get in touch using the contact details below.

Jim Bryant, Chair
owcp.tag@gmail.com 07807184691



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Oakington & Westwick Neighbours

2024 kicked off with a very successful Wassailing event on 20 January. Over 80 people came and had great fun singing songs, banging pans and generally encouraging the apple orchard off Arcadia Gardens to be fruitful.



Many local residents appreciate the events organised by OWN as evidenced by the responses to the recent survey we carried out. Part of the reason for the survey was to gauge people's views about what OWN is and what it does; whether there were particular areas we should focus on and the ways in which OWN may develop in future. This is particularly important as we are seeking new committee members from the next AGM in October/November 2024.

Over 90% of respondents felt that OWN's activities were quite or very important in our village life. "We think OWN is a huge asset to the village, we are big fans." Helping people cope through the Covid pandemic was seen as very significant. Respondents felt OWN "represents an ideal of neighbourliness" as well as giving reliable, discreet support for local people. It gives "peace of mind" to know that such support is available even if you do not currently require it.

Events both large (Tea and Jazz, Big Lunch) and small (monthly walks) serve to connect people who might otherwise feel isolated and lonely. IT support, and the monthly minibus trip to Bar Hill are greatly valued by those who use them, but did not feature prominently in survey responses. Training sessions on e.g. First Aid and internet safety were seen as helpful, but not of the highest priority.

The Hardship Fund is seen as a valuable resource. Set up during Covid, it continues to assist where people have been struggling with the rising cost of living. Several payments have been made since the start of the year to help with basics, usually when an essential extra expense has made it impossible to manage as usual. The balance of the fund is presently over £2000 thanks to a recent generous donation.

Thank you to all those who responded to our survey – it has certainly given us food for thought. And talking of food, our next main event will be the Big Lunch on **Sunday 2 June** at the Pavilion from 12.30 to 2.30pm. The past two years have celebrated the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee, and the King's Coronation. This year will not have such a royal flavour, but it is a lovely occasion anyway with live music and community singing. Bring a dish to share or, if that's tricky, just come yourself – there is always plenty.

In addition, as well as the regular monthly walks and the minibus shopping trip, we are again organising a plant swap on **18–19 May**, and we will have a stall at the Village Day.

To contact OWN: 07902 111786, owneighbours@gmail.com

Jo Bryant



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 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

www.facebook.com/OakingtonVikingsFC

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.

Tuesday Talk & Tea

In March we had a fascinating talk given by Honor Ridout on the long history of the Stourbridge Fair.

On **9 April**, Rama Ram will give a talk and demonstration of Indian Culture and Costume. On **14 May** Rosemary Wheeler is coming to give us her talk, "Hats Galore." She has worn hats all her life and has at least five boxes of them to prove it!

If anyone would like to come and talk to us about any aspect, past or present, of village life, we would be delighted to hear from you.

Marian Cleaver



The Tuesday Talk and Tea Club meets in the Church Hall at 2.45–4.45pm on the second Tuesday of the month, for a talk or activity followed by 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.

Free Plant Swap / Stall

10–12 on **Saturday 18 May**
2–4pm on **Sunday 19 May**
Outside 36 Coles Lane



Bring some vegetable plants you've grown and take away something planted by someone else. Even if you don't have anything to swap, take some plants anyway – leave a donation (collection for the Cambridge Ukraine Fund.)

Sow some extra seeds now so you can bring along spares to the stall. While the main focus is on veg plants and sustainable food, we won't turn away flowers!

Organised by OWN & SOW



Oakington and Westwick WI




We had a fun and enjoyable evening at our February meeting promoting the WI campaign for climate change. We were sewing green hearts for the WI post box topper and also painted pebbles to hide around the village for people to find ... then hide again.

We had a wonderful Saturday morning painting with "Cork and Canvas". Thirteen of us all sat down to paint our pictures, led by Penny. It required a lot of concentration, but we were all pleased with the results.

Our meeting in March was led by Sophie Smiley who gave us an interesting and historical talk on the history of swimming in Cambridge.

Our next meeting is on 11 April – do join us.

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 elainebailey1@live.co.uk for more information.

1st Oakington Scout Group

1st Oakington Scout group has had a busy start to the year. With our new committee fully up and running, plans have been made for the next Scouts Jumble Sale (11 May – get it in your diary!) The Beavers and Cubs have been busy with Pancake Day and preparing gifts for Mothering Sunday as well as learning about the world around them.

The Scouts have been preparing for the 2024 Crafts Hill Easter Camp. Along with other groups in the Crafts Hill area, like Bar Hill, Comberton, Willingham, Over and Longstanton, the scouts and leaders will spend Easter weekend practising all their camping skills. Firelighting, cooking their own breakfasts and dinners, pitching their tents, and hiking may seem like obvious camp activities, but the scouts will also practice axe throwing, archery, caving, and other more adventurous things while they are away. Easter Camp is an excellent opportunity for our young people to learn and practise practical life skills and have experiences they may not otherwise be exposed to. It allows them to develop confidence and independence and make memories they'll have for a lifetime. We would very much like to express our grateful thanks to all the people who donated items for our camp cooking kits.

Cara Hanman



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

1st Oakington Beavers


Oakington Beavers have had a busy Spring term. We've created bird feeders, taken part in The Big Garden Birdwatch, learnt about Chinese new year, demystified density and designed and built our own cargo boats.

If you're aged 6 to 8 years old and enjoy games, crafts, learning new things and making new friends, then why not think about joining us?

We meet on Fridays, 6–7pm, during term time at Oakington Primary School. For more information, please contact: Kathryn.Biggs@oakingtonscouts.org.uk.

Adults: do you have a pastime that you're passionate about? Bee keeping? Apple pressing? Model aircraft? If so, our Beavers would love to learn from you. Please get in touch!

Kathryn Bigg



Beavers (aged 6–8) meet 6–7pm on term time Fridays at the school. Contact Kathryn.Biggs@oakingtonscouts.org.uk.


Oakington & Westwick Tennis Club

Fancy a game of tennis?

Now is a particularly good time to join the Oakington & Westwick Tennis Club as our subscription year runs from 1 April – 31 March so you can really get your money's worth! We have two hard courts and there is no need to book – you can just turn up and play at any time during daylight hours. Membership covers free access to the courts, membership of the LTA and the ability to enter the Wimbledon ticket draw. It is worth noting that the club doesn't function as some other tennis clubs, which are meeting and socialising clubs with a turn up and play ethos, as we don't have a Club house or facilities.

If you'd like any further information, do please contact oakingtontc@gmail.com.

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.

Country Dancing

Jane and Kathryn look forward to seeing you on the following Fridays, at Histon Methodist Church, for more fun evenings of country dancing: **26 April, 10 May**, 7 June and 26 July. We are accompanied by our excellent musicians and have a Caller. All abilities catered for – do come and join us.

Kathryn Coles



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

Clubs and Groups

Oakington & Westwick Table Tennis Group

Come along and join us for fun and laughter playing table tennis.

A game that is good for your mental health as well as your physical health, it helps to raise the heart rate, sharpens your reaction times, hugely improves hand-eye coordination, strengthens muscles and mobilises joints. Bats provided.

Gillian L'Angellier



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. For more information contact Gillian L'Angellier on 01223 234758.

Sustainable Oakington & Westwick



SOW organised Oakington & Westwick's first Repair Café on 10 February. 70 items were brought in to be repaired, of which 41 were successfully repaired, 19 were found to be repairable and 10 deemed end of life. But not only did we prevent unnecessary waste and landfill: people were inspired by and

learned from the fourteen volunteer repairers, and enjoyed the café and the friendly community atmosphere. Thank you to everyone who supported it – the generous donations and cafe takings covered costs and will help with the next Oakington Repair Café in February 2025!

The January SOW meeting focused on the Nature Recovery Project (jointly organised with the Environment Action Group.) If you are interested in wildlife and would be able to help observe and monitor birds, reptiles, butterflies or plants, please get in touch: sustainableow@gmail.com. In February we discussed green/ethical banking and pensions.

On **24 April**, Alana Sinclair from Cambridge Carbon Footprint will give a talk on "Communicating about Climate Change", which promises to be an inspiring and enabling presentation for anyone worried about the climate crisis.

On **29 May** we have a talk by Lou Ellis on "Composting for sustainability and wildlife" followed by a visit to her garden.

Jenny Prince



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

Oakington Singers

In January's Journal, I reported that the *New Year* meant *New Us* and this is proving true! Firstly, how lovely that we've been able to welcome some new members and some returnees too. Secondly, Paul Tann, our musical director, and Joan Keating, our accomplished accompanist, make a great team and are working to get the very best out of our singing. Once we familiarise ourselves with the notes and words of a new tune, they concentrate on how we can shape it by adhering to all the changes in volume the piece requires, singing with more precision and observing changes in tempo etc. This improves the sound no end and we hope you will notice this when you hear us perform. *New Year, New Us...* well I hadn't meant to be prophetic, but it turned out that this has most definitely been the case for our valued member and Choir Treasurer, Gerry Westoby. Just into the New Year, Gerry (finally) underwent major and very successful heart surgery. It was a new experience for him being an actual patient rather than acting the part as he has done for so many years in his capacity as Role Play Actor in doctor training courses at Addenbrooke's. We are all so pleased that he has made such a good recovery in a matter of weeks and were delighted to welcome him back to rehearsals in good voice again. Well done Gerry.

So what's on the performance agenda for us? Over Easter, we have been invited to sing at the Maundy Thursday service at St Andrew's church at 7.30pm and will return there to sing at the Good Friday service at 10am. We are also much looking forward to singing at Claire Barnes's wedding on 13 April. This will be a proud moment for our accompanist as Claire is the daughter of Joan Keating!



Look out for publicity for a combined concert with Oaktet that is at the planning stage, and, as summer looms, you are also bound to see us at some regular Village events.

Helen Williams



We are a four-part harmony choir which rehearses on a Monday in the Church Hall, 7.30–9 pm. Come along and give us a try! For more information, or if you would like us to sing at your event, please contact Helen Williams on 232614/helenwilliams5@outlook.com or just drop in.

RECYCLING TIP... Wood (only) ash can be used in the garden by placing directly on soil around alkaline-loving plants, or placed cool in a paper bag in the **green bin**.





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Westwick Terrace

As 'outsiders' from the Midlands, we arrived in Westwick Terrace in 1987.

The Terrace was built in c.1876 by the Lintons, as tenant housing for Westwick Farm. The date stone is now hidden under the extension of number 8. The bathroom/kitchen extensions at the back were added in the 1960s. The late Arthur and Meta Harvey at number 2 remembered well the use of the outside toilet.

The gardens are at the back of the Terrace, beyond a communal walkway and were originally much larger, staggered, with the garden for number 1 at the side of the property. Mr. Pearson, the owner at the time, decided to split the gardens to free up land to build what is now 'New House'. Mrs Prior at number 8 refused to give up her garden, which was her pride and joy, so it remained full size. Snowy Farr was moved from number 3 to number 8 after her death and promptly dug up her garden and planted cabbages!

When we arrived most of the Terrace was privately owned with the Kings at number 6 being the long-term residents. Nick Phillips at number 1, Sue Nixon moved from the New House into number 3, Alice and Tim Gawthrop (working at Lambs Cross) and then our very own Jenny Prince and family at number 5. Sue and Steve Smith were at number 8.



We once had an official visitor who remarked that she used to live in our house, number 7, as a child and remembered the bedroom being rented out to servicemen during the War, the range in the back room, no kitchen, and an air raid shelter in the garden. She also remembered the aircraft crashing next to Foxelwood and destroying the Dovecote.

Chris Bull was in Westwick Farm when we first arrived, which is now the nursery. The Jacksons were at Foxelwood. They kept a full size traction engine in the engine shed (formerly the air raid shelter for Westwick), which was a joy to see when it was brought out.

Station road cottages were inhabited by 'Chicken George'. He lived in number 1 and his chickens in the then derelict number 2, hence the nickname.

Yvonne Graves was in Garden Cottage. A much missed resident of Westwick. Major Burdett and his daughter were in Westwick Hall. I have fond memories of walking down



the avenue of trees with a carpet of bluebells to deliver the newsletter to the old kitchen at the back of the Hall.

Our local pub was The New Inn. I can still almost taste Bettina's crispy roast potatoes that she passed around on a Sunday lunchtime.



The old Victorian bridge had a weight limit on it so we didn't get many huge lorries coming through, apart from the ones to empty all of our septic tanks as there is no mains sewage in Westwick.

Always prone to flooding, the meadow and the park are our hidden gem. Discovered by many during the pandemic.

The guided busway was still a railway in our day. The St Ives branch line was used twice a day with sand and gravel trains. If your timing was out in the morning you were late for work as the 7.30 train stopped us all and took at least ten minutes for all of the trucks to cross.

The sheep are an integral feature in Westwick, with only a few escapees. Notably in the middle of the night with police valiantly trying to round them up. The farmer sometimes moves them from the field opposite the Hall, up the middle of the road, past the Terrace and down the track to the back of the Hall. None have ended up in our gardens as yet.

It is lovely to have a view of sheep in the field opposite the house. We used to be able watch the aircraft and parachutes dropping onto the old airfield in the distance but now we see the lights and sounds of Northstowe.

Jane Williams

Community Pub Night

In partnership with Trevor and Ferdan at the White Horse, we are reviving the Community Pub Night. The first two sessions will be from 7.30pm on: Wednesday **17 April** & Wednesday **22 May**.

The Community Pub Night means that you can be sure of a warm welcome for a friendly conversation or game of darts. It's a great opportunity to make new friendships or catch up with people you've not seen for a while.

These evenings were popular before Covid, drawing together both new and long-standing residents, and we hope for the same this year. Do come along.

Of course, the pub is open to everyone daily with great food and drink, and a regular programme of Quiz nights etc.

Jo Mills


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Nature Notes

Birdwatchers, not just from Oakington, but from across the county have been visiting Mansell's Farm to see three Cattle Egrets that have been, for the last few weeks, enjoying the partially flooded fields. Cattle is a cousin to the now familiar Little Egret. Both are white, but the rare Cattle Egret is smaller and distinguishable by its yellow beak.

Unsurprisingly, it likes to associate with livestock.

This is a recent colonist of the UK and follows in the footsteps of its larger cousin. Based on citizen science data from the now 30-year old BTO/JNCC/RSPN Breeding Bird Survey, Little Egret has one of the largest population growths of any British Birds; it is now some 2,000% more abundant than it was in 1994. Some 35 species are also doing better now than in the mid-90s, but a fifth of those are non-native species, such as Ring-necked Parakeet. A common sight in London, this exotic bird is now spreading to other urban centres in the UK and small numbers have been recently observed in Cambridge and Histon.



The spread of non-native species is one of the major threats to global diversity, though often receives less attention than climate change or habitat loss. Nowhere

more so than in the UK on our waterways, with several plants such as Himalayan balsam, New Zealand pygmyweed and Floating Penny-wort taking advantage of their ready-made habitat corridors and outcompeting native species.

Another species that has wrought untold damage on our rivers is the American Mink. Water Voles are now at threat of extinction in the UK following decades of depredation by this introduced predator. The feasibility of eradication programmes is usually restricted to oceanic islands, where rats, stoats and other mammals are a major threat to seabirds. But, hope is at hand for continental-scale programmes. In January, The Waterlife Recovery Trust announced the likely eradication of American Mink from East Anglia following a sustain trapping program. The program made use of transponder technology to provide field workers information on sprung traps, meaning less daily monitoring and greater deployment. Water Voles in East Anglia are therefore in a much better place than they were a decade ago and the project paves the way for a national eradication programme. Perhaps soon, the currently rare reports of Water Voles in Oakington, along Beck Brook in particular, will become a regular thing.

James Heywood

Image: Water Vole on Hobson's Conduit, Cambridge – Harriet Heywood

Community Association



What relevance does the Community Association have in our community? At the AGM in January only two people volunteered for the 2024 committee, setting into motion a possible winding up of the Association. However, this threat made over 20 people come to the Open Meeting in February to show support for the Association to continue and enough volunteers came forward to form a committee. There was a consensus that the Association still had a role to play as the organisation behind the local Journal, the Village Day and Bonfire Night, particularly by having a bank account, insurance and established procedures for these activities. There was also a feeling that we should simplify the Constitution, have fewer meetings and rethink the Association membership definition.

2023 Financial Report

As reported at the AGM the Association had another successful year thanks to the efforts of all those who contributed and volunteered.

The following is a summary of Income and Expenditure.

	2023	2022
	£	£
Income		
Membership	90.00	190.00
Journal	-413.00	76.00
Village Day	1,738.27	1,822.24
Bonfire Night	291.55	573.85
Total	1706.82	2662.09
Expenses	-1067.74	-1808.93
Net Proceeds	639.08	853.16

The bulk of the expenses is down to insurance costs. The net

proceeds have been added to 'Reserves Brought Forward' and these are now a healthy £5,886.81.

Village Day – Sat 29 June

Our first task, though, was to establish a Village Day Team to organise the day. Our enthusiastic chair, Brian Esson, is leading a team of new volunteers and with support from experienced committee members. As ever, they will be looking for lots of help on and around the day! We are looking forward to a great community event!

Thank You

After four years chairing the CA committee, **Ranko Pinter** has now stepped down. Ranko threw himself into every aspect of the Community Association, even on occasions leading the Village Day and Bonfire Night planning teams. When confronted with dwindling numbers of volunteers, he responded by spending ridiculous hours to ensure the success of an event. We are grateful for all his enthusiasm and energy in building a welcoming community. And he is still doing Chess Clubs – and much more!



Liz Davis, another long-term committee member, has also stepped down. With her unique style she made the role of Membership Secretary her own. We shall miss her engagement in discussions and her comprehensive knowledge of village life. If you fancy a catch up, you'll find her at the Monday morning café in the Church Hall!



CA Committee 2024: Irène Butlin, Elodie Cameron (new), Brian Esson (new), Arthur Sillett, Bernie Yates, Ela Yates (new) oakington.westwick.ca@gmail.com

Irène Butlin



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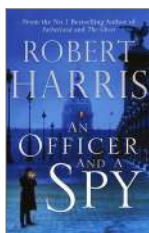
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Book Club

An Officer and a Spy by Robert Harris



Our book for February, based on the true story of Alfred Dreyfus, was unknown to me, so I didn't know how it was going to end. The main character is not Alfred Dreyfus, but Georges Picquart, and it is about his sense of honour, his love for the army and his fight for justice for another man. This was based on his beliefs of right and wrong, and not because he felt an attachment to Dreyfus. I really enjoyed the book, and would definitely recommend it.

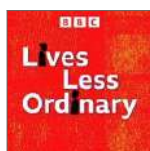
Our next meeting will be 7.30pm on Wednesday **17 April** but look out on Facebook for any updates. We meet in the White Horse and are a friendly bunch. We all nominate a book and then choose the reading order. Our next book is **Lessons in Chemistry** by Bonnie Gamus.

The May meet up will be 7.30pm on Wednesday **15 May**, the book is **Roughing it in the Bush** by Susanna Moodie.

Natalie Meredith

Podcast Review

"Lives Less Ordinary"



My regular solitary walks are enhanced by listening to downloaded programmes and podcasts. I always do the first half with no earphones, and then plug in for the homeward stretch. I'm a BBC addict, and use BBC Sounds for all my offline listening.

My favourite programme is the World Service broadcast called Outlook. It comes in podcast form as "Lives Less Ordinary". It describes itself as true stories of ordinary people and the extraordinary events that have shaped their lives.

The episodes are full of fascinating insights into historical events, family dramas, professional breakthroughs and poignant tales of resilience. Some instalments make me laugh, some literally move me to tears, and all are revelatory. bbc.co.uk/sounds/series/p02s5rx7

Alice J

Is your crafting stash getting out of hand? Then do not miss our charity **CRAFTERS DESTASH EVENT** Saturday 18 May, 11am-3pm Hardwick Primary School To book your stall: clare@diston.me.uk / 07801 344399

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Gardening Notes

April. A busy seed sowing month. Hardy vegetables like carrot, beetroot, leeks, spinach and lettuce can all be sown directly into the vegetable plot. Tomatoes, courgettes, squash and sweetcorn can be started in the greenhouse or on a warm windowsill ready to be planted out when all danger of frost has passed. Early chitted potatoes can go in the ground, but leave maincrops until later.



The garden awakes from winter slumber

If you started sweet peas in January they should be ready to plant out but don't forget to provide some strong supports for them to climb up.

Dahlia tubers can be potted up now and left somewhere cool and sheltered to provide masses of cut flowers in summer.

May. Time to sow hardy annuals like sunflowers, cosmos and marigolds either in pots or directly in the ground. Also time to think 'No Mow May' and see what flowers appear in your lawn. Sowing a wild flower seed mix in bare patches may help.

Pinch out broad beans when the lowest truss of flowers has formed small pods. This encourages fruiting and reduces problems with blackfly. Think successional sowing of lettuce and herbs. 'Little and Often' is best for a continuous supply. It is also time to think about sowing cauliflower, cabbage and sprouting broccoli ready to harvest later in the year.

Happy Gardening!

Ann and Peter Rayner

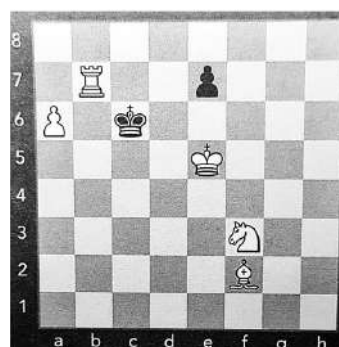
Chess Corner

Solution to chess puzzle 1-24 from last Journal:

Black can only move its Bishop or its pawn on h-line

1st White	1st Black	2nd White
Qa1-a8	If B*	Qh8#
	If h2-h1	Qxh1#

= checkmate x = capturing a piece *= Any move



Chess Puzzle 2-24

White to move and checkmate in two moves.

Ranko Pinter

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Fundraising: Giving Something Back

Earlier this year I had the privilege of attending an event organised by Addenbrooke's Charitable Trust (ACT). It was extremely moving and most heartening to hear from patients and medical professionals exactly what a difference funds raised for ACT have made on so many fronts over the years. One fundraiser at the event commented, 'The hospital has done so much for me and my family. I just want to give something back'.

This is exactly how I felt some ten years ago after undergoing surgery and various follow-up treatments at Addenbrooke's. So many people and so many nationalities (I lost count at 39!) helped me on my road to recovery and when I felt strong enough, I went to the ACT office and talked things through with them. The staff were very supportive and within a year I had written and published a small book of poems called 'Precious', which summed up how the hospital staff had made me feel. As well as raising funds for ACT through book sales, 'Precious' also found its way into oncology departments around the country from Devon up to Scotland. I treasure the letters and cards from people who have said 'Precious' has helped them on their journeys, too.

A couple of years went by and a further hospital visit



inspired another idea for ACT. It happened just before Christmas when I met a parent and a very brave girl, who, like me, were waiting for a scan. I discovered around fifty other children would be spending the festive season in Addenbrooke's that year. I rather recklessly told ACT that I would have a Christmas book for every child in hospital by the following Christmas.

'Windy B – The Christmas Lights', which was based on stories I had made up for my own children when they were young, actually did materialise in late 2018. Not only did each child get a copy of the book that Christmas, I also did readings for the children on C2 and D2 wards. Deliveries of the book have carried on to the hospital each year since 2018.

Book sales and proceeds from the annual Oakington and Westwick Tennis Club quiz night have helped me raise funds for ACT. All being well, the third and fourth

'Windy B' books will come out later this year. The second book, 'Windy B – The Snow Race', came out in 2022.

Copies of 'Precious' are available on the table just inside Oakington Church. Feel free to help yourself. 'Windy B' books are available locally from Heffers and also online. You can also get signed copies from: hildeandjean.com

If you want to find out more about the great work ACT does, or donate online, go to: act4addenbrookes.org.uk.

John Barnett

Oakington Church of England Primary School



Another busy and action packed term at Oakington C of E Primary School, which has included celebrating World Book Day, Mother's Day and raising money on Red Nose Day. It has also been lovely to welcome many new families to our school and to see the children settling in so well.

In January, we took our school choir to the O2 Arena to perform as part of the Young Voices 2024 choir. It was a fantastic experience for our children, who performed alongside thousands of other children from across the country, as well as some famous faces such as MC Grammar and Nandi Bushell. We are already looking forward to going back again next year!

Recently, we have taken some time to review our school values, thinking about what it is we want our children to hold dear and aspire to become during their journey with us. After consulting with staff, parents, children and governors, we now have a new set of school values which



spell the acronym GRACE – Generosity Respect Ambition Courage Empathy. Our children have all been given the challenge of completing activities which demonstrate these values in order to help them learn and embody them. We are delighted with the way our children have responded, and are already actively living out our values.

In February, we were very excited to welcome volcanologist and Antarctic scientist, John Smellie, who gave a fascinating talk to our children. The children were in awe of the stories he told, and showcased their own excellent knowledge with many pertinent questions. We look forward to writing him letters during his final trip to Antarctica.

By the time this piece is published, we will have held another one of our Volunteers' Days on 23 March, in which we work alongside our amazing parent community to get a range of jobs done around the school, transforming the environment for our children. A huge thank you as always

to our wonderful PSA who organise these events and do so much to support our school.

Nathan Clark

Oaktet

Oaktet is a woodwind group started in January 2007 by myself and Sarah Chapman. It was originally open to adults and children of mixed ability meeting for weekly rehearsals in Oakington Methodist Chapel.



The chapel proved a very affordable location for concerts as well as rehearsals. Within six months of starting we held our first concert there (which also featured some of my music pupils) to raise funds for music for the group. We are most grateful to the chapel for all their support and kindness during those years right up until the chapel itself was sold, which included ten charity concerts performed there. By then the group had settled to a number of participants who could, just about, squash into my conservatory.

Initially the group included players of all ages playing flutes, clarinets, oboes, and saxophones. It was quickly decided that 'Oaktet' is a catchier name than Oakington Woodwind Group ('Oak' from Oakington and 'tet' because we seemed to be a group of variable numbers) and my husband, Mark, kindly designed the logo for us. Over the years youngsters moved on to college, and adults left the area or moved on to play in orchestras or other groups, and others joined us. Sadly Sarah Chapman had to leave after a couple of years. We settled into a core of six to seven higher standard members and played for many years as a septet.

When Covid hit in 2020 performances were put on hold for nearly two years. We continued to meet on zoom during lockdowns and had many rehearsals in either Anne's garden or Claire's garden/barn. Sadly, during this time, we also lost three members: two moved to Scotland and one to Spain! But we have now settled happily as a quartet and are back rehearsing in my conservatory and performing again. Deborah Walton is the only member still with us from 2007. Rhian Howells has played with us since 2010 and Claire Langston joined when she moved into Oakington in 2013.

Over the years Oaktet's performances have supported sixteen different charities, and we have performed at three different care homes, our local Oakington Garden Centre, and in many community events in Cambridgeshire. Eight times we have played for Oakington's OWN Jazz by the Lake and Big Lunch events. We have done a spot in twelve Oakington Harvest Concerts. In 2010 we did the first of half a dozen concerts in aid of the Ruth & Poppy Nicholas Fund, a fund which provides musical events for Oakington Primary School. Since 2011 our support for this fund has been boosted by collaboration with Oakington Singers in an annual Christmas concert.



We perform a wide variety of music in different styles, depending on the audience and venue: 1930s–40s music for Care Homes, jazz for Jazz by the Lake, 'easy listening' classics, popular and music from musicals for community events. Themed concerts have included an adapted version of Peter and the Wolf, a Murder/Mystery theme, and a Film & TV theme.

If you see an advert for a performance by Oaktet then please do come along. We always play to either support local events or to raise funds for charity so would warmly welcome your support. TIA!

Anne Bury

Oakington School PSA

We had an entertaining quiz evening hosted by Dave Barrett with eight teams battling it out for the winner's trophy. This was however successfully retained by last year's winner, 'Barrett Holmes'.



The Parent Staff Association are already looking ahead to the summer term's school fete which will be on Friday 21 June 3.30–5.30pm. If you're interested in hosting a stall at this event, please do email the PSA or contact us via our Facebook page. The PSA have secured an ice cream van and inflatables already but are keen for other local stallholders to join the event. This event is open for all in the village to attend and is an opportunity to come and see the new track and see how the school allotment is progressing.

We are also keen to share that we will be coordinating the village yard sale – more details next issue. This event has grown over the past two years and is a great opportunity for villagers to get out and meet each other.

Angela Barber – psa@oakington.cambs.sch.uk

Hearing Aid Help

Cambridgeshire Deaf Association (CDA) Hearing Help is a new Hearing Aid Maintenance session, every first Wednesday morning of the month from 10am to noon at Bar Hill Community Church, the Meeting Room, Viking Way CB23 8EH. The venue has free parking and is wheelchair accessible. No booking necessary, just drop in.



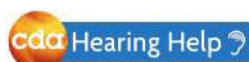
In these sessions we maintain NHS-supplied hearing aids, replacing tubing and domes etc, and we can signpost and supply hearing aid batteries.

Our service also provides a wonderful volunteering opportunity either as a Technician or Receptionist. Full training is given. Please get in touch if you might like to find out more information on our volunteering roles:

01223 416141, su.fletcher@cambsdeaf.org.

cambridgeshirehearinghelp.org.uk

Gerry Robinson



Celebrating Norman's Century



Oakington Resident Norman "Geordie" Brown has reached a significant milestone in life as he celebrates his 100th birthday.

Born into a mining family on March 23, 1924, in the North East of England, Geordie was youngest among his twelve siblings.

Geordie's early memories include witnessing King George V at the grand opening of the Newcastle Tyne Bridge in 1928 when he was four years old. Now, at the age of 100, he has lived during the reign of five monarchs.

At thirteen, Geordie finished education and worked at the local cinema, selling ice cream and refreshments during intervals. His interests extended to tinkering with his brother's motorbikes and sidecars, as well as joining the Air Training Corps. Geordie's path led him to the mines until he was old enough to join the Royal Air Force.

During World War II, Geordie served as an aircraft engineer, stationed in South Africa. Enduring a six-week voyage to Cape Town aboard a convoy of ships, Geordie ensured the airworthiness of planes crucial to the war effort. Following the war's conclusion in 1945, Geordie transitioned to occupied Germany as part of the peacekeeping efforts. Service to his country continued until he demobbed from the RAF in 1948, after which he pursued a career as a joiner and engineer. He married his first wife, with whom he spent 25 years.



Geordie's journey took a new turn when he met Cathy whilst working as an engineer in the local laundry, whom he married in 1974, welcoming their first child in the same year. The offer of a job saw Geordie and Cathy embark on a new chapter and relocate to work at the Modlux laundry in Girton. In 1977 Geordie's family was extended with the arrival of twins.

With the laundry closing in 1984 Geordie settled in Queensway in Oakington with his family. Throughout the years, Geordie's versatility in trades and his amiable nature endeared him to the community and although of retirement age Geordie continued to work part-time with local businesses, including Collets Car Sales, Crossways garage, and Barkers Bakery. He also dedicated time to the community, volunteering with other village residents to redecorate St Andrew's Church in Oakington and planting 200 trees along Dry Drayton Road.

Geordie was a fixture at the White Horse, where he entertained friends and patrons alike with his humour, magic tricks, and prowess at the pool table. Despite his relocation all those years before, his allegiance to Newcastle United Football Club has remained unwavering.

Today, as Geordie celebrates a century of life, his greatest joy emanates from his two beloved grandchildren Xander and Skala. Reflecting on his journey, Geordie expresses profound pride in witnessing the growth of his family.



As we honour Geordie on this momentous occasion, we salute his resilience, and his unwavering commitment to family and community. Here's to a remarkable centenarian.

Happy 100th Birthday, Geordie.

Claire Brown

Pavilion Update – How Can You Help Us?

It's that time again when the Oakington Pavilion Lottery tickets may be dropped through your door, or maybe you don't even notice as you have not taken part before! Lottery tickets are only £10 each and you could be a monthly winner.

You could really help support the cost of running the Pavilion just by buying a lottery ticket or two! For full details see page 24, or if you would like more information, please call 07831 828898.

*** You Need To Be In It To Win It! ***

Secondly, do you know someone who has a business that might want to hire out our function room? We have a perfect meeting room that is free during the week.

We are trying our best to use the building as efficiently as possible, but we need to generate more income to keep the building going. To hire the building please contact Tony Leadley on oakingtonpavilion@gmail.com

Please support your Pavilion!

Elaine Bailey
Pavilion Committee Chair

Free Door to Door Bus – Oakington to Tesco, Bar Hill

The first Friday, every month

Next trips:

Friday 5 April & Friday 3 May

If you'd like a free lift and the offer to carry bags to your door, please contact Teri on

07711 531004 to reserve your place.

The bus picks up about 10am – after the school run – and returns about 1pm.

OPEN TO EVERYONE – ALL AGES



Oakington & Westwick Sports Pavilion

2024 Monthly Lottery

Please join the lottery & support The Pavilion.

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

The Lottery 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 which are enjoyed by many local clubs & groups.

The lottery commences shortly. 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 2024). 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 win!

Thank you to all those that have supported the lottery in the past and to all newcomers for 2024. Please call 07831 828898 if you would like us to collect your payment.

Promoter: Oakington & Westwick Sports Pavilion Management Committee, Queens Way, Oakington, Cambridge, CB24 3AW.
Registration Number: SL268526



JOIN US FOR THE BIG LUNCH!

YOU'RE INVITED TO:

A Bring & Share lunch – bring a plate of food if you can
Live music + Free event

WHEN & WHERE:

Sunday 2nd June, 12.30 – 2.30pm

Oakington Recreation Ground & Pavilion

Feel free to bring a picnic rug or gazebo!



The Big Lunch brings millions of people together to share friendship, food and fun in their communities – join in!



PARTNERED BY



TheBigLunch.com

1st Oakington Beavers, Cubs and Scouts



Saturday 11th May 2024

10am – 12pm

@ Oakington Pavillion

Queens Way, Oakington

Entry £1

Please bring any (quality) donations to the pavillion from 8am on the morning of the sale or 6pm the Tuesday and Friday in the weeks prior.

(No large furniture or electrical goods!)

Come and grab a bargain!



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