

Oakington & Westwick

October / November 2026

Journal



**Wading Dry
Jazz in the Sun
Bonfire Night is Back
Voices from the Graves
Feakes Family Fortunes**

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 554403
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 554403
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 – 07526 077494
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
Fri	2 Oct	Mobile Library , 1.50–2.20pm. Coles Lane.
Fri	2 Oct	Minibus to Bar Hill , 10am. To book ring Teri Seaber – 07711 5310044
Sat	3 Oct	Village Walk & Talk , 10.30am. Meet by Church on High Street. Alice J – OWNeighbours@gmail.com
Thu	8 Oct	Chess Club , 7pm. Interested in joining? Contact Ranko Pinter – ranpin@gmail.com or 07766 052025
Thu	8 Oct	O&W WI , 7.30pm. Church Hall. “Silver Spoon History”. Elaine Bailey – elainebailey1@live.co.uk
Fri	9 Oct	Harvest Concert , 7pm. St Andrews Church. In aid of Ruth & Poppy Nicholas Music Fund.
Sat	10 Oct	Apple Pressing , 12–4pm. 54 High Street. All welcome. Alice J – sustainableow@gmail.com
Sat	10 Oct	Messy Church , 3–5pm. Church Hall. Cate Lambert – catelambert@hotmail.co.uk or 07533 152519
Sun	11 Oct	Bulb Planting , 3–4pm. Meet at the Crossroads. sustainableow@gmail.com
Mon	12 Oct	O&W Parish Council Meeting , 7.30pm. Pavilion. All invited. clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk
Tue	13 Oct	Tuesday Talk & Tea , 2.45pm. Church Hall. “Tudor Cambridge”. Kathryn Coles – 01223 233191
Wed	14 Oct	Sustainable O&W , 7.30pm. Hardwood cuttings workshop. sustainableow@gmail.com
Fri	16 Oct	Country Dancing , 8–10pm. Histon Methodist Church. Kathryn Coles – 01223 233191
Tue	20 Oct	WI Craft Club , 7.30pm. White Horse pub. Visitors £5. Elaine Bailey – elainebailey1@live.co.uk
Wed	21 Oct	Book Club , 7.30pm. White Horse pub. “Consider the Ravens”. Natalie Meredith – nataliewant@hotmail.com
Thu	22 Oct	Philosopher's Café , 7pm. Interested in joining? Contact Ranko Pinter – ranpin@gmail.com or 07766 052025
Thu	29 Oct	Board Games Club , 7.30pm. Interested in joining? Contact oakingtongames@gmail.com
Fri	6 Nov	Minibus to Bar Hill , 10am. To book ring Teri Seaber – 07711 531004
Fri	6 Nov	Mobile Library , 1.50–2.20pm. Coles Lane.
Sat	7 Nov	Village Walk & Talk , 10.30am. Meet by Church on High Street. Alice J – OWNeighbours@gmail.com
Sat	7 Nov	Bonfire Night , 6.15pm (gates open 5pm). The Recreation Ground. Jo Mills – bjomills@outlook.com
Mon	9 Nov	O&W Parish Council Meeting , 7.30pm. Pavilion. All invited. clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk
Tue	10 Nov	Tuesday Talk & Tea , 2.45pm. Church Hall. Subject to be confirmed. Kathryn Coles – 01223 233191
Wed	11 Nov	Sustainable O&W , 7.30pm. Bring and mend evening. sustainableow@gmail.com
Thu	12 Nov	Chess Club , 7pm. Interested in joining? Contact Ranko Pinter – ranpin@gmail.com or 07766 052025
Thu	12 Nov	O&W WI , 7.30pm. Church Hall. To be confirmed. Elaine Bailey – elainebailey1@live.co.uk
Fri	13 Nov	Country Dancing , 8–10pm. Histon Methodist Church. Kathryn Coles – 01223 233191
Sat	14 Nov	Messy Church , 3–5pm. Church Hall. Cate Lambert – catelambert@hotmail.co.uk or 07533 152519
Sat	14 Nov	Christmas Fair , 9am–4pm. Oakington Garden Centre. oakingtongcevents@gmail.com
Sun	15 Nov	Christmas Fair , 10am–3pm. Oakington Garden Centre. oakingtongcevents@gmail.com
Tue	17 Nov	WI Craft Club , 7.30pm. White Horse pub. Visitors £5. Elaine Bailey – elainebailey1@live.co.uk
Thu	19 Nov	Philosopher's Café , 7pm. Interested in joining? Contact Ranko Pinter – ranpin@gmail.com or 07766 052025
Sat	21 Nov	Tennis Club Quiz , 6:30 for 7pm. Pavilion. All invited, details to follow. oakingtontc@gmail.com
Wed	25 Nov	Northstowe Forum , 6pm. Northstowe Secondary School. Phase 3 plans, Oakington Airfield heritage display.
Thu	26 Nov	Board Games Club , 7.30pm. Interested in joining? Contact oakingtongames@gmail.com
Sat	28 Nov	Christmas Fayre , 12–3pm. (Deadline for booking stall – 1 Nov) psa@oakington.cambs.sch.uk

BIN DAYS	Fri 9 Oct, Fri 23 Oct, Fri 6 Nov, Fri 20 Nov.	Black bins
	Fri 2 Oct, Fri 16 Oct, Fri 30 Oct, Fri 13 Nov, Fri 27 Nov.	Blue & Green bins

Recycle **Marigold rubber gloves** in the grey recycling box in the village shop

Welcome, Bonfire Night & Little Steps

If you enjoy reading about local history, you're in for a treat this issue. Our series exploring village streets takes us down Orchard Way and High Street, and into a particular house in The Drift, to meet residents of today and yesteryear. Some of these past parishioners are well-remembered now by those who knew them, but others long predate living memory. Yet we have a sense of connection with these people – they lived in very different times, but on roads and among buildings we are familiar with – a place we share and perhaps they would still recognise.

Back to the present, we have all the usual traditional Oakington and Westwick autumn activities to look forward to: apple pressing and the Harvest Concert in October and Bonfire Night back at last in November, followed by fairs and concerts in the run-up to Christmas.

And that's another thing that perhaps hasn't changed over the decades – an active community spirit.

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
DEC 2026/JAN 2027 ISSUE:
Midnight Friday 13 November

To advertise in the Journal,
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be received by **6 November**.

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

Community Association

Oakington and Westwick Bonfire and Fireworks 2026

Back after a two-year break, there will be a traditional Bonfire and Fireworks Night on the Recreation Ground on **7 November**, which is the nearest Saturday to Guy Fawkes Night.

Guy Fawkes Night is an annual commemoration that dates back to 5 November 1605, when Guy Fawkes, a member of the Gunpowder Plot, was arrested while guarding explosives that plotters had placed beneath the House of Lords at Westminster. The aim was to assassinate the King. People lit bonfires around London to celebrate that the King had survived and the custom has continued. In the past, there was an annual public day of thanksgiving for the plot's failure.

Tickets will be on sale at the Village Shop, The White Horse and Oakington Garden Centre from early October, and sold on the night. We will run a fast-track entry system for ticket holders.

The Scouts will run the barbecue, and the Parent Staff Association (PSA) will serve mulled wine and cider, soft drinks and chocolate brownies. There will be a Sparkle Glow Station for kids. Proceeds go to the Community Association, Scouts and PSA.

If you have dry wood or garden waste for the bonfire, please get in touch with Bee Brennan on 07718 068941.

We'd love to have a few more helpers on the day and for the clear-up the next morning. For example, we need to put up some light fencing and a couple of gazebos, manage parking and sell tickets on the door. Please get in touch if you would like to know more.

Jo Mills and the Firework Team
[07714 760582 / bjomills@outlook.com](mailto:bjomills@outlook.com)



Little Steps

Little Steps has returned this September and is in need of some extra help to support the sessions which run weekly, led by volunteers from the village, on a Thursday morning in the church hall from 10–11.30am. It provides the only drop-in mum and toddler group in Oakington.

This group provides an opportunity for mums, dads, carers and grandparents in the village and beyond to meet, for children to play, to have a snack and we finish by sharing a story and singing a selection of popular nursery rhymes.

If you would be interested in joining the team, we currently alternate between two of us leading each session. So whether you can commit to attend weekly or bi-weekly please email us and we would love to welcome you along to a session to see the group in action.

Contact us: littlestepsoakington@gmail.com



Angela Barber

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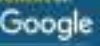
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cllr.westcott@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk

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

Pavilion Handover. After 18 years of being run by a dedicated voluntary management committee, responsibility for the Pavilion and 3G facilities will transfer to the Parish Council on 1 December 2026.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has volunteered their time over the years and helped make these facilities such a success.

In particular, our thanks go to Elaine Bailey, who has been chair of the committee since the pavilion opened in 2008. Elaine was also involved for many years before that, working with others to secure funding and turn the vision of the Pavilion into reality. Her commitment and support have been greatly valued and appreciated.

We would also like to thank Laura Lawrence, who has served as treasurer since 2008, and Sue Heaver, minutes secretary, for their many years of dedicated service. The Pavilion would not be the facility it is today without their help.

Retirement & Job Vacancies. After more than 18 years of dedicated service, Pavilion caretaker and bookings administrator Tony Leadley will be retiring on 30 November 2026. We thank him for his dedication and wish him all the very best for a happy and healthy retirement.

We are now advertising part-time caretaker and bookings administrator posts. We would be happy to appoint one person to undertake both roles, if there is a suitable applicant.

Full job descriptions and person specifications can be obtained by emailing *clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk* or calling 07903 295860.

Applications are invited by CV only. The closing date is Friday 9 October at 5pm. It is anticipated that interviews will be held at the Pavilion during the week commencing 19 October.

Motorbikes. Residents may have noticed an increase in incidents of noisy and illegal use of motorbikes around the parish over the summer.

Our District Councillors have been working with the Community Team at South Cambridgeshire District Council to look at ways of tackling anti-social behaviour in our area. The police are also considering increased patrols in areas that have been reported as hotspots, particularly at the times of day and evening when residents are reporting problems.

Please do continue to report incidents to the police. The more reports they receive, the more evidence we have to help demonstrate the extent of the problem and work with them to tackle it.

Cambridgeshire Police:
cambs.police.uk/ro/report/asb/asb-v3/report-antisocial-behaviour or
phone 101 (non-emergency)

Tom Westcott, Chair

Pavilion – Part-time Vacancies

Bookings Administrator and Caretaker

Closing Date: Friday 9 October

Details from Parish Clerk or 07930 295860

From our County Councillor

Local Government Reorganisation. The Government has announced a pause to its Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) programme while it undertakes a further review of proposals, including those affecting Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

I must admit this is a disappointing decision. Over recent years, local authorities have invested significant officer time, member time, public money and resources preparing for reorganisation and considering future governance arrangements. Whilst it is important that any reform is done properly, the uncertainty created by changing direction after such extensive work is frustrating and risks delaying improvements that residents deserve to see delivered.

The Government has also confirmed that local elections in May 2027 will proceed on existing council boundaries. In the meantime, council services will continue as normal and I will continue focusing on local priorities, rather than waiting for future structural changes.

Unpaid carers invited to help shape future services.

Cambridgeshire County Council is inviting unpaid carers, people with lived experience, and local organisations to help shape future Adult Carers Support Services.

Workshops will take place between September 2026 and March 2027 and will help inform future service priorities and commissioning arrangements.

Further information is available via:

Commissioning.FPTeam@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

A14 logistics developments update. The first of the proposed logistics developments along the A14 corridor, Cambridge 25, located east of Junction 25 between Oakington and Northstowe, has now been formally submitted to the planning authority under application 26/02534/OUT.

Many residents and parish councils have raised concerns regarding congestion, pressure on Junction 25 and the A1307, flood risk, environmental impacts, and the cumulative impact of concentrating several large logistics developments along the A14 corridor.

Importantly, Cambridgeshire County Council has lodged formal objections on both flooding and highway safety grounds.

The County Council's Flood Authority has stated that the applicant has not yet demonstrated that its drainage proposals can safely manage flood risk within this sensitive catchment and has requested further modelling and evidence.

The County Council's Highways Authority has also objected, concluding that the proposed access arrangements on the A1307 could create safety issues, congestion and delays. Officers have questioned whether the site's access strategy is acceptable in its current form and have warned that HGV traffic through villages such as Dry Drayton could increase despite the mitigation measures proposed by the developer.

These objections do not automatically mean the application



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will be refused. However, they demonstrate that many of the concerns raised by local communities are now being reflected in formal responses from Cambridgeshire County Council. I will continue to monitor the application closely and represent the interests of Oakington and Westwick residents throughout the planning process.

Rights of Way Improvement Plan. The County Council is reviewing its Rights of Way Improvement Plan and is seeking views on priorities for walking, cycling and horse-riding routes across Cambridgeshire.

Views can be submitted before 11 October 2026 via: yourvoice.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/place-and-sustainability/95349146/

20mph Programme Review. A recent review of eight 20mph schemes across Cambridgeshire found average vehicle speeds reduced by between 6% and 16% following implementation. Early evidence also suggests a reduction in collisions, although longer-term monitoring will continue.



Cllr Luis Navarro

From our District Councillors

You will have seen that the Government has postponed its decision on Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) for Cambridgeshire. This won't affect your services: SCDC continues to manage Council Tax, benefits, bin collections, housing, business support, licensing, environmental health, planning, elections, and community grants – including High Street grants, and the popular Six Free Trees scheme. Full details: www.scambs.gov.uk.

As your District Councillors, we're glad so many of you bring us your queries. This summer, common concerns included cost-of-living support (and funding for the colder months ahead), the new food bin collections, getting involved in Northstowe Phase 3 as plans develop for housing towards Oakington, and anti-social behaviour (ASB). If you haven't yet been in touch, here are some pointers:

Financial support: visit www.scambs.gov.uk and click on benefits.

ASB (antisocial behaviour): report concerns to the police immediately, and see www.gov.uk/how-report-antisocial-behaviour/make-report for guidance on reporting antisocial behaviour, which directs you to the right people.

Food bins: for all bin collection queries, visit www.scambs.gov.uk and enter your postcode for full details.

Northstowe Phase 3: the next Northstowe Forum is at 6pm on **25 November**, with speakers from Homes England, the developers, and SCDC's Community Team. It's due to be held at the Secondary School this time, with a display on Oakington Airfield and local heritage, rather than its usual venue, the Unity Centre.

We work closely with SCDC, our local MP Ian Sollom, the police, and the Parish and Town Councils. Right now, ASB and Northstowe's potential environmental impact are key concerns for our villages. If you need help with anything, please email or call one of us – contact details on page 5.

Cllr Natalie Warren-Green &

Cllr Sunita Hansraj



Oakington C of E Primary School Parent Staff Association



Thank you for all those who set up pitches and supported the yard sale at the start of September. It was great to see people walking around the village and having the WI cake stall in the centre of the village was ideal. We hope everyone enjoyed the community event.



The next opportunity for the village to get involved is at the PSA Christmas Fayre, 12–3pm on Saturday **28 November**. We are welcoming stall holders for a small fee and would

gratefully receive any donations for our Christmas Raffle from local organisations and businesses. If you're interested in either please email the Psa@oakington.cambs.sch.uk.

Angela Barber – PSA Chair



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Environment Action Group

We have examined the detailed planning application submitted for the proposed **Cambridge 25 logistics park** by the A14 in Oakington parish, focusing in particular on the flood risk implications. Our Flood Mitigation Group is satisfied with the proposals for managing water runoff from the site itself, as the proposed mitigation would give a lower rate of peak runoff than the 'greenfield rate' of the current farmland. However, we have concerns about the developers' proposals to install a private sewage system rather than connecting to the public sewer. We understand that this is due to a lack of capacity in the public system, which takes sewage from Oakington to Utton's Drove Water Recycling Centre near Swavesey. The proposed private system would discharge treated effluent into Oakington Brook, which could have an impact on flow rates in the brook as well as causing an undue pollution risk.

While the proposed flood mitigation measures should manage water runoff from the site itself, this would not offer any protection to Oakington from flood water already in the brook.

We previously wrote to the developers asking for additional flood mitigation that could help protect our village from a flooding event such as that in August 2014 when around 60 properties had flooding indoors. We also requested a cycle path along Dry Drayton Road to link the site with Oakington. Unfortunately, while the planning application includes a statement that additional mitigation is "being considered", this gives us no confidence that it will be done. There is also no mention of a cycle path, and the developers seem to be suggesting that Dry Drayton Road is fine for cycling along (!)

Our previous position was that while we could see the potential for some positives if the developers were to include an additional flood mitigation pond and a cycle path in their plans, we were not in support of the development and would need to see the actual plans. Now that we have seen the detailed plans we have no confidence that additional flood mitigation will be done and therefore we do not support the development.

We have written to the planners at South Cambridgeshire District Council formally objecting to the proposals on the basis of sewage treatment and flood risk, as well as traffic issues and the effect on the landscape and ecology.

In other news, you may have noticed that the **village pond** has had little or no water in it for much of the summer. This is due to the lack of rain. There are no streams flowing in or out of the pond, and instead the water level goes up and down with the underlying water table. Back in August we took advantage of the lack of water to carry out some tidying up in and around the pond. We removed excess vegetation including a plant that is new to us, pink water speedwell (*Veronica catonata*). We also pulled up some of the reedmace and Norfolk reed; both species are very aggressive and will take over the whole pond if not kept in check.

Stephanie Smith



Where was this?

Of course you spotted the level crossing gates. Sadly passenger services from Oakington ended in 1970, although freight continued to run until 1992, and a rail enthusiasts' special came through one final time in March, 1990. The busway was opened on 7 August, 2011, making it the longest guided busway in the world.



Another fairly easy one, if you look closely at the background.

Editors



James Youd standing in the near-empty pond

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Oakington Retirement Community Park – moving the vision forward

For many older residents, reaching the point where the family home is larger than they need presents a difficult choice: downsize and leave Oakington, or stay in a house that no longer suits them. For eight years, the Oakington Retirement Community Park (ORCP) project has been exploring a third option – downsizing while staying in the village and the community you know.

The vision is a purpose-built retirement community on the 50-acre Homes England site on the southern edge of the village, incorporating the flood attenuation scheme the village has campaigned for for over a decade. It would offer independent living through to nursing care on one site, so residents' needs can change without moving away, and couples can stay together. Plans also include accommodation for younger people and an amenity centre open to the wider village, creating a genuinely inter-generational community.

There has recently been an important step forward: Homes England, which owns the site, has indicated support in principle. At a meeting on 18 June, its representatives said there was "nothing not to like" about the concept and asked ORCP to prepare a concept design.

To take the project forward, ORCP is being established as a Foundation Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). Its eight founding trustees are: Dr Geoffrey Butlin (civil engineering, former parish councillor); Sean Moroney (sustainable micromobility); Dr Elinor Brett-Sillifant (psychology and the non-profit sector); Emma Fletcher

(green energy and sustainable housing); Professor Stephen Moore (social policy and local government); Claire Harris (health and wellbeing); Bernie Yates (accountancy); and John Terry (ecology and Environment Action Group). The CIO's role is to champion the vision and help make it happen – developing the concept, demonstrating local need, working with Homes England and planners, and finding a development partner and care provider – rather than to operate the community itself. Initial discussions with potential partners are already under way.



The planning route is expected to be 'rural exception', which favours community-led affordable housing. The site has some unusual advantages: it is outside the Green Belt, includes previously developed land, and could combine the retirement community with the long-awaited flood attenuation scheme. Environmental sustainability is central too, with the ambition of a very low-energy, potentially zero-bills community using high insulation, renewable energy and ground-source heating.

There is still a long way to go, but Homes England's encouragement is a significant step forward. Above all, ORCP remains community-led, aiming to let older residents stay part of Oakington and Westwick while bringing lasting benefits to the whole village.

Geoffrey Butlin, geoffrey@thebutlins.net

Sean Moroney, seanm@cambridgeelectrictransport.co.uk

Oakington C of E Primary School



Kind donation to the school from the Monday Cafe

We have had a very smooth start to the new school year at Oakington Primary School. It has been lovely to have the children back after the summer holidays and especially great to welcome our new Reception children who have been settling into school life and learning new routines. Our School Council who represent the children across the school have met to plan how to introduce some new equipment that has been bought for playtimes. This was very generously funded by the members of the Oakington Monday Cafe. The

School Council were excited to consult with the classes that they represent and as a result the following items were ordered: a set of frisbees, hopscotch tiles, outdoor chalk, a large outdoor Connect 4 game and a box of kapla wooden blocks. The School Council will be showing these to the school during assembly and they are drawing up a rota so that each class can share the equipment fairly. We would like to thank Jenny Hill and the members of the Monday Cafe for their extremely kind donation of £300.

Here at the school we are keen to maintain and extend our involvement with groups and individuals within the Oakington community. Please do get in touch if you would like to get involved.

Mrs Gibbard, Headteacher

Clubs and Groups

Sustainable Oakington & Westwick

Thank you to everyone who helped clear more old plastic tree guards from Centenary (aka Millennium) Wood in August. We'll arrange another session later in the year – email us or check the website to get the dates.



Another open-air activity to improve our local environment is community bulb-planting, to increase the appeal of the left-long-for-wildlife verges to both pollinators and parishioners. This has provisionally been arranged for Sunday **11 October**, 3–4pm. Meet at the crossroads – bring a trowel or bulb planter and gloves.

The September SOW meeting was a shared veggie feast – we enjoyed culinary delights and each other's company. All are welcome to SOW meetings:

- **14 Oct** hardwood cutting workshop and follow-up from local climate action conference. Bring a stick from a shrub you'd like more of!
- **11 Nov** bring and mend evening, with knife sharpening too. Bring something you'd like to try mending (or a garden tool or kitchen knife etc you'd like to sharpen) – maybe with help from others there.

More details on the SOW website.

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

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 and Westwick WI

Jacqui Allen was our inspirational speaker at our September meeting. Jacqui spoke about her adventures in Gambia and supporting the charity, The Lisa Kent Trust.

Thank you to everyone who came to support us in our cake and produce stall to raise funds for our WI, at the village sign.

Our next meeting on Thursday **8 October** is entitled 'History of the English Silver Spoon', when we have a returning speaker, the lovely Neil Cullen.

We always have extra events planned. The third Tuesday in the month is craft club in the White Horse pub, £5 for visitors. Bring your own portable projects. We'd love to see you!

We also have a bowling trip planned at Pidley on a Saturday in November, and a trip to the Panto to see a production by the Over Players.

Visitors are always welcome to drop in and try our meetings. We are a friendly bunch, do join us.

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 Tennis Club

Save the date! QUIZ NIGHT - Saturday 21 November

Oakington & Westwick Tennis Club will be hosting their ever-popular general knowledge Quiz Night on Saturday 21 November. Doors open at 6.30pm with the quiz starting at 7.00pm.

This is a joint OWTC and village event, open to everyone, with the money raised going to a nominated charity as well as the Tennis Club.

Keep a look out for more details in due course.

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 & 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.

Clubs and Groups

Oakington Singers

You *may* have thought that, after a busy few months of performing at village events (in hotter than usual conditions), our choir might have wanted to take a well-earned summer break. Such is our enthusiasm, this has not been the case. Instead we have opted to enjoy making the most of the light evenings, continuing to rehearse at our weekly regular slot in St Andrew's Church Hall on a Monday evening from 7.30-9.00pm... *with the doors wide open*. I mention this in case passers-by at that time might have wondered why they were hearing ethereal voices seemingly rising from the graveyard! If this was you, then you have had a foretaste of the new music we are preparing for the forthcoming Harvest Concert on Friday **9 October**. And in case you recognised the toe-tapping tunes we have been singing, we would be grateful if you would keep this information to yourselves so as to avoid spoilers before what is planned as a particularly enjoyable evening. You will find details of the Harvest Concert elsewhere in this edition of the Journal and we look forward to presenting a polished performance of our secret new piece along with a host of other talented performers from among the residents of Oakington and Westwick. A treat is in store.

Helen Williams



The Singers at the Vicarage Soiree in July



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.

Oakington and Westwick Allotment Society

The allotment society is thriving and we are all very proud of what we have achieved in the past two years. We have doubled the number of plots, built a clubhouse, made a second car-park and, with the help of an SCDC grant, have installed an extensive rainwater collection facility for general use. At present we have just one 9m x 10m plot available to rent for anyone who is brave enough to try 'Grow your own'. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Ann Rayner (Secretary). ann.rayner42@icloud.com.



Ann Rayner

Tuesday Talk & Tea

The Members attending the meeting on 8 September decided that the Club should continue and therefore the speaker at the meeting on Tuesday **13 October** will be Honor Ridout, who will give an illustrated talk on "Tudor Cambridge". We look forward to welcoming everybody there.

The subject for **10 November** has yet to be decided.

Kathryn Coles



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: Kathryn, 01223 233191

Country Dance Club

Jane and I look forward to welcoming you at the Country Dance Club on **16 October**, **13 November** and 11 December for more evenings of fun, friendship and dancing. All abilities are catered for whether you are an expert or beginner as we have a Caller and live music and the dances are all walked through. We hope that you can join us either to dance or just listen to the band.

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.

Oakington & Westwick Short Mat Bowls

Did you know that the Short Mat Bowls Club plays throughout the year? So, if you are looking for something active to do now that summer is over, why not give bowls a try? We meet every Thursday evening between 7.30 and 9.30 pm at the Oakington Pavilion. Come and join us as our guest one Thursday. We have spare bowls for you to use – all we ask is that you wear soft-soled shoes.

Dawn Stokes



We play at the Pavilion, on Thursday evenings 7.30-9.30pm. If you would like more information, please contact Dawn Stokes on 07526 077494.

Open Eco Homes – till 18 Oct



Local homeowners are opening their doors to show visitors real-world retrofits: from heat pumps, insulation and heat recovery systems to solar panels, batteries, EV chargers and rainwater harvesting. Tours – in-person and online – and associated talks are free, organised by local charity Cambridge Carbon Footprint. Book at: cambridgecarbonfootprint.org/what-we-do/open-eco-homes

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Orchard Way

Orchard Way is a fairly new street, built in 1961. Among the first to move in were Dennis and Carla Barden, who were featured in the April/May 2022 Journal. A lot of the residents support activities around the village and many names will be familiar; you will have seen them popping up in the Journal and on village notice boards.

Everyone knows Elaine (Bailey) for her lead roles on the Pavilion Committee and WI (among many others), and her husband John who has now been a Parish Councillor for over 33 years. Elaine told us about a number of memorable residents who are sadly no longer with us. Elizabeth (Liz) Beeson at number six passed away in 2012 at just 74. She had been a professional actress and mime artist and, in later years, was a member of the Mackenzie Music and Drama Society and Oakington Singers. They held a joint memorial concert for her following her death. A “true gentleman” with the “best smile” was Dennis Clare from number 11, also a member of Oakington Singers and the village barbershop group, who passed away in 2010.

Mick and Di Wisbey moved in in 1971. Di is a familiar face and will be remembered for running the village Cub pack for 25 years – part of an amazing 54 years with the Scout movement.

Many will also know John Terry, Chairman of the Environment Action Group, and Bernie Yates, who has now retired from a number of village roles to concentrate on the allotments.

Paul Tann, musical director of the Oakington Singers, tells us that he moved into Orchard Way in September 2001 to be greeted almost immediately by a flood, and had to live upstairs for a while. This was topped by the August 2014 flood which affected about half of the houses in the road. Paul also has fond memories of the aforementioned barbershop quartet; he along with Dennis, Stuart Spink and Chris Loweth, made up the group.

Kathryn Coles, another of the early residents, has been kind enough to share with us her experience of 64 years in the street and some of her more recent garden visitors.

“My family and I moved to Orchard Way in March 1962 as Dad had secured a job in Cambridge. When we moved here Orchard Way was not on mains drainage so the sewage works was over the hedge at the bottom of our and number 16’s gardens with a gated driveway to access it. A lorry used to come regularly to pump out the waste. When we were eventually put on mains drainage in the early seventies, the land where the sewers had been was split between our garden and that of number 16.

My garden was big in the beginning but with the extra land it now goes down to the brook. I call the extra piece my wild garden although, not being a gardener, the rest of the garden is pretty wild too! There was a hazel tree near the brook and it was a race between Dad and the squirrels as to who got the nuts first. I have seen at least five grey squirrels and two black ones during the past year. I also get several muntjac



who I give names to but they are probably different ones each time. I did see what I think was a family of three once. I put birdseed and peanuts out for the birds and the muntjac come and eat

the seed and the squirrels the peanuts and sunflower hearts. I have seen a fox and hedgehogs in the garden in the past and wonder if I actually get any badgers.

Whilst digging the garden, Dad found a piece of chainmail which he passed on to Martin Chapman as he was a pupil at The Perse School and Dad thought they would be interested in having it. Dad also found a ‘silver’ bracelet under the holly tree which consists of seven decorated bangles held together with a metal loop.

I believe the Oakington Bowls Club was founded by Wilf Clark and several Orchard Wayians also joined – Mary Chapman, Dennis Clare and my Mum, Dorothy. When it began they met in the old Scout Hut on the Recreation Ground. They held competitions amongst the members and Mum won a trophy several years.”



Information from residents suggests that the houses were built by R & H Wale on an orchard owned by Edwin and Margaret Doggett, although we have been unable to confirm all the details. Originally at the edge of the site was Bridge Farm and on the 1945 aerial photograph on Google Earth there is no sign of an orchard.

Ela Yates & Graham Tregonning

Pregnant Mums Research Project

Could you share your story to help future doctors to understand pregnancy and early parenthood from the parent’s perspective?

A small group of University of Cambridge medical students are looking for mums who are due to give birth between August 2026 and May 2027, who would be prepared to talk about their experiences.

To find out more and register your interest, please email: pregnancy@medshl.cam.ac.uk

Vicky Stevens, Preparing for Patients Coordinator





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What happens to soil and wildlife when there's a drought?

The record level of heat this spring and summer and the lack of rainfall has not been good for our soils. Some people view soil as just dirt under our feet, but those who know a little more recognise that it is a living entity with bacteria and fungi as well as a range of invertebrates all making up a biodiverse system. The range of species is actually much bigger than anything above ground and in addition the soil, being a mix of sand, clay, silt and organic matter, is a big reservoir of carbon and water. About half the volume of soil is air, in holes usually kept in good condition by worms, beetles and roots. This is very important to all the living organisms, and of course, water is also vital.

In droughts, soil water evaporates, so the soil structure is damaged. Soil particles, especially clay particles, lose their cohesion and soils become tightly packed and lose air spaces. Worms travel downwards in search of moisture: they can go several feet down, curling up and secreting moisture around themselves to remain in a moribund state. Worms, of course, are the main agents for creating tunnels in the soil. Without them the amount of air is further reduced. Fungi, bacteria and invertebrates die, reducing nutrient cycling.

The drying out is more rapid on sandy soils and newly established plants can die, or lose leaves. Buildings and walls may collapse as cracks appear in clay soils, unless the water is replaced.

When the rains do come, the water cannot easily percolate into dry soil because of reduced air spaces and a crust on the top; flash flooding can then occur. The rain rushes across the top of the soil and into streams and rivers, especially with

intense, heavy rain. Dry soils are very vulnerable to erosion by water and wind and some nutrients are lost. In urban areas, where soil is covered in tarmac and concrete, flooding can occur.

To mitigate this, vegetation cover helps recovery because root growth combats compaction. Cultivation should be avoided by farmers and gardeners until rains relieve the situation.



What about the heat bringing early leaf loss and early fruiting to trees?

Early fruiting means that when autumn does come, the fruit and berries have mostly gone. A loss of fruit/berry availability could have serious negative consequences for many birds, e.g. blackbirds and fieldfares, which rely on berries, especially in the winter months.

Premature leaf loss is a way trees have of reducing water loss through transpiration from their leaves in droughts. Trees that are most drought resistant include field maple, hornbeam and holme oak.

Which species of wildlife suffer most in droughts? Those most dependent on moisture are most affected. Unlike reptiles, the skin of amphibians must stay moist, so they really suffer in droughts. Birds also suffer because worms and insects are unavailable during dry weather. Bumblebees are in trouble because they are so well insulated and there are signs that they are moving north along with dragonflies. We can help wildlife in our gardens by providing water and shade, with additional apple trees.

John Terry

Oakington & Westwick Neighbours

A wonderful afternoon at the lake!

Thank you, Geoffrey and Iréne Butlin, for hosting a wonderfully warm and sunny Tea and Jazz afternoon on Sunday 6 September. Thanks to the many villagers who attended and to the band, Black Coffee, for entertaining us so well.



This is the only fundraising event run by the Oakington and Westwick Neighbours group. So we were delighted to raise c £600. Much of these funds will go towards running the monthly minibus service to Tesco. Anyone can use this service which runs on the first Friday morning each month.

We invite you to try out the minibus trip – you will be collected from and delivered back to your house!

For friendly help or to volunteer, phone us on 07902 111786 or email owneighbours@gmail.com.

Jenny Broadway



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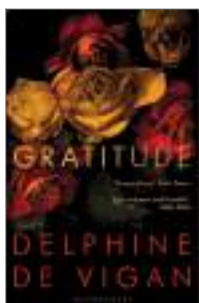
— AT THE HEART OF OUR COMMUNITY —



Book Club

Gratitude by Delphine de Vigan

A novella translated from the original French, the story centres on three main characters – Michka, a new resident of a nursing home, Jerome her speech therapist and Michka's friend and neighbour Maria, with the narrative alternating between them.



Michka has spent her life working with words but they have suddenly started to disappear; its impact on her and those around her is the main theme as well as the reason why each character has a reason to be grateful.

Gratitude is about love, loss, about what we owe one another and the saving power of showing thanks.

However, there are also many instances throughout the book that make you smile and members agreed it was an easy, thoughtful but worthwhile read.

The next meeting is at the White Horse at 7.30pm on Wednesday **21 October** and the book is **Consider the Ravens** by Cressida Downing, so do come and join this friendly group for an informal discussion.

Angela North

Chess Corner

Solution to the puzzle 5/26 from last Journal:

White Rook c3 – b3!

In response, Black has the following four possible moves:

1. If Black King takes White Rook on b3, White Bishop e2–d1, checkmate!
2. If Black Pawn on c4 takes White Rook on b3, White Knight e4–c3, checkmate!
3. If Black Pawn on b6 takes White Bishop on c5, White Knight takes Black Pawn on c5, checkmate!
4. If Black Pawn on b6 moves to b5, White Rook moves to a3, checkmate!



Puzzle 6/26 (this time an easy one)

White to move and checkmate in two moves.

Please send your solution to ranpin@gmail.com.

Ranko Pinter

Gardening Notes

October: Time to harvest and store pumpkins and squashes once their skins have hardened suitably and before the first frost. Plant out spring cabbage and cover to protect from hungry pigeons. Clear all spent vegetables and compost the foliage. Mound soil around sprout stems to prevent root damage in windy weather. Clean the greenhouse ready to overwinter tender perennials and any citrus in pots. Winter salad crops like mizuna, rocket and spinach can now be sown into pots in the greenhouse to enjoy over winter.

Empty faded summer containers and create a beautiful winter pot by planting bulbs underneath and pansies and primulas on top. Keep moist and deadhead regularly. Spent summer perennials can be cut back now but leave some seedheads for the birds. It's a good time to plant wallflowers and forget-me-nots for a spring display. Start to collect fallen leaves. Put them in hessian sacks or old compost bags with holes in. Moisten them and stack out of sight until well rotted. This makes wonderful mulch and soil improver for flower or vegetable beds.

November: Plant garlic now. Dig in plenty of organic matter and plant individual cloves about 2.5cm deep and 15cm apart. Hardy peas and broad beans can be sown for an early crop next year. Start to harvest winter cabbage, sprouts and parsnips. Also check that brassica netting is secure. Pigeons will soon strip a healthy crop! Autumn fruiting raspberries can be cut to ground level once fruiting has finished. Check all stored fruit and vegetables regularly and remove any showing signs of rot.

Sow a few pots of sweet peas and keep somewhere cool

over winter. Pinch out the tops regularly to make strong, bushy plants ready for spring planting. Elevate any outdoor pots onto feet and remove saucers to prevent winter waterlogging. Reduce long, new shoots on all roses by about a third to avoid root-rock in strong winds. This is the best time to plant tulips in borders. The colder weather helps prevent the fungal disease 'Tulip Fire' and ensures strong, spring blooms.

Let's hope that next year's growing season is not quite as challenging as this one.

Happy Gardening!

Ann and Peter Rayner



Our dry garden survived!

Apple Pressing

October is time for apple pressing in Oakington. Blue Barrel Cider invite villagers and visitors to the old stables at 54 High Street 12–4pm Saturday 10 October. (Please note there will be just the one session this year due to availability.)

Everyone is invited to join in washing, crushing and pressing locally-grown apples. There will be free refreshments at this family-friendly event, along with the chance to buy delicious local cider.

If you want to get involved in the full experience, you're welcome to come to the Jordans' orchard on Arcadia Gardens to pick the apples in the morning 10–11am.

Alice J and Emma & Leo Jordan

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The Feakes Family and Florence Cottage 1851 – 1911

We first meet Thomas Feakes in the 1851 census, an agricultural labourer aged 30. Although born in Oakington, he was at that time living on Cottenham Road, Westwick, with his wife Lydia, also aged 30, and their first three children: Thomas (5 years), born in Oakington, and Elizabeth (3 years) and Frances (3 months), both born in Westwick. He is still in Westwick ten years later, although now married to Mary, and with two more children, Marian (or Mary Ann) (8) and Ellen (5).

However, by 1871 Thomas has moved to Longstanton Road, Oakington, living in what we believe is Florence Cottage (although this name does not actually appear until 1891). In those days a cottage could be a smallholding and it stood alone at the time (see photo), but now it is the white cottage on the Drift. As you can see on the map, it was a fairly large property with its own pump. In 1871 Thomas is a Poulterer (or chicken farmer); his son, most likely working with him, has the same occupation. He has married a third time, to Susan, five years his junior. His former wife Mary and his daughter Frances from his first marriage both seem to have passed on. Still in the household are Elizabeth, now a dressmaker, and Ellen; his other daughter, Mary Ann, is a domestic servant for a Cambridge corn merchant. Next door lives Susan's father, Thomas Coulson, a widower born in Swavesey, and also a Poulterer.

In 1881, Florence Cottage appears to be occupied by the younger Thomas Feakes, aged 35, his wife Mary Ann, and three daughters. While this Thomas is still a Poulterer, his father is now a farmer of 17 acres, employing one man. He and Susan live next door with her father, aged 86 but still working. And next to them, back with the family, is Mary Ann, now self-employed as a dressmaker.

The following census gives us another snapshot of the rapidly growing family in Florence Cottage: Winifred (13), Lydia (12), Constance (11), Oliver (9), Ellen (7) Amy (6), Roland (5), Hannah (3) and Bertha 6 months. All but the two youngest are at school. Their aunt Mary Ann has returned to Cambridge, living with her sister Ellen (now Willson) who is a shopkeeper on Gwydir Street.

By 1901 the household has become larger still, but sadly Thomas (junior) has died. His widow, Mary Ann, now 51, continues to live with her children. Winifred works at home as a dressmaker. Oliver, now aged 19, is categorised as a 'farmer's grandson', which suggests he is working on the farm. He has a new younger brother, 9-year-old Thomas. Also in the house are Eyra Mitchell, Mary Ann's brother, a blacksmith, and his wife Alice Hannah. Next door is the elder Thomas Feakes, now a widower at age 80 but still farming. His daughter Mary Ann, still single, is back home, presumably to help her father, and staying with them is his granddaughter, 16-year-old Amy Susan.

Ten years later, a new generation lives in Florence Cottage: Oliver Feakes, now a farmer in his own right, and his new wife Pattie. However other family members are still in the village. The widowed Mary Ann Feakes lives at



'Rowanhurst', with her daughter, Bertha, and her son, Thomas, a wheelwright. Mary Ann and her sister Ellen (Wilson), together with a boarder, Eliza Baker, live in 'The Ferns', which

appears to be the house next door to Florence Cottage.

If you have one of the older houses in the village and would like us to build a story around the history of your house, please get in touch with the editors: details on page 3.

*Graham Tregonning and Shula Sutherland.
(Photo courtesy of Rose)*

Village Calendars

Inspired by the beautiful calendars that were produced every year in my previous village, I would like to create an Oakington calendar for village residents and their families and friends.

Starting next year with a 2028 calendar, each year the calendar would feature different village scenes, objects and events such as in the examples illustrated. The calendar would go on sale in the village in the run-up to Christmas and the proceeds would go to local charities. If you are interested in helping in the design and production of the calendar, or in providing photos, artwork – paintings or sketches or any other suitable material, I would love to hear from you.

*Ela Yates
(Please email me via the Journal)*



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A Century Ago on the High Street

Part 1

Over a century ago, Oakington High Street was a bustling stretch of packed earth, cottages and shops, orchards and farmland. The village had just over 400 inhabitants. It hosted annual ploughing competitions and horticultural shows. Apples, Dutch iris and pyrethrum flourished in the hard clay soil, and the railway (arriving in 1847) was a particular boon for farmers, carrying their fruits and flowers all the way to Covent Garden.



*Ruth Nicholas
(granddaughter of
Charles Papworth)*

Turning onto the High Street from Water Lane the butcher shop was on the left followed by the village fire station (between numbers 5 & 7 today). Prior to 1900, the foreman of the wagon engine, William Warboys, and his team of volunteers bravely serviced the Oakington and Dry Drayton areas. Volunteers were compensated all of one shilling for each run. The fire wagon was replaced by a pump-operated engine car in 1940.



Oakington wagon fire engine

Entering the High Street, on the right was one of three village water pumps (where number 2 is now). Beyond the water pump, a golden triangle of allotment grew sturdy marrow and tall sunflowers. This plot, with its modest cottage fondly named “Frannel,” belonged to Frank and Nellie Covill. Nellie worked as a housemaid at Waverley House and dairy farm.



Water pump (right), the newly-built Baptist Chapel (distant right). The fire station shed (front left), the bakehouse (mid-left, with the two chimneys) and Lion and Lamb (distant left)

Looking left again is Milford House (number 23), so named as the new home of the local miller of the time, Charles Papworth. The millstone under our village sign was taken from the site of his old mill, located beyond the north end of the High Street. From Milford House, the corn mill built by Charles in 1868 may have been just visible in the distant left. Unfortunately, the windmill had to be blown up in the 1930s as it posed an obstruction to the airfield being built between Longstanton and Oakington before the war.

Adjacent to Milford House, Charles built the cottages (numbers 11-13) and his son Ernest ran the bakehouse (number 21) running around the corner of Coles Lane and filling the air with the delicious smell of baked bread.



Ernest Papworth family (bakehouse)

Across from this stands the Baptist Chapel, which the congregation had to rebuild in 1865. Poor Albert Doggett never outlived his boyish accident – playing with matches and catching the wooden Chapel, the adjacent green and near farm buildings alight. The congregation rebuilt the Chapel in just three months and expanded the Sunday School. The Chapel’s history is rooted in protestant dissenters from the Church of England who had been common to Oakington for a number of centuries. Though not linked to the chapel, the graves of the non-conformist martyrs – Holcroft, Oddy and Osland – are segregated from the rest in St Andrew’s churchyard for this reason. Believer’s baptisms and Sunday School were popular, with the Chapel’s website noting (from 1849) that around “500 – 600 friends took tea” in one of their annual celebrations for the children.



Sunday school children outside the Baptist Chapel. The bakehouse is in the distant left and the small plane tree is behind, right

Stocks Green, in front of the Chapel, was presumably the site of ankle stocks for local miscreants. At its edge by the road is the striking plane tree with its perennially peeling bark, nearly 200 years old, and planted on trend in cities and greens at the time (given its drought and air-pollutant resistance). Beyond the Chapel were a few cottages and Papworth’s “little orchard” of apple and pear trees which extended into Waverley Farm. The back garden of the house still contains an ancient pear pollinator tree.

Twenty Five High Street displays the plaque: “Lion and Lamb”. At the turn of the century, this was one of two village pubs on the High Street, open until 1903. The Beerhouse Act of 1830 allowed any “Householder of Respectability” to sell half pints of beer out of their front room, and a number of Oakington residents did so. The thatched buildings (numbers 25 – 27) were known as “Providence Row” as owned by William Warboys, brewer and local farmer. His wife Esther was a dressmaker. The pub and cottages were linked to the Chapel as a site for local gatherings, inquests and general philanthropic community endeavours (as was common to non-conformist religious groups at that time).



Ellis Warboys (great-uncle of Ralph Warboys)

*Tina Daniels
With contributions from:
Charlotte Jordan and Lillon Harrison
Oakington and Westwick Historical Society website
Oakington Baptist Chapel website*



Harvest Concert

Friday Evening 9th October

The concert is starting at 7pm

at

St Andrews Church, Oakington

Amazing Local Talent and Performances all put together for your enjoyment!

Refreshments in the interval



Free admission

Donations welcome to Oakington Primary School

Ruth and Poppy Nicholas Music Fund

(A fund initiated by Ruth Harrison in memory of her younger sister Poppy, to facilitate musical experiences at the school that they may inspire and encourage local youngsters to participate in music making.)



Christmas Fair

Sat 14th Nov
9am - 4pm

Sun 15th Nov
10am - 3pm

Festive gifts, food, drinks,
music & activities

 **OAKINGTON**
GARDEN CENTRE
- FAMILY RUN SINCE 1981 -

Merry CHRISTMAS FAYRE

NOVEMBER

28

12-3PM

OAKINGTON C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

SAVE THE DATE

Welcoming stall holders for a small fee (deadline for signing up 1st November) and raffle prizes from local businesses
Contact PSA@oakington.cambs.sch.uk



1st Oakington Scout Group



Christmas Carol Concert



Featuring

Cottenham Brass Band

the beautiful singing voices of the 1st Oakington Scout Group!

Christmas Raffle

Mince pies and Refreshments!

Saturday 12th December

2pm - 3:30pm

20 Oakington Pavilion

Queens Way, Oakington

Entry is Free! - So Please come and join us in a wonderful start to the Christmas festivities!

OAKINGTON FIREWORKS & BONFIRE NIGHT

7 NOVEMBER 2026

GATES OPEN: 5PM
FIREWORKS: 6:15PM

TICKETS: £15 FAMILY
£5 ADULT
£3.50 CHILD
UNDER 5S FREE

*FAMILY = 2 ADULTS + UP TO 3 CHILDREN
Available for pre-sale at the Nisa local shop and
White Horse Pub. Cash only please.*

SCOUTS BBQ
PSA MULLED DRINKS, BROWNIES
& HOT CHOCOLATE

All funds taken support village groups:

Disabled parking only @ Pavilion



Recreation Ground, Queens Way, Oakington

