

# ***Oakington & Westwick***

**June / July 2023**

***Journal***

**Road Buddies  
Save the Beavers  
Oakington Octogenarians  
Vikings need Fresh Blood!  
Hard Graft at SOW**





## Weekly

Mon	<b>Monday Cafe</b> , 9.30–noon. St Andrew's Church Hall, £1. Liz Davis – 01223 232745
Mon	<b>Beavers</b> , 6–7pm. term time. Pavilion. <a href="mailto:beavers@oakingtonscouts.org.uk">beavers@oakingtonscouts.org.uk</a>
Mon	<b>Youth Club</b> , on a Bus, 7–9pm. Recreation Ground, School Year 7 and above. Free. 07853 795256
Mon	<b>Oakington Singers</b> , 7.30–9pm. Church Hall. Helen Williams – <a href="mailto:helenwilliams5@outlook.com">helenwilliams5@outlook.com</a>
Tue	<b>Happy Feet</b> , 10–11am term time. Church Hall. For under fives. Ben Phillips – <a href="mailto:familyworker@standrewsoakington.co.uk">familyworker@standrewsoakington.co.uk</a>
Tue	<b>Senior Pilates</b> , 11.30–12.30pm. Pavilion. Classes through out the week. Contact: Claire Young – 07766 554413
Tue	<b>Cubs</b> , 6–7.15pm term time, Pavilion. Iain Ramsay – <a href="mailto:iain.ramsay@oakingtonscouts.org.uk">iain.ramsay@oakingtonscouts.org.uk</a>
Tue	<b>Table Tennis</b> , 7.30–9pm. Pavilion. Gillian L'angellier – 01223 234758
Tue	<b>Poker Night</b> , 7.45pm. White Horse Pub. 01223 232417
Wed	<b>Mixed Ability Pilates</b> , 10–11am. Pavilion. Classes throughout the week. Contact: Claire Young – 07766 554413
Wed	<b>Yoga</b> , 7–8.15pm. Pavilion. Denise Sibley-Moore – 01954 202235
Thu	<b>Mature Movers</b> , 9.30–10.15am. Pavilion. Katie Harknett 07541 721059 / <a href="mailto:info@elementalfitness.co.uk">info@elementalfitness.co.uk</a>
Thu	<b>Little Steps</b> , 10–11.30am term time. Church Hall. Ben Phillips – <a href="mailto:familyworker@standrewsoakington.co.uk">familyworker@standrewsoakington.co.uk</a>
Thu	<b>Ten Sing</b> , 7–9pm term time. Histon Baptist Church. Terry King – <a href="mailto:cambridgetensing@gmail.com">cambridgetensing@gmail.com</a>
Thu	<b>Short Mat Bowls</b> , 7.30–9.30pm. Pavilion. Dawn Stokes – 01223 236427
Thu	<b>Quiz Night</b> , 8pm. White Horse Pub. 01223 232417
Fri	<b>Tool Share</b> , 4.30–6pm by appointment. Gerald Cavander – <a href="mailto:gerald@cambridgereuse.org.uk">gerald@cambridgereuse.org.uk</a> / 07857 704636
Fri	<b>Scouts</b> , 6–8pm. Pavilion. Cara Hanman – <a href="mailto:cara.hanman@oakingtonscouts.org.uk">cara.hanman@oakingtonscouts.org.uk</a>

Fri	2 Jun	<b>Minibus to Bar Hill</b> , 10am. To book ring Teri Seaber – 07711 531004
Fri	2 Jun	<b>Mobile Library</b> , 1.50–2.20pm. Coles Lane
Sat	3 Jun	<b>Village Walk &amp; Talk</b> , 10.30am. Meet by Church on High Street. Alice – <a href="mailto:OWNeighbours@gmail.com">OWNeighbours@gmail.com</a>
Thu	8 Jun	<b>Chess Club</b> , 7pm. 5asideCHESS Cafe, Crossways. April Cox – <a href="mailto:acox700@gmail.com">acox700@gmail.com</a>
Thu	8 Jun	<b>O&amp;W WI</b> , 7.30pm. Church Hall. "Molly Dancing". Elaine Bailey – <a href="mailto:elainebailey1@live.co.uk">elainebailey1@live.co.uk</a>
Mon	12 Jun	<b>O&amp;W Parish Council</b> , 7.30pm. Pavilion. All invited. <a href="mailto:clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk">clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk</a>
Tue	13 Jun	<b>Tuesday Talk &amp; Tea</b> , 2.45pm. Church Hall. Talk by Rev Jenny Hill. Marian Cleaver – 01223 232897
Thu	15 Jun	<b>Philosophy Meetup</b> , 7pm. 5asideCHESS Cafe, Crossways. April Cox – <a href="mailto:acox700@gmail.com">acox700@gmail.com</a>
Fri	23 Jun	<b>Country Dancing</b> , 8pm. Histon Methodist Church. Kathryn Coles – 01223 233191
Sat	24 Jun	<b>Village Day</b> , noon–9pm. Recreation Ground. £1/children free. <a href="mailto:oakington.westwick.ca@gmail.com">oakington.westwick.ca@gmail.com</a>
Sun	25 Jun	<b>Summer Craft Fair</b> , 10am–4pm. Oakington Garden Centre. <a href="mailto:oakingtongcevents@gmail.com">oakingtongcevents@gmail.com</a>
Sun	25 Jun	<b>Bingo Night</b> , 6pm. White Horse Pub. 01223 232417
Wed	28 Jun	<b>Sustainable O&amp;W</b> , 7.30pm. Church Hall. "Practical actions to save the planet". <a href="mailto:sustainableow@gmail.com">sustainableow@gmail.com</a>
Thu	29 Jun	<b>Ten Sing taster session</b> , 7.30pm. Histon Baptist Church. Terry King – <a href="mailto:cambridgetensing@gmail.com">cambridgetensing@gmail.com</a>
Sat	1 Jul	<b>Village Walk &amp; Talk</b> , 10.30am. Meet by Church on High Street. Alice – <a href="mailto:OWNeighbours@gmail.com">OWNeighbours@gmail.com</a>
Mon	3 Jul	<b>Transport Action Group</b> , 7.30pm. White Horse. For agenda contact – <a href="mailto:owcp.tag@gmail.com">owcp.tag@gmail.com</a>
Thu	6 Jul	<b>Ten Sing taster session</b> , 7.30pm. Histon Baptist Church. Terry King – <a href="mailto:cambridgetensing@gmail.com">cambridgetensing@gmail.com</a>
Fri	7 Jul	<b>Minibus to Bar Hill</b> , 10am. To book ring Teri Seaber – 07711 531004
Fri	7 Jul	<b>Mobile Library</b> , 1.50–2.20pm. Coles Lane
Fri	7 Jul	<b>School Summer Fete</b> , 3.30–5.30pm. Oakington Primary School. <a href="mailto:psa@oakington.cambs.sch.uk">psa@oakington.cambs.sch.uk</a>
Mon	10 Jul	<b>O&amp;W Parish Council</b> , 7.30pm. Pavilion. All invited. <a href="mailto:clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk">clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk</a>
Tue	11 Jul	<b>Tuesday Talk &amp; Tea</b> , 2.45pm. Church Hall. Strawberry Tea. Marian Cleaver – 01223 232897
Thu	13 Jul	<b>Chess Club</b> , 7pm. 5asideCHESS Cafe, Crossways. April Cox – <a href="mailto:acox700@gmail.com">acox700@gmail.com</a>
Thu	13 Jul	<b>O&amp;W WI</b> , 7.30pm. Church Hall. Elaine Bailey – <a href="mailto:elainebailey1@live.co.uk">elainebailey1@live.co.uk</a>
Fri	14 Jul	<b>Soirée</b> . Vicarage Lawns. All welcome.
Fri	21 Jul	<b>Country Dancing</b> , 8pm. Histon Methodist Church. Kathryn Coles – 01223 233191
Thu	20 Jul	<b>Philosophy Meetup</b> , 7pm. 5asideCHESS Cafe, Crossways. April Cox – <a href="mailto:acox700@gmail.com">acox700@gmail.com</a>
Wed	26 Jul	<b>Sustainable O&amp;W</b> , 7.30pm. Church Hall. "Actions to save the planet – continued". <a href="mailto:sustainableow@gmail.com">sustainableow@gmail.com</a>
Sun	30 Jul	<b>Bingo Night</b> , 6pm. White Horse Pub. 01223 232417

## BIN DAYS

Thu 8 June, Thu 22 June, Thu 6 July, Thu 20 July **Black bin**  
 Fri 2 June, Thu 15 June, Thu 29 June, Thu 13 July, **Blue & green bins**  
 Thu 27 July

Cover photo: Dee Prince

The “Village Effect” is a term coined by Susan Pinker (used in the title of her book), to describe research that has shown that people living in small villages, with strong social connections to friends and neighbours, typically live longer and healthier lives than average. To celebrate the “village effect” in Oakington, we have short profiles of residents who will turn 80 this year. If you have a relative, friend or neighbour in the village who has a milestone birthday in 2023, please let us know and we will try and include them later in the year.

This Journal would be empty without the work of many people who volunteer their time. And we’d especially like to thank, on behalf of the community, Stephen Moore for his five years as Chair of the Parish Council.

Don't forget the Village Day on 24 June – a great opportunity to increase your life expectancy.

Jenny Prince & Graham Tregonning,  
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 & Graham Tregonning (editors),  
Jane Goodyer (advertising),  
Irène Butlin (advert layout),  
Jenny Broadway (distribution),  
Ranko Pinter (chair).

Send contributions to  
**[oakwestjournal@gmail.com](mailto:oakwestjournal@gmail.com)**  
or phone: 01223 233510 (Jenny)  
or 01223 233208 (Graham)

DEADLINE FOR  
AUGUST/SEPTEMBER ISSUE:  
**Tuesday 18 July**

To advertise in the Journal,  
please email  
**[oakwestADV@gmail.com](mailto:oakwestADV@gmail.com)**

Adverts	For 1 year	One off
Business card	£75	£17
¼ page (portrait)	£117	£29
½ page (landscape)	£216	£54

Adverts for the next issue must be received by **11 July**.

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

## Village Day

We are now very much looking forward to welcoming everybody to our Village Day on **Saturday 24 June**! It will be an enjoyable afternoon and evening, with varied entertainment and activities throughout, and a time for family to meet up with friends and neighbours. In addition to the Giant Bouncy Castle, Helter-Skelter and Bungy Trampolining that were a big hit last year, new this year, weather permitting, will be an opportunity to hitch a ride on a mini-train!

There will be a choice of food, including hog roast and burgers, a choice of Thai food, a bar run by the White Horse and an ice cream van, of course. The WI will provide their famous tea and cakes in the Pavilion where there will also be seating. Hay bales near the performers will offer further seating outside. Entertainment will include Oakington Singers, What'sNext, The Bluetones, Dark Surrender, Peg Leg Pub Band, and “Play Your Cards Right”.

**Volunteers required!** Thank you very much to the volunteers who have come forward so far. However, we really need a further dozen, especially with getting ready during the morning and taking down in the evening. Just half an hour will make a difference.

We would also welcome volunteers to sell Programmes and Raffle tickets door to door ahead of the day. Programmes, £1, also act as entry tickets.

Please email us at [oakington.westwick.ca@gmail.com](mailto:oakington.westwick.ca@gmail.com).

The Village Day organisers are: Arthur Sillett, Liz Davis, Hady Aouad, Bernie Yates, Hanna Lumley and Celine & Ranko Pinter.

See you at the Recreation Ground on 24 June, 12 noon–9 pm!

Irène Butlin & Ranko Pinter  
Community Association committee



## Volunteer Drivers Needed for Oakington and Westwick!

Our villages are covered by the Cottenham Carecar scheme, but there is only one driver locally to respond to calls.



If you have a car, a clean driver's licence, and are interested in this worthwhile task, do contact Gerry Brett who administers the scheme from Cottenham, 01954 251929, or ring me on 01223 233585 for more information.

Jillian Wilkinson

## A Big Thank You

We would like to give our sincere thanks to all the people who have offered and given help to us during Andrew's recent (and ongoing) illness. They include: Andrew's fellow members of the EAG (especially Arthur), OWN and all our very kind close neighbours in the Orchard Way area. Chris and Ann, John and Jo, Bernie and Di have given us lots of practical and moral support for which we are very grateful. What a wonderful village we live in.

Andrew and Elisabeth Dennis



# SUMMER CRAFT FAIR

Sunday 25th June  
 10am-4pm  
*Gifts, Food & Crafts*

## Oakington

Garden Centre & Café  
 email: [oakingtongcevents@gmail.com](mailto:oakingtongcevents@gmail.com)



**BLUE HOUSE Computer Help**  
 SPEED UP, FIX UP, OR UPGRADE YOUR COMPUTERS

**WE CAN HELP YOU WITH COMPUTER RELATED PROBLEMS**  
 AROUND YOUR HOME OR HOME OFFICE

**HOW WE CAN HELP**

- Fixing Windows Startup Problems
- More Space on your Computer
- Faster Computer Speeds
- Transfer Apps & Files to New Computers
- Setting Up & Repairing Networks
- Fixing Wi-Fi Dead Spots
- Sync all your Devices around the Home
- Virus & Malware Clean Up
- General Maintenance
- Optimisation & Upgrade Services

**WHY PEOPLE LOVE WORKING WITH US**

- We are meticulous, friendly and tidy up after our work
- You are safe with our **100 day guarantee**
- You are **protected** by our professional indemnity and public liability cover
- We can work either **in your home or remotely**
- We can **loan you a laptop** while we work on your computer

**BOOST YOUR SPEED!**  
 We can make your computers work even better and faster than when they were brand new!

**TO GET HELP NOW, CALL MICHAEL ON**  
**01223 85 30 20**  
[hello@bluehouse.help](mailto:hello@bluehouse.help) • [www.bluehouse.help](http://www.bluehouse.help)

We get 5 star reviews on **Google**  
 Blue House Computer Help, Cambridge Road, Oakington

**DON'T NEED HELP AT THE MOMENT? SAVE ME FOR LATER, JUST IN CASE!**

Home based professional salon in tranquil setting offering personalised whole body beauty care

Now is the time to start your summer waxing programme. I offer a choice of waxing products to ensure a treatment tailored to you

T: 01223 473341  
 79 Longstanton Rd  
 Oakington Cambridge  
 CB24 3AB



# BEAUTY

renew refresh replenish

[www.juliegriffinbeauty.uk](http://www.juliegriffinbeauty.uk)

### Parish Councillors

**Chair:** David Reeves

*chair@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk*

**Vice-Chair:** Tony Starling

John Bailey      Julie Grove  
Stephen Moore      Ranko Pinter  
Matt Davidson  
Two Vacancies

### 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

O & W, Longstanton, Northstowe

Natalie Warren-Green

*cllr.warren@scambs.gov.uk*

Tom Bygott – 07765 475 513

*cllr.bygott@scambs.gov.uk*

### County Councillor

O & W, Longstanton, Northstowe, Over

Firouz Thompson – 07974 680875

*firouz.thompson@cambridgeshire.gov.uk*

### Member of Parliament

Anthony Browne – 01223 603677

*anthony.browne.mp@parliament.uk*

## From our Parish Council Chair

Hello! It's good to be back as chair after a long sabbatical. So much has changed since I last wrote an article for the Journal. A lively community hasn't changed though, in the way people are cared for and supported in whatever way we can help each other, especially in the time of the pandemic.

I must write a heartfelt **thank you to Stephen Moore** who has guided the parish council as Chairman these last years. So much hard work from him is clearly obvious in the way the village has moved on in all sorts of ways. I look forward to continued humorous exchanges during council meetings – again, thank you, Stephen.

The **recreation ground** has seen significant change recently and as I write the work on the path around the rec is under way. A major funding grant has made this possible. Oakington and Westwick owe a huge debt of gratitude to Dr Geoffrey Butlin, whose initial vision for a recreation ground for everyone has now been realised. Look out too for the information boards which will appear soon – they are a fantastic addition to the village and to Westwick.

A **watering regime** is in its early stages for the dozens and dozens of new hedges and trees. Not necessary at the moment, perhaps, but it will be good to have a scheme in place should the summer be anything like last year. Please do make contact with the Parish Council if you can give an hour or two; maybe you'll be needed only once a month from now until September if we get enough volunteers.

Later this year the plans for **Phase 3 of Northstowe** will be published. Perhaps this will be a major preoccupation in the months after Homes England divulge outline plans. Whatever we may think about a vast new town on the doorstep, we must make sure that we can get what is the best outcome for ourselves as the development gets ever nearer to us.



David Reeves

## From our County Councillor

**Highways:** We're extremely concerned about the state of the roads. Our Local Highways Officers are overwhelmed with problems, particularly potholes which can be alarming and dangerous. Highways staff are working intensely to address this.

Sadly this is a national problem to an extent although we are in a worse state than some. The root cause is that there has been a gradual deterioration of our road network over many years and strategic investment in maintenance did not happen in better times. Years of underfunding by national government and politically motivated choices by the previous Conservative County administration (which they euphemistically termed 'managed decline') are making it harder to get on top of this. For example for years before the administration changed in 2021 road maintenance (resurfacing etc) in South Cambs has been the least well funded (£ per km) in Cambridgeshire. The effects of underfunding have been exacerbated by drought and soil shrinkage, a deep freeze and periods of persistent wet weather. It takes a long time to create road damage – but it is also very costly to fix.

**Early Years Provider beside Oakington Primary School:** We are very pleased to announce that a new Early Years provider has been approved following a tender process at Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC). They will be using the building next to the Primary School on Water Lane (formerly used by Humpty Dumpty). The new provider, Little Flames Childcare Ltd, already provide settings at Cromwell Academy Primary School and St John's CofE Primary. *www.littleflames.co.uk*.

(continued on page 7)

## VILLAGE INFORMATION

### Community Association

*oakington.westwick.ca@gmail.com*

### 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

### Hardship Fund

Contact Ben on 07342 945373 or

Jo on 07714 760582 or

*oak.west.hardship.fund@outlook.com*





**HATTONS**  
FENCE POST REPAIR  
[www.hattonspostrepair.co.uk](http://www.hattonspostrepair.co.uk)

**ROTTEN, LEANING  
BROKEN FENCE  
POSTS FIXED**

**Fixed Price.  
Fully Inclusive of Materials &  
Labour**

Email: [hello@hattonspostrepair.co.uk](mailto:hello@hattonspostrepair.co.uk)  
Telephone or Text 07724 115 263

## Crossways Hair Studio

For your local hair care  
professional, friendly  
and always a warm welcome

Give Vanessa a call - 07746 473853

Crossways House  
1 Longstanton Road, Oakington CB24 3BB

## Oakington Dog Day Care Centre



★★★★★ Rated by South Cambs DC

**07704 729299**

[www.oakingtondogdaycare.co.uk](http://www.oakingtondogdaycare.co.uk)

Vist our pages for photos of happy dogs having a lot of fun

**Dry Drayton Road, Oakington, CB24 3BD**

*The family  
welcomes you!*



*Serving food  
12-9.30 everyday*

THE OLD CROWN IN GIRTON HAS NEW OWNERS  
AND WE ARE DELIGHTED TO WELCOME YOU THIS SUMMER



**RESTAURANT  
PUB & GARDEN**

**SUNDAY ROASTS  
REAL ALES**

89 HIGH ST, GIRTON, CAMBRIDGE, CB3 0QD

[info@theoldcrowningirton.com](mailto:info@theoldcrowningirton.com) 01223 277217

[theoldcrowningirton.com](http://theoldcrowningirton.com)

DON PASQUALE  
ITALIAN FAMILY DINING



[theoldcrowningirton](https://www.instagram.com/theoldcrowningirton)

### From our County Councillor

(continued from page 5)

They are awaiting Ofsted registration and are in the process of signing contracts with the intention to open early September.

**South Access Road West (SARW):** This is the road from B1050 roundabout to Northstowe. Homes England announced the opening of this road in July; since this announcement I have put in place monthly meetings with CCC and Homes England to ensure that we can meet these deadlines, as we need to consider any legal contracts and, equally importantly, when the site is safe for public.

**Mill Road flooding:** during the last downpour of rain early May, unfortunately Mill Road got severely flooded even after the drains were cleared earlier this year. The road became impassable. CCC contractors were on site mid-May after it was reported, and we are hoping to get to the bottom of this issue.

Thank you to everyone who has highlighted issues, and please keep logging the faults in the County's reporting system as this really helps officers to organise their work:

[highwaysreporting.cambridgeshire.gov.uk](https://highwaysreporting.cambridgeshire.gov.uk) and [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/business/planning-and-development/flood-and-water/report-a-flood](https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/business/planning-and-development/flood-and-water/report-a-flood).



Firouz Thompson

### From our District Councillors

At the Annual Meeting I thanked O & W Parish Council, the community groups and residents, for supporting me since taking on the District Council role in November 2022. I presented information about my activity locally, and broadly about SCDC achievements in the past year focused on the Council's four key themes: Business Support, Affordable Housing/Planning, Modern & Caring Council and Green to Our Core. I also spoke about Hosts of Ukraine of which we have two in Oakington, the situation with the analysis of responses to the Sustainable Travel Zone (STZ) consultation, and how SCDC is supporting people through the cost of living crisis. My report and presentation are available from the Parish Council website: [oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk](https://oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk).

#### South Cambs District Council Four-Day Week Trial

Residents have been asking me about the SCDC Four Day Week Trial and, in addition, this month has seen press interest in the trial and the CEO Liz Watts' PhD studies. Unfortunately, much of what has been said and written has been inaccurate, hostile, and politically motivated. It is common practice for senior staff to undertake postgraduate qualifications whilst working, and these will often involve workplace projects as part of their dissertation or thesis. Sometimes these are funded by the council, but in Liz's case her doctorate is entirely self-funded, and her studies are conducted in her own time. The results of the trial are now available and have been enormously encouraging: performance has been maintained and in some instances improved and staff who were thinking of leaving are now likely to stay. Officer feedback was 88% positive; and satisfaction feedback from residents was not impacted. Councillors are being asked to include the refuse collection services in the Four Day Week Trial as of this summer. I will keep you updated if this affects your bin collection dates.

**Coming up:** The Government decision on the East-West Rail route and the Greater Cambridge Partnership results of the STZ congestion charge consultation. I will report through the Parish Council or you can contact me direct.

Natalie Warren-Green



(Contact details for all our councillors are on page 5).

#### Consultation on the Infrastructure Levy launched

On 17 March the Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DLUHC) published a consultation on the design of a new infrastructure levy to be paid by developers to fund affordable housing and local infrastructure such as GP surgeries, transport links and schools. The levy is a reform to the existing system of developer contributions. The consultation will inform the design of the levy and of regulations that will set out its operation. A further consultation on the drafting of those regulations will be published in due course. Alongside this publication is a report on an earlier levy design, commissioned by DLUHC. The announcement can be found at:

[gov.uk/government/news/new-levy-to-make-sure-developers-pay-fair-share-for-affordable-housing-and-local-infrastructure](https://gov.uk/government/news/new-levy-to-make-sure-developers-pay-fair-share-for-affordable-housing-and-local-infrastructure)

There is a consultation, closing 9 June, that can be completed at: [gov.uk/government/consultations/technical-consultation-on-the-infrastructure-levy](https://gov.uk/government/consultations/technical-consultation-on-the-infrastructure-levy). For questions, please contact: [InfrastructureLevyConsultation@levellingup.gov.uk](mailto:InfrastructureLevyConsultation@levellingup.gov.uk)

#### Motion for referendum on the congestion charge

I have been campaigning consistently against a congestion charge being introduced for more than 14 years. A petition, since closed, on the Cambridgeshire County Council website to hold a referendum attracted 15,241 signatures, more than enough to trigger a debate at the County Council. However the other Parties voted not to hold a referendum at the local elections this May.

At the District Council meeting on 30 March, I was pleased to support the motion put forward by Cllr Heather Williams: *This council notes the outcome of the County Council's vote on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2023 in regard to a referendum on Congestion Charging. While disappointed by the outcome it does not alter our view that there still should indeed be a referendum. This council will write to the Leader of Cambridgeshire County Council expressing this Council's support for a referendum on the introduction of a "sustainable travel charge" otherwise known as the "Cambridge Congestion Charge".*

There was a robust debate on this in the chamber and this motion was voted down by the majority Liberal Democrat group.



Tom Bygott





A wheelie bin cleaning service for both domestic and commercial customers.

**Book a regular or one off clean.**

**Tel: 01223 277747**

Book online at  
**[www.wheeliefreshbins.com](http://www.wheeliefreshbins.com)**

Find us on 



## **Rothwell's**

**Carpet & Stone Floor Cleaning**

### **Carpet Cleaning & Stone Floor, Upholstery, Rugs**

*A few points that make us stand out:*

Rothwell's has been in business since 1993.

We're an honest local family firm.

Our large truck mounted machines mean more cleaning & drying power for the best results possible.

Members of both the NCCA and TACCA.

We will move the furniture.

100% satisfaction or it's FREE.

*Call Oliver and Max Campbell for expert help today.*

**01223 832 928 / 01638 428 060**  
**[www.Rothwells.biz](http://www.Rothwells.biz)**

# **PEST PROBLEM?**

LOCAL, PROFESSIONAL, TRUSTED

## **DRE Pest Control**



**Rapid, qualified and safe pest control.**

Residential, farms, commercial premises, hotels, hospitals, schools & businesses.

Removal of **rats, mice, ants, fleas, cockroaches, & wasps.**

Are you looking for **one-off, emergency or long-term** pest management solutions?

Contact  
**DRE Pest Control**  
today!

**07789 502556**

**01954 230708**

[drepestcontrol.co.uk](http://drepestcontrol.co.uk)  
[info@drepestcontrol.co.uk](mailto:info@drepestcontrol.co.uk)



19 WALLMANS LANE  
SWAVESEY  
CAMBRIDGE  
CB24 4QY



### Environment Action Group

Work on the Parish Council's **Open Spaces** project, supported by the EAG, to develop the recreation ground with a hard path and new planting and seating areas is nearing completion. An official opening is planned to coincide with Village Day, marking the culmination of many years of hard work by numerous volunteers.

Work has continued on our **information boards** project (joint project with the History Society) to set up interpretation boards at a number of sites of historic and ecological interest around the village. In addition to two boards on Anglo-Saxon Oakington and RAF Oakington to be installed as part of the Open Spaces project, boards relating to the two community orchards, the current and past pubs in the village, and the recreation ground are ready for printing and a further board relating to Stocks Green is in the pipeline. We are very grateful to the Parish Council for agreeing to fund the printing and installation of these boards, as well as to everyone who has contributed to their design.

We are also very grateful to everyone who helped with our **footway sweeping and litter picking** back in April. The EAG also organised a litter pick at the Rec on Friday 5 May, so that it was looking good for the Coronation celebrations.



This will be a regular monthly activity going forward so, again many thanks to those who help with this. We are always in need of additional volunteers, so if you could spare an hour or so occasionally to help keep our village clean and safe for users we would love to hear from you – contact James Youd on [jamesyoud51@icloud.com](mailto:jamesyoud51@icloud.com). We will also be holding a **thank-you event** for all our volunteers in early June.

On the **Flood Mitigation** front, we have heard that Homes England is prepared to discuss the idea of combining the attenuation pond with the ambition to build the Oakington Retirement Community on the Tomato Farm and/or the field on the other side of the brook.

Finally, we are excited to join with Sustainable Oakington and Westwick in using Natural Cambridgeshire's **Nature Recovery Toolkit** to improve the biodiversity in our parish. First steps will include mapping the village for wildlife, and considering what measures can be taken to improve or create important habitats such as hedgerows, grass verges and ponds. Contact James Heywood ([jjnh002@gmail.com](mailto:jjnh002@gmail.com)), John Terry ([johnterry23@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:johnterry23@hotmail.co.uk)) or Sustainable Oakington & Westwick ([sustainableow@gmail.com](mailto:sustainableow@gmail.com)) if you would be interested in being involved.

*Stephanie Smith*

### Oakington & Westwick Neighbours



Thank you to everyone who helped with and came to the Coronation **Big Lunch** on Sunday 7 May – it was a lovely occasion with over 80 attendees, delicious food and a chance to meet and chat to others. Thanks especially to the Oakington Singers for the very enjoyable sing-along, to Ranko for organising the chess games and to Kathryn for the lawn games. See photos on page 19!

**Seaside Trip 17 June.** We are taking the minibus for a day out in Hunstanton. Enough people have booked places to fill the bus, but get in touch if you'd like to be added to a reserve list or would be interested in a trip another time. Ring Teri on 07711 531004 or email OWN.

**Monthly Trip to Bar Hill.** OWN runs a minibus service to Tesco in Bar Hill on the first Friday of the month, pick up from your door around 10 and drop off at home when you've done your shopping. It's much appreciated by those who use it. We would really like to have more passengers to make this service worthwhile – it's for anyone, whether or not you have a car. Have a break from driving (or from internet shopping) and join the party: contact Teri on 07711 531004 by midday on the Thursday before.

Save the Date: **Lakeside Tea and Jazz** will take place this year on Sunday 10 September, 3-5pm.

Get in touch if you'd be interested in the free **internet safety workshop** in autumn. Covering topics such as email, passwords, online shopping.

Contact OWN: email [OWNeighbours@gmail.com](mailto:OWNeighbours@gmail.com) or leave a message on 07902 111786.

*Jenny Prince*

#### Hardship Fund



#### Did you know that Oakington and Westwick has a Hardship Fund?

The Fund provides small grants between approx. £50 and £100 for everyday essentials such as food, utilities, travel, children's clothes, school items or any sudden emergencies.

For support call Jo on 07714 760582 or Ben on 07342 945373 or email [oak.west.hardship.fund@outlook.com](mailto:oak.west.hardship.fund@outlook.com).

For more information see [owneighbours.wordpress.com/hardship-fund](http://owneighbours.wordpress.com/hardship-fund)

### Plant Swap

OWN and SOW would like to thank all the dozens of people who stopped by our plant swap stall in May. We had a lively exchange of vegetable plants such as leeks, kalettes, cucumbers and of course scores of tomatoes. There were also flowers like iris and the beautifully-named bear's breeches, and plants beloved of pollinators such as hyssop. Your generous donations mean that we were able to send just over £100 to Cambridge4Ukraine.



*Alice J*



*Eva's Flowers  
of Oakington*



*Floristry for all occasions  
Birthday, Anniversary, Sympathy, Get well*

*I specialise in Funeral Tributes  
both traditional and contemporary*

*Wedding Flowers  
including a consultation service*

*Corporate flowers  
for venues and events*

[www.evasflowers.co.uk](http://www.evasflowers.co.uk)

01223 233533

07771 967622

DELICIOUS HOMEMADE CAKES FOR THE EVERYDAY!



green  
blue  
You

## Your local Eco Shop

**Eco friendly essentials delivered to your door**

Household - Bathroom - Incontinence - Periods - Pets

Reuse your containers with doorstep refills on a Tuesday

Free local delivery

[www.greenblueyou.co.uk](http://www.greenblueyou.co.uk)

## Brookfield Groundcare

A family run business providing a quality and professional service to all aspects of hard and soft landscaping.

- Grass cutting
- Hedge trimming
- Tree surgery
- Fencing
- Paving
- Hedge & tree planting
- Turf laying
- Sports field maintenance
- Paddock maintenance



Contact us to discuss your needs

Daniel Wright 07812 670039 Office 01954 252953

Email [brookfieldcontracting@gmail.com](mailto:brookfieldcontracting@gmail.com) [www.brookfieldgroundcare.com](http://www.brookfieldgroundcare.com)



## Oakington Vikings Football Club

Oakington Vikings FC is a grassroots village football club run by members of the local community. Founded in 1976 by Richard Cook and Jim Lipscomb, the aim has always been to bring the community together through the provision of football. It has existed in a variety of guises over the years with teams ranging from 5 years through to the adults. Going into next season the Vikings will have three teams: U13s, U15s and one that has progressed through all tiers of youth football to become the next generation of adult Vikings in the men's league.

Underpinning all these teams are a variety of volunteers who help with the provision of training and matches for the teams. Viking Chairman James Wilson explained:

"The Vikings have always had the support of the local community to enable them to provide the best conditions to play football. All our coaches are qualified and licensed by the Football Association but it is not just the coaches that make matches happen! We have other parent volunteers that help with administering the teams, setting up the pitches as well as running the line. We do not have 50 players in the Vikings, we have 50 families – it is very much a team effort before anyone steps foot on a pitch."

### A New Generation

The current teams all started at junior grassroots level and the Vikings are looking to support any new parents/ volunteers who may be able to help inspire the next generation of Vikings or would be interested in helping out in some capacity (be it coaching or otherwise). No prior experience/knowledge required, just a desire to support a new generation of Vikings with football.

### Looking back...



Taken in 2019, our U13s will be stepping up to 11aside next season.



Our U15s 5 years ago, back in 2018.

U12s coach Winston Kho shared some of his experience: "Having played sports growing up I understood what a great many benefits team sports can bring to a child's development. It is not just about sporting development but equally about equipping them with the relevant social skills to help them thrive as they grow into young adults. However, when my son joined the Vikings as a 5-year-old I did not feel I had anything to offer and had never considered coaching, but after helping out with the team it seemed to be a natural progression. Now with the support of the Club personnel (many of whom have been on a similar journey) I find myself managing and coaching a great bunch of players that I have had the privilege to watch develop whilst at the same time learning so much and spending time with my son."

Oakington Vikings would very much like to hear from anyone interested in helping the next generation of Vikings. Or if you have a son/daughter already at school or will be starting in September and would be interested in forming a team with other parents (with the full support of the existing Viking family) please contact James (details below), or come and visit our stall at the Oakington Village day.

*Oakington Vikings FC*



FA Charter  
Standard

### Our Teams and Contacts

- First Team James & Ronnie 07834 465188
- Under 15s Marcus & Josh 07866 635241
- Under 13s Winston 07968 716290
- Welfare officer Frank 07841 995713

[www.facebook.com/OakingtonVikingsFC](http://www.facebook.com/OakingtonVikingsFC)



From boys to men. Oakington Vikings FC are extremely proud to have this team represent the village as adults next season (taken in 2011).

**The Oakington Vikings would like to thank all their local sponsors for their continued support:**

**Best Gardens Services** ([bestgardens.co.uk](http://bestgardens.co.uk)):  
Contact: [bestgardensservices@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:bestgardensservices@yahoo.co.uk)

**Lucas Construction** loft conversions/extensions/renovations/  
kitchens/bathrooms: Call James on 07818 414894

**CS Barker Contractors Ltd:** 01223 237068

### Sustainable Oakington & Westwick

Our March meeting was a very popular fruit tree grafting workshop. Over twenty people came along to learn from Leo Jordan how to graft onto a rootstock, and took home the results – looking forward to the fruits of their handiwork in a few years' time!



In April Sean Moroney came to tell us about Cambridge Electric Transport's community E-bike scheme, enabling people to borrow village-owned electric bikes at low cost. Let us know if you think this is something you'd make use of in Oakington & Westwick.

On **31 May**, 7.30pm at the Church Hall, we will be meeting with the Environment Action Group (EAG) to start to develop a Local Nature Recovery Plan, using the toolkit developed by Natural Cambridgeshire and following the example of other villages such as Girton. See the last Journal's Nature Notes for more information.

Our next meetings, on **28 June and 26 July**, will be discussing what are the most effective things small communities can do to save the planet and which of them we should have a go at – actions we can take locally to help the environment, biodiversity and encourage us all to live more sustainably. Everyone's ideas are welcome – please come along.

*Jenny Prince*



For everyone who's concerned about nature and the environment. All are welcome to SOW meetings, at 7.30pm in the church hall on the last Wednesday in the month.

[sustainableow@gmail.com](mailto:sustainableow@gmail.com) / [sustainableow.co.uk](http://sustainableow.co.uk)

### Oakington & Westwick Short Mat Bowls Club



If you would like to give bowls a try, come and join us as our guest. We play throughout the year at the Pavilion, on Thursday evenings 7.30–9.30pm. We have spare bowls and you just need some soft, flat-soled shoes. If you would like more information, please contact Dawn Stokes on 01223 236427.

### Oakington & Westwick Tennis Club

#### Anyone for Tennis?

1 April is the start of a new year at the Oakington & Westwick Tennis Club and it's time to renew your memberships! Just contact us on [oakingtontc@gmail.com](mailto:oakingtontc@gmail.com) and we will send you the relevant form and information.

If you have not been a member before and are thinking of joining us, now is not the time to hesitate! Make the most of your membership and join us now!

We have two hard courts which can be used 365 days of the year. You can choose to play with other family members or why not persuade a few friends to join as well. Once you're a member, there is no need to book – you can just turn up and play when you like! It's all very relaxed.

*Gill Attmore*



Club members can use hard courts at the Recreation Ground. Coaching and social events. Our subscription year runs 1 April – 31 March. Membership: £65 family, £45 adults, £20 for juniors. To join or for more info, contact [oakingtontc@gmail.com](mailto:oakingtontc@gmail.com).

### Country Dance Club

Our next two evenings of dance will be on Friday **23 June** and Friday **21 July**. Jane and I look forward to seeing you at either or both. The dances are all called and walked through and the music is provided by our excellent musicians. Do come along for fun evenings and meet new friends.

*Kathryn Coles*



Meets in Histon Methodist Church, one Friday a month, 8–10 pm. Adults £4, accompanied children: 50p. Soft shoes or trainers are recommended.

### Tuesday Talk & Tea

On **13 June**, we have a talk by the Reverend Jenny Hill, and on **11 July** we will have our annual Strawberry Tea.

*Marian Cleaver*

01223 232897 [marianccleaver@gmail.com](mailto:marianccleaver@gmail.com)



Tuesday Talk and Tea meets at 2.45–4.45pm on the second Tuesday of the month, for talks, and a delicious home-made tea. We welcome all comers, especially if the subject that month is of special interest to you.

Oakington & Westwick Sports Pavilion Monthly Lottery 2023 - Winners			
Month	Ticket No	Area	Winnings
March	034	Coles Lane	£100
April	630	Saxon Close	£100
May	443	Saxon Close	£100
If you would like to enter the lottery, please text JOIN plus your name, house number & postcode to 07831 828898.			



### Cambridge Ten Sing

Our Ten Sing young people have continued to have fun weekly sessions since the annual concert – we gave ourselves some time off over Easter, and now we are back rehearsing for our next performance at the Histon Feast Day on Sunday 2 July. Having a relatively new group means we have not been able to do all the events and engagements we have in previous years, but we are hoping this will change as the group continues to grow together.

We have invited the young people to put themselves forward to join our Young People's Committee and we hope several of them will do so, bringing their own ideas and suggestions to the group for the coming months.

We are holding two taster sessions on Thursday 29 June and Thursday 6 July at 7.30 p.m. – come along and see what we do, and the fun we have! And come and cheer us on at the Feast on Sunday 2 July!

*Terry King, Administrator*



Ten Sing is an informal YMCA performing arts group, run for young people, by young people, with singing, dance and drama. We welcome anyone aged 11–18 to come and try us out on a Thursday evening, 7 to 9 pm at Histon Baptist Church during term time. For more information, please email [cambridgetensing@gmail.com](mailto:cambridgetensing@gmail.com).

### Oakington and Westwick WI

At our AGM in April, we re-elected our President and Committee! We 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.

At our May meeting, we had Yvonne Pinchen, an Oakington resident, as our special speaker, talking on the Arts and Craft movement in Cambridge. A fascinating talk, with so many examples of places in Cambridge where you can see the Arts and Craft movement. As some of us had recently visited the David Parr House in Gwydir Street, Cambridge, it fitted in well with the talk.

Our next month's meeting on **8 June** is from Alison Giles who is going to give us an insight into Molly Dancing. All welcome.

Do get in touch if you would like some information about our WI.

*Elaine Bailey*



We meet on the second Thursday of each month at 7.30pm at the Church Hall. We are a friendly group and if you want to try us out the first meeting is free. Contact Elaine Bailey [elainebailey1@live.co.uk](mailto:elainebailey1@live.co.uk) for more information.

**RECYCLING TIP...** Black plastic food trays – **blue** bin. (Although they can't be detected automatically, some sorting is done by hand.)



### Oakington Singers

The Oakington Singers rehearse every Monday from 7.30 to 9.00pm in the very comfortable environment of St Andrew's Church Hall. We would love you to join us, even if on an occasional basis, as we are currently in need of a few more voices!

Although we are not a church choir, we were recently invited to sing a few anthems at the Good Friday service in Oakington where it was lovely to receive appreciative compliments and to be told that our singing gives as much pleasure to others as it so clearly does for ourselves.

This was also true at the recent Big Lunch for King Charles' Coronation when our choir led a



Community Singalong. We chose popular hits from the decades of Charles' tenure as Prince of Wales and supplied song sheets for all the picnickers to join in. The list included songs by Queen, Cliff Richard, Abba, The Beatles and Elton John, to name just a few. There was an impressive amount of audience participation and particular appreciation of the fun of singing Sweet Caroline by Neil Diamond and Always Look on the Bright Side of Life by Eric Idle which I'm sure everyone remembers was from 'The Life of Brian'... or maybe you remember it from the opening ceremony of the London Olympics in 2012?!!

If we have enough singers available, we will be singing at the Village Day on 24 June. You can also hear us at the Soirée on the Vicarage Lawns on Friday 14 July. We hope to see you.

*Helen Williams*



We are a four-part harmony choir which rehearses on a Monday in the Church Hall, 7.30–9 pm. Come along and give us a try! For more information, or if you would like us to sing at your event, please contact Helen Williams on [helenwilliams5@outlook.com](mailto:helenwilliams5@outlook.com) or just drop in.

## Print-Out

### Litho and Digital Printing

Mono & colour copying

Plan printing

Colour inkjet up to A0

Full price list online [www.print-out.co.uk](http://www.print-out.co.uk)

**01223 232709**

8-10 High Street Histon Cambridge CB24 9JD

## BEST GARDENS SERVICES EST. 2010

YOUR LOCAL GARDEN MAINTENANCE,  
LANDSCAPING AND TREE CARE  
SERVICE



FOR A FREE QUOTE AND ADVICE

CONTACT ZAID – 07851022474

WWW.BESTGARDENS.CO.UK

BESTGARDENSSERVICES@YAHOO.CO.UK



#BESTGARDENSSERVICES

## STG MORTGAGE SOLUTIONS

### STEPHEN GRAY – CeMAP

‘Your local Mortgage Broker’

Living in Oakington and serving the residents of  
Oakington, Westwick and Girton for 8 years

‘For all mortgage scenarios’

- Residential and BTL mortgage advice
- Loans for businesses
- Protecting your debt and family assets

Evening and weekend appointments available

For more information, please contact me on...

Office – 01223 635681

Mobile – 07584 121473

Email – [steve@stgmortgagesolutions.co.uk](mailto:steve@stgmortgagesolutions.co.uk)

Website – [www.stgmortgagesolutions.co.uk](http://www.stgmortgagesolutions.co.uk)

Your home may be repossessed if you do not keep up the repayments on your mortgage.



## Pippa Westoby LETTER CARVER

I'm a Lettering artist based in Cambridge. My work consists of hand carved memorials, house plaques, garden ornaments, and painted lettering for births, anniversaries and weddings. All my work is bespoke. You can see more of my work on my website : [www.pippawestoby.co.uk](http://www.pippawestoby.co.uk) or on my Facebook page : Letter Carving in Stone - Pippa Westoby.

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





## Helping you navigate through a volatile mortgage market



With thousands of families up and down the country facing significant increases in their mortgage costs, Oakington resident and mortgage broker Stephen Gray explains the challenges ahead in a volatile mortgage market and why brokers remain 'key' in guiding clients through the re-mortgage process.

Cast your mind back to September 2022, when the average fixed rate mortgage was 1.5%, and families in the UK had more than enough on their plates dealing with the rising energy costs and food prices. Add the war in Ukraine to the equation and inflation was beginning to increase to uncomfortable levels for the Bank of England.

Fast forward to May 2023 and in the last six months, Liz Truss and Kwasi Kwarteng's disastrous autumn budget, inflationary pressures and no less than six Bank of England base rate rises, together with continued volatility with swap rates has led to average mortgage fixed rates increasing to 4.5%.

This increase in such a short period has had a huge impact on families who are facing an average increase in mortgage costs of £437 per month (according to media reports in May) and in some cases, where clients have larger mortgages, costs have increased by close to £1,000 per month.

With mortgage rates (and lender's criteria) changing daily, brokers up and down the country are busy keeping on top of all the changes and spending additional time with their clients to ensure they receive the best advice when their current fixed rate mortgage comes to an end.

### Re-Mortgage top-tips:

- Locate your mortgage offer and see when your current fixed rate is due to expire.
- Engage with a mortgage broker six months before your fixed rate ends.
- Ensure the broker has access to all mortgage products in the market.
- Try and keep your finances as stable as possible before you re-mortgage.
- Maintain an up-to-date budget planner as this will help when re-mortgaging.
- Contact your lender direct if you are experiencing financial difficulty.

*Your property may be repossessed if you do not keep up repayments on your mortgage. Some buy-to-let mortgages are not regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.*

*Stephen Gray CeMAP*



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.

## Oakington Primary School Parent Staff Association



The PSA recently supported the school in the purchase of **road buddies**. You may have spotted four friendly characters when travelling along on Water Lane. These were purchased following a few near-miss incidents at the traffic lights, and aim to improve awareness of the school's location at the heart of our village for those who just pass through. The location of the buddies have been approved by Cambridge Highways department.

We are delighted to be planning our **summer fete** on 7 July (see poster below.) This event is open to all to attend and details on the raffle prizes and event will be shared via our Facebook page. We are welcoming stall holders at this event for a small fee. If you are interested please contact us on [psa@oakington.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:psa@oakington.cambs.sch.uk). Booking form and payment are required by 23 June.



Following the success of last year's yard sale we will be coordinating the 2023 **village yard sale** planned for early September. Details on how to sign up will be shared in the next issue of the Journal.

*Angela Barber*

★ Oakington Primary School ★

# SUMMER FETE

Friday 7th July  
3:30 - 5:30

Come along and help us raise funds for  
Oakington Primary School PSA

Bouncy Castles ~ Pimm's & Cider Stall ~ Summer Raffle ~ Pizza  
BBQ ~ Choir Performance ~ Craft Stalls ~ Games and Activities  
Second Hand Uniform ~ Gym and Drama Club Performances

More details will be shared on our Facebook  
page as we build up to the event

Parentkind  
Member Association



## Prime Plumbing & Electrical

Gas Plumbing Electrical & Maintenance Boiler Services Kitchens

22a Cambridge Road, Impington, Cambridge, CB24 9NU

Tel/Fax: 01223 237795 - Mobile: 07802 807237

[primeplumbing@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:primeplumbing@yahoo.co.uk)

## CROSSWAYS GARAGE OAKINGTON

Tel: (01223) 233003

Service, Repairs & Tyre Fitting  
to all Makes of Vehicles  
& Light Commercial

**Approved MOT Testing Station**

*Member of the Retail Motor Industry Federation*



## C. S. Barker Builders Oakington

**Alterations / Extensions / New Build**

**07714 099017**

**01223 237068**

## D.K.TILL & Son in Law

COAL AND SOLID FUEL MERCHANTS

Family run business for 40 years  
Coal, Logs, Charcoal, Gas, Compost

TEL, 01223 232947 David Till, 07523044521 Kevin Crisp  
email, [dktil@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:dktil@hotmail.co.uk)



# PS Dean Roofing

**Traditional Roofing Contractors**

Slates, Tiles, Guttering, Chimney's and Re-pointing

Re-roofing, Repairs, Lead-work, Free Quotations

**01223 572504 07752 711175**

[paul@psdeanroofing.co.uk](mailto:paul@psdeanroofing.co.uk) [www.psdeanroofing.co.uk](http://www.psdeanroofing.co.uk)

22 Longstanton Road, Oakington, Cambs, CB24 3BB



## Oakington Octogenarians and more

Cousins **Kay** Koehler and **Di** Wisbey, who will both be **80** this year, grew up next door to each other in Cherry Hinton. After marrying Mick in 1964, Di moved to Oakington in 1971 from Histon, looking for a smaller and more personal school for her two boys. Kay followed shortly after in 1972, while Kay's current husband **Ron**, also **80** this year, had already moved to Orchard Way in 1966, just four years after the houses were built. While Mick and Di's children live on opposite sides of the world, Ron's two boys and Kay's son and daughter all live locally. Both cousins agree that Oakington is a friendly village and friends made at the school gate are friends for life.



**Ruby** Smith, who can often be seen walking through the village with her friend **Hetty**, is **90** this year. She moved to Oakington in 1986 with her husband (Nevil) so they could be nearer to other members of their families, who were already living in Cambridgeshire. Sadly Nevil died from cancer four years later, just two days after celebrating their 30<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary from his hospital bed. Both from Essex, their first date was at a Ball in Harlow, where Ruby not only won his heart, but first prize in a Hula Hoop competition!



**James** Alexander, who turns **80** this year, celebrated 50 years as our vicar last year, having moved to Oakington with his wife Elizabeth (better known as Liesl) in 1972. They met when James was at Theological College in Oxford and Liesl was a student nurse. They married in the beautiful old Church of Manordeifi in Pembrokeshire in the late 60s and had a short spell at the vicarage in Much Wenlock, Shropshire, before coming to Oakington. The position here was sponsored by James's former Cambridge College – Queens'. Sadly Liesl died twelve years ago after an eight year long battle against cancer. Of their two daughters, one lives locally in a houseboat on the Cam, while the other lives in London along with their three teenage grandchildren. Katie, as some will know, joined the family at 16 and now lives on Skye.



**Joan** and **Arthur** Sillett will be **80** this year. They met at 18, while working at a large (13,500 staff) Electrical Engineering firm, A. Reyrolle & Co. (now part of Siemens), on Tyneside. They married in 1965 and moved to a new semi-detached house (which cost just £3,050!) in Windy Nook, a well named town, where the wind comes straight in from the North Sea. Their daughter, Helen was born there. They then moved to Norton in South Yorkshire in 1972 where their son Ian was born in 1975. They moved to Oakington 20 years ago to support Helen, who was expecting William, their first grandchild. Arthur enjoyed working in the Theatres at Cambridge Lea hospital (Spire), until retiring at 75.



**Dennis** Christian, who is **80** this year, moved to Oakington in 1978, buying one of the newly built bungalows on Coles Lane. He met his wife Carol when they were 13, on the school bus to Cherry Hinton. They married in 1964 in St Barnabas Church on Mill Road, Cambridge, where Carol used to live. Although blessed with grandchildren, their son Stephen tragically died when only 48 after a four-year battle with cancer. Following retirement from the Police force, Dennis worked for a further twelve years with the British Heart Foundation.



**Alan** Neech, **80** this year and born in Chesterton, celebrated his golden wedding anniversary last year. He was married in September 1972 to Linda, having got to know his future wife on a Youth Club trip to Southend. However, their plans to move into a new build in Oakington, also in 1972, had a major setback when the builder died. After battling with the inevitable bureaucracy and price rises, they eventually managed to fulfil their original plans, moving in in 1973. Their three children live locally.



Many of you will know **Richard** Brading (Alan's cousin), also **80** this year, due to his involvement in so many village activities. He worked for 36 years at St Bede's Inter-Church School and for 45 years was a Duke of Edinburgh Awards leader, taking out groups to achieve their bronze, silver and gold awards. Richard's faith in Jesus became more real to him after moving to Church View in 1982. Although Richard had known his present wife Joy for a while, they finally got together following a friend's party and then married in 2012. Joy has two sons in Bristol while two of Richard's sons live locally and a third in Melbourne, Australia. Between them they have eight grandchildren.



Born in Liverpool, **Philip** Turner, who also turns **90** this summer, was a sales representative and an enthusiastic sailor with his own boat. He moved from Manchester to Oakington in 2011 to be near his younger sister Marion, who moved here in 1982. Sadly Marion's husband died in 2018 and Evi, who had helped with his care, then became one of the nurses who currently care for Philip, who is now in the advanced stages of Huntington's.



**Lesley** Guy, who turns **80**, and her husband Shane moved to Oakington in 2006, as Shane's godmother and some of their friends were here. It was also a lot more convenient for visiting their two sons and grandchildren than their former home on the other side of London. Lesley's parents were missionaries in what was then the Belgian Congo, where she was born, but from the age of seven she was schooled in England. She was first spotted by Shane at the Royal London Hospital's Christmas Ball (when she was a trainee nurse) and the following romance led to marriage in 1964.



*Graham Tregonning*



## **FULL GOLF MEMBERSHIP**

**13 MONTHS  
FOR THE  
PRICE OF  
12**

Sign up for membership with  
Girton Golf Club and enjoy 13  
months golf for the price of 12  
(Full membership only)

## **Full Membership £975.00 (plus joining fee)**

(Full details available on request, plus finance available subject to status)

**Other membership categories available,  
so visit our website [www.girtongolf.co.uk](http://www.girtongolf.co.uk)**

**CURRENTLY NO WAITING LIST**

For more information contact [office@girtongolf.co.uk](mailto:office@girtongolf.co.uk), telephone the  
office on 01223 276169 or visit our website [www.girtongolf.co.uk](http://www.girtongolf.co.uk)  
Girton Golf Club, Dodford Lane, Girton, Cambridge, CB3 0QE  
Quote: 2023/13 and get the joining fee for free



## Local Fauna

### What do hedgehogs eat?

Most gardeners rejoice in the fact that hedgehogs eat slugs. But do we know what else they eat? Recent research suggests that beetles, earthworms and caterpillars of moths and butterflies also share a fair proportion of their diets and that the proportion for slugs is only about 23%. It seems the favoured prey also changes according to time of year. The



proportion of caterpillars consumed increases in late summer and early autumn, because of greater availability and because they help in the build-up of fat reserves in hedgehogs ahead of hibernation.

(Source: Richard Fox, Butterfly Conservation May 2023)

### Warts and scales

Birds and mammals (feathery and fluffy things) tend to get all the press. But, beneath our feet (often literally) is a fascinating group of organisms that receive much less attention – amphibians and reptiles. I was lucky enough to visit RSPB Minsmere on the Suffolk coast during the early May Bank Holiday and was privileged to witness two male adders wrestling over a female, just like on BBC's "Wild Isles" a few weeks ago. There were five adders in this small area alone and between me and the rest of the family, we found ten during the day, some no more than half a metre from our exposed ankles along sun-drenched paths! Their beautiful zig-zag patterning made them especially hard to spot among the bracken areas, but once you had your eye in, they were everywhere! Adders are remarkable for many reasons, not least in being the only venomous snake in the UK.

Unlike grass snakes (which can be a regular sighting for anyone curious enough to lift up a fallen road sign along the



Longstanton Road), they give birth to live young. Our common lizards (with populations along the same road, plus along the busway) do the same. In fact, it is reckoned that *viviparity* (giving birth to live young, versus laying eggs or *oviparity*) has evolved

over 100 times in the course of the evolution of reptiles. But no bird group has ever managed it; why? I was asked that question in an exam once; I won't repeat my answer now.

As well as lizards and grass snakes, Oakington is also home to at least four species of amphibian. I have smooth newts in our pond at home, and great crested newts are in the village (and, I am pleased to say, duckweed free) pond. I have observed toads at various places (and, so I am told, there used to be a mass migration event along the Longstanton Road) and we have had, from time to time, frogs in our garden. If you have records of reptiles or amphibians from the village, do let me know what, where and when.



All reptiles and amphibians benefit from 'untidiness'. Whilst the PlantLife campaign of "No Mow May" may be mostly directed at pollinators and the things they pollinate, reptiles and amphibians are also likely to benefit from a bit of untidy grass or verge. If you can bear it, why not extend "No Mow May" to "No Mow Summer"?

James Heywood & John Terry  
jjnh002@gmail.com & johnterry23@hotmail.co.uk





### Oakington Retirement Community Progress

Our four key aims are:

1. a Retirement Community located geographically **within the Oakington & Westwick Parish**;
2. with a **wide range of care** support from sheltered accommodation through to 24/7 care;
3. in a **park setting**, ideally with a lake;
4. with a **strong connection with the wider village community**, by including a community centre including a village hall, craft and hobby facilities etc.

It is taking a long time, over four years to date, but there is at last some progress. We have explored a site inside Oakington and a field in Westwick, which I reported on last year. After some £40,000 of investment in the Westwick site, our hopes for this site fell away when our developer decided the field was too small to warrant the significant investment required to win planning permission.

The third site was the field next to the business park when we learnt that Homes England had bought it. The village's Flood Mitigation Group had previously identified this as the best place for the Northstowe attenuation pond.

Two years ago, I suggested that our ORC might build the park and the amenity lake it wanted, but to build that lake so that it would operate also as this attenuation pond. Well, time ticked away, and despite much lobbying we could not get Homes England to talk to us. Then in January this year, suddenly, Homes England said they were ready to talk.

Several meetings later, Homes England have now definitely agreed to discuss the idea of combining the ORC and the attenuation pond. The drawing below illustrates what is now under discussion.

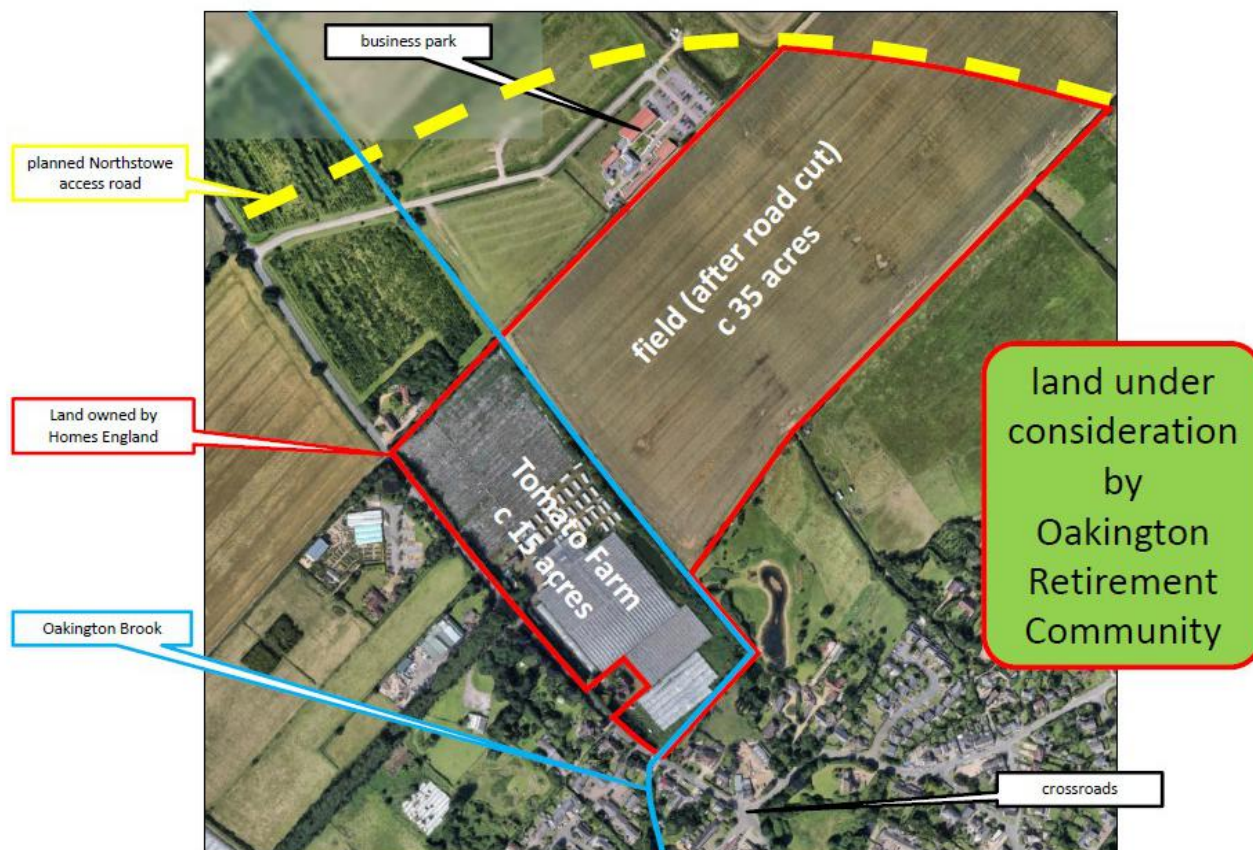
Homes England has invited the ORC to consider using both this field together with the Tomato Farm, with the Tomato Farm land becoming available for housing by using lake spoil to raise it above flood risk. Further investigations are required to ensure that lifting the tomato farm land will provide a safe development platform for new development and won't compromise the wider flood alleviation measures for Oakington. Our developer is Hyde Housing, who have embraced our ORC vision and will lead the planning permission process. The Hyde Group is a not-for-profit organisation and one of the UK's leading providers of affordable housing.

Next steps include:

- Homes England are pursuing the Environmental Agency for flood modelling data
- We will develop our ideas for the ORC and the attenuation pond on these 50 acres; explore how the ORC, Homes England and Hyde Housing will partner in this venture; update our website to reflect this progress; re-start our work with the ORC support group to engage with the local community; incorporate the ORC as a Charity.

If you would like further information or to register your interest, please email me: [geoffrey@thebutlins.net](mailto:geoffrey@thebutlins.net).

*Geoffrey Butlin*





## Book Club

*How To Kill Your Family* by Bella Mackie

This is a darkly funny novel that explores the life of Grace who was raised with very little but by a loving mum. She is coming to terms with the rejection by her very wealthy father and his very wealthy family. After her mother's death when she is a young teenager, she realises exactly the depth of his neglect and begins to contemplate the unthinkable – killing him and the family, all seven of them.

I loved Grace's sharp wit, her social observations from the entitlement of the rich, the smugness of the middle class to the harshness of brutal poverty. She has a sharp eye for class, fashion and the nuances of social norms. The plot thickens when she's convicted of a murder but one that she has not committed, throwing homicidal plans into disarray. The characters are excellent; I don't think the story ever becomes too macabre or depressing.

*Maria Varallo*

June's book is *Amy My Daughter* by Mitch Winehouse. You are welcome to join: contact Maria on 07974 952724.



## Podcast Review

During a sleepless night during lockdown, I stumbled across a BBC World Service broadcast of 'Science in Action'. The presenter was discussing the latest research on virus variants with the lead scientist of a recently published paper in a top medical journal. Since then, I have become a weekly follower of the programme. It is not only the content, but also the format that makes me a regular listener of this 30-minute programme. Usually three of the latest advances in science, nature or technology are discussed. For me, what sets this programme apart is the presenter, Roland Pease: he has a captivating manner with the talent to summarise and question the lead author in a deceptively simple way on the meaning and consequences of their work. Invariably the scientist will comment, 'That is a very good question', which leads to an insightful answer.

*Hugh Corr*



## Chess Corner

Solution to chess puzzle 2-23 from last Journal:

White	Black	White
b2-b3;	if Ke6-d5	Qh4-c4#
	if e5-e4	Qh4xe4#
	if d6-d5	Qh4-f6#

x capturing a piece # checkmate

Chess puzzle 3-23.

White to checkmate in two moves.

*Ranko Pinter*





**U3AC**  
Inspiring, Educational, Sociable.

**OPEN DAY!**

Thursday 6 July 10am-1pm  
27-28 Bridge Street, Cambridge  
CB2 1UJ





- Retired or semi-retired?
- Want to explore new ideas, skills and interests and meet new people?
- Come meet the tutors and pick up a programme
- Choose from over 300 educational, social and leisure day-time activities in and around Cambridge.

27-28 Bridge Street, Cambridge, CB2 1UJ

Telephone: 01223 321587

Registered Charity No: 1180769

**Join us today**

[www.u3ac.org.uk](http://www.u3ac.org.uk)

## U3AC Open Day

"No exams, no pressure—just learning and enjoying an activity for fun!" That's why I joined U3AC, says Tim Ewbank, Chairman of the educational charity based in Cambridge.

If you're retired or semi-retired and looking for structure to your week and want to stay mentally and physically active, then come along to the U3AC Open Day (see above).

Run by its members for its members, U3AC offers over 300 courses and leisure activities for over 2,000 retired and semi-retired members in and around Cambridge. Established in 1982 as an independent educational charity, U3AC's courses cover traditional subjects, such as history and languages; leisure pursuits like bridge and board games; and physical activities including walking and dance.

At the Open Day you'll meet a selection of tutors, take a tour of the classrooms, pick up a courses and activities Programme and find out what U3AC has to offer. You'll also hear from U3AC's Mainly Madrigals singing group as you enjoy free refreshments. U3AC's course programme follows an academic cycle, with three terms, starting in October. However, new members can join at any time.

In addition to courses, U3AC offers a weekly lecture series and social events throughout the year, which brings members together and offers the chance to meet more like-minded people. Members also congregate over coffee in the Bridge Street premises in central Cambridge.

*Rebecca Birkett-Smith, U3AC*

### 1<sup>st</sup> Oakington Beaver Scouts needs you!



1st Oakington Beavers meet term time on Monday evenings from 6–7.15 pm at the Oakington Pavilion.

As a Beaver Scout Leader for seven years, I have seen first-hand the impact that scouting can have on young people. It is a place where they can learn new skills, make new friends, and develop confidence in themselves and their abilities. But to continue providing this amazing experience to our young Beavers, we need your help.

We are currently in need of new volunteers to join our team as Beaver Scout Leaders. Being a Beaver Leader is a rewarding experience, and it doesn't require any prior scouting knowledge. We provide all the training and support necessary to help you become a confident and effective leader.

As a volunteer, you have a unique perspective on the needs and interests of our Beavers, and we would be honoured to have you join us. Whether you can commit to helping every week (we do have a rota so not all leaders are required every



week but are always welcome to come) or just a few times a month, your contribution will make a significant difference in the lives of our young scouts.

Volunteering as a Beaver Leader is not only an opportunity to give back to your community, but it is also a chance to gain valuable skills and experience that can benefit you in other areas of your life. You will be part of a friendly and supportive team that values your time and effort.



If you are interested in becoming a Beaver Scout Leader, please reach out to any member of our leadership team on [beavers@oakingtonscouts.org](mailto:beavers@oakingtonscouts.org)

We would be happy to provide more information and answer any questions you may have. Thank you for considering this opportunity, and we look forward to hearing from you soon.



*Emma Stannard,  
Queen bee,  
Beaver Scout Leader  
1st Oakington Beaver  
Scouts*

### My Volunteering

I started volunteering when I first moved to Oakington in 1990, delivering Meals on Wheels to local residents. I then started working full-time and, with my children still at school, I had no time to do anything, but as the children grew up, I thought about volunteering again.

A couple of years before retiring I attended some meetings at Camsight, a local Charity supporting people with low vision and blindness. They made me realise what a huge demand for volunteers exists. From then on, I never stopped. At first, I was part of a visiting scheme for Camsight and went to see two ladies in their homes and helped them with their day to day lives, reading the papers or books for them, chatting, taking them out shopping or on an afternoon outing. Gradually, I realised that I enjoyed the weekly visits just as much as the older ladies I was visiting.

At one point, AgeUk needed someone to befriend an elderly lady who only spoke Italian, so Camsight “lent” me to

AgeUk. Those visits were so rewarding for me as well as for the lady. We had lovely chats about Italy, Italian literature and art in Italian and we even cooked pasta and risotto together.

*(Continued on Page 23)*



Paola at Cherry Trees



(Continued from page 22)

By this time I was retired and wanting to do more and after an interview I became a volunteer at Cherry Trees, the AgeUK Day Centre in Cambridge. They operate three days a week from 10–2.30 pm, and they host up to ten people a day with three people running the activities. We help to make their day feel less lonely, chatting to them, making them a drink, organising and delivering quizzes and games, serving them lunch, and doing some very light physical exercise. They have a chance to meet each other regularly and have a different day. They all refer to it as their "club".

Over the years we have taken the service users to various outings including a wonderful visit to Duxford where we had Doug, one of the few remaining D-Day veterans, with us. The staff at Duxford there made such a fuss of him and wanted to take pictures with him as he was possibly the last man who landed in Normandy on D-Day they would ever meet. An unforgettable day!

The majority of people at Cherry Trees have some form of Dementia and sometimes it is very difficult to deal with their needs and difficulties. Having a good sense of humour helps especially when you've known them for years and then after you take them for a nice outing and entertained

them for a day, on the return to the Day Centre, they look at you and say: "Thank you so much ... what's your name? ... Have I met you before?"

I love doing what I do and it is rewarding in so many ways; I have made some really good friends there. I hope my volunteering brightens their day – it certainly lights up mine! I never knew my grandmothers, both my grandfathers died when I was young and my parents also died relatively young, so this connection with lots of lovely 'older' people has made me have an insight into older age. Someone cynically, but perhaps accurately, has hinted that I am only doing it as to keep my seat warm for when I need it. I couldn't think of a better place for me to be!!!



If you are interested in volunteering please contact Ally at AgeUK:  
[Allyson.Bennett@ageukcap.org.uk](mailto:Allyson.Bennett@ageukcap.org.uk)



Paola Moore

## Switch to Solar with Confidence

Take control of your energy costs and reduce your carbon footprint with solar energy.



### Our expert team guarantees:

- ✓ Specialist roofing skills and building compliance expertise
- ✓ Premium, market-leading products for maximum energy efficiency
- ✓ A 25-year long panel warranty to protect your investment
- ✓ Honest energy calculators to ensure transparency and accuracy
- ✓ Clear and effective communication throughout the process

Switch to solar with confidence and contact us today to schedule your service.

CALL US NOW

01223-782416

[info@roofing-cambridge.co.uk](mailto:info@roofing-cambridge.co.uk)

[www.roofing-cambridge.co.uk](http://www.roofing-cambridge.co.uk)

18 Pembroke Avenue, Waterbeach, Cambridge CB25 9QP  
Registered in England and Wales Company No. 09236628 VAT Reg. No. 200035782

Lots of fun for all the family, from Noon until Late

Adults  
**£1**

**Free  
Entry**  
for Child  
under 16

# Oakington Village Day

**24<sup>th</sup> June  
2023**



**Activities**

**Food & Drink**

**Fabulous Raffle Prizes**

**Entertainment**

**Giant Bouncy Castle, Helter-Skelter  
& Bungee Trampoline**



**The Recreation Ground, Queens Way, Oakington**