

# ***Oakington & Westwick Journal***

January 2019

***Journal***



**Pavement Clearing Heroes**

**No Smiles for Speeders**

**Parish Council Myth-Busting**



## WEEKLY

- Mon **Monday Café**, 9:30-noon. Church Hall, £1. Liz Davis - C 232 745
- Mon **Bodysculpt Pilates**, 9:30 - 10:30 am. Pavilion.
- Mon **Senior Pilates**, 1:15 - 2:15 pm. Pavilion.
- Mon **Brownies**. For further details please contact Anne Christie – [oakingtonbrownies@gmail.com](mailto:oakingtonbrownies@gmail.com)
- Mon **Good Exercise**, 7 - 8pm. Pavilion.
- Mon **Oakington Singers**, 8-9:30pm. Rehearsal, Church Hall. Paul Tann – C 235 567
- Tue **Happy Feet**, Rhythm & Rhyme, 10-11am. Church Hall. Ben Phillips – [familyworker@standrewsoakington.co.uk](mailto:familyworker@standrewsoakington.co.uk)
- Tue **Cubs**, 6-7:15pm. Pavilion, £30 per term. Jo Mowatt – [oakingtoncubs@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:oakingtoncubs@yahoo.co.uk)
- Tue **Table Tennis**, 7:30pm. Pavilion, £2.50. Gillian L'angellier – C 234 758
- Wed **Pilates**, 10:30 - 11:30am. Pavilion.
- Wed **Yoga**, 7:30 - 9pm. Pavilion.
- Wed + Oakington Viking **Football Club**. Many teams. Recreation Ground. Info: James Wilson – [james@selsius.co.uk](mailto:james@selsius.co.uk)
- Thu **Little Steps** Toddler group, 10-11:30am. Church Hall. Ben Phillips – [familyworker@standrewsoakington.co.uk](mailto:familyworker@standrewsoakington.co.uk)
- Thu **Short Mat Bowls**, 1:30pm & 7:30pm. Pavilion, £4 per week. Dawn Stokes – C 236 427
- Thu **Ten Sing**, 7-9pm. Histon Baptist Church, £45 per year. Theresa King – [jking47@aol.com](mailto:jking47@aol.com)
- Fri **Over 55s Fitness**, 10 - 11:30am. Pavilion. £4.50/£3.50 concessions. Simon – C 236945
- Fri **Beavers** followed by **Scouts**. £30 per term. For more information please contact Lou Ellis – [kld1001@me.com](mailto:kld1001@me.com)
- Sat **Yoga**, 10 - 11:30 am. Pavilion.

## JANUARY

- Sat 19 Jan Ten Sing Concert with Peterborough Gospel Choir, 7:30pm. Histon Baptist Church.
- Mon 21 Jan Community Association meeting, 7:30pm. Crossways Café. Jo Mills - [bjomills@aol.com](mailto:bjomills@aol.com)
- Thu 24 Jan Mobile Library, 2:30 - 2:55 pm. Coles Lane/High Street.
- Thu 24 Jan O&W WI, George & Dragon, Elsworth. Midwinter Feast. Helen Williams - C 232614
- Fri 25 Jan Grow Your Health event, 10am - 4pm. Crossways Café. "Add the creativity back into your 5-a-day"
- Wed 30 Jan Police Surgery, 10:30am - 12:30pm. Cottenham Co-Op. Chat to police, talk about issues, get security advice.
- Wed 30 Jan Garden Society, 7:30pm. Church Hall. "Lancelot Brown – how capable was he?". Julie Grove – C 233951

## FEBRUARY

- Sat 9 Feb **Bingo Afternoon**, 2:30 - 4:30pm. Pavilion. Oakington & Westwick Neighbours. [OWNeighbours@gmail.com](mailto:OWNeighbours@gmail.com)
- Mon 11 Feb **District Councillors' Surgery**, 2 - 4pm. Dale Community Room, Longstanton. [Cllr.Malyon@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.Malyon@scambs.gov.uk)
- Mon 11 Feb **O&W Parish Council**, 7:30pm. Pavilion. All invited. Clerk: Laura Lawrence – [oakingtonnpc@btinternet.com](mailto:oakingtonnpc@btinternet.com)
- Tue 12 Feb **Tuesday Talk & Tea**, 2:45pm. School Hall. Holiday memories. Joan Pettit
- Thu 14 Feb **O&W WI**, 7:30pm. Church Hall. AGM & Valentine craft. Helen Williams - C 232614
- Sat 16 Feb Humpty Dumpty **Jumble Sale**, 12 - 2pm. Oakington Primary School.
- Thu 21 Feb **History Society**, 7:30pm. Church Hall. "Digging Up a Spitfire". Julie Grove - C 233951
- Fri 22 Feb **Country Dancing**, 8-10pm. Histon Methodist Church Hall. £1.50/50p. Kathryn Coles - C 233191
- Wed 27 Feb **Garden Society**, 7:30pm. Church Hall. "Peckover House and Gardens.". Julie Grove – C 233951
- Thu 28 Feb **Mobile Library**, 2:30 - 2:55 pm. Coles Lane/High Street.

## MARCH

- Fri 1 Mar **Punjabi Party Night**, 7 - 10:30pm. Girton Golf Club. £25/£20. C 276169
- Tue 5 Mar **Copy deadline** for the Journal. [oakwestjournal@gmail.com](mailto:oakwestjournal@gmail.com)
- Mon 11 Mar **District Councillors' Surgery**, 2 - 4pm. Pavilion. [Cllr.Malyon@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.Malyon@scambs.gov.uk). 01954 202859
- Mon 11 Mar **O&W Parish Council**, 7:30pm. Pavilion. All invited. Clerk: Laura Lawrence – [oakingtonnpc@btinternet.com](mailto:oakingtonnpc@btinternet.com)
- Tue 12 Mar **Tuesday Talk & Tea**, 2:45pm. School Hall. "History & Activities of the Salvation Army". Joan Pettit
- Thu 14 Mar **O&W WI**, 7:30pm. Church Hall. "Tiptree Jams". Helen Williams - C 232614
- Thu 21 Mar **History Society**, 7:30pm. Church Hall. "A History of Histon Brook". Julie Grove - C 233951
- Fri 22 Mar **Country Dancing**, 8-10pm. Histon Methodist Church Hall. £1.50/50p. Kathryn Coles - C 233191

Cover photo: Geoffrey Butlin

### Villagers, Neighbours, Friends

Some people juggle many social circles - workmates, relatives, perhaps even groups they've joined online. Others may feel more isolated and that they lack contact or support. It's good for all of us to get to know those who share our community. How? There are lots of suggestions in the pages of this Journal!

For years the Monday Café has given people a chance to meet and make local friends. It's one of the many things

which makes Oakington and Westwick special. We thank them for their support of this issue, allowing us to fit in even more of what's going on in the villages.

As a new year starts, it's a good time to also thank everyone who helps with the Journal: especially the regular contributors, the advertisers, the proofreader, and the delivery team. Best wishes for 2019 to all our readers!

Jenny Prince

Editors: Jenny Prince & Irène Butlin



### Spotlight on the Monday Café

The Monday Café is more popular than ever! It takes place in the comfortable St Andrew's Church hall on Mondays 9:30 to 12 noon. However, it started out in the old Methodist hall ten years ago, following a suggestion by Brenda Mahoney.

It is not a café in the normal sense of the word, more an opportunity for people to socialise over a cup of tea (or coffee) and a piece of home made cake. At £1 including refills, no-one is complaining! There is also a mini bookshop – you can grab a pre-read one for 50p.

So what are the reasons people drop in? There is a lively buzz about the place, providing a friendly environment where



you can connect with other villagers. Having newly moved here to be nearer her daughter, Janet saw the café advertised in the Journal. She first turned up just to ask questions about local services, but immediately felt welcome and

found it a place to gain new friends. For anyone living alone, this weekly morning provides an opportunity to get out and meet with people from all sorts of backgrounds.

The café is staffed by a dozen volunteers. Liz Davis oversees the rota and looks after supplies. Every few months a modest surplus is donated to a cause that will benefit the village. We are most grateful to the Monday Café for sponsoring extra pages in this issue of the Journal by a £100 donation!

Irène Butlin

### Oakington & Westwick Journal

*Published on behalf of the Oakington & Westwick Community Association to inform residents of events, activities and issues in the parish.*

**Journal Team:** Jenny Prince & Irène Butlin (editors), Nykki Rogers (treasurer), Jane Goodyer (distribution manager), Geoffrey Butlin (adviser), Ranko Pinter (chair)

Send contributions to  
**[oakwestjournal@gmail.com](mailto:oakwestjournal@gmail.com)**

or phone: 233510 (Jenny) or 234383 (Irène)

**DEADLINE FOR MARCH ISSUE:  
Tuesday 5 March**

**(DEADLINE FOR ADVERTS: Tuesday 26 Feb)**

Delivered week beginning Saturday 16 March  
covering period up to 18 May

### New Notice Board

By now you will have hopefully seen the new notice board near the shop. This was purchased by the Parish Council as a result of requests for a board in that particular area of the village. The main section with the double doors is very much for community use, so please do feel free to display your local event notices etc. on it. Raj & Kanwal have very kindly agreed to hold a key at the shop on a trial basis, so just ask to borrow it when you want to put a notice up.

If you experience any issues accessing the board, please contact me.

Laura Lawrence, Clerk

Tel: 232398 [oakingtonnpc@btinternet.com](mailto:oakingtonnpc@btinternet.com)



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 it - open box, take out defibrillator, shut box (alarm goes off), open defibrillator and it talks to tell you what to do.

### Parish Councillors

**Chair:** Stephen Moore

**Vice Chair:** Tony Starling

John Bailey

Geoffrey Butlin

Julie Grove

Louis Navarro

Ranko Pinter

Lis Warboys

**Email address** for all councillors  
[oakingtonpc@btinternet.com](mailto:oakingtonpc@btinternet.com)

### Parish Website

[www.oakingtonandwestwick-pc.org.uk](http://www.oakingtonandwestwick-pc.org.uk)

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

Mrs Laura Lawrence

Email: [oakingtonpc@btinternet.com](mailto:oakingtonpc@btinternet.com)

Post: 4 Meadow Farm Close  
Oakington CB24 3AS

Phone: 01223 232398

### District Councillors

Sarah Cheung Johnson – 01954 489089  
[cllr.cheungjohnson@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.cheungjohnson@scambs.gov.uk)

Alex Malyon – 01954 202859  
[cllr.malyon@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.malyon@scambs.gov.uk)

### County Councillor

Peter Hudson – 07518 417432  
[peter.hudson@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:peter.hudson@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

### Pavilion Booking Administrator

Tony Leadley – 07936 024587  
[oakingtonpavilion@gmail.com](mailto:oakingtonpavilion@gmail.com)

### Bin days



Thurs 24 Jan, Thurs 7 Feb,  
Thurs 21 Feb, Thurs 7 Mar



Thurs 31 Jan,  
Thurs 28 Feb



Thurs 14 Feb,  
Thurs 14 March

## From our Parish Council chair

### Happy New Year!

The Parish Council has its first meeting of 2019 on 14 January when we will be discussing **our budget** for the coming financial year.

In our plan, we have prioritised spending on flood attenuation, traffic control measures and making the village more physically attractive. Trying to prevent any future **flooding** in the village has been a goal of many of my predecessors, but with the A14 and Northstowe being built around us, finally there does appear to be some light on the horizon. I hope that at some time this year we might be able to get some definite movement on this important issue. I would just like to thank Andrew Dennis for all the amazing work he is doing on this.

There has been a noticeable **increase in traffic**, and increasing numbers of speeding drivers too. We are very concerned about these issues. Speeding is a policing matter, but we see police officers in the village as often as Father Christmas.

Traffic calming measures are the responsibility of the County Council, but the cuts imposed by the government on local councils mean they struggle to fulfil their obligations. We have already co-purchased a traffic camera which is currently installed in Cambridge Road and we are exploring what additional powers Parish Councils have to tackle speeding. However, any measures to combat speeding and to prevent flooding may involve additional spending and therefore a possible increase in the level of the precept.

Finally, you have all had the chance of commenting on the **proposed Rural Travel Hub**. The Parish Council has made a formal response which can be read on our website. In essence, we oppose a Hub with parking provision, as this will simply attract more cars through the village. However, we do not object to a rural public transport hub in which the route of the C6 bus will be extended to the Hub. We have added a list of conditions which include a new dedicated cycleway/footpath and enforced parking controls in the nearby streets. Looks like a busy New Year!



*Stephen Moore – [oakingtonchairman@gmail.com](mailto:oakingtonchairman@gmail.com)*

### Heidi Allen, MP's surgeries & contact information

Sat 9 February 2019, 10.30am - 12.30pm

Drop-in Surgery - No appointment necessary

Venue: Caxton Village Hall, Gransden Road, Caxton, CB23 3PL

Fri 1 March 2019, 3.00 - 5.00pm. By appointment only

Venue: Melbourn Community Hub, 30 High Street, SG8 6DZ

To book an appointment please call 01223 830037

More info: [www.heidisouthcambs.co.uk/residents-drop-surgeries](http://www.heidisouthcambs.co.uk/residents-drop-surgeries)

If you would like to contact me, please email

[heidi.allen.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:heidi.allen.mp@parliament.uk) or call my office on 01223 830037

### The future of Crossways CommuniTea Café

There will be a discussion about the future of the café at the **Community Association meeting on Monday 21 January at 7.30 pm**, at the café. Please do come along to have your say! In the meantime, if you want to book the space for something please contact Adrienne Chaplin at [adrienne.dengerinkchaplin@googlemail.com](mailto:adrienne.dengerinkchaplin@googlemail.com)



### From our District Councillors

We would like to wish all Oakington and Westwick residents a Happy New Year.

We are looking forward to working for you as your District Councillors in 2019.



**Issues with local transport.** Since our last Journal update, we met with Andy Campbell, MD for Stagecoach East, to discuss problems with local bus services. He acknowledged there have been issues in the last few months with reliability of services on the Busway. They have had staffing issues, but they have started apprenticeships, are now fully staffed and things should improve. They have also requested 20 additional buses to come online for Spring of 2019. A more detailed report from this meeting can be found on our Facebook page.

We recommend residents continue to feedback issues and requests to Stagecoach directly, either via Twitter [@stagecoach\\_east](https://twitter.com/stagecoach_east) or email [cambridge.enquiries@stagecoachbus.com](mailto:cambridge.enquiries@stagecoachbus.com). Complaints are all collated and make a difference to their understanding of the issues.

We were also pleased to support a motion before South Cambs Full Council calling on the Combined Authority to bring forward the outcome of the strategic review of commercial, subsidised and community transport. The

Council called on them to ensure that the review makes provision to ensure that the residents of our villages could, at last, look forward to having the integrated, streamlined public transport provision that will make car use the less favourable option. The motion passed with unanimous support.

**Councillor updates and surgeries.** We are keen to meet residents at our regular surgeries, especially those who might find contacting us via email or social media difficult. At our final surgery of 2018 we were happy to meet Oakington residents and we are working with Council teams on issues they raised, including street-sweeping and the clearing of drains in the village, particularly on Water Lane.

Surgeries planned for 2019:

- **Mon 11 Feb** 2-4pm, The Dale Community Room, Longstanton
- **Mon 11 March** 2-4pm, The Pavilion, Oakington

To sign up to our monthly email newsletter for updates on local news and wider district issues which will impact us all: [www.sclibdems.org.uk/email\\_signup\\_longstanton](http://www.sclibdems.org.uk/email_signup_longstanton)

For all the latest news & updates so far please go to: [www.sclibdems.org.uk/longstanton\\_news](http://www.sclibdems.org.uk/longstanton_news)

For those on social media we have a very active Facebook group covering the whole ward

[www.facebook.com/groups/2066298150052161/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/2066298150052161/)

*Alex Malyon & Sarah Cheung Johnson*

### From our County Councillor

**Primary School.** I have been working with the School Improvement Team on our Primary School after the very worrying OFSTED report. This culminated with a visit to the school on the 4th December, meeting Nathan Clark, the Acting Head, and Edmund Buss, the Chair of Governors. I have to say that I left with a spring in my step after seeing the changes and future direction that Nathan is leading our school in. OFSTED recently returned and are very pleased with the many improvements and changes put in place. Nathan is a very impressive young man who will move our school forward and progress with the procedural and safeguarding issues highlighted by OFSTED. This all bodes well for our children's education and futures.

**Cycle paths.** Jason Tyrell and Susan Rooke from the County Council Cycle Design Team continue to work on the new upgrade to Girton. Strutt and Parker have been appointed Land Agents for the Cottenham Path re the acquisition of private land.

**Library Services.** The County Council has approved an expenditure of £275k for two replacement mobile libraries. This secures the future of this valuable rural service and provides an opportunity for other outreach services.

**New-look Child and Family Centres get seal of approval.** Last April, against great opposition, the County Council transformed the way Children's Centre services were delivered. The County Council moved out of expensive

buildings and into community buildings, getting the services into the heart of our communities, concentrating on where the need is greater.

In the recent survey, 93% of the people who shared their views online and at activity sessions agreed that the new provision was really helpful.

One respondent said they valued "being able to socialise and make new friends." Another said the Centres provided "somewhere to learn parenting skills for both new parents and parents who were experiencing difficulties." Another respondent said it was "useful to get advice and support from Family Workers and other staff."

The new model delivers services for families with children aged 0-19, and allows buildings to be used more flexibly, bringing services closer to the communities which need them via an improved outreach offer.

One of the changes put in place was to run events and activities from a wider range of venues in new locations. Of those surveyed more than a third (36.67%) said they have attended a session delivered by their Child and Family Centre in an outreach venue such as a sports centre or village hall.

I wish you all a very happy new year.

*Peter Hudson, County Councillor*  
*Oakington, Westwick, Longstanton, Northstowe, & Over*

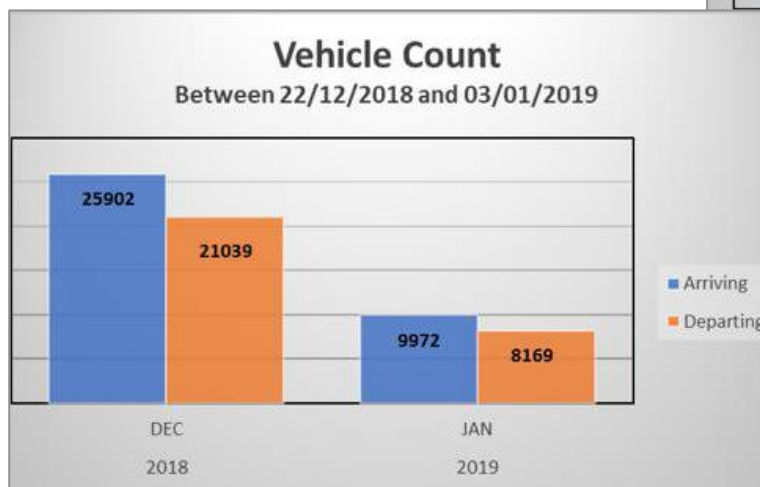


### Not Just a Smiley Face

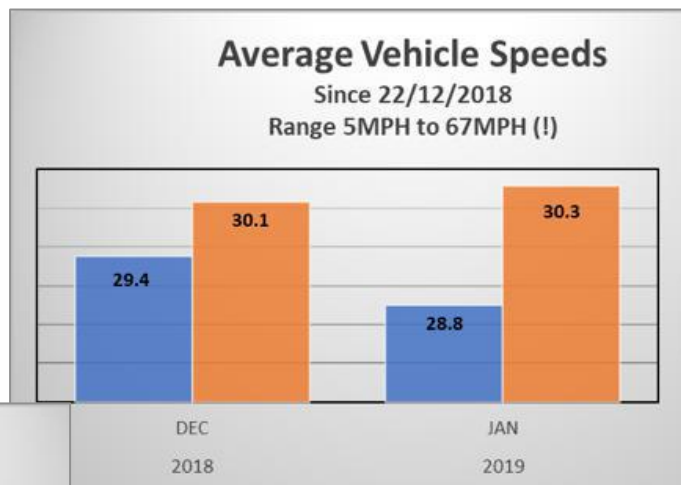
After waiting for nearly a year the Parish Council (PC) received the speed camera equipment that it had successfully applied for through a joint Local Highways Initiative (LHI) and to be shared with Longstanton.

Many of you may well have seen that the equipment has been installed on Cambridge Road and has been operating since 22<sup>nd</sup> December with the “smiley face” greeting drivers coming into the village from the Girton direction. However, the equipment does record data for both inbound and outbound traffic. The equipment is also movable so that it can be easily repositioned throughout the village. This will enable a better understanding of the traffic flow through the village so that we can argue for improvements to be made to

The chart below shows the average speed for all vehicles entering and leaving the village along Cambridge Road. The range of speeds extends from 5mph to a scary excessive 67mph!



keep everybody safer. The chart above shows the number of vehicles travelling along the Cambridge Road for the last 10 days of December and the first three days of the new year.



An initial review of the data shows that just around 40% of the vehicle movements along Cambridge Road exceeded the speed limit.

It is still early days in getting to grips with all the data that is available from the equipment, but TAG will continue to analyse the information and there have been several volunteers offering to carry out this activity, but we would appreciate volunteers to help relocate the equipment probably on a two-monthly basis.

If you would like to get involved in this or any other aspect of TAG activity, please get in touch using the contact details below.

*Jim Bryant, Transport Action Group Chair*  
[owcp.tag@gmail.com](mailto:owcp.tag@gmail.com) - 07807184691

### Bingo!



Happy New Year from Oakington & Westwick Neighbours!

This copy of the Journal includes a brand **new leaflet** about OWN and what we do. Friendly contact and support is given to all members of the scheme whether they are helping or being helped.

Volunteers have assisted with computing and form filling, shopping, car lifts, and fetching prescriptions or will simply pop in for a cup of tea and a chat. Whoever and wherever support is needed in the village, we aim to provide it.

Not only that, but OWN organises community social events during the year to encourage all ages to mix and mingle, and the next will be on **Saturday 9 February, 2.30-4.30pm** in the Pavilion.



This year we'll be playing Bingo not Beetle, but it will be just as much fun and inclusive (although no cash prizes), and of course there will be tea and plenty of cake!



Make a note in your diary or calendar - we look forward to seeing you.

If you want to find out more, there are several ways you can get in touch:

Call 07902111786 or email [OWNeighbours@gmail.com](mailto:OWNeighbours@gmail.com)  
Or see our website: [www.owneighbours.wordpress.com](http://www.owneighbours.wordpress.com) or Facebook page.

*Jo Bryant, OWN*

**GROW YOUR HEALTH**

**SPECIAL ONE DAY EVENT**  
**@ Crossways Community Cafe**  
*Adding the creativity back into your 5 a day*

**DECORATE** a pot & **PLANT** your very own fruit and veg

**CHOOSE** your own fruit creation & **ADD** toppings

**25 January 2019**  
10am - 4pm  
1 Longstanton Road, Oakington, Cambridge, CB24 3BB

**Everyone is welcome!**  
Voluntary donation on entry



### Environment Action Group

Our **Flood Mitigation Group** (FMG) has been working hard behind the scenes to reduce the risk of flooding in the village. Andrew Dennis attended the Northstowe Phase 3 Interactive Workshop in November to find out about drainage from the edge of Phase 3 and to scrutinise the plans for an attenuation pond by Longstanton Road which should control any water flowing towards Oakington. Meanwhile the FMG continues to push for the planned attenuation ponds on Oakington Brook upstream of the village. We have also been successful in persuading Anglian Water to remove their “witches’ hat” pipe protection measures that were installed at the Dry Drayton Road bridge, which we believed posed an added flood risk by their capacity to snag debris.

Our **footpath sweeping** work continued in December, with small but enthusiastic teams of volunteers clearing leaves from our footpaths to make them safer and easier to use. We are very grateful to the fourteen volunteers who took part in the December clear-up: *“never on the paths and verges of a village has so much been owed by so many to so few”*. We do this work under Cambridgeshire County Council’s Highways



Volunteering Scheme, which provides insurance cover and allows us to work on County Council and District Council property, but not on private property. We urgently need more volunteers to help with this work: if you would be able to spare an occasional few hours please contact James Youd (01223 233639 - [jamesyoud51@icloud.com](mailto:jamesyoud51@icloud.com)).

James Youd and John Whittington **met with our district councillors** Sarah Cheung-Johnson and Alex Malyon at the end of November to discuss several issues, including the appearance of large puddles and localized flooding during periods of heavy rain. We believe that many of the roadside and in-kerb drains are badly blocked and inadequate for the volumes of water involved. Cambridgeshire County Council is responsible for clearing the drains but has limited resources; we have also requested that South Cambridgeshire District Council sweep the gutters more regularly in order to avoid drains getting blocked. We are unable to do this work ourselves as the Highways Volunteering Scheme under which we operate does not allow us to work in roads.

Finally, our **Oakington and Westwick in Bloom** initiative expanded in December to include three additional flower tubs, paid for by the Community Association. Like 16 other tubs in the village these are owned by the Parish Council and looked after by volunteers. We are very grateful to the Community Association for funding these additional tubs, to Philip and his team at the Garden Centre for planting them up, and to all the Oakington and Westwick in Bloom volunteers who care for the new and existing tubs.

*Stephanie Smith*

### Tea & Cake

What do teenagers, professionals and pensioners have in common? In this case, they are all part of our Journal delivery team! Every other month 16 volunteers deliver copies to all 650 households in Oakington and Westwick!

Recently the Journal Team invited them to “Tea & Cake”. It was an informal, social occasion to say **thank you** for their commitment and community spirit. Also, it was an opportunity to meet each other! Special guests were Elisabeth and Andrew Dennis who had edited early versions of the then Newsletter for 11 years. A number of people have delivered the Journal for many years, but the current record for long service belongs to **Joan King** and **Diana Wisbey**. They both go back to when the Newsletter was first issued – 1990s?!

Current delivery team: *Jim Bryant, Beryl Cook, Mark Darling, Lou Ellis, Sue Guy, Joan King, Laura Lawrence, Tony MacDonald, Linda Neech, Shelagh Rogers, Marcus Till, Sarah Welch, Jillian Wilkinson, Jane Williams, Diana Wisbey & James Youd*



*Irène Butlin*

#### MOBILE LIBRARY

Visits Oakington (Coles Lane/High Street) on the fourth Thursday of the month, 2:30 - 2:55pm



#### JUMBLE SALE

In aid of Humpty Dumpty Pre-School  
**at the Primary School**  
**Sat 16 February, 12 - 2pm**



### Cubs, Scouts, Beavers and Brownies

A big thank you to all who helped make the 1st Oakington Scouts and Brownies Christmas Carol Concert such an enjoyable event.

Also, Cubs have availability for volunteer young leaders who are interested in doing their D of E award.  
(Contact: [oakingtoncubs@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:oakingtoncubs@yahoo.co.uk).)

*Lou Ellis*

### Tuesday Talk & Tea

Our thanks to the school choir's wonderful singing - it helped to make our Christmas party such a success.

Make 2019 the year you decide to join Tuesday Talk & Tea and enjoy our company plus English Tea.

- **12 Feb** Holiday memories from two of our members
- **12 Mar** History & activities of the Salvation Army by Capt Rob Simons.

Both meetings at Oakington School Hall 2.45pm.  
Belated wishes for a good year !!

*Joan Pettit (chairperson)*

### Short Mat Bowls Club


The Club is busy again with our in-house competitions for the New Year. In November the winners of last year's competitions were awarded with the Club's trophies and shields. It was a clean sweep for the Stokes household with Dawn winning the Singles competition, the Ladies Knockout competition and the Pairs competition with husband Mervyn.

If you would like to join us, we play every Thursday at the Sports Pavilion. We have two sessions, one beginning at 1.30 pm and the other at 7.30 pm. We have spare bowls and we just ask that you wear smooth soled shoes.

If you are interested in playing in the afternoon or would like further information, please contact Dawn on 01223 236427.

*Dawn Stokes*





*Like  
Bacon  
Only Better...  
Join the Choir!*

Singing builds confidence, reduces stress and anxiety, raises endorphins. Plus it is low in saturated fat! So come out and see what a great time we have!

Oakington Singers is open to all in the Oakington and Westwick community and beyond. No audition requires but a brief (1 minute) range and pitch matching check will be on offer. Music reading and some previous choral experience are helpful. We meet weekly at St Andrews Church Hall.

**Starts Monday January 14th, 8.00pm to 9.30pm.**

**St Andrews Church Hall**  
33 Water Lane Street, Oakington, Cambridge, CH24 3AL

For informal enquiries, call 01223 630886  
[www.OakingtonSingers.co.uk](http://www.OakingtonSingers.co.uk)

### Table Tennis Club

We are a small, friendly club, of mixed ability. We play throughout the year and meet every Tuesday at 7.30pm at the Pavilion in Queens Way and we would welcome any new players who wish to join us. We have four table tennis tables and a quantity of spare bats - all you need is a pair of trainers. Please note that an adult must accompany junior players. If you would like any further information please contact Gillian L'angellier on 234758.

*Mick Dorling*

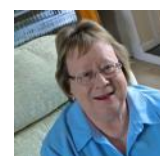
### Book Corner

One of the joys of books is the sheer diversity of reading matter. If you prefer your bedtime reading fairly light and with a local theme try any of Alison Bruce's novels – an author living in Cambridge whose hero is PC Gary Goodhew who lives in Park Terrace and works out of Parkside Police Station!



Don't forget that your Telephone Box Library contains all kind of unexpected treasures, too.

*Liz Davis*





### History Society

Oakington and Westwick History Society was formed in 2008. We meet on the third Thursday of the month, September to April. In the past we have arranged for test pits to be dug around the village, and helped with the archaeology of the recreation ground.



Our membership is £15 single, £25 family, visitors £4. We meet at St Andrews Church Hall at 7.30pm.

#### Lest we forget

Thanks to everyone who helped with the WW1 research. We have a way to go yet, and I would like to have some form of display ready for the Village Day. The research was at times harrowing and gave an insight into the impact the War had on our small rural community.

#### 21 Feb: "Digging Up a Spitfire"



In October 2015 Oxford Archaeology East were asked to excavate the site of a Spitfire which crashed during a training flight at Holme Lode Farm near Holme on 22 Nov 1940. What was thought initially to be a straightforward excavation took an unexpected turn. The resulting dig uncovered the final hours of 20 year-old Pilot Officer Harold Edward Penketh's life. James Fairburn and Anthony Haskins, Archaeologists for the excavation, will be here to talk about the difficulties they encountered and how the dig became a personal tribute to Pilot Officer Penketh's life.

### 21 Mar: "A History of Histon Brook"

David Oates will be returning with the history of Histon brook. You may be surprised to learn that Histon pond is not a pond as such but part of Histon brook. David looks at the history and diversity of the brook over the years and its influence on the history of this neighbouring village.

*Julie Grove 233951*

### Ten Sing



Cambridge Ten Sing is a youth performing arts group run by young adults for other young people. We meet every Thursday 7-9pm at Histon Baptist Church and enjoy singing, dancing and acting with other like minded people!

Coming up in January we are performing with Peterborough Community Gospel Choir at HBC, on 19 January at 7.30pm.

Secondly, our annual concert this year is on 30 March - a date for your diaries! We have already been busy learning lots of new songs, dances, a musical theatre piece and even a signing song, and are very excited to share them with as many of you as possible!

As ever, if you would like to join Ten Sing and are between years 7-13, please feel free to just turn up any Thursday evening or email Terry on [jking47@aol.com](mailto:jking47@aol.com).

*Annie MacDonald*

### Oakington Sewing Fellowship

A small group of individuals meet throughout the year to work together on craft activities, usually sewing together. Joy, Linda, Lois, Celine, Morfydd, Nicky and Jane currently make up the group which is open to those who wish to join and learn. I for one can testify about how simple some of the tasks can be with a little help!

It is a lively and fun group led by a craft leader who helps with provision of materials and tools if needed. The range of experience is vast from beginners to very experienced team members. The recent Christmas Season saw an opportunity to make tree decorations and door wreaths!



But the fellowship do not work in isolation; they are "twinned" with faith based college Amani College in Tanzania. Funds and donations sent from Oakington make their way to Tanzania to help sewing and tailoring workshops.



The participants make dresses and suits as can be seen here. These skills are life skills and can lead to starting their own business or supporting themselves in the community. Monthly, the Amani College account for any donations sent from Oakington down to even the pins bought. You can read about the real impact that the Amani College has had on people's lives on display at the back of St Andrews Church.

If you would like to learn new skills or brush up on some old ones, you will be welcome.

Also, there is an event coming up at Ely Cathedral from 6th – 28th February, which the group will be visiting. If you would like to get involved with this work, please contact Joy Brading on [rjoybrading@gmail.com](mailto:rjoybrading@gmail.com), or call me on 01223 630888.

*Celine Pinter*

### Humpty Dumpty's Wall

The Christmas season was a busy one for the children, staff and committee of Humpty Dumpty Pre-School. The staff and committee organised Humpty Dumpty's **Cracking Christmas Raffle** which is always an important fundraiser for Pre-school and due to the fantastic and continued support of the community and friends, **£438** was raised. **THANK YOU!**

The Pre-school would like to thank wholeheartedly the local and city businesses who donated gift vouchers and prizes.



Thanks must also go to Raj and Kanwal at Oakington Village Stores who not only agreed to sell the raffle tickets in their shop, but who also drew the winning tickets. It was wonderful to have their backing for this event.

The children enjoyed a lovely **Christmas Party** at the end of term as well as performing their Nativity show to all the parents and relatives. Well done to Cath Townsend for her directing! Not an easy job to do!

Looking ahead, the Pre-school's annual **Jumble Sale** will take

place on February 16th, 12 - 2pm at Oakington Primary School. Please come along and support - you never know what you might find! Please donate any jumble by dropping it in to the Pre-school between 9 - 3pm, Mondays to Fridays.

There is now a new prospectus and parents who are interested in finding out more about this award-winning early years setting can pop in to get one or contact the manager Laura Peat on 237504. There are currently spaces available for children from 2½ years to school age at Humpty Dumpty Pre-school, ranked in the top twenty for the east of England by [DayNurseries.co.uk](http://DayNurseries.co.uk).

*Jessica Summers*



### Garden Society

Happy New Year! as we go in to the new gardening year I wonder what is ahead with regard to extreme weather. From the 'beast from the east' to temperatures over 35 C last year proved challenging for all of us.



*Apple blossom, spring 2018. Julie Grove*

Membership has remained at £15. This includes a very generous discount of 10% at the Oakington Garden Centre. (Please note: does not include the Olive Tree Café.)

We have interesting talks and are happy to discuss all aspects of gardening. Each year we arrange outings to local gardens of

interest; and hold a plant and home produce sale in May. We are always delighted to welcome regular and new members.

We meet on the last Wednesday of the month from September to April at St Andrews' Church Hall, 7:30 - about 9:30 pm.

- **30 Jan** Pippa & Steve Temple: Lancelot Brown – how capable was he?
- **27 Feb** Veronica Bennett: Peckover House and Gardens.
- **27 Mar** Rob. Brett: The Wonderful World of Orchids

*Julie Grove 233951*

### Country Dance Club



Are you looking to get fit in the New Year? A fun way to do this is by dancing, so Jane and I look forward to welcoming you at Histon Methodist Church Hall, High Street, Histon. CB24 9JD, on Friday evenings at 8.00 p.m. This term we shall be meeting on the **22nd Feb, 22nd March and 26th April**.

We usually have live music and a caller and all the dances are walked through. We cater for all abilities so, whether you are a beginner or an advanced dancer, we can accommodate you. Do come and join us for an evening of fun and friendship. Partners are not required as everyone dances with each other. Soft shoes or trainers are the recommended footwear.

We only charge £1.50 for Adults and 50p. for Accompanied Children.

See you soon!

*Kathryn Coles*



**St Andrew's Church Hall** on the 2nd Thursday of the month 7.30pm



**Oakington & Westwick WI**

**the WI**  
INSPIRING WOMEN

1915 FOR 100 YEARS 2015

For more info contact..  
H Williams:- 01223 232614  
helenwilliams5@outlook.com  
P Marsh:- 01223 233443  
marsh145@gmail.com



Why not give us a try... 2 free visits before you need to join.  
You can join anytime!



### WI Dates for your Diary

- **24 Jan** Midwinter Feast at George & Dragon Elsworth
- **14 Feb** AGM and Valentine craft.
- **14 Mar** Tiptree jams
- **11Apr** Fish & chips with sea shanties



### Hedgehogs & Badgers

During the clearing of vegetation from pavements by the Environment Action Group, some suggestions have been made about helping hedgehogs by piling leaves and other vegetation to help their survival. There is no doubt that hedgehogs need our help. Their UK numbers have dropped from 30 million in the 1950's to under one million today.

**Why such a drastic reduction?** Probably loss of hedgerows in the countryside through increases in field size, ploughing up of permanent grass and pesticide use which has helped reduce invertebrate numbers in the countryside. About 150,000 hedgehogs are killed on roads every year. Ironically, road kill is an effective way of measuring changes in their populations. There are some indications that hedgehog numbers in urban areas are being maintained, but not so in the countryside.



#### What do hedgehogs eat?

Beetles, grubs, earthworms and slugs (a good reason to encourage them in gardens), but they also eat birds' eggs. Hedgehogs are nocturnal. They range over 1.2 km.

**Any predators?** Badgers, who use their massively powerful claws to pull hedgehogs apart. However, they seem to co-exist in some areas.

**What about hibernation?** They try to eat well in August and September to put on fat reserves. They hibernate from September guided by temperature, so in 2018 it was much later. They hibernate in leaf piles, wood piles, compost heaps or other warm, dry places. It is clearly a good idea to check for the presence of hedgehogs under bonfires before lighting them.

#### What can we do in our gardens to help hedgehogs?

- Construct hog houses e.g. leaf and woodpiles, flower pots laid over with dried grass inside
- 5 inch holes in fences to allow hedgehogs to range more widely
- Build escape routes from pond water
- Reduce pesticide use - slug pellets harm hedgehogs
- Feed dog food. Do not feed bread and milk, as recommended years ago but not easily digested

**Badgers** live underground, in setts usually with a series of entrances. Their latrines are usually a few yards away from the main sett. Like hedgehogs, they are nocturnal but unlike hedgehogs they do not hibernate, hunting for earthworms, insects, young mammals, plant bulbs and roots throughout the year and they even raid wild bee nests for 'honey'. We have a few setts in the village; they tend to favour lighter soils for ease of digging. They share the same paths as deer and other mammals. Because of some evidence of spreading bovine tuberculosis (cattle TB) they are the subject of Government culling and research in the West Country.



*John Terry - johnterry23@hotmail.co.uk*

### Community Association update

We have had a busy few months, with more to report than last time.

There was a great turn-out for the village **Bonfire Night**, and feedback was very positive. In addition, the evening was incident-free.

There were lots of people who helped to make the evening successful, and we really appreciated everyone's contribution, including putting up posters and selling tickets; storing the food and cooking the BBQ; fetching, setting up and setting off the fireworks; giving and collecting wood; building and lighting the bonfire; managing car parking; and clearing up the next morning. Many people offered to help again next year, and that's great - thank you.

As a new activity, we organised a village **Christmas Tree with Carol Singing** on 21 December - an idea proposed by Nykki Rogers. We are very grateful to Coe's Produce in Longstanton for donating the tree, to Nigel Kilborn for giving his time for the electrical work, to the



Parish Council who contributed towards the cost of putting up the tree and lights, to Trevor and his team at the White Horse for serving mulled wine and hot dogs, and to Pete Davis and the Cottenham Brass Band for leading the carol singing. It was lovely to gather outside on a fine night just before Christmas for a new community event, which we hope will become an annual occurrence.

We are starting to organise the **Village Day** which will take place on **Saturday 29 June**, and also to arrange another **Spring Market**. Several members of the Village Day Team stepped down last year, so we're particularly keen to welcome some fresh people. The team meets every month from February to July, and you can help as much or as little as you like. **Please get in touch if you'd like to help with these or any other activities.**

Unfortunately the Communitéa Café closed in December. Ross Smith, the owner, has said he is open to suggestions from the community. Could it be run successfully in a different way? Please get in touch if you have any ideas.

We shall be discussing the future of the Communitéa Café at the next meeting of the **Community Association on Monday 21 January**. The meeting will start at 7.30pm, and will be held at the Café.

*Jo Mills, chair - bjommills@aol.com*

### Parish Council FINANCE

In the first of a series of articles on the workings of the Oakington & Westwick Parish Council (PC) we aim to shed some light on its finances as it seems to cause a deal of confusion.

First of all, let's be clear: parish councillors ARE NOT paid. Being a councillor is an entirely voluntary role, with not even expenses reimbursed, except for the chairman who gets £100 pa. The PC employs a part-time paid Clerk. Her role is to provide advice, administrative/ finance support and to implement the PC's decisions.

Parish Councils do not receive any direct funding from central government, therefore are reliant on the local tax (precept) they set and any other income they generate from the services or facilities they provide, such as cemetery fees. This precept is a small part of the rates which the District Council collects from householders, which they then pass to our parish council.

The current precept is £35,350 which is approximately £60 per household, roughly £1.15 per week. This is amongst the lowest in South Cambridgeshire!

The precept is based on the budget the PC sets in January for the coming financial year, which for this year (2019) will be spent in approximately these proportions:

clerk costs .....	25%
grounds maintenance/play area	18%
youth support: Connections Bus	16%
general admin .....	16%
pavilion & MUGA .....	10%
highways .....	4%
miscellaneous community support	11%

The PC owns the recreation ground including the children's play area, cemetery, pavilion, MUGA and Stocks Green and is therefore responsible for their maintenance. The PC also has a duty to spend on things that benefit residents, according to rules set in statutes.

The money cannot be spent on services that other authorities have a legal duty to provide such as road maintenance, policing, schooling, etc. For example, the Highways costs above are minor contributions: the PC has limited powers in respect of Highways, footpaths, lighting, drains etc.



The 2018-19 budget can be found at:

<https://tinyurl.com/y9s4hn97>

The 2019-20 budget will be posted there after the 14 Jan meeting. For a full list of PC powers and duties, or additional information on finances, please contact the Clerk, Laura Lawrence, [oakingtonpc@btinternet.com](mailto:oakingtonpc@btinternet.com)

*Geoffrey Butlin, Councillor*

### Welcome a New Neighbour

If somebody has moved in near you, take them a village 'Welcome' leaflet to help them feel at home. This has a map of the villages and some key information for new residents.

It's a good excuse to knock on the door and say hello.



Contact: Bruce Sutherland  
[bruceessutherland@aol.com](mailto:bruceessutherland@aol.com) - 01223 236665

### Girton Golf Club

December saw an incredibly busy Golf Club. Over 1,000 people enjoyed Christmas celebration meals throughout the month at the Club House. Many new social members joined, taking advantage of our 20% discount to members on food and drinks.



One evening was particularly fun and enjoyable, with Oakington Singers regaling the revellers with a fabulous

selection of Christmas Carols and other seasonal songs.

2019 sees a new calendar of events with every month bringing a new and varying evening out. For example, February has a **Fish and Chip supper**, and on 1st March a fun and fabulous **Punjabi Party Night** with wonderful genuine Indian food, dancers and drumming, and with lots of audience participation for those who like to get on their feet and join in (see advert).

The Club House is open every day for coffee and cake and offers really good value lunches. Pop down and have a look at the daily Specials menu - maybe even enjoy a lunchtime drink at club prices!

**Membership** is still open to all standards and ages of golfers. Absolute beginners are welcome, with coaching available, and specific Ladies only groups and Junior classes. Social membership is only £10 a head or £15 a couple, so come down, have a look around, grab a coffee and a piece of cake and chat about golf and non golfing membership!

*Alan Henderson-Smith, Marketing Director*  
07900 581955 (Mobile) - 01223 276169 (Club)  
[www.girtongolf.co.uk](http://www.girtongolf.co.uk)





## Bonfire Night and PSA Christmas Fair



A big **THANK YOU** to everyone who came to, helped and donated to the PSA Christmas Fair to help raise funds for our local Primary School. It was a fantastic afternoon with lots of fun had by all and plenty of money raised for the school - **£780!!**

The PSA will be looking to do more events in the new year to help improve the school environment for both children and teachers.

*Julie Starling*

