

Oakington & Westwick

August / September 2026

Journal

Potholes in Parliament
Marvellous Minibus
Signs of the Past
Plastic Pickers
Moth Menace



What's On

Weekly

Mon		Monday Cafe , 10–noon. Church Hall, £1. Liz Davis – 01223 232745
Mon		Youth Club , on a Bus, 7–9pm. Recreation Ground, School Year 7 and above. Free. 07853 795256
Mon		Oakington Singers , 7.30–9pm. Church Hall. Elaine Bailey – elainebailey1@live.co.uk
Tue		Senior Pilates , 11.30–12.30pm. Pavilion. Classes throughout the week. Claire Young – 07766 554413
Tue		Cubs , 6–7.15pm. Term time. Pavilion. Richard Young – richard.young@crafthillscouts.org.uk
Tue		Table Tennis , 7.30–9pm. Pavilion. Gillian L'Angellier – 01223 234758
Tue		Poker Night , 7.45pm. White Horse Pub. 01223 232417
Wed		Mixed Ability Pilates , 10–11am. Pavilion. Classes throughout the week. Claire Young – 07766 554413
Wed		Yoga , 7–8.15pm. Pavilion. Denise Sibley-Moore – 01954 202235
Thu		Mature Movers , 10–10.45am. Pavilion. Katie Harknett – 07541 721059 / info@elemental-fitness.co.uk
Thu		Little Steps playgroup, 10–11.30am. Term time. Church Hall. littlestepsoakington@gmail.com
Thu		Short Mat Bowls , 7.30–9.30pm. Pavilion. Dawn Stokes – 01223 236427
Thu		Quiz Night , 8pm. White Horse Pub. 01223 232417
Thu		Squirrels , 5–6pm. Term time. Ages 4–6. Oakington Primary School – nikki.henrywood@oakingtonscouts.org.uk
Fri		Beavers , 6–7pm. Term time. Ages 6–8. Oakington Primary School – beavers@oakingtonscouts.org.uk
Fri		Scouts , 6–7.30pm. Term time. Ages 11–14. Pavilion. Cara Hanman – cara.hanman@oakingtonscouts.org.uk
Sun		St. Andrew's Church , 10am & 5pm. Regular Sunday Services. www.standrewsoakington.co.uk
Sun		Oakington Baptist Chapel , 10.30am & 6pm. Regular Sunday Services. www.oakingtonbaptist.org.uk
Sat	1 Aug	Village Walk & Talk , 10.30am. Meet by Church on High Street. Alice J – OWNeighbours@gmail.com
Fri	7 Aug	Mobile Library , 1.50–2.20pm. Coles Lane.
Fri	7 Aug	Minibus to Bar Hill , 10am. To book ring Teri Seaber – 07711 5310044
Sat	8 Aug	Messy Church , 3–5pm. Church Hall. Cate Lambert – catelambert@hotmail.co.uk or 07533 152519
Thu	13 Aug	Chess Club , 7pm. Interested in joining? Contact Ranko Pinter – ranpin@gmail.com or 07766 052025
Sat	15 Aug	Tree Guard Litter-pick , 10–11.30am. Centenary Wood. All Welcome. sustainableow@gmail.com
Tue	18 Aug	WI Craft Club , 7.30pm. White Horse pub. Visitors £5. Elaine Bailey – elainebailey1@live.co.uk
Thu	20 Aug	Philosopher's Café , 7pm. Interested in joining? Contact Ranko Pinter – ranpin@gmail.com or 07766 052025
Thu	27 Aug	Board Games Club , 7.30pm. Interested in joining? Contact oakingtongames@gmail.com
Fri	4 Sep	Minibus to Bar Hill , 10am. To book ring Teri Seaber – 07711 531004
Fri	4 Sep	Mobile Library , 1.50–2.20pm. Coles Lane.
Sat	5 Sep	Village Walk & Talk , 10.30am. Meet by Church on High Street. Alice J – OWNeighbours@gmail.com
Sat	5 Sep	Yard Sale , 10am–2pm. Around the village in aid of PSA. To register, see poster on page 24.
Sat	5 Sep	WI Cake Sale , 10am–noon. At the Village sign, High Street. Elaine Bailey – elainebailey1@live.co.uk
Sun	6 Sep	Lakeside Jazz & Tea , 3–5pm. 9A Longstanton Road. See poster on page 24. OWNeighbours@gmail.com
Tue	8 Sep	Tuesday Talk & Tea , 2.45pm. Church Hall. Meeting to discuss future viability. Marian Cleaver – 01223 232897
Wed	9 Sep	Sustainable O&W , 7.30pm. Check sustainableow.co.uk for details. sustainableow@gmail.com
Thu	10 Sep	Chess Club , 7pm. Interested in joining? Contact Ranko Pinter – ranpin@gmail.com or 07766 052025
Thu	10 Sep	O&W WI , 7.30pm. Church Hall. "Gambian Adventure". Elaine Bailey – elainebailey1@live.co.uk
Sat	12 Sep	Messy Church , 3–5pm. Church Hall. Cate Lambert – catelambert@hotmail.co.uk or 07533 152519
Mon	14 Sep	O&W Parish Council Meeting , 7.30pm. Pavilion. All invited. clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk
Tue	15 Sep	WI Craft Club , 7.30pm. White Horse pub. Visitors £5. Elaine Bailey – elainebailey1@live.co.uk
Thu	17 Sep	Philosopher's Café , 7pm. Interested in joining? Contact Ranko Pinter – ranpin@gmail.com or 07766 052025
Fri	18 Sep	Country Dancing , 8–10pm. Histon Methodist Church. Kathryn Coles – 01223 233191
Thu	24 Sep	Board Games Club , 7.30pm. Interested in joining? Contact oakingtongames@gmail.com

Bonfire Night is Back!

7 November 2026

The Community Association is supporting the Fireworks Team to make the arrangements, as reported in the last issue. Bee Brennand will build and tend the bonfire, as previously, and two new team members are going to do the fireworks training. The Scouts will run the barbecue and the PSA will serve mulled wine and chocolate brownies etc.

Please get in touch if you'd like to help that weekend with setting and clearing up, selling tickets or if you have any other ideas.

Jo Mills and the Community Association
bjomills@outlook.com

BIN DAYS

Fri 14 Aug, Fri 28 Aug, Fri 11 Sep, Fri 25 Sep.	Black bins
Fri 7 Aug, Fri 21 Aug, Fri 4 Sep, Fri 18 Sep.	Blue & 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.

Welcome, “Why I love...” & Journal Delivery Retiree

Three heatwaves into the year already, it's not surprising that staying cool is a bit of a theme in this edition of the Journal. The preschoolers have splashed their feet in trays of water, at the Primary School pupils have been enjoying the shade of the Forest School area, and on a hot Village Day, iced coffee, cider and ice-creams all went down well!

Some love the scorching weather, relaxing with a beer and saving the expense of a holiday abroad. But for many people, extreme heat is uncomfortable and even dangerous – check Paul Kershaw's tips on page 17 if the heat continues.

In the cool of the morning or evening, there's a fresh incentive to stroll the village streets: new heritage boards revealing the history behind the places around us. On page 23 read how you can get involved in digging into the past.

After a quiet August, September brings the restarting of regular groups, and a weekend of cakes, music and roadside bargains!

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:
Graham Tregonning & Jenny Prince (editors), Tina Daniels (assistant editor), Ela Yates (business manager), Adrienne Chaplin (distribution), Ranko Pinter (chair).

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

**DEADLINE FOR
OCT/NOV 2026 ISSUE:
6pm Tuesday 15 September**

To advertise in the Journal,
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oakwestjournal@gmail.com

Advert costs	Single	1 year*
Business card	£21	£84
¼ page (portrait)	£33	£132
½ page (landscape)	£63	£252

* Six for the price of four

Adverts for the next issue must
be received by **8 September**.

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

Why I love... the monthly minibus to Tesco

“I love it because people are so kind: they take the shopping to your door. I haven't got a car any more, so I appreciate it even more. I'm really happy with the whole service.”– Shirley

“For a start, I just like being out! And the fact that they come and collect me at my front door is absolutely marvellous. I can wander round Tesco's; if I had to, I could go to the other shops. Once a month, I look forward to my Tesco's trip!”– Hetty

“I don't do a lot in Tesco's but I like coming up here for the ride and seeing one or two different people. It's very nice and handy for me. It means I don't have to get two buses. I'm really, really pleased with it, and I like coming with you.”–Eileen

“The minibus to Tesco's in Bar Hill is a special free service just for our village. It goes once a month and is open to anyone. So instead of taking your car join us (save your petrol or diesel) as the minibus is going anyway. We have about an hour and a half for shopping - or just go for a cooked breakfast and coffee as some do. You'll be back home for lunch. Thank you to the drivers who volunteer to keep the service going.”

Maria Varallo



Thank you, Joan!

One of the longest-standing members of the Journal delivery team, Joan King, is retiring after around 35 years bringing news to the village.

Elisabeth Dennis started the village newsletter as a two-sided photocopied A4 sheet in 1991. Joan was one of the first deliverers, alongside Sue Guy, Sheila Rogers, the Bates family, Lynda Fentiman and Di Wisbey. As well as putting the newsletter, and then the Journal, as it became, through letterboxes in Coles Lane and Croft Lane, Joan has also delivered the church magazine.

If you would like to take her place with the Journal as she enjoys her well-earned retirement, please get in touch with us. (Details opposite).

The earliest edition we have of the original village newsletter is May/June 1996 – if you have any copies from the 90s, we would love to see them.

Editors





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findmyplacecoaching@gmail.com

Parish Councillors

Chair: Tom Westcott
cllr.westcott@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk

Vice-Chair: Stephen Moore
John Bailey Julie Grove
Ranko Pinter Linda Wellard
May Wheeler Tony Starling
Daniel O'Donovan

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: 07903 295860

District Councillors

O & W, Longstanton, Northstowe
Natalie Warren-Green – 07990 553997
Lead Cabinet Member for Environment
cllr.warrengreen@scambs.gov.uk
Sunita Hansraj – 07359 424251
cllr.hansraj@scambs.gov.uk

County Councillor

O & W, Longstanton, Northstowe, Over
Luis Navarro – 07817 211960
luis.navarro@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
On Facebook:
longstantonoakingtonnorthstowe

Member of Parliament

St Neots and Mid Cambridgeshire
Ian Sollom
ian.sollom.mp@parliament.uk
www.iansollom.org Facebook: IanFSollom

VILLAGE INFORMATION

Community Association

oakington.westwick.ca@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 Jo on 07714 760582, Bee on
07718 068941, Celine on 07541 997299
or *oak.west.hardship.fund@outlook.com*

From our Parish Council

Former PC Chair. We were saddened to learn of the passing of former Parish Council Chairman, Alan Milton, in June. Alan served on the Parish Council for 24 years, retiring in May 2010 after many years of dedicated service to the village. He was perhaps best known locally for the spectacular Christmas lights display at his bungalow in Coles Lane, which delighted residents and visitors alike while raising more than £40,000 for the MAGPAS Air Ambulance over a remarkable 30-year period. The Parish Council extends its sincere condolences to Alan's son, John, and to all who knew him.

Village Information Boards. You may have noticed that three more information boards have appeared in the village. These beautifully designed boards provide information on the history of this village and the people who lived here before us. For those who want additional information, there are QR codes on the boards which will provide you with greater detail. There is a fourth board ready to go up on Stocks Green, but the roots of the London Plane tree, electric underground cables and the hot weather defeated the small group of volunteers who erected the boards. Expect it to pop up soon!

The boards were the initiative of the Environment Action Group, supported and funded by the Parish Council. There were a number of individuals involved in devising, creating and manufacturing the boards, but the contributions of Edgar Stearn, Stephanie Smith and Chas Ashford-Hodges of Chameleon Studios were particularly noteworthy. Edgar built the boards, Stephanie researched and wrote the information and Chas produced a brilliant, clear design.

Cambridge 25 Warehouse Development. The outline planning application for the proposed development on land off the A1307, between Oakington and Bar Hill, has now been submitted. The public consultation is open until Friday 14 August.

We are currently reviewing the 90 planning documents that accompany the application. This is a substantial amount of information, and we are carefully examining every document to ensure that we fully understand the proposals and identify any potential impacts on our parish. From what we have learned so far, we have grave concerns!

At its July meeting, we agreed to submit a proposal highlighting alternative rail-served/multi-modal site locations for the development. Details of the proposals can be found on the Parish Council website within the 13 July 2026 Meeting Papers.

Residents are encouraged to take part in the consultation. Your comments are important and will help ensure that local views are taken into account as the application is considered. The outline planning application can be viewed online at: *applications.greatercambridgeplanning.org/online-applications/PLAN/26/02534/OUT*

Finally, a polite request to residents. Now that the bird nesting season is coming to an end, we would like to ask homeowners to please cut back any hedges, shrubs and other vegetation that are overhanging or encroaching onto pavements and roads. In some areas, overgrown vegetation has significantly reduced the width of footpaths, making them difficult to use safely, particularly for pedestrians with pushchairs, wheelchair users and those with mobility aids.

One area of particular concern is Dry Drayton Road, between the crossroads and the garden centre, where the narrowed footpath means pedestrians are often uncomfortably close to passing traffic, including heavy goods vehicles.

Laura Lawrence, Clerk

From our District Councillors

As we head into autumn, we want to say a big thank you for the wonderful community spirit shown across Oakington & Westwick during this summer's heatwave. It's been brilliant to see neighbours looking out for one another, showing care and wellbeing. Amongst other things, we've worked in the community supporting residents to arrange assisted bin collections for the elderly, to manage Council Tax enquiries, to understand concerns and support with situations related to local road usage and road bumps, and to keep abreast of developments in Northstowe and responses to the local plan related to greenbelt and nature protection concerns. We are also involved in responses to the thinking about the potential for a logistics park to be developed in the area, as captured in the local plan. Please do keep contacting us for support with anything of concern, and we will get help from officers at SCDC to ensure you have a voice with the right people and can be supported.

New Community Pantry Grant. Local groups can apply for up to £400 to set up a community pantry – a simple, volunteer-run space offering free food and essentials. It's part of a wider £449,000 cost-of-living support package. Visit www.scams.gov.uk/community-pantry-grant to apply.

Mobile Wardens. The Council is encouraging more residents to make use of the Mobile Warden Schemes which it helps to fund and has created a new video that highlights the benefits: www.youtube.com/watch?v=KQY7cH5Vzko. Mobile wardens help people live independently, safely, and happily in their own homes.

Overflowing Bins. Overflowing public bins have been a concern, especially in the heat. Different locations have different bin owners – for example, Greenbelt, Housing Associations, and the Council. It can get confusing! Do let us know if you need any help identifying owners of bins you are concerned about.

Award-winning Northstowe Unity Centre.
Congratulations to all involved in consultations as

Northstowe grows — the Unity Centre has won five awards, including Best Low Carbon Building and the People's Choice Award at the EastProp Awards. Thanks to everyone who took part in the consultation that helped shape this building, and to those residents in Oakington & Westwick who are using the building already. It's good to see the communities mixing.

Northstowe Phase 3B consultation. Thanks to everyone who came along to Vistry's public consultation at the Unity Centre in July. We also went along to get briefed on this by the developer. Phase 3B is not local to Oakington; it is nearer Longstanton. However you may be interested to know that it will include up to 1,000 new homes, a local centre with a primary school and community building, several play areas, and plenty of green open space. Vistry is keen to keep hearing your views and ours as the town develops.

Housing growth ("DevCo"). The Government has announced plans for a large new Development Corporation covering Greater Cambridge, which could significantly increase housebuilding targets. Council Leader Bridget Smith has raised concerns this could reduce local control over planning and put pressure on greenbelt land. We're pushing government for fairer thresholds and a focus on fixing local infrastructure – water, power, healthcare, education and transport.

Local Government Reorganisation. Plans to reorganise local government across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough are progressing. The government has informed SCDC that we will be told their decision on the geography of the Unitary councils across Cambridgeshire in October 2026. The first elections for Unitary Councillors will be in May 2027, leading up to a new unitary authority expected to be fully up and running by April 2028.



Cllr Sunita Hansraj & Cllr Natalie Warren-Green

From our MP

Update: Potholes and subsidence in Cambridgeshire roads. Cambridgeshire had the worst pothole problem in England and Wales in 2024 with over 22 potholes per mile. A significant amount of the vital funding allocated to improve our roads is swallowed up by the high cost of maintaining peat-affected roads across our fenland areas.

Earlier this year, I pressed the Transport Secretary to adjust the roads funding formula to take into account the unique geology of our area. Since then, I have submitted multiple Written Parliamentary Questions and a letter which all produced the same response: That the Government will be reviewing the funding formula, but it would not provide any further details of options or approach.

I am therefore pleased that a recent joint letter to the Transport Secretary from Charlotte Cane MP, Pippa Heylings MP and me produced a much more encouraging response that now states "the Department expects to

consider underlying geology as one of the many factors that affect the wear and tear of local roads."

This is a clear step forward. I will be watching closely as the Government develops proposals for changes to the highways maintenance funding formula, and I will continue pressing for a fair deal that recognises Cambridgeshire's unique needs.

Oakington Garden Centre – congratulations!

Congratulations to Oakington Garden Centre – where the café is a firm favourite of mine – who have been awarded 'most improved garden centre' in the East of England by the Garden Centre Association, as well as a number of other awards for their work. It's great to have such expert and innovative family businesses in our area, and even better that their work is being recognised more widely. I very much look forward to visiting and passing on my congratulations in person soon.



Ian Sollom MP

From our County Councillor

Local Government Reorganisation. The Government has informed local councils that it has not yet reached a final decision on Local Government Reorganisation for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

While this is disappointing, given the considerable work undertaken by councils across the area, discussions and joint planning between the seven councils will continue as preparations are made for future changes. For residents, the most important message is that there are currently no changes to council services. All existing services will continue to be delivered as normal while councils await further guidance and a final decision from Government.

Highways & Transport. The County Council has agreed an extension of its highways maintenance contract with M Group until June 2030, with a focus on improving value for money, quality and accountability.

Locally, I continue to follow up on several priorities. Preparations are underway to clear the silt and watercourse beneath the Cambridge Road bridge, with works expected to be completed later this year. This should help improve water flow and reduce future maintenance concerns.

I am also making the case for resurfacing the High Street as part of the final highways capital programme before Local Government Reorganisation. Competition for highways funding remains extremely high across the county, but I continue to press for investment in our area and highlight the condition of the road.

In addition, highways officers are progressing their assessment of proposed traffic-calming measures on Cambridge Road. I know many residents remain concerned about vehicle speeds and road safety, and I will continue to support measures that make our roads safer for all users.

Protecting Our Environment. At Full Council on 14 July 2026, councillors approved a motion to strengthen research into the impact of road run-off on Cambridgeshire's rivers, wetlands, drains and watercourses.

Road pollution can have a significant impact on water quality, particularly in a county such as Cambridgeshire where our landscape is closely connected through drains, ditches, rivers and wetlands. The motion supports the delivery of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy by improving the evidence base for tackling pollution and exploring nature-based solutions that can help protect and restore our unique fenland environment.

Balancing environmental protection with sustainable growth is one of the key challenges facing Cambridgeshire, and I was pleased to support measures that will help us better understand and address these issues.

I will continue to keep residents updated as these projects and initiatives progress.



Cllr Luis Navarro

Contact details for MP and all Councillors are on page 5.

Oakington Cottontails Preschool



We can't quite believe we have come to the end of the summer term already and this also marks the end of the first year of Oakington Cottontails Preschool. We have loved every minute of the year since we opened last September and are so proud of the little preschool community we have created.

The summer term has been filled with lots of fun and learning. We discovered we had an elderflower bush in the preschool garden, so we collected the flowers and made our own cordial; it was delicious!

We've also been enjoying gardening in general; planting new flowers, weeding and keeping the beds tidy. We were very kindly gifted some beetroot and courgette plants which we have been looking forward to gaining crops from.

Our Rising Fives have been learning about healthy eating and about how to keep our teeth healthy. They've also been having some PE lessons which involved moving in different ways through obstacle courses, and they had a wonderful visit to the Zoology museum, catching the bus into town.



The Rainbows have been learning about nature; finding out about different insects, doing flower pressing to make flower crowns and making a bug hotel for the preschool garden.

With the recent very hot weather, it's been really important for us to find ways to keep cool, so there's been lots of sprinkler fun (before the hosepipe ban), splashing our feet in trays of water and making ice-lollies.

We are a community interest company, so non-profit-making, and we greatly appreciate any support you can give. Please take a look at our Amazon wish list: [tinyurl.com/4yps7pfr](https://www.amazon.co.uk/?ref=ap_rdr&pf_rd_p=4d4b4b4b-4d4b-4d4b-4d4b-4d4b4b4b4b4b)

We welcome children from the age of two upwards. We accept government funding for 2-, 3- and 4-year olds and we accept the government tax-free childcare scheme towards fees. To apply for a place or for more information, you can visit our website, follow us on social media or get in touch using the contact details below.

Laura Norman & Emma Pell, Oakington Cottontails
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Environment Action Group



Together with Sustainable Oakington and Westwick (SOW) we had a stall at the **Pollination Festival** and the **Village Day** in June. Our stall featured a 'Find the pollinators' game, highlighting the various species of bees (including bumble bees, honeybees, and solitary bees) that are among the most important pollinators in the UK today. Butterflies, moths and flies are also important pollinators, while some (often 'accidental') pollination is also done by wasps and beetles. Our display at the Village Day also included posters of EAG activities and a tank of American signal crayfish as an example of a harmfully invasive species.

In July we held a **thank-you tea** with Pimm's, elderflower and cake for our amazing volunteers who help with everything from footway sweeping to watering the village flower tubs. A lovely afternoon was had by all who were able to attend.

A new milestone in our **Information Boards** project was also reached in July, with the successful installation of three new boards about the history of the village. You can find the new boards on Longstanton Road opposite the village pond (featuring the history and ecology of the pond), on Longstanton Road between Mead View and the shop (featuring the history of the Sheeps Green and Alehouse Green area of the village) and on Water Lane by the village sign (featuring an overview of the history of Oakington). These boards complement the six that we installed three years ago, and a small number of further boards including at Stocks Green, Westwick, and Cambridge Road are in the pipeline. We are very grateful to Chas Ashford-Hodges (Chameleon Studies) for the design work, to Edgar Stearn (Durman Stearn) for building the boards, as well as to the numerous other people who have contributed to this project.



Finally, we have received the good news that Histon and Impington Green Spaces (HIGS) has been successful in securing funding for a project to monitor **water quality in Beck Brook** and its tributaries, including Oakington Brook, and we are looking forward to working with HIGS on this over the coming months.

Stephanie Smith

Oakington & Westwick Neighbours



After being frustrated by the weather twice in recent months, we're going to try again with a Tea and Jazz event on **Sunday 6 September**. It's a lovely afternoon setting with music and cakes, set in an idyllic lakeside location, and the weather definitely owes us a nice afternoon this time! We'd love to see you there to support OWN; see the poster on page 24. We will be raising funds to support the group, which helps out anyone in need in the village, and also to run the monthly minibus trip to Tesco Bar Hill.

We're still here to help out anyone in Oakington and Westwick who needs a friend, a helping hand, or an errand run. Do get in touch with us if we can help.

Phone us on 07902 111786 or email owneighbours@gmail.com.

Matt Saunders

1st Oakington Squirrels

Squirrels have been as busy as ever – we finished off last term with writing our wishes to help keep our pollinators and the planet healthy and making a tree from them! This term has been about going on adventures – our Squirrels voted to walk around Girton and Millennium woods and have voted to go on another walk to end our term. We also had our very first sleepover in June, with seven Squirrels bravely indoor camping in Coton Hall, enjoying hot dogs, a campfire, craft activities and even a trip to the playground in the morning.



We are always looking for keen young leaders and adult helpers; please get in touch if you are interested in helping an amazing bunch of 4–6-year-olds have fun!

Nikki Henrywood

Squirrels

Squirrels (aged 4–6) meet 5pm on term-time Thursdays at Oakington Primary school. If you are interested in joining our waiting list or knowing more, please email nikki.henrywood@oakingtonscouts.org.uk



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Clubs and Groups

Tuesday Talk & Tea



Four members and Rama Ram, wearing her lovely saris after a talk on Indian customs.

Group in Danger of Folding

Tuesday Talk & Tea is a group that met on the second Tuesday afternoon of each month, apart from August. We have had varied programmes of talks and activities designed to please as wide an audience as possible, male and female.

It is with real regret that four of the group of five who have been running the group and providing the tea have had to resign – problems of age or family responsibilities. The group has, therefore, agreed to meet on **8 September** to discuss whether it is possible to continue and if so, what changes might be needed to make it viable.

If you have some good ideas or you are willing to help, please join us at our **make-or-break** meeting.

Marian Cleaver, Retiring Chairperson



The Tuesday Talk and Tea Club has met in the Church Hall at 2.45–4.45pm on the second Tuesday of the month, for a talk or activity followed by a delicious home-made tea. More info: 01223 232897 / marianccleaver@gmail.com.

Oakington & Westwick Table Tennis Group



Table tennis is good for your mental health as well as your physical health – heart rate, reaction times, coordination, muscles and joints. Join us for fun and laughter – we are a small, friendly club, of mixed ability. We play every Tuesday at 7.30pm at the Pavilion, and welcome new players. Bats provided. More info: Gillian L'Angellier – 01223 234758.

Messy Church



Held on the second Saturday of the month, 3–5pm at St Andrew's church hall. All families welcome. Messy Church is doing church differently: a chance for the whole family to spend time together, enjoying craft activities, eating together, celebrating and sharing the gift of God's love. For any further information, contact Cate: catelambert@hotmail.co.uk or 07533 152519.

Oakington & Westwick Short Mat Bowls



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 07526 077494.

Sustainable Oakington & Westwick

On 10 June about twenty of us including EAG members and lots of younger people turned out to collect plastic spiral 'tree' guards in Centenary (aka Millennium) Wood. These have got very old and brittle and are just breaking up and littering the woodland. We collected three builders' bags full which have been taken off for recycling.



There are still lots left so we have set a date for another session: **Saturday 15 August, 10–11.30am**. Everyone is welcome to come along and help! Meet by the entrance to Centenary Wood (just after the little cut-through from the field). Wear old clothes and gloves (the task can include crouching/crawling under trees) and bring a carrier bag and maybe a kneeler.

You're also welcome and encouraged to help count pollinators in and around the villages – the APollOW project. It's not hard, takes 15 minutes, and you can do it as often as you want. All the instructions are on the Nature Recovery Page of our website. Exciting pollinators recently spotted locally have included the Hummingbird Hawk Moth, and Jersey, Scarlet and Garden Tiger Moths. Visitors to the EAG/SOW stalls at the Pollination Festival and the Village Day learned more about pollinators, and made bee hotels.



*Garden Tiger Moth
(photo by Rose)*

Our next regular Wednesday meeting will be 7.30pm on **9 September**; details will be on our website and Oaky Folk. *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 second Wednesday in the month. sustainableow@gmail.com / sustainableow.co.uk



August/September 2026

13



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Clubs and Groups

Oakington and Westwick WI

Our June speaker was Colin Mitchell from SERV Suffolk & Cambridgeshire with his talk entitled "The Blood Runners". SERV is staffed entirely by volunteers on call 24/7. The work they do in partnership with the NHS is outstanding.



We are collecting old phones, iPads and inkjet cartridges to support the Blood Runners. We will be collecting them at our cake stall on the High Street on **5 September**.

Thank you to everyone who supported the WI at Village Day this year. We do appreciate you coming into the pavilion to buy a cup of tea and a cake. This year we added in iced coffee, welcomed in the extreme heat!

Our July meeting was our summer party at a member's beautiful garden. We also had a very pleasant evening at the end of July with a trip on the Cam on the Rosie boat, with a stop for our Captain to collect delicious fish and chips before continuing the cruise.

We continue with our monthly craft nights at the pub. We also have regular walks to interesting places around Cambridge. We have had recent walks between the American War Cemetery and Madingley Hall and a wander round Wandlebury; four-legged friends tagged along!

We would like to invite you to our next meeting on Thursday **10 September** when we have Jacqui Allen coming to talk to us about her Gambian Adventure. Jacqui supports the Lisa Kent Trust; the charity dedicated to providing the children of The Gambia with the education they need for a brighter future. Jacqui will be sharing her story of the two visits she has made to The Gambia and the work of the Trust plus selling beautiful bags made by local people there. Do join us to listen to her inspirational talk. Guests £5.

Elaine Bailey



We meet on the second Thursday of each month at 7.30pm at the Church Hall. We are a friendly group and visitors are welcome at a charge of £5. Contact Elaine Bailey elainebailey1@live.co.uk for more information.

Oakington & Westwick WI
Cakes and Produce Stall
Saturday 5 September
On the High Street at the Village Sign
10am to Noon

Oakington & Westwick Tennis Club

New committee members needed... still!

At the risk of sounding like a broken record, we're still in need of a couple of new committee members for the tennis club! We really are a friendly bunch and it won't require very much of your time at all, so please do volunteer or get in touch if you'd like to chat to one of us, oakingtontc@gmail.com.

Gill Attmore



Club members can use hard courts at the Recreation Ground. 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.

Country Dance Club

Jane and I look forward to welcoming you at the Country Dance Club on **18 September** for another evening of fun, friendship and dancing. We do not meet in August. All abilities are catered for whether you are an expert or beginner as we have a Caller and live music. We hope that you can join us.

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.

1st Oakington Beavers

Our Beavers have been out and about this half term. We visited Cottenham fire station to learn about fire safety, how fire engines work and even had a turn using the hoses! After some evenings on Oakington Rec doing our cyclist badge and practising putting up tents, summer camp this year was at Little Paxton Lakes where we pitched our own tents, had a campfire, walked around the lake and played lots of games. We're looking forward to the end of term with more games and celebrating our friends who are going up to Cubs.



We are currently at capacity, but if your child is interested in joining Beavers in the future, please get in touch.

Nikki Henrywood



Beavers (aged 6–8) meet 6–7pm on term time Fridays at Oakington Primary school.

For more info: Nikki.Henrywood@oakingtonscouts.org.uk.



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How do you get fifty schoolchildren into your back garden?



It isn't too difficult if your garden is more than 4 acres (nearly 2 ha) which includes a large lake. Geoffrey and Irène Butlin invited the children, two teachers, two teaching assistants and parents from Oakington Primary School to their back garden on Thursday afternoon, 2 July. The planned activities included photography, drawing, hide-and-seek and thoughts about water and wildlife. The children were also encouraged to climb trees. A number of hornbeam trees have been planted in the garden, chosen because they tend to branch in a manner that makes them easier to climb. You may know that hornbeams were also included near the 'RAF' seating area near the village recreation ground, as part of the design for improvements to the area. These should be ideal for climbing in a few years' time. Hornbeam is named because of its tough wood; 'horn' meaning hard, and 'beam' being the old English name for tree. Many butchers' chopping blocks are made from hornbeam, so it can tolerate scores of young feet.

Unsurprisingly, the star attraction on 2 July proved to be the American Crayfish. These aliens were imported into the UK in the 1970s for the restaurant trade, but some escaped and now they occupy many inland watercourses in the UK. They endanger our local (white-clawed) crayfish because they are bigger, are more aggressive and can pass on a fungal disease which is fatal to the local species. A licence to catch them meant a few could be trapped from the lake to show them. (This takes 'show and tell' to a new level!) The children were warned of the dangers of these animals, especially their claws, but after they were given good instructions, many grew bold and picked them up carefully, examined them and tested their claws on blades of grass before putting them back in the tank. The crayfish were also part of the EAG display at the Village Day.



I was invited to help with the visit and was amazed and delighted to see the children experience nature at first hand and asking searching questions about the site. The educational opportunities provided by the great outdoors cannot be underestimated and it is



good to learn that the headteacher, Amanda Gibbard, is keen to step up the outdoor learning at Oakington Primary, where children learn in a different way outside the school buildings. Schools with more emphasis on learning outside claim many benefits; it helps with building confidence, critical thinking, problem-solving, social skills and physical health as well as developing a life-time connection with nature.

We'd also like to record thanks to Geoffrey and Irène for the way they are happy to share their land. Many people see land as a resource to provide economic gain through crops, livestock and timber. Here, though, it's shared with wildlife (shouldn't we all see wildlife and humans as equal tenants on our planet?), and with lots of people in our village. They recently hosted a 'Thank you to EAG volunteers' event, and will host the 'Tea and Jazz' on 6 September, to raise money for OWN, as well as sharing it with the school children.

John Terry

Ermine Moth in Village Orchards



Sadly many of the trees in the Recreation Ground orchard and in Leo Jordan's cider orchard have been badly affected by ermine moth larvae. If you have apple trees in your garden you may have been affected too. While they look unsightly, harm the crop and eat quite a lot of the foliage, they don't normally do any lasting damage to the tree.



It is worth looking out for them again next year and, as they tend to congregate in clusters, you can often remove them by cutting away the affected leaves.

Graham Tregonning, Oakington Community Orchards Project Team Co-ordinator

Top Tips for Keeping Cool

Open your windows or doors early morning and evening when the temperature outside is lower than inside.

Keep your windows, doors and curtains or blinds closed during the day.

External shading: anything you can do externally to stop the sun from reaching your window glass and your brick walls will have much more of an effect than closing your curtains. Eg. old sheets, parasols, tailor-made reflectors.

Hang out a damp towel or two in the room you're occupying, to benefit from the evaporative cooling effect.

Fans have a cooling effect when they are directed at you, but none when you have left the room, so turn them off.

To cool down quickly, place a cold wet towel around your neck, behind your knees or at your wrists.

Check on your elderly friends or relatives.



*Paul Kershaw,
Cambridge Retrofit Hub*



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Book Club

The Beginning of Spring by Penelope Fitzgerald

Set in a beautifully rendered 1913 Moscow, it is a deceptively quiet book that rewards patient readers. The story begins with a jolt: British expat Frank Reid's wife suddenly packs her bags and leaves him with three young children.

Yet, rather than traditional drama, Fitzgerald focuses on the quirky minutiae of daily Russian life and brewing political tensions. Her minimalist, elegant prose leaves much unsaid, trusting the reader to fill in the blanks. While the sudden ending lacks a massive payoff, the thawing Russian winter serves as a significant backdrop for Frank's changing world.

It is an intellectually brilliant, well-crafted slice of historical fiction. However, if you prefer fast-paced thrillers or robust plot momentum, this subtle character study might leave you feeling a bit starved. It is a frustrating but ultimately rewarding masterpiece of restraint.

The book club meet once a month but will be taking a break over the summer, please check out Oaky Folk Facebook or email nataliewant@hotmail.com for autumn dates.

Natalie Meredith



Chess Corner

Solution to the puzzle from last Journal:

White Rook a1 – a6.

If Black Pawn on b7 takes White Rook on a6, White Pawn b6 – b7 checkmate.

The only other option for Black is to move Bishop, to which White responds by Rook a6 – a7 checkmate.



Puzzle 5/26



White to move and checkmate in two moves.

Please send your solution to ranpin@gmail.com.

Ranko Pinter

Oakington C of E Primary School Parent Staff Association



As the school year ends, we wanted to thank the local community for supporting our events this year, particularly the Yard Sale, Christmas Fayre, Quiz Night and Summer Fete. It has been wonderful having groups represented from the village at our events. These events alone raised over £3200!

Our fundraising has been used to provide transport for school trips and investment in the forest school area which

Gardening Notes

August: What a challenging couple of gardening months but still plants manage to grow. Maybe the time to think of installing a water butt to benefit from winter rains.

Once lavender flowers have finished, trim back leafy growth to maintain a good shape but avoid cutting hard into woody growth. Flowering shrubs like camellias and rhododendrons need to be watered now as a dry spell will prevent next year's flowers forming. Keep dead-heading roses to encourage new flowers to form but perhaps leave a few rose-hips for birds to enjoy in winter. Time to collect seeds from hardy annuals. Keep in a paper bag somewhere cool and dry and don't forget to label.

Pick beans and courgettes regularly for a continuous supply. Start to harvest ripe chilli peppers which can be preserved by either drying or freezing. Once tomatoes have set five or six trusses, remove the growing tip to encourage them to ripen. Summer prune espalier and cordon apples by removing new growth back to the basal cluster of leaves. A quick maturing crop like lettuce, radish and spring onions can be sown now and enjoyed in autumn. Also time to sow spring cabbage in modules and plant out in about six weeks.

September: A good time to divide perennials by digging them up, splitting into two or three clumps and re-planting while the soil is warm. Think about using asters for a burst of late colour. Also the best time to plant container-grown shrubs and trees which will establish better now if kept well watered. Continue to dead-head but stop feeding plants in pots as new, soft growth may not survive the winter. Start to plant bulbs ready for a spring display and pot up some prepared hyacinths which should flower at Christmas.



Time to lift maincrop potatoes, dry in the sun and store somewhere cool and dry. Green manure seeds can be sown on the vacant bed to protect it over-winter and then dug in next spring. Apples and pears will be ripening and can also be stored for eating later or enjoyed now. Time to remove some of the leaves shading pumpkins and squashes to help the skins to harden. Continue to pick autumn raspberries which make excellent jam and freeze well for a winter treat. Happy Gardening!

Ann and Peter Rayner

has provided relief in this hot spell of weather as a cool area for children to learn outdoors.

We look forward to the next school year and getting more use out of the forest school area. Our first event for the wider community is the village yard sale on Saturday **5 September**. Please see the poster on page 24 to sign up for information with the QR code provided – linking to the form and payment method. The deadline for sign-up is 10am on **1 September**.

Angela Barber

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More to Discover in Oakington & Westwick

Our community's history and natural history is celebrated in a series of fascinating information boards around the village, with new additions this summer.

The project, led by the Environment Action Group and funded by the Parish Council, installed the first boards three years ago: village pubs, outside the White Horse; community orchards, in the Recreation Ground and on Mill Road; Anglo-Saxon Oakington and RAF Oakington within the seating areas on the Recreation Ground; and a small board on the wall of the Pavilion about the Memorial Hall.

The ones installed in July were: a history of Sheeps Green and Alehouse Green, near the post box; the pond history and ecology, opposite the pond; and an overall history of the village, by the village sign. Ready to go in at Stocks Green is a board on its history. Two more are drafted but not finalised.

Many people have contributed over the years. The idea came from the late John Whittington. Much of the information and pictures were supplied by Nick Harrison – many coming from the Ralph Warboys collection. Most of the text was drafted by Stephanie Smith and proofed by Jenny Prince. Jenny, along with James Youd and Stephen Moore, sought permissions from residents. Chas Ashford-Hodges did the layouts and Edgar Stearn built the boards. While James and Stephen were the main drivers keeping the project moving, many helped with the final installations including Edgar, Stephen, John Terry and Ian Lawrence.

Not many villages have this wealth from the past so easy to access and explore. Enjoy finding and reading the boards!

Editors

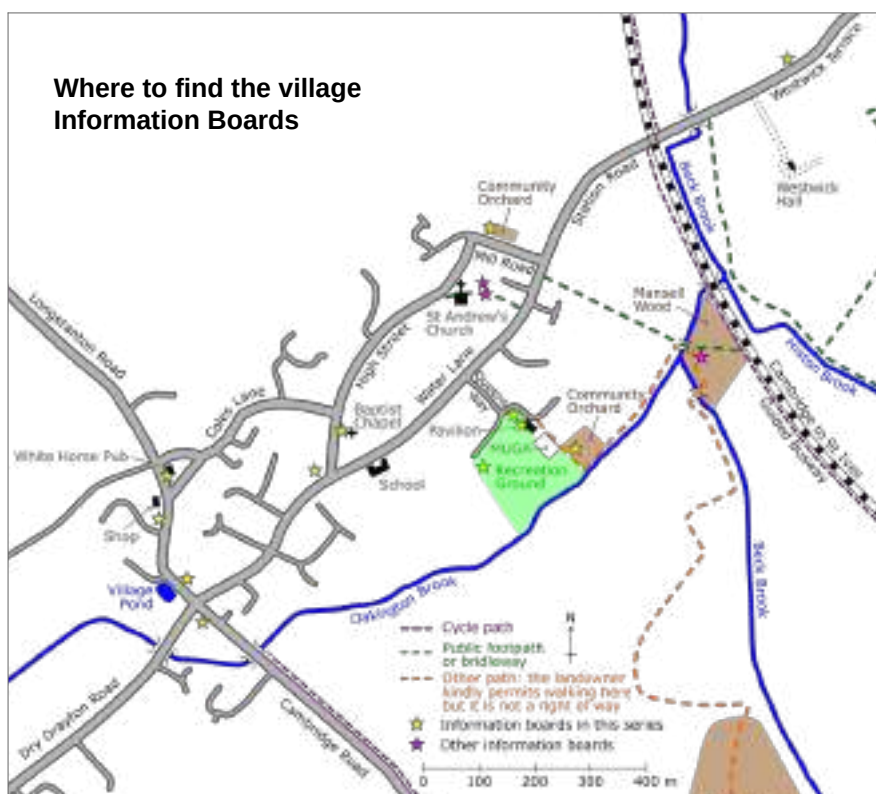
Oakington Retirement Community Park

Some residents will be aware that we have been working on a vision for a retirement park in the parish for a number of years; our website: oakingtonretirementcommunity.org unfortunately is now a bit out of date. Our recent news is that, after several years of trying, Homes England have asked us to present them with a Concept Design for our idea of combining the long-sought attenuation pond with our retirement park on the old Tomato Farm and part of the field north of the Business Park, on the other side of the brook.

The aim is to provide a range of affordable retirement dwellings, giving local residents a downsize option within the Parish. Spoil from the pond will raise the Tomato Farm land out of the flood zone and provide a park setting.

We will set up a charity to drive this forward and consult widely on the details.

Geoffrey Butlin, Sean Moroney and Elinor Brett-Sillifant



Meet a Local Business



Did you know that the **Cambridgeshire Chamber of Commerce** offices have now moved to Oakington, on the small estate opposite the site of the old Oakington Station?

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*Sauna Kelly,
Marketing & Communications Executive*

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Where was this?

The location of the last issue's photo was the crossroads from Longstanton Road, with the village pond on the right. The thatched buildings in the far distance on the right were the old Harvest Home Pub, located there until a new Harvest Home was built around 1884 on the crossroads.



*The old "Harvest Home" on
Cambridge Road*



Here's this month's puzzle. Easy if you look closely!

Village Through Time

We have copies of the population censuses for Oakington and Westwick from 1841 to 1911, and thought it would be interesting to track some of the local families and house occupancies during that period and discover their stories. We are looking for residents who would like to help us with this. Perhaps you live in one of the older houses in the villages and have information about your house that you would be happy to share? Maybe you are a descendant of one of the families that lived in the villages during that period and would be interested in contributing to an article about your family? Or maybe you just have an interest in local history and would like to help us in this venture? If you feel you can help in any way please contact us.

Editors (Contact details page 3)

Old Oakington Recipes

If you've had enough of jam, here's a suggestion from Doris Nicholas's recipe book to make the most of a summer harvest.

Blackberry Wine – Mrs Radford's Receipt

12 lbs blackberries. 1 gall. boiling water.

Stand about 10 days until it gets a mould on top. Stir two or three times, strain off & put 1lb to quart of sugar, let it stand & stir often, then put in jug & let it work, until it's done working, then put a piece of paper over the top with a few holes in for a week or two. After that put a cork in, not tight.

Doris Nicholas lived all her life in Oakington, most of it at Waverley on High Street where she and her husband John had a dairy farm. The cows were out in fields, including the bakehouse field, now Days Meadow; nearer the house chickens and pigs were kept, and also rabbits which Doris raised for meat. Her granddaughters Charlotte and Lillon remember being given little choice about helping to clean the rabbits out when they visited!



*John Trew Nicholas
(1899 – 1964) with one of his pigs*

Pasteurisation came in during the 50s and John, by now getting on a bit, gave up producing his own milk and delivered milk from Fenstanton instead. The girls enjoyed helping him on his rounds when they were staying. He would do the 4am round to the outliers on his own, but they would join him for the slightly later second round in the middle part of the village.

Here's a recipe to use some of that nice fresh milk:

Chocolate Mould

Take 2 oz cornflour 2oz chocolate 2 oz sugar 4 glasses milk. Mix cornflour to a paste with a little of the milk. Put chocolate, sugar & rest of milk into a saucepan & let it come to the boil. Stir in the cornflour gently, & allow to boil 5 minutes. Put into a mould which had previously been rinsed in cold water & set aside to cool. When quite cold turn out.

Jenny Prince & Lillon Harrison

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OAKINGTON & WESTWICK

YARD SALE



**5TH SEPTEMBER
10AM - 2PM**

£5 - FUNDS RAISED WILL
SUPPORT THE PSA
SIGN UP HERE BY
10AM 1ST SEPTEMBER



Oakington Baptist Chapel
Stocks Green, High Street, Oakington

Sunday School

New time of 9.15am - 10.00am

Held every Sunday during term time for
children aged 5 - 11 years.

Learn about the main events in the Bible and
the key people, what they did and what
happened to them.

Discussions, Bible study, quizzes, puzzle
sheets and craft activities.

**You are very welcome to join us. Autumn
term begins on Sunday 6th September.**

For further details, please contact the Chapel:
enquiry@oakingtonbaptist.org.uk or 07821 914477
Safeguarding policy, pre-employment checks and DBS
checks for staff, qualified first aiders on site.

LAKE SIDE JAZZ & TEA



Tea and cakes, live music
beside a beautiful lake in Oakington

Sunday 6th September 3 – 5pm

In aid of OWN (Oakington and Westwick Neighbours)

Music from Black Coffee Jazz

Venue: The lake at 9A Longstanton Road, Oakington

Entry (payable by card on the door) £6 for adults £2 for children up to 12

Please bring a rug or chair, no dogs allowed.
There will be a Portaloos but unfortunately no disabled toilet facilities.
Parking available only for disabled



**Oakington Village Harvest Concert Friday
Evening 9th October St Andrews Church**

**Do you have what it takes to perform at the
Village Harvest Concert?**

We need local talent!

We are looking for performers to join this event that has
entertained the Village for many years.

We will also need help with Catering & Tech Support

What could you do?

We are raising money for Oakington Primary School Music Fund

Please contact Elaine Bailey

elainebailey1@live.co.uk

Harvest