

Oakington & Westwick

June / July 2025

Journal

Play a Part in the PC
VE Day Memories
Chess Lessons
Vikings On Top
Saxons Below



What's On

Weekly

Mon		Monday Cafe , 9.30–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 through out the week. Claire Young – 07766 554413
Tue		Cubs , 6–7.15pm. Term time. Pavilion. Richard Young – richard.young@crafthillscouts.org.uk
Tue		Mental Wellbeing group , 6–8 pm. Contact Ildiko Dulo – cats@koka.me.uk / www.koka.me.uk/cats
Tue		Table Tennis , 7.30–9pm. Pavilion. Gillian L'Angellier – 01223 234758
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@elementalfitness.co.uk
Thu		Little Steps playgroup, 10–11.30am. Term time. Church Hall. littlestepsoakington@gmail.com
Thu		Ten Sing , 7–9pm. Term time. Histon Baptist Church. Terry King – cambridgetensing@gmail.com
Thu		Short Mat Bowls , 7.30–9.30pm. Pavilion. Dawn Stokes – 01223 236427
Thu		Quiz Night , 8pm. White Horse Pub. 01223 232417
Fri		Beavers , 6–7pm. Term time. Oakington Primary School. beavers@oakingtonscouts.org.uk
Fri		Scouts , 6–7:30pm. Term time. Pavilion. Cara Hanman – cara.hanman@oakingtonscouts.org.uk
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Fri	6 Jun	Minibus to Bar Hill , 10am. To book ring Teri Seaber – 07711 531004
Fri	6 Jun	Mobile Library , 1.50–2.20pm. Coles Lane.
Sat	7 Jun	Village Walk & Talk , 10.30am. Meet by Church on High Street. Alice – OWNeighbours@gmail.com
Sun	8 Jun	The Big Lunch , 12.30–2.30pm. Recreation Ground & Pavilion – OWNeighbours@gmail.com
Mon	9 Jun	O&W Parish Council , 7.30pm. Pavilion. All invited. clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk
Tue	10 Jun	Tuesday Talk & Tea , 2.45pm. Church Hall. Sharing school memories. Marian Cleaver – 01223 232897
Tue	10 Jun	Pavilion meeting , 7.30pm. Pavilion. elainebailey1@live.co.uk
Thu	12 Jun	Chess Club , 7pm. Interested in joining? contact Ranko Pinter – ranpin@gmail.com or 07766 052025
Thu	12 Jun	O&W WI , 7.30pm. Church Hall. Cambridgeshire Search & Rescue. Elaine Bailey – elainebailey1@live.co.uk
Sat	14 Jun	Therapeutic Stories workshop , 10–noon. Pavilion. Ildiko Dulo cats@koka.me.uk / www.koka.me.uk/cats
Sat	14 Jun	Messy Church , 3–5pm. Church Hall. Cate Lambert – catelambert@hotmail.co.uk or 07533 152519
Wed	18 Jun	Book Club , 7.30pm. White Horse. "The Painted Veil". Contact Natalie – nataliewant@hotmail.com
Thu	19 Jun	Philosopher's Café , 7pm. Interested in joining? contact Ranko Pinter – ranpin@gmail.com or 07766 052025
Fri	20 Jun	Summer Fete , 3.30–5.30pm. Oakington Primary School. psa@oakington.cambs.sch.uk .
Sat	21 Jun	Pollination Festival , 9am–4pm. Oakington Garden Centre. 01223 234818
Wed	25 Jun	Sustainable O&W , 7.30pm. Church Hall. Knife/tool sharpening workshop. sustainableow@gmail.com
Sat	28 Jun	Village Day & Cider Festival , 12.30–9 pm. Recreation Ground & Pavilion. oakington.westwick.ca@gmail.com
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Fri	4 Jul	Minibus to Bar Hill , 10am. To book ring Teri Seaber – 07711 531004
Fri	4 Jul	Mobile Library , 1.50–2.20pm. Coles Lane.
Sat	5 Jul	Village Walk & Talk , 10.30am. Meet by Church on High Street. Alice – OWNeighbours@gmail.com
Tue	8 Jul	Tuesday Talk & Tea , 2.45pm. Church Hall. Strawberry Tea. Marian Cleaver – 01223 232897
Thu	10 Jul	Chess Club , 7pm. Interested in joining? contact Ranko Pinter – ranpin@gmail.com or 07766 052025
Thu	10 Jul	O&W WI , 7.30pm. Church Hall. "Afternoon Tea." Elaine Bailey – elainebailey1@live.co.uk
Sat	12 Jul	Therapeutic Stories workshop , 10–noon. Pavilion. Contact Ildiko Dulo – cats@koka.me.uk / koka.me.uk/cats
Sat	12 Jul	Messy Church , 3–5pm. Church Hall. Cate Lambert – catelambert@hotmail.co.uk or 07533 152519
Mon	14 Jul	O&W Parish Council , 7.30pm. Pavilion. All invited. clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk
Thu	17 Jul	Philosopher's Café , 7pm. Interested in joining? contact Ranko Pinter – ranpin@gmail.com or 07766 052025
Wed	30 Jul	Sustainable O&W , 7.30pm. Church Hall. Hedgehogs & Hedgehog Hospital. sustainableow@gmail.com

BIN DAYS	Fri 6 Jun, Fri 20 Jun, Fri 4 Jul, Fri 18 Jul, Fri 1 Aug.	Black bins
	Fri 13 Jun, Fri 27 Jun, Fri 11 Jul, Fri 25 Jul.	Blue & Green bins

What/where to recycle: sustainableow.co.uk/reuse-repair-recycle

Cover Photo: Aerial View of Oakington, 11 July 2017 – Shane Guy

Summer's here – and to celebrate is a line-up of community events, with lots of opportunities to meet others and have fun! Share the Big Lunch, support the school at the School Fete, be with the bees at the Pollination Festival, and above all don't miss the Village Day on 28 June.

This year the Oakington Vikings have won the U14s Colts League, coming top by winning thirteen out of sixteen games. To mark this amazing achievement for our village team, this edition of the Journal includes a special souvenir football pull-out in the centre.

The Parish Council urgently needs new members. Many people are hazy about what the Parish Council is or does – but it is really critical to the functioning of our community and helping it to stand up to pressures from outside. Do read page 5, and consider taking this opportunity to make Oakington and Westwick an even better place to live.

*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*), Adrienne Chaplin (*distribution*), Jenny Broadway, Ranko Pinter (*chair*), Ella Whellams (*ads layout*)
Ela Yates (*business manager*)

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or phone: 01223 233510 (Jenny)
or 01223 233208 (Graham)

**DEADLINE FOR
AUGUST/SEPTEMBER ISSUE:
Tuesday 15 July**

To advertise in the Journal,
please email
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 July**.

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

Garden Centre Takes Pollinator Patch to Chelsea

By the time you read this, the team at Oakington Garden Centre will be back and recovering from their exciting trip to RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2025.

As I write this article, there are just two weeks until the show opens! The team is finalising plans for the garden design, discussing logistics, and working hard to keep our plants in tip-top condition.

We are collaborating with the University of Cambridge's Sainsbury Laboratory to highlight plant science research – with a focus on the flower. Our mini garden, the Pollinator Patch, has been designed by Melanie Sadler to showcase the incredible diversity of plants that can be grown in a small area to support bees, butterflies, and other important pollinator species. Melanie established Oakington Garden Centre with her husband Philip in 1981.

The Pollinator Patch design also pays homage to iconic elements of Cambridge, featuring a willow bicycle, a water feature symbolising the River Cam, and a beehive repurposed for solitary bees that is painted in the signature Cambridge Blue.

Joining Melanie in this ambitious venture are her daughter Patricia Sadler, who is overseeing the coordination of the project, and Oakington's nursery manager Ali Chappell-Bates, who is growing all of the plants featured in The Pollinator Patch and planters forming the Fibonacci spiral of the exhibit.



While flowers are beautiful to us, their true purpose is to attract pollinators. Through co-evolution, both the flowers and pollinators have developed specialised traits that benefit one another. The 'Blooming Numbers' exhibit, which is in a new science and technology focused section of the Great Pavilion called GreenSTEM, will explore the growth and development of these specialised plant organs.

Oakington Garden Centre and the Sainsbury Laboratory share a passion for plants and a focus on sustainability. The Sainsbury Laboratory decision to integrate Oakington Garden Centre's design and plant expertise into their exhibit at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show highlights a shared commitment to advancing knowledge and fostering a deeper connection with plants and the natural world.

Oakington Garden Centre has championed wildlife conservation, including the creation of an orchard and wildlife-friendly gardens surrounding the centre. In 2024, we hosted our inaugural Pollination Festival, an event aimed at educating the public on the importance of gardens in supporting pollinators.

If you were unable to attend RHS Chelsea Flower Show, we will be sharing photos and stories at this year's Pollination Festival, at Oakington Garden Centre, on Saturday **21 June**. Everyone is welcome.

Ali Chappell-Bates, Oakington Garden Centre



Craft, Art & Therapeutic Stories
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One to one and small group craft, art and therapeutic story sessions for better mental health in Oakington for adults and children.

Stories for Mental Wellbeing workshops
in Oakington Pavilion on Saturdays
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£ 15

Small group sessions
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for better mental health
£ 40 / hour



cats@koka.me.uk

✂ Cut out and keep well!

Pollination Festival 2025

Celebrating nature

SATURDAY 21st JUNE 9AM-4PM

FREE FAMILY ACTIVITIES

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Parish Councillors

Chair: Tony Starling

chair@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk

Vice-Chair: Stephen Moore

John Bailey Julie Grove
Jake Camilleri Ranko Pinter
Three 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: 07903 295860

District Councillors

O & W, Longstanton, Northstowe

Natalie Warren-Green – 07990 553997

cllr.warrengreen@scambs.gov.uk

Tom Bygott – 07765 475513

cllr.bygott@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*

Help Your Community – Become a Parish Councillor

Have you ever wanted to make a real difference to our village community? Do you care about the future of the village and the well-being of your neighbours? If so, now is the perfect time to get involved – Oakington & Westwick Parish Council needs new councillors.

What is the Parish Council?

The Parish Council is the first and most local tier of government in England. It is made up of elected representatives from within the community who volunteer their time to represent the interests of the village. A proportion of Council Taxes are set aside for the use of the Parish Council to directly support the activities in the village. While it might not always make the headlines, the Parish Council plays a crucial role in shaping village life and ensuring that residents' voices are heard.

Some of the Services the Parish Council Provides

Far from being a talking shop, the Council is responsible for supporting and maintaining vital facilities that contribute to the quality of life here in the village. These include:

- The Sports Pavilion
- The Recreation Ground
- The Children's Play Area
- The weekly Youth Club bus

The Parish Council also acts as a **coordinator and funder** of village groups, helping local initiatives through grants and logistical support. It is often the silent partner that makes things possible.

Making Our Voices Heard

While the Parish Council does not control services like road maintenance or flood management directly, it plays a critical role in **representing the village's needs** to higher levels of government. This includes:

- Working closely with **District and County Councillors**.
- Lobbying for **flood prevention measures**, better **road safety**, and improved **public transport links**.
- Responding to **planning applications** and ensuring that development benefits the village, not just the developers.

When the community speaks with one voice through its Parish Council, it carries weight with those who make the bigger decisions.

Why We Need You

Parish Councils are only as strong as the people who serve on them. We are currently looking for new councillors who care about our village and want to get involved. You don't need any special qualifications – just a passion for community life, willingness to listen and learn, and a commitment to making our village the best it can be.

Meetings are held monthly and are designed to be inclusive, respectful, and efficient. You'll work with fellow councillors, the Clerk, and residents on local issues.

Get Involved

If you've ever thought "someone should do something about that" – maybe **you** are that someone. Becoming a Parish Councillor is a rewarding way to give back and help shape the future of the place we all call home.

For more information or to express your interest, please contact the Parish Clerk, Laura Lawrence:

clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk or 07903 295860

Tony Starling – Chair

From the Parish Council

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to David Reeves, who has retired from the Parish Council after more than 15 years of dedicated service.

Throughout his time as both a parish councillor and chair, David worked very hard for the benefit



of the parish. Whether championing improvements to local infrastructure and facilities, supporting our community groups, or lending an attentive ear to residents' concerns, he has always acted with integrity, patience and commitment.

We wish him all the best in his well-deserved retirement.

Tony Starling – Chair

From our District Councillor

I'm happy to welcome our new County Councillor Cllr Luis Navarro to the ward and to thank Cllr Firouz Thompson for working with me over the past two years. Firouz has been a strong champion for Oakington and Westwick in her County Council work, and Luis has a tough act to follow. Well done Firouz and thank you for working so closely with me and South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) to manage matters that cross over on planning, transport, and flooding, amongst other situations that have arisen for us.

My focus in this edition is on the environment since in June we celebrate The Great Big Green Week and World Environment Day. Community groups may be interested in:

Zero Carbon Communities Grant

SCDC's popular Zero Carbon Communities Grant is open for applications until Tuesday 1 July. Parish councils and voluntary/community organisations are invited to apply for grants of between £2,000 and £15,000 for projects that reduce carbon emissions or foster greater community engagement on climate issues and encourage sustainable behaviour change. An online workshop was held in May. Email zcc@scambs.gov.uk for more information or to sign up for information from the workshop.

Allotment Improvement Grants

I realise that local residents work hard on their allotments, so this information is for you. This grant funding can

provide up to £10,000 to support projects that enhance the productivity, sustainability, and social value of allotment spaces. Applications close in late August and parish councils and allotment societies are invited to apply. More information is on the SCDC website.

New SCDC website launched

SCDC's new website is now operating, which has a new, more user-friendly look and feel and is optimised for both desktop and mobile devices so that it's easier for residents to find critical information and services. It allows residents to get personalised, local information at a glance. By entering your postcode, you can get information on bin collection dates for your street, local street cleansing schedules, nearby planning applications, District Councillor details and local events of interest. Try it on the new homepage.

Need Help from SCDC?

In addition to contacting me, for any resident needing help from SCDC, the new website is excellent and intuitive. For specifics about how to contact a service, go to www.scambs.gov.uk/your-council-and-democracy/contact-us. A useful SCDC contact number for all the District Council services is 01954 713000, open 8am – 5:30pm, Monday – Friday (until 6:30pm on Wednesdays).



Cllr Natalie Warren-Green

From our previous County Councillor

After four years serving as your County Councillor for Longstanton, Northstowe, Oakington & Westwick, and Over, it's time for me to step aside and pass the baton. It has been an incredible journey, and I want to thank everyone in our community for the support, collaboration, and trust you've shown me since 2021.

When I first stepped into this role, I promised to stand up for our area and work hard to make a difference – and it's been a privilege to do exactly that. Along the way, I've learned a great deal, met inspiring people, and worked alongside many residents, community groups, and local organisations committed to improving life for all of us.

One of the highlights of my time as County Councillor has been working on the development of the Northstowe Learning Community. Sitting on the Children and Young People's Committee for the last four years and the Cambridgeshire Music Board for the past two years has deepened my understanding and passion for education and youth services. It has been exciting to watch the ambitious

vision for Northstowe come to life – a vibrant education campus that now provides an outstanding, seamless journey for children and young people in the area. The opening of the new Northstowe Sixth Form College, the expansion of Northstowe Secondary College, the creation of Northstowe Primary School and Northstowe Nursery, and the dedicated Martin Bacon Academy for students with special educational needs have transformed opportunities for families in our wider community.

There have been many significant milestones, especially in Oakington & Westwick (O&W), where enhancing highways, transport, and local facilities has been a priority. I've collaborated with the Parish Council and Transport Action Group to introduce 20mph zones, and advanced Local Highways Improvements with Girton Parish Council to reduce speeds between the villages. Additionally, I worked diligently on the Dry Drayton Road resurfacing project, set for completion this year, and focused on the flooding on Mill Road and Beck Brook with the Environment Action Group.

We successfully completed Phase 1 of the Northstowe

S106-funded foot/cycle path from Girton to Park Lane and secured funding for the planned O&W to Cottenham foot/cycle path through the Greater Cambridge Partnership. On public transport, I campaigned for more buses on the busway and partnered with O&W and Girton Parish Councils on a community survey to identify necessary improvements to the No. 6 bus service. I also worked closely with council officers, Oakington Primary School, and the Chair of Governors to support the re-instatement of the new nursery building, which is set to be used by the school going forward.

It has been a pleasure to help bring these projects forward. I would also like to thank O&W Parish Council, who were named 'Council of the Year' following my nomination, and Laura Lawrence, the clerk who has been in service for 25 years – a well-deserved recognition of their hard work and dedication to our community.

Liberal Democrat Luis Navarro, an Oakington resident, has been elected as the new County Councillor. Luis received 1,329 votes (42.3%) in the recent election, reflecting strong community support for his vision and dedication. His background in community leadership (as Parish Councillor), business (as Cambridge BID board member), and youth engagement (coach of Oakington Vikings U16) positions him well to serve our area effectively.



Firouz Thompson

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve – it has truly been an honour.

From our new County Councillor

Thank You for Supporting Local Democracy

I am honoured to have been elected as your County Councillor for the Longstanton, Northstowe, Over, Oakington & Westwick division.

Thanks to your support, the Liberal Democrats have secured a majority on Cambridgeshire County Council with 31 seats. This gives us a strong mandate to deliver on the priorities that matter most to you.

From our manifesto, I am already working on three key priorities for our area:

- Fixing our roads and improving transport connections, including safer travel and better public transport links.
- Protecting our local environment, with action on biodiversity, pollution, and sustainable energy.
- Ensuring value for money in public services, by scrutinising contracts, investing wisely, and delivering quality services.

I am deeply grateful for your trust and will work tirelessly to represent your interests. Please don't hesitate to get in touch: I'm here to listen and act on your concerns.



Luis Navarro

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

From our MP

Local Elections. Over the past few weeks, I have enjoyed getting out across the constituency listening to and speaking with residents on their doorsteps in support of our brilliant County Council candidates who stood for election on 1 May. Thank you to everyone who took the time to speak to me about issues that matter to you.

PIP and Carer's Allowance Emergency Forum. Over the past few weeks, I have received many concerned emails from constituents about the Government's plans to cut Personal Independence Payments (PIP) and the impact this will have on them. In light of this, I recently hosted an emergency forum that brought together local charities and organisations to discuss how best we can support disabled people and their carers if these cuts are to go ahead.

Representatives from Citizens Advice Bureau Rural Cambs and Cambridge & District, as well as both St Neots and Cambridge City Foodbank, Switch Now, Cambridgeshire ACRE, Money Advice St Neots, and Carers UK all participated in the forum. It is clear that these cuts are going to have a huge impact on their services, and indeed on the residents they are helping. Using the testimony from this meeting, I will be challenging the Government at every opportunity and pressing them to make urgent changes to the proposals to ensure disabled people get the support they need.

Mental Health Awareness Week. During this week in May, I went for a wander round a local nature reserve with a Walk & Talk 4 Men group, who offer a safe space for men to talk about their mental health; met with Money Advice St Neots to talk about the mental impact of debt; and spoke with the Mental Health Foundation in Parliament.

MP Surgeries. I continue to hold in-person and online surgeries to speak directly to constituents about their issues. If you feel you have a problem that I could help with, or you have a matter you would like to discuss with me, please don't hesitate to contact me to request a surgery appointment.



Ian Sollom

Grey box recycling collection in Oakington

In the village shop

A trial scheme to collect items which you can't recycle in the blue/green bins.

Currently taking: Marigold rubber gloves. Please bring them, holey but clean and dry, to the grey box in the shop.

To recycle other things: sustainableow.co.uk/reuse-repair-recycle





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Village Day & Cider Festival

Oakington & Westwick Village Day is on!

Village Day will be bringing you all the usual fun and games plus a few new features on **Saturday 28 June 2025**. Put the date in your diary and bring friends, family and neighbours together for this community event.

As always there will be:

- Music throughout the day including newcomer singer Rachel Hill
- Food options featuring the Hog Roast Kitchen and Jeab's Thai
- Stalls, games and activities to keep the family happy
- Generous raffle prizes
- The bar (taking cash and card payments)

Plus, making its debut this year the Oakington Cider Festival will form part of the day's attractions!

So please join from 12.30 to 21.00 at the Oakington Recreation Ground.

Entry: Adults £1, Under 16s Free

As always, it's sure to be a buzzing community atmosphere, a day not to be missed.

See the poster on the back page!

Note: Don't forget if you would like to play a part by running a stall, volunteering on the day or donating a raffle prize – email: oakington.westwick.ca@gmail.com



Oakington and Westwick Pavilion

Our **3G pitch** is available all year round to hire. Should your team wish to book for the season please contact oakingtonpavilion@gmail.com for availability and prices.

Do you know someone who has a business that might want to hire out our **function room** either on an occasional or regular basis? This is a perfect meeting room that is free during the week. To hire the building please contact Tony Leadley on oakingtonpavilion@gmail.com.

What skills can you offer to the Pavilion Committee? Would you like to **be involved and support the Pavilion**? Do you have ideas and think it could be run more effectively? Come along to our next meeting on Tuesday **10 June** at 7.30pm – we welcome your ideas.

Elaine Bailey, Pavilion Committee Chair

Raise a glass at the Oakington Cider Festival!

This year's Village Day is set to be extra refreshing with the launch of the very first Oakington Cider Festival – a celebration of the region's finest craft ciders and perries.

Co-ordinated by Oakington's own apple-heads – cider makers Blue Barrel Cider (bluebarrelcider.com), in collaboration with the Cambridge Cider Company and friends at Cambridge CAMRA, the festival will feature over 20 different ciders from across Cambridgeshire.

Whether you enjoy the crisp, clean styles of the Eastern counties, the bold and fruity flavours of the West Country, or a fine, sparkling cider, there's something to suit every palate.

Find out more about making and enjoying cider, speak to producers and put your taste buds to the test.

And what pairs better with cider than cheese? There will be cheese boards available to complete the perfect summer tasting experience.

Come thirsty — and bring your friends!

Village Day team: Andy, Cate, Arthur, Elodie, Emma & Leo



Blue Barrel's Leo gets to grips with quality control!



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Oakington & Westwick Neighbours



The Oakington and Westwick Neighbours team have planned three great events for Oakington people over the summer. We began with a very successful plant swap event earlier in May which not only saw tomatoes traded for tulips but also raised £125 for East Anglia's Children's Hospices.



We're also planning the annual Big Lunch on **8 June** at the Oakington Pavilion. It's a bring and share event where you're encouraged to bring along some savoury or sweet food to share with your neighbours. Come along, maybe with a picnic blanket or a gazebo or some garden games, and meet some old and new friends. There's no charge, though we'll be pleased to take donations to help cover our costs.

And when autumn comes around, we'll see the return of the well-regarded Tea and Jazz event - another great opportunity to meet fellow villagers in an idyllic peaceful lakeside setting accompanied by some relaxing music. We're expecting to run that event on September 14th so please do save the date.

Oakington and Westwick Neighbours provide support to those in the village who need help through our team of volunteers. If you want to help us, or if you need some help yourself, then please do get in touch with us via owneighbours.wordpress.com or our Facebook page "Oakington and Westwick Neighbours". We'll also be posting event updates on these two pages so do give us a follow there if you can.

Matt Saunders

Oakington C of E Primary School Parent Staff Association



We are delighted to be hosting our annual summer fete on Friday **20 June** at the school, 3.30–5.30pm. We have already secured an inflatable obstacle course and ice cream van to join our popular pizzas and BBQ stalls.

We also have our summer raffle as part of this event so keep a look out on our social media for what prizes are available and if you're a local business that would like to support us

Environment Action Group



Our **Flood Mitigation Group** has been investigating the maintenance of the 1.1 km section of Beck Brook downstream of Westwick. We believe that this is an award watercourse, which would mean that it is the Environment Agency's responsibility to maintain, but it is thought that there has been no regular maintenance since 1980. We have made an enquiry about this to the Environment Agency via the County Council's drainage officer. We have also been monitoring the culvert where Oakington Brook flows under Cambridge Road near the crossroads, as this is partially silted up. There is not yet as much silt present as when it was last dredged (December 2015, when 10 tonnes of silt were removed) but we believe that it still needs clearing. The Council Highways engineer has agreed to look at it with a view to dredging. Meanwhile, there is still no sign of any progress towards the flood attenuation pond that our village was promised in writing in 2015 by the Northstowe developers.

Our **Nature Recovery project** (joint project with SOW) is continuing, and as a key part of this our pollination survey project (APollOW) was launched at the SOW meeting in April. The aim is to monitor plant and insect species at sites around the village to give a baseline against which we can track whether any habitat management and conservation programmes that are carried out actually make a difference. We have selected 15 sites around the village and are looking for volunteers to carry out 15-minute Flower-Insect-Timed (FIT) counts at these sites between the months of April and September. Information on how to get involved and how to carry out a FIT count can be found on SOW's website sustainableow.co.uk/nature-recovery-project/apollow or you can contact SOW on sustainableow@gmail.com.

Work also continues on our other projects, and we continue to be very grateful to the volunteers who have been **picking up litter** around the village, **sweeping the footways**, and looking after the Oakington and Westwick in Bloom **flower tubs**. We hope to have a display at the Village Day in June, so please come and visit us to find out more!

Stephanie Smith



in return for some promotion please do consider donating a prize. We open this event up for external stall holders for a small fee, so if you're interested please email us on: psa@oakington.cambs.sch.uk.

Our gardening club restarted this term and we are already harvesting rhubarb! We post on facebook when we have produce available and gratefully receive any donations using the QR code on the school front door.

Angela Barber, PSA Vice-Chair

Sustainable Oakington & Westwick

If you're ever in doubt whether efforts to help the environment are worthwhile, just hear how it affects young people. The March meeting included a presentation by Eco Club, all at Oakington Primary School, highlighting their deep worries about deforestation, toxic air, oil, and the threats to insects and marine life.



But SOW is also about positive, practical action. In March some members tracked the plastics they threw away or recycled over a week. We have begun a trial scheme to recycle items which can't go in the blue bins, initially just marigold gloves but we hope to extend it. The grey box is in the village shop.

In April James Heywood explained how to help with APollOW pollinator counts in gardens and around the village. The app is very simple and you don't have to be able to identify individual species of insects – but it was interesting to learn how to tell a bumble bee from a solitary bee and a wasp from a hoverfly!

Everyone is welcome to any SOW meeting – you don't have to be a “member”.

- **25 June** Tool and knife sharpening workshop – all welcome to come and learn this useful skill!
- **30 July** Hedgehogs and the work of the Shepreth Hedgehog Hospital

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 / 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.

Tuesday Talk & Tea

Come on Tuesday **10 June** 2.45 as usual, to share any of your memories of school from infants to sixth form – good, bad or funny. Tuesday **8 July** is our annual Strawberry Tea preceded by some games.

We are hoping to have an afternoon activity in August but this has still to be arranged.

Marian Cleaver



The Tuesday Talk and Tea Club meets 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. We welcome all comers, especially if the subject that month is of special interest to you.

More info: 01223 232897 / marianccleaver@gmail.com.

Oakington Singers



What a very special day we had recently when many of our choir sang the Rutter Requiem... with local man Sir John Rutter himself no less, rehearsing then conducting us at Downing Place United Reform Church in Cambridge. The day was organised and directed by another local talent, namely Tim Brown,

who is known as one of the best living choral conductors and who succeeded John Rutter as choral conductor of Clare College Choir many years ago. How fortunate we are to live so close and have access to such top class musicians.

Talking of top class musicians, we have immensely enjoyed being accompanied on piano at rehearsals and performances over the years by local resident, Joan Keating. After living in the Cambridge area, including Oakington, for 53 years, the time has come for her to move nearer to her recently married daughter Claire Cole (née Barnes) who now lives in the West Country. Our poignant and last concert with Joan took place on 5th May in Girton at which we showed our appreciation with the gift of vouchers to spend on her new home in Cheltenham, flowers and a bespoke card made by Heatherbeearts. We will miss you Joan but know that you will keep in touch!



Helen Williams



We are a four-part community 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 01223 232614 / helenwilliams5@outlook.com or just drop in.

Winners of the Cambridgeshire & District Colts Football League 2024/25



**Elliott Pike, Sam Jafar-Nejad, Louie Brett, Rhyler Van Der Meijden, Lucas Dodd, Hugo Wray
Freddy Shepherd, Denford Jemwa, Aiden Griffiths, Leo Chester, Kacper Stachowski, Pablo Escribano
Leo Kho, Ben Turner, Dan Mathew, "GK1", Freddie Greer.
Not playing on the day – Louis Spalding**

Oakington Vikings u14s Winning Season 2024/25

The summer of 2024 had seen the Oakington Vikings u14s continue their good run of form winning the Willingham 5-a-side tournament (with both teams making the final), and also becoming the (Norwich FC organised) Cambridgeshire Summer Cup Champions. However, with the league title having eluded them on the final day, they approached the 2024/25 season with a new-found determination to go one better this time around.

With the Vikings' rivals having strengthened over the summer, it promised to be a most competitive season in the highest tier of the Cambridgeshire & District Colts league. Now seen as one of the favourites, the weight of expectation was being shouldered by our boys in orange and black, and there were new teams in the league, teams that were looking for a new challenge having previously won the Huntingdonshire league and who represented an unknown quantity as the season kicked off.

The first match was up against one such team and quickly demonstrated just what a challenging season it would be, with a bruising encounter out near St Neots. Three times the Vikings went behind, but the determination and resilience they had gained in the previous season saw them come back each time with only the final whistle beating the Vikings to all three points.

As tough as that match was it epitomised the Vikings' season; hard, tough contests that required them to find another level! Most matches were close affairs until the last 15 minutes where the Vikings would often run away with the three points with a flurry of goals. Few could match their work rate, few could live with the intensity they would bring for the whole of the 70-minutes matches! That first match would prove to be their only draw all season and having won 13 of their 16 games (including an exceptional 11-match winning streak) the Vikings were rightly crowned 2024/2025 Champions of the Cambridge and District Colts League, with one game to spare following an emphatic 5-0 victory on a sunny Saturday just outside Saffron Walden. A monumental achievement for our village team from Oakington, champions of the Colts leagues at u14s. Seven leagues made up of 71 teams comprising over 1000 players, so this was an exceptional achievement earned through years of hard work and dedication to the sport that they love.

However, this would not have been possible without all those people that have worked so hard behind the scenes for the provision of grassroots football in the village. I would therefore like to thank the following on behalf of all our Vikings (this is not an exhaustive list so apologies for those not mentioned).



To James Wilson and his sons Harry and Toby for forging the path for others to follow and supporting the continued development of football in our Village. To Jo Mowatt and Sam Nightingale who have worked so hard for the Club and the village, making sure the bills were paid and appropriate registrations are in place (and keeping us all in line). To Frank Pinner who after numerous years as the Club's safeguarding and welfare officer will be standing down at the end of the season (you will be missed!). To Marcus Till, Josh Gott, Ronnie and Luis Navarro who have and continue to work hard for the Club on and off the pitch. To Toby Lipscomb for starting the team and all the other coaches we have had along the way including Mike Gee, Alan Flood, and Andrew Durman. To all at the Parish Council and Pavilion Committee particularly Tony Leadley whose hard work and diligence keeps everyone at the recreation ground safe. To the teams' sponsor the village's own Best Garden Services that has supported the team with kit for the past six years (thanks Zaid).

A very special thank you needs to go to all the parents of all the players that have helped out along the way, from running the line and reffing, to setting up the pitches whatever the weather. One of those, Kirsty Shepherd, needs an extra special thank you as she has picked up the mantle as Club Secretary this season. And finally to all the Vikings past and present for their commitment to the team and their dedication to football that has made the Oakington Vikings such a very special Club that the whole village can be proud of. Thank you!

Winston Kho



Vikings Celebrations



POS	Team	P	W	D	L	PTS
1	Oakington Vikings Y black	16	13	1	2	40
2	Eynesbury Rovers Youth White	16	11	3	2	36
3	St Ives Rangers White Sox	15	10	1	4	31
4	Shelford & Stapleford Strikers Red	14	7	1	6	22
5	Standon & Puckeridge Hares Blacks	16	6	1	9	19
6	Plantation Y United	14	5	2	7	17
7	Melbourn Dynamos Panthers	15	3	4	8	13
8	Exning United	14	3	2	9	11
9	Chesterton Eagles White	14	0	3	11	3

**COME AND JOIN THE VIKINGS
AT VILLAGE DAY
28TH JUNE**



The Vikings would like to invite the youngest members of our village (5-9) to free mini coaching sessions on village day. To register interest or to find out more message our u14s coach (Winston) on 07968 716290

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Our Teams and Contacts

First Team James & Ronnie 07834 465188

Under 14s & Welfare officer Winston 07968 716290

www.facebook.com/OakingtonVikingsFC

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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. For more information contact Gillian L'Angellier on 01223 234758.

Oakington & Westwick Tennis Club

It's still a great time to join the Tennis Club!

We have two hard courts and there is no need to book - you can just turn up and play at any time during daylight hours once you're signed up. It's worth noting that we don't function like some other tennis clubs, which have open sessions for playing/socialising, as we don't have a Clubhouse or facilities. So, persuade some friends or family members to join too!

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.

Oakington and Westwick WI

At our AGM in April, we re-elected our President and Committee. We had a fascinating talk, "Will I ever learn to say No! Mrs Beeton's Flying Picnic" by Jean Coxhall, an insight into the making of a television programme with Annabel Croft.

A small group of us went on a WI visit to the Fitzwilliam Museum to sketch the exhibits there. Essential to the outing was a drop-in at Hot Numbers for coffee and then lunch at Fitzbillies before returning to the museum for a couple more hours of sketching! In May we had a fun evening creating découpage jam jars. We also voted for or against the WI resolution "Bystanders can be Lifesavers".



Our next meeting is on Thursday **12 June**, a talk by Wayne Bent from Cambridgeshire Search and Rescue. Our meeting on the **10 July** is an "Afternoon Tea" – all welcome.

Look out for us at Village Day on the **28 June**, when we will be having our annual refreshments stall in the Pavilion with homemade cakes, sausage rolls, and sweet and savoury scones. We look forward to you visiting us. This year we are also having books and jigsaws as well!

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 for more information.

1st Oakington Cubs

Oakington Cubs had a busy Spring term. We celebrated the Chinese Year of the Snake; we went caving in Duxford, which continues to be an amazing adventure; we cooked a three-course meal for two Beaver leaders and a Scout leader in 'Cub dine with me'. We also tried some archery, and went back to the '80s with a game of 'Human Pac-man', and we completed the Disability, Chef, Science and Road Safety badges.

In the Summer term we can look forward to being out and about in Oakington, with the Athletics badge to complete and 'Human Monopoly'. We have an exclusive visit to the Raptor Foundation planned, plus a sleepover on HMS Belfast ('Kip on the Ship').

Oakington Cubs would welcome new joiners. If you have a child between 8 and 10 years old who would be interested, do get in touch: richard.young@craftshillscouts.org.uk.

Richard Young



We have spaces available at Oakington – come and join in the fun! Tuesday 6–7.15pm, Oakington Pavilion. Contact Richard: richard.young@craftshillscouts.org.uk.

1st Oakington Beavers

Oakington Beavers are once again enjoying a wide range of activities, with meetings often outside now that the weather has improved. Recently we have hiked around Eddington, planted seeds to start earning our Gardener Badge, joined with Beavers, Cubs and Scouts from across the district to celebrate St George's day, and held a fundraising ceilidh! We've got even more fun planned for the rest of term including paddle sports, camping, sports and den building.

We're also very proud of three of our eldest Beavers who earned their Bronze awards this year, and were presented

with them at the St George's Day event. Well done Beavers!

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

Adults – does it sound like you're missing out on the fun? Then why not consider volunteering within Scouts in Oakington.

Kathryn Bigg



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

If your child is interested in joining Beavers, please contact Kathryn.Bigg@oakingtonscouts.org.uk.



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 or on my Facebook page : Letter Carving in Stone - Pippa Westoby.

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Oakington Genes

In a previous issue of the Journal Julie Grove (February/March 2025 page 23) wrote about the “Bones without Barriers” project. This involved the excavation of parts of the recreation area which yielded a number of skeletons and other artefacts related to the Anglo-Saxon era.



These days archaeologists have access to a range of modern tools to carry out archaeological investigations. For example, many people will have heard of Carbon-14 dating to determine the age of the recovered material. Watercourses each have their own profile of other minerals. This profile is reflected in the bones of people born within the watercourse area. Comparing the profile from a skeleton against an atlas of water profiles means that it is possible to identify where they were born, which may be many miles from where their bones were discovered.

One area of scientific investigation that is becoming more useful is genetics. Fortunately at the time I was working at the Sanger Institute and I was able to approach the head of the evolutionary genetics team. At the time facilities for handling ancient DNA were rare. Fortunately the team had arranged a talk a few days later from an expert in dealing with ancient DNA, Professor Alan Cooper from the University of Adelaide, and it was suggested that I come along to speak to him. After talking to him and exchanging emails with a number of people over the next couple of weeks all the correct people were put in contact and the research went ahead.

There are a number of problems working with samples that have been in the ground for so long. Although bones can be structurally very sound their DNA degrades by being in wet ground and the cycles of warm and cold weather. DNA found in teeth is better protected, so teeth were used for these studies. DNA extraction has to be carried out in special clean rooms to reduce the possibility of contamination with modern DNA.

Each tooth only provides a very small amount of material from which DNA can be extracted. This DNA, having been in the ground for a long time, is broken into a whole range of fragments and there may be sections missing for making a complete genome for that person. (Genome is the name for the collection of all the genes for a person. In turn each gene is made up of strands of DNA.) Think of the genome as

being like a jigsaw: each fragment only fits in one place in the genome-jigsaw and there are some pieces missing. Fortunately like the jigsaw we have a picture of what a human genome should look like called the reference genome, built by combining data from many modern genomes, and so we can see where to fit each fragment that we do have.

Originally samples from four Oakington skeletons were included in a small study of DNA from ten skeletons, all from the Cambridge area, using DNA sequencing. The results from these early investigations suggested that two people studied were recent arrivals from northern Netherlands. A third skeleton was that of a woman who was a native from a long line of British heritage. Subsequently samples from further Oakington skeletons have been included in a much larger study analysing data from skeletons from a large number of sites across the UK.

Stephen Gamble

Oakington and Westwick History Society

Table 1.1. Archaeological context data for early Anglo-Saxon period sites.

Grave ID	Genetic Sex	Age	INE	WBI
Oakington1573(6) Grave 57(0)	F	22-35 years	0.818892	0.581138
Oakington1895 Grave 58	F	45-55 years	0.99999	0.00001
Oakington1430 Grave 88	F	35-40 years	0.872594	0.127406
Oakington15556, Grave62(1779)	F	20-25 years	0.99999	0.00001
Oakington15566, Grave65(1870)	F	25-35 years	0.99999	0.00001
Oakington15570, Grave66(1882)	F	45+	0.788405	0.211595
Oakington15577, Bunka(11663)	F	6-45 years	0.373602	0.626398
Oakington1785 Grave 83	F	45+	0.99999	0.00001
Oakington1866 Grave 94	M	36-45 years	0.99999	0.00001
Oakington2222 Grave 112	M	45+	0.99999	0.00001
OAKQUW012 1616 Grave 21	M	25-35 years	0.99999	0.00001
OAKQUW012 1618 Grave 13	M	25-35 years	0.454583	0.545417
OAKQUW013 2154 Grave 109a	F	25-30 years	0.818019	0.181981
OAKQUW013 2165 Grave 109b	F	35-40 years	0.508878	0.491122
OAKQUW013 2168 Grave 109c	F	1-4 years	0.868836	0.131164
OAKQUW07 749 Grave 34	M	39-40 years	0.312538	0.687462
OAKQUW07 794 Grave 44	M	36-40 years	0.99999	0.00001
OAKQUW07 820 Grave 39	F	18-45	0.99999	0.00001
OAKQUW07 887 Grave 40	F	18-25 years	0.99999	0.00001
OAKQUW11 1170 Grave 56	M	45-55 years	0.99999	0.00001
OAKQUW11 1411 Grave 61	F	30-40 years	0.99999	0.00001
OAKQUW11 1424 Grave 62	M	38-23 years	0.99999	0.00001
OAKQUW12 1740 Grave 80	F	20-25 years	0.382313	0.617687
OAKQUW12 1747 Grave 78a	F	30-40 years	0.99997	0.00003
OAKQUW12 1798 Grave 88a	M	25-35 years	0.99999	0.00001
OAKQUW12 1799 Grave 88b	M	18-25 years	0.99999	0.00001

ONE = Continental Ancestry
WBI = Western British/Irish Ancestry

(from "The Anglo-Saxon migration and the formation of the early English gene pool", Gretzinger, Sayer, Justeau, et al.)

These are the Oakington Results

Pathfinder March: Sat 7 June



The Annual Pathfinder March is associated with the RAF Pathfinder Force and is in recognition of the sacrifice they made as part of Bomber Command during the Second World War. You may be aware that the event is a 46-mile circular walk on public roads and rights of way linking the four historic Pathfinder airfields of Wyton, Graveley, Oakington and Warboys.

It is an extremely arduous event starting at 4 am and has a 20-hour time limit. Consequently, many participants use the event as an opportunity to raise money for numerous local and national charities and good causes. This year it will take place on Saturday 7 June and is open to both military personnel and members of the public; we are expecting up to 400 participants. They will pass through Oakington in the morning en route from Dry Drayton to Longstanton.

For more details: tinyurl.com/btbe5jdr

Sergeant Zara Cohen, Pathfinder March Secretary

Oakington Veteran at Buckingham Palace

Village resident and WWII veteran Norman Brown, 101, was invited to attend the National VE Day 80th anniversary celebrations at Buckingham Palace.

At just 14 years old, in 1938, Norman joined the newly formed Air Cadets, becoming one of its very first members. As war broke out in 1939, Norman was called up to serve in the Royal Air Force (RAF). His journey would take him thousands of miles from home, to South Africa, where he served as a flight engineer in an air training school. There, he played a critical role in training new engineers and pilots, contributing directly to the Allied war effort.

It was in South Africa, through a crackling radio broadcast, that Norman heard the announcement marking the end of the war in Europe—Victory in Europe Day. But his service didn't end there. His next posting saw him deployed to Germany on peacekeeping duties during what he recalls as a volatile and dangerous time despite the official end of hostilities.

On May 5th, 2025, Norman's service was recognised in the most special of ways. Invited to Buckingham Palace for the national VE Day 80th anniversary commemorations, he joined a select group of fellow WWII veterans, members of the Royal Family, senior military personnel, and UK political figures.

From his seat in the grandstand in front of the Palace, Norman had a front-row view of the 1,400-strong military procession and later enjoyed watching the RAF flypast—an emotional moment for the former airman. A traditional

afternoon tea was enjoyed in the State Banquet Room, where Norman found himself in delightful company: Queen Camilla.

During their conversation, Norman shared photographs and stories from his wartime service. Ever the entertainer, he even cheekily asked the Queen if she would like to see a

magic trick. With a twinkle in her eye, she replied, "I hope you're not going to saw me in half!" Laughs echoed through the room as Norman performed his well-known "string trick," where a looped string appears to pass impossibly through the finger. The Queen thoroughly enjoyed the performance, laughing along and sharing in the fun.

The light-hearted moment drew attention from other guests, with Sophie, the Duchess of Edinburgh, joining in to see the trick for herself. Even King Charles expressed his appreciation, thanking Norman for "bringing joy and laughter" to the celebration.

For Norman, the day was one of reflection as much as celebration—remembering comrades lost and honouring the sacrifices made. "It was a truly unforgettable day," he said. "It's not just about looking back; it's about remembering what we fought for and seeing that spirit carried forward."

Norman Brown returned home from Buckingham Palace a little more famous, a lot more celebrated, and as ever, an inspiration to all who know him.

His story, like those of so many from his generation, is a reminder of the courage, resilience, and humour that helped shape the nation—and still shines bright today.

Claire & Neil Brown



Connections Bus Project

A significant part of Oakington & Westwick Parish Council's annual budget goes for the support of our village young people through the Connections Bus Project.



In Oakington, the open access youth work sessions take place in a specially converted double-decker

bus parked by the Pavilion every Monday in term-time from 7 pm. Last year both buses came to the end of their life and had to be scrapped; however, thanks to a lottery donation, two more buses were purchased. One of the buses has since

been converted into a bespoke youth club and has resumed its regular weekly visit to villages in the area including Oakington. The other will come into service shortly.



Each bus is divided into several areas, each designed for a different type of activity. The Project is run by Alan Webb and supported by the team (L-R) Russell, Rose, the new member Channitta and Lisa.

Ranko Pinter

Oakington Airfield War Memorial & VE Day Remembrance Service

On 28 March 2025 Parish Councillors David Reeves and Julie Grove, along with Shane Guy and Steve and Sally Gamble on behalf of the RAF and Oakington and Westwick History Society, attended the unveiling of Oakington Airfield Memorial, which is situated at the entrance to the Airfield in Rampton Drift.

The war memorials are the work of Kenneth Bannerman who set up the charity Airfields of Britain Conservation Trust, UK. Kenneth was concerned that the local airfields, although small, carried out major offensives and were crucial to the war effort. Our own 7 Squadron was amongst the most significant. Sadly, as we are all aware, our local airfields Oakington, Bourn and Waterbeach are slowly disappearing due to housing development. Kenneth aims to place a memorial stone on as many airfields as possible across the UK, to ensure they are never forgotten.

We arrived early at Northstowe House to be met by a reception committee for coffee and biscuits. Those also attending included Kenneth Bannerman, standard bearers, District and County Councillors, Dean Harris of Homes England and the Mayor of Northstowe. One visitor Michael Lively had brought along his father's flying log.

Fl. Lt. Frank Lively, Lancaster no III ND766, took off on 23 June 1944 from Oakington tasked to bomb the flying-bomb site at Coubronne. His Lancaster was lost on the return. Frank is buried at Esquelbecq Military Cemetery, Pas-de-Calais, France. The beautifully scripted log was as

immaculate as it had been in 1944.

This was a poignant moment to reflect on the magnitude of the Oakington Airfield history.

For more information and to view the video of the ceremony plus history of Oakington Airfield please go to Oakington – Airfields of Britain Conservation Trust UK.
abct.org.uk/airfields/airfield-finder/oakington



On 8 May, the 80th Anniversary of VE day, David Reeves, Julie Grove (Parish Council) and Charlotte Jordan on behalf of the village attended the wreath-laying ceremony at Longstanton All Saints Church. The service was dedicated to the twenty-nine airmen buried at Longstanton and all the others who never returned or who had their lives changed forever. Again,

this was a very poignant service. Charlotte related fond memories that her grandmother had of Polish airmen billeted with her. There was a debate regarding Polish

garden mint having a better flavour than English, and following a trip home, one airman brought a mint plant back to Oakington where it still flourishes today, at Waverley and, I believe, Church View.

Having been brought up in Girton, Oakington airfield has always been a feature of our lives. The Varsity trainers amongst others always banked over our chimney pot. And my brother John and I will always remember Battle of Britain Day in September 1953.

Julie Grove



No 7 Squadron with an Avro Lancaster at Oakington

Photos courtesy of
Airfields of Britain
Conservation Trust

Messy Church



Messy Church Oakington held its first two meetings on Saturday 12 April and Saturday 10 May and was well attended by families from our community. The theme for the first one was Easter, and the second one New Life in the Spirit (Pentecost). Children and parents enjoyed the various crafts, celebration and food and a good time was had by all.



Feedback from those attending has been positive and the next meeting, which will be held at St Andrew's church hall, is on **Saturday 14 June** 3pm to 5pm and then on the second Saturday of every month.

All families welcome.

If you need further information, please contact Cate Lambert:
catelambert@hotmail.com or 07533 152519.



Cate Lambert



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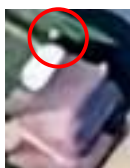
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Gliding

You may, on visiting neighbours or friends in the village, have noticed that the desktop on their computer has an attractive aerial view of the village before the glasshouses on the Tomato Farm were demolished. If you use a magnifying glass you might notice Lesley Guy waving from the garden of 19 Longstanton Road, summoned there by a phone call from 3,000 feet.



Lesley and I began our gliding careers in 1965 at the Norfolk Gliding Club at Tibenham when I was a fairly mature student at UEA. Whilst Lesley no longer flies I (after many breaks for work and family reasons) continue to fly with the Cambridge Gliding Club at Gransden Lodge Airfield – another of the clutch of WWII aerodromes that was so important in this area and just eight miles from the village in a straight line.



Gliding is a very wide-ranging sport. Participants here range from the extremely skilled who fly hundreds of kilometres when conditions are good and who may travel the world to experience opportunities not available in the UK, such as mountain flying in the Alps to long distances at high altitudes in South Africa and Australia, and local soarers such as myself who derive great pleasure from enjoying Cambridgeshire silently from above. Others enjoy racing cross-country or aerobatics.

Few appreciate the technical qualities first developed in gliders and now commonplace in airliners including the development of glass fibre and then carbon fibre for construction to those increasingly complex wing-tips which improve the efficiency of airflow.

The Gliding Club welcomes visitors for air experience flights, one day visits (like the Red Letter Days you might have seen advertised in the press); and five day courses. Beginners are welcome from 15 years up to 75. It can be reached at 01767 677077 – office@camgliding.co.uk – www.camgliding.uk – or, of course, any time you bump into myself or Lesley.



Shane Guy

Gardening Notes

June: A busy time! Start to put in supports for perennials using frames, hoops or canes especially for those with heavy blooms like Peony. Time to start a few biennials like Foxgloves, Hollyhocks and Forget-me-nots ready for next year. Feed over-wintered container grown plants before moving them outside.



Harvest peas regularly. Tie in greenhouse grown tomatoes and cucumbers. Dwarf beans, courgettes, squash and pumpkins can be safely planted out now. Transplant leeks when they reach pencil thickness. Sweetcorn should be planted out in a square to help with wind pollination. The soil should now be warm enough for runner beans to be direct sown.

July: Harvest first-early potatoes. Feed tomatoes, chillies, aubergines and peppers and water regularly. Start to thin out developing apples and pears to encourage larger fruit. After harvesting, prune gooseberries, and white and redcurrants by cutting back to within 2 or 3 leaves of old wood. Be water-wise and use grey water from baths and sinks to water shrubs, trees and ornamentals but not edibles.

Take cuttings of Lavender, Salvia (Sage) and Penstemons using the current season's non-flowering shoots. Dead-head perennials, roses and dahlias to encourage further flowering. Cut back new whippy growth on Wisteria. Keep hoeing between plants regularly. Much easier to eliminate weeds as they start to grow and they always will!

Happy gardening!

Ann and Peter Rayner

Book Club

Wyrd Sisters by Terry Pratchett

In April we read 'Wyrd Sisters' by Terry Pratchett. It was the book club's first foray into the fantasy genre and split the group's opinions. Some members of the group loved it and rated it highly, others couldn't finish it as fantasy wasn't for them, but that's the joy of the book club: a variety of genres recommended.



'Wyrd Sisters' is set in the fictional Discworld. It follows three witches, the usurped king, an evil duke and the missing heir to the throne.

It has comic aspects but also has links to Shakespeare – the obvious being the witches from Macbeth – but it also has links to King Lear and Hamlet, as well as the performing players building the 'Dysk'. It's very clever and funny, and although not for everyone, I would highly recommend it.

We're reading *The Painted Veil* by W. Somerset Maugham for June's meeting on Wednesday **18 June** at 7.30pm, at the White Horse, Oakington.

Natalie Meredith

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Why I love... Chess

Imagine a silent battlefield, 64 squares holding endless possibilities. What if a simple game could teach you patience, strategy, and even a bit about yourself?

I asked the members of the after-school chess club I run why they love playing chess...



Ethan: "because it helps me to concentrate."

Ashwin: "because makes me focus more. I also play chess before I go to bed because it makes me relaxed."

Tom: "because with different chess pieces there are many different combinations with lots of possibilities. Chess can also be dramatic, like it was during the 2024 chess championship I watched."

Matthew: "because I am good at it!"

Noah: "to beat my Dad!"

Chess is a game accessible to all ages and abilities, and the basic rules are surprisingly straightforward to grasp. Since it's true that it can become incredibly complex at higher levels, it has acquired an aura of being an intellectual pursuit very difficult to learn.

This perception has sometimes discouraged young people, especially girls, from giving it a try. Thankfully, the 2020 Netflix drama 'The Queen's Gambit', a captivating story of a young woman's rise to chess stardom, became a global phenomenon and sparked a wonderful surge of interest in the game amongst both young and old.

I feel fortunate to have been given an opportunity to share my love of chess with the pupils at the school. I use this opportunity not only to teach them the game's rules, tactics and strategy, but to provide them with some life-tools, like

- to respect their opponent, even in defeat, just as they'll need to respect different viewpoints in life.
- the ability to handle losing the game without ending up distraught – a valuable lesson in resilience when facing setbacks in any area of life.
- meditation, to help them silence their mind-chatter, useful when facing a tricky move or a test at school.
- to delay gratification, a crucial skill when planning a long-term strategy on the board or saving up for something they really want.

I strongly believe, that by helping to teach and to reinforce important life skills, chess can be seen as a metaphor for life. Just like in life, in chess, every move has consequences, and careful planning is often rewarded. You learn to anticipate your opponent's actions, adapt to changing circumstances, and sometimes even sacrifice a piece (or a short-term gain) for a long-term advantage.

Perhaps, like me, you'll discover that beneath its seemingly complex surface, chess offers not just a game, but a fascinating journey of the mind and a quiet teacher of invaluable life lessons. Maybe it's time to dust off that old board or even learn the rules for the first time – you might be surprised by what you find.

Ranko Pinter

Chess Corner

Solution to chess puzzle 2-25 from last Journal.

1 st White	1 st Black	2 nd White
Na6	Kc8	Qd7#
if	Ka8	Qc6#
if	Kb6	Qb5#



Chess Puzzle 2-25

White to move and checkmate in two moves. Warning, the most obvious solution is not correct!

Please send your solution to me at ranpin@gmail.com

Ranko Pinter

APollOW Update

Following the training session in April, pollinator counts are taking place around the village. Get involved! Details on sustainableow.co.uk/nature-recovery-project/apollow or come to the SOW/EAG stall at the Pollinator Festival at the Garden Centre (21 June) or the Village Day (28 June) and find out how to do a count.

Jenny Prince, James Heywood & John Terry



Harvest Concert Friday Evening 3rd October

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

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

We will also need support with Catering, Sound etc.

What could you do?

This year we would like to raise funds for Oakington Primary School Music Fund

Please contact Elaine Bailey elainebailey1@live.co.uk



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Ring-necked Parakeets

Lots of us have noticed some new visitors to Oakington over the last few months – an invasive species from Africa and Southern Asia called the ring-necked parakeet. They were escapees from London aviaries in the 1960s, where they have thrived for many decades, and they are now a common sight and sound in the London Plane trees, but they are getting a little too comfortable and are spreading across the UK. They are now found as far up as Glasgow, which shows how quickly they have adapted to colder temperatures.

They are very attractive birds to look at with their lime-green plumage, red parrot-y beaks and their pretty, long tails.

Personally, I enjoy the way they whizz across the recreation ground, squawking at one another; it is a novel and somewhat amusing thing to see.

BUT, whilst nice to admire, they are still an invasive species. Their ever-increasing success is down to their exploitation of our native birds' nesting holes—an invasive trait. Taking these limited spaces from our woodpeckers, nuthatches, owls, tits, to name a few, is not a good thing. They also will be picking their way through the flower buds, fruit and berry delicatessen that we are so privileged to have in Oakington, muscling their way past our native birds (known as 'out-competing'). They have even been known to take bats from holes in trees, as an unusual snack! These pretty birds are also considered a noise pollutant!

Invasive species contribute to one third of global species extinctions and we harbour over 3,300 in the UK. Some of the most recognisable in our village are the grey squirrel, muntjac deer and the signal crayfish (with my licence, I retrieved an alarming 300 in a 10 metre stretch in our brook and those were just the ones I could see!). These parakeets are another one to add to the list.

So, what can we do?

The answer is, not a great deal at the moment. Interestingly, they are now considered an important food source for our largest falcon, the peregrine, so, partially in light of that, a cull is not currently planned. Close monitoring may result in some action. We will see. At our level, they do like a bird feeder, so consider shoo-ing them away to discourage them. Squirrel-busting feeders are great for preventing them from accessing your bird food. This will help by making them think that your bird feeder is an unsafe place to be.

Our new visitors seem content here, so we may well expect to see some baby parakeets in Oakington in the near future. I have counted five adults at once so far – any advances on that please do email me; the GB Non-native Species Secretariat (via iRecord), the British Trust for Ornithology, the National Biodiversity Data Centre and I would be interested to know!

Kate Spink
sustainableow@gmail.com





JOIN US FOR THE BIG LUNCH!

Sunday 8th June, 12.30 – 2.30pm
Oakington Recreation Ground & Pavilion

A community Bring & Share lunch – bring a plate of food (savoury or dessert)
(but come along to join in even if you can't bring food)

Get together with friends and neighbours!
 Bring the family – and garden games, a picnic rug or gazebo if you like – but no dogs please
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3:30 - 5:30



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