

Oakington & Westwick

February/March 2022

Journal



Trophy Winners

Spotlight on TTT

Doorstep Deliveries

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
 Tue **Happy Feet**, 10–11:15am. Church Hall. For under 5s, term times. Ben Phillips – familyworker@standrewsoakington.co.uk
 Tue **Cubs**, 6–7:15pm. Pavilion. Contact ian.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
 Thu **Ten Sing**, 7–9pm. Histon Baptist Church. Terry King – cambridgetensing@gmail.com
 Fri **Tool Share** open, usually 4:30–6pm. Contact gerard@cambridgereuse.org.uk / 07857 704636
 Fri **Beavers** followed by **Scouts**, 6pm. Pavilion. beavers@oakingtonscouts.org.uk, cara.hanman@oakingtonscouts.org.uk

Fri 4 Feb **Minibus to Bar Hill**, 10am. To book ring Teri Seaber – 07711 531004
 Sat 5 Feb **Village Walk & Talk**, 10:30am. Meet by church on High Street. Alice – OWNeighbours@gmail.com
 Tue 8 Feb **Tuesday Talk & Tea**, 2:45pm. Church Hall. Pauline Marsh's collection of photos. Joan Pettit
 Thu 10 Feb **O&W WI**, 7:30pm. Church Hall. "Life in our Prisons". Contact Helen Williams – helenwilliams5@outlook.com
 Mon 14 Feb **O&W Parish Council**, 7:30pm. Pavilion. All invited. clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk
 Mon 14 Feb **Board Games Evening**, 7:30pm. On Zoom. Jenny Prince – oakingtongames@gmail.com
 Sat 19 Feb **Creative Writing Workshop**, 3–4:30pm. Zoom. Connect 2. Alice – OWNeighbours@gmail.com
 Thu 24 Feb **Mobile Library**, 2:30–2:55 pm. Coles Lane
 Fri 25 Feb **Country Dancing**, 8–10pm. Histon Methodist Church Hall. £2/50p. Kathryn Coles – C 233 191

Fri 4 Mar **Minibus to Bar Hill**, 10am. To book ring Teri Seaber – 07711 531004
 Sat 5 Mar **Village Walk & Talk**, 10:30am. Meet by church on High Street. Alice – OWNeighbours@gmail.com
 Tue 8 Mar **Tuesday Talk & Tea**, 2:45pm. Church Hall. Members' magazine and book swap. Joan Pettit
 Thu 10 Mar **O&W WI**, 7:30pm. Church Hall. "Scrapbooking". Contact Helen Williams – C 232 614
 Mon 14 Mar **O&W Parish Council**, 7:30pm. Pavilion. All invited. clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk
 Mon 14 Mar **Board Games Evening**, 7:30pm. Venue or Zoom TBA. Jenny Prince – oakingtongames@gmail.com
 Sat 19 Mar **Litter Pick**, 10am. Meet outside Pavilion. (If poor weather, 26 Mar). Alice – OWNeighbours@gmail.com
 Thu 24 Mar **Mobile Library**, 2:30–2:55 pm. Coles Lane
 Fri 25 Mar **Country Dancing**, 8–10pm. Histon Methodist Church Hall. £2/50p. Kathryn Coles – C 233 191

Sat 2 Apr **Village Walk & Talk**, 10:30am. Meet by church on High Street. Alice – OWNeighbours@gmail.com

BIN DAYS	Thu 3 Feb, Thu 17 Feb, Thu 3 Mar, Thu 17 Mar	Black bin
	Thu 24 Feb, Thu 10 Mar, Thu 24 Mar, Thu 31 Mar	Blue & green bins
	Thu 10 Feb	Blue bin only

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.

Save the date!

Jubilee Big Lunch – Sun 5 June
 Village Day – Sat 25 June

Cover photo: Dave Prince



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Over Day Centre has always had clients from Oakington. We help older people maintain their independence whilst continuing to be members of the local community. The Centre also enables the families of our clients, who are often the primary carers, to have a much-needed respite from looking after the needs of their loved one.

Halina Szulakowska, Administrator

An effective team needs a broad skill set, and the same could be said for a good community. A look through the pages of this issue of the Journal will reveal the amazing range of talents there are in Oakington and Westwick. Event planners, window artists, jam makers and historians. Quizmasters and nature watchers, flooding experts and bowls champions. Drivers, sopranos, campaigners, paddlers... our community is a richer place because so many people put their gifts and interests to good use within it.

If you've got a little time or energy to spare, then whatever

your skills there's very likely a way you can make the most of them in local activities. Minibus chauffeurs, singers, Scout committee members and sweepers are among the opportunities mentioned in this issue! The Journal urgently needs someone with some office or marketing experience who could help with advertising. And if you don't have time to offer, we hope you will simply join us in celebrating so much local talent!



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

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

DEADLINE FOR APRIL/MAY
ISSUE:
Tuesday 22 March

To advertise in the Journal,
please email
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Adverts	For 1 year	One off
Business card	£75	£17
¼ page (portrait)	£117	£29
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Adverts for the next issue must be received by **15 March**.

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

Crop Share Oakington

You know when you have that awful feeling ... the borders are overgrowing with weeds, it's now the time to plant that stuff you like or take out the stuff that's ready... But you are just too busy and can't get to it... imagine... someone else just walks in and does it for you! It's great!

So I have deadlines at work but because I have to walk Danny (the dog) most days I usually spend 30 mins on the 'lotty letting him free. He loves just sniffing about, so I'm happy to use the cut-throat-ploughboy for 30 minutes and that way it's easy to keep the weeds at bay on a good sized plot. I'm not good at the non-routine stuff, planting at the right time, remembering to net etc etc ...



Mina, Alice, Gerry and Jacqueline

Enter Jacqueline:

plants squash (they store for as many as 6 months when grown!), tomatoes, sweetcorn, cucumbers, beans, marigolds (!) Enter Alice: plants Brussels sprouts, garlic. Enter Mina: leeks, broad beans ... I do the potatoes and the onions every year (routine!) Whatever survives the rabbits, droughts and various unknown pests and stealers, we share: golden squash appear on my doorstep as do stems full of Brussels like a happy jester's sceptre, and I take pride in leaving Duke of York and Pink Fir on doorsteps in return. But it doesn't end there... way downstream, jars of blackberry jam (Alice makes the best blackberry jam in the world), lemon curd and relish made from 'lotty crop also appear, and occasionally a pumpkin pie with decorated pastry leaves around the edge. A cornucopia of delights.

Share the work and the responsibility, share the crop. Home grown tastes better by miles (not overfed with taste-thinning water to make it bigger/more expensive), no plastic bags involved, no van to deliver it to supermarkets many miles from its field of birth or get it home from the more local supermarket. Win, win, win. Not to mention knowing your neighbours like in the olde days and having the satisfaction that comes with making your own. A bit of exercise too and a welcome distraction from the busy modern world working by a big row of poplars in all weathers.



But if something like this is not for you hopefully the new **Sustainable Oakington and Westwick** group (www.sustainableow.co.uk) will come up with some activities better suited.

Gerry Cavander
sustainableow@gmail.com 0785 7704 636

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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

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@scamb.gov.uk

Alex Malyon – 01954 202859

cllr.malyon@scamb.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

New Councillor

It was a real pleasure to welcome a new Councillor, Matthew Davidson, to our January meeting. Matt is in his twenties, so brings the views of younger people to our meetings. Matt also lives in Westwick so now the views of Westwick residents can be adequately represented.

Playgroup Building

Each time I cycle along Water Lane and pass the former Playgroup building, I feel rather sad that it is no longer being used by the community. Firouz Thompson, our County Councillor, has been told by the County Council, who now own the building, that they are “preparing a soft market test to gauge the level of interest that exists in the building as a potential Early Years setting.”

Regrettably it does not look like the idea we proposed of using it as a youth and community centre will be happening.

Playground

I would like to re-iterate my thanks to Cllr David Reeves for cleaning the climbing frames and slides on the Recreation Ground. What a fantastic playground we have! My admiration grows for the working group who created the facility. But perhaps it is now time to consider adding new features to the playground? If you have any suggestions, then please email me.

Publicity

A large part of the village seems to be unaware of the activities of the Parish Council and how we respond – often behind the scenes – to daily happenings in the village. We have been cautious about going onto the Oaky Folk facebook site, but we will have to be more proactive in using this to show that we really are doing things between our monthly meetings!

Airfield Road

Despite the closure of the Airfield Road, a number of motorcyclists have continued to use it, with reports of near misses of pedestrians. The Parish Council have raised this matter with the relevant authorities and are pursuing new signing making it very clear that the road is not open to any motorised traffic. The road has become a favourite walk for villagers and the sooner the situation is sorted the better. I have also raised the condition of the road with Homes England, asking them when/if they have plans to make a good quality walking route and cycle track.

Traffic

We are continuing our battle to get traffic calming on Cambridge Road, Water Lane, Station Road and in Westwick. Both the Parish Council and the County Council Highways Department have now agreed that we need to proceed urgently. Related to this, a decision on our request for a blanket 20 mph speed limit in the village is imminent.

Flooding

Firouz Thompson, County Councillor, arranged a meeting for us to express our frustration at lack of progress on a flood attenuation project for the village. We are now trying to get all relevant authorities, including the Environment Agency, the County Council and Homes England, to explain to us why nothing has yet been achieved.

Now, what good news to finish on? Well, a developer at Northstowe had proposed erecting a couple of large billboards in the field immediately adjacent to the guided busway stop. They would have been a potential eyesore, but after the District Councillors and Parish Council objected, planning permission was refused.

Dr Stephen Moore

chair@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk





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From our District Councillors

We hope that everyone is healthy and safe as we start 2022. As we go into the New Year, Covid restrictions remain in place and infection rates locally are still high, so we encourage everyone to remain vigilant.

Northstowe Phase 3A Planning Committee

The meeting that will examine the outline planning application for Northstowe Phase 3A (the part of the development adjacent to Oakington) has unfortunately been postponed on several occasions. At the time of writing this is scheduled to take place at the end of January. All residents who submitted comments on the application should receive an invitation to attend and to speak at the meeting. As District Councillors we will be making objections to the application at committee. We hope to report on the outcome of this in the next edition of the Journal.

Northstowe Developments

At time of writing, final work to join the new Southern Access Road West to the B1050 at the Bar Hill junction on the A14 is progressing. This will provide direct access into Northstowe or onward to Longstanton via a new roundabout.

Our previous Northstowe community development officer recently left his role, and we now have two new officers, Mihaela Stan, who will focus on Phase 1 and Kathryn Beck, who will focus on Phase 2. Homes England also now have a Community Development team in place as we welcome the

first residents to Inholm, the first development on Phase 2. We hope to see these teams working more closely with the existing communities and Parish Councils, as Northstowe grows.

The waterpark in Phase 2, around the education campus, should be opening soon – parts of this waterpark will be available for water sports and open water swimming.

Bins and recycling

We thank residents for their patience while the green bin service was suspended over the holiday period. Collections have now been reinstated.

We would like to remind residents that additional blue recycling bins can be provided free of charge to residents who need additional recycling capacity. South Cambs accepts a huge range of materials for recycling, including plastic carrier bags, cling film and other types of plastic. For details, please go to www.scambs.gov.uk/recycling-and-bins/. Tesco Bar Hill also has facilities for recycling crisp packets, pet food pouches and other soft plastics, as well as clothing and textile recycling.

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.

*Alex Malyon and
Sarah Cheung Johnson*



From our County Councillor

Covid Taxi Vaxi. If you are struggling to get to and from your vaccine appointment, Cambridgeshire County Council have agreed to pay for your taxi journey. It's called a Taxi Vaxi scheme – more details here: tinyurl.com/5n8fradm

Gully Maintenance

We have to date cleaned 50k+ gullies out of some 100k. We have already cleaned Oakington gullies and provided a detailed report with maps and photos to the Parish Council. **Summary:** out of 400 gullies in Oakington, 86.4% of them drained normally when recharged with water; 68.7% required cleaning; 2.7% were inaccessible due to vehicles over them; and 1.8% had broken lids so unable to open them. Please keep on reporting any problems on our ReportIt system. Westwick gully maintenance is planned Jan–March 2022.

Quarterly Highways Meeting

The next meeting will be held 4 Feb with a County Highway Officer and Parish Clerks from Oakington & Westwick and nearby parishes. Please keep reporting highways issues at: highwaysreporting.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/

Household Support Fund

A reminder that the County Council's Household Support Fund is open till 31 March. It offers:

- Support with food, household energy and other essentials for individuals and families: residents are eligible to access this support if they earn less than £17,940 per year, or are in receipt of certain state benefits
- Direct food vouchers: supermarket vouchers will be issued to families meeting the low-income criteria for free school meals, funded childcare for two-year-olds, early years pupil premium, or sixth form students eligible for free school meals. For further details: tinyurl.com/2p97n384

Climate Change

The gully maintenance mentioned above is part of a very broad range of activities we are planning to tackle Climate Change. Further action will be taken to protect homes from flooding caused by excess surface water and high levels of rainfall. We have committed to invest more money to support residents who live in areas which are at risk.

See tinyurl.com/32ey577p

The local flood risk management strategy has been out for consultation: tinyurl.com/3mz477cz

As a low-lying area, flood risk and rising sea levels are real future risks for the county's communities. The Climate Change and Environment Strategy - tinyurl.com/4j5uk5mm - will go to the Full Council in February. It sets a new target for a Net Zero Cambridgeshire - 2045, instead of the current 2050 target.

Other County Council News

Cambs residents are being asked for their views on which local buildings, structures, archaeological sites and landscapes that they value, and feel are important to the character of their local areas, as part of a new Local Heritage Listing project. For more information please visit the website local-heritage-list.org.uk/cambridgeshire or email the Project Officer jessica.johnston@cambridgeshire.gov.uk.

Investment of £4.2million has been approved by the Council's Adults and Health Committee to ensure continued support for social care providers to help meet the needs of people across the county. For more details please visit tinyurl.com/yu95ksv8.

Do feel free to contact me – details on page 5.



Firouz Thompson



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Environment Action Group

Flood mitigation

The saga of the promised attenuation ponds on Oakington Brook continues, closely followed by our Flood Mitigation Group (FMG). The excuse given by Homes England (Northstowe developers) for not yet undertaking any work on the ponds has been that they have not received modelling from the Environment Agency on the effect of the A14 works on water flow. The Flood Risk Business Manager at Cambridgeshire County Council met with the Environment Agency on 20th December to request an update on the timescale for this, and the latest information we have is that the necessary modelling information has now been sent to Homes England. The Parish Council, with support from the FMG, are now seeking confirmation from the Environment Agency that there is no reason why Homes England cannot now carry out their design work.

Land availability and its cost also remains an issue. It is understood that no additional Section 106 money will be available for flood attenuation beyond that already in the Phase 2 plans; this would likely cover the construction of a reasonably sized reservoir but not if the cost of the land is to be included. Homes England are still reluctant to tell us what they intend to do with the two fields they bought in 2019, some of which could be a suitable reservoir site. Our District and County Councillors continue to pursue these issues with Homes England at their regular meetings.



The Open Spaces project

Progress continues to be slow, with the Environment Agency objecting to the originally proposed play area mound on the basis that it could affect flooding. This is despite the fact that analysis by Prior Associates (consultant engineers) has confirmed that the effect would be negligible. In order to get planning permission, it is now planned to proceed without the mound and instead to add a group of trees for climbing instead. If it is possible to secure the necessary permission and quotations in time for the next funding application deadline, work could begin in June of this year.

Drains and gullies

We have been encouraged by the recent drain clearances in the village by Cambridgeshire County Council, who have also sent us a detailed report of all the drains and in-kerb gullies. We have identified 27 of these that we believe to be most critical in preventing the formation of large puddles in wet weather, and have sent this list to our County Councillor Firouz Thompson. We are grateful for Cllr Thompson's responsiveness on this issue.

Footway sweeping

A small group of volunteers carried out leaf sweeping at the start of December, but we were not able to clear as many footways as usual due to a reduced number of helpers being available. We urgently need more volunteers in order to keep our village's footways tidy and safe for users, so if you could spare an occasional hour please contact James on jamesyoud51@icloud.com.

Stephanie Smith

Transport Action Group

East West Rail



Over the summer of 2021 East West Rail (EWR) conducted a second public consultation, which many local people responded to, on the route of the new railway between Bedford and Cambridge. EWR have said they will release the results of the consultation winter 2021/22.

EWR plan to hold a third, statutory, consultation about the final route, expected to happen around summer 2022. The government has been reviewing their planned expenditure on major projects to see if Covid-19 has changed the financial viability of these. It is not clear if EWR will be affected or if there will be a delay. If the scheme goes ahead the statutory consultation will be the last major opportunity to influence EWR before they apply for a Development Order for the Bedford to Cambridge section.

EWR have comprehensively discounted any route approaching Cambridge from the north, providing reasons and evidence in their consultation documents. However there are vocal groups around the southern approach route who are pushing for the scheme to be modified with a northern approach that comes through the middle of Oakington. Therefore, we need to have evidence and



arguments prepared for the statutory consultation in case the northern route through Oakington is part of it. The route accepted in the consultation will be final and proposed to the government to build.

Motorcycles on Airfield Road



Despite there being new signs showing that the central section of the Airfield Road is closed to all motor vehicles (except emergency vehicles and tractors) there are a number of reports of motorcycles continuing to pass, sometimes at high speed, through the closed section. As well as being illegal, it can be a danger to legitimate users such as walkers, cyclists and horse riders. Width restriction gates are being installed along the route but whilst these will stop cars and vans entering they have to be wide enough to allow horses, cargo bikes and pushchairs to pass. This also means that they are wide enough to be passed by motorcycles. This was discussed at the last Parish Council Meeting and is being referred to the police.

Changes to the Citi 6 and Citi 5 bus services



Stagecoach Cambridge announced that they are combining Citi 5 and Citi 6 bus services due the continuing effects of the pandemic. The main bus coming into the village will be the Citi 5. See page 15 for more information.

Jim Bryant, Chair owcp.tag@gmail.com, 07807 184691

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Oakington & Westwick Neighbours

The **monthly** minibus trip to Tesco's at Bar Hill has now resumed. More drivers (and mates) are needed to enable this to continue so if you are between 21 and 70 with a normal driving licence and can spare the first Friday morning of the month a couple of times a year, this volunteering opportunity could be for you. Some workplaces allow employees time off for community activities, so enquire if this applies to you. We use the Histon and Impington Community minibus, training is provided and there is a little initial admin including a DBS check. Drivers are covered by the minibus insurance policy. If this is something that interests you, please do get in touch with OWN and of course you can combine this volunteering role with doing your own shopping if you like!



The minibus service is free but due to social distancing, the number of passengers is limited to eight. If you want to secure a place, please call Teri on 07711 531004 before midday on the Thursday. Pick up from home is at 10am, returning about 11.30am. It's an enjoyable outing and a chance to meet other village residents.

Another driving opportunity is with **Cottenham Carecar**, a volunteer service to provide transport for social and medical journeys. Although based in Cottenham, some users and drivers live in Oakington. If you need transport, even on the same day for urgent appointments, Carecar may be able to help. Contact Gerry Brett on 01954 251929 or 07731639799. If you can help as a driver or as a part-time, back-up coordinator, Carecar would love to hear from you.

The planned **first aid course** in April cannot be confirmed at the moment and may be held later in the year.

Save the date – Sunday 5 June 2022! OWN is planning a Platinum Big Lunch as part of the Queen's Jubilee celebrations, and if you are an inventive cook, we will be running our own Platinum Pudding contest. Further details nearer the time but, for now, note the date in your diary and create your confection!

07902 111786 owneighbours@gmail.com

Jo Bryant

CONNECT 2



It's been an absolute delight to see how many people have chosen to become involved in CONNECT 2 activities. A quick reminder that the defining feature of the CONNECT 2 project is that all activities are for anyone to join in, and are all free.

Our village Advent Calendar was on display around 27 different households with a wonderful range of artistic expression. See page 19 for pictures! The carol-singing outside the pub brought over 70 people out to join in and feel the Christmas spirit. Many thanks to everyone who helped make the event such a success. Music was provided by Adrienne Chaplin and her friends and family, while a selection of Oakington Singers kept our voices in tune.

Just think – when was the last time you met someone new? We hope that the programme of activities for 2022 will give you a chance to make those new connections around the village, and also to meet up with some familiar faces.

The observational sketching session in the church will be happening as this edition of the journal is delivered. We're arranging a **creative writing workshop** by Zoom on Saturday 19 February, 3–4:30pm. No previous writing experience needed, just a willingness to have a go. We'll provide prompts to stimulate writing during the session, and then invite you to share what you've just written in a supportive atmosphere. Drop an email to owneighbours@gmail.com if you'd like to take part and CONNECT 2 your inner author.

The regular **Walk and Talk** on the first Saturday of the month is still reliably attracting a group each time. The next walks will be at 10:30am at the High Street end of the church on 5 February, 5 March and 2 April. Put on some comfy shoes and join us as we take a route chosen to suit the weather conditions and CONNECT 2 the great outdoors.

We're making arrangements with the Environment Action Group, Sustainable Oakington and Westwick and others to run a **grand litter-pick 10am on Saturday 19 March**. Please arrive at the pavilion on time for the induction. If the weather lets us down, we have 26 March as a backup option.

Let's give the outdoor space we all use a bit of a spring-clean and CONNECT 2 our surroundings. We'll focus on the traffic-free areas around the rec and Mansell Wood, so it will be safe for families. There'll even be a nice cuppa at the end, so come on down and join us!

Alice J



Oakington & Westwick Hardship Fund

If you are experiencing financial hardship or are in need:

call or text Ben on **07342 945373**

or Jo on **07714 760582**,

or email oak.west.hardship.fund@outlook.com

Your confidentiality will be respected.

Chess Club

How can white, whose move it is, win this game?



Chess Puzzle 1-22

On the face of it, the problem is easy. All that White has to do is to allow the promotion of its white pawn that is on 'a7' into a Queen. This it can do by removing the Rook that is blocking it from 'a8' to 'h8' and placing the black King into 'check', thus forcing it to move, and QED!

However, even though White has now an extra Rook, which would ordinarily win it the game, the exposed white King cannot avoid to be put, from now on, in a perpetual check by the black Queen, thus resulting in a draw. However, there is an elegant solution how White can still win. Can you see it? If you can, please send it to me on ranpin@gmail.com.

Ranko Pinter

Oakington & Westwick Short Mat Bowls Club



Despite the challenge of playing within Covid guidelines and restrictions, we were able to complete two of our in-house competitions for 2021. Our Chairman, John Pryor, awarded the Ladies Knockout Competition winner's trophy to Sue Kaufman (right in picture) and the Singles Competition winner's trophy to Dawn Stokes.



We continue to follow Covid guidelines, particularly with regard to social distancing, and are only using two playing mats. Unfortunately this means that at the moment we are unable to invite anyone else to join us.

Once we are confident that play can return to normal, we will be happy for new players to come along. So, if you are thinking of giving bowls a try 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

Tennis Club Quiz Night – a huge success!



The annual Oakington & Westwick Tennis Club quiz night was held on 20th November and a very big thank you goes to John Barnett for being such an excellent quiz master yet again! The evening was in tribute to Rick Philips and we played for the Rick Philips trophy which was rather fittingly won by Maggie and her family, as can be seen in the photo.



An entertaining, covid-safe time was had by all: smaller tables meant that the 14 teams of 4 were kept safely distanced from each other. A significant sum of money was raised and split between charities of John and Maggie's choosing and the tennis club, whose courts are such a valuable asset for the village. As always, many thanks to all the willing helpers and volunteers who helped make the event the success it was.



Rick Philips

Club membership will be up for renewal on 1st April so please do join us for the new tennis season. And we're already looking forward to Quiz Night 2022!

Gill Attmore

Tuesday Talk & Tea

Our Christmas Party was a real treat for members and the New Year beckons with the hope of continuing to enjoy each other's company.



- **8 Feb** Pauline Marsh's collection of photos
- **8 Mar** Members' magazine and book swap

All are welcome at St Andrew's Hall, High Street, 2.45pm for tea and chat. Friends make life bearable, so your new year's resolution: please join us.

Joan Pettit (chairperson)

Oakington Singers: We Need You!

See page 21 for details.



Country Dancing

Covid-19 regulations allowing, Jane and I look forward to seeing you at the next two evenings of country dancing, which will be on

Friday, 25th February and **Friday, 25th March**, in Histon Methodist Church Hall from 8–10 p.m.



Why not make a New Year's Resolution to come and join us for an enjoyable evening and get fit at the same time. Partners are not needed as we all dance with each other. We usually have a band play for us and a caller. Trainers or soft shoes are recommended footwear.

Adults: £2, Accompanied Children: 50p. See you there.

Kathryn Coles

Oakington Vikings

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



FA Charter Standard



Our Under 11s



Our Under 13s hosting a mini tournament.

Oakington Vikings Youth Football Club

Oakington Scout Group



Oakington 1st comprises Beavers, Cubs and Scouts and the whole group were delighted to be able to get back to face-to-face scouting in the Autumn term. We've enjoyed a range of outdoor and indoor activities including plenty of games, life skill development, fire lighting, backwoods cooking and a night hike (for the Cubs and Scouts) and night away (for the Beavers).

We continue to run in-person sessions each week in term time and are operating an enhanced Covid safety assessment for our activities.

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 urgently need 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): beavers@oakingtonscouts.org.uk

Cubs (ages 8–10½): iain.ramsay@oakingtonscouts.org.uk

Scouts (ages 10½–14): cara.hanman@oakingtonscouts.org.uk

Cara Hanman

Oakington & Westwick History Society



It has been a while since the last update from the History Society. Activities of the Society have been suspended since the onset of the first wave of the Covid-19 pandemic in February 2020. Since that time there have been a variety of frequently changing restrictions including lockdowns, limits on numbers of people meeting and mask wearing. This has not provided a stable environment where activities can be planned.

Because of the length of the suspension, once the situation improves and becomes stable, a meeting will be arranged to discuss the History Society going forward. Given the recent surges in different variants of the virus the meeting may be several months away, but the History Society is still here.

For information about the History Society contact Julie Grove (01223 233951).

Steve Gamble

Oakington Community Orchards Project



The OCOP Team gets together the last weekend of every month, to carry out general care and maintenance of the village's two Community Orchards. If you would like to join us, or just get some free advice on maintaining your own fruit trees, email oakcomorchards@gmail.com or message us on Facebook – OCOP Cambridge.

OCOP Team

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Green Blue You

Looking to reduce your environmental footprint and make changes around the house? Green Blue You is a local business that sells eco-friendly products online and offers local doorstep refills in Oakington, Westwick and other local villages of cleaning, laundry and hair and body products. Their refills are a really convenient way of cutting down on single use plastic by re-using your containers – when your product runs out, you simply book a refill online, leave your bottle outside on the morning and the Green Blue team will refill on the doorstep! They refill in Oakington and Westwick on a Tuesday. Green Blue You also sells a wide range of other environmentally friendly products including cleaning products and cloths, shampoo and conditioner bars and other great bathroom switches such as bamboo toothbrushes and plastic free toothpaste tablets, plastic free and re-usable period and incontinence products, re-usable nappies, pet products, and much more! And as a bonus it is free local delivery using bikes and trailers so carbon neutral too.

All of Green Blue You's products are carefully researched by its founders, Sarah and Sarah, two local entrepreneurs with a background in conservation and environment. They take into account a range of sustainability criteria and assess any trade-offs. Recognising that it can sometimes feel like a big step to make changes, Sarah and Sarah aim to provide products that suit customers along each step of the sustainability journey.

Why not have a look at their website for ideas – www.greenblueyou.co.uk. Or find them at local pop ups including at the Histon Smokehouse, Waterbeach Community market and, coming soon, Girton. New dates are regularly added to their website.

Advertisement



Bus Changes and Price Reductions

The route number and times of the main half-hourly bus through Oakington have changed. All but two journeys a day are now run as Citi 5, which goes on to Bar Hill after Oakington, giving residents here a direct service to Bar Hill.

Good news for everyone who pays for their tickets – the price has reduced! A Day Rider has reduced from £4.50 to £4.20. If you buy a "Flexi10" bundle of tickets (which can be used any time in 12 months) using their mobile app, the cost per Day Rider ticket is £2.94! Under 19s and students pay less – £2.80 for a walk-on Day Rider, but only £1.96 a day in a Flexi10 bundle.

There are also reduced prices for families and groups of adults travelling together (five people for the price of two.) The Flexi5 and Flexi10 mobile tickets are valid all along the busway, right up to St Ives, unlike ordinary Day Riders.

Jenny Prince

Community Association

Village Day – 25 June 2022

In expectation that the Covid restrictions will be progressively eased, leading to a semblance of 'normality', we plan to run the traditional Village Day this year (rather than the scaled down version of last year's Village Picnic), on Saturday 25 June. We are pleased that Hanna Lumley is once again happy to organise the event.

Since the Village Day has been one of the most important events in the village calendar, Hanna is keen to make it a memorable event, attracting both the young and the not so young. She is inviting all those who are not only *willing to help* in the preparation and running of the event, but also those who *may have ideas* about activities that could be made part of it – to contact her on jhlum@me.com.

Bonfire Night

In a similar vein, we are planning to run the traditional Bonfire Night – the exact date to be decided.

Journal Update

We still have an urgent need for an Advertising Manager. It is a varied and interesting role, working in conjunction with the Journal Team and CA treasurer. For more information please contact Irène on oakwestjournal@gmail.com.

Ranko Pinter, Chair
oakington.westwick.ca@gmail.com



Oakington and Westwick Neighbourhood Watch

Have you checked or changed your passwords recently? Weak passwords can be hacked in seconds. Three random words is the recommended way of generating passwords, as it is easier to remember and takes trillions of years for a computer algorithm to crack.

Start with your most important accounts (such as email, then banking and social media) and replace your old passwords with new ones.

The Police Digital Security Centre (PDSC) recommend looking around the room and picking three things you see, for example table, computer, map would become tablecomputermap – *do not* use words that are associated with you, for example animal names or surnames, as these are easy to identify if you are someone who uses social media.

Wise advice from the national Neighbourhood Watch website. But we all have tables, lamps, chairs, so choose the random words more extravagantly.

Some accounts require more than just three words to increase the strength of the password. Some browsers can choose a password, and remember it for the next time you need it.

Jillian Wilkinson oakwestnhw@gmail.com
Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator for
Oakington and Westwick





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Richard and Sally Barker



There was a time, only a generation or so ago, when the smell of freshly baked bread would permeate the air on the children's way to school. And on their return journey, a tray of leftover day cakes would be theirs for the taking. The bakery stood on the corner of High Street and

Coles Lane and belonged to the Barker family.

Richard was born at 1 Station Road to George and Joan Barker in 1946 while George was away in Italy with the army. From there George sent a welcome telegram to his son "Roger", Joan having changed his name from that agreed! His parents bought and moved into the Bakery when Richard was three years old.

Richard (Dick) attended the village school, which in the 50s consisted of only two rooms and two classes. The head, Mrs Carnel, was very strict but well respected because her pupils achieved good grades.

As a youngster Richard would accompany his father on delivery rounds on an old three-wheeler bike with a basket at the front - this was later donated to Snowy Farr. He was a choirboy and in the Boys' Brigade, also playing football and cricket (in Histon).

Another hobby was to dredge old bits of bike from the engine yard pond - now the school playing fields - and do them up at the Bakery granary.

He got half a crown pocket money which he spent on chocolate - never sweets - and his favourite singer was Elvis Presley. Holidays were spent with his uncle Tom and aunt Edna in Sheffield, his parents taking him one Sunday and picking him up the next.



During his school days at Impington Village College, sport was his main interest, but he worked from an early age alongside his parents and decided the bakery was where he wanted to be.

Richard and Sally had known of each other earlier, but met again when Sally returned to Histon after working in Oxford for a few years, and they married in 1973. After their daughters, Liz and Suzie, were born, Sally threw herself into village life. She was heavily involved with the Humpty Dumpty play school, the Parent/Teacher Association, Amateur Dramatics and the Panto group. She helped with a Youth Group which met in the Methodist Chapel in the 80s and for an impressive 13 years volunteered with the Student Support Centre in Cambridgeshire for children with special needs.

For a night out they would frequent the New Inn at Westwick. This was a popular meeting place and much missed when it closed in 1989.

About 20 years ago the bakery business moved to Cottenham, having outgrown its premises in Oakington. Gone was not only the scent of baking, but also the social element around the shop. And many a teenager had had their first Saturday job there.

Richard and Sally still live in the village. The business now is run by Liz's husband Michael who is the director responsible for the bakery and Suzie who is the director responsible for the shops and outside catering. Richard still has a hand in the business, but he and Sally have time for more leisurely pursuits like golf, reading and meeting up with friends. Above all, they delight in their six grandchildren who all live locally.

Irène Butlin

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Let's Get Together

2021: A Year of Extremes

It's been a funny old year. What's going on?

A dragonfly was spotted in Oakington in December. The warm damp autumn produced lots of fungi, and the warmer, wetter winters are speeding up the advance of ash dieback. Because of the extreme weather events caused by the Climate Emergency, some UK wildlife is suffering a great deal. This may explain the links between extreme climate and biodiversity loss at the recent COP 26 in Glasgow.

Butterfly numbers were well down this summer, mainly because of the cool spring. In fact, the Butterfly Conservation's Big Butterfly Count recorded the lowest figures since the count began 12 years ago. Small tortoiseshell and peacock numbers were heavily reduced. Many birds also suffered from the cool, wet spring weather and chick numbers were well down.

However, some parts of the planet experienced heat waves. Over 400 weather stations experienced their highest temperature ever in 2021. You may have read that Death Valley reached 54.4°C in July, the highest reliably recorded temperature ever on the Earth's surface. If you've ever wondered why it's called 'Death Valley', you can now stop wondering. This seriously challenges the claim 'there's no bad weather; only inappropriate clothing.'



The heatwaves in the west of the US caused wildfires and massive loss of wildlife. There were also heatwaves in Siberia and Alaska. Greece became the hottest part of Europe where wildfires also killed local wildlife in July and August. Ironically, Texas experienced a big freeze in February that killed over 300 people.

All this mayhem points to extreme weather events anywhere, at any time, and many wildlife species are reacting by moving towards areas more in line with temperature ranges they are used to. More than a quarter of the UK's butterfly species are moving north. The RSPB have concerns that dry weather is reducing water levels and mud for inland wading birds, at the same time as being worried about habitat destruction caused by flooding. They and other conservation charities are leading the way with wetland and woodland restoration aimed at mitigating climate change. To quote Ben McCarthy, Head of Nature Conservation and Restoration Ecology at the National Trust, 'Climate Change is making some forms of extreme weather events the new normal.'

John Terry (johnterry23@hotmail.co.uk)

Village Advent Calendar 2021



How many did you spot?
Thank you to all who took part
(and sorry we missed a couple here!)



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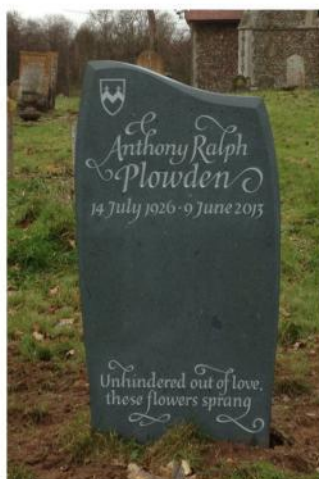
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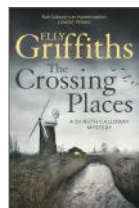
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Book Corner



The Crossing Places by Ellie Griffiths

This is the first book in the Ruth Galloway Mysteries which are detective novels set in the eerie landscape of the Norfolk coast. *The Crossing Places* is set in the Seahenge, a site of archaeological significance, where a body is found preserved in the salt marsh. DCI Nelson calls in Ruth Galloway, a forensic archaeologist who is an expert in bones, to help. The interplay of police investigation and archaeological findings makes this a gripping read, with 12 more books in the series! Interestingly there is a display at the British Museum this year of the Bronze Age Seahenge.

Jane Goodyer

Film Review

Red Notice is an action-filled two-hour film in which an FBI-agent (humoristically played by Dwayne Johnson) is forced to collaborate with lovable Ryan Reynolds, playing the number two art thief in the world, to find and steal three Egyptian golden eggs. They are hindered however by police and the number one global art thief, brilliantly played by Gal Gadot. The film starts off in a touristic hotspot of Rome, from where the quest takes them around the world.



Aside the fact that the art objects are remindful of an Egyptian version of Fabergé, you will enjoy watching this if you like a comical version of James Bond-style surreal escapes from perilous situations. But keep your head up because of the double-crossing double-crosses! Fast, fun and over the top. Parts 2 and 3 are currently in production.

IMDb rating: 6.4/10, age rating 12+, viewable on Netflix.

Lotte van Beek

Oakington & Westwick Sports Pavilion
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My Hobby

I was a very busy working Mum with two girls, one at school and one at the Pre-school – that was one of my two part time jobs! When a good friend said to me, would you like to join the village choir? We meet on Monday nights in the Church, she said.

I thought about it and weighed up the reasons of why it would be a good idea and why not and decided to give it a try ... That was over 25 years ago, and I have never left.

Why do I love it? I love singing. I'm certainly not brilliant at it but I enjoy it. I can hold a tune. I can read music (it's not essential to read music but it helps). I meet a lovely group of friends each week. We have sung an amazing range of music over the years, from musical theatre, pop songs, songs from films, war songs, folk to classical, with pieces written by Choir leaders too. We lead in special services in Church too and there is nothing more special than singing at the Christmas and Easter services.

I have had the pleasure of singing at weddings of friends in the village and funerals of people who we sadly miss, including some of our dearest choir members. I have even sung recently at my own daughter's wedding – what an honour that was!



We also perform at concerts and events. I have had the pleasure of singing at many of the Cambridge colleges, including Trinity, Queens' and Gonville and Caius. I have sung on more than one occasion in a joint choir with John Rutter at Great St Mary's – now that was a highlight. Not forgetting all the village events over the years – special concerts, Harvest and Village Days.

What do I get from the Choir? Apart from the love of singing, friendships, meeting people it also makes you feel good in yourself. After choir I feel great. I'm ready for the week, energised, calmer. Choir has kept me stable – it's my therapy for the week!

I could go on, but I just want to highlight the pleasure that singing can bring.

This is part of what the Oakington Singers can be for you. We are a four-part harmony choir that meet weekly on a Monday in the Church Hall at 7.30pm. Come and give us a try. Like me you might just try and stay for ...?

Elaine Bailey elainebailey1@live.co.uk

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The Early Days of RAF Oakington and 218 Squadron

The year 2020 saw the 75th anniversaries of VE Day, marking the end of the Second World War in Europe, and VJ Day, marking the end of the Second World War against Japan. Unfortunately the Covid-19 pandemic restricted events to mark these. Also 2020 saw the 80th anniversaries of the Dunkirk evacuation and of the Battle of Britain. Locally there was also an important 80th anniversary – the opening of RAF Oakington.

Oakington was one of a number of new airfields commissioned by the government in the late 1930s in the build up before the Second World War. RAF Oakington had the advantage of being adjacent to the Cambridge to St Ives railway with stations and sidings at Oakington and Longstanton. These would make re-supply easier. The village mill, originally wind powered but later run by a petrol/diesel engine, was near the edge of the new airfield and was demolished to prevent aircraft crashing into it. RAF Oakington became operational on 1st July 1940 and saw the arrival of 218 Squadron by the middle of the month.

218 Squadron had originally been formed as a light bomber squadron towards the end of the First World War. With the cessation of those hostilities the squadron was disbanded.

In 1936, with the growing threat of war again in Europe, 218 Squadron was reformed as a light bomber force. Initially they were equipped with Hawker Hart biplanes. From January 1938 they re-equipped with Fairey Battle aircraft, a more modern single engine light bomber monoplane with a crew of three. However, the Battle was widely considered as under powered and was lightly armed for its own defence.

On 2nd September 1939, the day before war was declared with Germany, 218 Squadron was relocated to France. In the remainder of 1939 and the early months of 1940 there was little confrontation with the Germans who concentrated their effort on the Eastern Front. That radically changed with the German invasion of France which began on 10th May 1940.

A number of Fairey Battle equipped squadrons, including 218 Squadron, were deployed on low level bombing missions to slow the advance of the German army. The International Bomber Command Centre (IBCC) database shows that between 10th May and 14th May 218 Squadron lost 15 aircrew and had nine aircraft either severely damaged or lost completely. A further 13 men were captured and became prisoners of war. (This compares with seven aircrew and three aircraft lost over the previous eight months they had been in France.)

218 Squadron Fairey Battle Aircraft including two lost in May 1940 as described in the article



Bristol Blenheim IV – similar to those used by 218 Squadron whilst at Oakington



By the end of May they had no serviceable aircraft. The BBC History website states that on 30th May 1940 the remains of 218 Squadron were evacuated through Cherbourg as part of the Dunkirk evacuation. They regrouped at RAF Mildenhall in Suffolk, where they received and retrained on Bristol Blenheim aircraft. The Blenheim was a twin engine, slightly faster aircraft. More importantly it was better armed to protect itself and had better armour around the cockpit and the fuel tanks.

On 14th July 1940 they relocated to the new airfield at RAF Oakington. After a few more days training 218 Squadron started operations. Their mission was to carry out low level bombing raids against German troops and barges amassing at the French coast ready to invade Britain. The contribution of bomber

command to the wider Battle of Britain in August and September 1940 is often overshadowed by the battle for air superiority over Britain.

On Thursday 19th September 1940 a German Junkers JU-88 bomber was forced to land at RAF Oakington after suffering engine

failure after being attacked by Hawker Hurricanes of 17 Squadron. Some reports say that the plane crashed but it is possible the crew had tried to destroy it. It was the first complete JU88 the British obtained and was soon taken away for technical examination. The crew survived and were taken into custody.

October 1940 saw the start of the arrival at Oakington of 7 Squadron, the first squadron equipped with the new Sterling heavy bomber. In early November 1940 they were joined at Oakington by the Spitfires of Number 3 Photo Reconnaissance unit. In November 1940 218 Squadron started to re-equip with Wellington heavy bombers and on 25th November moved out of Oakington to make extra space for 7 Squadron.

When it opened RAF Oakington used a grass runway but the soft ground was soon found to be unsuitable and rapidly deteriorated when the heavier planes, Wellingtons and Sterlings, arrived. Early in 1941 work started on building concrete runways at Oakington.

After their short relationship both 218 Squadron and RAF Oakington continued to serve the country for many more years and achieve further great things. This article has relied on information from a wide range of sources not all of which could be mentioned due to limitation of space, but I am happy to share this information with anybody wishing to follow these up.

Steve Gamble (sjgamble.research@gmail.com)
Oakington and Westwick History Society

Oakington & Westwick Sports Pavilion

2022 Monthly Lottery

Please join the lottery & support The Pavilion.

To join Please text JOIN plus your name, house number & postcode to 07831 828898.

The Lottery has been very popular and successful over the years with all profits from the lottery going towards the future development of facilities at the Pavilion which are enjoyed by many local clubs & groups.

The lottery commences at the end of March. The monthly prize is £100 with a prize of £150 for the December draw. The cost of one annual ticket is £10 for 10 draws (March - December 2022). Tickets must be applied for and paid by 31st March 2022. There is no limit to the number of tickets that you can buy. We hope that you will take part, you could be lucky and win!

Thank you to all those that have supported the lottery in the past and to all newcomers for 2022. Please call 01223 235187 if you would like us to collect your payment.

Promoter: Oakington & Westwick Sports Pavilion Management Committee, Queens Way, Oakington, Cambridge, CB24 3AW.
Registration Number: SL0120



Pond Clearance & Tuesday Talk & Tea

Community Spirit

Residents may be aware that there have been issues by the pond recently, with books from the phone box and bins thrown in. How to get them out?

Cllr David Reeves, EAG members, the Marsh family and others quickly stepped in – literally. However, they couldn't reach the middle of the pond.



Then Lesley, née Marsh, came to the rescue - with her paddle board!

And the phone box library was soon re-stocked by a generous donation.

We are very fortunate to have so many people willing to help out in unusual situations.

Irène Butlin

Tuesday Talk & Tea

This is a club that meets on the second Tuesday afternoon of each month in the Church Hall. TTT is open to everyone who would like to join us from 2.45 – 4.30pm.

In the first part of our meeting we have a varied programme of talks or other activities such as quizzes or games, or on other occasions we have brought in items from the past, or talked of our most memorable holidays. For example, before Christmas we had a really interesting talk on old Cottenham, and another month we packed up 17 shoeboxes for the Samaritan's Purse charity.



Later in the afternoon we all enjoy a cup of tea with fresh sandwiches and homemade cakes provided by members, but best of all is the social contact and conversation with friends.

In July we have a special Strawberry Tea, and at our recent Christmas meeting, we enjoyed a video of our Primary School children singing carols out on the playground, followed by the carols that we all sang with great gusto accompanied by Charles Burling on the electric keyboard in the hall.

In February Pauline Marsh will be showing us photos from some of her travels and in March members will have a book and magazine swap. After that we hope we can re-arrange some of the talks and entertainment that we had to postpone because of Covid restrictions – provided these are not reimposed of course!

So, if you are free that one Tuesday afternoon a month why not join us and see what goes on – you will be very welcome.

Marian Cleaver