

Oakington & Westwick

Dec 2023 / Jan 2024

Journal

**Apple Pressing & Blessing
Gold Star for the School
Christmas Concerts
Walking with Trees
Grenade Escapade**



Weekly

Mon	Monday Cafe , 9.30—noon. St Andrew's 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 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	Beavers , 6–7pm. term time. Church Hall. beavers@oakingtonscouts.org.uk
Fri	Scouts , 6–8pm. Pavilion. Cara Hanman – cara.hanman@oakingtonscouts.org.uk

Sat	2 Dec	Village Walk & Talk , 10.30am. Meet by Church on High Street. Alice – OWNeighbours@gmail.com
Sat	2 Dec	Christmas Tree Sales & Refreshments , 10am – 1pm. 9 Longstanton Road. In aid of EAG.
Sat	2 Dec	Christmas Fayre , 1–4pm. Oakington C of E Primary School. psa@oakington.cambs.sch.uk
Wed	6 Dec	Book Club , 7pm. White Horse Pub. Maria Varallo – 07974 952724
Fri	8 Dec	Country Dancing , 8–10pm. Histon Methodist Church. Kathryn Coles – 01223 233191
Sat	9 Dec	Christmas Tree Sales & Refreshments , 10am – 1pm. 9 Longstanton Road. In aid of EAG.
Sat	9 Dec	Christmas Carol Concert , 2–4pm. Pavilion. Free entry. 1 st Oakington Beavers, Cubs and Scouts.
Sat	9 Dec	Christmas service , 6.15pm. Baptist chapel. Refreshments afterwards.
Mon	11 Dec	O&W Parish Council , 7.30pm. Pavilion. All invited. clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk
Tue	12 Dec	Tuesday Talk & Tea , 2.45pm. Church Hall. Christmas tea & carols. Marian Cleaver – 01223 232897
Thu	14 Dec	O&W WI , 7.30pm. Church Hall. Talk on Christmas Craft. Elaine Bailey – elainebailey1@live.co.uk
Mon	18 Dec	Christmas Concert , 7.00pm. St Andrew's Church. Oktet & The Oakington Singers.
Wed	20 Dec	Village Carol Singing , 7pm. Outside the White Horse Pub. OWNeighbours@gmail.com

Wed	3 Jan	Book Club , 7pm. White Horse Pub. Maria Varallo – 07974 952724
Fri	5 Jan	Minibus to Bar Hill , 10am. To book ring Teri Seaber – 07711 531004
Fri	5 Jan	Mobile Library , 1.50–2.20pm. Coles Lane
Sat	6 Jan	Village Walk & Talk , 10.30am. Meet by Church on High Street. Alice – OWNeighbours@gmail.com
Mon	8 Jan	O&W Parish Council , 7.30pm. Pavilion. All invited. clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk
Tue	9 Jan	Tuesday Talk & Tea , 2.45pm. Church Hall. Games session. Marian Cleaver – 01223 232897
Thu	11 Jan	Chess Club , 7pm. Crossways. Ranko Pinter – ranpin@gmail.com
Thu	11 Jan	O&W WI , 7.30pm. Church Hall. Talk by local novelist. Elaine Bailey – elainebailey1@live.co.uk
Thu	18 Jan	Philosopher's Café , 7pm. Crossways. Ranko Pinter – ranpin@gmail.com
Fri	19 Jan	Country Dancing , 8–10pm. Histon Methodist Church. Kathryn Coles – 01223 233191
Sat	20 Jan	Orchard Wassail , 3–6pm. Orchard by Arcadia Gardens. Soup, cider & tradition. OWNeighbours@gmail.com
Wed	24 Jan	Community Association AGM , 7.30pm. Church Hall. All welcome. oakington.westwick.ca@gmail.com
Sun	28 Jan	Bingo Night , 6pm. White Horse Pub. 01223 232417
Wed	31 Jan	Sustainable O&W , 7.30pm. Church Hall. sustainableow@gmail.com

BIN DAYS

Fri 8 Dec, Fri 22 Dec, Fri 5 Jan, Fri 19 Jan.	Black bins
Fri 1 Dec, Fri 15 Dec, Fri 12 Jan	Blue & Green bins
Sat 30 Dec, Fri 26 Jan	Blue bins only

Oakington & Westwick Sports Pavilion Monthly Lottery 2023 - Winners			
Month	Ticket No	Area	Winnings
Oct	010	Queens Way	£100
Nov	803	Church View	£100

If you would like to enter the lottery, please text JOIN plus your name, house number & postcode to 07831 828898.

Cover Photo: Adam Broadway

Welcome & Community Association

As we approach the end of 2023, we would like to thank everyone who has helped with the Journal this year – deliverers, advertisers, organisers and contributors. It's always good to get feedback on what people would like to see in the Journal in the future, so please use the email address below and let us know!

One comment often made is that readers want to hear more from the younger generation. If there's a young person in your family or household, why not ask them if they'd like to appear in print? We'd welcome reports on their activities,

reflections on living in Oakington & Westwick, reviews – perhaps of films, streaming series, or YouTube channels – or pictures or short pieces about anything that's important to them.

Jenny Prince & Graham Tregonning,
Editors



**A Happy Christmas to all our readers
from the Journal Team and Contributors**



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
FEBRUARY/MARCH ISSUE:
Tuesday 16 January

To advertise in the Journal,
please email
oakwestADV@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 **9 January**.

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

Community Association



The Community Association (CA) has had another very successful year providing their three core activities for our village – the **Journal**, the **Village Day** and **Bonfire Night**. The financial status will be presented at the AGM on Wednesday 24 January (Church Hall, 7.30pm), a meeting open to everyone.

A great community spirit is displayed by the many helpers at events but also by volunteers who are able to provide ongoing support during the year, like the Journal Team and event sub-committees.

The CA itself is made up of representatives of the various groups in the community and meets three times a year to share ideas and discuss plans. This group has a committee of around five who oversee the CA's activities.

CA Committee Members wanted – January

At the upcoming AGM at least three of the current five members, Ranko, Hady and Irène, will not be standing for re-election. If you are a member of a village group and would like to be more directly involved, please put your name forward, ideally in advance to oakington.westwick.ca@gmail.com but otherwise at the AGM. (The roles within the committee are decided at their first meeting, except that of treasurer.)

Treasurer – urgent

Our current and valued treasurer, Hady Aouad, will sadly step down due to work and other commitments. We therefore urgently need somebody to fill the treasurer role, i.e. being the bank's registered contact person and overseeing the bank account. You can either use a simple spreadsheet or accounting software. The most active periods are February (Journal advert renewals), June (Village Day activities) and October (Bonfire Night). However, each activity has its own treasurer who keeps an eye on their particular budget. For more details, please contact ASAP:
Hady – oak.treasurer@aol.com or Ranko – ranpin@gmail.co

Journal Advertising – urgent

We have much appreciated the work that Jane Goodyer has put into the advertising side of the Journal. Regrettably (for us) Jane is moving to volunteer in other areas. This leaves us with a need for a person to keep in touch with current advertisers and look out for potential new ones. For more information, please contact ASAP:
Jane – oakwestADV@gmail.com or Irène – irene@thebutlins.net.

Journal Advert Layout – urgent

After several years of doing this, Irène is now retiring. Preparing the pages normally takes a couple of hours during the week before a Journal deadline, but a bit longer when we need to juggle new adverts or stop old ones. The role could be combined with the Advertising one. For more information please contact ASAP:
Irène – irene@thebutlins.net or editors – oakwestjournal@gmail.com.

Journal Distributors – early 2024

We are also looking for two volunteers to help on two Friday afternoons a year, each for a couple of hours. Use of a car is required for collecting the Journal from the printers and for distributing the counted bundles to our team of deliverers. Contact:
Jenny – jennystanley@hotmail.com or editors – oakwestjournal@gmail.com.

Irène Butlin, Secretary



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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.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

Member of Parliament

Anthony Browne – 01223 603677

anthony.browne.mp@parliament.uk

From our Parish Council Chair

Autumn. Oftentimes a time of reflection, maybe a gentle slowing down of endeavour. Trees losing their annual battle with daylight, new arrivals from Scandinavia – Waxwings. And chubby Blackbirds, have you seen any yet?

Transport of another kind. The **Transport Action Group** (TAG) has been very active indeed for several years in the parish. The 20 mph speed limit in Westwick, attempts to get a cycling and pedestrian path to link to the A1307, cutting back of hedgerows on various footways in the village, regular liaison with District Councillors – just a few examples of work undertaken. Now less needs to be done for the time being – a mark of the group's success. Regular meetings are being scaled back. Time to reflect on past achievements. Thank you to all TAG members, past and present, for the all work you've done.

Transport matters continue to occupy our time. The Parish Council applied for **road calming measures** between Oakington and Girton in the latest round of grants under the Local Highways Initiative (LHI). The successful bid will see more street lights along Cambridge Road, and speed cushions in a new 30 mph stretch between the two villages. The hope is that speeding will be reduced, thus protecting more Oakington residents and users of the cycleway. More improvements to the cycleway are being considered at this time through a road safety funding stream. Having more speed cushions in this stretch of road seems to have been welcomed by some residents but others oppose such a suggestion.

The pavilion on the Recreation Ground needs your help. The Parish Council is currently bidding for around £30,000 so that we can have **solar panels fitted to the pavilion roof**. The results of a successful bid would be impressive. Electricity bills would be reduced dramatically. Gas usage could also be reduced by using electrically operated room heaters. And, of course, the benefits to society as a whole by using renewable energy. BUT... we have to demonstrate how such an endeavour would benefit people using the pavilion. Here's the plea – if you have used the pavilion for any reason: private celebrations, as a member of a club or group or society, for example, **please write** to me, the clerk or any parish councillor to say how you've been involved. Why? Because we are in a competitive bidding process – whoever has the best reason for improvements will get a grant. Only one in four applicants will be successful. Rising energy costs have put the future of the pavilion in jeopardy, so do please write in so that a positive and enthusiastic bid can be entered. The deadline is very close, 5 December ... write now!

And thank you for whatever you may have done, however small, to help Oakington and Westwick flourish this year.

David Reeves



From our County Councillor

As winter nears, drive cautiously near schools during school run and coming home from after-school clubs, as younger kids may not be road-savvy. Drive slowly, watch for pupils, and ensure your children use lights, take out at least one earphone, wear helmets, high-vis and bright colours.

Mind the [budget] gap. Cambridgeshire County Council's estimated budget gap for 2024/25 has increased from a predicted £16m to more than £23m – largely due to increases in demand for services and inflationary pressure. Without action being taken this gap will grow and is predicted to be more than £20m in 2025/26. Cambridgeshire is not alone. The Local Government Association reports that councils across the country face an 'inflationary storm' with a predicted £4bn funding gap over the next two years.

(Continued on page 7)

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

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Contact email :
pippa_westoby@yahoo.co.uk



From our County Councillor

(continued from page 5)

A report from the Council's Chief Executive Stephen Moir and Executive Director of Finance and Resources Michael Hudson says: "In 2023-24, pressures on our budget have arisen principally due to several very high-cost children's social care placements and a delay in receiving income from a newly constructed solar farm (which requires connection to the electricity grid). In addition, we are seeing that demand for bed-based care for older people is also rising, following a period of reduction in demand and then stability stretching back for some time, to the beginning of the pandemic." The report also points to wider national and international issues which have an impact on the council's pressure.

tinyurl.com/bdcty88r

Quality of life survey shows mixed picture. Most Cambridgeshire residents feel happy and safe in the county, well connected to their local communities, and believe it's a great place to raise children. That's the headline finding of the County Council's first annual "Quality of Life" survey involving more than 5,500 residents. But the news is less good for some specific groups, with the stark finding that loneliness in Cambridgeshire is far higher than the national average. Loneliness was most likely to be reported by those aged 18 to 25, who also reported more struggles with their mental health.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate **Oakington C of E Primary School** for their 'good' Ofsted result. This shows the hard work put in by Nathan Clark, Head Teacher, all staff, governors and pupils. Great way to end 2023.



Firouz Thompson

From our District Councillors

South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) has put in place several initiatives to support people this winter:

Council tax. (1) Registering for an online account would help the Council spend more on vital services rather than paying for postage. South Cambridgeshire residents can also sign up to receive their Council Tax bill online. (2) Support is available if residents are struggling to meet Council Tax payments. Visit the SCDC website for details.

Cost of living crisis. With the weather getting colder and communities spending more on heating, the District Council is beginning a new campaign to urge residents to make full use of assistance available, and to check they are claiming what they are legitimately entitled to. (Research suggests that around 25% of some benefits go unclaimed.) The campaign also reminds people that local foodbanks – all listed on the Council's website – are there when needed, and you don't need a voucher to use most of them. There is also an appeal for residents to get energy-saving advice and find out about grants for home improvements to cut spending on energy bills during the winter. Please visit www.scambs.gov.uk/cost-of-living to find out more.

Homes for Ukraine Landlords' incentive scheme. South Cambridgeshire has seen one of the highest number of Homes for Ukraine arrivals for a lower tier authority with over 850 Ukrainian guests coming to the district since the scheme began in April 2022. The first phase of the project has been a tremendous success, and focus is now on helping guests to move on to independent accommodation. Getting into the private rental sector is expensive and has proved challenging for guests. In mitigation, SCDC is launching a Landlords' Incentive scheme, offering up-front payments to landlords. Larger payments will be available to landlords who offer a tenancy at the local housing rate to encourage more affordable options for our guests. The money for this scheme will come from the government's Homes for Ukraine fund.

SCDC organised a **Climate Action** conference in Cottenham in November to tie in with the timing of COP28. One of the District Council's core visions is to help the district become net zero carbon by 2050, to create a greener future for local people. Since the Zero Carbon Communities grant scheme was launched in 2019, SCDC has given more than half a million pounds to 71 projects locally aimed at reducing emissions and engaging communities on climate change.



With best wishes for the Festive Season and the New year.

Natalie Warren-Green

District Council four day working week. The Bennett Institute's independent report on the four-day week has been repeatedly cited as evidence that the four-day week trial for 450 desk-based staff in South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) is working. But it has now become public knowledge that this 'independent' report was tampered with before its release – artificially improving the results of the four-day week. This is highly concerning for councillors and residents alike.

Fly tipping. SCDC receives around 1,600 reports per year regarding fly tipping. The Council is urging residents to do the right thing and properly get rid of their rubbish in the following ways:

- Giving it away for free on Facebook marketplace, Gumtree or by taking to a local charity shop.
- If possible, reuse, repair or recycle items before getting rid of them.
- Be sure to choose a reputable registered waste carrier disposal service.
- SCDC can arrange for collection of bulky items for many common household goods. It collects a maximum of nine items per collection. Up to three items can be booked for the minimum charge of £32.50. Additional items are then £5.50 each.
- Take additional rubbish to one of Cambridgeshire's Household Recycling Centres.

Anyone who sees fly tipping should report it via:
www.scambs.gov.uk/recycling-and-bins/report-or-request/report-environmental-issues



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Oakington & Westwick Neighbours

OWN invites you to join in with **Community Carol Singing** around the Community Association Christmas tree by the White Horse pub on Wednesday 20 December at 7pm. Cottenham Brass Band and mince pies will make it even more festive.



As ever, OWN has been busy co-ordinating events such as the recent Internet Safety workshop on 28 October, and October and November saw two more wonderful apple-pressing events with Blue Barrel Cider and OWN's CONNECT2 programme of accessible events for all comers. Over 100 people joined in for the first (sunny) event, and about 50 for the second (rainy) one. We were grateful for the Jordans' fabulous hospitality, and to all the contributors of food, such as the delicious home-baked bread. Donations meant we were able to cover our costs.



Our AGM took place on 22 November. A speaker from Dementia Friends gave an interesting and informative talk about living with and supporting those with the condition. Annual reports were given and thanks were expressed to Lynda Fentiman for her significant contribution on the OWN committee over the last few years, as she is now stepping down. Looking back, it is impressive to see how many events have taken place during 2023, from an orchard wassail in January to a Coronation Big Lunch in May, with a plant swap (alongside SOW), Village Day, and Jazz and Tea (partnered with Oakington School PSA) to mention just a few! Financially OWN continues to be self-sustaining, and,

thanks to donations, the Hardship Fund is a resource available to those struggling to meet specific costs. The minibus trip to Bar Hill shops happens on the first Friday of the month. It is very much appreciated by those who use it, but it would be good if more people did. A community walk, organised by CONNECT2, takes place on the first Saturday of every month (details about both of these on page 2.)

As well as events, several OWN volunteers visit older community members nearly every week; collecting prescriptions happens frequently, and there is a significant amount of support for people with IT problems and issues.

Oakington and Westwick is an amazing place to live, with so much kindness and community spirit. People do look out for and help their neighbours and OWN exists to support and encourage this. If you have any enquiries about what we do, and if you would like to be more involved, please do get in touch. For OWN to continue what it does, we need you! 07902 111786, owneighbours@gmail.com

Jo Bryant

Orchard Wassail

Following from last year's success, Blue Barrel and OWN will be running the Orchard Wassail community event again, 3–6pm on Saturday 20 January 2024. Come down to the Jordans' orchard on Arcadia Gardens for a fun traditional family celebration to encourage the apple trees to deliver a healthy harvest in the year ahead. Dress warmly, and bring a torch and something to make a lot of noise. Free entry, but donations welcome to cover costs. Warm soup and mulled cider available.



Alice J

Environment Action Group



With rainfall this October at nearly three times the average, our **Flood Mitigation Group** has been keeping a close eye on Oakington Brook. Fortunately, periods of heavy rainfall were separated by dry weather, and no problems arose despite the Environment Agency issuing flood alert warnings. Meanwhile, flood modelling results to aid the design of an attenuation pond were promised by the Environment Agency for the end of October, but at the time of writing have not yet arrived. On the separate issue of blocked drains causing puddling on roads around the village during periods of heavy rain, we understand from our District Councillor Firouz Thompson that the County Council Highways Department has plans to map and clear drains in the village sometime after the start of December.

We are currently carrying out **footway sweeping** around Oakington and Westwick to clear fallen leaves and keep our footpaths tidy and safe for users. **We urgently need more volunteers to help with this work**, which is done under the County Council's Community Highways Volunteering Scheme. This is your opportunity to enjoy some fresh air and free exercise, meet other villagers, and make a tangible

difference to the appearance and usability of our footways. No experience needed, and we have some hi-vis vests, gloves, bags and tools so don't worry if you don't have any. If you have a spare couple of hours we would love you to give us a hand – contact James on jamesyoud51@icloud.com for details.

As you will have noticed, our **Oakington and Westwick in Bloom** flower tubs were restocked with winter plants earlier in the autumn. We continue to be very grateful for the volunteers who look after these tubs and to the Parish Council for continuing to fund them.

Finally, we will be selling Oakington-grown Nordmann **Christmas trees** at 9 Longstanton Road on Saturday 2 December and Saturday 9 December, between 10 am and 1 pm. Please note the change of time from that advertised in the October edition of the Journal; this is to avoid clashing with the Scout concert taking place in the Pavilion on the afternoon of Saturday 9th. Trees will be £15 each with half of the proceeds going to fund EAG activities. We hope to make this a social occasion for the village, and so will be serving free hot chocolate and mulled wine.

Stephanie Smith


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Transport Action Group

An Afternoon Stroll

A 5km circular walk is being proposed: from The Drift via the bridle path opposite Poplar Cottages, the new bridge at Wilsons Road; then along the shared path on Southern Access Road West (SARW) from Wilsons Road bridge to the Pegasus Crossing on Longstanton Road then back to The Drift.

The path from The Drift across the fields past the tomato farm is open leading onto Dry Drayton Road. Then walk towards the A1307 past the Phypers Cottages and the woodland in front of the Business Park – both have wide verges that are safe for walking – towards the bridle path opposite Poplar Cottages. An alternative would be to walk behind the wooded area. The field from the A1307 end of the Business Park down to the bridle path is owned by Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) but Homes England has an option to purchase it. Once on the bridle path, the route then goes to the new bridge over the SARW and back



along the shared path on the SARW to the Pegasus crossing on Longstanton road thence back to The Drift. It would be possible to walk into Longstanton using Wilsons Road and then back towards Oakington from St Michaels.

The stretch between the Business Park and the bridle path is narrow and unsafe for walking; however an approach could be made to CCC to let walkers use the edge of the field behind the hedge. We are asking all our local councillors to provide support for the proposal.

Speed Reduction

The plan to extend the current 20mph zone through Oakington to include Westwick has been approved and is expected to be completed during this financial year. Similarly, the proposal to reduce the current 40mph zone between Oakington and Girton to 30mph has been approved in principle but the detailed design has yet to be agreed. These changes will need a Traffic Regulation Order to be raised which will include a public consultation announced in the local press.

Citi 6 Bus Service

Stagecoach has been approached several times to reinstate a more comprehensive timetable and to implement the Citi 5 evening route that used to come through the village via Cambridge Road and Dry Drayton Road. Whilst Stagecoach say they will “look” at these options they are driven by the need for routes to be profitable. An approach to the Combined Authority Mayor’s Office was made but, citing the profitability criteria, they were unable to provide any support.

TAG typically meets bi-monthly at 19.30 in the White Horse. If you have any comments on this article or would like to join us, please contact us at the email address below and we will email the details of the next meeting.

Jim Bryant, Chair
owcp.tag@gmail.com 07807 184691

E-scooters: Christmas gift guidance

You can buy e-scooters from many popular retailers, and your children may report to you that all their friends already have one. However, the law is clear – the only place an e-scooter can be used is on private land. So, right now, you can buy one, but you can’t ride it on a UK public road, cycle lane or pavement.

The only exception to this is in zones where trials are taking place, such as some areas within the city of Cambridge, where hired scooters can be used on the road and on cycle paths.

This is all because e-scooters are classed as a motor vehicle in the same way that motorbikes and cars are. This means they are subject to the same legal requirements, such as MOT, licensing, tax, and insurance. As e-scooters do not have number plates, indicators, and do not always have visible rear lights, they cannot be used legally on the roads.

Cambridgeshire Police say: “We understand the public’s support for environmentally friendly modes of transport. We

want to work with the public to make sure the roads are safe for everyone. The UK Government is currently taking part in “Future Transport Zone” trials for e-scooter hire, with a view to making them legal to use on the roads”.

We also need to highlight to you Cambridgeshire Fire & Rescue Service’s current “Take Charge & Be Safe” campaign on how to charge, and buy replacements for e-scooter and e-bike batteries as safely as possible. Please see tinyurl.com/ywjrdew2

Beth Watson
Project Officer – Community Safety Partnership,
beth.watson@scambs.gov.uk

Have your say on GP Services

The Healthwatch Cambridgeshire and Peterborough survey on accessing Primary Care and GP services ends on 17 Dec. You can express your views at tinyurl.com/55dv49w3 or for a printed version enquiries@healthwatchcambspboro.co.uk

Lenewa Nwachukwu, Commissioner Adult, Health & Commissioning, Cambridgeshire County Council

Oakington and Westwick WI

At our October meeting we celebrated Harvest with a social evening, including homemade soup, and a quiz about soup! Then a group of members and some partners met on a Saturday at Lakeside Lodge in Pidley for a couple of games of bowls followed by a lovely meal – an enjoyable social afternoon, plus we had some very competitive bowlers too!

What a wonderful morning... spent on a Saturday in November, when a group of us got together to enjoy willow weaving. A great deal of the concentration was the order of the day as we all followed our instructor Denise in creating our Swedish Stars. The second item was a basket weave Christmas Tree, which some of us found harder to follow, but we all produced great results, ready for Christmas.



In our November meeting we had a fascinating talk from Dot Reeves, who is a speech and language therapist and gave members an opportunity to explore the way we communicate on a day-to-day basis without thinking about it. The presentation included a taster of 'Makaton' an approach using speech, signs and symbols to support people who have communication challenges.

Our next meeting is on **14 December** when we will be led by two of our members in Christmas Craft, and enjoying mulled wine and mince pies. Do come along, all welcome.

We would love to welcome you to our meeting on Thursday **12 January 2024**, when you will have the opportunity to meet a local author, Penny Hancock. She will be talking to us about how she became a novelist and why she chose her genre of writing.

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.

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 01223 234758.

Sustainable Oakington & Westwick

SOW's current main activities are:

- **Nature Recovery Project.** The next steps include building up records of species in our local habitats, and we are looking for people who'd like to join in with this. For example visiting the hedgerow near Mansell Wood to look for butterflies, or the Rec to see if there are any birds you recognise. Please get in touch if you could do this once or twice next year, or even more frequently if it's somewhere you walk regularly. sustainableow@gmail.com.
- **Repair Café.** See page 22.
- We are looking into the possibility of **planting native hedging**, fruit trees or hazel/willow for coppicing, along the busway between Mansell Wood and Gatehouse Road.
- Our November meeting was a **bug/bee hotel** building workshop and we would like to use these along with birdboxes etc to encourage wildlife around the village.
- Plans are also being made for a **veggie community meal**, and land usage/ownership and Terracycle recycling are both being researched.

We planned and discussed these activities in our September meeting. October's main activity was the popular tree walk and talk, described on page 17, but we also had a talk about public transport tips. Notes/slides from most of SOW's talks are on our website: sustainableow.co.uk

If you'd like a hedgehog highway surround and information leaflet to encourage hedgehogs in your garden, please email sustainableow@gmail.com or ring Jenny on 01223 233510.

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 & 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.

Oakington & Westwick Sports Pavilion

We have a space for full time hire of the main hall on Monday evenings. Are you interested?

Call 07936 024587 or email oakingtonpavilion@gmail.com.

Oakington & Westwick Tennis Club


Wimbledon 2024

Outdoor tennis may not be quite so appealing at this time of year, but it's still a great way to get some fresh air and exercise!

If you are currently a member and would like to be in with a chance of receiving Wimbledon tickets (purchase necessary) through the Club, don't forget that the deadline for opting-in to the LTA Wimbledon Ticket Ballot is 14 January 2024.

If watching tennis rather than playing is more your thing, being a member of the Tennis Club enables you to join the LTA (free membership) which then entitles you to enter the ballot for Wimbledon tickets, so you might want to consider joining even if you don't play.

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

Our next two evenings will be Friday **8 December** 2023, and Friday **19 January** 2024. Jane and I look forward to seeing you for a fun time dancing the night away!

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.

Tuesday Talk & Tea

This club meets in St. Andrew's Church hall on the second Tuesday of each month from 2.45pm to 4.45pm. All are welcome to join us. We have a variety of talks and activities which are followed by a delicious tea of sandwiches, scones and home made cakes.

On **12 December** is our Christmas Tea with carol singing, helped by Dick and Tim Brading – a treat for us all.

Our programme for early 2024 begins on **9 January** when we will have a games session with plenty of time to talk of our Christmas activities.

Looking ahead, our February talk is "A word lover's tour of Cambridge" and in March we have "The Stourbridge Fair".

Do come and meet us all.

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/arianccleaver@gmail.com.

Oakington Singers

We are a friendly group who love coming together and having a good sing. It would be so lovely to welcome new members and share with you the pleasures of singing. Maybe you heard us at our recent well attended concert with the amazing Cottenham Brass Band? This was a great success, raising £308.50, divided equally between the Band and Oakington Singers to cover some of our running costs.



Christmas is a busy time for us and a much anticipated highlight of the year. To kick off we were invited to provide entertainment at Elsworth School's Christmas Shopping event in November. On Friday 8 December we are entertaining the Cambridge Federation of the Women's Institute at Shelford Memorial Hall. If you decide to go shopping in the Grand Arcade between 2.15 and 4.15pm on Sunday **10 December**, look out for us singing carols outside John Lewis and raising money for Macmillan Cancer Support. In St Andrew's Church on Monday **18 December** at 7.00pm we are putting on a Christmas concert with the Oaket to raise money for the Ruth and Poppy Nicholas Fund which provides musical activities and events for all pupils at Oakington School. Mince pies and refreshments will be provided during the interval. We have also been invited to sing at the Advent Service on **3 December** at 5pm and the Carol Service on **17 December** at 4pm, both in St Andrew's Church... oh and the Epiphany service on **7 January**! If you would like to sing a few carols yourself then come to The White Horse at 7pm on **20 December**. This is not our gig but a few of us will certainly be there.

After all this singing we will definitely have earned our annual Choir Christmas Meal at Girton Golf Club, organised by our own Stuart Spink, to whom we are indebted.

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 helenwilliams5@outlook.com or just drop in.

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



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Days Meadow

I came to Oakington in 1960 when my parents moved from Histon. Having grown up in the village, going to Oakington primary school and then Impington Village College, I left in 1977, although my parents remained. I moved back to Oakington in 2006 to one of the largest housing developments in the village. Built by Bryant homes (a part of Taylor Woodrow, now Taylor Wimpey) and initially known as Cheyne Park, the estate consists of 42 houses built around a central green. There is a gap on one side to protect the privacy of an established badgers' set, which was there when the houses were being built. The landscaped green itself covers a "sustainable underground drainage system" (SUDS) which protects the estate from flooding. Access for the builders was from Coles Lane, which had 'new' bungalows built down from the bake



As a youngster, my friends and I played in Days Meadow and the other fields that stretched between the village and the airfield boundary, by pushing through the hawthorn bushes that ran down the side of Coles Lane. Back then there were a number of ponds, old pig pens and occasionally grazing cattle in Days Meadow. RAF Oakington was very active during the early 70s with constant flying.

There was a good view of the planes taking off and landing from the meadow. Very occasionally we would be treated to the Red Arrows flying in to re-fuel. There were many relics remaining from the WW2 defences such as bullets, ammunition boxes, a piece of a machine gun and once even a live hand grenade. Initially, we thought it was a practice round and only after one of my friends had kicked it down High Street did it emerge that it was real. Unlike today, there was no safety cordon, just a sergeant from Histon police station to ensure it was safely returned to RAF Oakington. Today, Days Meadow is a haven for domestic wildlife, with many dogs and especially cats. We are fortunate to have one of the widest parts of the green buffer zone between Oakington and Northstowe and benefit from a lovely woodland screen. As well as the badgers, the wooded area often sees deer as well as bats and increasingly snakes driven to quieter areas by the construction work. Time will tell how much of the green buffer remains wild as Northstowe grows.

Stephen Papworth.



house some years earlier. We were the first to move in while it was largely a building site, with work finishing about two years later.

Nature Notes

The recent opening of the new Northstowe access road has given us new areas to explore. Stonechat – my favourite bird, known colloquially in some parts of the country as the 'furze-robin'*, will winter among the scrub and long grass, and can be seen perching on dead hemlock stems. They probably have done so for years, but until now, have been difficult to see.



England. The single largest and most important area is the New Forest, one of the first and most important of the Norman hunting forests. It has been forged by centuries of harvest by local people (timber and food), its mosaic of woodland, heathland, grassland and veteran trees has been in constant flux, but always with the impact of large herbivores; ponies, cattle and deer, at its heart.

There is growing traction that wood pasture type habitats were much more widespread before human habitation in the British Isles. The traditional view is that Britain was more or less carpeted in the so-called 'wildwood' after the eventual retreat of the ice. But, there is a growing view that perhaps the landscape of the British Isles was more open, enabled by the impact of large herbivores. One herbivore in particular is the now extinct Auroch, the ancestor to all modern cattle. Perhaps today's longhorn cattle are taking on a similar role to the Auroch in Northstowe. Whether they are is debatable. What isn't up for debate is just how tasty they are on a Sunday afternoon.

*James Heywood,
jjnh002@gmail.com*



Apart from the animals, it is also the habitat that brings interest. Either side of the new road are areas of grassland punctuated with isolated trees or clumps of trees. It is not a woodland, but not really a grassland either. Biologists have, of course, come up with a name for this – Wood Pasture and Parkland. Like Traditional Orchards, Reed-beds and many others, this is regarded as a so-called 'Priority Habitat'. Granted, that seen in Northstowe isn't a particularly good example; it isn't old enough for starters. But at its best, Wood Pasture supports veteran and ancient trees (hundreds of years old) and all the things that standing dead wood and the structural mosaics of habitats support; lichens, epiphytes (plants that grow on other plants), saproxylic (dead-wood loving) invertebrates, fungi and specialist birds. Traditional Orchards can be thought of as wood pasture writ small.

Nowadays, wood pasture and parkland tends towards the latter of these; it is almost entirely a man-made habitat, particularly in the famous landed estates in southern

*Furze is itself another name for gorse. A furze-robin is therefore a robin-like bird that likes to sit up on gorse, which the Stonechat certainly does in its favoured heathlands.



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Tree Walk & Talk

You could have been fooled into thinking that the Pied Piper had turned up in Oakington and Westwick on Sunday 15th October. But it was actually Jake Carmillieri, local tree expert, Parish Councillor and a founder member of SOW, leading 25 children and adults on a tree walk. We explored Westwick Park, a hedge next to the Guided Busway, Mansell Wood, the 'maple tree avenue' leading to the Community Orchard and the orchard itself.

What did we learn? We learnt a lot about tree species recognition and how different species grow better in some soils and environments. Hornbeam, flourishing on the edge of Westwick Park, prefer clay soils. It has hard impenetrable bark and timber (horn meaning hard in old English). Jake explained the difference between hornbeam and beech leaves which look somewhat similar. We inspected elm which was devastated by Dutch elm disease. This specimen had a few surviving branches, too young and low to attract the dreaded beetle which carries the fungal disease. We looked at the very handsome small-leaved lime trees in the park, observing how the sheep and deer had kept down the shoots at the base of the trees as well as the low hanging branches, which are apparently very palatable. Lime wood is soft and does not warp so is ideal for carving, so commonly appears in churches and cathedrals. Jake encouraged us to step back to view tree formation from a distance to look at its form and beauty and to help in species recognition.



A horse chestnut tree was in surprisingly good condition in spite of an attack from leaf miner which burrows into the leaves. There were also some signs of leaf blight, which puts blotches on the leaves. Jake pointed out that these conditions reduce the area for photosynthesis, the way the plant produces sugars, reducing the trees' vigour.

The hawthorn (or may) was full of berries, which feed a lot of birds in winter. Hawthorn hedges form impenetrable barriers because of their thorns, helping nesting birds and small mammals to avoid predators.

We moved into Mansell Wood, planted around 25 years ago by Peter Freeman and Cambridgeshire County Estates. It contains ash, oak, cherry and hazel. We looked at a hazel stool which was, until recently, regularly coppiced (cut at ankle height) to provide rods for building, boats, fencing and pea sticks. We also looked at a mature ash tree on the track to the orchard which was regularly pollarded by removing

branches at head height to obtain timber and to extend the life of the tree. At that height, the regrowth cannot be reached by deer or other grazing animals.

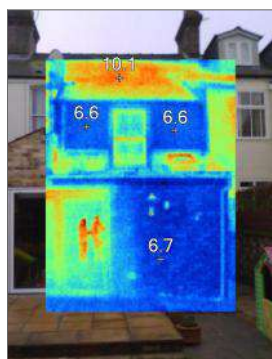
Jake also explained that in autumn, deciduous trees store chlorophyll and other useful chemicals in their roots and trunk but allow toxic materials to stay in their leaves so it is got rid of when the leaves are shed.

John Terry



Thermal Imaging for a Cosy Home

Cambridge Carbon Footprint offer residents and organisations the opportunity to borrow and learn how to use a thermal imaging camera, for free, to help create more cosy and efficient homes. You learn how to interpret



thermal images, to discover draughts, gaps in insulation, heating problems, etc. Having this information is great for deciding on home improvements and making fixes, both for homeowners and renters.

The Project also encourages individuals or organizations to undertake training to survey multiple homes.

Free training sessions will take place online from 7.00– 8.30 pm on: Thu 14 Dec, Mon 22 Jan, Thu 29 Feb.

We only lend cameras to people already trained. Loans of up to 14 cameras can be booked until early April (Fri pm to Mon am, or Mon pm to Fri am).

For more information or to book, see tinyurl.com/yvh95w46

Fran Sutton, Cambridge Carbon Footprint

Christmas Trees – £15 Cash Only

Oakington-grown Nordmann Christmas trees (about 4' – 7') will be available from 9 Longstanton Road:



- **Sat 2 December** from 10am to 1pm
- **Sat 9 December** now also from **10am to 1pm**
(Changed to morning so as not to clash with Scout concert)

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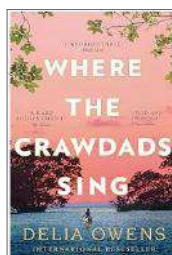
Book Club

Where The Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens

Based in the North Carolina marshlands it follows the life of Kya the 'marsh girl' who is abandoned at the age of six and raises herself to adulthood with infrequent contact with people. The local people regard her as an outsider, however, a couple of young men, Tate and Chase, weave their way into her life, but when the dead body of Chase is found suspicion falls on Kya. The story runs along two different timelines, 1952 and 1962, and there is love, growing-up and murder all coming together for a surprise ending. (We scored it 7½ out of 10.)

Owens is a wildlife biologist and the flora and fauna are described beautifully. "Layers of life – squiggly sand crabs, mud-waddling crayfish, waterfowl, fish, shrimp, oysters... A man who didn't mind scrabbling for supper would never starve."

Maria Varallo



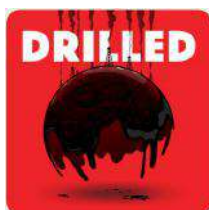
Podcast Review

Drilled – Amy Westervelt

True crime podcasts are a very popular genre, and this podcast allows you to follow true "crimes" as they are being committed, where action is being taken to try and criminalise legitimate protests taking place around the world against climate collapse.

Having her idea initially turned down by broadcasters stating it would never appeal to the public, award winning investigative journalist Amy Westervelt has now taken her podcast into its tenth season. drilled.media/podcasts/drilled

Paul Kershaw



Chess Corner

Solution to chess puzzle 5-23 from last Journal:

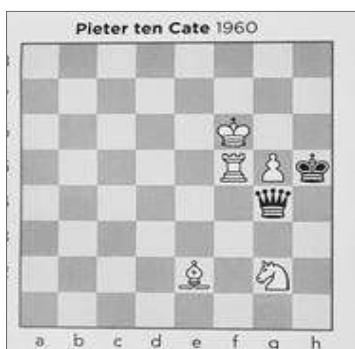
White	Black	White
Qe2-e8	If Bh7	Ng4#
	If B**	Qh8#
	If N**	Qg6#
	If Kh6-h7	Qh5#

** move to any other place.
checkmate

Chess puzzle 6-23

White to move and checkmate in two moves.

Ranko Pinter



My Volunteering

When I semi-retired I thought it would be good to try volunteering – aware so many good causes in the world helping people who face difficulties. I don't like thinking there are people struggling without getting a helping hand. Growing up in the 60s and 70s, I went to a Catholic school, was an altar boy for many a year, watched Robin Hood, William Tell, Batman etc. etc. heroes on TV, had read about Mother Theresa, Gandhi. So no surprise there I guess.



In the village I started to help with the community orchard and the tool share. But I looked around for something more and discovered Christian Blind Mission across the field from Oakington, down the Drift! I walked over there and asked if they needed any help and ended up spending a year there.

Imagine: you live in a straw hut, have no shoes and the whole family work daily to grow a crop and make food to survive – the kids rely on you but you are blind and can't work! And you live in Bangladesh, prone to serious flooding. Suffering and starvation for the whole family. What a great cause. OK they try to convert them – at least that's what the original missionaries did – but the charity I worked with was very much about practical help first.

Initially I spent time helping advertise the cause on the web, working on Google search to make them appear near the top of the listing for relevant searches. I also helped with writing applications to some of the more than 2,000 grant making trusts in the UK that collectively donate over £5.6 bn each year to charitable causes. That's like writing a prosecution case in court: you are competing with all the other charities to make the best case for the trust to give your charity the money. So volunteering is not all about carrying buckets for cash around the streets or doing marathons. CBM do a great job ... read some of the case studies on their website. cbmuk.org.uk



Gerry Cavander

Oakington Community Orchards Project

Supported by the Parish Council the Oakington Community Orchards Project (OCOP) team has won an award from the International Tree Foundation to replace six trees in the Recreation Ground orchard that were either diseased or have died. The trees have been chosen by the East of England Apples & Orchards Project to complement the ones they supplied for the original planting. The new trees are due at the end of February. If you would like to be involved in the planting, or if you would like to join the team for training in fruit tree pruning and maintenance, you can get in touch with the team by emailing oakcomorchards@gmail.com or leaving a message for Graham on 01223 233208.

The OCOP team can also provide free advice and training on maintaining your own fruit trees. This is normally done around the end of January, so please use the contact details to get in touch if you would like some at-home advice.

Graham Tregonning

Oakington C of E Primary School

We are delighted to share the news that Oakington C of E Primary School has now been judged as a good school in our recent Ofsted inspection.



This judgment comes after five years of hard work and determined effort by all the staff, who always go above and beyond to provide the best possible education for the children in our care. We are incredibly grateful to our wonderful parents, carers and wider school community, who have supported us every step of the way. The Ofsted inspector commented on the warmth of our school community, something that we have strived for and hold dear. We highly value the partnerships within our community.

Inspectors were particularly impressed with our engaging and aspirational knowledge-rich curriculum, which they felt was very well-planned. They commented that the children were able to articulate their knowledge exceptionally well. They also praised the children's behaviour, especially their polite manners and confidence in speaking to adults.



We are extremely proud of the experience we give our children and were thrilled that the inspectors recognised the extra opportunities we provide. We have a wide variety of extra-curricular activities for children to take part in. Amongst many others, we offer musical theatre, coding, football, gymnastics and chess clubs, all of which prove very popular.



We are passionate about giving children opportunities to learn musical instruments. We offer tutors for piano, drums, guitar, and woodwind, and have a school choir who put on fantastic performances throughout the year.

With trips coming up to pantomimes, Harry Potter World, Ely Cathedral and the O2 for Young Voices, our children have a busy schedule coming up. These enriching experiences extend their learning and provide exciting opportunities beyond the classroom.

We are always keen to welcome prospective families to look around our school. We understand that choosing a school for your child is a very important and sometimes daunting decision, and would be delighted to show you around and to answer any questions you may have. If you would like to arrange a visit, please contact the school office by emailing office@oakington.cambs.sch.uk. Alternatively, you can call the office on 01223 232328.

We were delighted with our latest Key Stage 2 SATs results:

90% Maths
86% Reading
86% Writing
81% Combined
Reading/Writing/Maths



As usual, we have our wonderful Christmas Fayre at the beginning of December and we always look forward to sharing this and other festive events with our local community. Please keep an eye on our school Facebook page for more information.

Nathan Clark, Headteacher

We are very excited by the recent installation of our new running track around the perimeter of our school field. This facility gives the children the opportunity to complete laps during break times, keeping them fit and healthy through active play. The 1.2m wide rubber track is suitable for use all year, giving us more space in the winter months when the field is unavailable. The children have thoroughly enjoyed using it every day and challenging themselves to complete more laps or improve their lap times.



The Chair of Governors writes:

As governors we have the privilege of working with Nathan and his team as they strive to provide a high-quality education for the children at Oakington C of E Primary school. Our role in the school is largely centred on holding the school leadership team to account for their decision making and providing supportive challenge at a strategic level to help the school deliver the best outcomes for the pupils.



We have seen lots of changes take place since Nathan took over as headteacher in 2018, but perhaps the most exciting change has been the implementation of a knowledge rich curriculum across the school.

This curriculum is hugely ambitious, going well above the expectations set out in the National Curriculum and trusting the children to learn not just individual facts and skills, but to build comprehensive schemas that span across the different subject disciplines. As governors we have monitored the impact of this curriculum and have been delighted with the results we are seeing across the school. The children consistently amaze us with their joy and confidence in sharing knowledge, as well as their ability to retain large amounts of complex detail – we often come away from our monitoring visits with new knowledge ourselves!



Quotes from 2023 Ofsted report:

Pupils thrive at Oakington Primary where expectations are high and pupils benefit from a well-planned curriculum.



Pupils learn in a happy and safe school community and 'love going to school.'

Pupils develop a deep understanding of their subjects and achieve well.

Pupils enjoy an ample range of opportunities – exciting trips extend what they know from class.



We are very proud of Nathan and all the staff for achieving a 'Good' in the recent Ofsted inspection, but as the Lead Inspector himself said, Oakington C of E Primary school is so much more. If you are a prospective family who is yet to visit to our school, I would very much encourage you to come and see the school in action for yourselves. I know Nathan and our wonderful prefects would be delighted to show you around.

Sarah Mathew, Chair of Board of Governors



Community Fireworks & Bonfire

Another successful bonfire and firework evening was enjoyed by 500 – 600 people. Most walked from the village and some came from neighbouring villages. The bonfire and fireworks were very impressive. There was a lovely atmosphere of excitement and enjoyment, with the village coming together to celebrate Guy Fawkes night in the traditional way.

There was a great range of refreshments with hot-dogs and burgers (with veggie options) provided by the Scouts and Dave Robinson, mulled wine and cider with chocolate brownies by the Parent Staff Association and bonfire biscuits and fruit drinks by Jess and Becca Warboys who donated their income (after costs) to the Community Association (CA). The ticket money goes to the CA to cover the cost of fireworks, public liability insurance, and printing tickets and posters. STG Mortgages helped to sponsor the event and Mackays supplied the fireworks at a discount.



I was really pleased to have a very positive team of eight who helped to plan and organise the event, and grateful to the cheerful volunteers who came to help on the day and with the clear-up on Sunday. We were lucky that the weather was fine for most of the time, although it poured down on the Saturday morning and for a spell in the afternoon.



I'd like to thank everyone who helped, and to express particular thanks to Daniel Wright of Brookfield Farming and Contracting Ltd for clearing and cutting back the bund for the bonfire; to Gerald Cambridge for loaning lights; to Bee Brennand and helpers for building and tending the bonfire; and to Ben Phillips and helper for setting up and lighting the fireworks.

Jo Mills

Oakington Primary School Parent Staff Association



We would like to thank all those who have supported us by attending our events throughout 2023 – the Fete, yard sale, and our mulled refreshments and brownies at the village fireworks – as well as those who purchased our home grown veg over the summer.



We hope those that came along to the Christmas Fayre enjoyed the festivities. We enjoy being part of the community events and look forward to more of this in 2024.

We are delighted to share that our annual quiz night will be on **9 February** 2024. Look out for details on how to sign up on our Facebook page in the new year and the next Journal issue.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Angela Barber

Repair Café

Repair Cafes are community events that match people who need stuff fixed with people who like fixing things, and Oakington's first Repair Café is planned for Saturday **10 February**, 11–2pm at the Pavilion. More details on how to book a free repair in the next Journal, but if you'd like to be informed as soon as bookings are open, email us.

If you are good at repairing things (clothes, electricals, bikes, toys, ...) and could be a volunteer repairer, or if you'd like to help on the day in another way, please contact us.

*Philip & Rachel Garsed, Alice J, Jenny Prince.
Sustainable Oakington & Westwick
oakingtonrepaircafe@gmail.com*

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Footpaths



Front cover theme for 2023 – footpaths around Oakington & Westwick

Did you notice we had a front cover theme this year? It was a bit ambitious, trying to get seasonal photographs of the footpaths around the villages. We don't have a specific theme for next year so why not submit a village view of your own. We do try to keep the photographs seasonal and we need an image size close to 1700 x 2400 pixels in portrait mode if you are hoping to see it on the front cover. Basically that means you need to remember to turn your camera or phone through 90° before you take the photo. Obviously we cannot promise to publish everything.

Graham Tregonning

- Feb/Mar – On the footpath from Water Lane bus stop looking towards Mansell Wood
- Apr/May – On the old Longstanton Road just beyond the paddocks
- Jun/Jul – On the path between Mansell and Centenary Woods, looking back towards the village
- Aug/Sep – On Wilson's Road (Track) at the northern border of the Parish. Check it on this parish map tinyurl.com/mw3d7jyd. There is a small lay-by off the A1307 where you can park.
- Oct/Nov – On the footpath from Recreation Ground orchard looking towards Mansell Wood.
- Dec/Jan24 – Flooded footpath in Westwick looking south



Oakington Baptist Chapel

Sundays 10.30am and 6.00pm

Sunday school 12.10pm for children aged 3 -16 years

Wednesdays 7.00pm

www.oakingtonbaptist.org.uk

07821 914477

All are welcome to any of our services

You are very welcome to join us for our

Christmas Service

Saturday 9th December 6.15pm

Refreshments afterwards





1st Oakington Beavers, Cubs and Scouts



Christmas Carol Concert



Featuring

Cottenham Brass Band

the beautiful singing voices of the 1st Oakington Scout Group!

Christmas Raffle

Mince pies and Refreshments!

Saturday 9th December

2pm - 4pm

@ Oakington Pavillion

Queens Way, Oakington

Entry is Free! - So Please come and join us in a wonderful start to the Christmas festivities!

FUNDRAISING CHRISTMAS MUSIC CONCERT

WITH



OAKTET

AND

THE OAKINGTON SINGERS



ON MONDAY 18th DECEMBER

AT

ST ANDREWS CHURCH

OAKINGTON

FROM 7.00PM



THE CONCERT IS IN AID OF THE RUTH & POPPY NICHOLAS MUSIC FUND WHICH PROVIDES MUSICAL ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS AT OAKINGTON C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

Village Carol Singing

*With Cottenham
Brass Band*

**Wednesday 20th
December**

7pm

**Outside the
White Horse**

Bring a torch!

Collection for Dementia Friends



Village Advent Calendar

This year's village advent calendar is due to run throughout December from 1-24. The list of addresses will be published on Facebook and a paper version will be on the noticeboard by the shop. Have fun exploring the village and spotting the numbers in your neighbours' houses.

Any questions to
OakingtonWestwickAdvent@hotmail.com.



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, fuel bills, 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