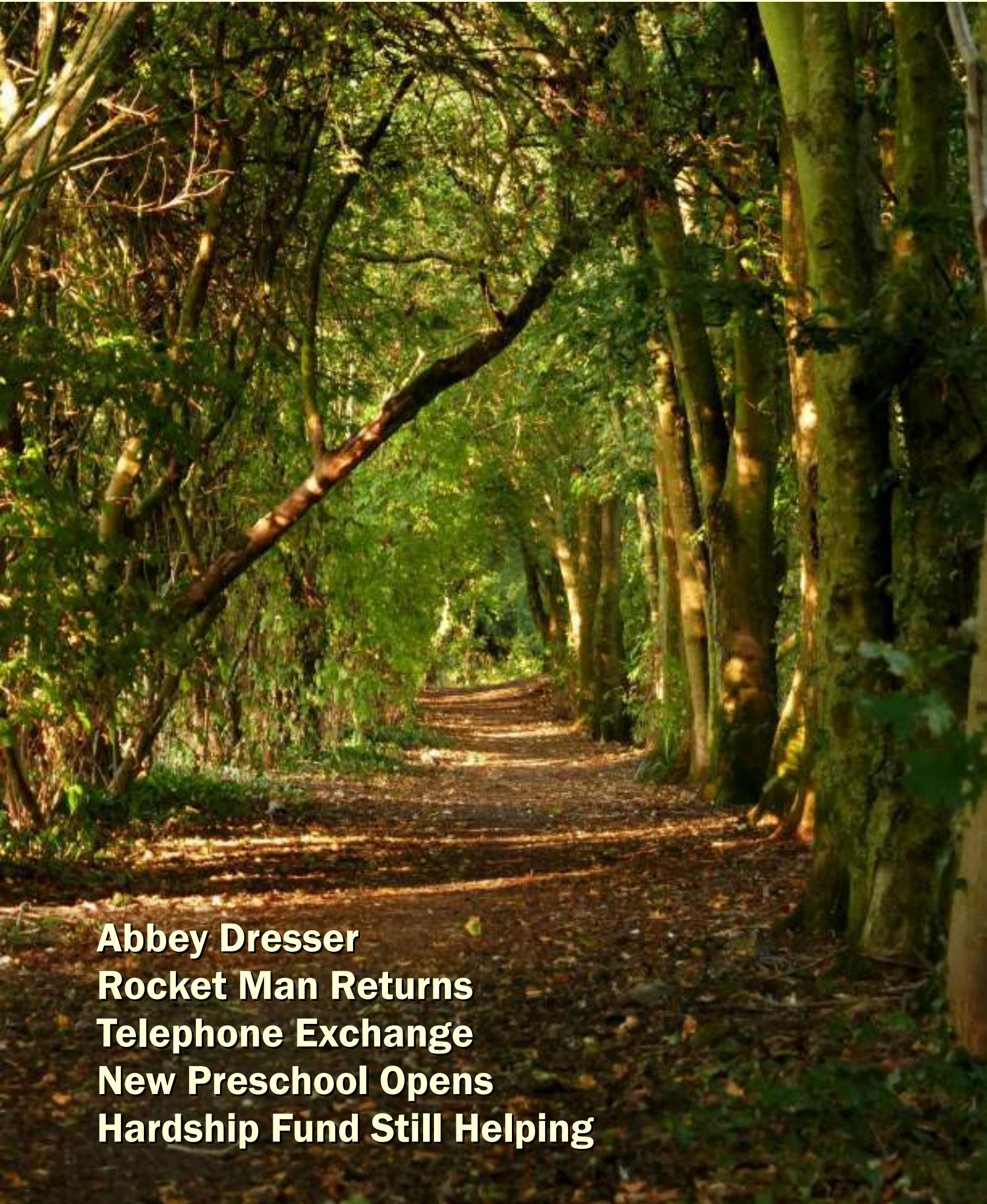


# ***Oakington & Westwick***

**October / November 2023**

***Journal***



**Abbey Dresser  
Rocket Man Returns  
Telephone Exchange  
New Preschool Opens  
Hardship Fund Still Helping**



## Weekly

Mon		<b>Monday Cafe</b> , 9.30–Noon. St Andrew's Church Hall. £1 Liz Davis – 01223 232745
Mon		<b>Beavers</b> , 6–7pm. term time. Pavilion. <a href="mailto:beavers@oakingtonscouts.org.uk">beavers@oakingtonscouts.org.uk</a>
Mon		<b>Youth Club</b> , on a Bus, 7–9pm. Recreation Ground, School Year 7 and above. Free. 07853 795256
Mon		<b>Oakington Singers</b> , 7.30–9pm. Church Hall. Helen Williams – <a href="mailto:helenwilliams5@outlook.com">helenwilliams5@outlook.com</a>
Tue		<b>Happy Feet</b> , 10–11am term time. Church Hall. For under fives. Ben Phillips – <a href="mailto:familyworker@standrewsoakington.co.uk">familyworker@standrewsoakington.co.uk</a>
Tue		<b>Senior Pilates</b> , 11.30–12.30pm. Pavilion. Classes through out the week. Claire Young – 07766 554413
Tue		<b>Cubs</b> , 6–7.15pm term time, Pavilion. Iain Ramsay – <a href="mailto:iain.ramsay@oakingtonscouts.org.uk">iain.ramsay@oakingtonscouts.org.uk</a>
Tue		<b>Table Tennis</b> , 7.30–9pm. Pavilion. Gillian L'angellier – 01223 234758
Tue		<b>Poker Night</b> , 7.45pm. White Horse Pub. 01223 232417
Wed		<b>Mixed Ability Pilates</b> , 10–11am. Pavilion. Classes throughout the week. Claire Young – 07766 554413
Wed		<b>Yoga</b> , 7–8.15pm. Pavilion. Denise Sibley-Moore – 01954 202235
Thu		<b>Mature Movers</b> , 9.30–10.15am. Pavilion. Katie Harknett 07541 721059 / <a href="mailto:info@elementalfitness.co.uk">info@elementalfitness.co.uk</a>
Thu		<b>Little Steps</b> , 10–11.30am term time. Church Hall. Ben Phillips – <a href="mailto:familyworker@standrewsoakington.co.uk">familyworker@standrewsoakington.co.uk</a>
Thu		<b>Ten Sing</b> , 7–9pm term time. Histon Baptist Church. Terry King – <a href="mailto:cambridgetensing@gmail.com">cambridgetensing@gmail.com</a>
Thu		<b>Short Mat Bowls</b> , 7.30–9.30pm. Pavilion. Dawn Stokes – 01223 236427
Thu		<b>Quiz Night</b> , 8pm. White Horse Pub. 01223 232417
Fri		<b>Scouts</b> , 6–8pm. Pavilion. Cara Hanman – <a href="mailto:cara.hanman@oakingtonscouts.org.uk">cara.hanman@oakingtonscouts.org.uk</a>
<hr/>		
Fri	6 Oct	<b>Minibus to Bar Hill</b> , 10am. To book ring 07902 111786 or email <a href="mailto:OWNeighbours@gmail.com">OWNeighbours@gmail.com</a>
Fri	6 Oct	<b>Mobile Library</b> , 1.50–2.20pm. Coles Lane
Fri	6 Oct	<b>Cider &amp; Cheese Evening</b> , 8–10pm. Oakington C of E Primary School – <a href="mailto:psa@oakington.cambs.sch.uk">psa@oakington.cambs.sch.uk</a>
Sat	7 Oct	<b>Village Walk &amp; Talk</b> , 10.30am. Meet by Church on High Street. Alice – <a href="mailto:OWNeighbours@gmail.com">OWNeighbours@gmail.com</a>
Mon	9 Oct	<b>O&amp;W Parish Council</b> , 7.30pm. Pavilion. All invited. <a href="mailto:clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk">clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk</a>
Tue	10 Oct	<b>Tuesday Talk &amp; Tea</b> , 2.45pm. Church Hall. Flower arranging demo. Marian Cleaver – 01223 232897
Thu	12 Oct	<b>Chess Club</b> , 7pm. Crossways. Ranko Pinter – <a href="mailto:ranpin@gmail.com">ranpin@gmail.com</a>
Thu	12 Oct	<b>O&amp;W WI</b> , 7.30pm. Church Hall. Harvest Supper. Elaine Bailey – <a href="mailto:elainebailey1@live.co.uk">elainebailey1@live.co.uk</a>
Fri	13 Oct	<b>Country Dancing</b> , 8pm. Histon Methodist Church. Kathryn Coles – 01223 233191
Thu	19 Oct	<b>Philosopher's Café</b> , 7pm. Crossways. Ranko Pinter – <a href="mailto:ranpin@gmail.com">ranpin@gmail.com</a>
Wed	25 Oct	<b>Sustainable O&amp;W</b> , 7.30pm. Church Hall. <a href="mailto:sustainableow@gmail.com">sustainableow@gmail.com</a>
Sat	28 Oct	<b>Online Safety workshop</b> , 10.30–Noon. Pavilion meeting room. To book a place: <a href="mailto:OWNeighbours@gmail.com">OWNeighbours@gmail.com</a>
Sat	28 Oct	<b>Apple Pressing</b> , 12–4pm. Stables, High St. (Picking 10–Noon Arcadia Gardens.) <a href="mailto:OWNeighbours@gmail.com">OWNeighbours@gmail.com</a>
Sun	29 Oct	<b>Bingo Night</b> , 6pm. White Horse Pub. 01223 232417
<hr/>		
Fri	3 Nov	<b>Minibus to Bar Hill</b> , 10am. To book ring Teri Seaber – 07711 531004
Fri	3 Nov	<b>Mobile Library</b> , 1.50–2.20pm. Coles Lane
Fri	3 Nov	<b>"Last Night of the Proms" concert</b> , 7.30pm. St Andrews Church. Oakington Singers/Cottenham Brass Band
Sat	4 Nov	<b>Village Walk &amp; Talk</b> , 10.30am. Meet by Church on High Street. Alice – <a href="mailto:OWNeighbours@gmail.com">OWNeighbours@gmail.com</a>
Sat	4 Nov	<b>Apple Pressing</b> , 12–4pm. Stables, High St. (Picking 10–Noon Arcadia Gardens.) <a href="mailto:OWNeighbours@gmail.com">OWNeighbours@gmail.com</a>
Sat	4 Nov	<b>Bonfire Night</b> , Food from 5pm; Bonfire and Fireworks from 6pm – <a href="mailto:oakington.westwick.ca@gmail.com">oakington.westwick.ca@gmail.com</a>
Mon	6 Nov	<b>Transport Action Group</b> , 7.30pm. White Horse. For agenda contact – <a href="mailto:owcp.tag@gmail.com">owcp.tag@gmail.com</a>
Thu	9 Nov	<b>Chess Club</b> , 7pm. Crossways. Ranko Pinter – <a href="mailto:ranpin@gmail.com">ranpin@gmail.com</a>
Thu	9 Nov	<b>O&amp;W WI</b> , 7.30pm. Church Hall. Elaine Bailey – <a href="mailto:elainebailey1@live.co.uk">elainebailey1@live.co.uk</a>
Fri	10 Nov	<b>Country Dancing</b> , 8pm. Histon Methodist Church. Kathryn Coles – 01223 233191
Mon	13 Nov	<b>O&amp;W Parish Council</b> , 7.30pm. Pavilion. All invited. <a href="mailto:clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk">clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk</a>
Tue	14 Nov	<b>Tuesday Talk &amp; Tea</b> , 2.45pm. Church Hall. Filling Christmas shoeboxes. Marian Cleaver – 01223 232897
Thu	16 Nov	<b>Philosopher's Café</b> , 7pm. Crossways. Ranko Pinter – <a href="mailto:ranpin@gmail.com">ranpin@gmail.com</a>
Tue	21 Nov	<b>OWN AGM</b> , 8pm. To be confirmed. All invited. Contact OWN for final details. <a href="mailto:OWNeighbours@gmail.com">OWNeighbours@gmail.com</a>
Sat	25 Nov	<b>Christmas Craft Fair</b> , 9am–4pm. Oakington Garden Centre. <a href="mailto:oakingtongcevents@gmail.com">oakingtongcevents@gmail.com</a>
Sat	25 Nov	<b>Ten Sing Fundraising Dinner</b> , 7.30pm. Histon Baptist Church. To be confirmed. <a href="mailto:cambridgetensing@gmail.com">cambridgetensing@gmail.com</a>
Sun	26 Nov	<b>Bingo Night</b> , 6pm. White Horse Pub. 01223 232417
Wed	29 Nov	<b>Sustainable O&amp;W</b> , 7.30pm. Church Hall. <a href="mailto:sustainableow@gmail.com">sustainableow@gmail.com</a>
<hr/>		
Sat	2 Dec	<b>Village Walk &amp; Talk</b> , 10.30am. Meet by Church on High Street. Alice – <a href="mailto:OWNeighbours@gmail.com">OWNeighbours@gmail.com</a>
Sat	2 Dec	<b>Christmas tree sales &amp; refreshments</b> , 10am – 1pm. 9 Longstanton Road. In aid of EAG.
Sat	2 Dec	<b>Christmas Fayre</b> , 1–4pm. Oakington C of E Primary School – <a href="mailto:psa@oakington.cambs.sch.uk">psa@oakington.cambs.sch.uk</a>
Sat	2 Dec	<b>Dinner/Quiz Evening</b> , 7pm. Pavilion. Register teams of four with Tennis Club - <a href="mailto:oakingtontc@gmail.com">oakingtontc@gmail.com</a>

## Welcome & Hardship Fund

It may be the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness, but it also seems to be the season for getting active again after the summer break. Look at our "What's On" page opposite! For a relatively small community, we have an amazing number of things going on. More details about these events and activities are spread throughout this issue – some require booking, but for many you can just turn up depending on how you feel and how kind the weather is on the day.

The new school year has begun with the opening of a Preschool in the old Humpty Dumpty building. The Primary

School is thriving with a very active PSA, and for the youngest children, the two toddler groups have restarted.

If you've thought that you might now have time to give back to the community, you'll find lots of options in the Journal. In fact the Journal itself needs a couple of new volunteers.

Finally, remember, remember the 4<sup>th</sup> of November – village Bonfire Night!

Jenny Prince & Graham Tregonning,  
Editors



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

Journal Team:

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

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

DEADLINE FOR  
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Adverts for the next issue must be received by **14 November**.

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

## Oakington and Westwick Hardship Fund is still helping local people



Over the summer, the Hardship Team has helped four people to buy food and school clothes. We have given grants from £30 - £150, and made decisions quickly. We always consult as a team before agreeing any grant, and then payments are usually made within 24 hours. We either answer the phone or return messages as quickly as possible, and also respond to emails, WhatsApp messages or texts. Usually we are approached directly, but sometimes the school has made contact.

We treat all information as confidential and also explore options for further help.

The Hardship Fund was set up during COVID, and we have found an ongoing need due to cost of living pressures and the impact of sudden expenses, changes to benefits or the impact of long-term illness or disability.

The Hardship Fund is overseen by O&W Neighbours, and its accounts are reviewed by the Parish Council, Community Association Treasurer and OWN Treasurer.

The Hardship Team consists of Adrienne Chaplin, Jo Mills and Ben Philips.

Please contact Jo or Ben (or the email) if you would like to make a donation, fundraise or ask for help:

Jo 07714 760582  
Ben 07342 945373  
Email: [oak.west.hardship.fund@outlook.com](mailto:oak.west.hardship.fund@outlook.com)

Jo Mills

## Your Journal Needs You!

Can you spare a couple of hours every two months? Do you have an eye for detail and good design? Then the Journal Team would love to hear from you! From January 2024 we need somebody to take over **laying out the advertising pages**.

The Journal benefits from a number of regular advertisers. However, when a new advert turns up or we lose one, we need to make changes. The seven or so advert pages are set out in a word processor or publishing software (currently Pages, but it could be whichever software you are familiar with) then exported to PDF files for printing. The main tasks are choosing where to place the adverts and lining them up.

We are also looking for two volunteers to help with the **bundling, sorting and distribution** of the Journal.



The commitment would be two Friday afternoons a year, each for a couple of hours. Use of a car is required for collecting the Journal from the printers and for distributing the counted bundles to our team of deliverers.

If you would like to volunteer for or find out more about either of these roles, please email [oakwestjournal@gmail.com](mailto:oakwestjournal@gmail.com).

Journal Team

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Contact email :  
[pippa\\_westoby@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:pippa_westoby@yahoo.co.uk)





### Parish Councillors

**Chair:** David Reeves

*chair@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk*

**Vice-Chair:** Tony Starling

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

### Parish Website

*www.oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk*

### Correspondence to the Council should be addressed to the Clerk:

Mrs Laura Lawrence – Email:

*clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk*

Post: 4 Meadow Farm Close  
Oakington CB24 3AS

Phone: 01223 232398

### District Councillors

O & W, Longstanton, Northstowe

Natalie Warren-Green

*cllr.warrengreen@scamb.gov.uk*

Tom Bygott – 07765 475 513

*cllr.bygott@scamb.gov.uk*

### County Councillor

O & W, Longstanton, Northstowe, Over

Firouz Thompson – 07974 680875

*firouz.thompson@cambridgeshire.gov.uk*

### Member of Parliament

Anthony Browne – 01223 603677

*anthony.browne.mp@parliament.uk*

## From our Parish Council Chair

A short history lesson to start with... The **Parish Council** is a civil council, and is not connected in any way to the religious parish. They were separated in 1894 by Act of Parliament; hitherto going back to ancient times they were one and the same. I was confused about this when I first heard the term 'parish council' many years ago, so I thought it might be helpful to explain the difference.

A recent difficulty has come to light, thanks to a resident pointing out at the September Parish Council meeting that Homes England has padlocked the **gate at the end of The Drift** and screwed a 'no entry' sign on the gate. Village residents have walked over the fields for many years, probably generations. I enjoyed tramping right round the borders of what were Mr Chapman's fields for at least thirty years, and latterly Mr Pearson's, and found remnants of WWII aircraft in some remote spots. Mr Pearson used to close the gate when there were crops at certain stages of growth, and leave it open at all other times. It seemed to be a very friendly arrangement, at the heart of village life.

It seems that twenty years of unchallenged access is the amount of time it takes for a right of way to be established, in common law, and a change of ownership does not extinguish that right. I'm trying to establish that as a fact too, so if you have definite information please get in touch. Some websites say one thing, other sites the opposite.

I'm waiting for a response from Homes England on this matter. They have promised a response to my letter within ten days, and so the matter may be resolved quickly. In the meantime, the Parish Council would like to hear from you if you have been affected by this stopping off of the end of The Drift.

The **Environment Action Group** (EAG) has been in existence for quite a number of years now and has been very effective and successful in the parish, keeping the environment tidy and safe. You can't help but notice a small group of volunteers working for the parish benefit. Do read their Journal entry for an up to date account of their activities, not to mention pathway clearance and litter picking. However... although there are one or two younger members of the group, it needs more help! If ten people gave an hour of their time say, every fortnight, so much could be achieved. For example, a small team of six volunteers has kept the entirety of the new trees and bushes on the Rec watered during the summer. Get in touch with the Parish Council if you'd like to be part of the group, no matter how small the amount of time you may have available. Thanks as always, to the members of EAG, past and present, who give freely of their time.

Sustainable Oakington & Westwick (SOW) applied for and received a grant from the Parish Council of £150 for **hedgehog gateways**. Good news for hedgehogs! There is money available each year from the Parish Council for community activities. Contact the Clerk for details (contact information opposite).

The lease for the **Community Orchard** in Mill Road has been renewed recently. It is secured by a peppercorn rent. Apples will hopefully abound for another five years.

**Flooding** is a recurring subject of discussion and planning in Oakington and Westwick. National Highways have delivered hydrology modelling to the Environment Agency, they have promised their modelling of Beck Brook to Homes England, who will arrive at a design for a pond. Not complicated at all... Watch this space!



David Reeves

## VILLAGE INFORMATION

### Community Association

*oakington.westwick.ca@gmail.com*

### Neighbourhood Watch

Jillian Wilkinson – 01223 233585

*oakwestnhw@gmail.com*

### Oakington & Westwick Neighbours (OWN) – 07902 111786

*OWNeighbours@gmail.com*

### Oakington Primary School

01223 232328

*office@oakington.cambs.sch.uk*

### Pavilion Booking Administrator

Tony Leadley – 07936 024587

*oakingtonpavilion@gmail.com*

### Village Stores & Post Office

Thiru Kunaratnam – 01223 232327

### Hardship Fund

Contact Ben on 07342 945373 or

Jo on 07714 760582 or

*oak.west.hardship.fund@outlook.com*

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### From our County Councillor

#### Early Years providers

Earlier this year, I presented a motion to County Council's Full Council, 'Childcare in Domestic Premises', prompted by my experiences during the Phase 1 Northstowe development. The motion gained unanimous approval from the Council. Follow-up motions were taken by LibDem Councillors Natalie Warren-Green to South Cambs District Council and Ingrid Flaubert to Cambridge City Council, both of which were also unanimously supported.

These motions tackled the issue of house builders imposing restrictive covenants on their properties, which prohibited residents from running home-based businesses, including childcare services. Our innovative approach led to a round table discussion with the County Education Officer, the Minister of Children and various house builders. The Telegraph recognised our efforts as pioneering, and soon after, the government took action. On 21 August, the children's minister wrote to developers, social landlords, and housing associations, urging them to allow childminders to operate from their properties. This marks a significant local achievement, with our influence extending to national policy.

I remain committed to advancing this cause to increase the number of childminders. Accessible childcare in our community is vital. Unfortunately, Northstowe recently lost its only childminder, Hanna Lumley, who closed her



business after 17 years of service mostly in Oakington. I extend my heartfelt thanks to Hanna for her dedication to our community.

If you are considering becoming a childminder, please reach out. There is a £600 grant available to assist with setup costs, and you won't have to repay it. [tinyurl.com/49y5fxc6](https://tinyurl.com/49y5fxc6)  
Little Flames is the new preschool provision beside Oakington Primary School: please see page 21 for the full details.

#### Highways

It is great to share with you that we have a new Local Highways Officer and Manager. They have been out and about with inspectors and different parts of the Highways teams to get to know their patch and issues. The next Highways Quarterly meeting with all my Ward's clerks is on Friday 6 October.

Please can we ask all landowners to ensure that they cut all their hedges/trees that block footpaths, as this becomes dangerous for residents who use these footpaths.

One of the hot topics this summer has been that of weeds. Cambridgeshire County are reviewing their current position on weed spraying policy and will be engaging with District/Parish/Town Councils to obtain their feedback, before any decisions are reached.

Please report any issues on our ReportIt Tool:  
[highwaysreporting.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/](https://highwaysreporting.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/)

*Firouz Thompson*

### From our District Councillor

#### Wilson's Road Bridleway

On August 31st I visited the Wilson's Road Bridleway in Longstanton with representatives of local interest groups and Councillors.

Wilson's Road Bridleway connects the end of Wilson's Road in Longstanton with the bridleway along the south side of the rebuilt A14, crossing over the access road to Northstowe using a new cable-stayed bridge, with a connection to Bar Hill and its Tesco store using a second new cable-stayed bridge over the A14. There was a proposal to install a new hard surface along the route to reflect the increased usage, once the southern part of Northstowe is complete.

Representatives of the users' groups unanimously agreed that the decision on the hard surface should be reversed and the funding used instead to complete the bridleway along the B1050 from the main part of Longstanton and the northern end of Northstowe. A meeting will be arranged for the users' groups to present their case.

I currently use this route to cycle from Oakington to Tesco in Bar Hill; the current grassed surface is sufficient for this purpose and provides a pleasant journey for leisure cyclists. Paving over a very ancient and beautiful grassed route would be a form of urbanisation of the countryside. You can see the paths under discussion at [tinyurl.com/ymx94p5u](https://tinyurl.com/ymx94p5u) (zoom in to see the detail).



#### Naming of the Northstowe Southern Access Road West (SARW)

There are a number of proposals for naming SARW which connects the Northstowe Town Centre with the B1050 south of Longstanton. The road partly follows the route of the old runway, but will extend outside the perimeter of the old airfield and contains addresses for houses, shops, etc.

The first name suggested was 'Vickers Varsity Way', named after the Vickers Varsity, a type of aircraft manufactured by the Vickers company that had been operated on the airfield. It was first flown in 1949 and had been operated by the Royal Air Force from 1951 to 1976. An objection was received for that name.

The next suggested names were 'Farmland Road' or 'Wheatshaf Way'. I objected to these two names on the grounds that they are "geographically anonymous". I also think that they are innocuous and feeble, and fail to convey the importance that this road will be the main entrance to Northstowe.

A resident of Longstanton has suggested the names 'Queen Elizabeth II Avenue' or 'King Charles III Avenue'. I fully support both these suggestions. The Royal Family has had a long connection with the airbase. His Majesty learnt to fly at 5FTS Oakington, was based at RAF Oakington and had his 21st birthday photographs taken there in 1969.

*Tom Bygott*

For District Councillors' contact details see page 5.



  
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### Environment Action Group

Progress on **flood mitigation** continues to be frustratingly slow. We understand that National Highways have at last delivered their A14 hydrology modelling to the Environment Agency who have promised their modelling on Oakington Brook in September/October this year. Homes England (Northstowe developers) are waiting for the results of this modelling so that they can design our promised attenuation pond.

This is also holding up plans for combining the attenuation pond with a **retirement community** in the village, as it is not possible to begin work on designing the retirement community until it is known how big the pond will be.

The EAG has continued to assist the Parish Council with watering of the new trees and shrubs that were planted at the recreation ground as part of the **Open Spaces Project**. This work is being coordinated by David Reeves (Parish Council Chair). An issue with the timber of the seating benches is being chased by the Parish Council.

We have also been monitoring the **village pond**. The pond has been clear of duckweed for several periods this year but keeping it in check remains a challenge. We have had some success with the use of Byofix (a preparation of enzymes and bacteria extracted from barley straw that uses up excess nutrients in the pond) and we hope to continue its use. We are also investigating removing the bulrushes from the front area of the pond, as they are obstructing the view of drivers coming out of the adjacent driveway as well as blocking the view of the pond from the footpath opposite. These plants are very aggressive and will quickly take over the shallow areas of the pond to the exclusion of other species if not



managed. We also plan to introduce some additional plants.

Our joint project with Sustainable Oakington and Westwick (SOW) to take part in the Cambridgeshire **Nature Recovery** initiative is now underway, with the first session recording wildlife in the village on 9 September. See page 17.

Finally, we are continuing to monitor the **condition of footways** around the village to ensure that they are safe for users. We are aware of some issues where **hedges** need to be trimmed back. Generally, this is the responsibility of the property owners, and can be enforced by Cambridgeshire Highways if footways are being obstructed. We encourage anyone who is concerned about any potential hazard on a footway or road to report it to Cambridgeshire Highways via their website [highwaysreporting.cambridgeshire.gov.uk](http://highwaysreporting.cambridgeshire.gov.uk).

*Stephanie Smith*

### Christmas Trees – £15

Oakington grown Nordmann Christmas trees (about 4'-7') will be available for collection from  
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### Community Association Update

Following our very successful **Fireworks & Bonfire Night** event last year, we are keen to repeat the success this year. To this end we have given the budget to our very own 'Rocket Man', Ben Phillips, to negotiate as good a package of rockets as he got last year from Mackays of Cambridge. We have also got our experienced 'Fireman', Andrew Brennand (Bee), who will again organise the supply of wood, the build and the lighting of the Bonfire. We have now also got Jo Mills on board to coordinate both the preparations for the event and its running on the day. However, we could still do with more volunteers to help out on the day with fencing, marshalling, stewarding etc. If you would like to help, please contact Jo Mills on 07734 760 583, [bjmills@outlook.com](mailto:bjmills@outlook.com).

We look forward to seeing you and your family there on **Saturday 4 November** from 5pm! There will be food and drink for sale. Also, as sparklers are not allowed on the Rec, light bracelets will be available to buy. And may we remind everybody of the Parish Council policy that dogs are not allowed on the Rec.

*Ranko Pinter, Chair  
oakington.westwick.ca@gmail.com*



### Community Confused?

You don't have to be a newcomer to find village group names a bit confusing. What is the Community Association and how does it differ from the Community Action groups?

The Community Association was founded decades ago when existing groups who used the school – then the main meeting facility in the village – banded together to negotiate a cheaper hire rate. Money had been raised after the First and Second World Wars for a village memorial hall, but proved insufficient for a new building. The Parish Council gave half the money to the Tennis Club, and half to the school to add the little servery so that visiting groups could make refreshments. For many years the various groups who were CA members took it in turns to clean the servery.

These days the CA continues to enhance community life as an umbrella association of village clubs and groups. It helps communication and co-operation between different groups, and manages the finances and oversees the organisation of the Village Day, Bonfire Night and the Journal.

The three Community Action groups (Environment, Transport and Neighbours) were formed in 2015 as the result of a parish-wide Community Plan survey.

*Jenny Prince & Liz Davis*

Gecko



James Tomkins

07734 673116

jamestomkins@gmail.com



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### Oakington & Westwick Neighbours



OWN's AGM will take place in November, provisionally on Tuesday 21 November at 8.00pm and everyone, whether currently involved in OWN or not, is very welcome. We are hoping to arrange a Dementia Friends information session on that evening. We had a training workshop run by this organisation a few years ago, and found it extremely useful and very inspiring. Lots of people are affected directly and indirectly by dementia, so please look out for more details or contact OWN and we will let you know the finalised date.

OWN is very fortunate to have several resident tech experts and on **Saturday 28 October**, 10.30–12 we are running a free online safety workshop at the pavilion. Come and find out about the basic tools and skills that allow you to navigate the online world safely, securely and confidently. Get in touch to reserve your place now.

Read more on this page about other recent and upcoming events, and on page 23 about September's Tea & Jazz event.

To contact OWN, email [OWNeighbours@gmail.com](mailto:OWNeighbours@gmail.com) or leave a message on 07902 111786.

*Jo Bryant*

### CONNECT 2



OWN organises community events in collaboration with other village organisations, particularly SOW (Sustainable Oakington & Westwick.)

Oakington's ever-popular **apple pressing** fun is back on the horizon. Come and join Blue Barrel Cider at the old stables on the High Street for two consecutive Saturdays 12–4pm on **28 October and 4 November**. It's always a wonderful

community afternoon with hands-on activities for the whole family. There will be free refreshments available, as well as the chance for adults to buy delicious local cider. If you want to muck in and get the full experience, you're welcome to come to the Jordans' orchard on Arcadia Gardens to pick the apples in the morning 10–12noon on each of the two Saturdays.



We ran a family-friendly bike ride up to the Fen Drayton lakes and back in August. We were very lucky with the weather and our young cyclists

managed the total 13 miles with smiles and stamina. The beautiful destination served as the perfect setting for a picnic and birdwatching. We'll hope to run similar rides in the future.

Keep an eye out for a community meal we have provisionally planned for November. Once plans are finalised, we'll be putting details out through email, posters and Facebook.

**Village walks** continue the first Saturday of every month from the High Street end of the church. Dress for the weather and join in a gentle walk of 60-90 minutes in friendly company. **7 October, 4 November, 2 December.**

*Alice J – OWNeighbours@gmail.com*

### An important announcement about your Landline Telephone

Around the world, the old system of using copper wires for landlines is being upgraded to digital. This is because those networks are old, hard to maintain, and cannot meet the demands of the modern world.

BT and EE in our region are upgrading right now; other landline providers will be expected to follow suit, before the copper system is shut down in 2025. Some houses in Oakington have already been digitalised and you may receive a notification through your door soon.

The changeover should be relatively straightforward. If you already have a Broadband Router, your telephone will be plugged into the back of that instead of directly into the wall socket. If you don't have a Broadband Router, your telephone service provider should give you a different box



to go in between your phone and the wall socket. This should be free of charge and you should not need to take out a Broadband contract.

If you still have a rotary-dial (stick your finger in and spin the dial) phone, and I bet somebody out there does, these will no longer work, but any phone purchased since 1982 should be OK.

The router needs to be powered on for the phone to work, so in the event of a powercut it WILL NOT work. If you are in a mobile phone dead spot or do not use a mobile you need to raise this issue with your phone provider.

**IMPORTANT.** Some security alarms, elderly care alarms and medical equipment such as heart monitors that are linked to the hospital might not work. The providers of the equipment are aware that these landline changes are taking place and should have appropriate solutions.

If you have questions about this you can contact OWN. But your phone provider can help you with the transition and ensure you are not left without a service.

*Paul Kershaw*

*OWNeighbours@gmail.com 07902 111786*

For further info from Ofcom go to: [tinyurl.com/27h634hm](https://tinyurl.com/27h634hm)  
BT also have a handy 2 ½ minute video which tells you most of what you need to know on [tinyurl.com/yk7zp7cc](https://tinyurl.com/yk7zp7cc).

*Editors*

### Country Dancing

Jane and I look forward to seeing you on the following Friday evenings: **13 October, 10 November** and 8 December, for dancing, fun and friendship. As usual, we shall have a different Caller each month and the music will be supplied by our excellent musicians. Do come along and swell the Oakington contingent.

*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.

### Oakington and Westwick WI

We started September with a most enjoyable afternoon tea for our members at Carriages of Cambridge.



In September we invited back Fran Saltmarsh for a most interesting talk on The Georgians. She explained the changes over the hundred plus years. Her talk included how the clothes, society and architecture all fitted together over the period. Completely fascinating. We had the added bonus of viewing a beautiful hand sewn garment of the period.

Our next meeting on **12 October** is a members' evening, a Harvest Supper – do come along, join in the food and have a chat. We have some extra events planned in the next few months, including bowling at Pidley in October, a Willow Workshop on a Saturday in November, and a trip to the Panto at the ADC. Contact Elaine for more information.

*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](mailto:elainebailey1@live.co.uk) for more information.

### Oakington & Westwick Table Tennis Club



We play throughout the year, every Tuesday at 7.30pm at the Pavilion, and welcome new players. Junior players must be accompanied by an adult. Contact Gillian L'angellier 234758.

### Oakington & Westwick Tennis Club

#### 30th Anniversary of Annual Village Dinner/Quiz Evening

What better way to get the festive season off to a cracking start than with a delicious dinner and a fun quiz? Both on one evening!

On Saturday, **2 December** at 7.00 pm, Oakington & Westwick Tennis Club looks forward to hosting this ever-popular annual event in the Oakington Pavilion. To mark the 30th Anniversary of this event, there will be a few surprises, as well as the usual delicious home-made two-course dinner, bar and raffle. Over the last three decades, there have been a couple of changes: the dinner has got longer and the general trivia questions shorter and easier! Quiz Master John Barnett will be guiding us through the evening as he did in 1993!

Everyone is welcome to take part. To register your team of four, simply contact Oakington & Westwick Tennis Club at [oakingtontc@gmail.com](mailto:oakingtontc@gmail.com). We look forward to you joining us on 2 December.

*Gill Attmore*



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

### Tuesday Talk & Tea

We started our Autumn programme with a fascinating talk and demonstration from Moira Neal of Histon. Moira brought along her quilts and wall hangings and other small pieces of her very creative sewing. She showed us the way she developed her varied textures and colours to augment her lively and unusual designs. She explained that her card making grew from taking photos of details of her work when she ran out of homes for her quilts. You can see examples of her cards in Oakington Garden Centre.

On **10 October**, Gill Rapley, a good friend of our previous Chair Person, will be giving us a demonstration of another skill – flower arranging. Her arrangements will be raffled.

On **14 November**, we will be filling shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse. Some people like to fill their own in advance. The rest of us all bring things to put in the boxes that we lay out on the table so there are a lot of things to choose from for our boxes. These days we do use the boxes from Samaritan's Purse which makes life much easier for the less dextrous members. This is always a very enjoyable session with as much chat as packing.

*Marian Cleaver*



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



### Cambridge Ten Sing

We have had a fantastic start to the new academic year, with seven new young people coming to try us out in the first weeks! It's great to see the new generation of Ten Singers coming along, and they nailed the first new song we taught them with ease – so proud of them all.

Our Young People's Committee have been planning lots of dates and activities throughout the year. Some dates to put in your diaries for the run up to Christmas are: a possible fundraising dinner event on Saturday **25 November** (watch out for more details soon) and a performance at the Choir 2000 concert on Friday 8 December, when we will be doing a short slot of Christmas carols and songs.

The big date to put in your calendar is Saturday 16 March, 2024, which will be our Annual Concert. We are already planning it, and they even have a working title/theme, which is amazing. See you all in the coming year!

*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](mailto:cambridgetensing@gmail.com).

### Oakington Singers

We are a friendly group who love coming together on Mondays and having a good sing. We would love you to join us! After a summer break from rehearsals, we kicked off the new term with a sociable meal at the White Horse, something we like to slot into our schedule from time to time, of course. Our next meal out will be a Christmas dinner at Girton Golf Club in December. As for the singing, well we simply suggest tunes we would like to sing and, between them, our choir leaders and accompanists do a great job finding the music (often with groovy backing tracks) and the enjoyment begins. Recent favourites have been music from musicals such as Les Misérables, Lion King, Mamma Mia, Sweet Charity and Miss Saigon. We also sing pop, classical and church music, with the church music of John Rutter being a firm favourite.

So what treats await for this term? Our “Last Night of the Proms” concert with Cottenham Brass Band is on Friday **3 November**, 7.30pm in St Andrew's Church. We are also performing at Shelford Memorial Hall at 7.30pm on Friday 8 December. Our regular concert with Oaktet is on Monday 18 December at 7.00pm, again in St Andrew's.

*Helen Williams*



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

### Oakington Vikings Football Club

The Oakington Vikings U13s are looking to build on their successes in 22/23 in their first season at 11 aside. This will be a big step up for the team who have earned their promotion to the top division through considerable hard work and dedication.

The Vikings are grateful that we receive such great support from the village and would like to extend a special thank you to the U13s team sponsor, Zaid at the Oakington-based Best Gardens Services, who recently supplied them with their new kit. Zaid has kindly sponsored the team over the last few seasons and has very much been a part of the success of the team.

Zaid commented, “It is a privilege to be able to sponsor my local team and make a contribution that in some way helps those who play for the village and their families enjoy football.”



*Zaid and some of the U13s who followed up their recent success in the Cottenham tournament by winning the Histon tournament for the second time in three years.*

If you would like to contact or sponsor any of the teams, or if you would be interested in setting up a new team (with the full support of the Oakington Vikings), please see the contacts below. If you have a gardening job or landscaping project and would like to speak with Zaid at Best Gardens Services please see [Bestgardens.co.uk](http://Bestgardens.co.uk).

*Winston Kho*



#### Our Teams and Contacts

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

[www.facebook.com/OakingtonVikingsFC](https://www.facebook.com/OakingtonVikingsFC)

### Oakington & Westwick Short Mat Bowls Club



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



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### Manor Farm Close

Manor Farm Close, or to perhaps give it an older title Ash Close, was previously part of the Manor Farm Estate. The land incorporates the earlier Ash Close, and part of an allotment which was owned by the Free School which was then on the other side of the High Street. Prior to 1959 the land was operated by Manor Farm Piggeries (I have signs of pigsties under my front lawn), and then was used as a builder's yard. In 1966 an application to convert the site to housing was rejected due to unsympathetic design and, typically for Oakington, drainage issues. In 1971 an improved application by Robinson and Gimbert to build 25 dwellings was approved (subject to space for 2.5 cars per plot!), and building started soon after. The developer went out of business building the site, which was then acquired and finished by T & E Homes. Several of the completed properties were acquired initially by Marshalls of Cambridge to provide accommodation for their increasing staff. I bought my own property as new from Marshalls, not the developer. As the last resident to move onto the site initially, I seem to have been graced with much of the legal site history in my deeds pack.

There are still a fair number of the original residents living in the Close, though of course many of the properties have been extended since as families and their needs grew over time. Residents have been active in village life, supporting the School, Churches and the Parish Council for example. At one point there were three Parish Councillors (myself, Roger



Everton, and Simon Edwards) and one District Councillor (Simon again) living in the street.

An archaeological test pit in a resident's garden some years ago showed signs of a possible medieval inn, with pots and a floor level. Sadly no longer.

The field behind Manor Farm Close provides valuable green space adjacent to the village. In 1884 it was divided into a Low Bury and a High Bury.

"Bury" is an old English word with various meanings, the most likely to my mind is a "mound"

indicating higher ground, possibly fortified.



Given the Anglo-Saxon presence in the village in olden times, and the start of the fens not far away, this might suggest firstly a drier area perhaps for grazing, and possibly a defence against invasion from the fens. Some archaeology in the field might produce interesting results. Occasional attempts by speculative developers to build on this field have thankfully so far been refused by the local Councils.

*Mike Oakley*

### My Volunteering

Anglesey Abbey, just off the A14 near Stow Cum Quy, is a very popular place to visit at any time of year. The renowned collection of snowdrops in February, the woodland walks through swathes of daffodils in March and April, the glorious colours of the dahlia border in August and September, as well as the Woodland Play Area and trails for children to explore, mean that there is something to see whenever you go. Not to mention the stunning Winter Lights in December, and the collections of art, antiques and books in the house itself.

Jim and Jo Bryant have volunteered at Anglesey Abbey for about five years, although Covid called a halt for nearly two years. Jim is a member of the Outdoor Team, which involves cleaning the considerable collection of statues in the grounds, erecting fencing, maintaining benches, moving shrubs and being general dogsbodies around the site. Most



recently the team have created a workshop in one of the barns, known as The Bothy, to enable more efficient working and provide organised storage for tools. Each week there are new tasks to complete, alternating



between supporting the work of the gardeners and assisting with facilities management, and the work of the team is very much appreciated.

Jo's role is less regular.

She is known as a Set Dresser, which includes helping to get the house ready for Christmas. Last year it involved decorating three Christmas Trees, which is fun but also surprisingly tiring as the trees are large and stepladders are needed. She has also been involved in several craft sessions including creating autumn décor for the second-hand bookshop; delivering a craft session making felt flower brooches on 'Time to Talk' Day, part of the National Trust's initiative in Mental Health Week supporting staff and volunteers; creating papier maché creatures for World Book Day; and creating paper dahlias and giant snowdrops!



People travel some distance to visit Anglesey Abbey and we are very fortunate to have such a lovely place almost on our doorstep. If you want to find out more about events at Anglesey Abbey, go to:

[nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/cambridgeshire/anglesey-abbey-gardens-and-lode-mill/events](https://nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/cambridgeshire/anglesey-abbey-gardens-and-lode-mill/events)

*Jim and Jo Bryant*



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### SOW and EAG get hot spotting wildlife

You may remember that Sustainable Oakington and Westwick (SOW) and the Environment Action Group (EAG) got together on Village Day to launch our local Nature Recovery Project, part of Cambridge Nature Recovery. Cambridgeshire is one of the poorest counties for biodiversity in the UK and so is committed to doubling its nature by 2050. To measure how our nature is changing we have to learn how to recognize species and to record them, so we made our start on Saturday 9 September.

Cambridge has some special areas including chalk grassland centred on Wandlebury and the Gogs, wetlands including Wicken Fen and the River Cam Corridor. Oakington and Westwick are in what's known as an Opportunity Area, with fen edge orchards and droves, based on fragments of traditional orchards and fen ditches.

So, we chose the community orchard near the Pavilion to begin the task of spotting and recording. In planning any outdoor activity in the East of England, we have to consider the weather. What we didn't expect was that the 9th



September would be the hottest day of the year. So, we brought water, sunscreen and kept in the shade of the trees. In spite of 30°C, 16 people plus 3 children attended. It was lovely to include children. It is after all the next generations who hopefully will benefit from this project which is not only about biodiversity, but also about storing carbon and reducing the effects of climate change. Young ears are also apparently better at hearing the sonic sounds of bats.

Graham Tregonning introduced the ten year-old orchard with traditional varieties of apples, pears, plums, gages and cherries. I added that the orchard would become better for wildlife as it got older, and because it not sprayed, it already attracts invertebrates and other wildlife. The group discussed the five habitats that orchards provide: well-spaced trees with lots of light beneath; rotting timber with lichens, moss and nest holes; unimproved (no fertilizer) grassland; pollen and nectar for pollinators; and hedges.



The group paired up to explore the orchard in search of plants and animals. Plants recorded included mallow, cranesbills, hogweed, orache and hawkweeds. We even found some yellow rattle, which is a parasite of grass, and holds back its growth to allow wild flowers to flourish. We found cocksfoot, known in the US as 'orchard grass'. We spotted some tracks in the long grass (the uncut bit) which are probably shared by muntjac, badgers and rabbits and found aphid, dock bugs and large white butterflies. We came together to discuss our findings and then Kay Prince demonstrated the use of the app iRecord. Those who are less able to handle apps agreed to record wildlife by emailing [SustainableOW@gmail.com](mailto:SustainableOW@gmail.com)

Do make contact if you would like to join us. Research has clearly indicated that being outside with nature is really good for our well-being.

John Terry  
[johnnterry23@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:johnnterry23@hotmail.co.uk)

### Sustainable Oakington & Westwick

SOW's last two meetings were lively discussions about the actions we could take as a group and as a community to address the urgent environmental issues we all face. Thank you to everyone who contributed thoughts and ideas.

Some activities are already under way. The Nature Recovery Project held a wildlife identification session (see above). Thanks to a grant from the Parish Council, Oakington and Westwick have joined the national Hedgehog Highway project. Making a five-inch (13 cm) hole in a boundary fence enables hedgehogs to forage safely in gardens. We



will have a number of hedgehog gap "surrounds" to give to people who can add a hedgehog highway to their boundary.

Other activities are under discussion, including a repair cafe and a community meal.

Please get in touch or come to a

meeting if you would like to find out more or get involved.

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](mailto:sustainableow@gmail.com) / [sustainableow.co.uk](http://sustainableow.co.uk)



Gerry is making the village more sustainable by sharing tools. So why not join the **Tool Share** WhatsApp group and/or request a copy of the tools list, through the Coordinator Gerry Cavander. Contact Gerry on 07857 704636 /

[gerard@cambridgereuse.org.uk](mailto:gerard@cambridgereuse.org.uk) / gedcavander on Oakyfolk. Or if you have good quality tools that you are happy to share, why not free up some space in your garage and donate them to the tool share.

You can always borrow them back!



## **FULL GOLF MEMBERSHIP**

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FOR THE  
PRICE OF  
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Girton Golf Club and enjoy 13  
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Girton Golf Club, Dodford Lane, Girton, Cambridge, CB3 0QE  
Quote: 2023/13 and get the joining fee for free



## Book Club

*The Woodlanders* by Thomas Hardy

Having read Hardy at school and seen various TV/film adaptations of his books, it was interesting to return to his style of writing which may not be to everyone's taste but his themes are constant throughout.



Set in fictional Wessex, the novel reflects a rustic setting, the comparison between rural/pastoral and more worldly characters, poorly chosen marriage partners, unrequited love, strict social structures, and overall the link between man and nature.

Despite that (!) it was well received by the book group, an informal and friendly bunch which meets – not so much to review the writing – more to share the enjoyment of reading.

We meet in the White Horse Oakington at 7:30pm once a month.

The next book is *The Offing* by Benjamin Myers. Contact [gedcavander@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:gedcavander@hotmail.co.uk) for further information; always room for more to join us!

Angela North

## Podcast Review

### Just One Thing

Dr Michael Mosley has a 15 minute podcast series on BBC Sounds where he introduces in each episode 'just one thing' that you can do to improve your health and well-being. This ranges from explaining the benefits of particular foods to simple exercises. However his special extended programme on 3 July 2023, [bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m001ngjx](http://bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m001ngjx) is an interview with Professor Tim Spector who has done more research than anyone into how we can eat to improve our health. If there is just one thing you do this week, listen to this podcast, it could change your life.



Graham Tregonning

## Chess Corner

Solution to chess puzzle 4-23 from last Journal:

White	Black	White
Bg4 – c8	If Kb8 x Bc8	Qh1 – a8 #
	If Kb8 – a7	Qh1 – b7#

x capturing a piece  
# checkmate



Chess puzzle 5-23

White to move and  
checkmate in two moves.

Ranko Pinter

## Calling All Local Football Referees!

Do you have a passion for football and a keen eye for fair play?

**Oakington Vikings Football Club needs YOU!**

### Join Our Team of Referees

Whether you're a seasoned pro or new to refereeing, we welcome referees of all ages and experience levels to officiate youth games in the beautiful village of Oakington. Make a difference in the local football community while enjoying the thrill of the game.

### Why Referee for Oakington Vikings Football Club?

Supportive Environment: We value our referees and provide a friendly, encouraging atmosphere. ⚽ Competitive Compensation: Earn while doing what you love. ⚽ Paid Training: If needed, we'll invest in your training and development. ⚽ Flexible Schedule: Referee games that fit your availability. ⚽ Be Part of the Action: Get closer to the excitement of youth football.

### How to Join Us

Interested in becoming a referee for Oakington Vikings Football Club? Reach out to us today and be part of our vibrant football community. Contact Josh Gott 07866 635241 to express your interest, ask questions, or get started on your refereeing adventure.



## CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR

Saturday  
25th November  
9am-4pm

*Gifts, Food & Crafts*

**Oakington**

Garden Centre & Café

email: [oakingtongevents@gmail.com](mailto:oakingtongevents@gmail.com)

## Oakington and Westwick Sports Pavilion

The village celebrated the opening of our new sports pavilion on 21 June 2008 in the presence of Andrew Lansley CBE, MP. The day was a great success, both financially and for an opportunity to celebrate the completed building.

I wrote in my annual report at our September 2023 AGM: The Pavilion Committee has very successfully managed this Sports Pavilion, both professionally and financially – that was the remit the Parish Council gave us when we opened the Pavilion, over 15 years ago. We have survived Covid and all the challenges that faced us over that terrible time. We have a wonderful building, for the use of this village and surrounding villages too, but it is very expensive to run, and this is where we are going to need ongoing village support.

We have an amazing multifunction building. It is run by a management committee of volunteers – we do these roles because we care about the Community we live in!

We need new faces on the committee. We need to rethink advertising, and promotion and usage of the building – especially our amazing function room/small business room.

What could you do to help? Do you have a skill or time that you could use to support us?

I have been elected as Chair again this year and I value the support of Tony Leadley who manages the day-to-day bookings for the building. Do ring him or email him and he can let you know the up-to-date availability for a one-off booking or an idea you may have. (Details on page 5)

We now have the addition of beautiful outdoor space and playground to go with our building so let's use it to its full potential. This building is for everyone in the village!

- Do you want to start a new sport?
- Run a daytime activity?
- Hold a party?
- Hold a small business meeting?

So, in short, I am looking for two things:

- New committee members
- Developing usage of the building

Over to you the amazing Oakington and Westwick residents! Please feel free to contact me to discuss – email [elainebailey1@live.co.uk](mailto:elainebailey1@live.co.uk). I look forward to your support.

*Elaine Bailey,  
Chair of Oakington and Westwick Sports Pavilion*

Oakington & Westwick Sports Pavilion Monthly Lottery 2023 - Winners			
Month	Ticket No	Area	Winning
Aug	412	Orchard Way	£100
Sept	101	Lowbury Crescent	£100
If you would like to enter the lottery, please text JOIN plus your name, house number & postcode to 07831 828898.			

## OAKINGTON & WESTWICK

### Pavilion and Astro Turf



#### Very competitively priced

A flexible facility next to large village recreation ground

- Large indoor hall for sports/classes/parties
- Multi-use floodlit sport area.
- Separate meeting room with hearing loop
- Kitchen with oven and serving hatch to hall
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- Fully accessible

Call 07936 024587 or email  
[oakingtonpavilion@gmail.com](mailto:oakingtonpavilion@gmail.com)

Do you use email or the internet?

Do online shopping or banking?

Do you know how to stay secure?

How to avoid scams and computer viruses?

Find out by coming to the free  
**ONLINE SAFETY WORKSHOP**

**Saturday 28 October, 10:30 – 12**  
**Meeting room at the Pavilion**

(Leave a message on 07902 111786 or email  
[OWNeighbours@gmail.com](mailto:OWNeighbours@gmail.com) to book your place)





### Oakington Preschool

What an amazing and warm welcome to the village! Thank you to everyone who has made contact with us, wished us good luck and dropped off donations to the Preschool.

The Team have worked incredibly hard to prepare the Preschool for the grand opening on Monday 11 September 2023, when we welcomed our first class through the doors. Miss Lee is heading the teaching team as Preschool Manager, Mrs Edwards has been appointed as Deputy Preschool Manager and Miss Collins will be supporting as Preschool Practitioner.

We have so many wonderful activities and experiences planned for the children throughout the Autumn term, and we look forward to working closely with



Oakington Primary School in supporting our Preschoolers in their transition to Primary School.

Please contact the team on 07444 267144 or email us: [oakington.ps@outlook.com](mailto:oakington.ps@outlook.com).

We accept childcare vouchers and funded hours for 2, 3 and 4 year olds.

Open 09:00-15:00 Monday to Friday, Term Time only.

Ofsted Registration Number: 2741119

Address: Water Lane, CB24 3AL.

(Located in the Humpty Dumpty Preschool Building.)

[www.oakington-preschool.co.uk](http://www.oakington-preschool.co.uk)

Part of the Little Flames Childcare Ltd group of Preschools.

*Lisa Peacock, Executive Director,  
Little Flames Childcare Ltd*



**Need a lift, for example to the doctors or hospital?**

Oakington & Westwick residents can use Cottenham CareCar, which provides social and medical journeys for anyone who has difficulty accessing public transport. 30p/mile, with a minimum of £3 per journey, to anywhere in Cambridgeshire. Ring 01954 251929.

**Are you a driver with a little time to spare?**

Cottenham CareCar needs more volunteer drivers. Flexible volunteering – choose the jobs which suit your schedule. A chance to meet and help other villagers, often older people who can no longer drive. Fuel costs reimbursed. Ring 01954 251929 to find out more.







### Oakington Primary School Parent Staff Association



The PSA have had a busy start to term already with the PSA supporting events in the local community to raise funds for the school. The Yard Sale and Jazz & Tea raised £263 for the school and brought the community out.

We are looking forward to the following events this term:

- **6 Oct** Cider and cheese evening
- **4 Nov** Mulled Refreshments at the Village Fireworks
- **2 Dec** Christmas Fayre

If you're interested in hosting a craft or gift stall at the Christmas Fayre on 2 December please email us.  
[psa@oakington.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:psa@oakington.cambs.sch.uk)

Deadline for sign up is Friday 17 November.

Thank you to all the fabulous yard sellers who took part on 2 September. We hope everyone enjoyed the event and made some successful sales. We were blessed by sunshine and it was lovely to see so many villagers taking a stroll around to browse and have a chat with neighbours, as well as taking the opportunity to reconnect with old friends in the village. The event raised a wonderful £135 for the PSA. We look forward to organising next years event!

We would also like to thank the village for supporting us over the summer with the donations for our school grown produce. There is more to come with butternut squash and courgettes still growing. The children were delighted to harvest the sweetcorn and tomatoes, as well as lots of beans! The sunflowers planted by the gardening club last term have also flowered impressively to welcome the children back.

Angela Barber







## Jazz & Tea by the Lake

Oakington & Westwick Neighbours' Jazz and Tea event took place on Sunday 10 September in the beautiful grounds by the lake in Oakington. Around 150 people listened to Oaktet and Black Coffee and enjoyed



fabulous local baking. Huge thanks go to Geoffrey and Irène Butlin for hosting; the WI and all those who gave such lovely cakes; the musicians; and Oakington School PSA for their support with serving and washing up; not to mention the OWN stalwarts (and their husbands and supporters) for their work behind the scenes. Over £500 was raised for OWN and the PSA.

*Jo Bryant*







**Oakington & Westwick Community Association**

# **BONFIRE NIGHT – Sat 4 Nov 2023**

**Recreation Ground**

**Gates & Food Stalls at 5pm**

**Bonfire at 6pm**

**Fireworks at 6:15pm**

**Family of four: £12**  
**Adult: £5**  
**Child: £3 Under 2: Free**

**Friendly reminder:**  
**No sparklers or dogs on Rec**

**Sponsors:**  
 Mackays of Cambridge, Stephen Gray STG Mortgage Solutions

**A Celebration of Music, Singing and  
 Last Night of the Proms**

by  
**THE OAKINGTON  
 SINGERS & COTTENHAM  
 BRASS BAND**

**FRIDAY 3RD NOVEMBER**  
 7:30pm St Andrews Church Oakington

**INTERVAL REFRESHMENTS**

**Free Admission but donations to  
 Cottenham Brass Band and The Oakington Singers  
 would be gratefully received**



**JOIN US  
 FOR  
 FESTIVE  
 FUN**

**Christmas Fayre**

**Saturday 2nd December 1 - 4pm**  
 Oakington C of E Primary School, Water Lane, CB24 3AL

Join us for Christmas Crafts, Mulled beverages, Santa's Grotto,  
 Raffle, Craft and Gift Stalls, Refreshments and Cakes, Story Time  
 with John Barnett and more...

**£1 entry fee for adults, Free entry for children**

Stall holder opportunities are still  
 available and we will be sharing updates  
 on our Facebook page:  
 @ <https://www.facebook.com/oakingtonpsa>  
 Email: [psa@oakington.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:psa@oakington.cambs.sch.uk)