Oakington & Westwick

Feb / Mar 2023

Journal

2 A MM M

Plane Tree Plans Stop Speeding Busway Skiing Nature Counts Village Verse

What's On

Weekly Mon Monday Cafe, 9.30-noon. St Andrew's Church Hall, £1 Liz Davis - 01223 232745 Mon Beavers, 6–7pm. term time. Pavilion. beavers@oakingtonscouts.org.uk Mon Youth Club, on a Bus, 7–9pm. Recreation Ground, School Year 7 and above. Free. 07853 795256 Mon Oakington Singers, 7.30–9pm. Church Hall. Elaine Bailey – elainebailey1@live.co.uk Happy Feet, 10–11am term time. Church Hall. For under fives. Ben Phillips – familyworker@standrewsoakington.co.uk Tue 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 Table Tennis, 7.30–9pm. Pavilion. Gillian L'angellier – 01223 234758 Tue Wed Mixed Ability Pilates, 10–11am. Pavilion. Classes through out the week. Contact: Claire Young - 07766 554413 Wed Pilates, 5.45–6.45pm. Pavilion. Miranda De Vries – miranda@mi-time.eu Yoga, 7-8.15pm. Pavilion. Denise Sibley-Moore - 01954 202235 Wed 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 Ten Sing, 7-9pm term time. Histon Baptist Church. Terry King - cambridgetensing@gmail.com Thu Thu Short Mat Bowls, 7.30–9.30pm. Pavilion. Dawn Stokes - 01223 236427 Fri Tool Share, 4.30-6pm by appointment. Crossways. Gerald Cavander - gerald@cambridgereuse.org.uk / 07857 704636 Fri Scouts, 6–8pm. Pavilion. Cara Hanman – cara.hanman@oakingtonscouts.org.uk Pilates Boot-camp / Yin Yoga, 10-11.30am. Pavilion. Miranda De Vries - miranda@mi-time.eu Sat Fri 3 Feb Minibus to Bar Hill, 10am. To book ring Teri Seaber - 07711 531004 Fri 3 Feb Mobile Library, 1.50-2.20pm. Coles Lane Fri 3 Feb Country Dancing, 8pm. Histon Methodist Church. Kathryn Coles – 01223 233191 Sat 4 Feb Village Walk & Talk, 10.30am. Meet by Church on High Street. Alice - OWNeighbours@gmail.com Wed 8 Feb Book Club, 7pm. 5asideCHESS Cafe, Crossways. April Cox - acox700@gmail.com Thu 9 Feb Chess Club, 7pm. 5asideCHESS Cafe, Crossways. April Cox - acox700@gmail.com Thu 9 Feb O&W WI, 7.30pm. Church Hall. Craft evening. Elaine Bailey – elainebailey1@live.co.uk 11 Feb Story-telling for under 11 years, 9–10am. 5asideCHESS Cafe, Crossways. April Cox – acox700@gmail.com Sat Mon 13 Feb O&W Parish Council, 7.30pm. Pavilion. All invited. clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk Tue 14 Feb Tuesday Talk & Tea, 2.45pm. Church Hall, "Anglesey Abbey" Talk - TBC. Marian Cleaver Thu 16 Feb Philosophy Meetup, 7pm. 5asideCHESS Cafe, Crossways. April Cox - acox700@gmail.com Wed 22 Feb Sustainable O&W, 7.30pm. Church Hall, "Cambridge Nature Network". sustainableow@gmail.com Thu 23 Feb Men Tell Jokes Night, 7pm. 5asideCHESS Cafe, Crossways. April Cox - acox700@gmail.com Food Trucks Night, 6-8pm. 5asideCHESS Cafe, Crossways. April Cox - acox700@gmail.com Fri 24 Feb Fundraising Concert for Ukraine, 4.30pm. St Andrew's Church. Oakington Singers (refreshments—3.30pm) Sat 25 Feb Fri 3 Mar Minibus to Bar Hill, 10am. To book ring Teri Seaber - 07711 531004 Fri Mobile Library, 1.50-2.20pm. Coles Lane 3 Mar Fri 3 Feb Country Dancing, 8pm. Histon Methodist Church. Kathryn Coles – 01223 233191 Sat Village Walk & Talk, 10.30am. Meet by Church on High Street. Alice - OWNeighbours@gmail.com 4 Mar Mon 6 Mar Transport Action Group, 7.30pm. White Horse. For agenda contact - owcp.tag@gmail.com Wed 8 Mar Book Club, 7pm. 5asideCHESS Cafe, Crossways. April Cox - acox700@gmail.com Thu 9 Mar Chess Club, 7pm. 5asideCHESS Cafe, Crossways. April Cox – acox700@gmail.com O&W WI, 7.30pm. St Andrews Church Hall. Elaine Bailey - elainebailey1@live.co.uk Thu 9 Mar Sat 11 Mar Story-telling for under 11 years, 9–10am. 5asideCHESS Cafe, Crossways. April Cox – acox700@gmail.com Sat 11 Mar Ten Sing Annual Concert, 7.30pm. Histon Baptist Church. Mon 13 Mar O&W Parish Council, 7.30pm. Pavilion. All invited. clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk Tue 14 Mar Tuesday Talk & Tea, 2.45pm. Church Hall, "Silk painting, including batik". Marian Cleaver 16 Mar Thu Philosophy Meetup, 7pm. 5asideCHESS Cafe, Crossways. April Cox - acox700@gmail.com Thu

- Men Tell Jokes Night, 7pm. 5asideCHESS Cafe, Crossways. April Cox acox700@gmail.com 23 Mar
- Fri Food Trucks Night, 6-8pm. 5asideCHESS Cafe, Crossways. April Cox - acox700@gmail.com 24 Mar Wed
 - Sustainable O&W, 7.30pm. Church Hall, "Fruit Tree Grafting Workshop". sustainableow@gmail.com 29 Mar

Welcome & Volunteering

We are starting the New Year with a few tweaks to the layout of the journal, and now have a red theme. The Chinese, whose new year began on 22 January, believe red brings good fortune. This year is the year of the rabbit, a symbol of longevity, peace and prosperity - something the Journal team wishes for all its readers.

This year we are also including a new feature, "*My Volunteering*". Lots of residents are actively involved with good causes around the local area. We would be delighted to hear about these causes and your volunteering experiences,

which might also inspire others to take part!

If you have any other suggestions for the Journal please let us know, using our contact details below.

Finally, Graham, whom many of you know as one of the founding members of the Oakington Community Orchards Project (OCOP) Team, succeeds Iréne

Wicken Fen is one of Europe's most

spectacular array of plants, birds and

dragonflies. Grazing herds of Highland

cattle and Konik ponies are used to keep

the landscape open allowing wetland and

grassland plants to become established.

These free roaming animals are ideally

than 9,000 species, including a

important wetlands and supports more

Butlin as joint editor.

Jenny Prince & Graham Tregonning, Editors



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

Journal Team: Jenny Prince & Graham Tregonning (*editors*), Jane Goodyer (*advertising*), Iréne Butlin (*advert layout*), Jenny Broadway (*distribution*), Geoffrey Butlin (*adviser*), Ranko Pinter (*chair*).

Send contributions to oakwestjournal@gmail.com

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

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

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

My Volunteering

Carole and Hugh have been volunteering at Wicken Fen National Nature reserve for over 14 years.



We love being out on the Fen, whatever the weather! Watching the seasons change, seeing new arrivals of breeding birds, winter foragers and the amazing variety of seasonal flowers and plants that grow in this precious landscape. Spring is a particularly exciting and rewarding time as new-born calves and foals appear. Winter days can be beautiful when the frost and mist appear early in the morning across the Fen.





Hugh's role is a Volunteer Ranger, helping weekly with the upkeep of the Fen and Public areas. Carole's role is as a Volunteer Grazing Ranger. This involves checking the Konik ponies and Highland cattle on various parts of the Fen for any injuries or problems that may have occurred. Sometimes this can take many hours as the animals seek shelter within areas of dense scrub. It is fascinating to observe these real characters as the dynamics of the groups evolve.

The reserve has been in the care of the National Trust since 1899, and details of 'The Wicken Fen Vision' are on their website.

nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/cambridgeshire/wicken-fen-national-nature-reserve/wickenfen-vision

| | | Hugh & Carole Corr |
|------|---|--------------------|
| DAYS | Thu 2 Feb, Thu 16 Feb, Thu 2 Mar, Thu 16 Mar, Thu 30 Mar | Black bin |
| | Thu 9 Feb, Thu 9 Mar, Thu 23 Mar | Blue & green bins |
| | Thu 23 Feb | Blue bin only |
| | | |

Cover photo: Jonathan Prince



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From the Councils

Parish Councillors

Chair: Stephen Moore chair@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk

Vice-Chair: Tony Starling John Bailey Julie Grove Will Bailey Ranko Pinte

Will BaileyRanko PinterMatt DavidsonDavid ReevesOne VacancyOne 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

Oakington & Westwick, Longstanton and Northstowe Natalie Warren-Green *cllr.warrengreen@scambs.gov.uk* Tom Bygott – 07765 475 513 *cllr.bygott@scambs.gov.uk*

County Councillor

Oakington & Westwick, Longstanton, Northstowe and Over Firouz Thompson – 07974 680875 firouz.thompson@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Member of Parliament

anthony.browne.mp@parliament.uk

VILLAGE INFORMATION

Community Association oakington.westwick.ca@gmail.com

Neighbourhood Watch Jillian Wilkinson – 01223 233585 oakwestnhw@gmail.com

Oakington & Westwick Neighbours (OWN) – 07902 111786 *OWNeighbours@gmail.com*

Oakington Primary School 01223 232328 office@oakington.cambs.sch.uk

Pavilion Booking Administrator Tony Leadley – 07936 024587 oakingtonpavilion@gmail.com

Village Stores & Post Office Thiru Kunaratnam – 01223 232327

Hardship Fund Contact Ben on 07342 945373 or Jo on 07714 760582 or oak.west.hardship.fund@outlook.com

From our Parish Council Chair

Would you like to become a **Parish Councillor**? We are looking for people to join us, to help represent the views of villagers to our District and County Councillors and play an active role in maintaining a vibrant village, and looking after and improving our facilities. Parish Councillors receive no payment for their activities and are bound by government regulations which lay down their powers and responsibilities. Villages with active Parish Councils are much more likely to be listened to by the District and County Councils who provide the majority of our services. Interested? Please contact the village clerk – see contact details opposite.

At our last Parish Council meeting I was very pleased to see around 30 residents attend to express their opinion about the range of proposals for **Stocks Green**. Currently, it is in a poor state and we wish to make it a pleasant place in the village. The Parish Council has been exploring all options for renewing the Green for some months now. We discovered that the roots of the London Plane tree are possibly impacting upon the Chapel, and are certainly causing the footpath to become unstable and potentially dangerous for those with mobility issues. The footpath is the responsibility of the County Council and we have made our concerns known to them, but the rest of the Green is owned by the Parish Council.

We had contacted an arboricultural company in November to provide a quote for an examination of the **plane tree** and its possible impact. However, it was important for us to tell people as soon as possible that one of the options, if the tree is causing damage, is to replace the tree with a mature-as-possible native tree. The other options consist of reducing the roots or combining this with the construction of an underground barrier to contain them. It was clear from the meeting that there was strong opposition to replacing the tree, and the Parish Council has confirmed the proposed arboricultural survey and will pay for a survey of the Chapel. The meeting was conducted in an excellent atmosphere and a number of residents kindly offered to join a group to help advise the Parish Council. The aim is to have clear plans to publicise to villagers in good time for the Parish Council to have the works undertaken the winter of 2024. If you are interested in joining the advisory group, please contact *clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk*.

We have been monitoring the 20 mph **speed limits** on Cambridge Road and Water Lane/Station Road, and the results are encouraging, with an 8–10 mph average drop in the speed. However, a high proportion of traffic appears to be ignoring the 40 mph limit between Girton and Oakington. This results in vehicles failing to slow down in the first hundred yards or so after the 20 mph sign. Girton Parish Council are experiencing the same issues at their end. We raised this with County Highways and asked for a 30 mph buffer zone on entering Oakington, but after discussions with them and Girton, both villages have now submitted a joint bid to the Local Highways Initiative Fund for the whole of Cambridge Road up to the 20 mph zones to become 30 mph. Unfortunately, as we never see a police officer checking speed limits and we cannot have a speed camera, Cambridge Road will have traffic calming measures introduced. The funding comes from the Northstowe Development and the County.

We have not forgotten about Westwick and we are working, as fast as possible, on plans for further speed restriction measures there.

Finally, I have some sad news. Since the last Journal, two longstanding councillors, **Peter Harradine and Derek Chapman** have passed away. Our condolences to their families. The village benefited greatly from their contributions over the years.



Dr Stephen Moore



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

Contact email : pippa_westoby@yahoo.co.uk





From our County Councillor

Making Connections consultation

The Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) *Making Connections* 2022 consultation closed on Friday 23 December. Around 23,000 responses have been received; the GCP expects to publish a final report on the outcomes and next steps, for consideration by its Board in June 2023.

The consultation is about proposals for public transport improvements, better cycling and walking options, as well as the element which has been most talked about, a congestion charge.

Any decision on a charge for driving on roads in Cambridge or anywhere else in the county would be a matter for Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC). We do not yet know whether a proposal for a congestion charge will progress beyond the consultation, or if it does, what it might look like after the public responses to the consultation have been considered. We would expect the proposals in the consultation, including the proposal for a congestion charge, to be significantly changed by the public response. And I would want and need to know what the public – *all* the public responding to the consultation, thought before casting a vote.

Highways

The extreme heat and sub-zero temperatures in December

From our District Councillors

Tom Bygott writes: I am delighted to serve as your District Councillor, and will work hard to represent your interests at District Level. I would like to congratulate Cllr Natalie Warren-Green and to thank the retiring Councillors. During the many doorstep conversations that I had with residents of the ward, three issues emerged:

- Ensuring that the District Council (SCDC) takes action to resolve the problems with the groundwater and underground aquifer that have led to the ponds in Longstanton and Northstowe drying up
- Holding the developers and the District Council to account for the delivery of community facilities in Northstowe, and
- Campaigning to stop the imposition of a Congestion Charge in Cambridge.

Congestion charge. Details can be found on:

consultcambs.uk.engagementhq.com/making-connections-2022. There is also a petition asking for Cambridgeshire County Council to hold a referendum before implementing this new tax:

cambridgeshire.cmis.uk.com/ccc_live/ePetitions/tabid/115/ID/ 60/-Petition-demanding-referendum-to-decide-oncongestion-charge-for-Cambridge.aspx

The £5 daily charge would cover the whole city, including Addenbrookes and Royal Papworth hospitals. Hospitals are usually sited at the edges of cities so that city residents can easily access them via the convenient public transport that operates within cities, but where residents of outlying villages can also access them. In most villages, development is too sparse to support viable public transport, We need to have had severe effects on our roads. This is a national issue; we are dealing with the most urgent and dangerous potholes and surfacing issues first throughout the county.

Household Recycling Centre planned at Northstowe

In the original plans for Northstowe Phase 1, a Household Recycling Centre (HRC) was planned to comply with the size of the town. Following CCC Planning Committee on 16 November 2022, permission was granted for the Milton HRC to be redeveloped and expanded, therefore a site will no longer be required in Northstowe but S106 funds will still be required. Following this permission CCC planning officers consulted with the Planning Casework Unit for the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (DLUHC) on behalf of the Secretary of State, who confirmed that they are not calling in this planning application and are content for CCC to proceed.

CCC waste officers will now look to use the funds secured in the Northstowe Phase 1 S106 to help implement this

permission for Milton HRC and, as part of that discussion, a deed of variation to allow consideration of an alternative land use for the current proposed HRC site in Northstowe Phase 1.



Please see my contact details on page 5. *Firouz Thompson*

make sure that our hospitals are easily accessible from both the city and the countryside.

Natalie Warren-Green writes: Two months into being a District Councillor, I want to thank the Parish Council, EAG and TAG for welcoming me and briefing me on where they would like support. I also would like to thank residents for bringing to my attention key issues such as snow impacting dustbin collections, concerns about bus services, and the debate over the future of Stocks Green London Plane tree. This has made taking over one of the district roles immediately meaningful. Your communication has allowed fast signposting of issues to resolve with the SCDC, and clarity about where our Cllr Firouz Thompson is responsible as part of the CCC team. The passion of the community is clear - your constructive, critical, communication is welcome. Thank you!

A few topics from SCDC that I'd like to share with you are: **The SCDC** has launched *Cost of living help and a Go Fund Me appeal* to help people cope this winter. The page can be found here: *gofundme.com/f/scdccostofliving* **New hosts are needed for Ukrainian guests**. We are looking for people who would be willing to host or to help the campaign to encourage people to investigate hosting. To help you decide, you can read more, and watch video stories at: *scambs.gov.uk/support-for-ukraine-it-all-starts-with-aspare-room*

- The **GCP's** *Making Connections Consultation* closed just before Christmas. The public response was very high: Let's hope that this feedback and analysis leads to a transport scheme that works for the O&W Community. Please see our contact details on page 5. *TB/NW-G*





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Oakington & Westwick Journal

Transport Action Group

Oakington and Westwick Traffic Calming – still too fast

The introduction of the 20 mph zone throughout Oakington along with physical traffic calming is almost complete, with one remaining speed cushion near the school to be installed. As mentioned in the last issue of the Journal, the "speed camera" or Mobile Vehicle Activated Sign (MVAS) that has been situated in Cambridge Road has shown that the new traffic calming measures have significantly slowed vehicle speeds from an average of 34 mph to 24 mph. The MVAS has been located opposite the entrance to Cherry Orchard for four weeks and has given an average speed 25 mph in what was previously a 30 mph zone. However, the percentage of drivers exceeding the 20 mph limit is running between 55% and 60% and is

disappointingly high. A typical set of data is given below.

moved to Westwick to measure the impact of the traffic calming installed there.

East West Rail – Update

In the autumn budget statement, it was announced that the building of the proposed East West Railway from Oxford to Cambridge would be accelerated. Whilst it remains a concern that there are objections from vocal pressure groups along the preferred southern route, they are now calling for the whole project to be abandoned with their call for a northern approach given much less prominence. At the time of writing, the results of a consultation on the preferred southern routes have not been published. In the unlikely event of a northern approach being proposed, there will have to be a public consultation and discussion which will cause a further significant delay to the project. Both TAG and the Parish Council are continuing to closely monitor any

| Evaluation time | 04 January 2023,10:00 - 17 Janu | iary 2023,10:00 | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|-----------------|---|------------|-----------------|------------|
| Speed limit | 20 mph | Values | Vehicles | Vd[mph] | Vmax[mph] | V85 [mph] |
| Speed violations | 56.40 % | 167296 | 14661 | 21 | 55 | 25 |
| ADT | 1128 | | | | | |
| AYT | 411720 | | | | | |
| Evaluation direction | Both directions | | | | | |
| Author: | JB | | | | | |
| Comment: | | | | | | |
| Location: Water Lane opp Cherry Orchard | | | ADT- | Average do | uly vehicles (e | estimated) |
| Arriving vehicles from: Cotteham | | | AYT – Average yearly vehicles (estimated) | | | |
| Departing vehicles t | :0: | | | go | | |

Residents along Water Lane in the stretch from the school towards Westwick are reporting that vehicles are still speeding well in excess of 30 mph. The MVAS has been relocated to near Meadow Farm Close to get some data on vehicle speeds along that section and to reinforce the 20 mph speed limit. In due course the MVAS will be

Environment Action Group

There has been little progress to report on **flood mitigation**, although our Flood Mitigation Group understands that South Cambridgeshire District Council is seeking access permissions to clear out the ditch that runs between Longstanton Road and Water Lane. Silt in this ditch is currently restricting water flow through the tunnel that carries water under Longstanton Road by the shop.

Work on the Parish Council Open Spaces project, supported by the EAG, to develop the recreation ground area is proceeding apace. Twenty-two hornbeam trees, 12,000 bulbs and 2 kg of wildflower seeds were put in before Christmas. The area near the pavilion has oxeye daisy seeds only (no bulbs). The three bulb areas have also been seeded with annual wildflowers, which will likely self-seed at least a second year. These will give a good display of colour after the bulbs have finished flowering this summer. Meanwhile, work has begun on the two seating areas. One of these will be based around the theme of Anglo-Saxon Oakington, reflecting the likely founding of Oakington by an Anglo-Saxon named Hoc who would have arrived by boat with his family at some point in the 5th century, and the fact that the recreation ground was once the site of a significant Anglo-Saxon cemetery. The second seating area will be on the

announcements that will potentially impact the parish.

TAG meets on the first Monday bimonthly – the next meeting is scheduled for 6 March at 19:30 in the White Horse. If

you have any comments on this article or would like to join us, please contact us and we will email the agenda and meeting details.

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

theme of RAF Oakington, commemorating the role played by Oakington Airfield during the second world

war when it was home to several squadrons of RAF Bomber Command. We have been working with the History Society on designing information boards for these two areas.



We are continuing to monitor the **village pond**. There has been a reduction in the amount of green duckweed covering the pond over the winter, probably because it dies back in the colder months. We expect it to return when temperatures rise, and continue to investigate ways to keep it in check.

We have also been monitoring the **old airfield road**, which is currently supporting a lot of wildlife that we hope can be nurtured and developed. Removing the grass cuttings when the verge is cut, for example, would encourage wild flowers rather than rank grass, and piling it up into heaps would provide nesting sites for grass snakes.

Stephanie Smith





Oakington & Westwick Journal

Oakington & Westwick Neighbours

We wish all Journal readers a Happy New Year. Volunteers from OWN and other local groups enjoyed a Christmas



meal at the White Horse, and the Community Carols on 21 December proved very popular with 100 people joining in. Over £120 was

raised for Oakington School's PSA. The lovely advent calendar window displays again helped to brighten up the shortest days of the year. But now we're into a New Year and we have plans...



The CONNECT 2 village walks on the first Saturday of the month have resumed (meet at St.Andrew's church at 10.30am)

and the monthly shopping minibus to Bar Hill travels the day before, on the first Friday of the month. Everyone who uses it really enjoys the trip, and there's room on the bus for more, so if you, or someone you know, would like to join us, call Teri on 07711531004 before midday on the Thursday to secure your seat. Pick up is from your home at 10am

Neighbourhood Watch

Distraction thefts in Bar Hill car park

The Neighbourhood Police have been patrolling the Tesco car park after reports of thefts.

On one occasion a woman in her 80s was approached by a man and asked for information about the nearest vet and later discovered her purse had been stolen. Her bank cards were used and more than £700 taken.

During a separate incident, a woman in her 70s was asked for directions whilst loading the shopping into her car. She later realised her bank cards had been taken.

The Police are urging shoppers to remain vigilant, and if you are approached by an unknown person, don't engage with them: either call police or the security staff at Tesco.

> Jillian Wilkinson Oakington and Westwick Neighbourhood Watch



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. returning around 11.30am, and it's free!

OWN/CONNECT 2 is partnering with Sustainable

Oakington and Westwick (SOW) to plan another plant swap in May. Last year's was very successful and much appreciated. Although it seems a long way off we're mentioning it now so



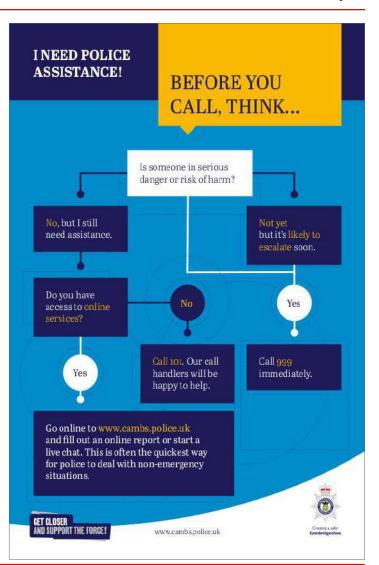
that you can plant extra seeds in order to be able to exchange more plants in a few months' time! In June, we're planning the Big Lunch once again. Let's hope the weather is kinder this year!

In other news – thanks to some generous donations, the Hardship Fund is healthy so if you find yourself or your family struggling financially you can call or text Ben on 07342 945373, or Jo on 07714 760582, or email *oak.west.hardship.fund@outlook.com*. The aim of the fund is to make small one-off payments to help in a crisis, and several of these have been made recently. It also signposts where other help is available. All enquiries are treated confidentially.

Don't forget you can contact OWN if you'd like some neighbourly help or company:

07902 111786 or owneighbours@gmail.com.

Jo Bryant



Clubs & Groups

Country Dance Club

Jane and I look forward to seeing you on Friday, 6 February and Friday, 6 March, for more fun evenings of dancing. We have music provided by our excellent musicians and a different Caller each month to help you through the dances. Do come along and make new friendships. Soft shoes or trainers are the recommended footwear. See you there.





Meets in Histon Methodist Church, one Friday a month, 8-10 pm. Adults £4, accompanied children: 50p.

Oakington & Westwick Short Mat Bowls Club

After a short Christmas break, our weekly sessions have started again and we would be very happy to welcome new players. If you would like to give bowls a try, come and join us as our guest for the evening.

Dawn Stokes



We play throughout the year at the Pavilion, on Thursday evenings 7.30 - 9.30 pm. We have spare bowls and you just need some soft, flat soled shoes. If you would like more

information, please contact Dawn on 01223 236427.

Tuesday Talk & Tea

In February we hope to be having a talk about Lord Fairhaven and his life and development of Anglesey Abbey. In March Patricia Caine from our own village will be speaking on "Silk Painting, including Batik".

Marian Cleaver



Tuesday Talk and Tea meets at 2.45 -4.45pm on the second Tuesdays 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.

1st Oakington Scout Group

This term the Scouts and Cubs have already welcomed a visit from our local police officer, Manny, and PCSO, Chris, to talk to the children about policing, knife crime, personal safety and to answer all their questions. We also got a full tour of Manny's police car including all the items they need for their day to day work and the lights and siren!

The rest of the term has a lot to live up to now but we're looking forward to sessions that explore all the diversity the first quarter of the year can offer, including Burns Night, climate change awareness, and World Water Day.

Cara Hanman



Beavers (aged 6–8), Cubs (8–10¹/₂) and Scouts $(10\frac{1}{2}-14)$ meet weekly in term at the Pavilion. More details on page 2.

Oakington Singers

Have you ever thought of joining our very own village choir? Maybe you have but are hesitant about taking the plunge. Let me reassure you. You don't have to be able to read music... not all of us can, but you will be surprised how easy it is to learn a tune... and how rewarding and enjoyable. That is why, when our members join the choir, they tend to stay!

So, what sort of music do we sing? Well, the answer is anything and everything and we are also open to (your) suggestions. It's fair to say our music is a very eclectic mix.

We have an important event coming up. To mark the anniversary of the start of the war in Ukraine, the Oakington Singers are hosting a Come and Sing fundraising 'Concert for Ukraine' at 4.30pm on Saturday 25 February in St Andrew's Church in Oakington. Please consider supporting this concert either as a member of the audience or taking the opportunity to give us a try. We will be rehearsing on the day from 2pm till 3.30pm and will be delighted to welcome you. Refreshments and homemade cakes will be on sale from 3.30 to 4.30pm. A variety of music is planned and will include: Musical Theatre pieces, Ukrainian Music, Hallelujah Chorus, Ave Verum (Mozart). All proceeds and donations will go to the Ukrainian Humanitarian Appeal. If you are interested, please contact Paul Tann via email to obtain the music and receive further details. paul.tann@btinternet.com

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 Elaine Bailey on elainebailey1@live.co.uk or just drop in.

Sustainable Oakington & Westwick

At the November meeting we made bird-boxes with re-used pallet wood, and learned about other actions to boost biodiversity, especially insects. Being at the bottom of the food chain, we need to help everything connected to insects to mitigate collapsing populations of wildlife.

- 22 Feb Cambridge Nature Network and how our parish fits within it, and a toolkit for nature recovery
- **29 Mar** Fruit tree grafting workshop. Come and learn a new skill.

Jenny Prince



If you're concerned about nature and the environment, get in touch and link up with what we can do within the village and further afield. All are welcome to SOW meetings, at

7:30pm in the church hall on the last Wednesday in the month. Get more inspiration from SOW's "green library" bookshelf in the telephone box on Longstanton Road. sustainableow@gmail.com / sustainableow.co.uk

Clubs & Groups

Oakington and Westwick WI

What an entertaining evening we had for our last meeting of 2022... a Christmas blind tasting session of supermarket food, budget to premium, and then a quiz. We started with crisps, then sausage rolls, mince pies and finally a selection of mulled wines. Some surprising first choices... and one famous supermarket didn't seem to do too well!!

Our first meeting of January, we were introduced to contemporary dance by our dance tutor Cathy. We started with a seated warm up so everyone could participate, then moving onto standing for those who wanted to. Right and left was a bit erratic at times!

Seated ones had chance for a chat... but the rest of us created, then mirrored, then added a sequence. It was an excellent evening, really enjoyed by all.



One Saturday a few of our members and their families had a brilliant day at Amanda McPhail's decorating plates. We



each produced original finished work of very different designs and each of us were delighted with the results.

Our next

meeting is on Thursday 9 February – do come along and try us. We will be having a go at some craft, led by Lynda Neech, one of our members.

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 is a pair of trainers, lunior players must be

all you need is a pair of trainers. Junior players must be accompanied by an adult. For more information contact Gillian L'angellier on 234758.

Oakington & Westwick Tennis Club

Who's for a game of tennis?

With the days starting to get longer and maybe with a few post-Christmas pounds to lose, why not join Oakington & Westwick Tennis Club? We have two hard courts which can be used 365 days of the year. You can choose to play with other family members, persuade a few friends to join as well, or get in touch with current Club members to arrange a game. Once you're a member, there is no need to book – you can just turn up and play when you like! It's all very relaxed.

Our subscription year runs from 1 April -31 March and the current rates (subject to approval at our forthcoming AGM) are £65 for a family, £45 for adults and £20 for juniors. To join, or if you need more information, please send an email to *oakingtontc@gmail.com*.

Gill Attmore

Qakington & Westwick TENNIS CLUB Club members can use hard courts at the Recreation Ground. Coaching and social events. Contact *oakingtontc@gmail.com*.

Cambridge Ten Sing

We celebrated Christmas with a performance at the Christmas Weekend event in Histon, singing festive songs to quite a big crowd, despite the cold weather. This was the first public performance for many of our group, giving them a taste of what is to come in the coming months, and they all coped brilliantly with the weather conditions. Then we had our usual Christmas party the following week, with games and Secret Santa!

In February, we are planning a sleepover team building event, with games and activities as well as a trip out to Clip and Climb, and it should be a great chance for everyone to get to know each other. Then we are pleased to announce our **Annual Concert** will happen on Saturday 11 March, our first since 2019! Watch out for posters with information for tickets, the event will be at Histon Baptist Church, start time 7.30 p.m.

Terry King, Administrator



Ten Sing is an informal YMCA performing arts group, run for young people, by young people, with singing,

dance and drama. We welcome anyone aged 11-18 to come and try us out on a Thursday evening, 7 to 9 pm at Histon Baptist Church during term time. For more information, please email *cambridgetensing@gmail.com*.

| Oakington & Westwick Sports Pavilion Monthly Lottery 2022 - Winners | | | | | | |
|--|-----------|---|-----------------------|--|--|--|
| Month | Ticket No | Area | Winnings | | | |
| December | 040 | Coles Lane | £150 | | | |
| and a second second second | | e lottery, please text J & postcode to 07831 | CONTRACTOR CONTRACTOR | | | |



of Oakington

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Oakington & Westwick Journal

Community Association (CA) Annual Report



The CA had another good year and it was gratifying to see an excellent bounce back after the tribulations of the last few years.

Any success of the CA is down to the enthusiasm and efforts of all the volunteers at events and during the year.

The two main fundraisers for the year, Village Day and Bonfire Night, went extremely well and were thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. Village Day after expenses made a surplus of £1,822 and Bonfire Night £573. We successfully applied for a Community Chest grant of £650. This was for a Platinum Jubilee Commemorative Bench now placed by the Pavilion.

A great effort by the Journal team produced an as ever quality product six times during the year and contributions by advertisers covered the production costs. Over 60 volunteers are involved in writing articles, production and delivery.

Overheads for the year totalled £1,809, the largest part of which was for the Liability insurance.

There was a net surplus for the year of $\pounds1,503$ which, added to the reserves from previous years, makes the Reserves carried forward of $\pounds5,247$. It must be noted that reserves are essential to cover any up-front costs of events. For instance, there was an outlay of $\pounds2,300$ in advance of Bonfire Night for the purchase of fireworks and for floats etc. It is also prudent to have a contingency fund to cover any unexpected occurrence such as bad weather washing out Village Day or Bonfire Night.

Many, many thanks to all the volunteers who give up their time and make such an effort to support our lovely community.

Bernie Yates, CA Treasurer oakington.westwick.ca@gmail.com

Births, Deaths & Marriages



If there is enough interest we are proposing to print a "Births, Deaths and Marriages" column twice a year. While family news is frequently shared on

Facebook, we believe there will

be many interested in other villagers' happy/sad events, so that they can respond appropriately, when they meet them on the street. If you have



a family milestone – marriage of a daughter,



birth of a grandson for example – and you are happy to share the news, please submit it in the usual way. See our contact details on page 3. Oakington & Westwick Community Association

Financial Report for the Year Ending 31st December 2022

| Financial Report for the fear Ending 51st December 2022 | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------|----------------------|--------------|--|--|--|
| | Income and Exp | enditure Acc 2022 | ount 2021 | | | |
| Membership | | 190.00 | 205.00 | | | |
| Journal | Income | 3755.00 | 3750.50 | | | |
| | Expenditure | 3679.00 | 3545.00 | | | |
| | | 76.00 | 205.50 | | | |
| Village Day | Income | 2492.87 | 133.00 | | | |
| | Expenditure | 670.63 | 314.89 | | | |
| | · | 1822.24 | -181.89 | | | |
| Bonfire Night | Income | 1946.90 | 0.00 | | | |
| - | Expenditure | 1373.05 | 48.25 | | | |
| | | 573.85 | -48.25 | | | |
| Community Ch | est Grants | 649.95 | 939.00 | | | |
| Total | Income | 9034.72 | 5027.50 | | | |
| | Expenditure | 5722.68 | 3908.14 | | | |
| Net Income | | 3312.04 | 1,119.36 | | | |
| Expenses | | | | | | |
| Pubic Liability & | k Employers Liabi | -761.61 | 0.00 | | | |
| Website | | -120.46 | -98.86 | | | |
| Zoom License | | 0.00 | -143.88 | | | |
| Journal Insert | | -100.00 | 0.00 | | | |
| Other Expenses | 5 | -79.88 | 0.00 | | | |
| Xmas Tree | | -85.00 | 0.00 | | | |
| Donations | | 0.00 | -134.28 | | | |
| Card Readers + | Tests | -12.03 | -66.04 | | | |
| Fence Stakes | 、 | 0.00 | -22.76 | | | |
| Gazebos (Grant | | 0.00 | -939.00 | | | |
| Jubilee Bench (| Grant) | -649.95 | 0.00 | | | |
| Total | | -1808.93 | -1404.82 | | | |
| Surplus/ Defici | t | 1,503.11 | -285.46 | | | |

Oakington & Westwick Community Association

Financial Report for the Year Ending 31st December 2022

| 5964.73 | 4996.62 | |
|----------|---|---|
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| 5,964.73 | 5,044.62 | |
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| 0.00 | -606.00 | |
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| | | |
| 3744.62 | 4030.08 | |
| 1,503.11 | -285.46 | |
| 5247.73 | 3744.62 | |
| | 5,964.73 -717.00 0.00 5247.73 3744.62 1,503.11 | 48.00 5,964.73 5,044.62 -717.00 -694.00 0.00 -606.00 5247.73 3744.62 3744.62 4030.08 1,503.11 -285.46 |

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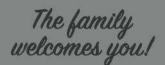
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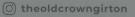
nfo@theoldcrowngirton.com 01223 27'

theoldcrowngirton.com

DON PASQUALE



WN ME



Oakington & Westwick Journal

Barbara Goode and her poetry

I have recently been reading a small book of poetry written by Barbara Goode who once lived in The Broadway. It appears to have been self-published in 1995 and many of the poems are autobiographical, so that I learnt that she married again after her first husband died and moved to Oakington from Bournemouth. Her family were grown-up by this time and don't appear to have lived with them here. Her husband was a talented organist who finally achieved his dream of playing at the Albert Hall! My copy was originally a gift from the author to Marge Mahoney and it was Marge's daughter, Liz, who became a carer for Barbara in her later years.

I thought that people might like to see these two simple poems written specifically about Oakington, and whilst neighbours who have been here a long time will remember certain things that are mentioned, I think that even newer, younger residents will recognise the essence of the village

Oakington

The place I wish to write about is really rather small, A pub, post office and two shops, that my friend is all. A simple country village, set amongst the fields, Farmers tending animals and gathering crop yields. Friendly country people, sturdy as the land Which most of them depend on, a gallant little band. Flowers by the roadside for every one to share, A village pond, a little church, a schoolhouse waiting there.

East Anglian folk in history are mentioned frequently, When I listen to them the reason I can see. If I gaze around me it seems a place apart From pestilence or evil for this is England's heart. Oakington in Cambridge within this sceptred isle Has gentle blessed unworldliness which will you all beguile. I came in trepidation unknowing of its charms, But soon was held quite firmly, within its loving arms. Your Blackpool or your Brighton or even London Town May be far more showy, thought of with great renown, Nowhere else in England means more than Oakington. I'll live there in contentment until my life is done.

Barbara Goode

which hasn't changed. I think that there may have been other volumes but they will all be out of print now and I hope that her family would approve of my sharing these poems with a wider audience. I would be very interested to hear other people's memories of Barbara.

> Liz Davis 01223 232745

Oakington in Cambridgeshire

Back in middle ages, folk girded for a fight, Feeling wronged, united to break their King John's might. Came the day victorious they made him concede, By signing Magna Charta that day at Runnymede. East Anglians and History went forward hand in hand, Folk from every county were numbered in that band. Cambridgeshire is noted, or so the poets sing, A centre of much learning, of cabbages and Kings. A place I'd simply read about but then when I re-wed, A village just outside of it became my home instead Of the big town I'd lived before, so coming would I find People in village Oakington, be cruel or be kind? Would I be the odd one out amongst the people there? If they did not wish to know, would I really care? Things would now be different, reason is because I was used to purchasing exactly where I was. Village has but just one store, supplying all one's needs, Must even draw my pension there, that useful is indeed. Car would be essential should we wish to get around, No bus each few minutes as it was in my hometown. Garden was so tiny I knew we'd need a plot To grow the vegetables we loved as we ate such a lot. I'd get up early, I'd work hard, I'd even make it fun, Realising in a village it's the same for everyone. A freezer is another must to store my labour's fruit, So we must carefully work out the type of one to suit. When I cook that first full meal from the plants I grew, I know it will taste wonderful, hope husband thinks so too. Just along the Cambridge Road close by where plots are, Lives Oakington celebrity, white-bearded Snowy Farr. Riding on a trike he will wear a frock coat from his hoard, The money he collects for blind is listed on his board. From village Squire to local folk including you and me, The painted sign proudly displayed for everyone to see. To this little place I dedicate the words of this my song, For now I'd not live any place but Cambridge's Oakington.

Barbara Goode

Voter Identification

(Requirements from 4 May, 2023 for local elections and October 2023 for General Elections)

If you don't currently have approved photo ID, you can apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate (VAC).

Approved photo ID includes: Passport, Driving Licence, Blue Badge, OAP or Disabled Bus Pass, Freedom Pass, PASS card or National Identity card issued by an EEA state. However if you have none of these you can apply for a VAC from the end of January, either online or through South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC). There will be no elections in our area in May, so registration is not urgent. To get a VAC you will need to have already registered to vote and will have to provide your National Insurance number and a passport style photo. A good way to get the photo is to use Max Spielmann at Tesco as they may be able to upload the photo for you (they provide this service for passports). You can register to vote online at *gov.uk/register-to-vote* or download a registration form, which is also available from SCDC.

Graham Tregonning



Nature Notes

Citizen Science – your New Year's resolution

I have lived in Oakington for 11 years and have been interested in wildlife for most of my life. Many of the subjects of 'Nature Notes', expertly written by John Terry (who, by the way, hasn't retired – don't worry) concern the

changes in our wildlife, both as the seasons come and go, but also over the longer term. We personally observe many of these things – the autumn coming of migrant thrushes such as Redwing and Fieldfare, to the now regular Little Egret in our ditches and fields.



You and I might know these things, but how do *we all really know* that these changes are occurring? One of the primary vehicles that enable a conversion of 'anecdote' to 'observation' is through biological recording and the "citizen science project". These projects range from those which are "highly structured and need a high level of identification skill" to "submit a record of anything from anywhere, no matter who you are". If you love observing wildlife and already like sharing your observations with your friends, perhaps on social media, why not go one step further and make a more formal record of that?

Biological recording can take many forms; traditionally you might send in a paper record to the 'County Recorder' for your species group. But, nowadays of course, there are Apps that you can use on your phone or tablet. Below are two that I think are excellent and if you are starting out on your recording journey, are really worthwhile looking into.

iRecord: *irecord.org.uk/* Run by the Biological Record Centre (BRC), it is almost a one-stop-shop for recording. You can attach photos to your record to make the verification easier.

BirdTrack: *bto.org/our-science/projects/birdtrack* Run by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), it is primarily focussed on recording birds and was originally set up to record bird migration (those Redwings again). But, it has evolved into a multi-taxa recording method for spatial conservation planning and is very simple to use indeed.

Bus Fares Go Up - and Down

With costs going up everywhere it's unsurprising that bus ticket prices have also increased – but back up to around the level they were at in 2021. The Flexirider (carnet of five or ten tickets available on the Stagecoach app) has only increased slightly for adults, somewhat more for youth tickets. Megariders are better value for those who travel every day.

However, most single journeys are currently capped at £2. The Bus Fare Cap scheme is a Government initiative running until 31 March, during .which time most single fares will cost £2 or less.

Jenny Prince

If you want to go another step further, maybe you would like to sign up to what are called 'structured' surveys?

Perhaps the most familiar to us will be the RSPB's 'Big Garden Birdwatch'.

But there are many others out there, catering for many levels of expertise. Below is a list of just a handful of surveys that you might like to consider taking part in and is certainly not exhaustive..

The RSPBGarden Birdwatch:

rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/ An annual count of birds in your garden at the end of Jan.

The BTO Garden Birdwatch: *bto.org/our-science/projects/gbw* A year round version of the RSPB's survey.

The National Plant Monitoring Scheme: *npms.org.uk/* Perhaps for the more dedicated botanist, but incredibly worthwhile and rewarding.

The Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey: *butterfly-conservation.org/our-work/recording-andmonitoring/wider-countryside-butterfly-survey* Butterflies are one of our best indicators of the health of the countryside.

So, if you haven't made your New Year's resolution yet, why not consider making your observations count towards our national science and conservation efforts. But, if you

still don't think this is for you, but still would like to share your observations with people from the village and would be interested in setting up a 'WhatsApp' group or similar, I'd like to hear from you.



James Heywood jjnh002@gmail.com

Disclaimer: I work for the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), who co-manage and run many of the above mentioned surveys. I appreciate this might appear as a cynical plug for our work, but I really do believe in the value of citizen science, no matter who you are.

Neighbourhood Policing

South Cambridgeshire Community Engagement Meeting – find out about the work of police across South Cambs, share your concerns and let's work together to create a Safer Cambridgeshire.



Tuesday 7 February, 7–8pm, online: eventbrite.co.uk/e/south-cambs-communityengagement-meeting-february-2023-tickets-467437938457

Cambridgeshire Constabulary



Seasonal Tip from the OCOP Team

Barking Mad?



Our furry friends have been very busy this year; winter snow and frozen ground has been a particular problem for rabbits. Without grass to eat they have found that the bark on the apple trees in the Recreation Ground Orchard is a good fallback. Sadly the trees were unguarded and the picture (left) clearly shows the damage. If it encircles the trunk and takes off both the bark and underlying tissue, it can kill the tree.

The picture (right) shows Muntjac damage from earlier in the year in the Mill Road Orchard, most likely caused by the deer rubbing their horns to remove the velvet. Of course we know Muntjac love to come into our gardens to eat our flowers and vegetables and they are commonly seen on that side of the village. Sadly Leo's Cider Orchard also suffered from "bark ringing" by voles over the summer. They need longish grass or similar, to provide cover from birds of prey, so to keep them away the grass needs to be close cut around the base of trees.

If you live on the perimeter of the village and have fruit trees you should protect them or have a secure garden fence to keep out the wildlife; although rabbits will burrow under a fence, if the plants on the other side are sufficiently attractive!



For more information, advice on your own trees, our leaflets

on pruning or if you would like to join us. Email the Oakington Community Orchards Team (OCOP): oakcomorchards@gmail.com Graham Tregonning



Besom in Histon & Impington

Imagine the life of a coffee table. It begins shortly after WWII after the subsequent owner carefully squirrelled away enough for this object of her desire. It saw countless scenes of teacups, of laughter, of crying, young children, nappy changes and pets. But



eventually an impending move meant it had to go. The local **Besom** was summoned to collect it and some time was spent in a dark unheated garage in Cottenham until a homeless person, re-housed locally, was pleased to accept it into their new home. And the round of cups (now coffee), laughter etc. began again. The collection, storage in local garages, and free delivery was all carried out by **the Besom in Histon and Impington** through volunteers from local churches.

The Besom is a national organisation of autonomous groups whose aim is to provide the means for local churches to help provide household goods for those in need. We don't advertise nor ask for funds but collect donations of preloved items in good condition ranging from kitchen items, white goods, to duvets and beds.

At the request of social services and other professionals we deliver items in a range of up to ten miles to those in need of them. Sometimes we will furnish a complete property. We don't do house clearances but when necessary will dispose of some items. This Christmas we delivered over 80 well filled hampers to all our recipients in 2022.

This is all done simply because Jesus showed us how to love our neighbour and asked us to do likewise.

This Tardis (see picture) contains a single divan with drawers, heavy mattress, kitchen welcome pack, cutlery and

china pack, towel pack, dishes, three pans, 2xbedding pack, duvet, pillow, microwave, TV, kettle, toaster, toilet brush, standard lamp, hanging unit, vacuum, recliner armchair,

extending circular table, two dining chairs, fridge-freezer, bedside unit and lamp, coffee table, hamper with Coop gift voucher and Christmas card plus stepladders to reach the roof rack. Round trip 73 miles – don't ask!



And the trick question? How do you get a bulky recliner chair through a narrow doorway? Answer – you fully recline the chair, turn it on its side and 'arrow' it in. Easy.

If you have good quality household goods you would like to donate please contact us at

Martin & Moya Thompson 07591 194880 9 Cottenham Road, Histon, CB24 9ES besomhi@gmail.com

Alpha Course

Starting Thursday, 2 February 5–6.30pm. at St. Andrew's Church Hall.

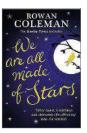
Got questions about Life, Death and Faith? Explore its Meaning and Purpose. There will be child care, food, tea and coffee for all who come.

> Ben Phillips Alpha@standrewsoakington.co.uk

Book Corner

We are all made of Stars by Rowan Coleman.

Generally I read about death and dying in the context of the crime novels that I enjoy so this book was a complete change for me. I knew nothing about the author, but her writing nineteen books whilst raising five young children intrigued me.



The story revolves around a nurse who works the night shift in a hospice and her reason for doing that is a story in itself. Having time to sit and chat with patients leads her to begin writing letters for them. Some of the letters are heartbreaking, some are very funny, but she takes their dictation seriously and promises to send them to the desired recipient, when the appropriate time comes. In spite of the potentially morbid setting the book is full of hope and even joy. It mirrors my own limited experience of hospices. She writes very well and her characters are so believable that I became quite involved in their situations. My test of a good book is being reluctant to turn to the last page and that was certainly the case with this one.

Liz Davis

Podcast Review



The Curious Cases of Rutherford and Fry has

just started series 21. Listeners write in and ask **PODCAST** for an explanation of science mysteries in everyday language. A recent episode was on Aphantasis. Did you know that for some people it is impossible to conjure up a visual image of a loved one in their "mind's-eye". They can describe them in words, but do not see a "photographic" type image in their head. They have what is now known as Aphantasis. Why not visit the website to download this episode and many other interesting topics from the back catalogue. *bbc.co.uk/programmes/m001gwys Graham Tregonning*

Chess Corner

Solution to chess puzzle 6-22 from the last Journal.

1.Kg4-f3! If Bf8-g7, 2. Qh5 checkmate. If Ne7 moves, 2. Qg6 checkmate. If Kh6-g5, 2. Qf4 checkmate.



Chess Puzzle 1-23. White to checkmate in two moves.

Ranko Pinter

5asideCHESS Tournament



On 12 January a knockout chess tournament took place attracting some seasoned players and some young ones from the village and beyond, who were battling for the prize of a box of chocolates. Similar chess events are planned for every second Thursday of the month from 7pm and are open to lovers of chess – both young and not so young.

The **5asideCHESS &Life Cafe** is open Monday-

Saturday 9–5pm. There is room for roughly 14 people to sit at a table at one time and there is no specific customer we are targeting – it is a warm, safe cafe that is welcome to all. People do not have to play chess if they come here, they can just have a coffee or a light snack, but if people would like to play then we have plenty of chess boards for them to use free of charge.

April Cox

LRNSC Roller Skiing

We are a cross-country skiing club based in West London since 1981. As there's not much snow in the UK, we roller ski, i.e. ski on wheels. We are one of 16 or so established clubs in the UK, organising regular coaching, tours, races and skiing trips for members, as well as social events. This sport attracts people of all ages and many of our members are of a mature age, having taken up the sport late in life. In 2022 we expanded our coaching sessions to Cambridge, using the excellent cycle path along the Guided Busway.

We have had a lot of local interest and will be back in 2023. Dates for the first half of 2023 are on our website: *londonnordic.org.uk/session-calendar-cambridge-are/* Our facebook page is: *facebook.com/groups/10920904548*

It is a great way to keep fit, providing low impact all body exercise, whether you roller ski for fun, fitness or challenge!



Adam Pinney, club Chair

Minibus to Bar Hill

The OWN minibus trip to Bar Hill runs on the first Friday morning of the month for all those things you can't get at the local shop.

Pick up from your house from 10am and drop off home when you're all done. To book a place, please call Teri on 07711 531004 before midday on the Thursday.

School

Oakington C of E Primary School

We've had a great start to the new year here at Oakington Primary; the children have settled back after the Christmas break and are producing some wonderful work across all their subjects. We are particularly delighted to share with you some examples of artwork produced by the youngest members of our school community. Acorn class has been looking at the work of Pissarro, exploring which colours show us different seasons. They had a lot of fun producing their own artwork and we are very impressed with the results. Keep up the good work Acorn class!

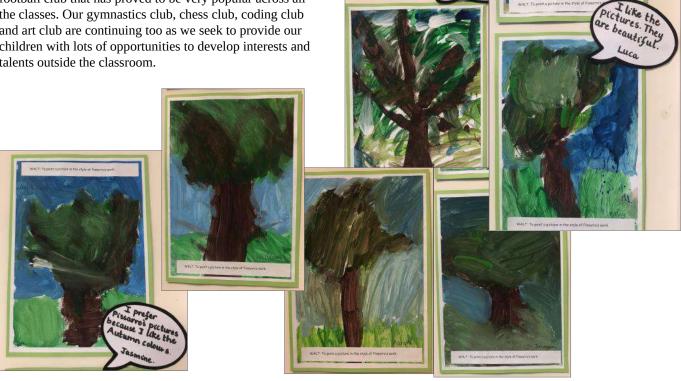
In other news we are continuing to expand our range of extra-curricular activities and now have a weekly KS2 football club that has proved to be very popular across all the classes. Our gymnastics club, chess club, coding club and art club are continuing too as we seek to provide our children with lots of opportunities to develop interests and talents outside the classroom.



We continue to be proud of our amazing team of teachers here at Oakington. We recently welcomed a group of teachers from another DEMAT school who came to look at our exemplary teaching and planning for reading.

Finally, we'd like to say a big thank you Oakington Monday Café who very generously donated £100 towards items from our Amazon Wishlist and the Oakington Singers and Oaktet for donating funds raised at their recent concert to our school. This incredibly generous gift of £286.71 will go towards providing music opportunities and experiences for our children as part of the Ruth and Poppy Fund.

Nathan Clark, Headteacher



Oakington School PSA

As we start 2023, the PSA would like to say a big "thank you" to all of the children, parents, staff and village community for their support. We kicked off the Autumn term with our hugely successful Quiz Night which was quickly followed by providing refreshments at the Oakington fireworks celebration. On 10 December, a team of volunteers, admirably led by Angela Barber, hosted our wonderful Christmas Fayre with a hall full of stalls, refreshments and activities and, of course, the ever-popular Chocolate Tombola! See photos opposite. We would like to thank everyone who helped set up, run a stall and tidy up afterwards as it really is a team effort. It was also fantastic to see so many of the children getting involved on the day – so thank you to Harry, Jack, Lizzie, Orla, Poppy, Emily, Phoebe, Jack, Ashwin, Rowan, Emily, Sam, Roxanne and Emily who all helped to make the fayre a great success.

The children also enjoyed visiting the present room to select gifts for their family and friends and we hope everyone was

pleased with their choices on Christmas Day!

We are delighted that the Christmas Fayre and present room added over £1,000 to our fundraising total which will be of great benefit to the school. So far this academic year, the PSA has funded an electric piano, the Christmas tree and there are plans to buy a number of new books and other resources this term.

We are looking forward to more fundraising in 2023 including a spring Quiz Night – date and details to follow in due course so keep a look out for posters and social media posts!

Please get in touch via our email address

(*psa@oakington.cambs.sch.uk*) if you have any questions about what we do, what we're planning, or if you have ideas or want to volunteer. Volunteering doesn't have to be a yearround commitment; we always need help on an event-byevent basis so please do get in touch!

Jo Farrington, PSA Secretary



February/March 2023

Football & Pavilion

Oakington Vikings

The U12s played the last game in their league needing a win to secure the league title against fellow title rivals Haslingfield. This match, postponed due to the cold weather in December, had all the makings of a classic encounter and so it proved. Played out on a sodden windswept pitch in Haslingfied, the Vikings took the game to the home team, finding the back of the net four times without reply.

League champions with a perfect record: played 10 won 10, scoring 49 goals whilst conceding just 7.

| Pos | Team | Ρ | W | D | L | PTS |
|-----|-------------------------------|----|----|---|---|-----|
| 1 | Oakington Vikings Youth Black | 10 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 30 |
| 2 | Linton Aztecs | 10 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 25 |
| 3 | Haslingfield Colts | 9 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 22 |
| 4 | Chesterton Eagles Black | 10 | 7 | 0 | 3 | 21 |
| 5 | Elsenham Youth Black | 9 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 11 |
| 6 | Witchford Colts | 10 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 10 |
| 7 | FC Kennett | 10 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 10 |
| 8 | Bar Hill Colts Jets | 10 | 3 | 0 | 7 | 9 |
| 9 | Trumpington Kings | 10 | 3 | 0 | 7 | 9 |
| 10 | Histon Hornets Blue | 10 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 8 |
| 11 | Newmarket Town Blue | 10 | 1 | 0 | 9 | 3 |

The players have thoroughly deserved their success and would like to pass on their thanks to all the Viking families,





as well as all those at the Club and within the community that continue to support the Vikings past and present.

If you would be interested in coaching a new generation of Vikings with the full support of the Club including coaching qualifications please contact us – see below.

Winston Kho

Our Teams and Contacts

- First Team James 07834 465188
- Under 18s James & Ronnie 07834 465188
- Under 14s Marcus & Josh 07866 635241
- Under 12s Winston 07968 716290
- Welfare officer Frank 07841 995713

OAKINGTON & WESTWICK

Pavilion and Astro Turf



A flexible facility next to large village recreation ground

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