

Oakington & Westwick

August/September 2020

Journal



**Eight Down
to One**

Zoom in Hats

**Verging
on Wildness**

Please contact the organisers of events nearer the time to confirm.

Tue 8 Sep **Tuesday Talk & Tea**, 2:45pm. Church Hall. AGM, quiz & English tea. Joan Pettit – joanpettit93@yahoo.com
 Mon 14 Sep **O&W Parish Council**, 7:30pm. By Zoom. All invited – contact clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk



Struggling to keep your head above water?

Covid19 has caused loss of jobs and income.

Many people are worrying about how to make ends meet.

The Oakington & Westwick Hardship Fund is there for anyone experiencing financial hardship

We can offer immediate help with food and other essentials like baby needs and fuel.

But financial hardship looks different for everyone, and we also consider other requests, such as urgent travel expenses or the cost of children's shoes.

Plus we can help you to find other local support for a longer term solution.

If you are in need, get in touch – call or text Ben on **07342 945373** or Jo on **07714 760582**, or email oak.west.hardship.fund@outlook.com.

We know it can be uncomfortable to talk about financial difficulties. We won't ask more than we need and your confidentiality will be respected.

It's been amazing the way people have contributed to the Fund and we'd like to make sure the money is used by people in the village who could do with a hand.



These are difficult times but the Oakington & Westwick Hardship Fund is here to help while you get yourself back to calmer waters.



Donations welcome.
 Food bank – leave in box in village shop or contact Ben. Fund – <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/own-hardship-fund> or contact OWN



Face Masks for Sale.
 In the Village Shop.
 Made by the WI, all proceeds to charity.
 £3 small/medium/large,
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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.

Village Day 2021 Committee

Would you like to help organise next summer's Village Day? The date is Saturday 26 June.



Please contact Hanna Lumley, chair
oakingtonvillageday@gmail.com

QUIZ – Spot the Location!

Oakington in the early 1990s. But where?



Answer to quiz in the last Journal on page 23.

Volunteers for one-off event

We are planning an outdoor Service on the Recreation Ground at the end of August or early September, date dependent on the weather. The Parish Council has given permission and Government Guidelines will be followed, including standing 2-3m apart!

We are looking for Christian volunteers (from any denomination) who would like to be involved in some way; musicians, techies, taking part with prayers or other items in the service.

If you would like to be involved, please email or phone Family Worker, Ben Phillips, for more information:

Benp@standrewsoakington.co.uk
 07342 945373

BIN DAYS

Thu 6 Aug, Thu 20 Aug, **Fri 4 Sep**, Thu 17 Sep, Thu 1 Oct **Black bin**

Thu 13 Aug, Thu 27 Aug, Thu 10 Sep, Thu 24 Sep

Blue & green bins

Cover photo: Janis Griffiths

This is the third Journal since the pandemic hit us. Our lives edge back to their usual patterns, but we still have a sense of living through strange times.

In this issue, a village family and local keyworkers reflect on their lockdown experiences: the challenges, sometimes sacrifices, and unexpected pluses. Some projects press on despite Covid; find out more about the rebuilding of the Baptist Chapel, and a new campaign to protect nature on the Northstowe site. It's interesting to look back to the 1970s –

see how a local “poet” defended village life against accusations that it was boring here out in the sticks! The community seems to have been just as busy then as it normally is now. And we look back further still to a time when the ratio of pubs to people was truly astounding!

Thank you to everyone who contributes to the Journal.

Irène Butlin & Jenny Prince
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 & Irène Butlin (*editors*), Jane Goodyer (*distribution manager*), Geoffrey Butlin (*adviser*), Ranko Pinter (*chair*)

Send contributions to
oakwestjournal@gmail.com
or phone: 233510 (Jenny)
or 234383 (Irène)

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Tuesday 22 September**

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Adverts for the next issue must be received by **15 September**.

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

Oakington Community Orchards Project (OCOP)

The Oakington Communities Orchard Project is now under way, following approval of a plan proposed by the volunteers, at the July Parish Council Meeting.

The village has two community orchards: one on Mill Road and the other adjacent to the cemetery down at the Recreation Ground. In total there are 80 trees – Plums, Gages, Apples, Pears and Cherries; each has a small label which tells you the variety and when the fruit will be ripe.



Fruit is available for picking from August. Please bear in mind that these are heritage varieties, so the flavours will not be the same as your regular supermarket fruit.

The Plan approved by the Parish Council allows the grass and wild flowers to grow naturally in the Recreation Ground Orchard. The volunteers will maintain some small paths and picnic spots around and through the trees, to make the site more attractive to families with young children. There will also be a small area dedicated to trying to encourage a wider diversity of wild flowers. The Mill Road Orchard is to be closed for a few months, while remedial work is carried out, to remove the remains of the WWII airfield perimeter fence. The site will be levelled up and the roots of some of the more aggressive “wild” flowers (mainly stinging nettles and green alkanet) will be dug out.

In the longer term, if we get enough volunteers, we will look to host visits from school children for activities like wildflower sketching, bug hunts and fruit tasting. If you would like to volunteer, in return for just 2 hours a month in the orchards, you will get trained in all the key aspects of fruit tree management. If you are interested in the orchards, but don't have time to help out, we have a number of reports with more information about them, we have simple guides for managing your own fruit trees, and, this winter, we will be offering free advice to any residents, who are unsure how to look after their own fruit trees. To get in touch with Gerry and Graham, email us at oakcomorchards@gmail.com. Or get a friend to email us your telephone number and we will give you a call.



Graham Tregonning

Fruit-growing in yesteryear

Yvonne Graves, who moved to Oakington from Derbyshire in 1953, recalls that at that time most people grew strawberries, raspberries or other soft fruit in their gardens and allotments to earn a bit of extra money. On Wednesday night people would leave picked fruit which they didn't want for their households at their gates, in woven wicker punnets. Mr B? drove round the village on Thursday morning in his Austin 7 and trailer, picking up the produce and recording it in his notebook. It was then loaded onto the train at Oakington station and sent north to be sold in cities like Manchester and Sheffield. It was a valued addition to people's incomes, Yvonne says.

Jenny Prince

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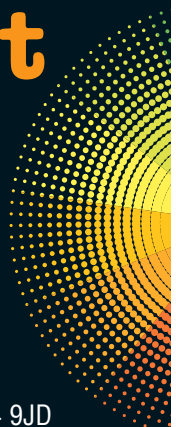
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Parish Councillors

Chair: Stephen Moore

Vice-Chair: Tony Starling

John Bailey

Geoffrey Butlin

Julie Grove

Luis Navarro

Ranko Pinter

David Reeves

Lis Warboys

Email address for all councillors
clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk

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

Sarah Cheung Johnson – 01954 489089
cllr.cheungjohnson@scambs.gov.uk

Alex Malyon – 01954 202859
cllr.malyon@scambs.gov.uk

County Councillor

Oakington, Westwick, Longstanton,
Northstowe & Over

Peter Hudson – 07518 417432
peter.hudson@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

VILLAGE INFORMATION

Pavilion Booking Administrator

Tony Leadley – 07936 024587
oakingtonpavilion@gmail.com

Neighbourhood Watch

Jillian Wilkinson – 01223 233 585
oakwestnhw@gmail.com

Oakington & Westwick Neighbours (OWN)

07902 111786 or 07375 945284
OWNeighbours@gmail.com

Oakington Primary School

Office – 01223 232328
office@oakington.cambs.sch.uk

Village Stores & Post Office

Raj & Kanwal Sanghera - 01223 232327

From our Parish Council chair

The Parish Council has continued its work as normal, though we have been meeting via Zoom. We have found it very efficient and we have managed to keep on with our work to improve the village!

The planning information for **Phase 3A of Northstowe** has now been reviewed by a working group; Andrew Dennis, Jim Bryant, Chris Webster, Cllr David Reeves and chaired by myself. In summary, we have very real concerns about:

- the traffic that will come into Oakington and Westwick as a result of the new road they intend building, exiting onto Dry Drayton Road, just beyond the Business Park
- the omission of any reference to flood attenuation measures for Oakington Brook
- the narrowness of the green separation
- the height and density of the housing in the immediate vicinity of Oakington
- the potential noise and pollution which will occur over ten years of building

You can read the full 20-page response of the PC on the *District Council Planning Portal* - reference: 20/02142/OUT. We are very pleased that our District Councillors have given us full support and our County Councillor has backed us up on the contentious traffic issues.

The *Governance Review* regarding the re-drawing of **Parish Boundaries** locally is continuing and will not finish until September. We consulted with you all on this and also held a public meeting. The options put forward in the second round of the consultation process all contain our preference that the green separation between Oakington and Northstowe remains part of Oakington and Westwick Parish. However, new suggestions for the boundaries are still being accepted.

In the last couple of years, the Parish Council has been working hard within the powers it has and the funds at its disposal, to make Oakington and Westwick an **attractive place** to live. Two of our councillors, David Reeves and Tony Starling, have kindly painted the old brick bus shelters in the village, and we have ordered benches to be installed, so that the shelters will be clean and more comfortable places to wait for the bus.

The cemetery has been looking rather run down in recent years. So, led by Cllr Lis Warboys, we have had the paths re-laid and we will be cutting back the overgrown trees. Cllr David Reeves continued his painting activities by smartening up the gate and Cllr Tony Starling and I repaired the fencing. Previously we asked for someone to contribute a bench for the cemetery. Very kindly, Steve, Daniel and Chris Wright have supplied not one, not two, but **three** new benches! We would like to thank them for their generosity. If you have never visited the cemetery, it is a lovely place to sit for a while.

Graham Tregonning and Gerry Cavander continue to work on the **Community Orchards**. The trees in the Recreation Ground Orchard are now full of fruit. There is a picnic table there, so why not pop along with the kids for a picnic and grab some apples or pears?

Finally, as we all know, it is an unpleasant and sometimes frightening experience to walk along Water Lane/Station Road, especially with young children. The **traffic calming tables** have deteriorated over the years and now fail to slow down the traffic. The PC has been concerned about this for some time, but the County Council Highways Department simply lack the funds to undertake adequate traffic calming measures. However, we are pleased that after some lobbying, the A14 construction people have agreed to **repair and re-shape** all the traffic calming tables along Water Lane through to Westwick. They have also agreed to install some tables along Cambridge Road within the 30 mph zone. (Unfortunately we are not allowed to introduce traffic calming measures in the 40 mph zone.) We are now waiting for them to give us a timetable for commencing the work.



Dr Stephen Moore - chair@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk

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From our County Councillor

The Government announced in May that part of its national strategy to manage and control the pandemic is for every area in England to develop a **Local Outbreak Control Plan for Covid-19** by the end of June 2020.

In Cambridgeshire our plan builds on existing outbreak plans and relies on working closely with our local communities to reduce the risk of transmission of the infection, establish systems to identify new cases and reduce outbreaks. Where clusters of new Covid-19 cases arise we will identify them swiftly and put measures in place to control them, so we can support the continued lifting of lockdown restrictions and the gradual return to normal life.

Cambridgeshire County Council Covid-19 Outbreak Control Team is an outbreak incident response centre, manned by a duty manager. This means more responsibility for outbreak management has been moved to Local Authorities - see link to our Outbreak Control Plan

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/asset-library/Cambridgeshire-and-Peterborough-Local-Outbreak-Control-Plan-v12.pdf

Education Leads across Cambridgeshire County Council are continuing their work with primary and secondary schools and academy trusts, following the government's



announcement that **all year groups should be set to return in September.**

The county's schools will need to adapt their plans to cater for more children, now that social distancing has been downgraded from two metres to a minimum of one. More guidance from the Department of Education is expected, but schools are already making plans and working through detailed risk assessments. Throughout the whole lockdown period Cambridgeshire has consistently had more schools open for vulnerable and keyworker children than the national average, and have catered for as many Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children as can be safely managed.

Cambridgeshire County Council's Maths and English teams have been working hard to create 'Summer Learning Packs', to support primary-aged children as they prepare to transition to their new year group in September. The packs offer a range of fun activities and challenges to encourage children to be creative, such as writing a news report based on an escaped gerbil and taking a 'maths walk' around your local area. Separate versions have been created for all Year groups 1 to 6; each pack is available to download from the Council's Home Learning Hub – meaning children and parents can work through them online or offline.

Peter Hudson

From our District Councillors

We hope that you have all been staying safe and well. We know it has been a difficult time for many but we have seen a fantastic local response during the pandemic and would again like to thank everyone who has been supporting the community.

As a reminder SCDC have dedicated pages with information on Coronavirus: www.scambs.gov.uk/coronavirus/

Response to Northstowe Phase 3A Planning application

The consultation on outline plans for Northstowe Phase 3A, the phase closest to Oakington, closed on July 14th. We would like to thank residents who contributed. We would particularly like to thank Oakington Parish Council and their working group, including members of TAG, the EAG and Flood Mitigation Group, for their diligence in reviewing the application and submitting their comments and objections.

As District Councillors we also objected to the application citing:

inadequate green separation, inappropriate housing on the southern edges of Northstowe closest to Oakington, concerns regarding increased traffic and the location of the proposed Southern Access Road East.

We also asked for:

robust and enforceable planning conditions on working hours, noise and dust monitoring and mitigation, and prohibiting any construction traffic through the village.

And we asked for:

firm commitments from Homes England on flood attenuation for the village if plans are approved.

We are expecting the application to go to the planning committee in the Autumn - date to be confirmed. We will be attending to raise our objections and residents are also welcome to attend.

Community Governance Review

This second round of consultation for the CGR had been due to close on 15 June, but is now extended by three months until 15 September. Further details can be found online, where it is possible to view and comment on the three options being proposed. A paper copy of the consultation submission form is also being sent to all residents; this should arrive in early August. *All three options proposed involve Oakington and Westwick remaining as a separate parish and retaining the green separation land with Northstowe.* Full details, maps and a link to submit comments can be found here: www.scambs.gov.uk/cgr-lown

Zero Carbon Community Grants

The Council has again launched its Zero Carbon Community Grants. Local groups can apply for grants of between £1K - £15K to support projects tackling climate change under themes of cycling, community buildings and tree-planting and other nature-based solutions. Applications close on September 30th September. Details of how to apply can be found here: bit.ly/2ohvcAw

As ever, feel free to contact us about these or any other issues.

Sarah Cheung Johnson
& Alex Malyon



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Contact email :
pippa_westoby@yahoo.co.uk



Environment Action Group

Recently the EAG has received a number of comments from villagers concerning the roadside verges within our village. Currently Cambridgeshire County Council is responsible for verge cutting and typically do three cuts per year (April/May, June/July and August/September). Our concern is firstly that long intervals between cuts can leave the grass long and unsightly, and secondly the timing is detrimental to flowering plants such as daffodils, buttercups, cowslips and bird's foot trefoil. More careful management is, however, done well by many people on verges outside their properties.

What can be achieved with different management regimes? If we want trim grass swards, like a lawn, we should increase the frequency of cutting. Regular mowing encourages the formation of a tight sward of fine grasses and cuts any broad-leaved plants that grow above the cutting height. Clearly in a grass verge with only three cuts per year, one cannot expect such a tight sward.

On the other hand, if we want wild flowers, like a meadow, the number of cuts should be reduced, where practical, to two per year and adjust the timing so plants have time to flower and set seed before mowers arrive. The current schedule of cutting in early summer tends to eliminate summer flowers from our verges, which



also leads to fewer pollinating insects. We should also remove the cuttings so soil fertility drops and aggressive grasses like cocksfoot and ryegrasses are discouraged. These grasses tend to shade out wild flowers. Another option is the use of annuals such as poppy, cornflower and corn marigold which would only need cutting once, in late autumn after the flowers drop their seeds. One cultivation is then recommended to ensure the seeds have contact with the soil.

Reducing the number of cuts will, over time, improve the biodiversity. Money is also saved because of fewer cuts. But if we want wild flowers such as teasel, vipers' bugloss and yarrow we will need to put up with them looking brown and scruffy at certain times of the year. We may also need to accept more insects near the roads.

So, what do you think? Neat grass swathes or wild flowers? Or a mixture in different areas in and around the village? (In some locations there will be restrictions due to the need not to impede vision for drivers, cyclists and pedestrians). Or happy with the status quo?

Do let us know your thoughts by the end of August, and/or email jamesyoud51@icloud.com for more information.



Stephanie Smith, Secretary



We know that not everyone sees the regular OWN Updates on Oaky Folk, so we hope you have all received the leaflet that was delivered recently in Oakington and Westwick giving information about the **Hardship Fund**, and how to avoid Covid 19 scams. If you would like to see the Updates but you are not online, please ask us and we will get copies to you.

We are extremely grateful for people's generosity in contributing to the Hardship Fund. If you find yourself in financial difficulty due to the current circumstances, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

A dedicated, experienced Hardship Team will respond, keeping requests confidential. This a primary focus for OWN at the moment.

Call or text Ben on 07342 945373 or Jo on 07714 760582 or email oak.west.hardship.fund@outlook.com

We are still responding to phone calls and emails requesting help with shopping, prescriptions etc but these are now far fewer due to lockdown easing.

Families struggling with the fallout from the Covid crisis have appreciated the local Foodbank co-ordinated by Ben Phillips from St. Andrew's. Please keep donating to it as it has been well-used and supplies sometimes get low. You can support the Village Shop at the same time by buying



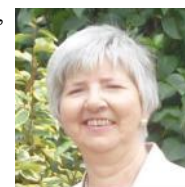
items there to add to the collecting box. Foodstuffs can also be delivered to the church.

As well as practical needs, it has become clear that people need social support as well. Sometimes all that is needed is a phone call for a chat, and the **Village Phone Tree** was set up to enable this. You make two phone calls each week, and receive one from a third person. If you would like to join (those who have already joined are really enjoying the contact, and there is room for more), please contact OWN - details below.



Along with many other usual village events, our annual **Jazz and Tea** occasion will not be happening this year, although we might be able as a community to come together for a picnic on the Rec in the autumn. Jazz and Tea is our major fundraiser each year, and because it has been previously so well supported, OWN has been able to operate effectively during the pandemic. Our volunteers have been fantastic and we would like to say a huge thank you to all those who have helped during lockdown. Some have now joined as regular volunteers. OWN was originally set up to pair up local residents who need some help, with local volunteers able to provide it, and Coronavirus has underlined how important this is. Even when the pandemic has passed, OWN will still be here providing support, so if you need help or company, do get in touch.

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Jo Bryant



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Humpty Dumpty's Wall

Humpty Dumpty Pre-School reopened its doors on 1 July after taking measures to ensure all children and staff remained as safe as possible. Everyone, both staff and children, seems to have adapted really well to the 'new normal' way of running things.

Many of the children will be moving up to the Primary School this autumn. Laura and the staff would like to wish the children and their families all the best in this next step and to thank them for their support. They will be missed!

For September there are still places available for children 2.5 to 5 years; do get in touch with Laura or Sophie if you would like to enquire about availability for September by emailing manager@humptydumptyoakington.co.uk

Finally, on behalf of the committee we would like to thank Pre-School staff for their hard work over this year, particularly adapting to the new way of working in light of Covid-19. We are proud to support the Pre-School which offers a well-established, safe, nurturing and stimulating environment for local children. We also benefit from having staff who are exceptionally experienced and caring and that is clear to see from how the children love and enjoy their time at pre-school.

Sarah Stokes



Neighbourhood Watch

This is a good time to be reminded that although online shopping has been a great help during the lockdown, there are still hazards to watch out for. Action Fraud, the UK's national reporting centre, received over 16,000 reports relating to online shopping and auction fraud during the lockdown, with losses totalling over £16m.

Top tips for shopping online securely

* *Choosing where to shop:* If you're making a purchase from a seller you don't know and trust, check to see if others have used the site and what their experience was.

* *Email accounts:* Use a strong, separate password for your email account. Criminals can use your email to access other online accounts, such as those you use for online shopping.

* *Scam messages:* Some of the emails about amazing offers may contain links to fake websites. If you're unsure, don't use the link, go separately to the website. If a deal looks too good to be true, it probably is.

* *Payment method:* If you go ahead with a purchase, use a credit card if you have one, as other payment providers may not provide the same protection.

* *Have you fallen victim to online shopping fraud?* These days the scams can be incredibly convincing. If you think you've visited, or made a purchase on, a bogus website, you should first take a note of the website's address, then close down your internet browser. Then report the details to Action Fraud and contact your bank.

* *Check your bank transactions.* Contact your bank immediately about anything that you don't recognise, even small amounts.

Jillian Wilkinson, 01223 233585



Oakington Primary School

Well, what a year it has been! Following the national lockdown and move to remote learning, the school was able to open to more than just vulnerable children and those of key workers on 1 June. We opened for Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children, whilst continuing to provide online learning for those children still at home. The Wider Opening went very smoothly and we saw nearly half of the pupils return and finish their school year on site.

Despite being a global disaster, this pandemic has brought to light so many positives. Watching our school community pull together, teachers going above and beyond, and children showing determination and maturity above their years, has been a truly emotional experience. With school looking and feeling very different to normal and children and staff in different places and roles, we were determined to give our children the best end of year experience as we possibly could, as well as supporting them in catching up with their learning. From pizza ovens to karaoke, waffle making to pirate chasing, the children have thoroughly enjoyed their last few weeks. Our Virtual Sports Day was a huge success, with videos sent in from children at home and videos of children competing at school put together to make a compilation film, sent out to the school community. Other videos the school produced during this lockdown period included Celebration Assemblies and Staff Messages to Children.

As we now prepare for our Full Opening in September, we are pleased to announce the appointment of a new Year 4/5 teacher, Mrs Ruth Griffiths, job sharing with Mrs Laura Merriman-Brown.

We would like to thank the whole school community for their incredible support, patience and hard work during this unbelievably challenging time. We wish our wonderful Year 6 children all the best as they move onto the next stage of their education. You will all be greatly missed!

Nathan Clark, Head Teacher

Oakington Retirement Village

A small local group has begun to explore the possibility of a "Retirement Village", primarily for residents and parents of residents of Oakington and Westwick.

The facility would be not-for-profit, a community asset in perpetuity, owned, governed and managed for and by the community.

We are aiming for a rarely found combination of care home, warden supported accommodation, nursing home, hospice and recreation, all in a park setting. The Retirement Village would have a range of on-site facilities, including meeting rooms, dining areas, community flower and vegetable gardens, orchard, walking routes and a minibus.

It is early days, but we will keep the community informed about developments and invite feedback via a survey of residents that we will conduct over the coming months.

*Geoffrey Butlin
Sean Moroney*



The Broadway Family

Being asked to stay at home, to save lives and protect the NHS was a message no-one can ever have expected and will never forget. Having experienced political curfews, had to take cover from serious tropical storms; this was truly a remarkable request. So how was it?

With four of our family at home (plus the dog), with Ben being in Manchester finishing his degree, here are a few of our recollections.

We loved hearing nature over the hum of traffic, the birdsong of starlings and skylarks, re-discovering the garden, doing our own DIYSOS using only materials stashed away in the shed and stores, building a pond (frogs moved in immediately) playing games after dinner, taking on daunting 1000 piece puzzles, talking more with our children, having a thorough sort out. It

taught us to use up things, invent a dinner with jars and tins hidden beyond reach in a cupboard, drink up the cellar, use our cookbooks, make sourdough bread, cakes (we are all bakers now the flour is back) and clear out the freezer. We celebrated Phoebe's Master Chef sessions, but also reminded ourselves of those who did not have this luxury. We stopped going to the large supermarkets and returned to Raj and Kanwal for all our essentials. Long may we all continue to shop locally.



The Thursday community clap became a respected ritual when we shared stories with neighbours – which was comforting. It was so good to see results of the Community Plan work coming to life with the OWN group helping many in our community who could not go out. The VE Day Socially Distanced party in Coles Lane was a huge success. A time to remember those lost, the sacrifice of so many and up until now, our freedom.

Adam cleaned and re-strung his guitar and got down to learning songs. We all took full advantage of being able to exercise rather than sit on a crowded commuter train or bus. While the guided busway cycle path felt like the M11 at times, we appreciated this luxury as many do not have it.

There were lows. It's depressing having freedom to do what you want. The loss of Dave Greenfield (ex The Stranglers) amongst so many others, was a tipping point. Having four adults at home, all trying to work, or study, is very tense... how on earth do you home school and even worse survive with no work or income? Many of our self-employed friends lost out on the Furlough scheme.

We exhausted the number of quizzes we had entered and have finally stopped collecting wooden spoons.

Jenny made full use of the various new forms of communication, spending great time talking to relatives and friends on a weekly basis as well as creating lots of wonderful home-grown floral displays and embroidery.

Raj & Kanwal

Village Shop keepers

When the pandemic started our number one priority was to keep the local community as safe as possible and to keep providing them with the regular supply of essentials.



This was not always easy since many deliveries were incomplete and required us to re-order goods for the next delivery.

We also put together orders for local people who could not come to the shop and had their groceries delivered by some wonderful volunteers from OWN who often responded within minutes of a call being put through. Although all of this involved a lot of extra work and long days that sometimes ran into the late evening, we did not mind going this extra mile because we always felt very supported and encouraged by the community.

We feel that the village has really come together on this. We also noticed many more people talking to each other when queuing outside the shop than would normally have been the case.

There is an Indian saying that

one 'I' equals I, but two 'I's make 11

- people were pulling together ideas and practical help.

That was our experience too.

Interview by Adrienne Chaplin

Samuel and Phoebe knuckled down to learning online having had their exams cancelled which was tough but eventually rewarding. As the restrictions were lifted Phoebe helped to meet the growing demand for outdoor socially distanced haircuts.

We are not out of this world crisis and I fear what this catastrophic event has done. Possibly 3 million unemployed in UK (over 80 million in India). While the air is cleaner (reference the photo of Delhi), nature in many areas has re-taken control, the owls have returned, more people have taken to cycling, walking, and enjoying the fresh air. We fear that we have severely damaged people's faith in public transport, smashed the shop windows of much of our High Streets, destroyed the local music and entertainment industry and destroyed confidence in going out to pubs and restaurants. It will take a long time to heal.

Lockdown has made us re-think our priorities and lifestyles. We hope that when freedom returns, we will embed many of the lessons learnt over the past few months and make them our new normal.

Hopefully, we will all focus on local businesses, the economy and long for the day when our Electric Bus returns every half hour. For many the next months will be tough. We need to watch out for them and create opportunities for everyone to turn their new normal into a success.

Adam Broadway

Megan Bate & Amalie Sutherland



Megan (left) and Amalie (right) have both grown up in Oakington and they became firm friends during their teens. Now in their early twenties, they both teach in (different) primary schools in Cambridge. When the pandemic measures started to take effect in the spring, their whole working routine changed completely and they had to adapt very quickly.



Up until the May half term Amalie was in school on a rota to look after the key worker children. She also took on extra duties, so went into school anyway

just to help out as much as possible. During these early weeks Megan was shielding and helping to care for her vulnerable grandparents but taught her classes 'virtually' from home. When able to, she went into school three days a week to teach Year 1 in a 'bubble' and teaching her Year 5 class virtually the other two days. Amalie had a bubble of Year 1 children whom she taught at school every day.

It has been a demanding time, creating weekly learning packs, emailing and calling families and helping them with home schooling. By working closely with the parents, they became very much aware of the stresses and strains the families were going through too. Amalie decided to set fun challenges each week, to give pupils and parents something to look forward to!

Megan had the additional challenge of setting separate work for the pupils' range in ability and fretted that it could never match the support in a classroom. However, she was delighted that despite all, the majority of pupils sent in work on a daily basis.

These months have been stressful for everybody. All the changes took some getting used to and proved to be very taxing and demanding, especially at first. All the staff

had to be very flexible and it was emotionally draining. Sometimes it felt as though people had forgotten that teachers were actually humans as well. The way teachers were portrayed and spoken about by some aspects of the media was upsetting, especially knowing how hard they have worked.

They have been a bit scared about going into school and worried about the impact of the virus on their own health and their families' safety. However, both schools' leadership have excellent support systems in place.

Some of the changes during these months have been positive. Having fewer pupils in school has given Amalie and her colleagues time to work on the school environment and also reflect on their teaching. Megan feels the children have grown in many ways. For instance, she recently got them to write a Summer Reflection and their responses showed them to be more emotionally aware, empathetic and value their friends, family and school more. They have become more independent and learnt new skills. "I am super proud of them", she beams.

Both of them have found the whole experience has given them a new appreciation for their job and workplace. They are really excited about being able to teach a proper class again and doing the job they love.

John Barnett & Irène Butlin

David Young, physiotherapist. His wife, Jane, is from Oakington

David has worked at Addenbrooke's Hospital for a number of years and when the request went out for volunteers to work on the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) to help cope with the expected increase in demand, as a result of more and more patients becoming very ill with Covid-19, David stepped up to the plate.

The decision to move from his normal working environment to ICU would have many repercussions over the next 12 weeks and the routine at home and at work changed completely.

The risks of working long ICU shifts were already well documented throughout the media. David and Jane realised they had to do whatever they could to protect the health and welfare of their family. Subsequently, Jane and their young



son moved in with her parents in Oakington so David could isolate at home, after and between shifts.

Three months of being apart were tough for all the family. There were phone calls and video chats every day and the occasional treat left on the doorstep for David to enjoy, but nothing beats being together and having a hug.

David was impressed with all the planning that had been made at Addenbrooke's. This meant that the hospital was stretched but never over-stretched. The work on the ICU was intense in both the physical and mental sense.

Putting on and changing all the PPE each day, working non-stop in intensive care and being part of a specialist team helping patients fight for their lives became more and more draining for David as the weeks went by.

Thankfully, he has now got through it all and has tested negative for the coronavirus. This means that the family is reunited again, and David can have those hugs that he missed so much.



John Barnett

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Oakington Garden Society

I am sorry to say that for the foreseeable future Garden Society meetings will be on hold. We will update you as things go forward. Sadly, most members are of a 'certain' age and we do not wish to take any chances, most speakers being in the same category.



This has certainly been an amazing time for gardens and gardeners. So many of the younger generations are coming onboard with gardening, our daughter having just decided that their large garden is not enough and graduating to the addition of an allotment. Let's hope that this trend will continue. I have also started to grow more vegetables than I have for some time.

For those of you who are not able to have the luxury of a garden, house plants can make such a difference to a room while improving air quality at the same time, albeit a tiny improvement. These can be found at garden centres and supermarkets. Even the hardier Orchid *phalaenopsis* can make an enviable display and they are sturdier than you think; just remember that they do not require much feed, not too much heat (certainly not over a radiator), rainwater if possible and please mist (watch polished surfaces though!) as they are found in a forest environment, growing on trees in the canopy. So, no south facing windowsill.

Stay safe and take care.

Julie Grove C 233951

Cambridge Ten Sing



Ten Sing is an informal YMCA performing arts group, run for young people (aged 11–18), by young people, with singing, dance and drama.

We are hoping to restart in September – please get in touch if you are interested in joining us then.

Terry King, Ten Sing Administrator jking47@aol.com

Hopefully back soon...

Other groups not able to meet at the moment due to the coronavirus situation:

- Country Dancing
- Oakington & Westwick Table Tennis Club
- Monday Café will sadly not convene for the time being – providing safe refreshments and the necessary cleaning involved make it unlikely for us to open any time soon. Liz Davis.
- Oakington & Westwick Short Mat Bowls Club – We are very much looking forward to playing again at the pavilion but are awaiting advice from the English Short Mat Bowls Association as to the safest way to play. As soon as we have this, and the pavilion is available, we will prepare to play again, so watch this space! Dawn Stokes.

Philosopher's Café

The last two meetings of the Philosopher's Café – conducted via Zoom – discussed the art of listening and whether monogamy is still the best arrangement when it comes to the intimate relationships between us humans. The café encourages the view of philosophy as a way of life, with the emphasis on the practical aspects that can enhance our day to day lives with peace, well-being and contentment. This, in the today's uncertain world, is probably needed more than ever. There is no need for any qualifications or previous study, just an inquiring mind. If you would like to join please contact me on ranpin@gmail.com.



Ranko Pinter

Oakington & Westwick History Society



We are unable to meet safely at this testing time. We will see how things go and start to plan the next season, probably in a different format.

Please keep sending in any memories of the village. We were recently reminiscing over the Green Jackets' dawn raid prior to the Falklands conflict. Unbelievable for the, then, quiet backwater of Oakington. I am sorry to say that I started to film it and then remembered it was top secret – Whoops! It would have made a great History Society film.

Julie Grove C 233951

Tuesday Talk & Tea

July and August meetings cancelled, that was regrettable. However, we are monitoring the Covid information coming out of lockdown with the hope of holding our September meeting giving us a chance to see and chat with our friends. If whilst in lockdown you have realised that company is the answer to your loneliness you are most welcome to join us.



- **8 Sep** Short AGM. Quiz, chat and English Tea. St Andrews Hall 2.45pm – watch for confirmation on the notice board near the shop or email me joanpettit93@yahoo.com

Take care of yourself now.

Joan Pettit (chairperson)

Oakington Vikings



Club Contacts - Our Teams and Coaches

- Under 5s Matt 07990 900600
- Under 7s Jamie A 07764967460
- Under 9s Toby 07881496552
- Under 11s Marcus and Josh 07866635241
- Under 15s Ronnie and James 07714099017
- Adult team James and Toby 07834465188

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Oakington & Westwick WI

continues to 'Keep in Touch' with regular Zoom meetings, set up by our Secretary, Pauline Marsh. Unlike our usual meetings pre-Covid19, which were only once a month, we now meet every Saturday! Each week we pre-arrange a topic to be discussed and members are invited to share up to three related photos. In this way, we have broadened our horizons by literally holidaying around the world with members sharing three photos of a holiday that was memorable (for so many different reasons!). We have shared photos of walks during Covid19 which, thanks to the botanist knowledge of one member, turned into a handy exercise in the identification of unusual plants. Those who have passed time indulging their creative skills have showcased an impressive array from their 'production line', including full size patterned jumpers knitted *without* following a knitting pattern! Mention must again be made here of the WI members, coordinated by Paola Moore, who have so diligently supplied our village (and now Girton too) with Face Masks. Given the new guidance on mask wearing, they are bound to be kept busy in this essential activity for some time to come!



WI members wearing a hat to our Zoom 'Party'

I myself became an unwitting WI speaker when I offered to share the story of artists in my own family. This is the personal story of a surprising adventure my family has had in trying to trace the views which (and great, great ancestors who) were painted nearly one hundred years ago by my

great uncle Cyril; and the fascinating journey in social history on which we, by chance, found ourselves embarked. From a large farm in deepest Nottinghamshire, a 'déjà vu' experience in North Wales and a reconnoître in Florence we discovered more than just meets the eye.

Helen Williams C 232614
helenwilliams5@outlook.com



Unexpectedly recognising a view in North Wales from an old family painting



Nature Notes

Unsettled weather

Farmers are always at the mercy of the weather and in the last few months Mother Nature has thrown everything at farms in this area. Weather forecasters have constantly used the word 'unsettled'. Very inadequate word in the circumstances.

You may remember the wet back end of 2019 which meant it was very difficult to sow autumn crops. Lots of fields were left unsown and some were muddled (or even muddled) in. You may recall that the first months this year were some of the wettest on record and so you might have noticed some uncropped fields and some that have lots of gaps, in both autumn and spring sown crops. Then came May.

This month brought virtually unbroken sunshine and high temperatures, which made wheat and barley look even sadder. Lots of plants were stunted with small grain size. Some rain in June and July helped a little with grain fill, but there are predictions of very poor yields, even as low as 60% of last year's figures. Very challenging year for farmers, as well as the rest of us.

Wilding

You may have noticed an increase in interest for 'wilding', managing land with a very light touch so there is next to no interference from man. Perhaps the finest example is Knepp



Castle Estate in West Sussex, where Isabella Tree and her husband Charlie Burrell changed their 3500 acre (1400ha) farm which was losing money into a wilderness with free roaming cattle (Old English Longhorns), ponies, pigs and deer. It has parallels with the wild landscapes of thousands of years ago when large herbivores grazed freely. The mosaic of habitats from grass to scrub to trees and wood pasture has attracted scores of rare wild species like nightingales, turtle doves, purple emperor butterflies and a first this year – breeding European storks. The introduction of beavers is planned to enhance the waterways.

Three East Anglian farmers are planning a similar project, covering 8000 acres. Wilding is not only good for biodiversity but offers a lot to help mitigate the effects of climate change.

Who invited wasps to the picnic?

By this time of the year, the workers are given a break from nest making, collecting nectar, catching prey and feeding the youngsters. Wasps are pretty keen on sugar, so they go a bit mad attacking ripening fruit and anything sweet at a picnic table.

Are they just a nuisance? Well wasps do their share of pollinating and in killing lots of small insects which we regard as pests, such as aphids and caterpillars, they help to protect leaves of hedges and trees. In other words, even wasps help to keep nature's balance.

John Terry

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News from the Baptist Chapel

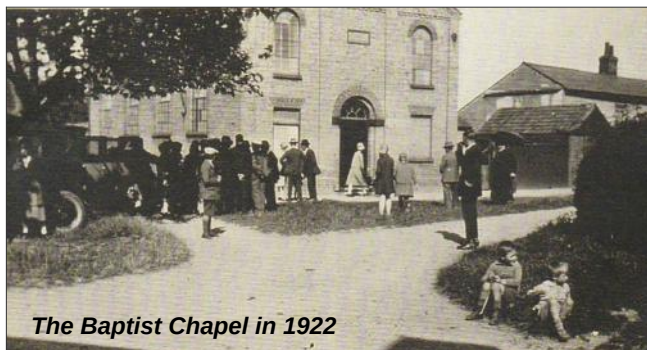
Many of you will have noticed the building work at the Baptist chapel on Stock's Green, in the High Street. We thought you might be interested in what has been going on there since it all began in the autumn of 2017.

The Baptist chapel was founded in 1815, but the original wooden chapel was destroyed by fire early in 1865. A boy was playing with matches in a hay barn which stood very close behind the chapel... with obvious and inevitable consequences. Although that young lad lived into his eighties, he apparently never outgrew his label as 'the boy who burnt the Baptist chapel down'. Whether money was plentiful or maybe because the congregation was larger, a new brick chapel was built in just six months, and cost only £310, which is a rather shorter period than the current project and much cheaper!

The replacement brick building had no damp-proof course or membrane beneath the slates. A structural survey revealed that 150 years of damp had taken its toll. The plaster had been dislodged from the walls, the roof timbers were full of woodworm and the gallery was unsafe. The floorboards and joists were rotten, collapsing one Sunday morning beneath a pew which was occupied by a visiting and very surprised Dutch family. Wet-rot, dry-rot, woodworm - the whole chapel was affected. And so the builders had to move in. By January 2018 during 'the Beast from the East', the building had been reduced to just an open brick shell. It didn't even have windows to shelter the brickies as they manfully began to repoint the inside of the walls.

Since that lowest point the reconstruction has progressed steadily but slowly, for two reasons. As with many old buildings there have been unexpected problems to

overcome, such as concealed rotten timbers in the walls, subsidence and unsafe brickwork (does the latter reflect why it only took six months to build?). And then, because the building had nearly gone beyond repair, the scale of the project meant that finance was largely via donations and grants. Each new phase was unable to commence until the next lot of funding was secured and in place.



Well, the main chapel is now finished. The refurbishment of the toilets, vestry and kitchen area is almost complete. The final phase is underway to replace the old Sunday school room at the back of the premises, which was in a similar state to the chapel. The brickwork is up to window height and the roof trusses are

on order. The builders, to their credit, continued throughout lock-down with whatever work they could safely do, and although we do not have a completion date yet, we feel it is on the horizon.

One last thing. You will have noticed no doubt how the intervening wet winters and months of lorry deliveries have inevitably damaged the Stock's Green grass. For many decades, although technically the responsibility of the Parish Council, the Baptist chapel congregation has voluntarily mown the grass and tidied the surroundings each season. Once the building work is finished, plans are in hand to work together with the Parish Council to renovate Stock's Green. Thank you in the meantime for your patience and forbearance, until once more the Baptist chapel mowers can restore this pretty area of the village.

When the work is complete we hope to hold an open day for the village with an exhibition to show how this lovely old building has been preserved for posterity. We look forward to welcoming you all to that event.

Lis Warboys

The 'New Normal' for Our Pets

We have been enjoying spending extra time with our pets during lockdown. How can we help them adapt as we return to the 'new normal' that we are all now facing?

If you're working from home, let them understand that you sitting at your desk and opening your laptop is the signal for them to settle quietly. When you take short breaks from deskwork, re-engage with your pet. If your dog is getting distressed if you leave the room or house it is particularly important to have times when you may be physically present but not giving them any attention. Start off with very brief absences of minutes.

If you've been leaving the door open through summer to let them come and go into the garden, your dog may need to (re)learn to tell you they need to go out for a toilet break.

Your dog will need to get used to seeing people in masks. Accustom them very gradually.

Another concern is the increased number of people, other dogs and traffic around now. Puppies in particular are going to have to get used to the normal levels of traffic and busyness. Don't try to pack in all the socialisation you think your puppy missed; they will need to learn at their own pace.

Currently we are still not allowed to accompany our pets into vet clinics. Handle your pet regularly, e.g. lifting ears, peering in eyes, to get them used to this.

Teach your dog to go into a room when the doorbell goes so that you can safely shut them in while you take delivery of parcels.

None of us really know what the next few months are going to look like. Make sure all details of your pet (e.g. vet, feeding regime, etc) are with a trusted back-up who can look after your pet if you become unwell. Ask the OWN community group if you need help finding support locally.

Susannah O'Hanlon



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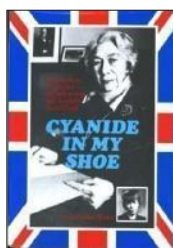
Written with an easy reading and light touch, Josephine charts her amazing journey, as she moves from an unexpected encounter with a mysterious man, to a covert meeting in London, which throws her into a whirlwind of danger and secrets.

Following the only woman chosen and trusted by Winston Churchill for a secret group of twelve, we are drawn into a world where real names are not known, trust is conditional, and which is so sharply depicted that we can almost smell the mud in the alleyways of Paris as Josephine is pursued.

It was a book that made me feel something – complete awe at her courage and grit in the face of impossible odds – and a timely reminder that we can all make a difference.

An amazing book that I just couldn't put down.

Jan Zelnick



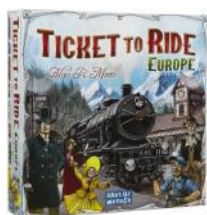
Board Games Chest

Ticket to Ride Europe

Venice to Constantinople – Brest to Petrograd – Cadiz to Stockholm – Palermo to Moscow... We can only dream of such exotic journeys at the moment. But here's a board game in which you build these railways between continental cities, earning more points for the longest routes, and frustrating opponents who are secretly travelling the same way.

You need strategy as well as a bit of luck in this popular game, yielding the tactile pleasure of seeing your coloured trains snake across Europe joining the destinations on your ticket cards. Get the "Europe" version which is better than the original "Ticket to Ride".

Jenny Prince



Vegan Brownie

A very easy recipe – good if you're venturing into egg- and dairy-free baking. Simple enough for children to make.

170g self-raising flour	Pinch salt
1 tsp vanilla extract	230ml sweetened soya milk
170g caster sugar	5 tbsp sunflower oil plus extra
2 tbsp cocoa powder	for greasing

Pre-heat the oven to 180C/350F/Gas 4. Grease and flour a 20cm/8in square cake tin. In a bowl sift together the dry ingredients. Add the rest and mix carefully together until completely mixed.

Bake for about 25 minutes, until the brownies spring back when gently pressed. Cool for 5 minutes in tin before turning onto a wire rack.

Contributed by Jessica Summers

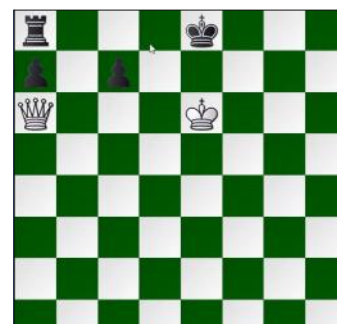
Chess Club

Solution to the chess problem from the last issue: The White plays Rook Ra1-a6. If the Black takes the Rook b7:a6, the White moves the pawn forward b6-b7 ++ checkmate. If Black does not take the Rook but plays the Bishop to anywhere (the only alternative move available to the Black), the white Rook takes the pawn Ra6:a7++ checkmate.

Elegant isn't it!

Chess problem J2/20. The White to move and checkmate in two moves.

Ranko Pinter



Garden Cuttings

After the long hot summer days, and recent rain, many gardens will be having bumper crops and wonderful flower displays as we head into the autumn.

To ensure that French and runner beans remain productive, give a diluted tomato feed once a fortnight and pick regularly.

Tie in and support tomatoes, cucumbers and peppers to prevent the weight of developing fruits damaging the plants. Keep 'pinching out' the side shoots of tomato plants, and remove the top leader to encourage the remaining fruits to develop and ripen.



Deadhead roses, and other flowering plants, to encourage a fresh flush of flowers, and give any new growth time to ripen before winter.

It is time to propagate cuttings of plants like fuchsias, hebes, penstemons, pelargoniums and salvias. Choose a healthy non-flowering ripened shoot, cut below a leaf node, remove the lower leaves, dust with rooting powder and place

in a tray of gritty compost. Water well, and cover with a clear lid. Place the trays in a light, frost free area, and inspect regularly, removing any that show signs of mould or look unhealthy.

As days shorten and mellow into autumn, and the leaves turn to fiery shades of red and gold, it's time to think ahead, and start planting bulbs for next year. For a strong show, daffodils, alliums, lilies and crocuses need to be planted from early September. Choose firm, healthy, bulbs, and dig a wide hole, to a depth at least three times the length of the bulb. Place a gritty compost at the base to improve drainage, and place the bulb with the growing point upwards; water, cover and firm in gently. This will help to give a wonderful display of spring bulbs and provide lots of lovely new plants for the garden next year.

Jan Zelnick

Life in Oakington in 1977

People from Cambridge think we have no fun
But life is not monotonous in dear old Oakington.
Why, the *Jubilee* alone has brought us all together
With decorated floats and prayers for fine weather.

As regular as clockwork is the weekly good news day
When *Wren's Fish and Chip van* calls around each Tuesday.
Also on that day comes the *Mobile Library*
When people wait to choose their books – and its quite free.

Most folk are members of the *Royal British Legion*
It's thriving and has won cups in the Eastern Region.
Magnificent exhibits are in its *Annual Produce Show*
You can enter anything that anyone can grow –
Like two foot long carrots and eight straight runner beans
Six equal sized potatoes or enormous aubergines.
BUT every year the chairman moans, 'It's been a difficult season'
Windy, cold, hot, dry or wet, there's always a good reason
Why the peas have shrivelled up
or the French beans have gone curly
or it's too late for the asparagus or for the cauliflower's
too early.

The *Sports and Social Club* try to keep us fit and well
To maintain the tennis courts
they must raffle tickets sell.
To have no football team fill them with gloom
It's cos there's no loos or decent changing room.

Now the *Women's Institute* used to have a hut
It was where *Arcadia Gardens* is – but
They still meet in the school, and sing *Jerusalem*
each time
Hear about antique collecting and juvenile crime.

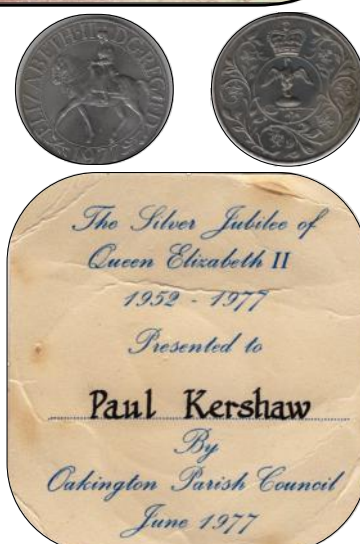
The *Ladies Club* in each others houses meet
They visit *Today's shop* for the odd special treat
And learn how Christmas decorations to make
Or how to bring their children up, or fondant ice a cake.

The *Parent-Teachers* have a really exciting time
By building swimming pools and acting in pantomime,
To sing and dance is all the rage
But it's dangerous to bounce about the stage.

The *Over-Sixties* meet quite often and have a lovely tea
Buy bargain marmite or lucozade and chat nostalgically
Play whist and dominoes, get gardening advice
Go on outings to the theatre and other places nice

There's the *Guides and Brownies, Scouts and Cubs*
Pathfinders, Crusaders and the Humpty Dumpty club,
So you nice citizens of Cambridge,
no one is bored stiff here
Because there just aren't enough days
in a week, I fear.

B Jean Williamson, 11.06.77



A Pub Crawl Through History

In 1900 there were at least eight Public Houses in Oakington and Westwick, by 1989 there were two and after the New Inn on Station Road, Westwick, closed its doors on 21st May 1989, just one. The White Horse is the only one remaining, now on Longstanton Road; however, originally it was on Ale House Green by the Crossroads. An article in the Cambridge Chronicle reports that this building was destroyed by fire in 1805. Three of the pubs were closed by the Cambridge Magistrates in 1905 noting that there was a population of 324 exclusive of children. They were The King's Head (Longstanton Road), The Plough and Harrow (also Longstanton Road where the village shop is now) and The Windmill (High Street). The Lion and Lamb (High Street) followed in 1909, The Butchers' Arms (Water Lane) in 1947 and The Harvest Home (at one time in a pair of thatched cottages on Cambridge Road, then at Crossways) in 1951.

There is also a public house named the Red Bull marked on the 1834 enclosures map, situated opposite what is now Lowbury Crescent. Most of these public houses sold beer, made at home and usually sold over a counter across a doorway or through a window and taken away to be consumed.

In the Alehouse Act 1828 and Beerhouse Act of 1830, the Government of the day was allowing any "Householder of Respectability" to sell beer for a small annual payment of about £2. Subsequently several houses in Oakington and Westwick were converted into this usage. These acts allowed licensed public houses to stay open 18 hours a day and were promoted in the 1820 and 1830s to encourage people to drink beer instead of spirits, especially gin. Although there were many complaints by magistrates and the local gentry who were keen to control the working classes in their area.



The "Spot the Location" quiz photo last month shows a parade in Longstanton Road celebrating the Silver Jubilee of King George V in 1935 taken from the White Horse. You can see the village shop on the left which used to be the Plough and Harrow.



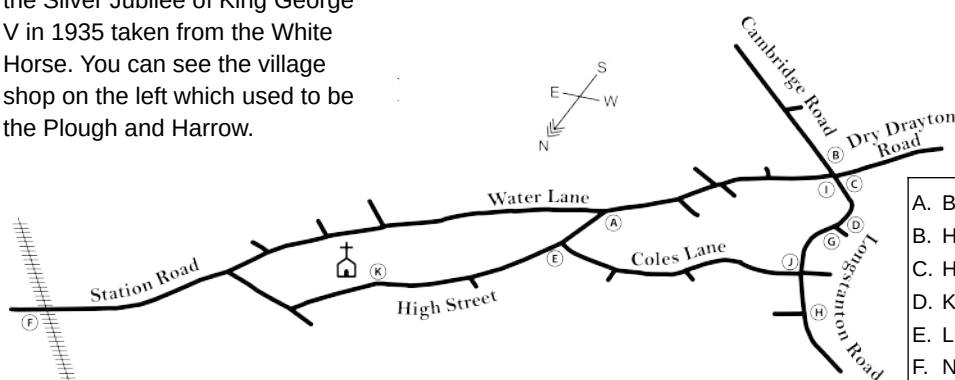
With pubs on the decline and the hardship suffered though lockdown, it's great to see the White Horse open its doors once more....Cheers!



Nick & Sarah Harrison
archives@oakingtonhistory.co.uk

Oakington Pub Locations

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| A. Butchers' Arms | G. Plough & Harrow |
| B. Harvest Home (Old) | H. Red Bull |
| C. Harvest Home (New) | I. White Horse (Old) |
| D. King's Head | J. White Horse (New) |
| E. Lion & Lamb | K. Windmill |
| F. New Inn | |



Climate Change

One of the outcomes of climate change is sea level rise. From 1880 to 2013, the average figure was 0.06 inches per year but since 2013, the rise has been 0.11 to 0.14 inches, because higher temperatures expand water volume and cause ice melt. This may not concern us too much in Oakington as we are currently nearly 50 miles from the Wash but, of course, we are no strangers to flooding. Who could forget that dramatic day in August 2014 when the sky opened and we received nearly 7 inches of rain in one day? Yes, climate change can include more storm events.

So, it is interesting to see that Northstowe Flood Plans include a 30% increase in flood capacity because of climate change modelling. The plans include new flood attenuation ponds but what about the water features there now?

A number of people from Oakington and Longstanton have got together to try to care for the biggest water body on the

site. The **Friends of (Northstowe) Nature** are aiming to protect the Military Lake (also known as Sapper Lake) which was constructed as part of a training programme by military personnel. It is a delightful landscape feature and wildlife includes toads, newts, bats and great crested grebes, and the wetland around should be considered an important buffer from human activity but also part of climate change mitigation. Wetland holds in carbon reducing the release of carbon dioxide into the air.

It is so encouraging that these Friends of Nature are standing against the loss of our biodiversity and mitigating climate change. These problems may not be as immediate as Coronavirus but they are still present and we must surely continue to do our best to help our planet. We welcome anyone who would like to join a new climate change group.



John Terry - johnterry23@hotmail.co.uk

Friends of Northstowe Nature

... was recently formed to question Homes England on their proposed plans for the Phase 3A phase of the Northstowe development.



The Friends are a mixed age and range of 'concernees', inspired by local wildlife guru, Charlotte Jordan, who has a vision – based on rigorous facts and networked resources – for equal access to, and for protection of 'The Nature' on the ancient site.

Having grown up locally and with farming family, Charlotte knows the site, surrounding land plus the wildlife inhabitants very well. Collectively, as a group, we have lived in the village for scores of years.



The Friends is not an exclusive club, all nature enthusiasts and carers for the site are encouraged to get involved. We wish to see much-needed social housing provision balanced with good nature management, which goes hand-in-hand with flood prevention for Oakington.

We heartily back the excellent response from Oakington Parish Council whose opposing report focussed on the main danger, primarily the threat from the plans of flooding to Oakington.

We would like some key questions addressed, like: Is the Biodiversity data correct? How will the lake be managed? Where is the data to show how close you can build to the Lake without damaging it and the species? Why aren't there plans to plant the green infrastructure now, so that when developers come to sell the houses there are already mature, inviting spaces for people to live?

We don't have the answers to these and other questions, so we may well need to commission our own expert to inform us all.

If you'd like to join us and get involved please email Mrs Charlotte Jordan - lake793558@groups.outlook

Jenny Broadway

