

# ***Oakington & Westwick***

***June / July 2026***

***Journal***



**Loving EAGT  
Nocturnal Beavers  
Ten Sing Swansong  
Bus Stuck Memories  
Village Day on the Way**

## What's On

### Weekly

Mon		<b>Monday Cafe</b> , 10–noon. Church Hall, £1. Liz Davis – 01223 232745
Mon		<b>Youth Club</b> , on a Bus, 7–9pm. Recreation Ground, School Year 7 and above. Free. 07853 795256
Mon		<b>Oakington Singers</b> , 7.30–9pm. Church Hall. Elaine Bailey – <a href="mailto:elainebailey1@live.co.uk">elainebailey1@live.co.uk</a>
Tue		<b>Senior Pilates</b> , 11.30–12.30pm. Pavilion. Classes throughout the week. Claire Young – 07766 554413
Tue		<b>Cubs</b> , 6–7.15pm. Term time. Pavilion. Richard Young – <a href="mailto:richard.young@crafthillscouts.org.uk">richard.young@crafthillscouts.org.uk</a>
Tue		<b>Table Tennis</b> , 7.30–9pm. Pavilion. Gillian L'Angellier – 01223 234758
Wed		<b>Mixed Ability Pilates</b> , 10–11am. Pavilion. Classes throughout the week. Claire Young – 07766 554413
Wed		<b>Yoga</b> , 7–8.15pm. Pavilion. Denise Sibley-Moore – 01954 202235
Thu		<b>Mature Movers</b> , 10–10.45am. Pavilion. Katie Harknett – 07541 721059 / <a href="mailto:info@elemental-fitness.co.uk">info@elemental-fitness.co.uk</a>
Thu		<b>Little Steps</b> playgroup, 10–11.30am. Term time. Church Hall. <a href="mailto:littlestepsoakington@gmail.com">littlestepsoakington@gmail.com</a>
Thu		<b>Short Mat Bowls</b> , 7.30–9.30pm. Pavilion. Dawn Stokes – 01223 236427
Thu		<b>Quiz Night</b> , 8pm. White Horse Pub. 01223 232417
Thu		<b>Squirrels</b> , 5–6pm. Term time. Ages 4–6. Oakington Primary School – <a href="mailto:nikki.henrywood@oakingtonscouts.org.uk">nikki.henrywood@oakingtonscouts.org.uk</a>
Fri		<b>Beavers</b> , 6–7pm. Term time. Ages 6–8. Oakington Primary School – <a href="mailto:beavers@oakingtonscouts.org.uk">beavers@oakingtonscouts.org.uk</a>
Fri		<b>Scouts</b> , 6–7.30pm. Term time. Ages 11–14. Pavilion. Cara Hanman – <a href="mailto:cara.hanman@oakingtonscouts.org.uk">cara.hanman@oakingtonscouts.org.uk</a>
Sun		<b>St. Andrew's Church</b> , 10am & 5pm. Regular Sunday Services. <a href="http://www.standrewsoakington.co.uk">www.standrewsoakington.co.uk</a>
Sun		<b>Oakington Baptist Chapel</b> , 10.30am & 6pm. Regular Sunday Services. <a href="http://www.oakingtonbaptist.org.uk">www.oakingtonbaptist.org.uk</a>


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Fri	5 Jun	<b>Mobile Library</b> , 1.50–2.20pm. Coles Lane.
Fri	5 Jun	<b>Minibus to Bar Hill</b> , 10am. To book ring Teri Seaber – 07711 531004
Fri	5 Jun	<b>Summer Fete</b> , 3.30-5.30pm. Oakington Primary School. See poster on page 23
Sat	6 Jun	<b>Village Walk &amp; Talk</b> , 10.30am. Meet by Church on High Street. Alice J – <a href="mailto:OWNeighbours@gmail.com">OWNeighbours@gmail.com</a>
Mon	8 Jun	<b>O&amp;W Parish Council Meeting</b> , 7.30pm. Pavilion. All invited. <a href="mailto:clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk">clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk</a>
Tue	9 Jun	<b>Tuesday Talk &amp; Tea</b> , 2.45pm. Church Hall. Annual Strawberry Tea. Marian Cleaver – 01223 232897
Wed	10 Jun	<b>Sustainable O&amp;W</b> , 7.30pm. Centenary Wood. Collecting plastic tree guards. <a href="mailto:sustainableow@gmail.com">sustainableow@gmail.com</a>
Thu	11 Jun	<b>Chess Club</b> , 7pm. Interested in joining? Contact Ranko Pinter – <a href="mailto:ranpin@gmail.com">ranpin@gmail.com</a> or 07766 052025
Thu	11 Jun	<b>O&amp;W WI</b> , 7.30pm. Church Hall. "The Blood Runners". Elaine Bailey – <a href="mailto:elainebailey1@live.co.uk">elainebailey1@live.co.uk</a>
Sat	13 Jun	<b>Messy Church</b> , 3–5pm. Church Hall. Cate Lambert – <a href="mailto:catelambert@hotmail.co.uk">catelambert@hotmail.co.uk</a> or 07533 152519
Tue	16 Jun	<b>WI Craft Club</b> , 7.30pm. White Horse pub. Visitors £5. Elaine Bailey – <a href="mailto:elainebailey1@live.co.uk">elainebailey1@live.co.uk</a>
Thu	18 Jun	<b>Philosopher's Café</b> , 7pm. Interested in joining? Contact Ranko Pinter – <a href="mailto:ranpin@gmail.com">ranpin@gmail.com</a> or 07766 052025
Fri	19 Jun	<b>Country Dancing</b> , 8–10pm. Histon Methodist Church. Kathryn Coles – 01223 233191
Sat	20 Jun	<b>Pollination Festival</b> , 9am-4pm. Oakington Garden Centre. See poster on page 23
Wed	24 Jun	<b>Book Club</b> , 7.30pm. White Horse. "The Beginning of Spring". Natalie – <a href="mailto:nataliewant@hotmail.com">nataliewant@hotmail.com</a>
Thu	25 Jun	<b>Board Games Club</b> , 7.30pm. Interested in joining? Contact <a href="mailto:oakingtongames@gmail.com">oakingtongames@gmail.com</a>
Sat	27 Jun	<b>Village Day &amp; Cider Festival</b> , 12.30–10pm. Recreation Ground/Pavilion. Free Admission. See page 11

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Fri	3 Jul	<b>Minibus to Bar Hill</b> , 10am. To book ring Teri Seaber – 07711 531004
Fri	3 Jul	<b>Mobile Library</b> , 1.50–2.20pm. Coles Lane.
Sat	4 Jul	<b>Village Walk &amp; Talk</b> , 10.30am. Meet by Church on High Street. Alice J – <a href="mailto:OWNeighbours@gmail.com">OWNeighbours@gmail.com</a>
Wed	8 Jul	<b>Sustainable O&amp;W</b> , 7.30pm. Community Orchard. APollOW/nature session. <a href="mailto:sustainableow@gmail.com">sustainableow@gmail.com</a>
Thu	9 Jul	<b>Chess Club</b> , 7pm. Interested in joining? Contact Ranko Pinter – <a href="mailto:ranpin@gmail.com">ranpin@gmail.com</a> or 07766 052025
Thu	9 Jul	<b>O&amp;W WI</b> , 7.30pm. Garden Party in a member's garden. Elaine Bailey – <a href="mailto:elainebailey1@live.co.uk">elainebailey1@live.co.uk</a>
Sat	11 Jul	<b>Messy Church</b> , 3–5pm. Church Hall. Cate Lambert – <a href="mailto:catelambert@hotmail.co.uk">catelambert@hotmail.co.uk</a> or 07533 152519
Mon	13 Jul	<b>O&amp;W Parish Council Meeting</b> , 7.30pm. Pavilion. All invited. <a href="mailto:clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk">clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk</a>
Tue	14 Jul	<b>Tuesday Talk &amp; Tea</b> , 2.45pm. Church Hall. Meet the Primary School Head. Marian Cleaver – 01223 232897
Thu	16 Jul	<b>Philosopher's Café</b> , 7pm. Interested in joining? Contact Ranko Pinter – <a href="mailto:ranpin@gmail.com">ranpin@gmail.com</a> or 07766 052025
Fri	17 Jul	<b>Country Dancing</b> , 8–10pm. Histon Methodist Church. Kathryn Coles – 01223 233191
Tue	21 Jul	<b>WI Craft Club</b> , 7.30pm. White Horse pub. Visitors £5. Elaine Bailey – <a href="mailto:elainebailey1@live.co.uk">elainebailey1@live.co.uk</a>
Wed	22 Jul	<b>Book Club</b> , 7.30pm. White Horse. "Gratitude" by Delphine de Vigan. Natalie – <a href="mailto:nataliewant@hotmail.com">nataliewant@hotmail.com</a>
Thu	30 Jul	<b>Board Games Club</b> , 7.30pm. Interested in joining? Contact <a href="mailto:oakingtongames@gmail.com">oakingtongames@gmail.com</a>

<b>BIN DAYS</b>	Fri 5 Jun, Fri 19 Jun, Fri 3 Jul, Fri 17 Jul, 31 Jul.	<b>Black bins</b>
	Fri 12 Jun, Fri 26 Jun, Fri 10 Jul, Fri 24 Jul.	<b>Blue &amp; Green bins</b>



There is a **DEFIBRILLATOR** at the pavilion (hanging outside the patio doors). If you come across someone who has had a cardiac arrest, call 999 and start CPR, while sending someone to fetch the defibrillator – open box, take out defibrillator, shut box (alarm goes off), open defibrillator and it talks to tell you what to do.

**Girton Dispensary Opening Hours**  
 (Pepys Way, Girton – available to patients registered with Huntingdon Road Surgery)  
**Mon – Wed 8.30am–1pm & 2–6pm**  
**Thu & Fri 8.30am–1pm**  
 A fortnightly medication delivery service is offered to patients who find it difficult to get there

## Welcome, School & Community Action Group

Summer is here, and coming up at the end of June is the biggest event in the Oakington and Westwick year: the Village Day. A chance to eat, drink and be entertained, but especially to catch up with friends and neighbours. It's a good way to meet others living here and see what goes on. We're a varied community and people have come from all parts of the world. In this issue we hear from Tina Daniels, comparing local cycling experiences to hers in other countries. If you have recently moved to the UK, why not write in and tell us about the differences you've noticed coming to Oakington and Westwick?

Tucked among the houses in the villages are several offices and commercial premises, and perhaps like us you've wondered what they are. On page 15, we open the doors on an office in Coles Lane, and hope to feature other businesses in future.

We're delighted that Tina has offered to help with Journal editing; thank you to everyone who writes for or delivers the Journal.



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](mailto:oakwestjournal@gmail.com)

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

**DEADLINE FOR  
AUG/SEP 2026 ISSUE:  
6pm Tuesday 21 July**

To advertise in the Journal,  
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Advert costs	Single	1 year*
Business card	£21	£84
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\* Six for the price of four

Adverts for the next issue must be received by **14 July**.

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

## Primary School and PSA work together to improve outdoor spaces



Oakington Primary School would like to share the exciting progress being made as we work closely with the Parent Staff Association (PSA) to enhance our outdoor areas for learning, play, and community use.



This term, a working party of parents rolled up their sleeves to help clear our woodland area. Their hard work has proved a great start in opening up the space ready for Forest School sessions, outdoor learning, and a range of summer activities. The transformation is already inspiring new ideas for how children can explore, create, and connect with nature.

We are also keen for this woodland space to become a resource for the wider community. Over the coming months, we hope to welcome local groups, clubs, and organisations who would benefit from access to a natural outdoor environment. Strengthening these community links is an important part of our vision for the school's future.

Alongside the woodland project, we've been reviewing the use of our school garden area. This includes exploring the use of water butts to support sustainable watering, as well as planning new planting across the school grounds to bring colour, biodiversity, and hands-on learning opportunities for pupils.



These improvements are only possible thanks to the enthusiasm and teamwork of our families and staff. We look forward to sharing more updates on the development of our outdoor space.

If you or your organisation would like to get involved, we'd love to hear from you. Please contact the headteacher, Amanda Gibbard, on 01223 232328.

Amanda Gibbard

## Oakington & Westwick Neighbours



I would love to be writing this to celebrate a successful sunny and enjoyable Tea and Jazz afternoon, bringing the community together for a fabulous and relaxed time. It's doubly annoying that the weather forecast projected thunderstorms for Sunday at our nominated "go/no-go" date three days previously, and then when Sunday came around the weather was OK! Still, we will try again to rearrange Tea and Jazz soon. Third time lucky?

In the meantime, we continue to help out anyone in Oakington and Westwick who needs a friend, a helping hand, or an errand run. Do get in touch with us if we can help. Phone us on 07902 111786 or email [owneighbours@gmail.com](mailto:owneighbours@gmail.com).

Matt Saunders



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



### Parish Councillors

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

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

### Parish Website

*www.oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk*

### Correspondence to the Council should be addressed to the Clerk:

Mrs Laura Lawrence – Email:  
*clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk*

Post: 4 Meadow Farm Close  
Oakington CB24 3AS

Phone: 07903 295860

### District Councillors

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

**Parish Council elections.** These took place on 7 May, alongside District Council elections. Our election was not contested but we are pleased to report that all nine seats have been filled.

**New Chair for 2026–27.** Tom Westcott was elected Chair at the Annual Meeting of the Council on 11 May.

**Annual Parish Meeting.** It was good to see around 50 residents at the Annual Parish Meeting in late March. We thank representatives from Anglian Water (re: Cambridge to Rede Pipeline) and Cambridge 25 for their presentations and for responding to questions from residents. It was a lively debate at times!

**Verge cutting.** Our village verges had their first cut on 30 April. You may have noticed that some have been left uncut. Sustainable Oakington & Westwick (SOW) put forward a proposal to the PC last autumn that, to allow for plants for pollinators to grow, some verges could be left until the final autumn cut. This was approved and a list sent to Highways. We did ask them to cut visibility strips at road junctions every time they do the full cuts of other verges. Unfortunately a strip has not been cut at the Queens Way/Water Lane verge. We will be taking this up with them. If you have any concerns that uncut verges are causing visibility problems, please contact the Clerk.

**Volunteers.** We are very grateful to Environment Action Group (EAG) volunteers and others who are helping to water beech hedging at the Rec seating areas and for litter picking at the Rec and other areas in the village.

**Meetings.** Our remaining meetings for 2026 are **8 June, 13 July, 14 September, 12 October, 9 November** and **14 December**. All are held at Oakington Pavilion, 7.30pm. There is a public open session at the start of each meeting to allow residents to share any views/concerns about parish-related matters.



Laura Lawrence, Clerk

## East Anglian Air Ambulance needs your support



East Anglian Air Ambulance is calling on Cambridgeshire residents and businesses to help secure the future of its lifesaving service. The charity must raise £8.2m to build a new Cambridge base near Fulbourn, ahead of Cambridge Airport's planned closure in 2030.

Without a replacement base, the air ambulance's service would be halved, leaving only a Norfolk base covering the four counties of Cambridgeshire, Bedfordshire, Suffolk and Norfolk. This would mean longer response times to life-threatening emergencies, putting nearly 1,000 lives a year at risk.

In 2025 alone, East Anglian Air Ambulance treated 1,845 people, including 151 children. From Cambridge, its helicopter can currently reach around 1.2 million people within 10 minutes. Every contribution, large or small, will help protect this vital service for the region.

To donate: text BASE10 or BASE20 to 70480 to donate £10 or £20; call the donation hotline on 03450 669 999 (Monday–Friday, 8.30am–5pm); or donate online at *www.eaaa.org.uk/base*. (Texts cost the donation amount plus your standard network rate. To donate without receiving further information from the charity, text BASENOINFO.)

## From our District Councillors

**Thank you.** It is a pleasure to write in the Oakington & Westwick Journal after the May elections. Thank you for electing us as your District Councillors at South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC). We will work hard for all residents, regardless of how you voted, and continue working with you to build a strong, healthy and connected community.

**What we will be supporting you with.** As the new administration begins, here is a reminder of SCDC’s responsibilities: council tax and benefits, bin collections, housing, environmental services including fly-tipping and environmental health, community wellbeing, licensing, and residential planning through Greater Cambridge Shared Planning (GCP).

As your councillors, we help residents access SCDC services and work with council officers to resolve local issues. We also work with our MP on national matters and with our County Councillor on shared issues. In Oakington & Westwick, we are in regular contact with the SCDC Community Team, GCP Planning Team, Health & Wellbeing Team, and local groups including the Parish Council, Environment Action Group, Flood Mitigation Group, and Sustainable Oakington & Westwick. This helps keep residents and committees informed about green space, water, travel plans and facilities as Northstowe phase 3 develops.

**About Sunita.** “I have served as a councillor in a nearby ward for four years, working closely with residents and community groups. I have contributed to environmental issues and several council committees, giving me a strong understanding of local governance and decision-making. I have listened to residents and represented local concerns and priorities. I am pleased to bring this experience to Longstanton Ward and to support the villages and New Town by addressing local priorities. I am a nurse by profession, with a strong interest in health provision and community wellbeing. I am committed to using my experience as a councillor, local knowledge and healthcare background to support residents.”



**About Natalie.** “I am delighted to have been re-elected and to continue the work we have been doing since I became your District Councillor in 2022. With more growth ahead over the next two years, I will continue supporting residents with council tax bands, grant applications, benefits queries, environmental concerns and anti-social behaviour, and anything else you need from the district council and wider stakeholders I have contact with. I am proud to bring my change and transformation experience to this role and grateful for the opportunity to keep working with you.”



*Cllr Sunita Hansraj & Cllr Natalie Warren-Green*

Please feel free to contact us (contact details for all Councillors are on page 5.)

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### From our County Councillor

The election results across South Cambridgeshire confirmed very strong support for Liberal Democrat leadership, with 43 out of 45 district seats secured.

**Taking action on freight and logistics.** One of the most important issues for our area is the growing pressure from large logistics and freight developments being proposed across the region. On 19 May, I presented a motion at Full Council calling for a more coordinated and evidence-led approach to managing freight. I'm pleased that this was successfully supported by councillors.

The Council has now agreed to push for a county-wide strategic freight study to properly assess the impact of freight on:

- Road congestion and capacity
- Road safety
- Flood risk and drainage
- Air quality and noise
- Public health and community wellbeing

Importantly, the study will also look at how we can reduce reliance on road-based freight, including exploring alternatives such as rail.

For residents, this is about making sure that decisions – particularly around large logistics parks near our villages – are not taken in isolation, but with a full understanding of their long-term impact. I will continue to advocate strongly so that our community is protected as the area grows.

**Local Government Reorganisation.** The County Council is now beginning formal work on Local Government Reorganisation, which will shape how councils operate in the future. This includes: planning the transition to a new

unitary structure; maintaining strong governance; and setting the final County Council budget before any changes.

I want to reassure residents that all services will continue to operate fully throughout this process, with no disruption to frontline provision.

**Protecting essential services.** A major focus for me continues to be Adult Social Care, ensuring it remains stable and delivers for those who rely on it. I am pleased that Cambridgeshire's services were rated "Good" by the Care Quality Commission in 2025, reflecting the high standard of care being provided.

**Climate leadership and sustainability.** Cambridgeshire has also been recognised nationally as one of the top-performing councils on climate action, highlighting the work being done on emissions reduction, sustainable transport and environmental resilience.

This is particularly important for our villages, where we want to ensure growth is matched with sustainability and long-term environmental protection.

**Staying connected with residents.** To strengthen local engagement, I will shortly be introducing regular councillor surgeries in the village, giving residents the opportunity to meet with me in person to discuss any concerns or ideas.

In the meantime, please don't hesitate to get in touch by email. I am always happy to help and follow up issues on your behalf.

My focus remains clear: protecting our community, managing growth responsibly, and ensuring your voice is heard at County level.



*Cllr Luis Navarro*

### From our MP

**Local Elections 2026.** The dust is finally settling on what has been a very busy election period. Thank you to everyone who took the time to speak to me, our candidates and our members on the doorstep over the campaign period.

#### **Oakington and Westwick Environment Action Group**

A repeated theme in much of my work across the constituency has focussed on ensuring that housing development always comes with proper investment in education, healthcare, and water infrastructure. In the Longstanton, Oakington and Westwick area, I recently spent an afternoon with the local Environment Action Group and Parish Council to discuss their concerns about flood risk in the area – particularly that one of the proposed warehouse and business park developments along the A14 will increase the risk of flooding in these already flood-prone areas.

With multiple proposals for this type of development along the A14, each will affect different parishes in different ways. I will be urging all developers to ensure that in any proposals they not only mitigate flooding risk but actively bring forward measures to reduce the risk overall, if they are to be approved by South Cambridgeshire District Council.

**Parliamentary Repair Cafe.** Having visited Repair Cafes across the constituency, including in Oakington back in February, it was great to see the Cambridgeshire movement represented on a national level by Jenny Prince at the Parliamentary Repair Cafe event in April, attended by nearly 100 MPs of all colours.

Repair Cafes not only give broken objects a new lease of life for free, which is vital in a cost-of-living crisis, but they also play a significant role in achieving net zero goals and contributing to a more circular economy. Importantly too, the cafes foster the fantastic sense of community we already have in our villages, bringing people together to share skills and stories.



I am proud to have signed the UK Repair and Reuse Declaration, which calls on the Government to make repair more affordable and accessible through training and apprenticeships, and requirements for reuse and repair to be prioritised over recycling.



*Ian Sollom MP*

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### Environment Action Group

We continue to work with Philip Sadler at the Garden Centre to plan the **flower displays** in tubs around the village. EAG volunteers look after the tubs during the year, watering when needed and taking out the plants when flowering is finished. At the time of writing, Philip is about to change from spring to summer displays but this time he is also looking at replacing some of the tubs as well as plants, as some are rotting. The very wet winters we are getting are not helping the lifetime of these tubs. We are very grateful to Philip for his work, to the Parish Council, and to the volunteers who look after the tubs.



We are also helping to water the beech hedge plants around the seating areas at the **Recreation Ground**, as the very dry spring has meant that a number of the young plants are under stress.

We continue to monitor developments concerning the **proposed business and logistics parks** in the area. EAG members met with MP Ian Sollom and District Councillor Natalie Warren-Green back in March to discuss the proposed parks and particularly the Cambridge25 proposal which would be in Oakington parish. Ian was familiar with the issues and expressed support for our efforts to encourage the Cambridge25 developers to include improved flood mitigation on Oakington Brook and a footpath/cycleway

along Dry Drayton Road in their proposals. More recently, EAG members attended a public exhibition on the revised proposals for the Tritax Big Box park in Longstanton parish. We anticipate that only one of Cambridge25 and Tritax Big Box will be approved for construction. Of the two, only Cambridge25 has the potential to impact flooding in Oakington (as the Tritax site drains towards Swavesey) and only Cambridge25 could offer “betterment” to the village in terms of attenuation of flows in Oakington Brook to provide some flood protection. However, both sites have the potential to impact traffic, noise and lighting levels in the area, and we have concerns about the impact this will have on wildlife as well as on our village.

Work on our **information boards** project continues, and we hope to install additional boards around the village to showcase local history and ecology soon. One of these will feature the village pond, which is the only remaining historic pond in the village after at least four others were filled in and built over. This mirrors what has happened nationally: we have lost over 50% of our ponds in the last 100 years. Such statistics underline how important garden ponds are to our wildlife for drinking and bathing water as well as for aquatic species.

We also continue to work with Sustainable Oakington and Westwick on **Nature Recovery** and the **APollOW pollinator survey**. Please join us if you are interested in pollinators. See [sustainableow.co.uk/nature-recovery-project](http://sustainableow.co.uk/nature-recovery-project).  
*Stephanie Smith*

### Why I love ... afternoon tea with the EAG

Members and friends of the Environment Action Group (EAG) take a break from volunteering to meet up every month for a social at the Olive Tree Cafe.

“It's great to chat with those who volunteer for the work that the EAG organises in the village, ie leaf sweeping, maintaining the flower tubs etc. We have the opportunity to get views on some of our projects, eg flood mitigation and our interaction with the proposers of the Cambridge 25 development.” – *James*

“A chance to chat with members and friends in a convivial atmosphere and not with any formality.” – *Andrew*

“It is so friendly and cheerful. Do come and enjoy.” – *Arthur*

“For chat about lots of subjects not necessarily local, but always of interest and significance.” – *John*

“Being together and having laughs and chats.” – *Alice*

“A great way to catch up on local issues.” – *Graham*

“Excellent company and good chat. A chance to catch up on environmental effects on the village and updates on various happenings.” – *Maggy*

“It's a great opportunity to exchange ideas on how to continually improve the fabric of the village. Keeping a close eye on the various proposed developments to ensure



Oakington is not adversely affected is vital. The coffee gatherings are an excellent way to get to know each other, many a laugh is raised!” – *Brian*

“It's lovely spending time with people who care so much for our village.” – *John*

“They are a lovely friendly happy group.” – *Joan*

To join the EAG or find out more, email John Terry, [johnterry23@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:johnterry23@hotmail.co.uk).

### Plant Swap



SOW and OWN's annual plant swap and stall took place in early May and raised £68.68, donated to the OWN Hardship Fund. We had the usual wonderful range of over 50 types of plant and many lovely conversations with gardeners and passers-by. It is always a great excuse for friendly chats.

*Alice J*



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### Oakington Village Day 2026

Join us on **Saturday 27 June**, from 12.30 – 10pm, Oakington Recreation Ground!



This year entry is **FREE** thanks to our generous local sponsors Munro.

Oakington Village Day is a family day. So, to make things easier for parents, and fun for all, there will be new rides (with all-day wristbands), face painting, and an observation beehive, and you can try your hand at circus skills, have a kick about with the Oakington Vikings, explore the Connections Bus – and more.

**Food trucks:** Oakington's own Hog Roast Kitchen and, making a debut, The Noodle & Dumpling Bar. Plus, cheese boards, tea and cakes with the WI, the list goes on...

As always there will be **live music** all day and into the evening including: Rachel Hill (back by popular demand), Blutone, and Lucky Smoke. And new additions – The Vitamins and Simon from Dunton Folk.



And don't forget the **raffle** which includes fab prizes from local businesses and cash prizes!

Following last year's successful debut, once again Village Day will incorporate the Oakington **Cider Festival** – over twenty craft Ciders and Perries individually selected by Blue Barrel Cider to ensure a myriad of styles to taste and enjoy. Plus, the White Horse Pub crew will be running a bar throughout the day and into the evening.

Save the date and support your local community event – meet your neighbours, bring your friends and enjoy a family day out.

*Andy, Elodie, Brian, Cate, Leo and Emma.*

P.S If you'd like to volunteer on the day, or are keen to run a stall, email: [oakington.westwick.ca@gmail.com](mailto:oakington.westwick.ca@gmail.com)

### Thank you to our Village Day sponsor

# MUNRO

Operating across the region, Munro Building Services has provided mechanical and electrical services solutions since 1953. A business based in Oakington, Munro works across many sectors, often with community at their heart, such as healthcare, leisure, student accommodation, science and research, and education. Munro's connection to communities is reflected in their support of our Village Day. Their contribution means that there will be no entry fee this year, making the event accessible to all. So everyone in our community can meet with neighbours and friends, enjoying the music and atmosphere of the day.

A warm thank you from the Community Association.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Oakington Beavers

Beavers have tried lots of new things recently, from Morris Dancing to a sleepover at Shepreth wildlife park and a hike around the lake at Waterbeach in the dark. We've considered global issues such as looking after endangered species, access to clean water and how to keep ourselves healthy.



At our St George's Day district meeting, four of our Beavers received their Bronze Chief Scout's awards, followed by a fun activity afternoon including bouncy

assault courses, soft axe throwing, fire lighting and marshmallows!

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

*Nikki Henrywood*

# BEAVERS

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

For more info: [Nikki.Henrywood@oakingtonscouts.org.uk](mailto:Nikki.Henrywood@oakingtonscouts.org.uk).

### Tuesday Talk & Tea

Our **9 June** meeting will be our Annual Strawberry Tea. On **14 July** we will be meeting the new headteacher of Oakington School, Amanda Gibbard, who will be talking about her plans for the school and discovering what our past contacts with the school have been.

*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](mailto:marianccleaver@gmail.com).

### Oakington & Westwick Short Mat Bowls



If you would like to give bowls a try, come and join us as our guest. We play throughout the year at the Pavilion, on Thursday evenings 7.30–9.30pm.

We have spare bowls and you just need some soft, flat-soled shoes. If you would like more information, please contact Dawn Stokes on 07526 077494.

## Clubs and Groups

### Oakington and Westwick WI

'Take your Time, a Layman's Guide to Internet Scams' was the title of May's meeting. Speaker Will Dunn gave a detailed presentation on how to spot Phishing (Pure Phishing, Spear Phishing, Whaling and Vishing), Impersonation, Romance and AI scams. Scammers are getting ever more sophisticated at hooking us in. Members found Will's advice up to date and informative.

Our **11 June** meeting will be a talk on The Blood Runners by Malcolm Parkinson. This charity provides free, urgent courier services for the NHS, transporting blood products, medical samples, medication, and donor breast milk, usually outside of standard working hours. These vital services are provided by unpaid volunteers who donate their time and personal vehicles to save lives and reduce hospital costs.

Our **9 July** meeting will be a Garden Party at a member's beautiful garden!

In addition to our monthly meetings, we have planned:

- **Fri 5 June**, 3.30–5.30pm – WI Craft Stall at Oakington Primary School Summer Fete
- **Mon 15 June** 10am – Walking Group walk at Wandlebury
- **Sat 27 June** 12 till 5pm – our WI will man the Café for Village Day
- **Thur 16 July** – Boat trip and Fish and Chips on the river Cam

*Helen Williams*



*Our Walking Group at the Madingley American Cemetery*



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 [elaïnebailey1@live.co.uk](mailto:elaïnebailey1@live.co.uk) for more information.



Oakington Cubs are looking for additional adults to help run our sessions. Could you help? We meet Tuesdays 6–7:15pm at the Pavilion. No experience necessary, just a have-a-go attitude and willingness to get stuck in. Contact Kathryn for further information: [Kathryn.Bigg@oakingtonscouts.org.uk](mailto:Kathryn.Bigg@oakingtonscouts.org.uk)

### 1<sup>st</sup> Oakington Squirrels

A Squirrel's view of this term: "We made some signs then put them out for people to know not to chop the grass. We're going to make ladybirds and rice crispy flowers. The best bit is snack! I love getting badges and doing the activities."

This half term we have been focusing on looking after our environment, particularly pollinators. As well as adding to the grass left long signs around the village, we will be going on a litter pick and considering what other actions we can take to support nature locally.

We had a lovely district St George's Day meeting in April where three of our Squirrels were presented with their Golden Acorn awards, the highest award a Squirrel can earn.

We are currently full, but to join our waiting list or if you would be interested in helping with a group of amazing 4–6-year-olds, please get in touch.

*Nikki Henrywood*



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

### Oakington Vikings



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First Team Winston & James 07834 465188  
Under 15s & Welfare officer  
Winston 07968 716290  
[www.facebook.com/OakingtonVikingsFC](http://www.facebook.com/OakingtonVikingsFC)

### 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](mailto:catelambert@hotmail.co.uk) or 07533 152519.

### Country Dance Club

Jane and I look forward to welcoming you at the Country Dance Club on **19 June** and **17 July** for another evening 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. We hope that you can join us.

*Kathryn Coles*



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

## Clubs and Groups

### Sustainable Oakington & Westwick

We had a good audience from Oakington & Westwick and beyond for the May talk on 'Climate Change Gardening'. Private gardens are a "massive but overlooked ecological asset" and we were inspired not just by tips on how to adapt to the changing seasons or on how to soften their effects by conserving water and supporting wildlife. Gardeners can actively fight climate change – both by reducing their own carbon emissions and by capturing carbon in soil and plants.

Ten-minute tallies of pollinators on flowers help in the important task of insect conservation, and in 2025 Oakington and Westwick volunteers contributed 1% of the total national counts! To help us do even better this year, James Heywood gave an excellent APollOW training session in April. On **8 July**, he will be leading an outdoor nature/APollOW session, meeting 7.30pm in the community orchard by the Rec. Come along to learn some identification skills and how to do a count.



The **10 June** meeting will also be outside – rendezvous 7.30pm by the northernmost entrance to Centenary Wood (just after the little bridge) to help collect up (and hopefully recycle) the plastic tree-guards which are no longer needed and are littering up the

wood. This was suggested by a seven-year-old SOW member, and everyone is welcome to come along and help, including accompanied children. Bring gloves!

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

### Oakington & Westwick Tennis Club

#### Can you help us, please?

At our AGM at the end of March, our thanks were extended to Andy Lodowski for his support given to the Club over the years as our Chairman. He has now stepped down and we are lucky to have Frank Pinner to take his place.

We are actively looking for new committee members. Please do get involved, as without a committee we won't have a club. We normally have four short, very informal meetings a year, usually held in the pub, and we really won't ask too much of you!

Let us know if you'd like to have a chat with one of us about what being on the committee is all about. Just send an email to [oakingtontc@gmail.com](mailto:oakingtontc@gmail.com).

*Gill Attmore*



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

### Oakington Singers

Our programme of 'Music Through The Ages' which we performed at Girton Golf Club on 23 March was well received. It included many well-known tunes that prompted smiles of recognition and "Aahs" of pleasure from the audience, who also enjoyed joining in with particularly popular pieces. We are delighted that the evening also made a surplus of £175 which was donated to the Captain's Charity which, this year, is Blue Smile, a leading children's mental health organisation in Cambridgeshire.



Every year we are invited to sing in St Andrew's Church on special occasions. As these often coincide with holidays, we sometimes don't have enough choir members available to meet all the requests. This Easter we were pleased to be able to sing at the Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services and it is always lovely to hear such appreciative words from the congregation after each service.

Our next 'gig' is at Village Day on Saturday **27 June**.

Following this, we will be providing the entertainment at the Soirée at the Vicarage on Friday **17 July**. We look forward to performing numbers from our 'Music Through The Ages' programme, but not exclusively as our director, Paul Tann, has also been adding new music to our repertoire. At last week's rehearsal he put before us a piece by contemporary composer, Howard Goodall. It is in Latin. The opening line runs: "Ecce homo qui est faba", which translates as "Behold the man who is a bean"... strange, but instantly understood if I tell you it is in fact the theme tune to all Mr Bean productions!

*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](mailto:helenwilliams5@outlook.com) or just drop in.

### 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.



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### Mead View

We love living in Mead View and have been here for 32 years. It is a quiet, neighbourly street. Everyone is always ready with a cheery wave, if in the car or hurrying to catch a bus, or happy to chat for a few minutes while gardening or off to the village shop which is just around the corner.

There are nineteen houses in all, built by T.& E. Homes Ltd who had acquired the land in 1972 and had sold them all by 1976. The road sweeps round with a ninety-degree bend and ends as a cul-de-sac. In keeping with the design features of the 1970s each house was set back from the road with open plan gardens at the front. Residents were offered a tree of their choice, some of which still survive. Previously the land of those on the left as you enter from Longstanton Road had been part of an orchard while those on the right, some of which back on to The Drift, were in a field with two ponds. Some of the orchard houses originally overlooked pigsties and stables at the back.

When Mead View was first planned, the area was designated as “the land at Ale House Green.” We wonder if that is where the reference to mead came from, though mead can also mean meadow. Ale House View might have seemed a little strange!

Most of our neighbours have lived here for some time. Only one of the original residents remains, though some still live in the village.

Not much happens here, though we are visited by the occasional fox or hedgehog, with rumours from time to time of the odd deer and currently even a badger passing through. However we remember when on holiday in north Wales our horror on buying the Sunday newspaper and seeing a picture on the front page of a boat rowing over the crossroads! The flood reached the start of Mead View, stopping short of the first few gardens, and we were relieved to arrive home to a dry house.

There was a memorable evening when a packed double-decker bus came down the road, presumably as a result of



mistaken directions, only to find it could not turn round at the end. Slowly and carefully it had to reverse down the whole length of the street, negotiating parked cars and a tight bend, to the astonishment of those on the upper deck and amusement of the residents as we stared at each other. It reminded us all of the Night Bus in the Harry Potter films.

Then there was the fire in the field at the end of The Drift which for a while we feared might reach us! And I am sure we are not alone in the village in remembering the hot air balloons which once seemed to take off, or land, in the fields behind us and drift gracefully over our houses.



When Covid and the first lockdown struck, Claire Harris created a Mead View Neighbours WhatsApp group to provide support and much-appreciated offers of help. It was through this Chat we organised a VE Street Party, laying out tables in our front gardens and enjoying a shared Afternoon Tea whilst remaining socially distant. Our WhatsApp continues to be much used for sharing information and advice and, in particular, to organise our regular Mead View social events, be they in people's houses, gardens or the pub! Claire held a Bring and Share for the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee and everyone stayed in her garden for hours! She hopes to plan another Street Party soon.



Yes, there have been happy and some sad times in Mead View over the years, but we have always remained cheerful and friendly neighbours.

*David Williams*

### Meet a Local Business

**Optimum Patient Care (OPC)** was founded by Professor David Price and is located right here in Oakington, just behind the White Horse pub. We are a global, not-for-profit, social enterprise, who are dedicated to improving the lives of patients with respiratory conditions such as asthma, COPD, and rare diseases.

One of the ways we make a difference within primary care is by helping GP surgeries improve their patients' lives, all for free. We help GPs to manage their patients with chronic diseases. We use reports to see where there are gaps, and give recommendations to the GP surgeries on which patients to focus on to reduce their likelihood of disease flare-ups. We also run clinical research trials in primary care and use our resources to help the GP Surgeries take part in research, thus ultimately helping to improve patient lives.



We currently work with over 1,500 GP practices across the UK, and we have published over 110 research papers, contributing evidence to improve patient care worldwide.

Community is important to us. Each member of staff receives one volunteering day per year; we often choose to spend this time supporting local projects. In 2024, our team weeded the flower beds in Oakington's recreation ground.

As we continue to grow and support more GP practices across the UK, we remain committed to improving patient care through high-quality research, real-world evidence, and strong community partnerships. We value being part of the Oakington community and look forward to contributing for many years to come.

*Kelly Woodhouse, HR Advisor  
Optimumpatientcare.org*

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### From USA to Kenya to Oakington

#### Cycling Experiences

The lane adjacent to the busway is an absolute luxury if you're not from around here.

A smooth stretch of concrete is hard to come by when you're a teenager going for a bike ride in Nairobi in the noughties. There a cyclist must be bold as brass, often preferring the main roads which are more consistently paved, though not without raw cliff edges on both sides, eroded by the many matatus (public buses). "Beba, beba!" the bus touts shout, hanging out the doors whilst the bus veers erratically off the side of the road to collect passengers. The red dirt to each side of the pavement is filled with pedestrian commuters, carts and donkeys, merchant stalls, school children. For a cyclist, the safest way to travel on your bicycle on such roads is in fact in the middle, by holding onto the back of a lorry. Whilst my adrenaline-junkie brother taught himself to ride a unicycle amidst such chaos in the early noughties (2000–2005), I stuck to driving my dad's white Land Rover, Sir Giles, and avoided cycling altogether.

In the States (where I am from originally) you would never find a bike lane which carries you town to town. To cycle



for leisure, one would require a large vehicle to transport oneself and one's bike to the state park. My hippie parents were always sending us outside to play and I got my first bike when I was seven. It was a pink and purple Christmas miracle, shiny and new in front of the fireplace and I promptly fell over given it was adult-sized.

But I've treasured time spent on my bike ever since. As a young adult moving to England in 2007, I had my beloved vintage Raleigh (which had been my trusted steed through the streets of Philadelphia the year prior) taken apart and shipped over. After the small fortune spent on international shipping, I went ahead and reassembled it myself. I was never prouder. Until a friend used it to ride to church and the pedals fell off. Thankfully it was a fine British spring morning to be stranded at the side of the road for a while.

If, like me, you're feeling motivated to get out in the warm sunshine, hop on a bike and head to the busway lane. If you're not feeling confident, let the wind blow you whichever way and you'll feel like you're flying. There's plenty of space and it's never too late to learn. Treat yourself!



Tina Daniels, Water Lane

#### Where was this?

For those of you who did not make it to the Pub, the name of the long-closed pub in this location was "The Windmill".



So here is another one for you. Do you recognise the location? A pub was housed in the thatched cottages just past the large house on the right. To find out more check the information board outside the White Horse.



Watch out for the new information boards which will be popping up in the village over the next few months; they will give you a more detailed insight into this location.

Editors

#### Old Oakington Recipes

Graham actually had a go at making "War Pudding", featured last time. Was it nice? "Of course not, there was no fat or sugar in it worth mentioning. It was wartime rationing."



It's certainly not recommended to try out the recipes below – but it's interesting to see that Doris Nicholas's collection covered more than just food.

#### Cough Medicine

2 pennies worth of each of: aniseed, peppermint, laudanum, paregoric [camphorated tincture of opium], spirits of wine. 2 parts boiling water. 1 part best black treacle. Dose: 1 wineglassful.

#### Embrocation (liniment, for rubbing onto the skin)

Place 3 new laid eggs in ½ pint white vinegar for at least 24 hours then put 4 squares camphor in ½ pint turpentine. Take the shell (which is now a skin) off and beat all together. Makes 4 medicine bottles full. Cost – 2/-

A reminder of pre-NHS days when home remedies had to be relied upon. Doris Nicholas was born in Oakington in 1901 and lived through a time lacking many medical advances we take now for granted. Tragically she lost one of her two daughters, ten-year-old Poppy, in a diphtheria outbreak in the early 30s, which claimed the lives of four other Oakington children as well.



Jenny Prince & Lillon Harrison

Poppy playing on High Street, wearing her favourite brown velvet dress, so it must have been a Sunday. Poppy was born 11 November 1923.



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### Gardening Notes

**June:** Roses are probably at their best now, but check for suckers beneath them and remove close to the base. Regularly tie in new shoots on climbing and rambling roses.

Prune Clematis Montana and other early flowering clematis. Time to take softwood cuttings from philadelphus, fuchsias and mophead hydrangeas using 10cm non-flowering shoots which should root readily. Sow a few biennials like wallflowers, sweet williams and forget-me-nots ready for next spring. Start to pick sweet peas to encourage more to form and shade and ventilate the greenhouse when the temperature rises.

Plant out sweetcorn (in squares to aid wind pollination), aubergines and peppers. Runner and dwarf beans can be direct sown now and leeks transplanted once they reach pencil thickness. Think about protecting all berries and currants from hungry birds using net or fleece. First early



'Dublin Bay' at its best

potatoes could be ready by the middle of the month.

**July:** Keep dead-heading flowers and hoeing weeds before they can set seed. Cut some freshly opened lavender spikes and hang up to dry for a fragrant winter display. Prune back whippy stems on wisteria to five or six leaves from the base. Keep an eye out for bright red lily beetle whose larvae love to eat the leaves.

Finish harvesting gooseberries and all currants then prune back to new growth. Thin out heavy crops of apples and pears, removing diseased, damaged or undersized fruit for a better harvest. Prune plums, apricots and cherries on a dry day to reduce the risk of the fungal disease silver leaf. Regularly water and feed tomatoes, peppers and aubergines and pick courgettes for a continuous crop. If the tops of onions bend down and turn yellow, they can be harvested, dried and stored somewhere cool and dry. Pinch out the tops of climbing beans to encourage flowers to form lower down. Easier to harvest! Happy Gardening!

*Ann and Peter Rayner*

### Book Club

**The Women** by Kristin Hannah

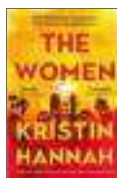
The author highlights the injustice faced by troops – many of whom were conscripts – returning to the US from Vietnam to face, instead of a heroes' welcome, protest and insult after suffering and sacrifice in the fight for their country.

In the case of American women deployed in Vietnam as nurses, the writer illustrates how soldiers and civilians alike refused to acknowledge their role in the war, and she sets out to bring them long-overdue recognition. The account of conditions in military hospitals was informative, and the book further observes how the exceptional skills acquired by nurses in the war zone are belittled when they return to civilian hospitals.

Characters may have lacked complexity, places may have lacked definition, and the post-war section may have lacked momentum. But the romantic sub-plot kept me engaged. Overall I was glad to try something different and enjoyed this read.

The next meetings are **The Beginning of Spring** by Penelope Fitzgerald, **24 June** and **Gratitude** by Delphine de Vigan, **22 July**; 7.30 pm in the White Horse. All welcome.

*Sarah V*



### Chess Corner

Solution to the puzzle from last Journal:

Bishop moves to e5! If Black King takes the bishop, White King moves to g5 and Black cannot stop the checkmate in the next move, by White pawn move from f2 – f4 checkmate.

If Black King does not take the bishop and advances his pawn from a3 to a2, White Bishop takes black pawn on d4 and prevents black pawn on a2 from promotion on a1. From then on, it is only a question of time before the White wins.

#### Puzzle 4/26



White to move and checkmate in two moves.

Please send your solution to [ranpin@gmail.com](mailto:ranpin@gmail.com)

*Ranko Pinter*

### Tool Sharing

Good news: the Library of Things (successor to the toolshare at Crossways) is now live!

We at SHEDDIT! Community Shed ([shedit.co.uk](http://shedit.co.uk)) at Swavesey are excited to be launching LENDDIT, ([lenddit.org](http://lenddit.org)) – a Library of Things. This pilot programme marks the beginning of a bold step towards sharing resources, reducing waste, and rethinking ownership within our communities.



Alongside this, we are completing the build of our mobile trailer – inspired by innovative models like Devon's Share Shed – which will travel to ten locations across Cambridgeshire. By bringing LENDDIT directly into neighbourhoods, we're making it easier for people to walk or cycle to borrow and return items, while cutting carbon emissions and strengthening local connections. Go to [lenddit.org](http://lenddit.org) to sign up. It's taking a while to catalogue all the tools; in the meantime if something you need isn't available, email [drphilcoffee@gmail.com](mailto:drphilcoffee@gmail.com).

*Phillip H Cohen*



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### Adieu, Cambridge Ten Sing

Recently Cambridge Ten Sing marked its 30th anniversary with a brilliant show at Histon Baptist Church. It was both a joyful celebration and a poignant end for this local performing arts group. A particularly moving moment came when former members in the audience were invited on stage to sing together - an emotional tribute to three decades of creativity and community.

Ten Sing is a Europe-wide YMCA youth initiative, and the Cambridge group benefited greatly from collaboration with others across the continent. For the first 20 years I had the privilege of working with the group, averaging 30 members each year. We met weekly in term time rehearsing towards an annual concert, but Ten Sing was about more than performance. Members developed skills in teamwork, leadership, planning and responsibility. They arranged national festivals and conferences, led workshops at YMCA National Assemblies and performed in cathedral services across the country. For many years we were part of the official entertainment for the London Marathon – Mile 17 at Mudchute was ‘our’ spot. However, Oakington residents may recall many performances at our Village Day.



Travel was also an important part. Many winter half terms were spent in self-catering cabins in the Norwegian mountains, while summer trips took us to coastal Stavanger and the Czech Republic. To keep costs down we often slept on school and church floors (not missed!). We took part in European festivals in 2005, 2011 and the last one in 2018, when the Ten Sing movement celebrated its 50th anniversary in Oslo. Some 2,000 young people attended, and it was special to have Oakington’s Megan Bate serve on the organising committee!

Over the years we were fortunate to receive tremendous support, from dedicated parents to significant grants from The British Council which helped fund our European exchanges. A personal honour was attending a reception for ‘community volunteers’ at St James’s Palace, meeting the then Prince Charles.

Sadly Covid indirectly led to this closure. However, numerous teens in our area have benefited over these 30 years. Perhaps the impact can be seen in the reflections of some Oakington members who were once part of it:



**Megan Bate**, *Teacher, tutor and artist*

Ten Sing was always more than a performing arts group for me. It was my youth. The friendships I made, the skills I learnt and the events I took part in have shaped who I am today as a person.



**Amalie Sutherland**, *Neurodiversity Support Manager*

I am so grateful for my time in Ten Sing. I started as an incredibly shy 11-year-old and was immediately welcomed into a group where everyone was encouraged to be themselves. The experiences Ten Sing gave me have shaped me into the person I am today. It gave me confidence to first become a teacher, before my current role. Ten Sing left me with so many new skills, lifelong friends and an abundance of treasured memories.



**David Moss**, *ALA Agency Manager (YBS)*

Ten Sing really helped me to gain confidence when I was young. Although it was fun to be with friends in the group, I was also encouraged to express myself, for instance through drama. My favourite memory is performing in St. Paul’s Cathedral in 2005. I have lasting memories and friendships that won’t be forgotten!



**Annie Macdonald**, *Paramedic*

I was sad to hear of Ten Sing coming to an end. Ten Sing was a huge part of my teenage years. It was a great place to socialise and meet new friends and do something I enjoyed every week. I have lots of great memories such as singing at the London Marathon.

*Irène Butlin*

### APOLLW

#### A Pollinator Survey of Oakington & Westwick



It’s peak pollinator counting season! Volunteers are needed to join in. Help monitor insect numbers in and around the village. It’s basically staring at a patch of flowers for ten minutes, with phone (or notebook) in hand!

How to do it: [sustainableow.co.uk/nature-recovery-project/apollw](https://sustainableow.co.uk/nature-recovery-project/apollw). Give it a try in your garden or around the village. Everyone is welcome, just get the app and follow the instructions linked above.

See it demonstrated, have a go yourself – come to the SOW nature session on Wednesday **8 July**, 7:30pm, Community Orchard by the Rec.



Be there or be 50cm x 50cm square!

*James Heywood & Jenny Prince*  
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## Feeding Birds

Many readers will have seen the set of new guidelines, issued by RSPB and with the support of other scientific bodies, which has made a big change to the way we should feed garden birds.

**What is the new guidance?** The guidance is to stop feeding birds seeds and nuts during May to October inclusive. Leaving out suet/fat balls and mealworms can continue during those months. When used in the autumn and winter, feeders should be cleaned frequently (that is not new) and bird baths should have water replaced daily and cleaned weekly (all year round). Given that the main problem that this guidance is trying to address is disease spread (see below), it also recommends not using flat surfaces (eg bird tables) and suggests moving your feeders around, if you can.

**What is this for?** Whilst garden feeding is known to have caused huge population increases for some UK species (eg Goldfinch) it has also been known for a while now that it supports the ideal conditions for disease transmission. What's more, the spread of the disease 'Finch Trichomonosis' has caused the huge declines in Greenfinch, Chaffinch and almost certainly others (Bullfinch and Collared Dove, which isn't a finch). Greenfinch alone has declined by a staggering two-thirds between 2008 and 2018. The change in feeding guidance is therefore to strike a balance between some of the benefits of feeding (especially the provision of winter food) whilst trying to remove some of the high-risk factors, like flat surfaces and bird baths (bird

tables and ground feeding have already been discouraged). In brief, the parasite, which resides in the gut of affected birds, is spread by regurgitated food. Bird tables and other flat surfaces provide the ideal substrate for that transmission, and fixed stations lead to a buildup of material over time. What's more, transmission is more likely in the spring and summer, at a time when birds least need it and, instead, should be more reliant on insect protein for feeding chicks.

The UK is almost unique in the scale and extent of garden feeding for birds. Millions of people engage in this activity and RSPB and others have long been a proponent of it from a conservation, engagement and also financial perspective (they sell feeders and bird food). The fact that RSPB are issuing a change that would see less bird feeding is a sure sign that there is a problem. This won't be a popular move as feeding birds is a popular pastime. So, if you are



wondering whether or not to adopt these guidelines (and I'd urge you do) do consider why you are doing the garden feeding in the first place. If it is for the benefit of birds, then feed seasonally, and clean frequently and regularly.

Read more at: [rspb.org.uk/whats-happening/news/how-to-help-garden-birds](https://rspb.org.uk/whats-happening/news/how-to-help-garden-birds) and [bto.org/our-work/news/blog/rethinking-how-we-feed-garden-birds](https://bto.org/our-work/news/blog/rethinking-how-we-feed-garden-birds)

James Heywood



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