

Oakington & Westwick

June/July 2021

Journal



Village Picnic

Railway Route

Shop Changes Hands

What's On & Notices

Every Thursday	Ten Sing , 7–9pm. Histon Baptist Church. Terry King – cambridgetensing@gmail.com
Every Friday	Tool Share open, usually 4:30–6pm. Contact Gerry@cambridgereuse.org.uk / 07857 704636
Thu 3 Jun	Village Walk , 7:30pm. Meet by church on High Street. Alice – alice3000@mail.ru
Mon 14 Jun	O&W Parish Council , 7:30pm. Pavilion. All invited – contact clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk
Mon 14 Jun	Board Games Evening , 7:30pm. By Zoom. Jenny Prince – oakingtongames@gmail.com
Tue 15 Jun	Community Association members' meeting, 7:30pm. By Zoom. Contact oakington.westwick.ca@gmail.com
Thu 1 July	Village Walk , 7:30pm. Meet by church on High Street. Alice – alice3000@mail.ru
Sat 10 July	Village Picnic , 2 – 5pm. Recreation Ground. See back page for details
Mon 12 July	O&W Parish Council , 7:30pm. Pavilion. All invited – contact clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk
Mon 12 July	Board Games Evening , 7:30pm. By Zoom (possibly). Jenny Prince – oakingtongames@gmail.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 the defibrillator – open box, take out defibrillator, shut box (alarm goes off), open defibrillator and it talks to tell you what to do.

Could You Add the Ads?



A volunteering opportunity with a difference! Support your local community and local businesses by being the link between the Journal and its advertisers. The role, which would look great on a CV, includes keeping track of the (mostly annual) invoice payments, and looking out for new advertisers. Find out more – contact oakwestjournal@gmail.com to arrange a chat.

Oakington & Westwick Sports Pavilion Monthly Lottery 2021 - Winners

Month	Ticket No	Area	Winnings
March	703	Mead View	£100
April	303	Longstanton Road	£100

If you would like to enter the lottery, please text JOIN plus your name, house number & postcode to 07831 828898.

Keep up to date in Oakington & Westwick...



Oaky Folk



To join the email list, email clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk



If you would like to contribute to **Raj and Kanwal's retirement gift** (see page 15) go to www.justgiving.com/crowdfundimg/hanna-lumley before 21 June. You can also write a message in their retirement book, which is in the shop.

Spot the Location. The answer to last Journal's puzzle will be in the August/September issue.



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Your confidentiality will be respected.

Cover photo: Dave Prince

BIN DAYS

Thu 10 Jun, Thu 24 Jun, Thu 8 July, Thu 22 July,	Black bin
Fri 4 Jun, Thu 17 Jun, Thu 1 July, Thu 15 July, Thu 29 July	Blue & green bins

Welcome & Village Picnic

Will future village historians use archive copies of the Journal to chart the pandemic's course in Oakington and Westwick? If so, they will detect a definite optimism in the pages of this issue. Groups are starting to return to something like their normal activities.

Let's hope that in our eagerness to get back to "normal" we don't forget the lessons learned over the past year: how precious it is just to spend time in each other's company, how important our village surroundings are to our wellbeing, and how strong a sense of community we enjoy.

More people have been volunteering locally than ever before, and there are still ways to stay involved. For example the Journal Team are seeking someone to manage advertising.

Fingers crossed the unlocking progresses to plan. See you at the Village Picnic!

*Irène Butlin & Jenny Prince,
Editors*



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

Journal Team: Jenny Prince & Irène Butlin (editors), Ranko Pinter (chair), Jenny Broadway (distribution manager), Geoffrey Butlin (adviser).

Vacant: advertising manager.

Send contributions to
oakwestjournal@gmail.com

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

DEADLINE FOR
AUGUST/SEPTEMBER ISSUE:
Tuesday 20 July

To advertise in the Journal,
please email
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Adverts	For 1 year	One off
Business card	£69	£16
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Adverts for the next issue must be received by **13 July**.

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

Village Picnic – 10th July

The Community Association had previously decided that it would be good to have a small scale summer event to bring the village together and celebrate the end of lockdowns.

We agreed on a casual Village Picnic whereby villagers could bring their own food, drinks and picnic blankets and some entertainment could be provided. This will be on **10th July from 2:00 until about 5:00 on the Recreation Ground**, organised by a Village Picnic committee.

We are pleased to say that so far the following groups have agreed to entertain us: Black Coffee, Oakington Singers, the Barre Community Dance School, USB-4 (similar to the Kingston Blues Band).



Children's "Blanket" Sale

While you are having your picnic, your children can spread out a blanket on the grass and sell their unwanted toys to friends and neighbours.

No Children? Well why not bring along all those lockdown jigsaws, that you have already done at least six times? (No tables or large items please.)

Orchard Safari

There will be short self-guided safaris, available in the Community Orchard, throughout the afternoon. Come along, pick up a map and information sheet and meet your local wildlife.



There will be also be a giant Jenga, giant Connect-4 and a giant chess board. We will have two raffles, one for the adults and one for the youngsters. To top-up picnics there will be an ice cream van and coffee stall on site and hopefully a cake stall!

Craft Sale

The Village Picnic also provides an opportunity for local artisans to show and sell their crafts, with no pitch fee. Due to the reduced size of the event, the number of stalls will be limited to five, so early booking is strongly recommended. For more details and to register, please contact Ranko Pinter on ranpin@gmail.com

Volunteers who can give a short time – 30 minutes? – to help with the setup and organisation would be greatly appreciated!

All this is of course dependent both on weather and on Covid restrictions being lifted on 21st June. It is hoped that with good weather this will be a relaxing, safe-distanced afternoon.

*Bernie Yates, Chair of the Village Picnic Committee
07771 548853 bernardjyates@gmail.com*



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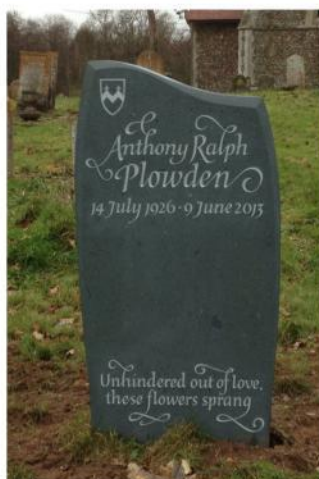
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Contact email :
pippa_westoby@yahoo.co.uk



Parish Councillors

Chair: Stephen Moore

Vice-Chair: Tony Starling

John Bailey	Ranko Pinter
Geoffrey Butlin	David Reeves
Julie Grove	Lis Warboys
Luis Navarro	

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

Parish Website

www.oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk

Correspondence to the Council should be addressed to the Clerk:

Mrs Laura Lawrence – Email:
clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk

Post: 4 Meadow Farm Close
Oakington CB24 3AS

Phone: 01223 232398

District Councillors

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

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

County Councillor

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

Member of Parliament

Anthony Browne – 01223 662171
anthony.browne.mp@parliament.uk

VILLAGE INFORMATION

Pavilion Booking Administrator

Tony Leadley – 07936 024587
oakingtonpavilion@gmail.com

Neighbourhood Watch

Jillian Wilkinson – 01223 233585
oakwestnhw@gmail.com

Oakington & Westwick Neighbours (OWN)

07902 111786 or 07375 945284
OWNeighbours@gmail.com

Oakington Primary School

01223 232328
office@oakington.cambs.sch.uk

Village Stores & Post Office

Thiru Kunaratnam – 01223 232327

From our Parish Council Chair

Dr Stephen Moore

chair@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk



I will start a moan and build up to a groan, move over to a wary welcome, then warm welcomes and sad goodbye, before leaving you with a spring in your step and feeling a lot safer!

My moan. At the weekends some (young?) people are moving the picnic bench from the orchard onto the recreation ground just behind the portacabin. Please put it back after you use it! Sadly, it has cost us £250 to repair the fence that you knocked down.

Onto a groan. Actually, it is more serious than that. An effective NIMBY campaign by villages to the south and west of Cambridge against the route of the proposed East-West Railway has resulted in discussions on the possibility of a ‘northern route’ through Oakington. Having followed the discussions over the last few months, and having had excellent briefings from our very own TAG, it seemed pretty clear that, in terms of the environment, number of people affected by the line and the sheer costs the southern route was the obvious option. I am slightly less confident now, especially since our new Mayor has indicated that he is in favour of exploring the option of a northern route. Why is this important to us? The proposed northern route would slice through Cambridge Road and run close to the southern edges of Oakington, probably high up on an embankment. “Northstowe Station” is being proposed more or less where the garden centre is located, which would lead to yet more traffic coming through the village.

After attending lots of Zoom meetings with East-West Rail, with our MP and Councillors from other, potentially affected, villages, the odds are still against a northern route, but it is *very important* you respond to the consultation document; choose a southern route and write that you oppose any northern route.

Now to a wary welcome. I have received a letter from the Principal Planner at SCDC dealing with Northstowe Phase 3a. He has confirmed that he is pressing Homes England to advance the date of the proposed **flood attenuation** works on Oakington Brook. The original agreement was to start these after 2,000 houses had been built in Phase 2, perhaps in five years’ time. I have urged him to push these attenuation works forward and to increase their scope.

Secondly, a **gate** was erected on The Drift near the allotments off Cambridge Road. The person who did this claims he has suffered from fly tipping. I received a number of complaints and, after some investigation by Nick Harrison, it was clear that nobody has the right to place an obstruction on this Drift. The PC was prepared to take legal action regarding this, but after discussion, the person who erected the gate agreed that pedestrian access would be facilitated. The gate may only stay with our agreement and the PC reserves the right to insist upon its removal should it be deemed necessary.

Very **sad goodbye** indeed to **Raj and Kanwal** who have been stars of the village for over thirty years. From a personal perspective I just want to thank them so much for all they have done. Nothing was too much trouble and I was always greeted with a smile and a chat. I shall miss them.

And talking about missing people, **Peter Hudson**, our ex-County Councillor, decided not to stand for re-election. Peter had one aim as a County Councillor – to do his very best for *all* the people in his constituency and my goodness, did he work on our behalf! Thank you, Peter.

Now a couple of warm welcomes. First, welcome to our newly elected County Councillor, **Firouz Thompson**. I look forward to working with her to the benefit of Oakington & Westwick residents.

Continued on page 7

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From our new County Councillor

The elections for County Councillor for the Longstanton, Northstowe and Over ward, which includes Oakington & Westwick, took place on 6 May 2021 with these results:

Tom Bygott (Conservative) 1126 votes 35.5%

Maria Harrison (Green) 342 votes 10.8%

Firouz Thompson (Liberal Democrat) 1706 votes 53.8%

I would like to express my sincere thanks to all those residents of Oakington & Westwick who voted for me and feel both honoured and privileged to have now signed my acceptance of office.

In addition, I would like to extend my gratitude to Peter Hudson, who has stood down as our County Councillor after seven years serving this community, and to show my appreciation for his hard work and commitment throughout his tenure in the role. I do hope he enjoys his retirement.

In truth, it is with a mixture of excitement and a fervent passion to serve our community that I embrace the next four years in office. I reiterate my desire to work tirelessly in

representing our community for the benefit of all. Together with our fantastic District Councillors and our Parish Council, I will be working in tandem with them on the very things that really matter to you most.

Interestingly, this local election has seen a huge change. We now have new Lib Dem County Councillors in neighbouring divisions such as Bar Hill and Cottenham & Willingham. These gains, and others across the County, mean that the Conservative Party no longer have the controlling majority on Cambridge County Council.

I would like to extend my congratulations and warm wishes to Dr Nik Johnson who is now the Labour Mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with your questions, views or issues - see details on page 5. Please join our local Longstanton, Oakington & Northstowe Facebook group.

With very best wishes

Firouz Thompson



From our District Councillors

We hope that you have all been able to enjoy some lockdown restrictions lifting.

Traffic management plan for Cottenham Grove. We have worked hard objecting to plans to route construction traffic from the latest Cottenham development via Oakington. With the Parish Council, we met with both District Planners (who approve housing) and County Planners (who look after highways) to raise our objections. We are still awaiting formal confirmation but we are expecting the traffic management plan to be approved which directs the construction traffic for this development via Cottenham and Histon – and not Oakington.

Zero Carbon grants reopening. The next round of these grants is now open. Community groups can now bid for a share of £100,000 from the District Council's Zero Carbon Communities Grant scheme, which has already funded more than 35 grassroots projects to tackle climate change.

The fund aims to support the shift to a cleaner and greener future with the support of the community. Local groups can bid for cash to spend on ambitious projects that reduce carbon emissions and reliance on fossil fuels, spread awareness and promote behaviour change towards low carbon lifestyles.

Grants between £1,000 and £15,000 are available for projects under three themes: *Community buildings - Tree Planting/ Nature - Other projects which reduce carbon emissions*

Deadline: 30 July, 5 pm. The application form, guidance notes and details of previously funded projects can be found here:

www.scambs.gov.uk/nature-and-climate-change/zero-carbon-communities/zero-carbon-communities-grant/

Waterparks on Northstowe Phase 2 are due to open this year, possibly in September. The two waterparks sit around the Education Campus and will be zoned, with some for recreational use – canoes, kayaks – some for open water swimming and some for nature with limited access for people. We are looking forward to enjoying some more outdoor recreational space with our friends and families!

We have a **monthly email newsletter** with updates on local news as well as wider district issues. To sign up: www.sclibdems.org.uk/email_signup_longstanton

As ever, feel free to contact us on these or any other issues – see details on page 5.

Sarah Cheung Johnson and Alex Malyon



Continued from page 5.

Also welcome to the **new owner** of the village shop, **Thiru**, with **Barathy** and **Thuva**. I look forward to continuing to support the shop and the post office in the future.

Finally, I said I would finish my contribution with a spring in my step, so a couple of pieces of good news – not formally confirmed yet, but looking good.

I have written before about a meeting I had with planners and the Highways officers, objecting to the **lorries** passing through the villages to access the Cottenham housing developments. Since then, our District Councillors, Sarah and Alex, have been working tirelessly to have the lorries banned from this route.

Fingers crossed, but it looks as if the lorries will now be re-routed away from Water Lane/Station Road. Great news!

Now the final piece of good news. For some time, I have been concerned that the **footpath** which comes from Wilson's Drift in Longstanton and emerges opposite the cottages at the end of Dry Drayton Road, then leaves the walker with a rather terrifying walk along Dry Drayton Road into Oakington. After discussions with the County Council and they, in turn, with Homes England, we will have a new footpath – exact route to be decided – which will make a decent circular walk from Oakington to Longstanton and back.

More information in the next Journal!

Stephen Moore

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Environment Action Group



We are desperate to clear the duck weed and water meal from the village **pond** but we are holding back for the moorhens to produce their second brood of the year. Last year they produced two broods and it looks as if this will be repeated. You may know that moorhens are unique in the bird world in that the adolescents from the first brood help raise the fledglings from the second brood. We are anxious not to disturb them.

Many of the **flower tubs** produced a colourful display in the late spring this year and the plants were changed from winter pansies to summer bedding plants towards the end of May. We would like to pay tribute the volunteers who put in a great deal of work by watering, deadheading the plants and trimming the grass around the tubs. Thank you to you all.

Some members of the EAG have helped Parish Councillors clear wood and other debris from **Oakington Brook** alongside the recreation ground. Some youngsters have been having fun building dams in the brook. We are delighted that they are involved in the great outdoors but such structures are likely to exacerbate the flooding situation.

The PC/EAG **recreation ground development project** is struggling with the admin of getting the Environment Agency approval for the planned landscaping which is being designed to give young people more natural play opportunities. It is great to have over 100 flyers signed. They have been inserted in this June/July Journal again, so if you haven't signed one yet, please do - this evidence of interest is crucial to winning the necessary funding.

It has been suggested that we could make our **bus shelters** a bit more bee friendly by planting climbers like honeysuckle near the walls of the shelters. Honeysuckle flowers are also attractive to moths because of their strong scent. We have six bus shelters in the village. You may have noticed that the PC have smartened up the brick-built ones with a new coat of paint. What do you think about planting climbers to encourage vegetation over them?

John Terry (co-chair EAG) – johnterry23@hotmail.co.uk

Longstanton Road

Many will be aware that the work in November and December to strengthen the gas supply to the village and to bring a supply to Northstowe was to be continued in May. The outstanding work principally involves trench work, necessitating road closure in the area between Mead View and Coles Lane.

Recent warning notices were to the effect that Longstanton Road would be closed from 4 May. Administrative hurdles have now delayed this to around the first week in July.

However in the meantime repairs have been completed to verges in Longstanton Road and Dry Drayton Road which were damaged during the earlier works.



Shane Guy

Oakington & Westwick Neighbours



OWN has been very busy over the past year providing support and assistance through the pandemic, but we couldn't have done it without all the willing volunteers who signed up when we first went into lockdown over a year ago, so a HUGE thank you to them. We're justly proud of the sense of community in Oakington and Westwick and the way in which people pull together in a crisis, and share concerns and support. We'd also like to put on record the sterling service given by Raj and Kanwal at the village shop and to wish them a happy retirement.

When OWN was set up several years ago, its aim was to provide whatever support was needed by local residents and that has not changed. We can still help with shopping, collecting prescriptions, posting letters, or running errands if you can't get out and about, but you may need to give us a bit more advance notice to deal with requests. Contact us on 07902 111786, or via email owneighbours@gmail.com. As restrictions continue to relax, we hope that visiting will be able to resume too.

Over this past year, none of our usual social events have been able to take place but we hope that a couple will be able to happen this summer. Instead of a Village Day, the Community Association is inviting everyone to a bring-your-own picnic on the Rec on Saturday 10 July from 2 – 5pm, and OWN's famed Jazz and Tea is planned for Sunday 5 September 2021. These are, of course, subject to the government's relaxing of restrictions remaining on track.

Work on the Community Quilt continues with a team of people working on various sections of it. The end result will be vibrant and colourful, and the intention is for it to be displayed in the Pavilion as a positive response to what has been a stressful and difficult time.



The pandemic has affected people financially as well as practically, and the Hardship Fund which OWN set up is still available. If you need assistance in this way, you can contact: Ben 07342 945373 or Jo 07714760582, or email oak.west.hardship.fund@outlook.com. All enquiries are treated confidentially.

Jo Bryant

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Transport Action Group

East West Railway

There has been a lot of comment and speculation regarding the possibility of the Oxford to Cambridge railway line coming through Oakington on its way to join Cambridge North railway station.

There is a noisy pressure group called Cambs Beds Railroad (CBRR) that are proposing that a route, starting north of Cambourne, would take a northern approach into the city. A station called “Northstowe” would be situated at or near the Oakington Garden Centre, possibly on an embankment, having crossed the new A1307 and eight lanes of A14 between Dry Drayton Bridge and the Crematorium. The route then crosses Cambridge Road and the busway to loop round and pass between Histon and Cottenham and Milton and Waterbeach, crossing both the B1049 and A10 to join the track to Ely and Norwich at Cambridge North.

The East West Railway company responsible for delivering the route has also published a document describing a similar route which runs parallel but further east with “Northstowe” Station placed between Mansell Wood and Centenary Wood. Contained in this document (Technical Consultation - Appendix F) is an analysis of the impact on not only ourselves but the other villages along a northern route and why it is not chosen as the preferred route. We understand that Network Rail objects to the northern route for operational reasons. You can make your opinions known by writing to our MP Anthony Browne (anthony.browne.mp@parliament.uk) or by responding to the consultation on the East West Rail website (communityhub.eastwestrail.co.uk/consultation-feedback/survey_tools/feedback).

The northern route fails to meet some of the primary objectives of the East West Rail Company. For example, a through train whose final destination is Norwich or Ipswich



would, having approached from the north, need to pass through Cambridge North, Cambridge Central and Cambridge South and then reverse back through the city to complete its onward journey – the southern approach does not require all this additional journey time (especially a stop at “Northstowe”) and manoeuvring.

For the new town residents, access to “Northstowe” station would require travelling between 1km and 4km (as the crow flies) to get a train journey into Cambridge or down to Cambridge South at Addenbrookes. The Northstowe travel plan has been developed and approved around the

guided busway which will be routed through the heart of the new town, and has proposed additional bus routes by extending the Citi 6 and Citi 5 routes.

People On Guided Bus Track

Reports have been received of people walking off the end of the platform at Oakington Busway station onto the guided bus track and also of people crossing the track at places other than the designated crossing points. There are signs at the Busway station warning people not to trespass on the Busway.

Crossing the track at places other than the designated crossing points can be dangerous. The ground between the tracks can be uneven and plant growth may hide hollows. Authorised crossing places have flat surfaces, are controlled by traffic lights and have CCTV cameras to spot any problems. Buses can travel at up to 60 mph on the Busway. If there is an injured person on the track and a bus cannot stop in time it will not be able to swerve to avoid them.

TAG usually meets on the first Wednesday of the month. If you would like to join us, please contact us at the address below and we will email the agenda and joining details to you.

Jim Bryant

Chair: Transport Action Group

owcp.tag@gmail.com 07807184691

MP Visits Oakington

Representatives from the PC and TAG met with our MP Anthony Browne to discuss the proposed northern approach route for the East West Railway. He reaffirmed that the EWR company’s preferred route was the southern approach, and suggested that if he “was a gambling man he wouldn’t put money” on the northern option. We do need to keep a close watch on the official EWR company and Network Rail (or its replacement) to ensure that their position does not change. We strongly recommended that as many people as possible respond to the consultation which closes on **9 June**.

TAG has produced a document outlining our position opposing the northern approach which we believe reflects the view of the majority in the village, and this was handed to Anthony Browne.

Jim Bryant



Jim Bryant (TAG), Anthony Browne MP, Tony Starling (PC)

Village Walks

As more options for socialising open up, let's not forget how great it's been to spend time outdoors over the last year and more. While the evenings are long, come and join in a village walk. The meeting place is outside the church at the High Street end on the first Thursday of the month (3 June, 1 July, 5 August) at 7:30 in the evening. We'll take a route of 1-1½ hours. All welcome!

Alice J



Oakington & Westwick Tennis Club



Social tennis is now well under way again at the Club and cries of *Deuce*, *Out* and *You cannot be serious!* can be heard echoing round the courts! New members of any age or ability are always very welcome: the subscription year runs from 1 April -31 March and rates are £65 for a family, £45 for adults and £20 for juniors. No advance booking is needed to play on our two outdoor hard courts. The Club also offers coaching at all levels for both juniors and adults as well as social events including Tennis & Pimm's evenings in May, June and July, Covid-19 restrictions permitting. For further information, please contact oakingtontc@gmail.com.

Sue Heaver



Back soon...

Groups not able to meet at the moment due to the coronavirus situation:

- Tuesday Talk & Tea
- Oakington & Westwick Table Tennis Club
- Oakington And Westwick History Society
- Oakington Garden Society
- Country Dancing



Tool Share Now Open

We have a growing range of tools you can now borrow. Tool sharing saves buying or hiring and/or saves space at home as well as helping save the planet.



You can share and borrow tools by giving them to us to store in the toolshare garage in the village (usually 4.30 to 6 on Fridays) and/or joining the WhatsApp group and lending/borrowing direct from home or the garage, your choice.

We also want to start sharing left-over paint so do please let us know if you have tools or paint you are happy to share.

Reduce, Re-Use, Recycle! Contact:

Gerry Cavander

Gerry@cambridgereuse.org.uk / 0785 7704 636

Cambridge Ten Sing



And so, we are back! Hooray! Zoom was great, but it is so nice to see all the young people in person. Not much singing at the moment, but we did achieve a song outside in the rain at a session recently, and it felt so good to be bringing music back. Somehow they don't seem to notice the wet, unlike the leaders who were warmly inside.

We are still adapting to the relevant guidelines and restrictions, but it feels great to finally be face to face again. The games are still just as good, and being able to talk in person is making everyone very happy, bringing the energy levels back up week by week. We are also planning a canoeing and camping weekend in June, which will allow the young people to get to know each other again in a fun environment.

We would love to see more new members – please come along if you want to see what we are up to. We meet every Thursday 7–9 p.m. at Histon Baptist Church, and we welcome young people from the school term they turn 11. If you would like to come along, email us at cambridgetensing@gmail.com, or find us on Instagram to see the kinds of things we do!

Terry King, Ten Sing Administrator



Oakington & Westwick Short Mat Bowls Club

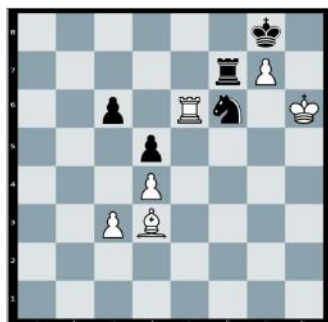


The Club will be starting to play again at the Oakington Pavilion from Thursday 20 May. Sadly we won't be able to invite new members to join us until all Covid restrictions have been lifted as, under the English Short Mat Bowls Association rules, we are currently required to limit the number of people playing. However, if you are thinking of joining us and would like more information on the Club, please contact Dawn on 01223 236427 and she will let you know when we are able to start our normal sessions again.

Dawn Stokes

Chess Club

The giant chess set, which was very popular at the last Village Day, especially with the pupils from the school, will be back at the Village Picnic. As a warm-up, please consider the following simple problem, which we will discuss at the Picnic.



White to play and mate in two!

Ranko Pinter

Do you have Breathing Difficulties?

Did you know that singing can help? Cambridge Singing for Breathing is now meeting online

Singing for Breathing is a friendly and fun way to get the best from your lung capacity, using breath and voice exercises, guided relaxation and singing.

Thursdays 2.30 - 4.00 pm. Weekly donation £0 - £3.50.

You don't need any singing experience to take part. It's all about what it feels like, not what it sounds like. The group's camaraderie, the guided relaxation, the breathing exercises and the singing are so much appreciated by everyone, and the health benefits transfer over into daily life.

The move to meeting online has worked really well for us. Singers can join from the comfort of their own home, even when they are feeling unwell.

You need to turn off your microphone when we sing together, but that can be very liberating! You simply copy what you hear the leader singing, call and response style. We also make use of multi-track recordings, so we can continue to enjoy rounds and harmonies.

For more information and the Zoom link, contact Kay at:
07845 726975 singingforbreathingcambridge@gmail.com
www.singingforbreathing.wordpress.com
www.facebook.com/singingforlunghealthcambridge

Kay Barrett

Oakington Vikings

We're back!

The return of football has really helped lift the kids' spirits after a long lockdown. And helped them all to a winning start to the year.



FA Charter
Standard

We would like to say a special thank you to Raj and Kanwal for another generous donation and wish you a happy retirement. We have appreciated your support so much. And most importantly the kids have really benefited.

The U10s would like to say a very big thank you to Zaid at Best Gardens Services for the sponsorship of their new kit. Best Gardens Services are a locally based landscape gardening firm and can be found at: bestgardens.co.uk/

Club Contacts – Our Teams and Coaches

- First Team James and Toby 07834 465188
- Under 16s James and Ronnie 07714 099017
- Under 12s Marcus and Josh 07866 635241
- Under 10s Winston and Toby 07968 716290
- Welfare officer Frank 07841 995713

For further details please contact
Oakingtonvikings@yahoo.com or 07834 465188.

James Wilson



Under 10s



Under 16s


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Raj and Kanwal Retiring

Dear Customers & Friends
of Oakington Village Stores

The past year has been extremely difficult for many. No one could ever have predicted that we would face a global pandemic in our lifetime. It has tested our strength as a community and we have shown extreme resilience and come together to support friends, neighbours and loved ones. Thank you for continuing to support us. We are incredibly proud to have been a part of this amazing community for over 30 years.

It is bittersweet for us to share the news with you that on May 6 2021 we will be retiring after 31 years serving the village of Oakington and neighbouring communities. Over the years we raised our two beloved daughters in the village, many of your children had their first jobs with us delivering newspapers, we supported countless local fundraisers, saw our children get married, renovated the entire store, faced challenging times with the Longstanton Road closure but we pushed through and lastly welcomed our two precious granddaughters into the world. We are so excited for this next phase in our journey and look forward to hiking, traveling (post pandemic) and loving on our grandchildren.

Please welcome the new owners of the village store into the community and continue to show them the same level of support that you have shown us all these years. They fell in love with the village and our shop and are so excited to call it home. You will continue to see us around over the next few months as we support the transition and continue to run the post office until the transfer is final. Please come shop with us and meet the new owner and come and share your fond memories of our time here.

This is not goodbye, we love Oakington and hope to one day return to make Oakington our home again. This village and its residents mean so much to us and we can think of no better place to retire. So you will continue to see us taking walks around the village, popping into the shop for our bread, biscuits and fresh produce and hopefully one day soon visiting friends.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kanwal & Raj

The photos are from a small presentation on Raj and Kanwal's final day, 5 May.

There will be a proper village wide 'thank you' to them at the Village Picnic on 10 July. See page 2 for how you can contribute to their leaving gift.



Below are some quotes from the Oaky
Folk Facebook page. *Editors*

Happy Retirement!
Congratulations on this new phase
of your life. May all your hopes
and plans come true!

All the very best to you both and
your family for the future xx

You've done an amazing job over
the decades, Raj & Kanwal.
You're so generous and have been
such a support to everyone in the village
over the years but especially through the
pandemic. Enjoy your retirement.
Lots of love xxxx

Good luck with your new adventures.

Wishing you a very happy and peaceful
retirement. You have done an amazing job
over the years, overhauling the shop,
supporting the community and also
offering such kind and thoughtful words
on our visits. Well done and thank you.
We will miss your friendly faces. With
love and best wishes from all the family xx

We wish you all the best and
prayer over the new chapter of your life.

Wishing you both the happiest retirement
- you deserve it! Thank you for caring
enough to know EVERYONE'S NAME in
the village, young and old, and welcoming
us all in the same
friendly way when we
enter your shop. Huge
perk of village life.
We will miss you x



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Community Association

£1,000 Community Chest Grant

We are delighted to learn that our application for



two community pop-up gazebos has been successful! These gazebos are 3 x 4.5m and are easy to put up. They will be available to use by all paid up members of the Association. A warm thank you to our District Councillors who supported the application!

Village Picnic 10 July

A planning group chaired by Bernie Yates, our treasurer, has been busy preparing our **Village Picnic** event on the Recreation Ground. We expect Covid restrictions to allow us to meet and look forward to socialising again!



As reported in April, the CA decided to put on a scaled down village event this summer, instead of committing to a full Village Day with all the financial implications which that would involve and with no guarantee that it could go ahead.

Please see further information on the Village Picnic on the back page and on page 3.

Journal Team

The Journal Team is seeing some changes. Firstly we would like to thank **Jane Goodyer** for her sterling work as Distribution Manager in the last three years. We feared we would have a gap in replacing her, but thankfully **Jenny Broadway** has stepped into the role. Welcome!

We still have an **urgent need for an Advertising Manager**. In order to continue the regular publishing of this Journal, we need somebody to take it on as soon as possible!

It is a varied and interesting role, working in conjunction with the Journal Team and CA treasurer. You would communicate with current advertisers (e.g. re renewals and invoicing), seek new advertisers, and, if wished, help design simple adverts and produce advert pages ready for print.

For more information on this role, please contact Irène on oakwestjournal@gmail.com.

Ranko Pinter (chair)
oakington.westwick.ca@gmail.com

Recreation Ground Development

Many thanks to all who have already signed a Recreation Ground Development flyer. Another copy is inserted in this journal. If not already done so, please sign and hand into the Shop, Pub or Garden Centre. These are vital to secure funding.

Geoffrey Butlin for PC and EAG

Neighbourhood Watch



We are once more warned about fraudulent activity during the pandemic, particularly relating to finances. Here is the national advice:

“Action Fraud is the UK’s national reporting centre for fraud. Fraudsters are often clever and take advantage of the shame that many people feel if they have been taken in by them, that can prevent people reporting fraud. Fraud can happen to anyone – do not be too embarrassed to report if you have been conned or tricked out of money or your personal data. Reporting fraud helps track down and stop fraudsters and can prevent other people from becoming their victims.”

It’s quickest to report fraud to Action Fraud online using the online reporting tool, but you can also report by phone on **0300 123 2040** Monday to Friday, 8am - 8pm.

If you have received an email which you’re not quite sure about, forward it to the Suspicious Email Reporting Service (SERS) report@phishing.gov.uk. It will go to the National Cyber Security Centre who will analyse the suspect email and any websites it links to and use any additional information you’ve provided to look for and monitor suspicious activity.

Dog theft is still a worry, so continue to be careful to keep your dog on a lead or in view at all times.

We are again reminded that NHS **Covid-19 vaccinations** are completely **free of charge**, there is no way for them to be sold by any agency. Free quick lateral flow **tests** for the infection are available – the Meadows Community Centre in Arbury is convenient. Test kits can also be collected from local pharmacies, including Tesco at Bar Hill.

Jillian Wilkinson
oakwestnhw@gmail.com 01223 233585

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Nature Notes

In Nature Notes April/May we wrote about walking from the Pavilion to Centenary Wood. Peter and Sarah Freeman, who farm Mansel Farm, including the land we described in the notes, have pointed out that the grass margins around their land are created for the benefit of wildlife. They would be grateful if walkers could stay on the land designated as footpaths and not wander over the rest of the margins.

I am sure many people would like to thank the Freemans and Cambridgeshire County Estates for making this walk so very interesting and special.

Weeds

Most farmers put weeds in their top ten dislikes and gardeners often feel the same way. But when is a weed not a weed? Well obviously it depends on your view. Certainly in some circumstances, weeds are beneficial. On sloping land, weeds can stop soil erosion and subsequent flooding. Like all plants, weeds give out oxygen and absorb carbon dioxide and lots provide pollen and nectar when in flower and later seeds for birds and small mammals. So, maybe we are a bit hasty at always labelling weeds as the bad guys.

Yes, they do compete with the plants you want to nurture for water, nutrients and light but sometimes their beneficial properties outweigh the bad news. So can we leave a space in our gardens for nettles (for peacock, comma, red admiral and small tortoiseshell butterflies); for dead-nettles (bees); knapweeds (bumble bees, hoverflies and butterflies); mallow (insects, especially butterflies); wild geranium (bees); vetches; teasels (bees and later seeds for blue tits and goldfinches)? Can we learn to be a bit less active with the hoe or the weedkiller?

To guide farmers, the RSPB have researched weeds which are not only yield robbers but have no value for wildlife, so they can be controlled without question. Cleavers (sticky willy or goose grass) is one example, but I have seen pictures of gorillas eating it to treat digestive problems. Others, like annual meadow grass, produce seed useful to most birds, and do little damage to crops when populations are not high.



There are also websites which can help us as gardeners to make choices to leave the plants that help wildlife.

So instead of mowing our lawns to within an inch of their lives, can we leave the odd corner unmown from April through to September so we can encourage clover, yarrow, dandelions, buttercups and daisies, and flowering grasses, providing a show of flowers and lots of pollen, nectar and seeds for wildlife? It means less work. Similarly, we can leave the less damaging ones in our flower beds. To quote Fred Rumsey, Botanist at the Natural History Museum, 'work out what you have in your garden and what problems it may cause. Could you learn to love it as the wildlife does?'

John Terry

Welcome to the New Shop Owners

We extend a warm welcome to **Thiru Kunaratnam** who has moved into Oakington to take over the Village Stores and Post Office. Experienced in running village shops, Thiru comes to us from Swavesey where he managed the Nisa Local shop for four years. He is helped by his sister Barathy and his brother-in-law Thuva.



Thiru is working hard to get to know the shop and the paper rounds and is also busy settling into the flat upstairs. He doesn't have immediate plans for change, but in the longer term is looking at extending the opening hours.

Taking on the business because he was very attracted to both the shop and the community, Thiru is enthusiastic about his new job and role. He says his great hobby is his interest in cars but he doesn't anticipate too much time for that in the next few weeks!

Thiru says he's had a nice welcome here, and is looking forward to getting to know people.

Jenny Prince

Goodbye to Crossways

There was a good turnout to say goodbye to the community hub that was Crossways, and to thank Ross Smith for his hospitality. More than half of the people who had been involved tuned in to bid farewell. We reflected on what had been valuable and unique about the chance encounters and shared enthusiasms that had flourished there. Small groups discussed ideas for harnessing the same spontaneity into the future.

One spin-off has been the establishment of a Tool Share project, housed at the back of Crossways House and coordinated by Gerry Cavander. Funds from Crossways were distributed to this project, and a donation was also made to OWN.



Another idea to come out of the discussion was a monthly village walk while the evenings are light. The first walk took place in May with eight local residents, and we hope to attract more for the next few months (see page 12).

It might be appropriate to suggest community activity evenings to the pub once they can reopen. These could take place on a quiet evening when the pub has no other programme planned and could include the sort of reading groups or games evenings that took place at Crossways. There may be other venues that could be explored for the sort of pop-up engagement that thrives in a neutral space.

Alice on behalf of the Crossways Committee



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Book Corner

Hamnet by Maggie O'Farrell

This is a wonderful, award winning historical novel, a tender and imaginative story of the life of a family, set in Stratford on Avon around 1596. Shakespeare himself is never mentioned by name, but the author is ostensibly writing about his family, his son Hamnet and his wife, here named Agnes. She is depicted with enormous sympathy through the vicissitudes of their family life.

Maggie O'Farrell has researched extensively on 16th century life in Stratford, so that the reader is magically transported into the circumstances of the family's life there.

The book is simply and beautifully written, in the present tense, a depiction of life at the time of the plague, resonating powerfully with contemporary times and enabling us to identify with all the intense emotion experienced.

Much has previously been written about Shakespeare, so it is a remarkable achievement to represent him and his family in a new and beguiling way. It is a page turner, a hauntingly beautiful story, the author hinting at the end about a possible connection between Shakespeare's play Hamlet and the boy Hamnet.



Caroline Probert

American Meat Loaf

1½ lb lean minced beef	1 crushed bay leaf (or ½ tsp ground bay leaves)
1 cup crushed Cornflakes	
2 large eggs	1/8 tsp marjoram
8 oz passata	1/8 tsp thyme
¾ cup chopped onion	1½ tsp salt
½ cup chopped green pepper	1/8 tsp pepper

Heat oven to 160°C (gas mark 4). Grease a shallow baking dish or tin. In a large bowl combine all ingredients, mixing well. Shape into an oval loaf about 8" long in the dish or tin. Next cut a shallow indent down the middle and three short diagonal ones either side – then fill with either Ketchup or Chilli sauce. Bake 1 hour.



Ron Kohler

Board Games Chest

Kill or be kilt! That's the motto of the two-player strategy card game **Schotten Totten**. During the game you become the chief of a Scottish clan and try to expand your territory by moving the boundary stones. Obviously your opponent has the same idea! By playing poker-like combinations of cards, you can claim one of the nine boundary stones. When you conquered five in total, or three in a row, you win! This easy to learn game has fantastic artwork, and only takes about 20 minutes to play. The 10 card 'expansion' adds another interesting twist, ensuring no game is the same!

Vincent Udo



My Hobby

We first decided to keep chickens about 15 years ago when our children were still very young. We were already growing our own vegetables so adding hens felt like the next step towards partial self-sufficiency! We brought our first three hybrid point of lay chickens home together with a small hen house, not thinking much on how we would keep them enclosed and save our growing veg from them! We very quickly realised that they needed an enclosure to keep them safe and stop them from destroying our vegetables! The five-foot fence that we originally erected was not high enough and they would still escape. Mr Fox is their greatest enemy, and unless their enclosure is like Alcatraz, he will find a way in. We lost one flock to the fox and had a couple of years' break from chickens after that, but we now keep them in a six-foot fence enclosure. We also invested in an automatic hen house door with a light sensor, so we don't have to worry about letting the girls out in the morning and more importantly for their safety, locking them in at night. I would definitely recommend it!

There is no comparison between the taste of shop-bought eggs, even when sold as free range or organic, and eggs from backyard free range hens. If we have to buy eggs from the shops, mainly in midwinter, we find that their yolks are very pale. This usually indicates that the birds don't have access to green grass.

Chickens have their own personalities and are definitely not stupid! We have always handled them from when they are young so they are tame and will share our biscuits and even our cups of tea if we let them! They are always busy scratching and when one finds a tasty morsel they will all run to take a bite! Watching them is really relaxing and always makes me smile. They need an area to scratch, green grass or greens from the kitchen and they will also eat the odd unfortunate toad!

Hybrid chickens don't live for more than three or four years, so we have probably had around 20 chickens since we first started. Our latest flock are a mix of hybrids and Poland bantams. Bantams have more delicate feet so they don't damage plants as much as hybrids and are a delight to keep.

Tina Cave



Cambridge Open Studios

Artists around the region will open their doors to the public over the four weekends in July – including the Tria Group at Oakington Business Park on weekends 2 and 3. (More details at tria-camb.weebly.com / tria.camb@gmail.com / 07540402153.)

Download the App and E- Guide Book via www.camopenstudios.co.uk (#COSart2021)



Where are they now?

This is the last group - for now - of Oakington residents who have gone to live abroad. If parents, friends or neighbours would like others to be featured, please get in touch. *Irène Butlin*

Jane Ison - Trelleborg, Sweden

Grew up in Longstanton Road



Private Life: During a gap year working in Sweden, met her Bjørn. One daughter, one son

Work: Welder; own business, TIG-Welding for industry, racing cars, garden arts...

Memories: The outdoor swimming pool; the vicar wearing odd socks when taking Assemblies

Miss: Fireworks Night; soap operas; comedies like the Goodies and Monty Python

Love: The wonderful Midsummer Festival with everybody singing, dancing and eating; the beautiful beaches in southern Sweden

Surprise: Rides a Ducati 600 Monster; paints people and landscapes in oils.

Michael Moore - Paris, France

Grew up in Longstanton Road



Private Life:

Partner Camille from Toulouse, one daughter

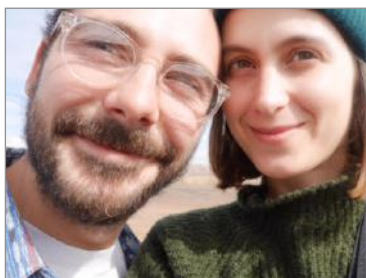
Work: Own business making bespoke furniture and fittings for restaurants and cafés

Love: The beauty of the city, the rich history and the beautiful architecture Paris has to offer. France is so vast and varied, always something different to try

Miss: Family and friends from England! Playing heads and volleys at the Rec with hundreds of people!

Memory: Making a nuisance of myself down The Drift; walking to school (IVC) down the old train tracks ...!

Surprise: Maybe be back in Oakington one day!



Nicola Probert - New York City & the Hudson River Valley, USA



Grew up in Longstanton Road

Private Life: partner Glenn - and a Whippet / Labrador cross

Work: Artist

Love: all the galleries and museums in NYC

Miss: Family, old friends and good pubs

Surprise: Her house in upstate New York was the filming location for The B-52s' "Love Shack" music video!



Sarah Moore - Cagliari (Sardinia), Italy

Grew up in Longstanton Road



Private Life: Married to Livio, two daughters

Work: Teacher

Love: Food; beaches; pace of life; weather; enjoying the countryside all year round! A great place for small children

Dislike: It's a cliché about Italy but it's often really hard to get things done with all the bureaucracy

Miss: Family and friends, the choice of non-Italian food, beautiful parks, Springtime, good TV

Fond Memory: Playing outside and spending time with friends around the village after school

Surprise: Lives very close to where her mum grew up! Has her morning coffee in the same bar as her mum used to (not allowed to say how long ago!)

Iain Youd - Basel, Switzerland



Grew up in Dry Drayton Road

Private Life: Married to Swiss/Italian Ilaria. One daughter

Work: Monitoring and evaluating the safety of medicines

Love: Growing fruit and vegetables on his allotment; seeing wildlife flourishing

Surprise: Has become a Swiss citizen; speaks German, Swiss German, Swiss Italian and French - in unequal measure.



New to the Archives

By far the largest objects in the village archives are oak beams from the gable end of a barn that stood near the crossroads. Thanks to the Nicholas family and Cook & Cook Architects, we were able to survey and photograph all the buildings on the site, prior to demolition last year, with help from David Reeves and his camera. We intend to feature a more in-depth article on the site at a later date as we are currently still researching more of its history.

Most of the barns were not that old but the largest, which measured about 6 metres by 13 metres, had what looked like much older beams inside. Referring to the 1834 Enclosures map revealed the barn was at least 186 years old and was then owned by John Stittle.



The building was well beyond saving, but thanks to all involved including the demolition contractors, the beams were marked with paint to aid reassembly and carefully dismantled. It is hoped that they could be incorporated into a building at some stage in the future.

Nick Harrison, archives@oakingtonhistory.co.uk

Rising Seas

You may be aware that the next Climate Change Conference is to be held in November 2021 in Glasgow. Delegates from all over the planet will doubtless bring their good intentions about being carbon neutral by 2050 or hopefully earlier.



But to some people, these aims are pie in the sky. They are facing the outcomes of Climate Change TODAY. Have you heard of Tuvalu, a small island in the Pacific

Ocean, north east of Australia, whose population is looking for other places to live because their island has been decimated by storms and rising sea levels?

The Maldives are better known, as a holiday/honeymoon resort. This archipelago which is 370 miles from the southern tip of India is suffering from sea level rise and bleaching of their coral. As the sea gets warmer, it expands which contributes to sea level rise (along with land ice

In the Papers

Village historian Terry Chapman mined the archives of the Cambridge Independent Press and the Cambridge Chronicle for interesting reports, some of which reveal that our most pressing concerns have not changed much in 170 years...

16th Jul 1853 - VILLAGE FLOODED. The greater part of this village has been flooded and many of the inhabitants were obliged to leave their houses fearing the building would fall on them. Several houses have fallen partly down and a great quantity of hay has been carried away by the storm. Mr John Papworth (farmers) is supposed to have lost £30 or £40 worth. Surely says a correspondent it is now time that drainage should be calmly and dispassionately considered and the enquiry is what holds the water up. I believe it is partly the railroad and hope there will be some improvement made.

13th Nov 1875 - VILLAGE FLOODED. On Thursday last, we had a heavy fall of rain this morning and the village is flooded. Some of the inhabitants are obliged to live upstairs. The water in the centre of the village was between two and three feet deep.

Wildlife Ponds – Funding Available!

Funding is available for restoring old ponds and digging new ones, because Oakington & Westwick is in strategic areas for great crested newts.

Landowners – parish councils, farmers, smallholders, large garden owners – should email

martin.baker@wildlifebcn.org to receive further information or to arrange an informal chat.



melting at the poles). The highest point in the Maldives is 1.5 metres (yes, one and a half metres), so they are busy building sea defences but also preparing to re-locate to somewhere else. The warming seas are causing the coral to emit algae from within its tissues which are turning it white, and fish stocks are being depleted. In 2009 the then-president of the Maldives, Mohamed Nasheed, held a cabinet meeting under water to spell out to world leaders the consequences of not stemming greenhouse gas emissions.

Well, we could leave it to politicians and other governance in Glasgow to sort it out or we could all do our bit to help low-lying islanders. We can make important decisions about our own lives; eat less meat, grow more of our own food, leave the car on the drive some days, and insulate our houses better. Yes, what we do does have consequences elsewhere on the planet. We can also look at the WWF Carbon Footprint Calculator to spot ways of reducing our carbon footprint to the UK Government target of 10.2 tonnes carbon per person per year.

John Terry

FREE ENTRY Bring your own food, drink and seating

Village Picnic

Saturday 10 July, 2-5pm
Recreation Ground

Entertainment and Activities:

Socialising with each other!

Singers & Music

Table Top Craft Sale

Coffee & Cake Stalls

RAFFLE! FOR KIDS
& ADULTS

Orchard Mini Safari & Quiz

Preloved Children's Toys Sale

DONATIONS towards expenses welcome
A reminder that dogs are not allowed on the Rec



Village Picnic Chair: Bernie at bernardjyates@gmail.com
Oakington & Westwick Community Association