

# ***Oakington & Westwick Journal***

**April/May 2022**



**Duckweed  
for Tea**

**Traffic  
Calming**

**Whose  
Responsibility?**



## What's On

### Weekly

Mon **Monday Café**, 9:30–noon. Church Hall, £1. Liz Davis – C 232 745  
 Mon **Oakington Singers**, 7:30pm. Church Hall. Elaine Bailey – [elainebailey1@live.co.uk](mailto:elainebailey1@live.co.uk)  
 Tue **Happy Feet**, 10–11:15am. Church Hall. For under 5s, term times. Ben Phillips – [familyworker@standrewsoakington.co.uk](mailto:familyworker@standrewsoakington.co.uk)  
 Tue **Cubs**, 6–7:15pm. Pavilion. Contact [ain.ramsay@oakingtonscouts.org.uk](mailto:ain.ramsay@oakingtonscouts.org.uk)  
 Tue **Table Tennis**, 7:30–9pm. Pavilion. Gillian L'angellier – C 234 758  
 Thu **Little Steps** 10–11:30am. Church Hall. For under 5s, term times. Ben Phillips – [familyworker@standrewsoakington.co.uk](mailto:familyworker@standrewsoakington.co.uk)  
 Thu **Ten Sing**, 7–9pm. Histon Baptist Church. Terry King – [cambridgetensing@gmail.com](mailto:cambridgetensing@gmail.com)  
 Thu **Short Mat Bowls**, 7:30–9:30pm. Pavilion. Dawn Stokes – C 236 427  
 Fri **Tool Share** open, usually 4:30–6pm. Contact [gerard@cambridgereuse.org.uk](mailto:gerard@cambridgereuse.org.uk) / 07857 704636  
 Fri **Beavers** followed by **Scouts**, 6pm. Pavilion. [beavers@oakingtonscouts.org.uk](mailto:beavers@oakingtonscouts.org.uk), [cara.hanman@oakingtonscouts.org.uk](mailto:cara.hanman@oakingtonscouts.org.uk)

Fri 1 Apr **Minibus to Bar Hill**, 10am. To book ring Teri Seaber – 07711 531004  
 Sat 2 Apr **Village Walk & Talk**, 10:30am. Meet by church on High Street. Alice – [OWNeighbours@gmail.com](mailto:OWNeighbours@gmail.com)  
 Wed 6 Apr **Village Day planning** meeting, 7:30pm. Church Hall. Ben Phillips – [familyworker@standrewsoakington.co.uk](mailto:familyworker@standrewsoakington.co.uk)  
 Sat 9 Apr **Fauré Requiem**, 2–4:30 & performance 5:30pm. St. Andrew's Girton. [oakingtoningers.co.uk](http://oakingtoningers.co.uk)  
 Mon 11 Apr **O&W Parish Council**, 7:30pm. Pavilion. All invited. [clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk)  
 Mon 11 Apr **Board Games Evening**, 7:30pm. Venue or Zoom TBA. Jenny Prince – [oakingtongames@gmail.com](mailto:oakingtongames@gmail.com)  
 Tue 12 Apr **Tuesday Talk & Tea**, 2:45pm. Church Hall. "Action for Swifts". Joan Pettit – [joanpettit93@yahoo.com](mailto:joanpettit93@yahoo.com)  
 Thu 14 Apr **O&W WI**, 7:30pm. Church Hall. AGM & "Guess Who". Contact Helen Williams – [helenwilliams5@outlook.com](mailto:helenwilliams5@outlook.com)  
 Tue 19 Apr **Knit & Knatter**, 7:30–9:30pm. Committee room, pavilion. CONNECT 2. Alice – [OWNeighbours@gmail.com](mailto:OWNeighbours@gmail.com)  
 Wed 20 Apr **Village Day planning** meeting, 7:30pm. Church Hall. Ben Phillips – [familyworker@standrewsoakington.co.uk](mailto:familyworker@standrewsoakington.co.uk)  
 Sat 23 Apr **First Aid Course**, 10:30am – 2:30pm. Pavilion. Contact OWN to register: [OWNeighbours@gmail.com](mailto:OWNeighbours@gmail.com)  
 Mon 25 Apr **Annual Parish Meeting**, 7:30pm. Pavilion. All invited. [clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk)  
 Wed 27 Apr **Sustainable O&W**, 7:30pm. Church Hall. Waste & Recycling workshop. [sustainableow@gmail.com](mailto:sustainableow@gmail.com)  
 Thu 28 Apr **Mobile Library**, 2:30–2:55 pm. Coles Lane  
 Sat 30 Apr **Drawing/painting group**, 10am–12:30pm. Church Hall. Jenny Lloyd – [Lloydjenny13@hotmail.com](mailto:Lloydjenny13@hotmail.com)

Fri 6 May **Minibus to Bar Hill**, 10am. To book ring Teri Seaber – 07711 531004  
 Fri 6 May **Country Dancing**, 8–10pm. Histon Methodist Church Hall. £2/50p. Kathryn Coles – C 233 191  
 Sat 7 May **Village Walk & Talk**, 10:30am. Meet by church on High Street. Alice – [OWNeighbours@gmail.com](mailto:OWNeighbours@gmail.com)  
 Mon 9 May **O&W Parish Council**, 7:30pm. Pavilion. All invited. [clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk)  
 Mon 9 May **Board Games Evening**, 7:30pm. Venue or Zoom TBA. Jenny Prince – [oakingtongames@gmail.com](mailto:oakingtongames@gmail.com)  
 Tue 10 May **Tuesday Talk & Tea**, 2:45pm. Church Hall. "Dragonflies & Damselflies". Joan Pettit – [joanpettit93@yahoo.com](mailto:joanpettit93@yahoo.com)  
 Thu 12 May **O&W WI**, 7:30pm. Church Hall. "Women's Health". Contact Helen Williams – C 232 614  
 Sat 14 May **Plant Swap/Stall**, 10am–12. 36 Coles Lane. CONNECT 2. Alice – [OWNeighbours@gmail.com](mailto:OWNeighbours@gmail.com)  
 Sun 15 May **Plant Swap/Stall**, 2–4pm. 36 Coles Lane. CONNECT 2. Alice – [OWNeighbours@gmail.com](mailto:OWNeighbours@gmail.com)  
 Wed 18 May **Village Day planning** meeting, 7:30pm. Church Hall. Ben Phillips – [familyworker@standrewsoakington.co.uk](mailto:familyworker@standrewsoakington.co.uk)  
 Wed 25 May **Sustainable O&W**, 7:30pm. Church Hall. "Lifestyle Changes". [sustainableow@gmail.com](mailto:sustainableow@gmail.com)  
 Thu 26 May **Mobile Library**, 2:30–2:55 pm. Coles Lane  
 Sat 28 May **Drawing/painting group**, 10am–12:30pm. Church Hall. Jenny Lloyd – [Lloydjenny13@hotmail.com](mailto:Lloydjenny13@hotmail.com)

Sun 5 Jun **Platinum Jubilee Big Lunch**, 12:30–4 pm. Recreation Ground. OWN – [OWNeighbours@gmail.com](mailto:OWNeighbours@gmail.com)

<b>BIN DAYS</b>	Thu 14 Apr, Fri 29 Apr, Thu 12 May, Thu 26 May	<b>Black</b> bin
	Thu 7 Apr, Sat 23 Apr, Fri 6 May, Thu 19 May	<b>Blue &amp; green</b> bins

**Save the date!**  
**Village Day – Sat 25 June**



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.

Keep up  
to date



Oaky Folk



To join the email list, email

[clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk)

Cover photo: Dave Prince

Blossom is back. Blackthorn gives way to hawthorn in the hedges, and cherry to apple in the orchards and gardens. The days are longer again, bringing sunshine and the chance to get out and appreciate the birdsong and flowers.

But this year the cheerful serenity of spring in our parish contrasts starkly with the unspeakable events in Ukraine. Watching rather helplessly, many of us yearn to help. A local collection has already been made, and the Parish Council is co-ordinating further supportive initiatives, including discussions about how we could host refugees in our parish.

We are grateful for our community, and the many individuals who organise and run regular groups and clubs, bringing people together. Once again, have a look in this Journal at the variety of activities on offer. We are also introducing some of the foreigners who live amongst us!

And plans for summer events are in the making, starting with the Jubilee Big Lunch on the June bank holiday.



Jenny Prince & Irène Butlin, 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), (advertising – vacant), Geoffrey Butlin (adviser).

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

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

DEADLINE FOR JUNE/JULY  
ISSUE:  
**Tuesday 17 May**

To advertise in the Journal,  
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Adverts for the next issue must be received by **10 May**.

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

### Oakington Scout Group

Oakington Scout Group – from Beavers (6–8 years) to Cubs (8–10½ years) to Scouts (10½–14 years) – is back up and running a full programme of sessions including celebrating national events and learning life skills. The Scouts are about to embark on their first Easter Camp in 3 years – joining scouts from across the area for three nights away at Thriftwood Scout Centre. Easter Camp is a great place for scouts to put into practice their survival skills, including building fires, backwoods cooking, making their own camp gadgets, going hiking and so on, in a safe environment with the added bonus of loads of local leaders available to share their knowledge!



The Beavers have had a busy term which featured celebrating the beginning of Lent with a pancake cook-off and pancake flipping races, and running science experiments.

The Cubs have had two trips off site – spending an enjoyable evening at Clip and Climb and, most recently, visiting IWM Duxford to find out about all about aircraft through history and see WWI and WWII vehicles and planes. A bonus for the day was seeing a Spitfire taking off right in front of the group.

We are always looking for leaders to join us. If you are interested in helping local young people develop life skills, please get in touch. Training is provided and you will be joining a welcoming team of volunteers.

**We also welcome new committee members.** If your skill set runs more to admin, accounting, planning and support we'd be thrilled to have you on our committee.

Beavers (for ages 6–8 years old) – [beavers@oakingtonscouts.org.uk](mailto:beavers@oakingtonscouts.org.uk)

Cubs (for ages 8–10½ years old) – [iain.ramsay@oakingtonscouts.org.uk](mailto:iain.ramsay@oakingtonscouts.org.uk)

Scouts (for ages 10½–14 years old) – [cara.hanman@oakingtonscouts.org.uk](mailto:cara.hanman@oakingtonscouts.org.uk)

Cara Hanman

### Welcome a New Neighbour

If somebody has moved in near you, a village 'Welcome' leaflet will help them feel at home. This has a map of the villages and some key information for new residents. Either let Bruce Sutherland know and he will deliver one, or pick one up from him and take it yourself – it's a good excuse to knock on the door and say hello! Contact: Bruce Sutherland, [bruce.sutherland@aol.com](mailto:bruce.sutherland@aol.com) or 07730 817350



### Join the Journal Team

We need someone to support the advertising side of the Journal - communicating with advertisers, maintaining records and issuing invoices. Approx 2-4 hours a month, including checking/replying to emails. You would need to be a reasonably confident user of email, Word and simple spreadsheets.

You may also like to lay out the 8–9 pages of adverts for each Journal issue, approx 2 hours every 2 months.

For more information please contact [oakwestjournal@gmail.com](mailto:oakwestjournal@gmail.com).



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### Parish Councillors

**Chair:** Stephen Moore  
*chair@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk*

**Vice-Chair:** Tony Starling

John Bailey	David Reeves
Geoffrey Butlin	Julie Grove
Matthew Davidson	Lis Warboys
Ranko Pinter	

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

### Parish Website

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

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

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

Post: 4 Meadow Farm Close  
Oakington CB24 3AS

Phone: 01223 232398

### District Councillors

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

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

### County Councillor

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

### Member of Parliament

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

## VILLAGE INFORMATION

### Neighbourhood Watch

Jillian Wilkinson – 01223 233585  
*oakwestnhw@gmail.com*

### Oakington & Westwick Neighbours (OWN)

07902 111786  
*OWNeighbours@gmail.com*

### Oakington Primary School

01223 232328  
*office@oakington.cambs.sch.uk*

### Pavilion Booking Administrator

Tony Leadley – 07936 024587  
*oakingtonpavilion@gmail.com*

### Village Stores & Post Office

Thiru Kunaratnam – 01223 232327

## From our Parish Council Chair

Did you know that the **Parish Council is an elected body** which represents the people of Oakington and Westwick? It seems that few people do if I ask them. Well, our period of office runs out in May and two of our councillors are standing down. If anybody would like to contribute to the community and wishes to stand to be a councillor, then please contact our clerk, Laura Lawrence (see panel for her details). If there are more candidates than there are councillor positions (eight in all), we will have a local election. Could be exciting!

I would like to thank the two councillors who are standing down, both of whom will be a real loss to the Parish Council and to the village.

**Geoffrey Butlin** has been a councillor for 11 years. He has been a dynamic and forward thinking councillor. He played an active role in starting the Community Planning process which led to our three Action Groups; OWN, EAG and TAG. We can also thank him for initiating and driving forward the proposals for additional facilities at the recreation ground which has involved a huge amount of work.

The second councillor leaving us is **Lis Warboys**. Lis has been an absolutely excellent colleague notable for her clear and positive contributions in our debates and her complete reliability to carry out the projects she has volunteered to take responsibility for. The marvellous upgrading of the cemetery is entirely due to her. Thank you Lis and Geoffrey.

We have received two pieces of good news concerning the roads in the village. The **traffic calming measures** have been fully approved and we are now waiting for the dates when the work will begin. Secondly the **resurfacing of the pavement** in Westwick has finally been agreed and is in the 2022/23 County Council budget. Thank you, County Councillor Firouz Thompson.

**Less welcome news** is that a new housing development in Cottenham, which was approved a number of years ago, is soon to be started. At the time the Planning Permission was granted, no conditions were made regarding a route for the lorries to access the site. These lorries may well be coming through Oakington! TAG, the PC and our District Councillors are all vigorously opposing this.

The other less welcome news is that the construction of the Cambridge Road combined cycle path/footpath has been delayed.

Previously I mentioned our concern regarding the lack of plans for the old **Playgroup building** next to the school. I am pleased to say that the school will be using the building on a temporary basis, which may become permanent. It is quite possible that it will become available for community use in the evening.

**Platinum Jubilee.** As older residents of the village know, it is traditional for the Parish Council to mark royal jubilees with a present of a mug for the children of the village. We decided to continue the tradition. Separately, we are applying for a grant to plant a commemorative tree on the Recreation ground.

**Ukraine.** Finally, I think all of us are appalled at the events in Ukraine. I know there is a real desire amongst villagers to offer help to the refugees. There are various initiatives taking place and the Parish Council will be fully involved in shaping and supporting the final plan. Information will be put on Oaky Folk and on the Parish Council website. I think that an organised approach at a local level would be preferable to action by individual families. Please feel free to contact me if you wish to be involved.

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



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### From our District Councillors

#### Northstowe Phase 3A and 3B Outline Planning

Plans for Northstowe Phase 3A (the phase nearest to Oakington) including 4,000 new homes, two primary schools, green spaces, sports pitches, shops, and employment areas were approved by South Cambridgeshire District Council's (SCDC) Planning Committee.

As District Councillors we raised objections to the application and we are pleased that we were able to secure conditions as part of the planning approval, including restrictions and monitoring of construction working hours, noise and dust, and ongoing monitoring of groundwater on site. As a condition, a reduction in building heights to two storeys on part of the Oakington edge was also agreed. We were disappointed that we were not able to secure any conditions on the routing of the Southern Access Road East away from the village.

The Phase 3B planning application was also approved at another special planning meeting at the end of February. Phase 3B includes 1,000 homes.

Northstowe 3A will include 1,600 new affordable homes in a mixture of affordable rent, shared ownership, discounted market sale and rent to buy. 400 homes will be affordable in Phase 3B.

A series of more detailed planning applications will follow for each parcel of land in Phase 3, which will agree the details of what the homes and facilities will look like.

#### Civil Parking Enforcement

Introducing civil parking enforcement in South Cambridgeshire will see responsibilities for illegal parking shift from Cambridgeshire Police to Cambridgeshire County Council. This will mean drivers parking illegally could be issued a penalty charge by Civil Enforcement Officers.

#### Help for Refugees from Ukraine

We know that residents and the Parish are already offering to provide support for those forced to flee through the refugee sponsorship scheme. We have set up a Facebook group - Homes for Ukraine Longstanton, Oakington and Westwick and Northstowe - to connect people involved in this response and to provide up to date information on sources of support: [www.facebook.com/groups/949660319048515](https://www.facebook.com/groups/949660319048515)

SCDC has also committed to support people from Ukraine seeking refuge.

#### Register to Vote

Don't forget to be registered to vote. It is simple to do online and only takes a few minutes. Go to [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote)

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions about these or any other matters. See our contact details on page 5.



*Sarah Cheung Johnson and Alex Malyon*

### From our County Councillor

#### Highways

The following works should have been completed by the end of March in Oakington: Dropped kerb in Orchard Way; footway slurry sealing on Church View; repairs to vehicle strike damaged masonry parapet wall and repointing of parapet, Dry Drayton Road; tree works on Cambridge Road; road surfacing - plane out and relay on Queens Way, Meadow Farm Close and Coles Lane. This budget was put through from certain pockets of funds for unclassified roads.

#### Preschool Building next to Oakington Primary School

The expression of interest in running the Early Years (EY) provision from this building went live on the Council's portal on Monday 28 Feb and will be open until 28 March 2022. It is CCC's obligation to deliver local EY services, therefore we must by law follow this procedure.

Link to advert: [tinyurl.com/yckr4954](https://tinyurl.com/yckr4954)

Providers need to create an account on the website in order to express an interest in the advert and see the document. The CCC team will take the decision as to whether or not to formally tender for a new EY provider. If we do tender then, realistically, we would not have a new provider in place before September.

In the meanwhile, we are leasing the building to Oakington Primary School to use the space to run SEND interventions, support groups, music lessons, as well as breakfast and after-school clubs and generally have more space to run meetings. If the decision is not to re-tender, the Council would liaise with the school regarding the site's future use. Once we know who will occupy the space from September, discussions can take place on how other community groups could access the building in the evenings.

#### Covid-19 Vaccinations

The roll out of vaccinations for 5 to 11 year olds began in March. Advice at this point is that children will be vaccinated in pharmacies and mass vaccination centres rather than in primary schools. Mobile vaccination centres are still in operation - see the schedule at [www.thevaccinators.co.uk](https://www.thevaccinators.co.uk)

#### Holiday Activities and Food in Cambridgeshire

The HAF programme offers free holiday scheme places or family experiences to primary and secondary school aged children and young people eligible for free school meals. During the Easter holidays, eligible children and young people may access up to 16 hours for free at a holiday scheme or family experience. The sessions will include a meal, a variety of exciting activities, sports and the opportunity for your child to socialise with others. More here: [tinyurl.com/2p8cjyxc](https://tinyurl.com/2p8cjyxc)

#### Household Recycling Centre

Booking requirements for all vehicles have been removed and the number of vehicles allowed on all sites is being increased to pre-Covid levels.

#### Climate Change Strategy

An action plan setting out how and by when the council (2030) and the whole of Cambridgeshire (2045) will reach net zero has been approved by the Full Council.

It outlines how the council will deliver on its commitments to reach net zero, including the need for the council and others to engage, support and collaborate with communities, partners and businesses to make positive changes themselves. More here: [tinyurl.com/ad6we8v6](https://tinyurl.com/ad6we8v6)

Please find my contact details on page 5.

*Firouz Thompson*





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### Transport Action Group

TAG and the Parish Council (PC) have been working together on a number of projects aimed at improving various aspects of transport within the villages.

**Traffic Calming.** The PC applied for funding from the A14 Legacy Fund and have been awarded a grant to improve the traffic calming on major roads into and out of the Parish. Essentially this was to replace existing concrete humps with rubber ones which will result in quieter traffic. In addition, there will be more room for cyclists to pass. Ideally, we would have liked to have seen more work, e.g. on the flat tables, but the grant would not cover that. The good news is that the plans have been approved and work is due to start in mid-April.

**Speed Limit.** TAG and the PC applied for a Local Highways Initiative (LHI) whereby the speed limit within the villages would be reduced to 20mph throughout as we see in other villages such as Girton. This would be a major step towards greater safety for all road users. The news we have back from County Highways is encouraging and we expect a decision within the coming weeks with implementation later in the year. The PC have supplied the financial support necessary for the application to be considered.



**Southern Access Road East (SARE).** Back in 2007, in the early days of planning for Northstowe, an access road was envisaged which would lead from the A1307 roundabout into Northstowe. Homes England have flatly refused to agree to this and instead plan to join Dry Drayton Road just south of the Business Park despite all of our councillors supporting the original plan. Our contention is that this will only exacerbate traffic problems at the Crossroads, and forecast traffic statistics confirm this. SARE has not yet been confirmed but our information is that it is very likely to go ahead. This

serves to illustrate that Homes England's only aim is to deliver housing irrespective of the detrimental effect on neighbouring villages.

**Construction Traffic.** Our SCDC councillors were successful in stopping construction traffic from the Cottenham Grove development coming through the villages. We now have a new problem arising from the latest development in Cottenham, the Kings Park estate on Rampton Road, where work is due to start this year. The PC was not consulted by SCDC when the outline plan was published. As a result, construction traffic is not banned. TAG and the PC together with our district councillors are taking this up direct with the developers, Tilia Homes.

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

*Jim Bryant, Chair*  
owcp.tag@gmail.com 07807184691

### Environment Action Group

Our **Flood Mitigation Group** continues to work alongside the Parish Council to push for flood attenuation measures. Outline planning permission for Phase 3A at Northstowe has now been granted but it is understood that no further financial contributions to the promised attenuation pond were included in the planning conditions. A meeting is planned by the Parish Council in mid-May involving the District and County Councillors, representatives of the Environment Agency and Homes England, and the Drainage Manager at CCC (the Lead Local Flood Authority) to discuss how the section 106 money from Phase 2 that was set aside for flood mitigation will be used.

Spring has arrived, and the daffodils and other flowers in our **village flower tubs** have been looking good. We are considering if these flowers can be left in place beyond May, when in previous years they have been replaced. The daffodils will need to be left for six weeks before being cut off. We plan to make a decision in May based on how they look. Once again, we are very grateful to the volunteers who have been looking after the tubs.

EAG volunteers joined with OWN on 19<sup>th</sup> March for a **village litter pick**. South Cambridgeshire District Council loaned litter grabbers, gloves and bags, and 20 sacks of rubbish were collected. We thank everyone who took part.

After months of negotiation and lobbying the **Open Spaces** project to develop the recreation ground has at last got planning permission, albeit with some onerous, but satisfiable conditions about ecology, traffic and lighting. This permission enabled submission of the application for funding from FCC (was WREN) for about £80,000. If it is successful, it should be possible to start the work by the end of July.

We continue to work on the issue of the green duckweed and water meal on the **village pond**. We dragged off most of the green covering on 21<sup>st</sup> March, along with several books, bottles and other



items of rubbish that had been thrown in. Longer term solutions such as introducing some sort of aeration are still being investigated. The resident moorhen has been seen on the pond with a partner, so we were keen to pull off the duckweed before the nesting season begins. Duckweed

and water meal both contain high amounts (up to 40% dry weight) of protein as well as other nutrients, and have been identified as a promising source of sustainable plant protein for human food. Indeed, water meal is commonly consumed as a vegetable by humans in some parts of the world. However, we decided that we lacked the culinary skills required to turn the duckweed that we pulled out of the pond into a tasty soup (besides concerns about the cleanliness of the pond water) so plan to compost it instead.

*Stephanie Smith, Secretary*



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## Oakington & Westwick Neighbours

How lovely it is to see the bright yellow of the daffodils and forsythia, and the pink and white froth of blossom especially against a bright blue sky. The days are lengthening, the sun has been shining and it feels as if spring is arriving. We can come out of our winter/Covid hibernation and plan for meeting up once again. We have lots of events planned – see right.



OWN continues to provide **support to local residents** when it is needed. We have a pool of volunteers available, so if you or someone you know, needs some assistance such as collecting a prescription, or help with the internet, please get in touch. (07902 111786, [owneighbours@gmail.com](mailto:owneighbours@gmail.com)). And if you are sometimes free on the first Friday morning of the month, we are still looking for another **driver for the minibus** shopping trip to Bar Hill.



We know that rising prices, and particularly energy bills, could cause problems in the months ahead. The **Hardship Fund** exists to provide short-term support, and longer term advice. If you find you are beginning to struggle financially, take action and call or text Ben on 07342 945373, or Jo on 07714 760582, or email [oak.west.hardship.fund@outlook.com](mailto:oak.west.hardship.fund@outlook.com). All enquiries are treated confidentially.



Jo Bryant

### Could YOU help drive the community minibus a few Friday mornings this year?

The OWN minibus takes a group of mostly older residents from Oakington to Bar Hill once a month but to continue this great service for the village we need another volunteer driver (aged 21-70). Contact Teri on 07711 531004 or email [owneighbours@gmail.com](mailto:owneighbours@gmail.com) to find out more.

## CONNECT 2

CONNECT2 activities have been happening each month, and there are more to come.

The defining feature of these events is that they are all free and open to anyone to join.

In January we wrapped up warmly and went to the church to sketch the architecture. There was a refreshing range of artistic skill, with beautiful attention to detail from some and adorable scratchy overviews from others – see page 12! Our February activity maintained that connection to the creative. We had a fun writing workshop where we took as our inspiration fairy tales and other much-loved stories. In March we held a community litter pick – more on the back page.

We have planned more events for April, May and June. Get in touch with us (07902 111786, [owneighbours@gmail.com](mailto:owneighbours@gmail.com)) if you have any questions.

Alice J



## Community Walks

Gentle walks in all weathers on the first Saturday of each month. Meet at the High Street end of the church at 10:30am **Sat 2 April, Sat 7 May and Sat 4 June**. Don't forget to wear comfortable shoes and dress appropriately for the elements.



## Knit & Knatter

**7:30-9:30pm on Tuesday 19 April** in the Committee Room at the Pavilion.

CONNECT2 the Jubilee Big Lunch!

You're welcome to bring along any craft project you happen to be working on and/or to join us in figuring out how to knit bunting ready for the Big Lunch in June. We'll be making pompoms and whatever other decorations people want to try. Bring along some materials, or use ours.



## First Aid Course

Course run by the Red Cross:

*First Aid to Adults. Saturday 23*

**April 10.30am–2.30pm** at the Pavilion. Funded by OWN, free to attend. There are some places left. Contact us soon if you want to join in.



## Free Plant Swap Stall

10–12 on **Saturday 14 May**  
2–4pm on **Sunday 15 May**

Tables in the driveway/outside number 36 Coles Lane

Bring some vegetable plants you've grown and take away something planted by someone else. Even if you don't have anything to swap, take some plants anyway – leave a donation. (We'll probably be collecting for Ukraine and the village Hardship Fund.)

Sow some extra seeds now so you can bring along spares to the stall. While the main focus is on veg plants and sustainable food, we won't turn away flowers!



## Big Jubilee Lunch

This will be OWN's contribution to the long June bank holiday events. **12:30-4pm Sunday 5 June** at the rec. See back page for more details.

We're intending to reinstate the bring and share meal, and planning a range of other activities on the day. If you're interested in getting involved in the planning, please don't be shy – get in touch.



### Oakington & Westwick Short Mat Bowls Club



We are pleased to say that we are now back to playing without the earlier restrictions and would welcome new members. Currently we play on Thursdays from 7.30 to 9.30 pm at the Sports Pavilion. If you would like to give bowls a try, come and join us as our guest for the evening. We have spare bowls and you just need some soft, flat soled shoes. If you would like more information on the Club, please contact Dawn on 01223 236427.

*Dawn Stokes*

### Oakington & Westwick Table Tennis Club



We are a small, friendly club, of mixed ability. We play throughout the year, every Tuesday at 7.30pm at the Pavilion, and welcome new players. We have four tables and spare bats - all you need is a pair of trainers. Junior players must be accompanied by an adult. For more information contact Gillian L'angellier on 234758.

*Mick Dorling*

### Anyone for Tennis?



Spring is on its way at last and the tennis season will soon be picking up apace. If you're thinking of joining the Oakington & Westwick Tennis Club, now is a great time to do so as our subscription year runs from 1<sup>st</sup> April – 31<sup>st</sup> March. Whatever your age or standard of tennis, new members are always welcome. We would particularly encourage juniors to take up the sport and the Club offers coaching at all levels for both juniors and adults. We also organise social events during the year. For more details, please email [oakingtontc@gmail.com](mailto:oakingtontc@gmail.com).

*Gill Attmore*

### Monday Café

#### Celebration with cake and good cheer!!

On Monday 14 March we were able to celebrate the 90th birthday of one of our regular participants of the Monday Café!

Pat Robinson was presented with flowers and a lovely cake with candles - she managed to blow them all out! Pat was surrounded by the many regulars – over 20 people turn up each Monday morning.

The Monday Café is a drop in event held between 9.30 - 12.00 in St Andrew's Hall. Everyone comes to enjoy a good chat, lovely cake and choice of coffee or tea – all for £1. And books are available at 50p. Hope to see you soon!

*Jenny Hill & Christine Kershaw*



### Drawing/Painting Group



Come and meet us.

We meet on the last Saturday of the month at St. Andrew's church hall, 10 – 12.30pm.

All you need to bring is your equipment. Everyone does what they feel like doing. Help yourself to coffee and biscuits. No cost – donations only.

Please contact: Jenny Lloyd on 01954 200591, [Lloydjenny13@hotmail.com](mailto:Lloydjenny13@hotmail.com)

Look forward to meeting you.

*Jenny Lloyd*

The group formed after the January CONNECT 2 drawing session in the church. Here are some of the results!



### Tuesday Talk & Tea



A magazine and book swap led to an enjoyable afternoon, with plenty of tea, cakes and chat, so why not join us next month. Just walk through the door and a friendly atmosphere will greet you!

- **12 Apr** Talk on *Action for Swifts* by Dick Newell (ex Oakington resident)
- **10 May** Talk on *Dragonflies & Damselflies* by David Chandler

All meetings at St Andrew's Hall, High Street, starting at 2.45pm. Look forward to meeting you.

*Joan Pettit (chairperson) [joanpettit93@yahoo.com](mailto:joanpettit93@yahoo.com)*



### Oakington and Westwick WI

And slowly we return to some kind of 'normal', as our monthly WI meetings have successfully returned to St Andrew's Church Hall. We meet on the second Thursday of each month at 7.30pm. Why not give us a try? You are very welcome to our meetings as a visitor for £5. Alternatively, full Membership for April 2022 to April 2023 is now available at £44. Contact [helenwilliams5@outlook.com](mailto:helenwilliams5@outlook.com) for details.



Recent meetings have ranged from a serious and extremely enlightening talk on 'Life in our Prisons' to a crafty demonstration and practical session on Scrapbooking! Our **April 14<sup>th</sup>** meeting will be our AGM and once the business of electing a new President is completed, we can look forward to enjoying a sociable, definitely humorous and quite interactive game of 'Guess Who'! For our meeting on **12<sup>th</sup> May** we have invited a speaker to talk on Women's Health who will raise awareness of signs of changes in our health that we should have checked out and will discuss with us what to expect from the menopause.

Our WI Committee is currently busy planning a host of outings, workshops and social occasions to add significantly to our programme of monthly meetings and which are designed to 'catch up for lost time' during two years of pandemic disruption. In February 16 of us enjoyed a Midwinter Feast at The Boot in Histon. Coming up this summer will be:

- A river trip and Afternoon Tea along the river Cam from Fen Ditton.
- A close up encounter with Alpacas
- A theatre trip to see Kinky Boots at the ADC
- A guided tour of Madingley Hall gardens with afternoon tea
- A painting workshop with Cork and Canvas
- A picnic evening enjoying a play from this summer's Shakespeare in the College Gardens repertoire

*Helen Williams*

#### Meeting Online?

A reminder to village groups that you can still borrow the **Community Association Zoom licence**. Contact [oakington.westwick.ca@gmail.com](mailto:oakington.westwick.ca@gmail.com).



### Sustainable Oakington & Westwick

If you're worried about the environment, you're not alone. Eighteen people came along to the first meeting of Sustainable Oakington & Westwick in January, and it was an inspiring and moving experience to hear each person explain why. Some spoke of their love for nature and their distress at the loss of biodiversity. Others were especially concerned about climate change, waste or food security. Many were parents trying to help their children feel optimistic for the future. Everyone wanted to do something. Ideas for the group came thick and fast.



The second meeting saw fresh faces and a talk by David Reeves about water supply in our area. Much of it comes from chalk streams, a unique and rare habitat – there are only about 225 in the world – being destroyed by over-exploitation. An Amazon on our doorsteps. The only sustainable solution is to reduce demand from the current 140 litres per person a day.

SOW plans to organise its activities through subgroups: nature & biodiversity, climate crisis, transport, food & growing, waste & recycling, water. We hope to put on a monthly talk or workshop as well. With CONNECT 2 we are running a plant exchange in May (see page 11) to help us reduce our carbon footprints by growing our own food. Our March meeting focuses on Wildlife Gardening.

SOW activities are open to anyone. Meetings are at the church hall on the last Wednesday in the month, 7:30pm.

- **27 Apr** Waste & Recycling Workshop. Lots of us are keen to reduce waste (see page 22) – come along to ask questions about what happens to what goes in the bins, and find out what more we can do.
- **25 May** Lifestyle Change. Some ideas for switches and changes in the ways we live which can help the planet.

If you're worried about the Earth, get in touch, come to a meeting, join the mailing list, or follow the blog. As one participant said, "I already feel happier." Together we can do more than just worry.

Contact [sustainableow@gmail.com](mailto:sustainableow@gmail.com) / [sustainableow.co.uk](http://sustainableow.co.uk) / 0785 7704 636 (Gerry Cavander)

*Jenny Prince*

### Country Dancing

Jane and I look forward to seeing you on the following three evenings: **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May**, Friday 17<sup>th</sup> June, and Friday 15<sup>th</sup> July, for fun and friendship whilst country dancing. We have our own musicians and an expert caller. Soft shoes or trainers are the recommended footwear.



We meet in Histon Methodist Church Hall, 8–10 pm. Adults: £2, Accompanied Children: 50p. See you there.

*Kathryn Coles*



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## Which Council Does What?

The organisational structure of Cambridgeshire is complex, but if you have a problem or concern, the parish clerk or a councillor will point you in the right direction.

### County Council

Responsibilities: Education, Transport, Highways, Heritage, Social care, Libraries, Trading standards, Waste management, Maintaining their estate.

Some of these services are shared between Peterborough City Council and Cambridgeshire County Council but any concerns should be directed to the County Council.

### District Council

Responsibilities: Council tax payments and benefits, Household bin collections, Housing and housing benefits, Council leisure facilities, Environmental health, Residential planning.

### Parish/ Town Council

Responsibilities: Looking after community buildings, Allotments, Play Areas, Bus shelters and many more depending on council.

### Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP)

'The local delivery body for a City Deal with central Government worth up to £500 million over 15 years, to vital improvements in infrastructure (decarbonising transport), supporting and accelerating the creation of 44,000 new jobs, 33,500 new homes and 420 additional apprenticeships.'

Partnership between Cambridge City Council, Cambridgeshire County Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council, University of Cambridge.

The Combined Authority, Cambridge and Peterborough, our elected Mayor

'A combined authority (CA) is a legal body set up using national legislation that enables a group of two or more councils to collaborate and take collective decisions across council boundaries.'

What our Mayor does: Business support, skills, housing, transport, environment, international, digital connectivity, resilience, research, and strategy, new homes.

Police and Crime Commissioner, Cambridge, and Peterborough

To support and challenge the Chief Constable to provide effective and efficient policing services for the area.

### Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority

The Fire Authority is the governing body responsible for delivering a fire and rescue service to Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. It is made up of Cambridgeshire County Councillors and Peterborough City Councillors.

## Community Association

### Village Day 2022 – Saturday 25 June



This will take place from 12 noon till 5pm for the stall holders and then till 9pm-ish, with various entertainments yet to be arranged. There will also be a raffle and we would be grateful for as many good quality prizes as possible.

The **Village Day planning group** has met twice (as at 22 March). Ben Phillips has stepped in as chair after Hanna stepped down. Ben is supported by Bernie, Arthur, a new Oakington resident, Hady of Mead View, and Ranko. Additional volunteers are also welcome to come to the meetings of the planning group. They will be held in the Church Hall at 7:30 pm on the following Wednesdays: 6 April; 20 April; 18 May; 8 June; 22 June, with tea & biscuits available to those who come!

**Can you help for half an hour to an hour?** We are looking for a number of different volunteers – to sell programmes and raffle tickets ahead of the day and put up posters around the village. We also need help on the day with several jobs, including putting up fences, erecting marquees and gazebos, parking and entrance stewards. We'll set up rotas so that everybody can enjoy the activities taking place. Contact Ben, [familyworker@standrewsoakington.co.uk](mailto:familyworker@standrewsoakington.co.uk).

### Summary of the Community Association's AGM

This took place on 25th January, just after the last Journal went to print. 17 people attended and 3 sent apologies.

The year had again been disrupted by the pandemic, so all meetings had taken place via Zoom. The Journal continued to be published as per schedule and ended the year with a small surplus. By the end of July restrictions had lifted enough for us to organise a Village Picnic on the Rec, attended by some 200 residents. We put up the Christmas Tree by the Pub again, but the Bonfire Night sadly had to be cancelled due to the threat of further restrictions by the Government.

Group membership subscription would continue at £10 per group. Membership benefits include update of their activities in the Journal, access to free Zoom licence, web visibility, hire of large gazebos and reduced pitch rates at Village Days.

CA Finances: There was a net loss for the year of £285.46. The reserves carried forward to 2022 were £3,744.62. The CA committee was re-elected: Ranko Pinter, Arthur Sillett, Bernie Yates, Liz Davis, Iréne Butlin.

*Ranko Pinter, Chair & Iréne Butlin, Secretary*  
[oakington.westwick.ca@gmail.com](mailto:oakington.westwick.ca@gmail.com)

## CONGRATULATIONS

### Thiru and Anu

*Thiru at the shop is marrying Anu  
on 25<sup>th</sup> April*

*Best wishes to them both and we  
look forward to welcoming Anu to the village!*



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## Where are they from?

Last year we met a number of people from Oakington who had emigrated. By popular request we will now feature people who have settled here from abroad. *Irène Butlin*

Lives in Orchard Way

### Mariacarla (Majno) Barden



**To Oakington:** 1961

**Childhood:** 'Carla' was born in 1935 in Milan, Italy – 'la bambina' to her parents and two older sisters.

Had just started school when war broke out. Evacuated to a small mountain village when Milan was bombed. Father worked in his company and joined the family at weekends. He was exempt from the army having

served in WWI. Being so young, and surrounded by family, the war did not affect Carla much, and in 1945 they returned to an undamaged flat. In her teens enjoyed seaside holidays.

**Education:** Aged 20 came to Cambridge to study English. Met third year maths student Dennis and married in 1960.

**Family:** Carla had always wanted to start married life in a new house with some ground for trees – and within cycling distance of the city. Orchard Way met the spec! Spent two periods in the States; the last one with all five children, then aged one to ten! Has also hosted foreign students and done some voluntary work. Enjoys gardening and reading.

**Reflections:** Fond memories of long family weekend walks in the countryside. Father inspired a love of nature, especially trees. Doesn't really miss Italy, but went back when the children were young. Still in touch with relatives. Aware of different customs in the two countries, but likes to look at people as individuals in their own right.

**Surprise:** In her 50s obtained a Diploma in Counselling and became a member of the Cambridge Consultancy in Counselling till her (late!) retirement in 2018!

Lives in Longstanton Road

### Marie-Jeanne (Jonckheere) Peters



**To Oakington:** 1972

**Childhood:** An only child, Marie-Jeanne was born in 1945 in a village near Ostend, West-Flanders, Belgium.

Farming background. Remembers twisting loads of leaves of sugar beet to remove them and being rewarded with sweets. Kept many pets – 'Giant Flemish' rabbits, a lamb and a black Labrador with which she played 'hide & seek'.

Nine happy years in a private boarding school.

**Education:** Teacher training in maths, physics & economics, then taught in a secondary school in Bruges.

**Family:** Got to know Englishman John who had several holidays in Belgium. This led to marriage in 1972. Has dual citizenship. Settled first in Arcadia Gardens, where their son and daughter were born. Moved to Longstanton Road in 1983. Hosted international language students and Marie-Jeanne did translation work for a Belgian university. Worked at the Cavendish Laboratory and Sindall Construction and had various volunteer admin roles in church.

**Reflections:** Very happy to have her parents-in-law living close by for 35 of her 50 years here. Appreciates free health service (in Belgium you pay for everything and claim most back from insurance). Also values the Christian community of Oakington church.

Misses Ostend's long and clean beaches, walking barefoot in meadows full of buttercups and daisies, and the historic city of Bruges.

Does not miss Belgian disorderly queues at bus stops and railway stations, nor busy and noisy towns.

**Surprise:** Used to keep white racing pigeons!



Lives in High Street

### Ronald Koehler



**To Oakington:** 1965

**Childhood:** Ron grew up in Skokie, Illinois – a suburb of Chicago, USA – the youngest of four children.

Went to the local primary and secondary schools. Aged 18, graduated from High School, much to his family's surprise. He was not academic, "as he was dyslexic".

**Career:** Not being smart enough for college – was ranked 661 out of 859 – joined the US Air Force. After a bit of square bashing went to a technical school to learn how to repair an Air Traffic Control Radar set. Graduated 1<sup>st</sup> in his class :) Was posted to RAF Station Greenham Common "just in time for Kennedy's stand-off with the Russians about Cuba". Returned to USA to be demobbed.



**Family 1:** While at Greenham Common, had met Diana. So returned to England in August 1965 to marry his girl.

Got a job with Pye Telecommunications in Cambridge and settled in Orchard Way where their two sons were born. Worked at Pye's until 2000 when the business folded and he took voluntary redundancy. Sadly, shortly after retirement Diana died of cancer.

**Family 2:** After a few years got together with local Kay (Kathryn). Married at St Andrew's church in 2016 and have made their home in High Street.

**Reflections:** Enjoys living here, but still drawn to his American roots. Owns a property in Arizona which he visits twice a year and where he can meet up with his US family.

**Surprise:** Still has train set he got as a 6-year-old, now set up in Arizona. Extensively added to – the train table is 16' x 4' – with mountains, tunnels, farms, waterfall, a river and a town at one end. The neighbours come round to watch!

**Oakington  
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### Flowers and Fence Holes Needed

Spring is when a young man's fancy turns to thoughts of... love.



Did you know a male **moth** can pick up the pheromones (scent) of a female moth seven miles away? The antennae of males are feathered so there's a greater surface area for smelling. Did you know there are 250 species of moth in the UK and over 160,000 on the planet, which puts the 18,500 known butterfly species in the shade?

If you want to boost moths and butterflies in your garden, you can replace bedding plants with

wild flowers, cosmos, sunflowers (annuals) and perennials like sea holly, hardy geraniums, lavender and sedum. Weeds like dandelions are invaluable sources of nectar for both butterflies and moths, so it's great to have a bit of unmown lawn.

Tree species which attract lepidoptera include willow, crab apple, hazel, birch and of course the butterfly bush (buddleia). As you know, most moths fly at night but a few are around in the day and usually have bright colours. They include burnet moths (black and red with red spots), garden tiger (brown and white), and cinnabar (black and red) whose caterpillars wear yellow and black striped rugby shirts and are specific to ragwort. Some moths fire a poisonous spray at predators like bats and birds and this mechanism gives them the confidence to fly slowly; others depend on speed to escape predation.

Moth and butterfly numbers are declining in the UK but not as dramatically as **hedgehogs**. The State of British Hedgehogs Report 2022 has just reported on a long historic decline. Oddly enough, urban hedgehog numbers are beginning to stabilize but a rural decline continues, especially in our region, the East of England. 'Industrial' farming is blamed, including lost habitat and pesticides.

Very few hedgehogs have been spotted in Oakington recently, so if you are keen to encourage them in your own garden you can connect your garden to neighbours' by cutting a hole (13cm x 13 cm) in your fence. (Best to talk to your neighbour first). This suggestion recognizes that these nocturnal mammals can travel over one mile at night. They also benefit from wild corners where they can search for insects and slugs and snails. Ponds are safer if you have a shallow ramp to allow an escape route, because they can swim, but cannot get up steep sides.



They can easily get entangled by netting and litter and they suffer from pesticides, especially slug killers which both rob them of food and kill them. It's great to build homes for them out of wooden boxes or log piles, but their love of wood piles makes them vulnerable to bonfires. It's best to build and burn your fire immediately, so they don't creep into it while it's unlit. It's easier than combing through it before lighting your pile of wood.

Although they are capable of finding insects and slugs in a wild garden, supplementary feeding helps and the choice is between dog or cat food. Additionally, putting out a shallow bowl of water can be vital in the summer.

*John Terry Johnterry23@hotmail.co.uk*

### Bus Stop Notice Board

At the OWN AGM there was a suggestion of installing notice boards at/on the village bus shelters.

David Reeves has very kindly constructed and installed one in the shelter opposite the village sign. It's completely open access.



The PC has also budgeted to purchase notice boards for each of the remaining bus shelters this coming financial year.

*Laura Lawrence, Clerk to Parish Council*

### Oakington Community Orchards Project



The Recreation Ground Community Orchard was planted by volunteers between 2012 and 14, to create an attractive resource for the village. The trees are mainly local heritage varieties, selected from the East of England Apples and Orchards Project Tree Catalogue.

In 2022 the Parish Council agreed a revised maintenance plan for the orchard. The "west" side, adjacent to the cemetery, will be mowed regularly throughout the summer. This will provide shady picnic spots for family use. While the "east" side, adjacent to the brook, will be allowed to grow "naturally", with minimal management, to encourage a wider range of wild flowers and insects.



The trees carry labels which indicate the type, variety and when the fruit is normally ripe.

As this is an asset shared for the whole community, we would ask you only to pick fruit for your own personal use.

We are always looking for volunteers, contact us via [oakcomorchards@gmail.com](mailto:oakcomorchards@gmail.com)

*The OCOP Team*

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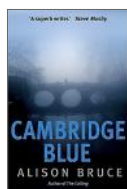


## Book Corner

### Crime in Cambridge

The lure of the beautiful university setting has encouraged many modern crime writers to set their books here. Some are obviously "outsiders" and make awful errors such as inventing non-existent colleges(!) but others are local and use authentic locations. I have chosen not to review a specific book but to suggest a few authors whose work you might enjoy:

Alison Bruce's hero is Gary Goodhew, of Parkside Police Station. "Case Histories" is the first in Kate Atkinson's series. I particularly enjoyed Helen Callaghan's books starting with "Dear Amy". TV has now made James Runcie's "Grantchester" series really famous. For lovers of "vintage" crime there are several Green Penguin examples!



Liz Davis

## Film Review

**The Power of the Dog** directed by Jane Campion (available on Netflix)

This story is a Western set in the 1920s, in the sweeping countryside of Montana. The film captures life on a ranch against a stunning backdrop of open space and mountain ranges, and is adapted from a novel by Thomas Savage published in 1967.



Benedict Cumberbatch stars as Phil Burbank, who runs the ranch with his brother. Both brothers are difficult characters, and the film explores interesting ideas as the story develops. A central aspect is an unlikely friendship between Phil Burbank and a younger man, his brother's stepson. The acting is superb, and the overall effect is surprising, touching, mysterious and menacing.

Jane Campion was awarded Best Director at the BAFTA and Critics Choice Awards in March, and the film is also nominated for the Oscars.

Jo Mills

## Chess Corner

Solution to Chess puzzle 1-22 from the last Journal.

Rh8+ - Kg1; Rh1+? - K:Rh1; a8Q – on the face of it, it now looks like a draw. However, if the Black's next move puts



White into check, by moving out of check, the White puts the Black into a 'discovered check', which is quickly followed by checkmate!

Chess puzzle 2-22:  
White to move and checkmate in 3 moves. Beware of stalemate, which is a draw!

Ranko Pinter

## My Hobby

### My Crafting Life

I have always had a love for crafting! Ever since at the age of five and facing time in a wheelchair to keep me occupied my grandmother taught me to knit. Not just any old knitting but intricate lacy patterns that she designed herself. My father also embroidered so taught me to stitch crinoline ladies on chair covers.

In secondary school we were taught how to sew, making our school skirt for the summer and an apron for domestic science. This gave me a love of dressmaking and on leaving school and being given a very old hand sewing machine I started making a lot of my own clothes including my wedding dress and bridesmaid dresses. My husband's suits and even a leather jacket followed with of course clothes for my children as they came along.

Once the children were at school lots of different crafts followed, embroidery, macramé, leather work and upholstery to name but a few.

When I took a job at the local school I was able to pass on some of my knowledge of needlework to the children by running a lunchtime needlework club which the children thoroughly enjoyed. I was even asked by some of the parents to show them how to sew.

Since retiring my main hobby has been patchwork and quilting or as my husband refer to it and tells everyone – cutting up fabric and putting it back together again. All good fun.



Since retiring and especially since joining the Women's Institute my love of trying out and teaching different crafts has continued. The Cambridge Federation, which is just down the road, put on lots of craft events so I am never short of anything to do and I do wonder how I ever managed to hold down a job. I also had the privilege to be Chair of the Craft and Cookery Sub Committee of the Cambridge Federation and host (at the CFWI on Cambridge Road, Girton) on the second Tuesday of month and fourth Thursday of the month a Craft, Cake, Coffee and Chat time from 11 until 3. All welcome and you don't have to be a WI member.

Lynda Neech



### What you're doing to fight climate change

SOW has surveyed residents to discover what people are doing to live sustainably. Most people who responded are aware of the issues and trying to reduce their carbon footprint. The full results can be found on [sustainableow.co.uk](http://sustainableow.co.uk) along with links to later surveys, but here are some highlights!

**Food.** 82% of respondents avoid food waste "a lot". Only 18% eat meat every day, and half of them plan to eat less. 33% eat meat no more often than once a week and 12% are vegan. Diet affects our carbon footprint because a quarter of global greenhouse gas emissions come from food, and of that, 58% is from animal products.



**Waste & Recycling.** Everyone who answered uses their own shopping bags, and the great majority use a reusable water bottle (93%), avoid single-use plastics (72%), donate to charity shops (86%) and buy second-hand (69%). Most people avoid unnecessary purchases by buying things that will last (83%) and repairing things (79%). Many of us would like to avoid packaging by using refills (52%), share tools (41%) and have a shopping-free month (34%).



Recycling helps to tackle climate change because it uses less energy than making new products, and because landfilled waste releases greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.

*Jenny Prince*

### Donations for Ukraine



We were all stunned by the invasion of Ukraine and the mass exodus. What could we do to help the refugees? Celine and St Andrew's church set about collecting urgently needed supplies, requested by the "Hope and Aid Direct" charity who knew of specific

needs. During two weeks Oakington residents generously donated blankets, sleeping bags, towels, bandages, toiletries, cleaning materials and more. A full van of boxed up donations were delivered to the charity's HQ in Basildon on 22 March. A huge thanks to everybody who helped.

*Ranko Pinter  
(ed)*



### Plants and Places

Climate change and bioregions were mentioned when chatting with a neighbour. He was upset by the failure of his azalea and rhodies. Classic example of plants not being in their natural habitat.

The fruit orchards that used to surround our village are now mostly gone. The local clay was perfect for this crop. They have been replaced with estates and hundreds of acres of heavily sprayed grain.

If we grow what's suited to the area the plants will be strong and not need to be so intensely sprayed with herbicides, fungicide and insecticides which of course bump up the final cost of the crop but worse, kill the little grasshoppers that we used to love and now miss, as do our wild birds.

Last summer I didn't see or hear a yellowhammer or bullfinch, did you?

But here's a photo taken last summer of unsprayed sunflowers growing near Walsham le Willows on light sandy soil where the farmers are adapting to climate change.



*Charlotte Jordan*

### Oakington and Westwick Neighbourhood Watch



With the recent welcome warm weather and longer days, enjoying being out doors, we should however remember to close and lock windows and doors before leaving the house. Anyone interested in following the national Neighbourhood Watch can sign up to receive the monthly newsletter, here:

[www.ourwatch.org.uk/news/march-2022-our-news-neighbourhood-watch-national-newsletter](http://www.ourwatch.org.uk/news/march-2022-our-news-neighbourhood-watch-national-newsletter)

It can be alarming to be warned about all manner of dastardly goings-on, but take comfort from the safety of our villages, and the effective informal watch we keep on anything unusual.

It is also useful to search and sign up for the village facebook page, **Oakyfolk**.

*Jillian Wilkinson oakwestnhw@gmail.com*

### Do you need support with your or your family's cancer diagnosis?



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### Oakington Isolation Hospital

In the first half of the 20th century, and many years before that, a number of infectious diseases (including polio, tuberculosis and smallpox) caused frequent epidemics throughout the United Kingdom. There were not vaccines for many of these illnesses and those vaccines that did exist were not widely distributed. As there was no NHS it fell to the local authorities to control these outbreaks. Many local authorities built separate isolation hospitals to house infected patients away from their general public hospital. Whilst working on another project I discovered that an isolation hospital was built in Oakington.

At the start of the 1900s the local authority for Oakington was Chesterton Urban District Council (CUDC), who in 1905 opened the Chesterton Infectious Diseases Hospital (Oakington). The original source at the National Archives says it was built at Midfield, Girton Road, Oakington. The 1947 Ordnance Survey map shows it on the site now occupied by Midfield Lodge Care Home.

The isolation hospital has also sometimes been referred to as the County Isolation Hospital or the Oakington Smallpox Hospital. For much of its career the hospital specialised in handling local outbreaks of scarlet fever and diphtheria.

Local historian Mike Petty has assembled an Oakington Scrapbook with summaries of many newspaper clippings; several mention the Oakington hospital. In 1909 there was a big outbreak of diphtheria in Stapleford. An old school was being used as a temporary isolation hospital for which Oakington hospital provided bedding. In May 1910 the Council reported there were 68 cases of scarlet fever across Chesterton in the previous year. Of these cases 50 were transferred to the Oakington hospital.



*Midfield Lodge Care Home,  
on the site of the old Isolation Hospital*

By the 1930s the fortunes of the hospital seem to have taken a downturn. A 1930 entry in the Scrapbook reports that there were only 7 patients and that both the matron and the porter had retired because of ill health. A later entry, in 1936, reports of plans by the CUDC to expand the hospital and notes that this will disrupt the County Council's plan to use it for smallpox cases. However, in 1938 there is an announcement that the hospital will close.

In 1941 the hospital was sold to the County Council for use as a smallpox hospital. It appears to have been little used.

There is a 1947 entry in the Scrapbook which states emergency arrangements were being made for smallpox cases until the Oakington Smallpox Hospital could be opened. The Royal Society of Medicine review of the 1947 smallpox outbreak records only 79 cases across England and Wales. The review notes in 1935 there were no cases and there were very few cases in the years between 1935 and 1947.

It is not clear if the Hospital came back into use in 1947, but was probably out of use by mid-1948. There are mentions in the minutes of the Oakington Memorial Hall Committee in July 1948, when they discussed whether isolation huts being disposed of from the hospital would be available to them, and in October 1948 stating that no suitable huts would be available.

Oakington Isolation Hospital appears might not actually have been in Oakington when operational! In 1953 there were amendments to the parish boundaries with Oakington Parish gaining land in Cambridge Road including the site of the Isolation Hospital. Later the site was used to house children in care and more recently for the Midfield Lodge Care Home. I would like to extend my thanks to Julie Grove for help with sources for this article.

*Steve Gamble*

### Magpas Lights

It was 32 years ago, to the delight of the children, that Alan Milton, for the first time, turned his front garden at



*Alan at his first Christmas light show 32 years ago*

Christmas into an impressive light-show extravaganza. He has done it ever since and has used the received donations to the benefit of Magpas charity, so far to the tune of £37,930! Well done, Alan!

*Ranko Pinter*





### Community Litter Pick

In March we had a multi-generational spring clean with a community litter pick. 28 volunteers including 7 children gathered on the Rec on a bright and breezy morning for a briefing before departing to gather litter around the Rec, Mansell Wood and through the village.

The volunteers were out for about an hour and a half and returned to the Pavilion for home made refreshments. Altogether 20 bags of litter were collected! It's amazing what can be done when we have many willing hands.

The litter pick was jointly organised by CONNECT2, the Environment Action Group and Sustainable Oakington and Westwick.



Thank you to all!

Alice J & Jo Bryant, (ed)



### Platinum Jubilee Big Lunch

**Sunday 5 June, 12:30 till 4pm**

at the Recreation Ground and Pavilion

**Come and celebrate this special day!**

Bring and share picnic lunch - bring a savoury or sweet dish to share, along with a rug/chair/gazebo.

Feel free to bring your own picnic if you have Covid concerns.

Music from throughout the 70 years - so send us your requests and put on your dancing shoes!

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