Oakington & Westwick

December 2025 / January 2026 Journal



What's On

Weekly

- $\label{eq:monday} \textbf{Monday Cafe, } 9.30-noon. \ Church \ Hall, \\ \textbf{\pounds}1. \ Liz \ Davis 01223 \ 232745$
- 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 Senior Pilates, 11.30–12.30pm. Pavilion. Classes throughout the week. Claire Young 07766 554413
- Tue Cubs, 6–7.15pm. Term time. Pavilion. Richard Young richard.young@crafthillscouts.org.uk
- Tue **Table Tennis**, 7.30–9pm. Pavilion. Gillian L'Angellier 01223 234758
- Wed Mixed Ability Pilates, 10-11am. Pavilion. Classes throughout the week. Claire Young 07766 554413
- Wed Yoga, 7-8.15pm. Pavilion. Denise Sibley-Moore 01954 202235
- Thu Mature Movers, 10–10.45am. Pavilion. Katie Harknett 07541 721059 / info@elemental-fitness.co.uk
- Thu Little Steps playgroup, 10-11.30am. Term time. Church Hall. littlestepsoakington@gmail.com
- Thu Mental Health Drop-in Sessions, 6-7pm. Contact Ildiko Dulo cats@koka.me.uk / www.koka.me.uk/cats
- 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
- Thu Squirrels, 5-6pm. Term time. Oakington Primary School nikki.henrywood@oakingtonscouts.org.uk
- Fri Beavers, 6-7pm. Term time. Oakington Primary School beavers@oakingtonscouts.org.uk
- Fri Scouts, 6-7.30pm. Term time. Pavilion. Cara Hanman cara.hanman@oakingtonscouts.org.uk
- Wed 3 Dec **Book Club,** 7.30pm. White Horse. "Educated" by Tara Westover. Contact Natalie -- *nataliewant@hotmail.com*Fri 5 Dec **Minibus to Bar Hill,** 10am. To book ring Teri Seaber 07711 531004
- Fri 5 Dec **Mobile Library**, 1.50–2.20pm. Coles Lane.
- Sat 6 Dec Village Walk & Talk, 10.30am. Meet by Church on High Street. Alice OWNeighbours@gmail.com
- Sat 6 Dec Christmas Carol Concert, 2–4pm. Pavilion. Free entry. 1st Oakington Scout Group.
- Tue 9 Dec Tuesday Talk & Tea, 2.45pm. Church Hall. Christmas party with carols. Marian Cleaver 01223 232897
- Thu 11 Dec Chess Club, 7pm. Interested in joining? Contact Ranko Pinter ranpin@gmail.com or 07766 052025
- Thu 11 Dec O&W WI, 7.30pm. Church Hall. Informal Christmas social. Elaine Bailey elainebailey1@live.co.uk
- Fri 12 Dec Country Dancing, 8–10pm. Histon Methodist Church. Kathryn Coles 01223 233191
- Sat 13 Dec Messy Church, 3-5pm. Church Hall. Cate Lambert catelambert@hotmail.co.uk or 07533 152519
- Sat 13 Dec Christmas Service, 6.15pm. Baptist Chapel. Refreshments afterwards.
- Mon 15 Dec O&W Parish Council, 7.30pm. Pavilion. All invited. clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk
- Wed 17 Dec Village carol singing, 7pm. Outside the White Horse pub. Charity collection. OWNeighbours@gmail.com
- Thu 18 Dec Philosopher's Café, 7pm. Interested in joining? Contact Ranko Pinter ranpin@gmail.com or 07766 052025
- Sun 21 Dec Carol service, 4pm. St. Andrew's Church. Traditional carols with mince pies & mulled wine.
- Mon 22 Dec Christmas Concert, 7pm. St. Andrew's Church. Refreshments. Free, donations for Macmillan.
- Wed 24 Dec Christingle service, 4pm. St. Andrew's Church.
- Fri 2 Jan Minibus to Bar Hill, 10am. To book ring Teri Seaber 07711 531004
- Fri 2 Jan **Mobile Library**, 1.50–2.20pm. Coles Lane.
- Sat 3 Jan Village Walk & Talk, 10.30am. Meet by Church on High Street. Alice OWNeighbours@gmail.com
- Thu 8 Jan Chess Club, 7pm. Interested in joining? contact Ranko Pinter ranpin@gmail.com or 07766 052025
- Thu 8 Jan **O&W WI**, 7.30pm. Church Hall. Comedy and magic with JezO. Elaine Bailey elainebailey1@live.co.uk
- Sat 10 Jan Messy Church, 3–5pm. Church Hall. Cate Lambert catelambert@hotmail.co.uk or 07533 152519
- Sat 10 Jan Therapeutic Stories for Everyone, 10am-noon. Contact Ildiko Dulo cats@koka.me.uk / koka.me.uk/cats
- Mon 12 Jan O&W Parish Council, 7.30pm. Pavilion. All invited. clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk
- Tue 13 Jan Tuesday Talk & Tea, 2.45pm. Church Hall. Marian Cleaver 01223 232897
- Thu 15 Jan Philosopher's Café, 7pm. Interested in joining? Contact Ranko Pinter ranpin@gmail.com or 07766 052025
- Sat 17 Jan Orchard Wassail, 4-6pm. Orchard by Arcadia Gardens. Soup, cider & tradition. sustainableow@gmail.com
- Tue 20 Jan WI Craft Club, 7.30pm. White Horse pub. Visitors £5. Elaine Bailey elainebailey1@live.co.uk
- Wed 28 Jan Sustainable O&W, 7.30pm. Church Hall. TBC, please check our website. sustainableow@gmail.com

	BIN DAYS	Fri 5 Dec, Fri 19 Dec, <mark>Sat 3 Jan,</mark> Fri 16 Jan, Fri 30 Jan.	Black bins
		Fri 12 Dec, Mon 29 Dec, Fri 9 Jan, Fri 23 Jan.	Blue bins
		Fri 12 Dec, Fri 9 Jan.	Green bins

What/where to recycle: sustainableow.co.uk/reuse-repair-recycle



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.

Recycle Marigold rubber gloves in the grey box in the shop

Welcome & "Why I love..."

Christmas in Oakington and Westwick has its own traditions, a string of events which get us together to celebrate the season. We make the most of any bright weather to search the streets for Advent Calendar windows. The early evenings are made cheerier by lights on houses and in gardens. Many clubs and groups have parties planned, and there are concerts at both ends of December, as well as community carol-singing by the pub near the village Christmas tree. And soon after Twelfth Night comes the Orchard Wassail, an ancient tradition relatively new here but already popular, banishing the January blues.

But when winter cold keeps you inside, we hope you will enjoy reading this edition of the Journal. Look back to summer's bees and autumn's apples, dig into the history beneath another of our streets, catch up on local council

issues, or try a recipe from the WI chair of ninety years ago.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to or helped with the Journal this year!



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), Ella Whellams (ads layout) Ela Yates (business manager)

Send contributions to oakwestjournal@gmail.com

or phone: 01223 233510 (Jenny) or 01223 233208 (Graham)

DEADLINE FOR FEB/MAR 2026 ISSUE: Tuesday 20 January 2026

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

Advert costs	Single	1 year*
Business card	£21	£84
½ page (portrait)	£33	£132
½ page (landscape)	£63	£252

* Six for the price of four

Adverts for the next issue must be received by **13 January**.

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



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



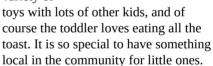
Why I love... Little Steps

Little Steps playgroup is a friendly gathering, where everyone is made to feel welcome. It's been a lifeline to us since relocating to the area, and we've made some brilliant friends in the two years we've been going.



Sarah

We love to come and play with a variety of



Jazz

Little Steps have been a lovely aid to my son's growth. Giving him social time not only with his age and those around but different adults (parents/guardians/grandparents). As well as the encouragement and time shared with other parents. It takes a village to raise a child and Little Steps has been there ready for us and members of our local community.

Linda and Gabriel



Little Steps has been a wonderful place for both Nora and me – she loves exploring and meeting other children, and I've really valued the supportive community of local parents.

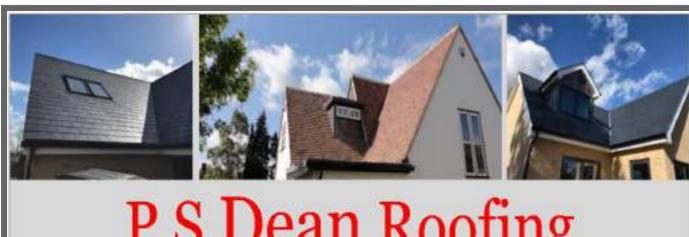
Kristine and Nora

Little Steps is the perfect place for little people to play, experience meeting

with other little ones and and enjoy themselves in a lovely setting. It is also a great place for parents, carers and slightly older grannies like me, to meet up with other people and have a chat and share experiences and ideas. Plus we have cake!







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From the Councils

Parish Councillors

Chair: Tony Starling

cllr.starling@oakingtonandwestwick-

pc.gov.uk

Vice-Chair: Stephen Moore

John Bailey Julie Grove Ranko Pinter Linda Wellard

Three 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.warrengreen@scambs.gov.uk

Tom Bygott – 07765 475513 cllr.bygott@scambs.gov.uk

County Councillor

O & W, Longstanton, Northstowe, Over Luis Navarro – 07817 211960 luis.navarro@cambridgeshire.gov.uk On Facebook:

longstantonoakingtonnorthstowe

Member of Parliament

St Neots and Mid Cambridgeshire
lan Sollom
ian.sollom.mp@parliament.uk
www.iansollom.org Facebook: lanFSollom

VILLAGE INFORMATION

Community Association oakington.westwick.ca@gmail.com

Oakington & Westwick Neighbours (OWN) - 07902 111786

OWNeighbours@amail.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 Jo on 07714 760582, Bee on 07718 068941, Celine on 07541 997299 or oak.west.hardship.fund@outlook.com

From our Parish Council

New Parish Councillor. We are pleased to report that Linda Wellard was co-opted on to the Parish Council at our October meeting. Welcome on board Linda! We look forward to working with you. That leaves us with three vacancies. Do consider joining the team.

For further information, please contact the Clerk, Laura Lawrence – *clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk* or phone 07903 295860.

Land at Manor Farm Close. Despite the best efforts of the Parish Council and many residents who raised objections, the planning application for eight new houses on land at the bottom of Manor Farm Close was approved by the South Cambs DC Planning Committee on 12th November. A number of conditions were imposed on the developers, further details of which will be forthcoming when the decision notice is published on the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning online register.

Logistics/Warehousing/Employment Park development proposals along the A14. Development sites are being put forward for four areas of land alongside the A14 between Oakington and Swavesey/Boxworth. One of these will be in our parish, if planning permission is granted: Cambridge 25 – a proposed large employment development on land off the A1307 between the B1050 and Dry Drayton Road, Oakington. Further details can be found here; *cambridge25.com*

The developers are currently going through pre-application discussions and Environmental Impact Assessments with Greater Cambridge Shared Planning (GCSP). The Parish Council will be sure to scrutinise and respond to the outline planning application when submitted.

Greater Cambridge Local Plan. The Local Plan shows where new homes and workplaces could be built over the next 20 years and how essential community facilities and public services would support this expected growth.

A public consultation on a new plan is expected to run between 1 December 2025 and 30 January 2026. Feedback will help shape the final version, which will be consulted on again in summer 2026 before it is submitted to Government to be examined. Please do consider responding to the consultation.

Tony Starling, Chair

Make sure you're protected this winter

- RSV vaccine for anyone who is pregnant, aged 75–79, or anyone who turned 80 years old from 1 September 2024.
- Pneumococcal vaccine anyone 65 or over (only one dose needed).
- Flu vaccine for anyone aged 65 or over (including those who will be 65 by 31 March 2025); have certain long-term health conditions; are pregnant; live in a care home; are the main carer for an older or disabled person, or receive a carer's allowance; or live with someone who has a weakened immune system.
- COVID-19 vaccine for anyone aged 75+; those aged between six months and 74 years who have a weakened immune system because of a health condition or treatment; and people who live in a care home for older adults.

To find out more about these vaccines, and how to book them, or find a walk-in clinic, please visit The Vaccinators website www.cpics.org.uk/the-vaccinators

NHS Communications Team, Cambridgeshire & Peterborough

From our MP

Cuts to Arthur Rank Hospice – Delivering Our Petition to the Prime Minister

I have received countless messages from constituents concerned about cuts to funding at our local Arthur Rank Hospice. The hospice is set to lose £829,000 in funding from Cambridge University Hospitals due to pressures on its budget, which is allocated by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Integrated Care System. This cut will force the closure of nine out of 23 beds, leaving more than 200 patients a year without access to hospice care and placing further pressure on hospital wards.

My Cambridgeshire Liberal Democrat colleagues and I launched a petition that gained over 10,000 signatures in its first 24 hours, and now has over 16,000.



On 3 November, I joined my constituent Vivien, whose husband was supported by Arthur Rank before he died in November 2024, to deliver the petition to 10 Downing Street. We called on the Prime Minister to restore funding and ensure that all beds at Arthur Rank remain open; to provide sustainable funding for the hospice's palliative care services; and to properly roll out nationally the move from hospital to community care.

Thank you to everyone who signed the petition – I will share any updates on its progress on my social media pages.

International Baccalaureate Funding Cuts at IVC

In late October, we heard that funding would be pulled for the Large Programme Uplift, which funds International Baccalaureate Diploma (IBD) provision at 20 state schools, including Impington Village College (IVC).

I visited IVC recently, and they are absolutely committed to continuing to offer the IBD after 30 years of excellence. But the loss of £2,400 per student will require difficult decisions about staffing, class sizes, and the breadth of subjects they can offer in the programme.

I have raised this multiple times with the Government – writing to the Secretary of State and challenging ministers in Parliament. I will continue to do my utmost to press the government to reverse this funding cut, and I will keep staff, students and parents informed of how things develop.



Ian Sollom MP

From our County Councillor

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)

The Full Council has voted to submit Option A to Government. Other districts are submitting different options, with some internal opposition. The process appears to be centrally driven, with limited weight given to local views. Option A (North-West/South-East) comprises Unitary 1: Peterborough, Huntingdonshire, Fenland and Unitary 2: Cambridge City, East Cambs, South Cambs.

Be Winter Wise Campaign. The council's winter campaign offers guidance and support for staying safe and warm, including help with energy costs and food vouchers. cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/campaigns/be-winter-wise or follow on social media using the hashtag #BeWinterWise

Children & Young People. An additional £780,000 has been allocated to improve the timeliness of Education Health & Care Plans. Separately, government delays in building special schools are increasing costs for the council.

Community Watercourse Maintenance Grants

Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) is offering grants of up to £10,000 to support community-led watercourse maintenance that help reduce local flood risk. These grants are aimed at areas where ownership is unclear or complex, making regular upkeep difficult. Eligible groups include parish councils and community groups with active plans to improve water flow and prevent flooding. Grant funding is limited so apply as soon as possible. tinyurl.com/39pxmyyr

EV Charging at St Ives Park & Ride. Nine solar-powered EV chargers are now available, generating renewable energy revenue to support council services.

Gully Maintenance. Several gullies around the village have been marked for clearing to prepare for the winter season. If you notice any gullies causing problems, please log them on the Cambridgeshire County Council website so they can be addressed promptly.

The **Fens 2100**+ project is a major initiative led by the Environment Agency to develop a long-term investment strategy for flood and coastal resilience across the UK Fens. With 96.5% of the Fens area used for agriculture and 10% of the UK's water managed through it, this project is crucial for long-term sustainability.

Work continues on the new cycle route linking **Longstanton to Bar Hill**, offering a safer and more sustainable travel option for local residents, significantly enhancing connectivity between communities.

Busway Works & Fencing. Speed restrictions are being introduced on the guided busway for safety. The fencing is mandated by the Health and Safety Executive following a court ruling against the County Council. I'm advocating for designs that avoid overly imposing barriers.

Please do let me know if there are any further requests for access or works that may be necessary along our section of the Busway, particularly if susceptible to flooding.

Cllr Luis Navarro

From the Councils & Repair Cafe

From our District Councillor

Greater Cambridge Local Plan. The next consultation for the Greater Cambridge Local Plan is due this winter. This has been an extremely long process with the very first consultation being almost five years ago.

The government sets the deadline and mandatory targets, and a change in government at the last general election meant that we were hit with changes and higher house-building targets. The deadline is very tight with the Local Plan expected to be submitted by December 2026.

We have a tough job ahead of us to meet this deadline and ensure that we get it right. It is important that we have the services and infrastructure in place to support any new developments, and it's really important that these new development sites are in the right places. Our residents must benefit from the plan and have their views heard. We will work to make sure your views are heard by the administration.

There is also an issue over how long the process of planning applications and appeals take when they go to the Planning Inspectorate. Currently, an application can take around two years for a decision to be reached. Where this is an appeal, an additional two years on top of the time from when the application process was started is an unnecessarily long time for residents to hear decisions – and at times, can be very distressing to residents and the wider community.

Grants for community groups and parish councils. If you are from a local community group or parish council, we are encouraging you to make the most of the council's available grant schemes. The GrantGrabber service, *funding.idoxopen4community.co.uk/supportcambs*, helps you search for available grants – all in one place.

This month, the council launched the **Service Support Grants** with up to £300,000 per year for eligible local organisations. It's focused on six key areas: mental health and wellbeing; advice services; independent living; support for the voluntary and community sector; cost-of-living support; and place-based initiatives.

For further information on this grant or information on other grants available for a community project from the council, please visit Grants and Funding – South Cambs District Council: *scambs.gov.uk/grants-and-funding*.

Tenant community grant. Local organisers can apply for up to £1000 for a project that benefits the community. The funding is for projects such as community gardens or benches, updating communal rooms, organising local events and club equipment. Apply: *tinyurl.com/2ptnx46a*

Update to council's accounts. It's important that we as elected councillors can scrutinise accounts to make sure

taxpayers' money is being spent appropriately, but it is very disappointing that South Cambs yet again is facing the prospect of spending a significant amount of money on the external auditors due to overruns and delays.



Cllr Tom Bygott

Sustainable Oakington & Westwick Repair Cafe

Bookings open in the new year for the next Oakington Repair Cafe, which returns to the Pavilion on Saturday 7th February 2026, 11am–2pm.

Repair Cafes are a great way to save things from being thrown away and save you from having to buy new. Thanks to our amazing volunteer repairers, you can bring along knives or garden tools which need sharpening, jewellery or clothes which need mending, bikes to fix or check, and household items, electrical or electronic gadgets or small appliances which are broken or not working properly.

Our volunteer repairers will do their level best to mend your item, and chat to you while they do it — it's a chance to pick up tips from experts as well. Repairs are



FREE (although donations are gratefully accepted).

We recommend booking repairs in advance to avoid a long wait for walk-in slots on the day. In the interest of fairness, we will only accept one booking per person. Check sustainableow.co.uk/repair-cafe in early January if you would like to book a repair – warning, slots fill up fast!

Make a diary note even if all your possessions are working fine! Our cafe serves hot and cold drinks, cakes and lunchtime vegetarian savoury snacks, and is open to everyone – you don't need to be having an item repaired – just come along and enjoy the buzz!

People who have helped in the past have told us how much they enjoyed being part of this great community event. We have enough repairers but need help with cake baking and serving/preparing/washing up in the cafe. If you could assist in either of these ways, please email oakingtonrepaircafe@gmail.com.

This event is run by Sustainable Oakington & Westwick in partnership with Cambridge Carbon Footprint.

Jenny Prince on behalf of the Repair Cafe team



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

The Fund provides small grants, usually between £50 and £200, for everyday essentials such as food, utilities, travel, children's clothes, school items or any sudden emergencies.

For confidential support call Jo on 07714 760582, Bee on 07718 068941 or Celine on 07541 997299 or email oak.west.hardship.fund@outlook.com.

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

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Community Action Groups

Environment Action Group

Our Flood Mitigation Group met with representatives from the Environment Agency (EA) and from South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) in October to discuss maintenance of the section of Beck Brook downstream of Westwick. We believe that the EA is responsible for this section. There was still no acceptance from the EA of this, but we understand that the EA and SCDC will cooperate to carry out some maintenance later this year or next year. This is expected to involve cutting back of vegetation in both Beck Brook downstream of Westwick and in Oakington Brook upstream of where it crosses Dry Drayton Road.



In the previous edition of the Journal, we reported that we were reviewing draft proposals by developers Salhia for a business and logistics park known as **Cambridge 25** on land in Oakington and Westwick Parish. We subsequently wrote to the developers highlighting the need for additional flood mitigation and for a footpath/cycleway development on Dry Drayton Road to provide the sustainable transport links they are emphasising in their proposal. We repeated our concerns to them when they presented their plans at the October Parish Council meeting. While the draft plans would

manage water runoff from the site itself, we believe that because the site adjoins Oakington Brook upstream of the village it would be a good location for an additional attenuation pond to



manage flows already in the brook. This would help to protect our village from future flooding events such as that which occurred in 2014. We believe that without the incorporation of such a pond the development would not be providing significant betterment to our village in terms of flood mitigation, and we plan to communicate this to the Greater Cambridgeshire Planning Service.

No sooner had we responded to Cambridge 25 than leaflets about another proposed logistics development known as **Tritax Park** appeared through our letterboxes. In fact, a total of four such parks have been proposed in the area: Cambridge 25 (in Oakington and Westwick Parish), Tritax Park (in Longstanton Parish), Boxworth Gateway, and Cambridge Services (also near Boxworth). Tritax Park, the second nearest to Oakington and Westwick after Cambridge 25, would be on land that drains towards Swavesey and so would not impact flooding in our villages. While it seems unlikely that all four parks will be approved, we continue to monitor developments.

In other news, you may have noticed that the Oakington and Westwick in Bloom **flower tubs** have been restocked for the winter, and we are very grateful to the volunteers who look after these. We will also be carrying out **footway sweeping** to clear fallen leaves and other debris from footpaths in November and December. Please contact James Youd (jamesyoud51@icloud.com) if you can spare an hour or two to help with this important work.

Stephanie Smith

Oakington & Westwick Neighbours



Oakington & Westwick Neighbours continue to help people out around the village, visiting the housebound, doing shopping runs, running the minibus trip to Bar Hill and last month we moved a piano! Christmas preparations are of course in full swing, and we're hoping to see as many as possible of you at our Charity Carol Singing event which will be at the White Horse pub on Wednesday 17 December.

OWN is now actively fundraising to enable the Hardship Fund to continue to help people in the village. This is the first year when the Fund has spent more money helping people than it has received in donations. We are appealing to groups in the village and to households who have some money to spare. Please can you make a donation to the Hardship Fund this winter? We are grateful for all donations of any size. For details of how to donate, please email <code>owneighbours@gmail.com</code>.

Over the last two years, the Hardship Fund has had more requests for help than in our first years. This year, we made fourteen grants ranging from £50 to £225, and helped eight families and individuals. We have helped towards the cost of food, electricity and other household bills, and with the cost of moving home or travelling to visit sick relatives. In most circumstances, there has been an unexpected circumstance which has caused normal household budgeting to go awry.

We work with other charities such as The Besom, and this year successfully secured funding for a new cooker. We also signpost to other agencies such as the CAB and Step Change.

Contact OWN: *OWNeighbours@gmail.com*, 07902 111786. *Jo Mills & Matt Saunders*

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

The first Friday, every month. 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.

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Preschool & Community Association

Oakington Cottontails Preschool

Oakington preschool is now open and what a wonderful start we have had. The current children are really enjoying their time at preschool and we are welcoming new children and families and looking forward to welcoming more.



Popular choices of play with the children so far have been playing with the toy dinosaurs and cooking up a storm in the role play kitchen. Not forgetting messy play too of course – exploring foam, cornflour gloop, paint, the mud kitchen, anything messy really – it's been so much fun!



We have been embracing autumn; exploring all the different coloured and shaped leaves and learning why trees shed their leaves. We threaded conkers to make necklaces and cracked open acorns with hammers to see inside. We also did a floating and sinking experiment in the water tray and do you know what we discovered? Pine cones close up when they go in the water, then they

slowly open again when they dry out!

We have started to explore the village too, with a walk to St Andrew's Church on Remembrance Day. We found the war memorial and laid a paper plate of poppies that we made.

We are a community interest company, so non-profit making and we greatly appreciate any support you can give. Please take a look at our Amazon wish list *tinyurl.com/4yps7pfr*

We welcome children from the age of two upwards. We accept government funding for 2–, 3– and 4–year olds and we accept the government tax-free childcare scheme towards fees. If you would like to apply for a place or for further information about the preschool and what we have to offer, you can visit our website, follow us on social media or get in touch using the contact details below.

Laura Norman & Emma Pell, Oakington Cottontails Email: info@oakingtoncottontailspreschool.com Phone: 07960 588773. Web: www.cottontailspreschool.com



The Oakington and Westwick Community Association



Save the date for the AGM: Tuesday 3 February 2026 Oakington Pavilion, 7.30pm

All residents of Oakington and Westwick are welcome to attend the meeting, a great opportunity to meet friends and neighbours and hear more about the rich and varied Community Groups.

Village groups are invited to share a brief update during the evening, as well as the Community Association updates from the last 12 months, including feedback from Village Day 2025.

The Community Association sends you warm and festive wishes, and a very happy New year.

Thermal Imaging for a Cosier Home

Once again, we're delighted to offer residents and organisations across Cambridgeshire the opportunity to borrow and learn how to use a thermal imaging camera for free. Join a one-hour online training session to learn how to interpret thermal images, identify draughts, gaps in insulation, and heating problems, and to make your home cosier and more energy efficient. Great for homeowners and renters alike! We also encourage individuals, organisations and community groups to undertake training to survey multiple properties within their community.

In 2024, volunteers from communities across Cambridgeshire undertook surveys of 113 neighbouring homes and community buildings, adding to the 325 properties that were surveyed by individuals who had attended the training for their own homes. A full report can be found at *tinyurl.com/3f2rv9h2*.

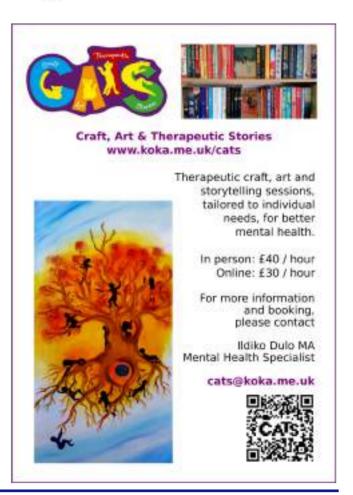
Thermal Imaging Training Dates:

- Wed 3 December 7:30-8:30 pm
- Wed 7 January 7:30–8:30 pm
- Mon 9 February 7:30-8:30 pm

We only lend cameras to people who have attended the training. Loan periods are: Fri pm to Mon am, or Mon pm to Fri am, and cameras can be picked up from one of eighteen volunteer camera hosts in the area.



Fran Sutton Home Energy Officer Cambridge Carbon Footprint



Clubs and Groups

Oakington & Westwick Tennis Club

Tennis isn't just for summer! We're still playing even though the clocks have changed, so why not get out and enjoy the autumn air on our hard tennis courts!

Oakington & Westwick Tennis Club always welcomes new members and our annual subscription (see below) gives great value for money!

Gill Attmore

Club members can use hard courts at the Recreation Ground. 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 I look forward to seeing you at Histon Methodist Church for another fun evening of country dancing on Friday **12 December.** Our Caller will be Hugh Stewart and we will be accompanied by our excellent musicians.

The January date has still to be confirmed, but if you wish to join us then, please telephone me on 01223 233191 or email 4keac15ow@gmail.com.

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.

1st Oakington Squirrels

Our first half term has been brilliant. Our young people have been amazing and so engaged. We've hiked through the woods, built dens, made nature art, lit fires and had a sing-song as well as talking about the history of scouting and investing eleven Squirrels (and two new leaders!). We've earned lots of badges and have so much more coming up in the darker months.

We are looking for more leaders, so if you're interested in spending an hour a week with



Squirrels crossing "shark-infested custard"!

some amazing 4–6 year olds, we meet on Thursdays, 5–6pm at Oakington Primary School. Do get in touch.

Nikki Henrywood



Squirrels (aged 4–6) meet 5pm on term-time Thursdays at Oakington Primary school. If you

are interested in joining our waiting list or knowing more, please email *nikki.henrywood@oakingtonscouts.org.uk*

Oakington Vikings



Our Teams and Contacts First Team Winston & James 07834 465188 Under 15s & Welfare officer

Winston 07968 716290 www.facebook.com/OakingtonVikingsFC

FA Charter Standard

Messy Church



Held on the second Saturday of the month, 3–5pm at St Andrew's church hall. All families welcome. Messy Church is doing church differently: a chance for the whole family to spend time together,

enjoying craft activities, eating together, celebrating and sharing the gift of God's love. For any further information, contact Cate: catelambert@hotmail.co.uk or 07533 152519.

Oakington & Westwick Table Tennis Group



Table tennis is good for your mental health as well as your physical health – heart rate, reaction times, coordination, muscles and joints. Join us for fun and laughter – we are a

small, friendly club, of mixed ability. We play every Tuesday at 7.30pm at the Pavilion, and welcome new players. Bats provided. More info: Gillian L'Angellier – 01223 234758.

Oakington Singers

We had a wonderful afternoon singing at Oakington Garden Centre on Sunday 16 November. It was a cold afternoon, but our Christmas carols brightened the atmosphere of the Christmas Fair. A stallholder thought we were a much bigger choir before she saw us! We raised £116.01 for Macmillan Cancer Support.

We will be wrapped up warm, carol singing at Frank's Farm in Elsworth on Friday 28 November. On Sunday **30 November** we will be singing at the Advent service at St Andrew's Church Oakington at 5pm. Do join the special lessons and carols service there on 21 December, 4pm.

We will be holding our annual Fundraising Christmas Concert at St Andrew's Church Oakington on Monday **22 December.** The event starts at 7pm. There is no charge for admission, but we welcome donations in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. The evening will include performances by the Oakington Singers with Audience Singalong and mulled wine and mince pies in the interval.

Elaine Bailev



We are a four-part community 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 o1223 232614 / helenwilliams5@outlook.com or just drop in.

Clubs and Groups

1st Oakington Beavers



Oakington Beavers have continued having fun this term! We've practised our cooking skills, made our own fabric poppies to wear to Remembrance events, designed and built our own machines and visited the Cambridge Science Centre! We've also been away for an indoor sleepover in Kimbolton, where we went for an early morning, misty hike

through the surrounding fields. Our boots got very muddy! Coming up, we'll be working on our musical skills, which you can see in action at our Carol Concert on **6 December**.

We're currently at capacity, but if your child is interested in joining Beavers in the future, please get in touch.

Kathryn Bigg



Beavers (aged 6–8) meet 6–7pm on term time Fridays at Oakington Primary school.

Contact Kathryn.Bigg@oakingtonscouts.org.uk.

Sustainable Oakington & Westwick

We had a fascinating talk about bees in September by Leo Jordan – everyone had lots of questions! In October we enjoyed a shared veggie supper, good food and good company. There is no SOW session in December but our January meeting will be Wednesday **28 January**, date TBC.

SOW is also busy planning the next Repair Cafe (page 7) and, with the Environment Action Group, has been monitoring pollinators this year (page 17) and planting bulbs for them (page 15). Thank you everyone who has been recycling Marigold gloves in the grey box in the shop.

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

Tuesday Talk & Tea

On **9 December** is our Christmas Party, preceded by Tim and Richard Brading leading us in Carol singing – and singing some of their own. We start 2026 on **13 January**.

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.

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, flatsoled shoes. If you would like more information, please contact Dawn Stokes on 01223 236427.

Oakington and Westwick WI

October and November have been busy months for our WI. Some of our members have been involved in making a special wreath of knitted poppies for the Remembrance Service at St Andrew's Church Oakington. We



laid the wreath at the War Memorial. Pauline Marsh, one of our members, also designed and made a Remembrance Poppy topper for the post box next to the village shop.

We had a very enjoyable visit to Jesus College, walking around the gardens and visiting the beautiful chapel. Our next walk is around the Cambridge American Cemetery Tuesday **2 December**, followed by a visit to Madingley Hall for coffee. Get in touch if you are interested in joining us.

We now have a monthly craft club that meets at the pub on the third Tuesday of the month. Visitors £5. See our posts on Facebook. (We are not meeting in December!)

We had a most enjoyable evening with Maria and John Barnett. Maria talked about the traditions behind German Christmas biscuits and her family traditions. We then tasted some amazing biscuits, and she shared the recipes with us. John had written a story involving Windy B and Oakington WI, who came to the rescue in a shiny silver coach, to provide the tea for the King and Queen and 200 guests. It ended with an invite to tea at the Palace. It was followed by one of his special poems, just superb.

WI members and friends met on a Saturday lunchtime in November at Lakeside Lodge in Pidley, for two games of bowls with a range of success! We had lots of fun and laughter – what our WI does best.

Our next meeting is on **11 December**, an informal Christmas social. Do come along, all are welcome.



We would love to welcome you to our meeting on Thursday **8 January** when we have JezO to entertain 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 visitors are welcome at a charge of £5. Contact Elaine

Bailey elainebailey1@live.co.uk for more information.





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Apples & Bulbs

Apple Pressing

Despite the weather, many enjoyed the Apple Days on 4 October and 1 November, and all that went with them!



Bulb Planting

Thank you to the 18 people who helped plant bulbs on Saturday 18th October, especially to the nine younger people including



Beavers and Squirrels for whom it counted towards badges! We planted bulbs in six areas, at the junction of Queens Way and Water Lane, at the junction of Holme Close and Water Lane, by the crossroads and alongside the pub on Coles Lane.

The bulbs were chosen to be pretty, pollinator-friendly and/or to naturalise and spread in the grass: crocuses, daffodils, tulips and wild tulips, English bluebells, and two types of allium. We hope the bulbs will grow! Thank you to the Parish Council for paying for them, and to the EAG and PSA for helping to organise.



Jenny Prince, Sustainable Oakington & Westwick

Oakington Community Orchards Project (OCOP)

The OCOP Team will be pruning the apple and pear trees in the Village's two Community Orchards early in the New Year. If you would like to join us (full training provided), or just want to get some free advice (at home) on maintaining your own fruit trees, you can email us at <code>oakcomorchards@gmail.com</code>, message us on Facebook — Ocop Cambridge, or leave a message for Graham on 01223 233208.

Graham Tregonning

Orchard Wassail

Looking for something fun to do once all the Christmas festivities are over? Come along to the 2026 Wassail organised by Blue Barrel Cider. It's a fun, outdoor,



family-friendly celebration to encourage the apple trees to deliver a healthy harvest in the coming year. Join in **4–6pm Saturday 17 January** at the Jordans' orchard down Arcadia Gardens. Dress warmly, bring a torch and a musical instrument or even pots and pans to make some noise. Warm soup and mulled cider available to drink around the bonfire. Free entry, but donations welcome to cover costs.

Alice J



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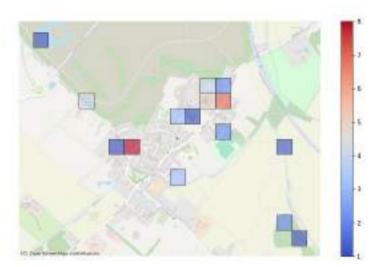
APOLLOW Review

With summer and autumn now behind us, it is time to look back at the first year of A POLLinator survey of Oakington & Westwick. It has been a really terrific year; here's a flavour of what we did.

Overall, we had 45 counts from nine counters, amounting to a very impressive seven and a half hours of counting. Across the whole of the UK, there were 5,307 counts, which is a record for the UK Pollinator Monitoring Scheme and we have played our small part in achieving this — well done! The number of records submitted per week steadily rose through April and into May. After a half-term break, momentum was regained throughout June and July but fell in August and September. I don't know about other readers, but August was a barren time for flowers and made even finding a place to count difficult.

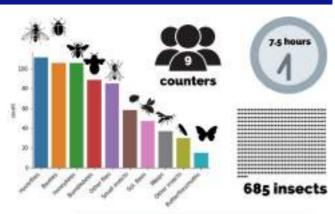
Hoverflies were the most counted of the 685 insects from our project, with 111, followed closely by Beetles and Honeybees (106). The single biggest count was a staggering 127 insects recorded on a quadrat of ivy in late August. This goes to show what a useful resource ivy flowers can be in the late summer and autumn and large clumps can literally be swarming with them. At the other end of the scale, there were three zero counts. Which means we have three 'Zero Heros'. You might think that a zero count isn't worth submitting; far from it! A zero count is just as important as a high count. Knowing the conditions in which insects aren't found is just as important as knowing where they are.

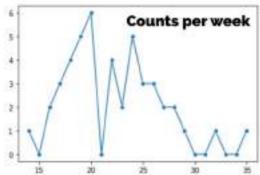
Unsurprisingly, gardens were the most popular place to count, followed by verges and hedgerows. When looking at just gardens, then it is Bumblebees and Hoverflies that are the clear winners, which is in line with patterns nationally.



The map shows where the counts took place (within 100m grids). Mill Road and Coles Lane (where the top two counters live) show the highest counts. Next year, we'd love to get more counts in public areas and add to the 2% of counts done in the farmland margins.

So, what have we learned? It is difficult to say very much about pollinators in just one year. The benefit will be when we can start to compare year to year. But we have certainly learned something:





- We like counting in our gardens. And if we like counting in our gardens, and (one assumes) we like counting lots of insects, then why not make 2026 the year where you put some of those pollinator-friendly actions into practice. A scruffy corner here, a log-pile there. With the recent verge bulb planting, we hope some of the verges will be left by the council's mowers in 2026.
- We could definitely have more counters. 2025 has been a really good start to the project and with more counters, we will get even more information about our pollinators.
- With warmer, drier summers, we can consider whether

 within our own areas we can provide resources for pollinators throughout the year.
- Signage. We want to encourage more counters to count in particular areas, so we will consider some specific measures to get people counting in those places.

For anyone who has submitted a FIT count, you will hopefully have received the newsletters from the team at

UKCEH. Do look out for the 2026 Annual Report, where APOLLOW might be making a guest appearance – watch this space!

Which leaves us to say a very, very big thank you to all the participants in APOLLOW – and therefore UK Poms – in 2025 and we hope you

Where counts took place

will be back with your quadrats in 2026.

James Heywood, Jenny Prince and John Terry



Book Club

'When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit' by Judith Kerr

The author, better known for her children's books – 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea', 'The Adventures of Mog' – wrote the 'Out of Hitler Time' trilogy for her children to better understand her earlier



life, and although told from a child's point of view it does resonate with older readers.

This story was based on her regret over choosing to take a stuffed dog toy with her when her family left Germany rather than a beloved pink rabbit. They fled firstly to Switzerland then France before finally settling in Britain in 1936. The story highlights the challenges of being refugees such as poverty and a struggle to belong, but also frames their experience with a sense of adventure and resilience. It certainly inspired further reading of the series.

The book group next meets on Wednesday **3 December**, 7.30pm at the White Horse, when we'll be looking at '*Educated*' by Tara Westover.

Contact *nataliewant@hotmail.com* for further info and to join this expanding, informal and friendly bunch – always room for more to join!

Angela North

Video Game Review

Two Point Museum is an engaging entry in the beloved simulation series by Two Point Studios. Building on the charm of Two Point Hospital and Two Point Campus, this game puts players in charge of quirky, customisable



museums filled with bizarre artifacts and themed exhibits. The core gameplay loop is sending staff on expeditions; curating displays; and managing visitor satisfaction. It is both addictive and rewarding.

The game shines in its humour and creativity. From fossilised floppy disks to alien cheese artifacts, the exhibits are as amusing as they are imaginative. The management mechanics are surprisingly deep, requiring players to balance budgets, staff morale and exhibit appeal. It has been praised for its intuitive interface and clever financial systems: it is a rewarding, deep, challenging, and highly entertaining game.

However, the narrative is light, with a simple premise of reviving forgotten museums. While this doesn't detract from the fun, those seeking a story-rich experience might feel underwhelmed.

Overall, Two Point Museum is great for fans of simulation games. It is a polished, humorous, and highly replayable title that shows Two Point Studios has truly mastered its genre.

Ming Tregonning

Old Oakington Recipes

It's the time of year for parties, so here are two party food recipes transcribed from Doris Nicholas's collection. Doris was chair of the Oakington WI for 40 years, and Fredie, mentioned below, was "one of the WI cronies."

Sea Foam

1½ oz cornflour. 1 pt water. 2 egg whites. 5oz sugar. Juice of 2 lemons. Rind of 1 lemon.

Mix cornflour with a little water. Heat water & sugar. Pour onto cornflour. Return to heat & boil stirring for 5 mins. Add rind & juice, stiffly whisked egg whites & pour into mould. Turn out when set.

Very very good for a party etc.

Cream Coconut Candy (good stuff)

(Fredie Wilcox's receipt).

11b sugar. ¼1b butter. ¼1b coconut. ½ tin condensed milk. ½ cup water.

Heat water, add butter. When melted add sugar stirring all the time. Bring to boil then add milk and coconut. Boil fairly fast about ¼ hour, till light brown. Pour into greased tin & cut into squares.

After years of dairy farming, Doris discovered canework and became so accomplished that she went on to teach at the Country Centre (on Huntingdon Road, later converted into the Felix Hotel.) "I enjoy teaching even more than working for myself," she told a local newspaper reporter in



a 1964. Some of her pupils passed the highest tests set by the WI. Here she is, watched by her dog Joley, serving a drink from the canework cocktail cabinet she made when she first took up the craft.

Thank you to Lillon Harrison, Doris's granddaughter, for the recipes and information.

Jenny Prince

New Scam Detection Tool

If you are suspicious of a text, email or message and you want to check if it is legit or not before responding, you can upload it to Ask Silver on the Get Safe Online website and it will return an indication of whether the communication is safe or a 'red flag' for fraud. Find the tool here: www.getsafeonline.org/asksilver.

eCops - www.ecops.org.uk



School PSA QUIZ NIGHT Friday 27 February 2026 – SAVE THE DATE Details for how to sign up will be shared in the new year



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Up My Street & Local History

Saxon Close

The land on which Saxon Close was



built was originally part of a 25 acre nursery run by Alan Bloom. (There was a detailed article about Alan in the December 2021 edition of the Journal.) The nursery was extensive and included what is now the Recreation Ground, Cemetery and Queens Way. It had been established in 1922 when his father bought Meadow House/Farm and 6 acres of land to start the venture. In 1925/6 a further 9½ acres were purchased from Mr Love from Histon. It was on this piece of land that the first Anglo-Saxon remains were found in 1926 as the land was ploughed to make it suitable to extend the nursery.

Subsequently of course there have been a series of major Saxon burial excavations in Oakington, starting in the early 1990s when remains were found when developing the old playground. So bearing in mind our Saxon heritage it is fitting that it is reflected in at least one village road name.



With the start of World War II the nursery had to be closed and the land given over to food production. Afterwards the land was taken over by the then Chesterton Rural District Council (it merged with South Cambridgeshire Rural District in 1974 to form South Cambs as we know it today). In Mike Petty's *Oakington Scrapbook 1897 to 1990* a cutting from 27 July 1953 records "Chesterton RDC opened their new £15,000 store and depot, part of a 15-acre Oakington Estate scheme. There is a site for housing, a recreation ground, a site for a village hall and one for a burial ground for the parish".

For a long period Alan's home, Meadow House, continued to stand within the Council Depot. Eventually the Council closed the depot and sold the land.



Adam Broadway remembers the land being sold in the early 2000s as he was working for Nene Housing Society at the time. Nene purchased around ten affordable houses to rent out under the Section 106 planning agreement from the builders – Bloor Homes. Nene homes are protected from "Right to Buy" legislation so that they always remain available for local people to rent. Searches for evidence of an archaeological survey have not produced any references. The feeling is that, as the Council owned the land, they may have approved the planning without requiring any additional archaeological surveys.

Graham Tregonning with additional information from Adam Broadway.

Where Was This?

This is the Bakery in the early 1900s.

"This bakery was built by Mr Charles Papworth who also had the Mill built in 1868. It will be seen that this house and bakery are built right up to the road edge. I was told by Mr "Sailor" Smith that the Papworths always built their properties right on the road edge. This can be seen in other parts of the Village such as Mafeking Cottages."

from "History of Oakington" by Ralph Warboys

The picture shows the owner, Ernest Papworth, two employees, and Mrs Matilda Papworth with three of her children: Edward, Maud and (holding her hand), Doris – whose picture is also on page 19! (There were two other daughters, Edith and Gwen.)

Charlotte Jordan



Where was this photo taken? Answer in the next Journal!





Pippa Westoby LETTER CARVER

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

Contact email : pippa_westoby@yahoo.co.uk





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Dogs & Christmas Events

Dog Show

The weather blessed Saturday the 11th October with sunny skies as Oakington Dog Day Care Centre called in people and pooches from all over to attend their annual fundraising event. The money raised went towards Medical



Detection Dogs, a charity which trains dogs to detect slight odour changes and alert their handlers to oncoming medical episodes. With stalls selling dog-shaped crafts and handmade canine cupcakes, the ever-delicious Scout troop barbecue, and tea and coffee served in the greenhouse, both dog and owner were well-prepared to take on the challenges set up around the centre. In the paddock dogs could test their skills in an agility course, or search the snuffle zone for hidden treats indoors; while in the fields they could show off their obedience and shoot for top speed in the tyre scurry run. And, of course, a fantastic array of canine companions – from a tiny beagle puppy to a gentle giant Bernese mountain dog – came together in the ring to compete in categories such as 'Best Pedigree', 'Most Appealing Eyes and Ears', and 'Dog our judge would most like to take home.' At the end of the day, £1034.55 was raised for MDD, allowing this charity to continue its life-changing work.

Kay Prince



1st Oakington Scout Group

Christmas Carol Concert

Sat 6 December 2–4pm, Oakington Pavilion



With Cottenham Brass Band & the beautiful singing voices of the 1st Oakington Scout Group!

Christmas raffle - mince pies & refreshments

Free entry – come and join us in a wonderful start to the Christmas festivities!



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