

Oakington & Westwick

September 2018

Journal



Fields on Fire

Fruit for Free

Find the Flowers

What's On

WEEKLY

- Mon **Toddler Rhyme Time**, 9.30-11. Crossways Café, £2 per family. Hanna Lumley - 0755 7090322
- Mon **Monday Café**, 9.30-noon. Church Hall, £1. Liz Davis - C 232 745
- Mon **Tennis**, 6-8pm. Recreation Ground. Frank Pinner – francispinner@aol.com
- 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
- Tue **Cubs**, 6-7.15pm. Pavilion, £30 per term. Jo Mowatt – oakingtoncubs@yahoo.co.uk
- Tue **Table Tennis**, 7.30pm. Pavilion, £2.50. Gillian L'angellier – C 234 758
- Wed **Tea & Tots**, 0-4 yrs, 10-11.30am. Crossways Café. £2 per family. Hanna Lumley - 0755 7090322
- Wed **Jigsaw Puzzle Afternoon**, 1.30-3.30pm. Crossways Café. info@crosswayscommunitaeacafe.co.uk
- Wed **Brownies**, 6-7:30pm. Pavilion. Anne Christie – oakingtonbrownies@gmail.com
- Wed Oakington Viking **Football Club**, 6.30-7.30. Recreation Ground, free. James Wilson – james@selsius.co.uk
- Wed **Oakington Chess Café & Games Night**, 7-9pm. Crossways Communitae Café. Ranko Pinter – ranpin@gmail.com
- Thu **Little Steps** Toddler group, 10-11.30am. Church Hall. Ben Phillips - 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
- Fri **Over 55s Fitness**, 10am. Pavilion. £4.50/£3.50 concessions. Simon – C 236945
- Fri **Beavers**, 6-7pm. **Scouts**, 7.30-9pm. Pavilion, £30 per term. Lou Ellis – kld1001@me.com

SEPTEMBER

- 1 - 28 Sep **Art Exhibition**, Crossways Café. Paintings and greeting cards by Heather "Bee" Bailey. Adrienne Chaplin
- Thu 20 Sep **History Society**, 7:30pm. Church Hall. Mike Petty. Julie Grove
- Fri 21 Sep **Bonfire Night Planning Meeting**, 8pm. The White Horse. Jo Mills C 233244
- Fri 21 Sep **Country Dancing**, 8-10pm. Histon Methodist Church Hall. £1.50/50p. Kathryn Coles - C 233191
- Wed 26 Sep **Gardening Society**, 7:30pm. Church Hall. Dr Guenda Kyd: "People & Plants". Lillon Harrison
- Fri 28 Sep **Coffee & Cake Fundraiser**, 10am-1pm. 47 Longstanton Rd. For Cancer Relief. Becky Silk & Liz Davis
- Sat 29 Sep **Autumn Market**, the White Horse. Jo Mills – C 233 244
- Sat 29 Sep **Knit and Knatter**, 3pm. Crossways Café. alice3000@mail.ru

OCTOBER

- 1 - 31 Oct **Art Exhibition**, Crossways Café. 'At the Crossroads'. adrienne.dengerinkchaplin@gmail.com
- Tue 2 Oct **Pre-school AGM**, 7.30pm. Pre-school Hut. Laura Peat – C 237504
- Fri 5 Oct **Harvest Concert**, 7.30pm. St Andrew's Church.
- Fri 5 Oct **Country Dancing**, 8-10pm. Histon Methodist Church Hall. £1.50/50p. Kathryn Coles - C 233191
- Sat 6 Oct **Orchid Day**. 11am – 3.30pm. Oakington Garden Centre. C 234 818
- Sat 6 Oct MP Heidi Allen **Drop-in-Surgery**, 10.30-12.30. Venue TBC. Info C 830037
- Mon 8 Oct **O&W Parish Council**, 7.30pm. Pavilion. All invited. Clerk: Laura Lawrence – oakingtonpc@btinternet.com
- Tue 9 Oct **Tuesday Talk & Tea**, 2.45pm. Oakington School Hall. Geoff Hales: "Perils of a Plant Hunter". Joan Pettit
- Thu 11 Oct **O&W WI**, 7.30pm. Church Hall. *Decorating Candles the German Way*. Helen Williams – C 232 614
- Sat 13 Oct **Scrabble** and other games, 8pm. Crossways Café. alice3000@mail.ru
- Thu 18 Oct **History Society**, 7:30pm. Church Hall. Julie Grove
- Sat 27 Oct **Cubs Jumble Sale**, 12 – 2pm. Pavilion. Jo Mowatt – oakingtoncubs@yahoo.co.uk
- Sat 27 Oct **English Conversation**, 2-4pm. Crossways Café. For language students +. thomaseprobert@hotmail.com
- Sat 27 Oct **Knit and Knatter**, 3pm. Crossways Café. alice3000@mail.ru
- Sat 27 Oct **Ten Sing Festival show**, 7.30pm. Histon Baptist Church. For young & old. Theresa King – jking47@aol.com
- Wed 31 Oct **Gardening Society**, 7:30pm. Church Hall. Lillon Harrison

NOVEMBER

- Sat 3 Nov **Bonfire Night**. Recreation Ground. Community Association – celinepinter@gmail.com

Something New for September?

The heatwave is behind us, holidays are over and the kids are back in school. Village groups have restarted after the summer break. What better time to think about trying something new? These pages are crammed with opportunities - clubs, sports, hobbies and volunteering activities. You don't need to leave the parish boundaries! And it's a good way to meet others who share your interests.

Also in this issue is a report on Travel Hub plans from the

Greater Cambridge Partnership. You'll find more comments on the Hub in the articles by Stephen Moore, Jim Bryant and others.

Thank you to everyone who's contributed to the Journal. We've struggled to fit it all in - a testament to the amazing quantity and variety of activities going on in our community.

Jenny Prince

Editors: Jenny Prince & Irène Butlin



Community Association Update

We are organising the **Village Bonfire** again this year. It will be on Saturday 3 November. We will welcome contributions of wood, sponsorship, and practical help during the day, evening and the clear up. If you'd like to help, please get in touch or join us at the White Horse at 8pm on Friday 21 September. We'd love to see new faces.

We are also arranging an **Autumn Market**, and taking bookings from stall-holders. The market will be at the White Horse on Saturday 29 September. If you know anyone who would like a stall, we'd be pleased to hear from them. There will be posters around the village and notices on Oaky Folk to give more details.

People often ask 'what is the Community Association?' and 'what does it do?' Therefore, I hope it's helpful to give a short explanation. The Community Association was set up in the 1970's and is a membership organisation for community groups and residents of Oakington and Westwick. Over the years the association has played a very active role in the village in all sorts of ways. The association now runs the Village Journal and the Village Day with the help of dedicated teams, and over the last year has organised the Village Bonfire and Spring Market. All the money we raise goes to support our village activities, and this year we have also been able to fund some of the flower tubs.

Since the last update, Bernie Yates has stepped down as Treasurer and Roger Duthie has stepped into his place, with Celine Pinter becoming Membership Secretary. I would like to thank Bernie for all his hard work and support over the last 18 months. He was very efficient and helped us raise more funds whilst spending money wisely.

As always, if you have any questions, please get in touch.
Jo Mills, Chair: bjomills@aol.com/01223 233244
Roger Duthie, Treasurer: rjaduthie@gmail.com
Celine Pinter, Membership Secretary: celinepinter@gmail.com

Everyone is invited to join Becky Silk and Liz Davis for **coffee and cake** at 47 Longstanton Rd on Friday 28 Sep from 10 am till 1 pm.

In aid of Cancer Relief.

Donations of cakes will be greatly appreciated!



Thefts in Oakington

On 7 August a number of local residents reported that around 4pm three individuals were walking along High Street and Mill Road trying car doors and looking up driveways. At 4:44 the three were caught on CCTV in Coles Lane. Some purses/wallets were stolen from unlocked cars.

Vans were broken into and tools stolen in Saxon Close (overnight on 23-24 July) and in High Street (late morning on 23 August) - in the latter case, two men in their late twenties, thick set and with stubbly beards, were observed. The suspected getaway car was a dark blue saloon BMW.



Details were circulated on the Oaky Folk facebook page. If you see anything suspicious, also report it by calling 101 or visiting www.cambs.police.uk/report.

(Information from Oaky Folk & eCops emails)

We would like to say how much we have appreciated the beautiful tubs of flowers distributed through the village and say a big thank you to the volunteers.

Marion & Derek Chapman

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 (advertising manager), Jane Goodyer (distribution manager), Geoffrey Butlin (adviser), Ranko Pinter (chair)

Send contributions to oakwestjournal@gmail.com

DEADLINE FOR NOVEMBER ISSUE:
Tuesday 16 October

Delivered week beginning Saturday 27 Oct covering period up to 18 Jan

Knit and Knatter - 3pm on last Saturday of the month. Bring a craft project that you are working on - knitting, sewing, crocheting etc.



F₄

Scrabble and other games
8pm on Sat 15 Sep, Sat 13 Oct and Sat 10 Nov.

Crossways Communita Gallery



The month of September shows the work of local artist Heather 'Bee' Bailey who specialises in nature and animal paintings. Do come and have a look at this colourful exhibition! This is followed by another group

exhibition on the theme '**At the Crossroads**' exploring how life at the crossroads can sometimes lead to new directions and unexpected encounters. The Private View is on Saturday 13 October. The period after is again devoted to local talent. If you would like your work to be shown please contact:

Adrienne Chaplin

adrienne.dengerinkchaplin@googlemail.com

Crossways Communita Cafe

Chess Café

After a brief summer break the Chess Café in the Crossways Communita Café will start again on Wednesdays from 7pm till 9pm. There you can play the traditional chess and a novel '5asideCHESS' – see www.5asidechess.com, and we welcome both novices and the experienced chess players. In addition there is on offer a variety of other board games, like draughts, scrabble, dominoes, backgammon.

Ranko Pinter ranpin@gmail.com



Jigsaw Puzzle Afternoon

- Wednesday afternoons,
1:30 - 3:30pm.



English Conversation

Afternoon for language students or anyone interested -
Saturday 28 October 2-4 pm



Pilot Rural Travel Hub in Oakington

Rural Travel Hubs are a new concept to create bespoke rural transport interchanges to connect residents in South Cambridgeshire with public transport, cycling and walking routes. They aim to reduce the levels of private car journeys into Cambridge from the surrounding villages by providing sustainable transport options and also provide connections between neighbouring villages and towns.

The Greater Cambridge Partnership has put forward some initial ideas for pilot Rural Travel Hubs in Oakington and Sawston. We carried out initial engagement with local communities this summer to find out their needs and gather feedback on the initial ideas. This included attending a number of local events, hosting an exhibition at Oakington Pavilion and a stakeholder workshop at Cottenham Pavilion.

A preliminary feasibility study discussed a possible hub in Oakington near Station Road and adjacent to the Guided Busway route. Potential facilities of an Oakington Rural Travel Hub could include:

- Drop-off/pick-up facility
- Car parking spaces (around 40, with disabled bays)
- More secure cycle parking, including cycle lockers
- Bus turn around/stop, including a shelter and raised

kerbs for level boarding

- Widening of the footpath between Oakington village and the Busway

The project could include extending the Citi 6 bus route to serve the rural travel hub, thereby providing motorists with more opportunities to change to sustainable transport resulting in less congestion.



We are currently analysing the feedback from the engagement and aim to publish the results in the autumn. Initial analysis indicates mixed views on whether to include parking spaces, with some residents concerned about overspill parking in residential streets and increased traffic levels. Other residents noted that those with limited mobility would benefit from the parking spaces, as it would improve access to the Busway services.

We are grateful for the feedback received from local communities that will be used to develop more detailed plans.

More information on the project is available on the Greater Cambridge Partnership website:

www.greatercambridge.org.uk/rural-travel-hubs/

Livia Oldland (Greater Cambridge Partnership)

Elisabeth & Andrew Dennis

In a neat bungalow with a well kept garden on Cambridge Road we find Elisabeth and Andrew Dennis. They moved to Oakington in 1983 and have been happily settled here - bar the floods in 2001 and 2014.



Being semi retired, Andrew is now sharing his professional expertise in the Flood Mitigation Group. He can also be seen clearing pavements with the Environment Action Group!

Elisabeth has just retired after volunteering for 24 years at Oakington School, listening to Class 2 children's reading. She has fond memories going back to Mrs Livingston's time here.

Who knows – or remembers – that from 1997

Elisabeth was also the Editor of the

'Oakington & Westwick Community Newsletter', the Community Association's forerunner of the Journal? Initially it consisted only of notices of what was happening in the village. CA members would post information through her letterbox and these Elisabeth would type up on two A4 sheets. She and Andrew then made 550 double-sided copies on their home office copier, before counting them up into bundles and distributing these to the team of deliverers. Elisabeth remembers that, amongst others, Di Wisbey was one of the deliverers even back then! When advertisers asked for space, Elisabeth had to hand cut



out the adverts and stick them on to the page to be copied. The CA paid for paper and copying costs. Volume of material soon doubled to four A4 pages, increasing the time it took to produce each Newsletter. At one stage the Dennis' were stapling two A4 sheets together, then later folding 550+ copies of A3 sheets. They estimate they spent a good eight hours on each issue, eleven times a year!!

In 2008 Elisabeth stepped down. Technology had advanced and the new editor could produce the Newsletter on a computer before it was professionally printed. Much as Elisabeth and Andrew had enjoyed producing the Newsletter, they no longer needed to fit their holidays around the monthly deadlines!

Andrew has a farming background and studied agricultural engineering at the now Cranfield University before becoming a consultant. But it was not all work! He has a passion for Bar Billiards and has been secretary of the local league for 40 years!

Elisabeth grew up in Hull. She early on discovered a love of singing, both in choirs and as a soloist. She has a book full of cuttings and programmes from her years of contesting and performing - and being on the radio. In 1951 the Festival of Britain took place, which included a competition for Britain's Best Junior Choir. *'The Halleian Singers'*, of which Elisabeth was a member, won first the Yorkshire heat and then the national finals in London! Elisabeth still loves choral music, the King's Singers being her favourite group.

After a fall two years ago her mobility is reduced, but Elisabeth still does all the typing for Andrew, she is an avid reader and there is always a home made cake in the house!

Irène Butlin

Advert removed for online version

What to do if you find a dog

If you can safely restrain the dog but there is no ID or you cannot get a response from the contact details, ring South Cambs District Council dog warden services, 03450 450063 (8 am - 5.30 pm Mon-Fri.) You can then either call Wood Green Animal Charity on 0300 303 9333 to arrange to take it to their shelter or, if you are happy to do so, keep it until the council can collect it. A vet can also scan the dog for a microchip. You must inform the dog warden about any dog found straying whose owner cannot be contacted, otherwise you may cause a delay returning the dog to its rightful owner.

If you are not confident around dogs please ask for help from others around, or even a local house. While you should obviously not take any risks with a dog you feel might be dangerous, dogs that growl, snarl or bare their teeth are often doing this out of fear. These are warning signs that you are likely to get bitten if you come any closer, or you may cause the dog to run away. Throwing appetising food towards the dog (not offering from your hand at first) or gently encouraging the dog towards you verbally are better tactics for a fearful dog. If you feel the dog may bite, stay at a distance but note where the dog is and report as soon as you can on the village Facebook group or to someone who has access so others can keep a look out.

If you find a dog without ID outside of office hours but cannot keep the dog until the next working day then you can ring the council on 03450 450063 to make arrangements to take it to 'Out of Hours' kennels. Although there are no formal agreements for anyone else to take the dog to look after it, you may find someone willing to help at a local vets or on the village facebook group (including myself if I can).

Please whatever you do don't leave a vulnerable dog for someone else to deal with - remember the dog is most likely a very much loved family member to someone.

Wood Green Animal Charity run regular FREE Family Dog Workshops which teach dog body language and safety around dogs. So if you're not sure you'd recognise a friendly dog from a scared or angry one or if you'd just like to learn more about safely interacting with dogs, give them a call on 0300 303 9333.

Your dog must always wear an identity tag or collar with your name and address on in public. If your dog roams on walks or from your garden, take them to a reward-based training class to teach them how to come back when called - and build a dog-proof fence!

*Susannah O'Hanlon
Local dog trainer*



From our Parish Council Chair

Life is returning to normal for most people now after the August holidays with school and work back in full swing. The yearly pattern of Parish Council work reflects the summer break, with few new things happening and the Council not meeting in August.



Orchards

You may remember that the village has two Community Orchards; one at the rear of the recreation ground, the other on Mill Road. They are yours and so is any fruit grown on them. Please feel free to go along and help yourselves! Of course, don't pick too much, so we can all get some delicious fresh fruit.

Over the last year, the Mill Road orchard, in particular, has got rather overgrown, but the Parish Council has put new arrangements in place for the grass between the trees to be cut regularly and to give the orchard a more 'looked after' feel.

We are also looking for someone who might consider pruning our fruit trees and maybe keeping an eye on their welfare over the year. It would be a great contribution to the village and I am sure it would be a pleasant activity in itself. Please let me know if you are interested.

Recreation Ground

We have a little money to spend and are looking for good

ideas. We are thinking of having a path to run around the outside of the recreation ground; a 'rough play' area for older children; and finally some benches and shrubs to the front of the Pavilion so that people can sit there and chat in pleasant surroundings. Please throw in your suggestions.

Traffic

A constant issue in the village is the amount and speed of traffic. Unfortunately we have few powers to limit it or slow it down. We are co-purchasing an interactive traffic sign (the sort that smiles or frowns, depending upon your speed) with another Parish Council, but are considering buying another one just for our use. This will be debated at the September meeting. Do you think they are useful? Do you have any other suggestions for slowing down the traffic? And no, before you say it, there is absolutely no chance of getting the police to enforce the speed limits.

We can, however run a Speed Watch group of our own and if anyone is interested in becoming involved, please, please let me know and we will arrange for training and support.

The physical barrier to traffic movement on Longstanton Road has had a huge impact on that side of the village. Indeed, we now have a new park, for that is what the central section of Longstanton Road between Oakington and Longstanton has become. Each evening there are dog walkers and cyclists, as well as families out for a stroll at the weekends. There has been some misunderstanding over the status of the first part of Longstanton Road, which is open up to the point where the houses finish. Apparently some

(continued on page 9)



Environment Action Group

Our Oakington and Westwick in Bloom initiative came to fruition in July with the installation of no fewer than 16 new flower tubs around the village, bringing us up to a total of 17!

They were coordinated by Nykki Rogers and James Youd, funded by the Parish Council and a grant from South Cambridgeshire District Council community chest, supplied by Oakington Garden Centre, and watered and cared for by enthusiastic volunteers from across Oakington and Westwick. We hope you'll agree that these tubs make a great contribution to making our village more attractive and colourful.

We are very grateful to all involved, and we plan to install a further three tubs in October, with funding from the Community Association.

The 17 current tubs are shown in the photos – can you identify where they all are?

Stephanie Smith



Continued from page 8

people walking along the road have been upset by vehicles driving along here – not realising that they are simply accessing the stables.

The saga of the proposed (in)famous Travel Hub at the guided busway stop crawls on. Some parish councillors attended a workshop earlier in the summer and we are still unclear exactly what benefits are meant to accrue from this development. Certainly, the organisers of the workshop had no clear ideas!

You may notice a considerable number of heavy lorries rolling through the village on their way to the new development in Cottenham. We are rather unhappy about this, but discovered that when planning permission was first given, well over a year ago now, it was agreed (not by us!), that the lorries should not disturb the peace of the people of Cottenham, but would come through Oakington instead. My apologies, we were not included in the discussions regarding this and now it is too late.

To finish...

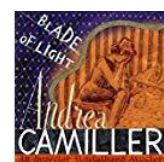
... on two good things. Very soon, there will be a bench put up on the small green by the village shop, so you can have a sit down and chat to people going to the shop. Special thanks to Arthur Sillet for this.

And finally, don't the flower tubs around the village look great!

Dr Stephen Moore – oakingtonchairman@gmail.com

Book Corner

'Blade of Light' by Andrea Camilleri



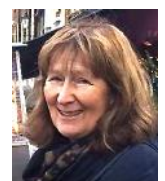
A series of detectives that I would recommend are the Montalbano mysteries, by Andrea Camilleri, set in Sicily.



One of the books in the series is 'Blade of Light'. The books are fast moving,

with the key characters providing humour, despite typical crime fiction content, all set in the context of sun, sea and delicious Italian food!

Read one and you have a feast for the future.



Jane Goodyer

Transport Action Group



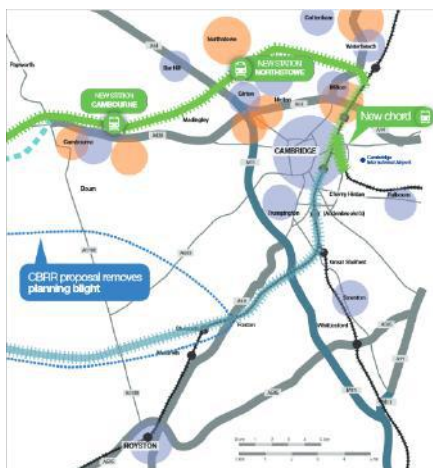
It now looks like we will not have access to the **Traffic Monitor** until December at the earliest. Some preliminary work has been done to identify suitable places for the monitor to be located around the village.

A workshop/consultation was held in July in Cottenham on the proposed Oakington **Travel Hub**. Notes on this meeting have not been circulated yet but there was agreement that it should be a hub for public transport with perhaps only limited disabled parking being available. It was felt that unless the Citi 6 is extended to the busway it could hardly be called a hub; there has been no clear commitment by Stagecoach to extend the Citi 6. Some of the messages coming out from the Greater Cambridge Partnership and Stagecoach are confusing to say the least.

Excessive speeding along the length of **Dry Drayton Road** has long been a problem for villagers, and with the addition of the Olive Tree café at the Garden Centre and the re-opening of the farm shop, entry and exit to them has become a higher risk. In order to try and moderate the speeding the Parish Council and Transport Action Group has put in a joint Local Highways Initiative application to extend the 30MPH zone down to the Business Park (with a chicane) and 40MPH down to the parish boundary (effectively the A14). The outcome of this will not be known until early in 2019.



Planning for **Phase 3 of Northstowe** is currently underway and there have been a number of opportunities for parish residents to make an input into the process, the latest being held at the Communita Café. Of particular interest is the opportunity to open up new footpaths and the need to keep a green belt between us and the new developments at Northstowe which will come right down to the edge of the airfield bordering the village. There is also talk of another access road into Northstowe that will start near the Business Park and then potentially join on to the one being currently built somewhere near the livery stable along the airfield road.



Proposals for a **rail link between Oxford and Cambridge** are being developed by an organisation called East West Rail. Details can be found on their website (www.eastwestrail.org.uk). However there are counter proposals being developed by CamBed railroad (www.geag.org.uk/files/cambedrailroad-booklet-v6.pdf) which provides some reasoned arguments for linking in Cambourne and Bourne future developments. The proposal also suggests that Northstowe should have a railway station that appears to be located in Oakington! These are just proposals

at the moment but residents need to be watchful of all developments that could impact the parish.

If you have any comments on any of the above or have other travel and transport issue you want raised please do not hesitate to contact TAG:

*Jim Bryant – Chair Transport Action Group
07807184691 owcp.tag@gmail.com*

Live theatre in Oakington!

It was always going to be a hard sell – a show about caring for someone with dementia, but “Holding Hands” was well worth seeing. Oakington Pavilion was transformed into a mini-theatre with a professional sound and light set-up which enhanced and gave breadth to a one-woman performance with light, sound and video montage. Oakington is clearly ahead of the curve as sketches about personal experiences were a feature of this year’s Edinburgh Festival, but this was an hour-long drama which was, by turns, funny and shocking, wacky and concerning. It raises questions about personal independence and human rights, making decisions, and the vulnerability created by legal restrictions and overstretched public services when police are unable, sometimes unwilling, to act and when social workers assigned to your case change frequently without notice. “Threadbare” is how public services were described, and together with businesses so concerned with making money to survive that they do not query unusual or inappropriate activity, the door is open for unsavoury and, not to put too fine a point upon it, evil people to take advantage of an elderly person with delusions



about having won the Second World War singlehandedly with the help of movie heroes. It’s a scenario you would not believe to be possible, except that, for the actor (who was also the writer), it was all too real. The play highlighted the impact of dementia beyond the individual affected, and the weakness and failure, for various reasons, of those, like GPs, whom we traditionally assume will assist. The denouement involved removing the sufferer to a place of safety by pretending to take him on holiday, but the drama shows how we all need to be aware how best to support family members who have dementia – something which looks set to increase significantly with an ageing population. This was one, and it must be said bizarre, set of circumstances but similar situations are probably more common than we realise. Big thanks to the Field Theatre Group for a simultaneously entertaining and disturbing production.

Jo Bryant, Oakington and Westwick Neighbours

Although there was not a big take-up for tickets, possibly in part because of the stormy weather that evening, OWN was still able to donate £45.80 to the Alzheimers Society .

Jo Bryant

From the WI



And that 'Hands On with Craft' theme continued for our Oakington and Westwick WI members, even at our August Summer Evening. Many thanks to our host Lynda Neech who also led us in a kind of 'découpage' approach to decorating plant pots. Bring and Share food and drink was also enjoyed but naturally at a very separate table!

Our meetings will continue back at St Andrew's Church Hall at 7.30pm for the rest of the year as follows:

- **11 Oct** Decorating Candles the German Way with an assortment of wax colours - Helen Williams
- **8 Nov** Surviving the Holocaust - Eva Clarke

Helen Williams

Tuesday Talk & Tea



An old friend of Tx3, Geoff Hales will be talking about the Perils of a Plant Hunter on the **9th October**, and we will be filling Samaritans Purse Christmas Childrens Boxes on the **13th November**.

Both meetings 2.45 pm at Oakington School Hall followed by afternoon tea. We do look forward to meeting you.

Joan Pettit (chairperson)

Vikings Football Club



After a lovely summer break, we are all really excited to get the new season underway, from the men's team down to the under 6's.

Our season starts in September for all of our teams. The children train in the week and play Saturday morning and the men train Wednesday evening and play Saturday afternoons.

FA Chartered standard

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL FOOTBALL TEAM!

If you or your child is interested in joining Oakington Football Club please see the contacts below:

- Men's team James 07834 465188
- Under 14's Ronnie and James 07714 099017
- Under 10's Marcus and Josh 07866 635241
- Under 8's Toby 07881 496552
- Under 6's Jamie Altimimi - jaltimimi@gmail.com or 07764 967460

Here's to another fun season!

James Wilson

History Society

Oakington and Westwick History Society was formed in 2008. We have a meeting 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.

We have a growing archive which Nick and Sarah Harrison have been working on over the past ten years.

Our village is changing dramatically and at a more rapid pace than we first envisaged. Next summer the application for Northstowe phase 3 will be submitted, this will impact greatly on our village. Join us to help preserve and record the history of our village.

Our membership is £15.00 single, £25.00 Family. We meet at St Andrews Church Hall at 7.30. Our first meeting is on the **20th September** when the very popular Mike Petty will be speaking.



RAF Oakington, Control Tower. Do you remember this building? Do you have any stories to tell about the Airfield? We would love to hear your stories and record them for the future.

The Anniversary of the end of the First World War

Our records show that possibly twenty young men from this village may have gone to the First World War. Was your family affected? We would like to compile a record, not only of those who lost their lives, but also of those who returned and how they adjusted to life back home in Oakington having survived such a horrific experience.

Julie Grove 01223 233951

Short Mat Bowls Club



We are a small, friendly club and would welcome new members. You don't need any previous experience playing bowls – just come along and give it a try as our guest. We have spare sets of bowls for you to use – all you need is a pair of smooth-soled shoes.

We play throughout the year on Thursdays at the Sports Pavilion. There are two sessions, one in the afternoon (1:30 to 3:30 pm) and one in the evening (7.30 to 10.00 pm.)

Dawn Stokes 01223 236427.

Ten Sing



Over the summer holidays we went to Norway for a European Ten Sing festival, celebrating 50 years of Ten Sing with 2,000 participants. Megan Bate, 21, from Oakington, was on the organising committee! It was exciting to perform both on our own and with Kingswood Ten Sing as "Ten Sing England", and it was lovely to meet people from across Europe who have the same passion for Ten Sing as we do.

In October, we are hosting the National Ten Sing festival here in Cambridge. We shall have a lot of fun with other Ten Singers from Bristol and Norway! We will be creating a performance for **Saturday 27 October at 7.30pm** at Histon Baptist Church, where we would love to see you.

Cambridge Ten Sing is a YMCA based youth performing arts group which is run for young people, by young people. It's a great way to meet other young people who enjoy music, dance and drama. If you are interested in joining Ten Sing we meet every Thursday during term time at Histon Baptist Church, 7-9. Feel free to just turn up!

Annie MacDonald

Country Dancing

Jane and I look forward to welcoming you to the first session of the new term on **Friday, 21st September**, at 8.00 pm in Histon Methodist Church Hall, High Street, Histon, CB24 9JD. We will have live music and all the dances will be called and walked through. We cater for all abilities from beginners to advanced and you do not need a partner as we all dance with each other. Recommended footwear: soft shoes or trainers. £1.50 for adults and 50p for accompanied children.

See you there!

Future dates: 5th October, 16th November and 14th December.

Kathryn Coles



Oakington Singers



Having taken a well-earned break from performing in August, we are now looking forward to an action-packed autumn/winter term.

We are looking for a new accompanist – please get in touch with Paul Tann if you might be interested! (Contact details below.)

Upcoming engagements include:

- **Fri 5 Oct** Harvest Concert, St Andrew's Church (7.30pm)
- **Sun 16 Dec** Christmas Carol Service, St Andrew's Church (4pm)
- **Mon 17 Dec** A joint Christmas Concert with the Oaktet in St Andrew's Church (7pm), raising money for the Ruth & Poppy Nicholas Music Fund which facilitates musical events at Oakington School

We will also be singing at the Sunday evening services in church for All Saints (4 November) and Advent (2 December).

If you enjoy singing or would like to accompany us, why not join us? We rehearse every Monday evening from 8.00-9.30 pm in St Andrew's church hall, Oakington. For further details please contact:

Paul Tann 01223 235567 paul.tann@btinternet.com

Garden Society



We have interesting, informative, amusing 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.

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

We meet on the last Wednesday of the month from September to April at St Andrews' Church Hal. Meetings start at 7.30 and end around 9.30.

This season begins on **September 26th**, when we welcome Dr Gwenda Kyd, chemist and freelance writer. Her talk is entitled 'People and Plants = Molecules, medicines and mischief' and takes a look at some of our uses of plants, both traditional and modern. Other topics this year include:-

- Tips on growing vegetables
- Christmas decorations, Hungarian style
- Lancelot 'Capability Brown'
- Peckover House Gardens, Wisbech
- The wonderful world of orchids
- Drought tolerant plants.

We are always delighted to welcome old, regular and new members.

Lillon Harrison, Secretary.

Fields on fire



It was a scary sight! A wall of flames was approaching Oakington midday on 6 August. A large, tinder dry corn field was on fire near the Oakington Business Park, allegedly caused by a combine.

The staff there were quickly evacuated and sent home. Horses in a field next to the fire were led to safety.

A massive combined effort by some 30 fire fighters with numerous engines, plus manpower and equipment from the Northstowe contractors, got the fire under control within an hour or so.

Sadly about 40 acres of crop was destroyed, but neither people nor animals were hurt.

Aerial photo by Mike Willis. Other photos by Irène Butlin

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Rounders on the Rec

On Sat 1 Sep about
40 children & adults
enjoyed a great
afternoon playing
Rounders with a twist!

Jo Mowatt



Adverts removed for online version

From our District Councillors

We hope that all residents have had a good summer since our last journal update. While there are slightly fewer council meetings to attend over the summer there has still been lots to keep us busy.



Café and village shop. Families who rely on free school meals can need to find an extra £30-40 per week to feed their children over the holidays and may have to turn to foodbanks for emergency help. You could also support the local shop at the same time by popping in to buy your donations there!

Northstowe Noise - One of the main issues we are working hard to resolve is problems with Northstowe construction work outside of permitted time. We are encouraging Oakington residents affected, particularly as Phase 2 progresses, to report issues to us with dates, times, locations and what you think the activity was. Permitted hours of work are Mon-Fri 0800-1800, Sat 0800-1300, with deliveries and removal of spoil allowed between 0700-1900. We are working with the Planning Enforcement team at SCDC to tackle this.

Rural Travel Hubs - Following a meeting set up by the Greater Cambridge Partnership on the Rural Transport Hub for community groups from Oakington and Cottenham it was clear there was much divergence in residents' views on what would make a successful Travel Hub. The project team have gone back to incorporate concerns raised but we have not had another update over the summer.

Food Bank Campaign - Over the summer we have set up food bank donation points in the village at the Communita

Northstowe Road – Together with the Parish Council we have raised concerns on future plans for Northstowe Southern Access Road (East) which would come from Northstowe and meet Dry Drayton Road potential traffic flows. Homes England confirm no concrete plans have been made and they are currently monitoring traffic flows to allow them to better analyse the proposals.

Contact Us/Next Surgery dates: Just a reminder that there are a number of ways you can keep up to date with news between Journal updates. Details are here: www.sclibdems.org.uk/longstantonnews

Upcoming surgeries will be on
22nd September 10.30-12.30, Longstanton Village Market
10th October 6-8pm, Northstowe Community Wing
November, Oakington - time and venue TBC
Please feel free to contact:

Sarah: cldr.cheungjohnson@scamb.gov.uk 01954 489089
Alex: cldr.malyon@scamb.gov.uk 01954 202859

Alex Malyon & Sarah Cheung Johnson

From our County Councillor

Signs for Village Amenities. These have now been agreed and will point towards Longstanton Road from the Crossroads.

The **speed table** at the entrance to the village from Dry Drayton Road has at last been repaired. The delay was due to having to get agreement with the A14 developers (Highways England) as to when we could close Dry Drayton Road for the short amount of time needed to complete repairs.

Division Highways meeting. The second of these meetings has taken place and included Parish Clerks/Chairs from Longstanton, Over, Oakington and Westwick, along with representatives from Highways. This was a great success and highway issues were reported and discussed by each Parish. The next meeting has been scheduled for Friday 9th November.

Cycle path to Cottenham. The funding for this was hard won from the Greater Cambridge Partnership. This funding can only be spent on cycling infrastructure. To win this, we had to go against several other parishes who argued and presented very well for their parishes. Fortunately, we were able to come out on top.

County's **war on pot holes** increases as two new 'dragons' fly in! Cambridgeshire has become the 'mother' of three fiery 'dragons' as the campaign against potholes continues. This month, Cambridgeshire County Council has been firing

up two new specialist machines, known as 'dragon patchers', to complete their pothole repairs.

They will join the county's first dragon patcher which since January has made almost 7,000 repairs to potholes and larger patches across Cambridgeshire. The machine can repair up to 150 potholes a day. It is nicknamed the 'dragon' because it fires out flames to dry out the road surface, which is then cleaned with compressed air and sealed with a stone mix and hot bitumen. This is much quicker and simpler than traditional methods.

The County Council has been working hard to restore our roads following the damage done by the Beast from the East and the severe weather we had earlier this year, and are really pleased to have these two new dragon patchers. Highways have made changes to the way they repair the potholes so they are ready for this winter! These dragons are around five times faster than traditional methods. They are also mobile, which is particularly good for rural areas and they can do more work for the money.

With five crews on the ground, plus two dedicated dragon patchers, the County Council is currently filling more than 1,000 potholes a week.

In order to keep our roads maintained, we rely on people to help us by reporting any faults using our online tool <https://tinyurl.com/yaajhs2l>



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

Oakington C of E Primary School PSA



As the long hot summer of 2018 fades into memory, hopefully you've made your lists and plans for returning to school. However, did you include finding out about the school PSA (Parent Staff Association) on your list?

What does the PSA do? Notably, the PSA helped with the following last academic year:

- paving slabs by the playground to make it less muddy
- Year 6 leavers' hoodies and transport for the Year 6 residential trip
- new furniture and resources for after school and breakfast club

Whether your child is in Reception, or starting their final year at Oakington, there's never a better time to get involved or to pledge a "helping hand" for some of the great events we've got planned for the coming term.

So what's ahead for Oakington PSA?

- DIY SOS session to smarten up the playground areas by the Year 1 and Reception classrooms (details to follow).
- Christmas Fair (Sat 1 Dec) and Disco (date to follow).

We're a friendly bunch who are very approachable, so please feel free to say hello. We all have children at Oakington. All the money the PSA raises goes directly to helping the school.

If you can help us out at any time, or have ideas about future events, please get in touch via our email address: oakingtonpsa@hotmail.com

We look forward to hearing from you and meeting you!
Julie Burling and Helen Bryant (Co-Chairs)

Brownies



Girls in Brownies have incredible experiences together, make brilliant friends and discover the world around them. Every time they meet up they learn new skills and take on challenges.



If your daughter is aged between 7 and 11 and interested in joining Brownies or if you are over 18 and interested in volunteering to help run Brownie meetings, please get in touch with Brown Owl:

Anne Christie - oakingtonbrownies@gmail.com

Humpty Dumpty's Wall



As Humpty Dumpty Pre-School prepares for reopening after the summer holidays and welcoming new and returning children, it's a moment to think about what else the preschool can offer the village.

Did you know that it can be hired out for evening classes or meetings? It also has a brand new piano from Millers Music. Not many venues can offer a piano and therefore it is an excellent space for music lessons, singing groups or ensemble rehearsals and there is usually regular weekend availability. Alternatively, it is an ideal room for craft making sessions with a kitchen and outdoor space to use too.

Many of the village children will have been to birthday parties at the preschool. The open room can be quickly set up with tables, and again the kitchen, toilets, children's toilets and outdoor space make it the perfect venue for a party!

Hire charges are extremely reasonable: please contact the manager, Laura Peat, for details on 01223 237504.

The preschool would love members of the village to join in with its work either by joining the steering committee, helping with bits of admin and fundraising or just giving their opinion! Alternatively, by coming into the preschool and lending a hand by reading a story, helping with the wonderful activities, gardening or DIY, you would be really supporting the hard working staff team. Perhaps you have an interesting hobby, an unusual pet, are an enthusiastic cook! Whatever you do, the children will only gain from whatever you have to offer. Again, chat to Laura or Sophie.

The AGM, to which everyone is invited, is on **October 2nd at 7.30pm**. Your presence and support would be much appreciated!

Jessica Summers

Cubs



We've been busy as ever! We have built a bug hotel and hidden a hedgehog house in the woods to study for badges in the future. We are looking forward to our district camp later this month.

If any young people out there who are doing their Duke of Edinburgh Award would like to volunteer at Cubs, please contact Akela:

Jo Mowatt - oakingtoncubs@yahoo.co.uk

Scouts



We are looking for more enthusiastic young people age 11-14 and adult volunteer helpers to join 1st Oakington Scouts.

We meet Friday evenings 7:30-9:00 at the Pavilion. If you are interested please contact

Lou Ellis - kld1001@me.com



O, what a perfect day!

The popular and successful “Jazz and Tea” event again took place in Longstanton Road on Saturday 1 September. The winning combination of beautiful grounds, luscious cake and live music enables OWN to be self-financing and this year was no exception. An estimated 175 people from, or linked to, the villages enjoyed a stunning afternoon by the lakeside, accompanied by the laid-back jazz of local band ‘Black Coffee’, and the dulcet tones of a flute duet. Many thanks to all those who helped make the afternoon such a success by baking and serving tea and cakes, hanging bunting and helping with the myriad other tasks – it was a superb day.

Jo Bryant, Oakington and Westwick Neighbours



Nature Notes

‘We’re having a heatwave’

UK temperatures were 2.2 degrees above average in July, sunshine hours were 138% of average and rainfall was 71%. In Oakington, we had 16mm rain on 29th July following 57 days of drought (Andrew Dennis). One indicator was the absence of the noise of grass mowing. Most mowers took a two-month holiday because grass stopped growing and went into survival mode. It only started to look green again after the rains of 9th and 10th of August.

Butterflies enjoyed the hot weather and numbers on the wing were well up. Some feared that a continuation of the heat wave would stunt vegetation growth so that caterpillars would fail to find food, but the August rains allayed some of those concerns.

September is the time to see **spider webs** dew-laden in the early morning. The garden spider is one of our 40 species which spin disc shaped webs. The female spins her web once, attaching tension lines to nearby plants. She then goes over the outer web again, this time spinning a sticky web and eating the original material. Perfect recycling? She waits in the middle of the web, to scuttle out when her prey gets caught in the outer spiral.



Some web makers invade houses at this time of year. They include house spiders and daddy long-legs spiders (which have eight legs whereas true daddy long legs, or crane flies, have six and can fly).

A few spiders do not make webs. This group includes wolf spiders, which lead a nomadic lifestyle. Females carry egg sacs under their bodies and then carry their young on their backs. They hunt and inject venom into their prey.

Harvestmen are related to spiders. They have eight legs, two of which are longer than the rest, and they use them to feel their way about. They are often found on bare earth in harvested fields.

Harvest. As expected, wheat and barley yields were way down this summer because of the heatwave. 30% reductions were not uncommon. Happily, from the farmers’ perspective, drying costs were almost zero and low yields have eased up prices.

Climate change. According to the UK Meteorological Office’s Hadley Centre, extreme summer temperature events in Europe are now 10 times more likely than they were in the early 2000’s. What was the message in the Baz Luhrmann song of 1997? ‘Always wear sunscreen’? Also, don’t forget the water and shade.

John Terry – johnterry23@hotmail.co.uk