

# ***Oakington & Westwick Journal***

**June/July 2022**



**Swift Arrival**

**Village Day  
is Back**

**Flood Talks**

**Jubilee  
Celebrations**



## What's On

### Weekly

Mon **Monday Café**, 9:30–noon. Church Hall, £1. Liz Davis – C 232 745  
 Mon **Brownies**, 6–7:15pm. Pavilion. Hanna Lumley – 07557 090322  
 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 [iain.ramsay@oakingtonscouts.org.uk](mailto:iain.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)

Wed 1 Jun **Minibus to Bar Hill**, 10am. To book ring Teri Seaber – 07711 531004  
 Fri 3 Jun **Mobile Library**, 1:50–2:20 pm. Coles Lane  
 Sat 4 Jun **Village Walk & Talk**, 10:30am. Meet by church on High Street. Alice – [OWNeighbours@gmail.com](mailto:OWNeighbours@gmail.com)  
 Sat 4 Jun **Oakington Singers** concert, 7pm. St Andrew's Church. Musicals & Proms. [elainebailey1@live.co.uk](mailto:elainebailey1@live.co.uk)  
 Sun 5 Jun **Jubilee church service** in the park, 10:30. Recreation Ground. Ben Phillips  
 Sun 5 Jun **Platinum Jubilee Big Lunch**, 12:30–4 pm. Recreation Ground. OWN – [OWNeighbours@gmail.com](mailto:OWNeighbours@gmail.com)  
 Thu 9 Jun **O&W WI**, 7:30pm. Church Hall. "Women of Cambridge". Elaine Bailey – [elainebailey1@live.co.uk](mailto:elainebailey1@live.co.uk)  
 Mon 13 Jun **O&W Parish Council**, 7:30pm. Pavilion. All invited. [clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk)  
 Tue 14 Jun **Tuesday Talk & Tea**, 2:45pm. Church Hall. "The Dogs Trust". Joan Pettit – [joanpettit93@yahoo.com](mailto:joanpettit93@yahoo.com)  
 Fri 17 Jun **Country Dancing**, 8–10pm. Histon Methodist Church Hall. £2/50p. Kathryn Coles – C 233 191  
 Mon 20 Jun **Brownies Open Evening**, 6–7:15pm. Try out Brownies (girls 7–11). Pavilion. Hanna Lumley – 07557 090322  
 Sat 25 Jun **Drawing/painting group**, 10am–12:30pm. Church Hall. Jenny Lloyd – [Lloydjenny13@hotmail.com](mailto:Lloydjenny13@hotmail.com)  
 Sat 25 Jun **Village Day**, noon – 9pm. Recreation ground. £1/children free. [oakington.westwick.ca@gmail.com](mailto:oakington.westwick.ca@gmail.com)  
 Wed 29 Jun **Sustainable O&W**, 7:30pm. Church Hall. "Trees". [sustainableow@gmail.com](mailto:sustainableow@gmail.com)

Fri 1 Jul **Minibus to Bar Hill**, 10am. To book ring Teri Seaber – 07711 531004  
 Fri 1 Jul **Mobile Library**, 1:50–2:20 pm. Coles Lane  
 Sat 2 Jul **Village Walk & Talk**, 10:30am. Meet by church on High Street. Alice – [OWNeighbours@gmail.com](mailto:OWNeighbours@gmail.com)  
 Mon 11 Jul **O&W Parish Council**, 7:30pm. Pavilion. All invited. [clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk)  
 Tue 12 Jul **Tuesday Talk & Tea**, 2:45pm. Church Hall. Strawberry Tea. Joan Pettit – [joanpettit93@yahoo.com](mailto:joanpettit93@yahoo.com)  
 Thu 14 Jul **O&W WI**, 7:30pm. Church Hall. Summer party by the lake. Elaine Bailey – [elainebailey1@live.co.uk](mailto:elainebailey1@live.co.uk)  
 Thu 14 Jul **Ten Sing Taster Session**, 7:30–9pm. Histon Baptist Church. Terry King – [jking47@aol.com](mailto:jking47@aol.com)  
 Fri 15 Jul **Country Dancing**, 8–10pm. Histon Methodist Church Hall. £2/50p. Kathryn Coles – C 233 191  
 Thu 21 Jul **Ten Sing Taster Session**, 7:30–9pm. Histon Baptist Church. Terry King – [jking47@aol.com](mailto:jking47@aol.com)  
 Wed 27 Jul **Sustainable O&W**, 7:30pm. Church Hall. Eco Tip Swap. [sustainableow@gmail.com](mailto:sustainableow@gmail.com)  
 Sat 30 Jul **Drawing/painting group**, 10am–12:30pm. Church Hall. Jenny Lloyd – [Lloydjenny13@hotmail.com](mailto:Lloydjenny13@hotmail.com)

**Oakington & Westwick Sports Pavilion**  
**Monthly Lottery 2022 - Winners**

Month	Ticket No	Area	Winnings
March	543	Mill Road	£100
April	404	High Street	£100
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### BIN DAYS

**Fri** 10 Jun, **Thu** 23 Jun, **Thu** 7 Jul, **Black** bin  
**Thu** 21 Jul

**Sat** 4 Jun, **Thu** 16 Jun, **Thu** 30 Jun, **Blue &**  
**Thu** 14 Jul, **Thu** 28 Jul **green** bins



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.

Cover photo: Irène Butlin

This edition of the Journal should hit your doormat with a few days to go before the long Platinum Jubilee bank holiday. Fingers crossed for suitably celebratory weather! Special events culminate in the Big Lunch on Sunday afternoon. And at the end of June comes the other major summer community event: the Village Day, with its stalls and entertainments, returns after its Covid break, on Saturday 25th. Many of the clubs and groups will be represented, so it's a great opportunity to see what activities go on and chat to the people involved.

To mark the Jubilee, we take a trip back in time to Oakington and Westwick as they were when the Queen's reign began. And we hear about the journey of a lifetime from two young reporters lucky enough to visit India.

Thank you to everyone whose ideas, efforts and enthusiasm contribute to the summer line-up, and to the Journal too!



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 – to be confirmed), Geoffrey Butlin (adviser).

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

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

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Adverts for the next issue must be received by **12 July**.

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

## Oakington and Westwick WI

At our AGM in April, we elected a new President. Special thanks should go to our retiring President Helen Williams for her dedication and hard work over the many years in her role, always with enthusiasm. Thankfully, she has agreed to stay on the Committee!

At the April meeting we also had a fun evening playing a game that is one of the Williams' family favourites, "Guess Who." After a tentative start, everyone joined in and had a fantastic, entertaining evening.

Our May meeting, we had to change our theme from women's health and instead had a talk from Fran Saltmarsh on 'Corsets, Crinolines and Camisoles'. An in-depth history of women's undergarments from the Greeks to modern day with a beautiful collection to show of items she has collected and donated over the years.

In May we had a wonderful visit to an alpaca farm. We were given an informative talk about how the farm started, breeding and a meet and greet of the animals. This included an opportunity to get up close and personal with a herd of male alpacas and feed them carrots, a real treat for both them and us!



We have a varied monthly programme planned over the next few months. We meet on the second Thursday of each month at 7.30pm at St Andrew's Church Hall. Why not try us? We are a friendly group and the first meeting is free.

- **9 June** Talk on *Great and lesser known women of Cambridge* by Sophie Smiley.
- **14 July** Our Summer party by the lake.

We have an action packed few months ahead and I just wanted to share what the Committee have planned, on top of our usual monthly meetings. Events to include:

- Afternoon tea at Madingley Hall with walk round the gardens
- A trip to see *Kinky Boots* at the ADC Theatre
- A river trip and afternoon tea along the river Cam
- A picnic evening enjoying a Shakespeare play in one of the college gardens
- Painting workshop with cork and canvas
- Ten pin bowling



Please contact Elaine Bailey on [elainebailey1@live.co.uk](mailto:elainebailey1@live.co.uk) for more information.

Elaine Bailey





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### Parish Councillors

**Chair:** Stephen Moore

*chair@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk*

**Vice-Chair:** Tony Starling

John Bailey	Julie Grove
Will Bailey	Ranko Pinter
Matt Davidson	David Reeves
One Vacancy	

**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*

### From our Parish Council Chair

As a local authority body, the Parish Councillors completed their four years in office on 5 May when elections took place, and the 'new' Parish Council was formed at our meeting on 9 May. We welcomed a new councillor, Will Bailey – our second councillor from Westwick. The Councillors elected me as Chair for another year and Tony Starling as Vice-Chair. Please see the side panel for the full list of current Parish Councillors. We also have one vacancy!

Our 9 May meeting largely consisted of procedural items, most importantly the budget for the forthcoming year and related to that, our priorities. These remain as before: Northstowe planning issues; flood attenuation; traffic issues; supporting the volunteers of the various action groups in the village (TAG, OWN and EAG); maintaining and improving the Recreation Ground, Cemetery, Community Orchards and Stocks Green.

One small, but interesting, piece of the Parish Council 'estate' is the **Telephone Box** near the Crossroads. When the Post Office decommissioned it, it was bought by the Parish Council and it has been a Mini Library ever since. Thank you, Liz Davis, for looking after it! Recently the Library was vandalised and very kindly Cllrs Tony Starling and David Reeves undertook the task of completing the renovation of it.

**Open Spaces.** On a rather larger scale, the bid for funding to create a path around the outside of the Rec, seating and additional play facilities, has now been submitted to the potential funding authority. We have planning permission and we have also agreed the contractor, should we receive the funding. So, fingers crossed, we hope to get the project going later this year.

I have had a number of comments about the state of the **fencing** next to the village shop. This was constructed by the previous shopkeepers as a temporary measure. I mentioned the concerns to Raj and she immediately replied that as soon as Kanwal returns from India in late June, the fencing will be replaced.

**Flood Attenuation.** Through the good offices of our County Councillor, Firouz Thompson, the Parish Council invited representatives of Homes England, the Environment Agency, the District and County Councils and our own Flood Mitigation Group. It was the first time that we had all actually sat down together to discuss the situation in Oakington. We have identified a key issue in the failure of National Highways to share statistics with the Environment Agency and Homes England on the implications (possibly positive) of the A14 works which included some degree of flood mitigation. Without this information no further flood mitigation work can be undertaken! Philip Harker of Homes England has committed to obtaining the relevant information and bringing it back to the group. We have also agreed to have regular meetings as a full group in order to gain momentum on providing flood attenuation for the village. See a more detailed report on the meeting by Andrew Dennis on page 11.

The **Annual Parish Meeting** took place on 25 April and we had a decent turnout, though I do wish the majority of the village would come! It is the one time in the year in which each organisation in the village, including the Parish Council, has a chance to tell everyone what they are doing. So, groups such as the Community Association, the Environment Action Group, the Transport Action Group, Oakington & Westwick Neighbours, Tuesday Talk & Tea, and others, all spoke about their activities over the year. I have to say that if you attend and hear just what people have achieved for the village, it is quite remarkable. Our guest speaker this year was Dr Oscar Aldred who led the archaeological dig at Northstowe.

It is going to be an interesting and busy year for the reconstituted Parish Council. We are determined to do our part in continuing to make Oakington and Westwick a great place to live and bring up a family.

Finally, our congratulations to our two District Councillors, Sarah Cheung Johnston and Alex Malyon, who were re-elected on 5 May.

*Dr Stephen Moore*

*chair@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.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





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[pippa\\_westoby@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:pippa_westoby@yahoo.co.uk)



### From our District Councillors

We are extremely pleased and honoured to have been recently re-elected as District Councillors for Longstanton, Oakington and Westwick and Northstowe. Our priorities for the next four years include working with Oakington to try and secure flood mitigation for the village. We have already had a meeting post-election with the Parish Council, Environment Agency, County Council, and developers Homes England to try and progress plans for flood attenuation for the village. We will of course continue to work very closely with our County Councillor, Firouz Thompson, on this and other local issues.

**Support for Ukraine.** At the time of writing 435 visas for Ukrainians have been issued for South Cambridgeshire as part of the Homes for Ukraine scheme. This is the highest number for any District Council area. A huge thank you to all those locally who have opened their homes to Ukrainian guests.

SCDC has mobilised to provide support for this scheme, including arranging payments for guests and hosts, DBS checks, and in-person visits to confirm properties are suitable and guests are settling in well. Our business team has been working with the local Job Centre Plus to coordinate offers of employment for Ukrainians looking for work. There are further details of the support that is available for both hosts and guests on the council website [www.scambs.gov.uk/community-safety-and-health/support-for-ukraine/](http://www.scambs.gov.uk/community-safety-and-health/support-for-ukraine/)

**Wild Minds Programme.** Registrations are now open for South Cambs Wild Minds programme. This eight-week programme for 12–17-year-olds is designed to support mental wellbeing through small group, nature-based activities, working with support from a Clinical Psychologist. The

sessions are for young people experiencing mild to moderate mental ill health - such as anxiety, low mood, or low confidence. Courses are starting on 7, 8 and 12 June. More information can be found via [www.scambs.gov.uk/community-safety-and-health/health-and-wellbeing/wild-minds](http://www.scambs.gov.uk/community-safety-and-health/health-and-wellbeing/wild-minds)

**Urban Splash.** You may have seen the news that the consortium delivering the Inholm development in the first parcel of Northstowe Phase 2, Urban Splash, has gone into administration. At the time of writing neither we as councillors nor council officers have further details on what will happen next with this part of the Northstowe development, but we will obviously ensure the wider community is updated on any wider impacts, as well as asking for this to be on the agenda at the next Northstowe Forum.

The next **Northstowe Forum** is being held on 13<sup>th</sup> July. Oakington residents are very welcome to attend these forums. The issues discussed are often of interest to the wider community surrounding Northstowe and there is an opportunity to ask questions of the developers.

More information can be found via [www.scambs.gov.uk/community-safety-and-health/community-forums/northstowe-community-forum/](http://www.scambs.gov.uk/community-safety-and-health/community-forums/northstowe-community-forum/)

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*



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### Transport Action Group

**Local Highways Initiative** – there is good and bad news. The bad news is that our bid for funding to get the 30mph speed zone throughout the village reduced to 20mph was rejected. However, the possible good news is the County Council is planning to set up a separate fund to enable villages throughout the county to apply for funding to create 20mph zones – we will still have to argue our case but having a dedicated fund may make it easier to succeed.

**A14 Legacy Fund** – improvements and enhancements to existing traffic calming. Detailed planning and design have been agreed and completed and there only remains for the funding identified to be allocated.

**Oakington to Girton shared cycle path** – the proposed widening and improvements to the Cambridge Road cycle path is on hold as there has been a delay due to costs and supplier issues.

**East West Rail Route** – the latest spring update from the EWR Co. only contains information regarding the southern approach. The results from the informal consultation carried out last year, promised for the end of April, are still not available. However, another pressure group has appeared on



the scene that wants the whole scheme to be abandoned including the proposed large house building program. Members of TAG are monitoring any developments and are continuing to engage with stakeholders.

**Potholes** – potholes can be reported on the County Council website using the address [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/roadworks-and-faults](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/roadworks-and-faults) and on the same page you can find out how to claim for damage to your car (tyres, suspension etc.) caused by potholes. It is in all our best interests for as many people as possible to report new potholes and keep reporting unrepaired existing ones. Along with the continuing pressure from the parish council during their monthly meeting with the Local Highways Officer, additional complaints from the public on the “Report It” website above may bring about some action.

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

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

### Oakington & Westwick Neighbours

A huge thank you to the amazing Covid mask-makers in our village. With a generous donation from them



OWN ran its second **First Aid course** at the Pavilion on Saturday 23 April, led by a trainer from the Red Cross. Ten participants were given techniques for dealing with accidents and emergencies including CPR and using a defibrillator. Several people were simply refreshing prior knowledge, some found it useful for their role at work, but everyone felt it was well worthwhile.

Our next major event is the **Platinum Jubilee Big Lunch** on **Sunday 5 June**. OWN organised a successful Big Lunch for several years before Covid intervened, and with the Queen's Platinum Jubilee this year it seemed a good opportunity for a celebration. Everyone is invited to bring food to share, but even if you're not able to contribute you are more than welcome to come along as there is always plenty of food to go round. There will be live music, games, a Jubilee quiz and a competition for the best Platinum Jubilee cake or dessert (so no eating pudding until it's been judged!) Celebrate with your neighbours and join in the fun.

We all know that the cost of living has rocketed recently, and for some this poses very real difficulties. The **Hardship Fund** exists to provide short-term support, and longer term advice. For confidential help, 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).

The **Community Minibus** continues to run a shopping trip to Tesco's on the first Friday of the month. (Except June – Wed.) Another driver is needed to enable this to continue so if you are between 21 and 70 with a normal driving licence we would love to hear from you. Training is given, and you

are covered by the minibus insurance. To book your seat on the trip, contact Teri on 07711 531004 before midday on the Thursday. Pick up from home is at 10.00am, returning about 11.30am. It's an enjoyable outing and it's free!

Coming up, the legendary Jazz and Tea event will take place on Saturday 10 September.

Contact OWN on 07902 111786/[owneighbours@gmail.com](mailto:owneighbours@gmail.com).  
*Jo Bryant*

### CONNECT 2



Spring events included knitting bunting for the Big Lunch and a wonderful plant swap. We were delighted to have over 50 people involved in the plant exchange, with approximately the same number of different types of plants. Vegetable seedlings and other cuttings headed off from our stall to a range of gardens, windowsills and allotment plots around Oakington and Westwick.



The remainder of plants have been handed over to be used in the school's new gardening initiative. Thanks to Sustainable Oakington and Westwick and all involved. In addition, we raised £152 for the Red Cross Ukraine Crisis Appeal.

Our major community event for June will be the Big Lunch. We'll be taking a rest for July, apart from the usual Village Walk on 2 July. However, there's something to look forward to in August as we'll be cycling to the lakes in Fen Drayton; details to follow.

*Alice J*





**BLUE HOUSE**  
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### Flood Mitigation Group (FMG)

The Flood Mitigation Group took part in a meeting on 13 May to discuss the long-awaited proposal to reduce peak flows in Oakington Brook which cause a significant flooding risk to the village. The meeting was arranged by the Parish Council and included representatives from the Environment Agency (EA) and Homes England (HE) (Northstowe Developers) together with our District and County Councillors.

The main objective of the meeting was to find out whether the long-awaited revised flood modelling data from the EA was available yet and could be used by HE to design an attenuation reservoir upstream of the village, a condition of the planning approval for Northstowe Phase 2. It was confirmed that the flood modelling was not yet available, the delay being caused by the slow response to the EA by National Highways who are yet to show any impact on brook flows, either good or bad, caused by the drainage scheme associated with the improved A14. Until this is completed it will not be possible for the EA to complete their modelling and the HE to confirm the siting or size of the attenuation reservoir. Both HE and our County Councillor are in contact with National Highways over other matters and will be requesting a quick resolution to the discussions with the EA over the impact of the A14



drainage. HE advised us that once the revised modelling is available they will be looking for a suitable site on any land they control and have promised to strive for the maximum betterment within the Phase 2 budget constraint.

Further regular meetings are proposed now that we have the appropriate contacts within the EA, HE and the Cambridgeshire County Council Flood team. It is our intention to pursue the matter as much as possible so as to avoid further delays to the scheme designed to reduce flood risk.

*Andrew Dennis, FMG*

### Other EAG news

Meanwhile, our other activities and projects are continuing, and we hope to have more to report soon. We are also in need of more volunteers, both for activities such as footway sweeping and to be on the organising committee. The latter involves attending one meeting approximately every two months. If you think you could help, please contact James Youd on [jamesyoud51@icloud.com](mailto:jamesyoud51@icloud.com) or come and talk to us at the Village Day on 25<sup>th</sup> June. No experience or equipment necessary, just enthusiasm!

*Stephanie Smith, Secretary*

### Nature Notes

#### Spring is happening three weeks earlier than it did in the 1940s.

You may have heard about this conclusion from researchers working with **Great Tits** in Wytham Wood, near Oxford. The birds are laying eggs nearly a month earlier, coinciding with the caterpillars that are food for the fledglings. So, the birds are able to track the other members of their food chain in line with the changes brought about by climate change.

The University of Oxford were given the 1000-acre wood in 1942 and researchers have committed to long-term and continuous ecological research ever since. It is the most researched area of woodland on the planet with bird data going back over 60 years alongside work on badgers and climate change. It is well known for long-term studies of tits and their most important predator, the sparrowhawk. The work underlined that sparrowhawk numbers fell when tit numbers decreased, and helped to blunt the arguments that sparrowhawks should be persecuted to maintain tit numbers. It's all part of the balance of nature.



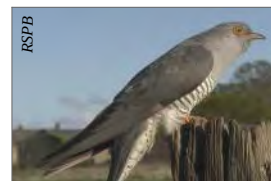
The other birds in the news at the moment are **Swifts**, which were the subject of a 'Talk and Tea' presentation in Oakington in April. You probably know that they arrive from sub-Saharan Africa in mid-May and make their temporary homes in house rafters and church towers. They have been recorded at St. Andrew's

Church tower here in Oakington. When not nesting, they spend most of their lives flying: feeding, mating, sleeping on

the wing. So, they do not have territories, as such. In fact, swifts cannot stand on the ground but their claws do enable them to crawl up walls.

I recall seeing swift nests under a river bridge in South Africa and marvelled at the 5000-mile journey they make to mate in England. The British Trust for Ornithology have been tracking swift migration because they and others are concerned about a drop in their numbers (57% decline in 22 years). The possible reasons are lack of insects and loss of nest sites. You may like to know that Royal Mail are releasing new first class stamps featuring migratory birds and the swift is included.

Another migratory bird in trouble is the **Cuckoo**. It has announced the arrival of spring in the UK for generations and I recall as a child that when we heard its first call of the year, we would search our pockets for money which was meant to indicate how much we would have that year. Alas, the call is rare at present; since the 1980s, numbers have dropped by 65%. Cuckoos also fly from sub-Saharan Africa and as you know they have few social graces. They lay an egg in the nest of a host species, Reed Warbler, Meadow Pipit, Pied Wagtail or Dunnock, and on hatching the young cuckoo pushes the host eggs or hatchlings from the nest. It becomes the sole recipient of the hairy caterpillars brought by its adopted parents and soon grows bigger than them. Research has not yielded a clear reason for their decline. It may be because of a shortage of caterpillars which has certainly affected meadow pipit numbers, but it seems not the other hosts.



*John Terry*



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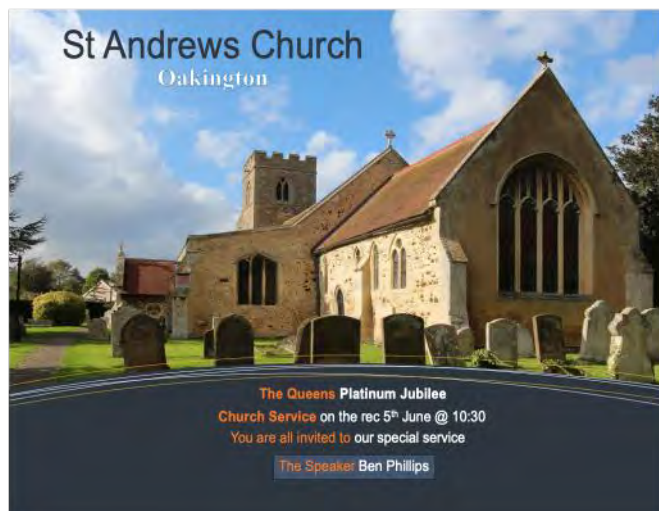


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### Country Dance Club

Jane and I look forward to seeing you on **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> June and Friday 15<sup>th</sup> July**, at 8.00 p.m. at Histon Methodist Church for two more evenings of dancing, fun and friendship. Live music and a caller.

Adults: £2.00 Accompanied Children: 50p. All welcome.

*Kathryn Coles*



### 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*



### Oakington & Westwick Short Mat Bowls Club

Our weekly sessions are now up and running without restrictions and we would be very happy to welcome new players. We play from 7.30 to 9.30 pm on a Thursday evening at the Sports Pavilion in Oakington. 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*



### Cambridge Ten Sing

Ten Sing continues to meet each week.

Our numbers are slowly growing, as current members bring friends who find our mixture of performance and social events something they enjoy being part of.

We are now practising for a Mini Concert for family and friends in July. This will be our first performance for over two years, so we are keeping it small to begin with, as our new members will not have had any experience of a full Ten Sing performance – and we want to ease them in slowly! The concert will be followed with our end of year barbecue.

It is exam season for four of our members and we wish them all the best for the next few weeks! Once they have finished the tests we are hoping to visit some local schools to show people what Ten Sing is all about and recruit new members. We are also having two taster sessions, on Thursday 14 and Thursday 21 July, 7.30 – 9pm, at Histon Baptist Church, for any young people who would like to give us a try. We are open to anyone from the school term they turn 11 (until 18), so Year 5 and 6 pupils especially are welcome to come and see what we are all about.

*Terry King, Ten Sing Administrator*



### Oakington Scout Group

Oakington Scouts have had a busy start to the new term, kicking things off with Easter Camp.

This was a great opportunity to mix with scouts from other local troops, practise skills like fire lighting, wood working, backwoods cooking, map reading and erecting tents. Over three nights and four days, the scouts enjoyed activities like zip lining and pedal carting and navigated an 8½ mile hike in the wilds of Brentwood, finishing off with an Easter egg hunt in Thriftwood.

Beavers and Cubs have been busy earning lots of badges and learning life skills from pioneering to navigation!

Scouts, Cubs and Beavers run weekly during term time at the Pavilion and we are always looking for new leaders and young leaders (16-18 years old). If you would be interested in exploring what is involved in being a leader, email:

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

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

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



*Cara Hanman*

### Seasonal Tip from the OCOP Team

#### Early Summer Fruit Thinning

In 2020 the community orchards were “blessed” with a lot of blossom that set to form fruit. This was good news and bad news, because if the trees were left to “manage it” for themselves, we would have ended up with a lot of small fruit, or overloaded and broken branches.

Apple trees can “manage” this to a certain extent themselves, with the “June drop” (which usually extends into July!), where the tree will discard some of the small fruit; other trees, like plums (see our picture from 2020), carry on regardless. So once the fruit starts to form, if it looks like your tree will be overloaded, you can help it out, by thinning some of the fruit yourself.

The RHS recommends that cooking apples are thinned harder than dessert apples to obtain larger fruits; aim for one fruit every 15-23cm (6-9in). Dessert apples can be thinned less severely, with one or two fruits every 10-15cm (4-6in). Pears usually need less thinning; thin clusters to two fruits, 10-15 cm (4-6in) apart. For plums leave one fruit every 5-8cm (2-3in), or a pair of fruits every 15cm (6in). The advantage of doing some thinning is not only larger fruit, but also you can selectively remove diseased, damaged or misshapen fruit.

For more information, advice on your own trees, or our leaflets on pruning (with pictures) email:

*Oakington Community Orchards Project Team (OCOP)*  
[oakcomorchards@gmail.com](mailto:oakcomorchards@gmail.com)







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### Tuesday Talk & Tea

Members were encouraged to look forward to summer via a talk on Action for Swifts (which have now arrived in the church belfry) and the colourful world of dragonflies.



- **14 June** Talk on the work of The Dogs Trust
- **12 July** Our annual Strawberry Tea

It is so good to be back to chat accompanied by a sumptuous English tea. Join us 2.45pm at St Andrew's Hall. At present pleased to see new friends at TX3 – always room for more! Email [joanpettit93@yahoo.com](mailto:joanpettit93@yahoo.com) for enquiries.

*Joan Pettit (Chairperson)*

### Sustainable Oakington & Westwick

Ignore the labels! That was the message from Council recycling guru Jon Crisp at the April meeting. Some plastic packaging is marked "Not yet recyclable" – but it is in our area!



*Ignore! Film CAN be recycled in the blue bin*

Virtually all packaging can go in our blue bins. "Recycle like a seven year old," Jon said – don't overthink it! (Not black plastic – but that's less often seen now – or crisp packets and pet food pouches – but these can be taken to supermarkets such as Tesco or the Cottenham Co-op.)

Come to the SOW stall on the Village Day on 25 June to answer your recycling questions!

Wildlife is disappearing from our countryside because of habitat destruction, 'industrial' farming and climate change, but in March we learned how all of us who have gardens can do something to help.

There is now a small "green bookshelf" of books about nature and "eco" subjects in the telephone box library on Longstanton Road – all are welcome to borrow (and return, please!) these books. Other activities in which SOW members are involved include campaigning for the replacement of the trees planted along the A14 then left to die in the drought.

All are welcome to SOW meetings, at 7:30pm in the church hall on the last Wednesday in the month.

- **29 Jun** Trees – their benefits to wildlife and how to help trees locally
- **27 July** Tip Swapshop – share your eco tips and habits and be inspired by others

If you're concerned about nature and the environment, get in touch and link up with what we can do within the village and further afield.

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

*Jenny Prince*

### Oakington & Westwick Tennis Club



With the whole summer to look forward to and many warm days ahead, now is a great time to join Oakington & Westwick Tennis Club. Our annual membership cycle begins in April but it's not too late to join for 2022-2023, and joining now will still give you great value. Membership remains very affordable with no increase in fees again this year. A whole family can enjoy playing for just £65 a year, with individual memberships £45 for an adult or £20 for a junior. In addition to access to the courts, you will be invited to social events and introduced to other members looking to play via our WhatsApp group. You will also be eligible to enter the club ballot for tickets to the Wimbledon Championships. Joining could not be easier – our membership application and subscription payments are fully online. Just contact [oakingtontc@gmail.com](mailto:oakingtontc@gmail.com).

*Sue Heaver*

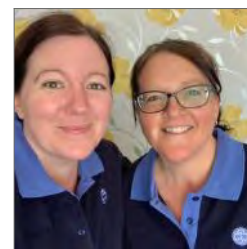
### Oakington Brownies



Our group meets on Monday evening term time from 6–7:15pm. We welcome girls aged seven to eleven.

Brownies is run by Hanna Lumley and Helen Bullen, with the help of two young leaders. We currently have room for more girls to join us!

We are holding a Bring a Friend/Open Evening on **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June** in the pavilion on Queens Way for anyone interested in finding out what Brownies have to offer. We'll also have a stall at the village day on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June so pop along and say hi!



For information on Brownies in general or to register your child, please visit [girlguiding.org.uk](http://girlguiding.org.uk).

*Hanna Lumley  
(Brown Owl)  
07557090322*



*Some of the Oakington Brownies with young leaders Livvy and Jas*

### Drawing/Painting Group



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.

*Jenny Lloyd*

01954 200591 [Lloydjenny13@hotmail.com](mailto:Lloydjenny13@hotmail.com)



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## Where are they from?

We continue our series of people who have moved into the village from abroad.

*Irène*

Lives in High Street



### Maria (née Mareth) Barnett



**To Oakington:** 1990

**Childhood:** Maria was born in 1957 in Heidelberg, Germany, as the fourth of six children. Her mother stayed at home to look after the children and Maria developed a love of baking from her. Her father worked for the Deutsche Bank. It was a very happy childhood.

**Education:** Studied English and French at Heidelberg University, spending her year abroad in Geneva, Switzerland. Worked in a café during her student days and her love of baking became even more passionate!

**Family:** Met her future husband at the Bell School in Cambridge in 1981. John went back to Heidelberg with her, they married and had their first two daughters there. After nine years they moved to Oakington when John's mother was widowed.

Maria initially felt quite homesick here, but settled and made lots of friends at the local school, church and village clubs like tennis and country dancing. Their third daughter was born in 1992.

Now a grandmother of four, she loves nothing more than having all the family around her. Baking is still her favourite hobby.

**Work:** In addition to looking after the family, Maria has worked for the Parkside Federation since 2006.

**Reflections:** Now very happy here. She still misses family and friends in Germany, though, and looks forward to being able to travel again. Likes the English friendliness, their sense of humour and the way everyone pulls together – especially in Oakington.

**Surprise:** Stepping out onto the Blackpool Tower ballroom for a dance with her husband!

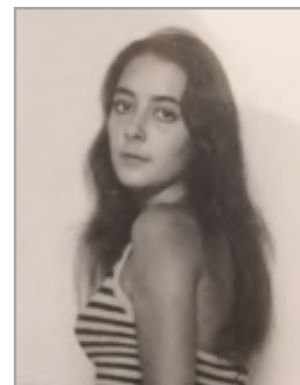
Lives in Longstanton Road



### Paola (née Aru) Moore

**To Oakington:** 1993

**Childhood:** Paola was born in 1953 in a small mining village in the south west of Sardinia, which doesn't exist any more. Most of the villagers moved out once the mines were closed. Paola's father was one of the mines' managers and her mother looked after the children - Paola, three brothers and three sisters! Spent much of her childhood on the beach, enjoying life in a very beautiful place. It was hot, though, so sometimes they went on holidays to the mountains as a treat. When she was six, the family moved to a big town nearby where she attended school.



**Education:** Studied at a 'Liceo Scientifico', a grammar school specialising in science. Had wanted to do chemistry at university, but ended up studying English and American Literature at the local university in Cagliari instead. In October 1976 she came to England to write up her thesis, and was miffed to have missed the famous hot summer!!

**Family:** Paola met Stephen in Southend and got married in 1978. They have two daughters and a son.

**Career:** Was employed by the Italian government to teach Italian in Southend. After moving to Oakington got a job at The Perse School for Girls where she taught for 17 years. Since retiring, in addition to spending time with grandchildren in Sardinia and Paris, Paola has dedicated her time to volunteering and charity work. Lately she has used her enjoyment of sewing to make hospital scrubs and face masks.

**Reflections:** Likes living in Oakington, finding it a very friendly place and likes it not being far from Cambridge. Misses Italy and speaking the language, but more than the country she misses her family there. Does not miss the bureaucracy and the non-queuing attitude they have in Italy!

**Fond memory:** They had a washer woman when Paola was a child. Paola loved to sit next to the wash tub and listen to the woman tell stories and fairy tales.

**Surprise:** Paola worked for the Italian Television in London for a few years. That meant her family and friends in Italy kept up to date with what she looked like by watching the News!



## Jubilee Grant to PC

The Parish Council is pleased to report that its application for a Community Chest grant to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee was successful.

An English Oak (*Quercus Robur*) will be planted on the Recreation Ground this autumn and a plaque indicating its location installed on the Pavilion.

*Laura Lawrence, Clerk*







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Girton Golf Club, Dodford Lane, Girton, Cambridge, CB3 0QE



## Book Corner

**Atomic Habits** by James Clear

Why is it that bad habits are so easy to develop, yet good habits are so difficult to make stick?

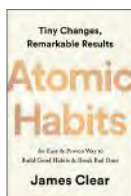
Clear explains that there are four stages to behaviour: Cue, Craving, Response, Reward. A cue triggers us to want something (we see a packet of biscuits, or hear a notification on our phone), we start to crave the reward, we respond by diving into the packet or checking out our messages, and the reward is ours, albeit short-lived!

Clear outlines ways we can intervene at any of these stages to make good habits easier, and bad habits harder. The atomic bit refers to the idea that it's better to start with small, manageable changes and build on these to develop the habits you want. Don't try for 30 press ups a day – aim for three. I found the book full of useful insights that are applicable to anyone interested in behaviour change. As a dog trainer, it's useful to explain the value of practising small habits with your dog that become automatic for both of you. Like sitting to have the lead put on rather than leaping around.

What I've personally used to good effect is the ten minute delay rule. Instead of immediately reaching for the biscuits after lunch, I tell myself, I'll let myself have one in ten minutes. By that time, quite often I have forgotten I wanted one or the desire has faded.

Sadly my press up habit remains atomic but at least I've made a start!

*Susannah O'Hanlon*



## Chess Corner

Solution to the chess puzzle from the last Journal.

White Bishop goes to c6! This is the only move that White can make, that stops a stalemate and a draw. Black Pawn on b7 has no option but to take white Bishop on c6. White King then moves to c8. Black's only available move is to move its Pawn from c6 to c5. White Knight then moves to c7 and checkmate!



Chess puzzle 3-22: Black to move and checkmate in two moves.

*Ranko Pinter*

## Film Review

**The Adam Project** directed by Shawn Levy and available on Netflix (PG-13)



According to the physics of many time travel movies, meeting yourself in the past can be cataclysmic, but not in this film. A bullied, mouthy kid meets himself as a heroic but equally mouthy adult (Ryan Reynolds) and all the fun and drama of the situation is perfectly exploited. We really enjoyed this; the time travel hangs together consistently but plays a supporting role to the brilliant interaction of the two main characters (or rather, character and himself) and their relationship with their Dad.

*Jenny Prince*

## My Hobby

*'Four wheels move the body. Two wheels move the soul.'*

I bought my first motorbike, a 350cc Moto Guzzi, about 18 years ago, a practical response to the closure of the car park at work. Very quickly, biking became more than just a way of getting around, more than a hobby; for many years it was my main form of transport.

I ride throughout the year, come rain, shine, or occasional snow, and enjoy it even when wind chill takes the riding temperature well below freezing. Biking is elemental, it places you in the weather, in nature. In the past I hiked and fell-walked regularly – the bike recaptures this. On an early morning Sunday ride I used to do (breakfast on the coast) there is a spot between Fakenham and Cromer where the landscape shifts quickly. The road meanders between bright, open fields and a canopy of trees. As the bike moves between sun and dappled shade, the light drops abruptly, the eyes struggle for a second to adjust, the air is cold and I can smell the moisture in the air. I slow down a little – deer might step into the road – and I smell a sweetness, like the nivea cream my mother used when I was young. I think it might be from a linseed crop but I don't know. Seconds later it's gone but the memory lingers.

I later bought a bigger Moto Guzzi; more comfortable on the motorway. The bike is Italian, quite pretty and old

technology, easy to maintain and repair. I am what Americans call a 'grease monkey'! I enjoy tinkering. It is also visceral, it vibrates, shakes and is heavy; you 'feel' it, but it's easy enough when it's moving. And practical; It has two side panniers and a top box - I can easily accommodate a week's shopping - as long as I remember not to buy baguettes!

As I said above, it's more than a hobby, but, I suppose, not quite a way of life.

*Ian Pinchen*





### INDIA TRIP: IMPINGTON VILLAGE COLLEGE

Written by Samuel Harris and Zoë Causton, Year 7

We were very lucky to have a school trip to Delhi and Jodhpur in Rajasthan as part of the 'Turing Scheme' funding. This funding allowed students from IVC to travel on different trips all over the world.

#### DAY 1

We started our trip by waking up at 3:15 am (!) and arriving at school. We put our bags on the coach ready for our 2-hour trip to Heathrow. Once we got through security we got in our preferred seats on the plane!

#### DAY 2

We arrived at our hotel at 3 am (Indian time).

#### Sightseeing

Once we had woken up and had breakfast, we went to the Jama Masjid mosque and then took a ride from New Delhi to Red Fort. It was very hot, but overall, we had an amazing day!

#### Sleeper train

The train was very cramped but even more exiting!! When we got off the train a lovely group of kids from Sucheta Kripliani Shiksha Niketan (SKSN), an Indian school that we would be staying with, greeted us!

#### DAY 5

Day 5 was very exciting! We took a long coach trip to the Ossian desert, afterwards we found out that the golden sand got everywhere. We all chose our pairs and then got on camels! At first, they were really wobbly but we got used to them after a while!

#### Henna

Once we got back to the school, we had dinner and the girls from the school gave us beautiful henna! We got to bed late that night, but we were all up and ready for Day 6!

#### DAY 6

We had a massive party with all the SKSN students, then revealed a brand-new tractor which we had named Lasagne. We painted the name onto it. Afterwards, we rode it into the village and some of us milked cows!

#### DAY 7

We woke up after a long sleeper train journey and got on a 2-hour coach back to the hotel.

#### DAY 8

We woke up at 3am ready for the 9-hr plane back home. We got to the airport, had some breakfast and got in line for security. We boarded the plane 20mins late, but still made it in time! After the trip we all got back to school at 7pm, the parents greeted us! We are so thankful for this opportunity and had a great time!



## Shaping Police Priorities

Residents across Cambridgeshire are invited to help shape policing priorities in their area by taking five minutes to fill out an online survey each quarter, so local officers can understand what crime is happening in our community.

Residents may also attend an online meeting each quarter. During the meeting neighbourhood teams will be able to listen



to concerns and allow residents to have an influence on what local police teams tackle. The team will then work on the matters agreed and update residents with progress over the following three months before the process begins again.

To take the survey: [forms.office.com/r/bYXEZWCB3u](https://forms.office.com/r/bYXEZWCB3u)

To see meeting dates and sign up: [www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/cambridgeshire-constabulary-14356769797](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/cambridgeshire-constabulary-14356769797)

Tara Dundon, Cambridgeshire Constabulary

### Oakington In The 1950s

On 6<sup>th</sup> February 1952 King George VI died and Princess Elizabeth ascended the throne. This year we are celebrating the 70th year of Queen Elizabeth II's reign. What were Oakington and the lives of its people like in the 1950s? Both our community and the rest of Britain were very different compared with today.

Following World War II a number of items including clothing, petrol and many foodstuffs had continued to be rationed. Although restrictions on many items had been lifted by the start of the 1950s it was not until 1953 that rationing on sweets, chocolate and sugar was removed, and until 1954 rationing continued on some meat items.

One of the big changes has been in the size of Oakington and Westwick. In 1951 the population was 449, by 1966 it had grown to 890 and today is around 1500. This has meant a corresponding increase in housing. The 1947 Ordinance Survey map shows farms where both Manor Farm Close and Meadow Farm Close are now. Many other parts of Oakington were also farmland. At sometime before 1953 the site of the Oakington Isolation Hospital, discussed in a previous article, had been reused for a home for children in care.

In the early 1950s the 15 acre site that had been Alan Bloom's horticultural nursery just off Water Lane was taken over by the district council to provide a recreation ground, burial ground and a large part devoted to a depot and store for the council. The recreation ground was dedicated to the memory of all those lost in the Second World War and the original plans included a Memorial hall. A fund was set up to build this hall; however it was not able to raise enough money. In 1952 part of the land originally set aside for the recreation ground facing onto Queens Way was reclassified for housing. The council depot opened in early 1953 and the building was described as being of great architectural merit. Saxon Close was built more recently on the depot site.

In 1952 the railway through Oakington station was still operational. At that time nearly all the trains would have been hauled by coal burning steam locomotives. People alighting at Oakington Station were able to take advantage of the nearby New Inn public house. Passenger trains ceased using this line in 1970, although freight trains and the occasional special passenger train continued for a number of years.

At the start of the 1950s Oakington and Westwick had three public houses, the aforementioned New Inn, the Harvest Home and the White Horse. Only the White Horse survives today. The Harvest Home, at the crossroads, closed in March 1951 and the New Inn closed in 1989. (There have been a number of pubs around the village over the years. These were discussed by Nick and Sarah Harrison in the Journal, Aug/Sep 2020 page 23.)

The airfield had been used as a base for heavy bombers



*Oakington Station in the 1950s*  
Photo by John L. Smith, © disused-stations.org.uk

during the Second World War, but towards the end of hostilities it had become the base for several transport squadrons. In 1950 the transport squadrons were moved out and the airfield became an aircrew training school. This was initially to train aircrew for piston multi-engine aircraft, but soon was upgraded to an Advanced Training School training crew for newer jet aircraft. Crew were primarily trained on Vampire and Meteor jet aircraft. These made more noise and raised a number of complaints from the local villages, especially when there were night training exercises. Unfortunately over the years there were a number of accidents which resulted in crashes. Later Oakington was

used to train pilots on Jet Provost and Varsity aircraft. Training on Vampire jets finished in 1963, and Oakington closed as an airfield in 1975. The site was used for a number of years after for stationing army units and is now being developed as Northstowe.

In October 1952 the Oakington Parish Council withdrew their objection to the building of a

new road replacing the closed road that crossed the airfield. They had felt it would be a waste of money and of little use to Oakington. The airfield road was closed to general traffic in 1979 and has now been severed by a couple of roads going into Northstowe.

So, the local area has seen many changes across the years. What will Oakington and Westwick be like in another 70 years? Only time will tell.

*Stephen Gamble and Julie Grove*  
*Oakington and Westwick History Society*

### Phone Box Library

Despite some recent sad, random acts of vandalism the Telephone Box Library continues to be very popular, providing an amazing variety of fiction and non-fiction for adults and children from across the village. The idea of a BOOK exchange seems to be better understood now and maybe we shall see fewer gifts of DVDs and CDs and other even odder donations! It is there for everyone who loves books so you can borrow them and return them, pass them on or keep the ones you really like. During the various lockdowns we decided to include jigsaw puzzles – please make sure that they are complete and sellotape the boxes shut: picking up a thousand small pieces from the floor is not really in my job description as Volunteer Book Monitor!

The Box itself is very old now but some minor repairs are under way by the Parish Council. It's a very small space so if the shelves and box are full please bring your offerings back another day. We do have one new collaboration – SOW (Sustainable Oakington & Westwick) are using some of our shelf space but their books are clearly marked and are for loan only.



*Liz Davis*



### Oakington Village Stores

A spotlight on Thiru and Anu who run our local shop!

Thiru and Anu married in Ely on 25<sup>th</sup> April this year, having met last year in London.

Originally from Sri Lanka, they are both from the north of the country: Thiru from Jaffna and Anu from Vavuniya. He was a very keen table tennis player in Jaffna and is really pleased to have joined the table tennis club in Oakington so he can start playing again.

Having moved to the UK when he was 14, Thiru has lived in London and more recently, Swavesey. However, he and Anu are happy to have settled in Oakington and want to continue the hard work and success of Raj and Kanwal.

Keen to bring a little bit of their home country into Oakington, you can now order home made Sri Lankan curries to take away



(choose from one with meat or one vegetarian as well as biriyani). Order the curry the night before in the shop. Thiru and Anu will be donating Indian sweets to the Platinum Jubilee Picnic on June 5<sup>th</sup> and look out for some special alcoholic offers in the shop to coincide with that long Jubilee Bank Holiday weekend!

A reminder that the shop offers a dry cleaning service, a newspaper delivery service and fresh croissants, pains au chocolat and bread to order at the weekend. Oakington Stores also has a Facebook page.

Thiru and Anu want to thank the village for the generous wedding gift they were given and to thank everyone for the support they have been shown so far. They say they want to work hard for the village and offer them excellent customer service. They look forward to making friends and wish everyone a happy life.

#### Oakington Stores Summer Opening Hours:

Monday to Saturday 6am – 8pm

Sunday 7am – 4pm

#### Post Office Opening Hours:

Monday to Saturday 9am – 1pm

Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 2pm – 4.30pm

(Wednesday and Saturday afternoon – closed)

*Jessica Summers*

**JUBILEE LUNCH, 5 June - on the Recreation Ground - 12:30 - 4 pm. See poster on p12**

**VILLAGE DAY, 25 June - on the Recreation Ground - Noon - 9pm. See poster on p13**

### Community Association

#### Village Day 25 June

It is back! Come and enjoy an afternoon and evening of entertainment, food and fun activities for all ages!

A lot of effort goes into organising such a big event and the VD committee has been hard at work. However, they depend on volunteers to help with various jobs. So, here comes the usual request for 'half hour volunteers' please!!

Perhaps join the team selling Programmes and Raffle Tickets door to door? Or provide help during the day itself? Rotas will be set up to ensure nobody spends very long on the various tasks, eg putting up gazebos, marshalling cars, entrance admission etc. Please email [oakington.westwick.ca@gmail.com](mailto:oakington.westwick.ca@gmail.com).

#### Jubilee Community Chest grant

We were delighted to be awarded a grant of £650 from the Community Chest, South Cambs District Council, for a **Jubilee Bench** to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. We are liaising with the Parish Council on where to put it.

More good news - we have taken out an **Annual Insurance** now that we are back to more normal times. This will be available to cover village events which CA groups would like to organise during the year ahead.

*Irène Butlin, Secretary*

