

Oakington & Westwick

April / May 2023

Journal



**Pavilion Plea
SOE at the WI
Coronation Celebration
Greenway to Cottenham
Street Secrets Revealed**

Weekly

Mon		Monday Cafe , 9.30—noon. St Andrew's Church Hall, £1 Liz Davis – 01223 232745
Mon		Beavers , 6–7pm. term time. Pavilion. beavers@oakingtonscouts.org.uk
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		Happy Feet , 10–11am term time. Church Hall. For under fives. Ben Phillips – familyworker@standrewsoakington.co.uk
Tue		Senior Pilates , 11.30–12.30pm. Pavilion. Classes through out the week. Contact: Claire Young – 07766 554413
Tue		Cubs , 6–7.15pm term time, Pavilion. Iain Ramsay – iain.ramsay@oakingtonscouts.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. Contact: Claire Young – 07766 554413
Wed		Pilates , 5.45–6.45pm. Pavilion. Miranda De Vries – miranda@mi-time.eu
Wed		Yoga , 7–8.15pm. Pavilion. Denise Sibley-Moore – 01954 202235
Thu		Mature Movers , 9.30–10.15am. Pavilion. Katie Harknett 07541 721059 / info@elementalfitness.co.uk
Thu		Little Steps , 10–11.30am term time. Church Hall. Ben Phillips – familyworker@standrewsoakington.co.uk
Thu		Ten Sing , 7–9pm term time. Histon Baptist Church. Terry King – cambridgetensing@gmail.com
Thu		Short Mat Bowls , 7.30–9.30pm. Pavilion. Dawn Stokes – 01223 236427
Thu		Quiz Night , 8pm. White Horse Pub. 01223 232417
Fri		Tool Share , 4.30–6pm by appointment. Gerald Cavander – gerald@cambridgereuse.org.uk / 07857 704636
Fri		Scouts , 6–8pm. Pavilion. Cara Hanman – cara.hanman@oakingtonscouts.org.uk
Sat	1 Apr	Village Walk & Talk , 10.30am. Meet by Church on High Street. Alice – OWNeighbours@gmail.com
Mon	3 Apr	O&W Parish Council , 7.30pm. Pavilion. All invited. clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk
Tue	11 Apr	Tuesday Talk & Tea , 2.45pm. Church Hall, "Anglesey Abbey" Talk – Marian Cleaver
Thu	13 Apr	Chess Club , 7pm. 5asideCHESS Cafe, Crossways. April Cox – acox700@gmail.com
Thu	13 Apr	O&W WI , 7.30pm. Church Hall. Elaine Bailey – elainebailey1@live.co.uk
Fri	14 Apr	Country Dancing , 8pm. Histon Methodist Church. Kathryn Coles – 01223 233191
Fri	14 Apr	Food Truck Night Pizza Passione, 6–8pm. 5asideCHESS Cafe, Crossways. April Cox – acox700@gmail.com
Sat	15 Apr	Story-telling for under 11 years , 9–10am. 5asideCHESS Cafe, April Cox – acox700@gmail.com
Thu	20 Apr	Philosophy Meetup , 7pm. 5asideCHESS Cafe, Crossways. April Cox – acox700@gmail.com
Mon	24 Apr	Annual Parish Meeting , 7.30pm. Pavilion. All invited. clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk
Wed	26 Apr	Sustainable O&W , 7.30pm. Church Hall, "Electric Bicycles". sustainableow@gmail.com
Thu	27 Apr	Men Tell Jokes Night , 7pm. 5asideCHESS Cafe, Crossways. April Cox – acox700@gmail.com
Sun	30 Apr	Bingo Night , 6pm. White Horse Pub. 01223 232417
Fri	5 May	Minibus to Bar Hill , 10am. To book ring Teri Seaber – 07711 531004
Fri	5 May	Mobile Library , 1.50–2.20pm. Coles Lane
Sat	6 May	Village Walk & Talk , 10.30am. Meet by Church on High Street. Alice – OWNeighbours@gmail.com
Sun	7 May	Coronation Big Lunch , 12.30–2.30pm. Recreation Ground. OWNeighbours@gmail.com
Tue	9 May	O&W Parish Council , 7.30pm. Pavilion. All invited. clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk
Tue	9 May	Tuesday Talk & Tea , 2.45pm. Church Hall, "George Armstrong" – Marian Cleaver
Thu	11 May	Chess Club , 7pm. 5asideCHESS Cafe, Crossways. April Cox – acox700@gmail.com
Thu	11 May	O&W WI , 7.30pm. St Andrews Church Hall. Elaine Bailey – elainebailey1@live.co.uk
Sat	13 May	Story-telling for under 11 years , 9–10am. 5asideCHESS Cafe, April Cox – acox700@gmail.com
Sat	13 May	Plant Swap / Stall , 10–12, 36 Coles Lane, CONNECT 2 / SOW. OWNeighbours@gmail.com
Sun	14 May	Plant Swap / Stall , 2–4pm., 36 Coles Lane, CONNECT 2 / SOW. OWNeighbours@gmail.com
Mon	15 May	Transport Action Group , 7.30pm. White Horse. For agenda contact – owcp.tag@gmail.com
Thu	18 May	Philosophy Meetup , 7pm. 5asideCHESS Cafe, Crossways. April Cox – acox700@gmail.com
Thu	25 May	Men Tell Jokes Night , 7pm. 5asideCHESS Cafe, Crossways. April Cox – acox700@gmail.com
Fri	26 May	Country Dancing , 8pm. Histon Methodist Church. Kathryn Coles – 01223 233191
Sun	28 May	Bingo Night , 6pm. White Horse Pub. W01223 232417
Wed	31 May	Sustainable O&W , 7.30pm. Church Hall, "Using Nature Recovery Toolkit". sustainableow@gmail.com

Save the date! **Village Day – Sat 24 June**

Welcome, Coronation & Toddler Groups

Spring has arrived in our gardens and the countryside around, and as always there's lots going on, as a glance through the Journal will prove! Many of these activities use the facilities at the Pavilion: lots of sports and fitness sessions but also young people's groups, events and meetings, not to mention toilets for events on the Rec! This valuable community resource is self-funding, but energy price rises threaten it. The lottery is a great way to support the Pavilion for everyone here.

Thank you to everyone who offers their time, ideas and

energy to enhance village life. At the Annual Parish Meeting on 24 April we'll hear how communities can preserve their identity even when there is large-scale development nearby – all are invited and encouraged to come.

There are no fewer than five bank holidays over the two months covered by this Journal, so let's hope for good weather to enjoy them all!

Jenny Prince & Graham Tregonning,
Editors



The Journal is published on behalf of the Oakington & Westwick Community Association, to inform residents about events, activities and issues in the parish. It's delivered free to all residents and is funded by advertising, the Parish Council and the Community Association.

Journal Team:

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

Send contributions to
oakwestjournal@gmail.com

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

DEADLINE FOR JUNE/JULY
ISSUE:
Tuesday 16 May

To advertise in the Journal,
please email
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Adverts	For 1 year	One off
Business card	£75	£17
¼ page (portrait)	£117	£29
½ page (landscape)	£216	£54

Adverts for the next issue must be received by **9 May**.

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

Coronation Big Lunch

Celebrate this historic event and the extra bank holiday weekend!



There will be a bring and share community Big Lunch on the Sunday of Coronation weekend, **7 May, 12.30 – 2.30pm** at the pavilion and on the Rec. Come along, bring a plate of food to share if you can, and get together with friends and neighbours.



At 2pm there will be a Community Sing-along led by the Oakington Singers.

(Please note no dogs on the Rec.)

If you or your group would like to bring or organise anything to make this event a special one, you're very welcome to do so. Maybe you've got some bunting left over from the Jubilee last year? Or some garden games to share? Table decorations? Music? Anything else? If so, thank you and tell OWN (owneighbours@gmail.com) just so we know who to expect.

Jenny Prince, Oakington & Westwick Neighbours

Baby and Toddler Groups in the Village

Did you know we have two baby and toddler groups a week in Oakington? Happy Feet on Tuesdays from 10 to 11am and Little Steps on Thursdays from 10 to 11:30am, both £1 per family and held in St Andrew's church hall in the High Street, term time only.



Happy Feet is a singing group aimed at ages 0–4. We have circle time and sing our favourite songs, use musical instruments and a parachute, then have a little free play and snack time.

Little Steps is a play group, again aimed at ages 0–4, with a variety of toys/activities, story time and snack time, and we even have a rota for baking cake each week... us grown ups deserve a treat!



We pride ourselves on being warm and welcoming; going to a group for the first time can be daunting, but our aim is to take away those feelings, we love new people!

There's no need to book, so feel free to come along! We have a Facebook page where we post regular updates: search Little Steps, Oakington.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Hanna Lumley, Ben & Sharon Phillips

BIN DAYS	Sat 15 Apr, Thu 27 Apr, Thu 11 May, Thu 25 May	Black bin
	Thu 6 Apr, Fri 21 Apr, Fri 5 May, Thu 18 May,	Blue & green bins
	Fri 2 June	

Cover photo: Graham Tregonning

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chair@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk

Vice-Chair: Tony Starling

John Bailey Julie Grove
David Reeves Ranko Pinter
Matt Davidson
Two Vacancies

Parish Website

www.oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk

Correspondence to the Council should be addressed to the Clerk:

Mrs Laura Lawrence – Email:

clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk

Post: 4 Meadow Farm Close
Oakington CB24 3AS

Phone: 01223 232398

District Councillors

O & W, Longstanton, Northstowe

Natalie Warren-Green

cllr.warrendgreen@scambs.gov.uk

Tom Bygott – 07765 475 513

cllr.bygott@scambs.gov.uk

County Councillor

O & W, Longstanton, Northstowe, Over

Firouz Thompson – 07974 680875

firouz.thompson@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Member of Parliament

Anthony Browne – 01223 603677

anthony.browne.mp@parliament.uk

From our Parish Council Chair

Before I became a Parish Councillor, I was not really aware of the large number of activities which are quietly undertaken by the PC to improve the amenities of the village and to defend its interests. Much of the work is liaising with District and County Councillors, but also a host of smaller things around the village which most residents take for granted. Well, now is your chance to **get involved**. We are two councillors short. If you are interested please mail me (*chair@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk*) I am happy to have a coffee and explain what is involved. Come on!

We were pleased to receive a visit from Bridget Smith, Leader of South Cambs District Council. It seems likely that a full planning application for **Northstowe Phase 3a** will be submitted within the year (so far, they have only outline planning permission) and we can expect an attenuation “pond” as part of the application. Finally, we may see the end of flooding in the village!

We are in the middle of applying for a **20mph speed limit through Westwick** and into Station Road to link with our wider village scheme. We will have to prove that our need for a speed limit is greater than other villages’. We really need the residents of Westwick/Station Road and those who use Busy Bees nursery to email our Parish Clerk (*clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk*) to support the application. All other mails of support welcome.

We are purchasing two solar-powered **speed monitors** to place in Cambridge Road and Water Lane/Station Road. We will use our current one as a ‘mobile monitor’. The monitors and the 20mph limits have had a significant impact on traffic speeds. Many of you have had 20mph stickers posted through your letterbox, to cover over the old 30mph signs on your bins.

The Greater Cambridge Partnership have proposed a **Greenway** between Cottenham and Oakington, which will comprise a pedestrian/equestrian/cycle path – with appropriate separation. We have engaged in the consultation and have suggested significant changes to the Westwick/Station Road end of the path. The funding is available and I am assured that this time we will see a decent route developed and actually built. I had been pestering the Northstowe developers and the A14 builders, for some considerable time, to build a separate cycleway along Dry Drayton Road, but have had no success. The Cambridge Road cycleway has stuttered to a halt with a lack of funds.

I think we really have to admire the fantastic new seating areas and planting on the **Recreation Ground**. Well done to Geoffrey Butlin! See page 9.

While checking the safety of our Play Area I have noticed **rubbish** there and in one of the seating areas. Please put it in the bins. Abandoned Voi electric hire bikes have also been dumped. We have powerful CCTV on all parts of the Rec/pavilion and car park – just so you know. We have improved the lighting of the Rec car park and we are working with Oakington Vikings to submit a bid for an improved surface for the **MUGA** (Multi Use Games Area). This should allow us to provide a safer and more enjoyable playing surface, but also to earn much-needed money to maintain the Rec.

Connections Youth Bus. These fantastic people come every term-time Monday and provide a bit of enjoyment for any young people in the village. Sadly, they have had a number of problems with their double decker bus that they bring to our Rec car park. We have, whenever they have requested it, offered them the use of the Pavilion. Hopefully, they will be returning soon.

Lastly, the roof of the **bus stop** near Mill Road blew off. We realised that the roof was asbestos, so we had specialists remove this and two of the councillors are rebuilding and replacing the roof. You see what I mean about the unnoticed work of councillors?

Dr Stephen Moore



VILLAGE INFORMATION

Community Association

oakington.westwick.ca@gmail.com

Neighbourhood Watch

Jillian Wilkinson – 01223 233585

oakwestnhw@gmail.com

Oakington & Westwick Neighbours (OWN) – 07902 111786

OWNeighbours@gmail.com

Oakington Primary School

01223 232328

office@oakington.cambs.sch.uk

Pavilion Booking Administrator

Tony Leadley – 07936 024587

oakingtonpavilion@gmail.com

Village Stores & Post Office

Thiru Kunaratnam – 01223 232327

Hardship Fund

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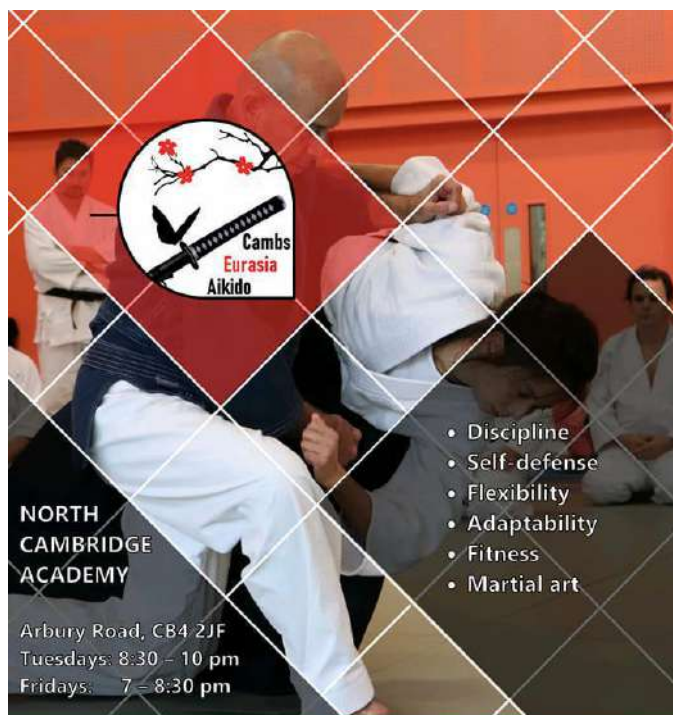
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COME AND JOIN US !

From our District Councillors

The Greater Cambridge Partnership has developed a strategy to create a network of Greenways to connect South Cambridgeshire villages with Cambridge along a series of corridors. These will extend footpaths, cycleways and in some cases bridleways in order to create more sustainable travel. The St Ives Greenway uses the Guided Busway to St Ives as a backbone to which nearby villages are connected. More information is available at:

greatercambridge.org.uk/sustainable-transport-programme/active-travel-projects/greater-cambridge-greenways

The Oakington to Cottenham route starts on the main road along Station Road and Westwick Terrace. Opposite Westwick Farm it comes off the main vehicle carriageway and is then adjacent to the main road until it joins the pedestrian pavement upon reaching Cottenham. Along part of the route, the design provides a narrow strip of grass to separate the bridleway from the main road, while along another section it is immediately adjacent.

I am opposed to this route for the same reason that I opposed the route of the cycleway between Oakington and Girton and the route along Huntingdon Road; the edge of a main road with fast-moving traffic, some of which are heavy vehicles, is an unsuitable location for slower moving and more vulnerable pedestrians, cyclists and horses/riders. I have followed this policy since November 2005, when a student on a bicycle was killed by a truck while riding along a shared bicycle and bus lane on Huntingdon Road. Fatalities of this kind will continue to happen, until our transport planners understand this point.

Tom Bygott

Thank you to all residents who contact me when they need support regarding issues related to waste, planning, housing, tenancies and groundwater/flooding. It's a pleasure to be able to signpost and support you in resolving situations you need help to manage; please feel free to keep emailing me.

Other than specific individual queries, and questions about the Greenway Plans, covered by Cllr Bygott, people in Oakington have asked about:

Northstowe Interim Community Centre: The aim is for the facility to be up and running by the end of May, and use is for residents across the Longstanton Ward. The interim facility includes provision for a Café and Pantry, rooms for baby and toddler groups, private hire for events such as birthday parties, children and youth activities, art workshops and events, meeting spaces for sport and activity groups.

Rooms for Ukrainians: Hosts are still needed for Ukrainian families who are already in South Cambridgeshire, with hosts eligible to receive up to £500 a month as a thank you payment. If you are interested, please text ROOM to 88802.

Asylum Seekers in Bar Hill: Some residents in Oakington have asked about the hotel at Bar Hill contracted by the Home Office to provide accommodation for asylum seekers and how they may be able to help people being housed there with support and donations. Once Bar Hill Parish Council understand the level of demand for clothes, and the amount being donated from people in Bar Hill, we will see if further support is required from a wider area and get back in touch. Please contact duty.communities@scamb.gov.uk if you have any further questions.

Natalie Warren-Green

From our County Councillor

A14 corridor trees disaster: After nearly a year of campaigning as LibDem Councillors we have some development and good news. The issue: National Highways have informed us that they planted 800k saplings along the A14 and 70% have died, that is 560k trees! National Highways had committed to replant the trees over five years, but they dragged their feet during planting seasons.

They have now reset the clock to start the five years of work again from Autumn 2023 with a new approach focused on tree success rate rather than number of trees planted.

Do watch Sky news coverage and listen to the podcasts: tinyurl.com/56w8kuc4 and tinyurl.com/muuekpzz

Budgets: Like three quarters of all councils in the country this year, Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) was forced to increase its portion of the council tax by 4.99%, the maximum permitted. As a Joint Administration we faced up to the financial challenge facing the county resulting from a legacy of poor choices by the outgoing administration, along with the failure of the Government for a number of years now to introduce a fair funding formula. Without this, we receive a much worse deal than many other councils and where we have had to make savings, we have done so carefully.

Water industry consultation: Cambridge Water – Draft Water Resources Management Plan 2024 Consultation closes on 19 May. Please do consider responding. cambridge-water.co.uk/about-us/our-strategies-and-plans/our-water-resources-management-plan

Cambridgeshire Music: I have been appointed as a Board Member of Cambridgeshire Music based in Histon at CCC's Children and Young People's Committee. Cambridgeshire Music is referred to as a partnership of school music providers, led by the County Council, to deliver the government's National Plan for School Music.

Local Highways Improvement (LHI): Back in January, I supported Oakington & Westwick and Girton's Parish Councils' joint application to reduce the speed limit from Girton to Oakington to 30mph, I am sure we all agree that the main road linking the two villages needs to be safer for our community of drivers, cyclists, equestrians and pedestrians. The budget would be funded by Northstowe S106 money. LHI panel will meet in May 2023 and, if the scheme does get the go-ahead, construction would be March to August 2024.

Cost of living crisis: helpful information and advice on a single webpage about schemes run by Councils and others can be found here: tinyurl.com/39mj9hwa

Firouz Thompson



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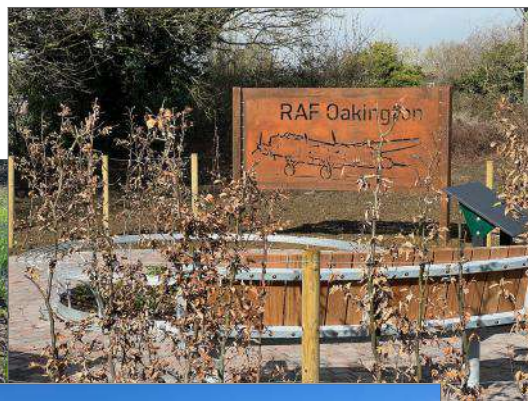


Environment Action Group

Work on the Parish Council's **Open Spaces** project, supported by the EAG, to develop the recreation ground has been continuing. The two new seating areas, based around the themes of Anglo-Saxon Oakington and RAF Oakington, have now been installed, and the daffodils are coming into bloom as you can see from the photograph.

We have continued to monitor **drainage** around the village, and were pleased to note that Cambridgeshire County Council cleaned the gullies around the crossroads, along Water Lane and on Mill Road in February. This cleaning was a lot more thorough than on previous occasions. We have yet to experience higher rainfall for a really rigorous test, but the drainage seems to be a big improvement so far. We are grateful to Cllr Firouz Thompson and her colleagues for including our village in this programme.

We were also pleased to see that the **village pond** has continued to remain relatively clear of duckweed over the winter months, although we do expect the weed to return as temperatures rise.



Stephanie Smith



Open Spaces in the News

On 2 January, a formal turf cutting and tree planting event celebrated the commencement of the works on the Recreation Ground. Anna Bradnam, Chair of South Cambs District Council was our guest of honour, and the event was featured in the Cambridge Independent.

Stephen Moore

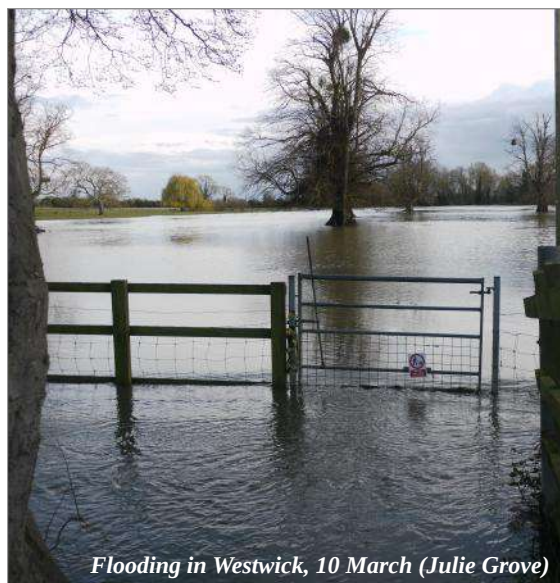
The Open Spaces project seeks to enhance the Rec by adding landscaped areas for all ages and abilities: from accessible paths to planting which encourages children's play. Sheltered seating areas enable get-togethers and picnics, and biodiversity will be improved by new trees and wild flowers.

All residents are invited to the **Annual Parish Meeting** **24 April, 7.30pm, at the Pavilion**

How can villages maintain their integrity when facing nearby large-scale development? Alan James, Chair of the Cambs & East branch of the CPRE, The Countryside Charity, will be talking about their 'What Gets Built Where' campaign.

The Annual Parish Meeting is not a Parish Council meeting but a Village meeting where, following the presentation, every group in the village has the opportunity to share their activities with the villagers.

Contact the clerk (see page 5) to let her know your group would like to contribute.



Flooding in Westwick, 10 March (Julie Grove)



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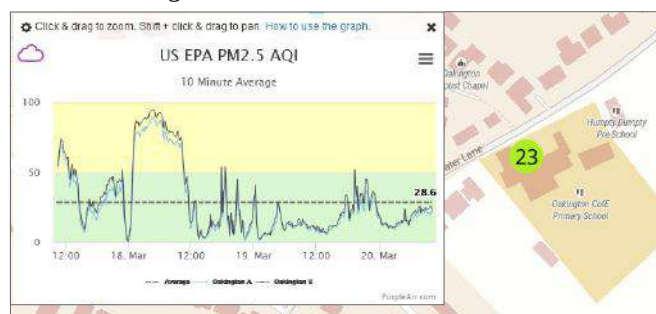
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Transport Action Group



Oakington Air Quality

Oakington Primary School has been the location of the Purple Air pollution monitor which is live and freely available on the internet by going to www.purpleair.com/maps. The image below is a snapshot of the local Air Quality Index (AQI) taken on Monday 20 March. By zooming out you can find all the operational Purple Air monitors installed in the UK and across the rest of the world. Locally there is one located in Bar Hill and two are in Cambridge in the vicinity of Cambridge Station. Two others are in Great Gransden and Gamlingay. It is interesting to see how our AQI compares with others locally and across the globe.



St Ives Greenway

Greater Cambridge Partnership have been implementing a number of Greenway projects for active transport (walking, cycling, horse riding). The St Ives greenway primarily uses the maintenance track that runs beside the guided bus.

However, part of the project has direct impact on Oakington and Westwick with a proposal to put a cycleway, separated from the road for most of the route by a hedgerow, between Oakington and Cottenham at a predicted cost of £1M. On one level it is a good thing that new cycleways are being proposed but there are more urgent needs for existing cycleways or shared paths (e.g. Cambridge Road) to be improved for increased safety of both pedestrians and cyclists. TAG considers that a separate cycle path from Oakington down to the A1307 would be a major benefit for cyclists to connect with the new cycleways that were built alongside the upgraded A14 to give safe access to Bar Hill and West Cambridge. TAG supports the responses made by the Parish Council and the more technical response from Camcycle regarding the St Ives Greenway.

Water Lane Traffic Calming

The Mobile Vehicle Activated Sign (MVAS) had been relocated in Station Road facing traffic approaching from Cottenham. At the time of writing there is one week's worth of data but is showing encouraging signs of speed reduction with only 7.4% exceeding the 30mph speed limit.

TAG meets on the first Monday bi-monthly – the next meeting is scheduled for 15 May, 7.30pm in the White Horse. If you have any comments on this article or would like to join us, please contact us and we will email the meeting details.

Jim Bryant, Chair
owcp.tag@gmail.com 07807184691

Oakington & Westwick Neighbours



OWN's primary aim is to extend the help good neighbours give each other throughout Oakington and Westwick. OWN volunteers join to give a little of their free time and skills back to the community. Typical examples of help requested and given are:

- collecting prescriptions
- help with technology particularly for older people
- lifts to appointments (through Cottenham Carecar – contact 01954 251929)
- offering company through regular visits for a chat

But we can help with anything reasonable if there is a volunteer available. (Exceptions: personal care and regular ongoing jobs which would normally be paid for.) Please get in touch, whether for yourself or a family member: email OWNeighbours@gmail.com or leave a message on 07902 111786.

But there are lots of other activities OWN is involved in!

Hardship Fund: If you are in financial need, you can contact the Hardship Team in confidence. Lots of people are finding it hard at the moment so please get in touch: call or text Ben on 07342 945373 or Jo on 07714 760582 or email oak.west.hardship.fund@outlook.com.

Minibus trips: see page 24.

CONNECT2 your community: we run free events to bring people together and give them the chance to meet others. These include the **Big Lunch** (see page 3), community walks (see page 12) and the **Plant Swap** (below.)

Advance notice that we will be running a free **online safety workshop** in autumn. Covering topics such as email, passwords, online shopping. Date to follow but contact us now if you're interested, as places will be limited.

How to contact OWN: email OWNeighbours@gmail.com or leave a message on 07902 111786.

Jenny Prince

Free Plant Swap / Stall

10–12 on **Saturday 13 May**
2–4pm on **Sunday 14 May**

Outside 36 Coles Lane

Bring some vegetable plants you've grown and take away something planted by someone else. Even if you don't have anything to swap, take some plants anyway – leave a donation (collection for Ukraine.)

Sow some extra seeds now so you can bring along spares to the stall. While the main focus is on veg plants and sustainable food, we won't turn away flowers!

Organised by OWN & SOW



Oakington and Westwick WI

What an enjoyable evening we had in February with our super talented crafter Lynda Neech. She led us all in a wonderful night of achievable craft! Plus, everyone made a card to take home, whether sticking or sewing... We also enjoyed a chat while we worked.



Our March speaker was Jane Munden. She played the roles of three SOE (secret operation executives) from World War II and retold each of their stories, from their operative training to their individual secret work in France. Each of them had to keep moving to avoid being caught or worse handed over – the secret war – before sadly each of them was captured and killed. One of the operatives was a distant relative of Jane's, and the family have visited France where she worked and the RAF base from which she left England. Jane and family now go to the Remembrance Sunday Service to join the battalion at that Air Base. It was an emotional story, and she was a fantastic speaker.

Next month is our AGM and informal games night – and of course our usual chance for a coffee and a chat.

As well as our monthly meetings some of our members are off to the theatre to see *Strictly Ballroom* in April in Milton Keynes. The following day a group of us are going on a guided tour of The David Parr House in Cambridge.

We have a varied programme planned over the next few months.

Elaine Bailey



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

Oakington Vikings



Our Teams and Contacts

- First Team James 07834 465188
- Under 18s James & Ronnie 07834 465188
- Under 14s Marcus & Josh 07866 635241
- Under 12s Winston 07968 716290
- Welfare officer Frank 07841 995713

Country Dance Club

Jane and I look forward to seeing you on Friday **14 April** and Friday **26 May** for two more fun evenings of dancing. Do come along and make new friends. Dancing will be to our excellent musicians and we have a Caller to help you learn the dances, which will all be walked through.

Kathryn Coles



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

1st Oakington Scout Group

It's been a very busy term for the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts with Police visits, celebrating national events like Burns Night, international events like World Water Day and St Patrick's Day and gaining lots of badges.

The Cubs enjoyed a night away at Shepreth Wildlife Park, where they learned about nature and caring for wildlife. Their night in the park was an exciting and different way to gain a Nights Away badge.

The Scouts will be enjoying spending the whole of Easter weekend away at Hallowtree scout camp practising their survival skills (including cooking over open fires, hiking and wood crafts). Easter Camp happens with a whole range of other Crafts Hill scout groups and will be a brilliant chance to meet up with other local scouts as well as getting back to nature. It's also a great chance to learn new camp-fire songs, jokes and stories and lets the scouts practise being independent in a camping environment.

Cara Hanman



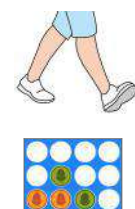
Beavers (aged 6–8), Cubs (8–10½) and Scouts (10½–14) meet weekly in term at the Pavilion. More details on page 2.

Oakington & Westwick Short Mat Bowls Club



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

Community Walks



Gentle walks in all weathers on the first Saturday of each month. Meet at the High Street end of the church at 10.30am. Don't forget to wear comfortable shoes and dress appropriately for the elements.
CONNECT 2 – owneighbours@gmail.com

Sustainable Oakington & Westwick

A cold January evening was the ideal time to hear from three Oakington residents about their experiences installing and using heat pumps. It was a lively discussion! There are notes on SOW's website but contact SOW if you'd like to get in touch with Paul, Philip or Jim to ask questions.

The February meeting featured a talk about Cambridge Nature Network – read more in Nature Notes (page 19). We would like to use CNN's Nature Recovery Toolkit to identify areas in Oakington & Westwick where habitat could be enhanced. We'll be starting on this at our May meeting but please get in touch sooner if you are interested or could help.

- **26 April** Electric bikes including one to try out! A talk by Sean Moroney of Cambridge Electric Transport
- **31 May** Looking at the Nature Recovery Toolkit to map Oakington & Westwick

Jenny Prince



If you're concerned about nature and the environment, get in touch and link up with what we can do within the village and further afield. All are welcome to SOW meetings, at 7.30pm in the church hall on the last Wednesday in the month. Get more inspiration from SOW's "green library" bookshelf in the telephone box on Longstanton Road. sustainableow@gmail.com / sustainableow.co.uk

Oakington & Westwick Tennis Club

Calling all tennis players!

Whatever your age or standard of tennis, you'll find things very relaxed at the Oakington & Westwick Tennis Club. New members are always welcome and now is a particularly good time to join as the subscription year runs from 1 April – 31 March. Current rates (subject to approval at our forthcoming AGM) are £65 for a family, £45 for adults and £20 for juniors. We would particularly welcome and encourage juniors to take up the sport. For further information, please contact oakingtontc@gmail.com.

Gill Attmore



Club members can use hard courts at the Recreation Ground. Coaching and social events. Contact oakingtontc@gmail.com.

Oakington & Westwick Table Tennis Club



We are a small, friendly club, of mixed ability. We play throughout the year, every Tuesday at 7.30pm at the Pavilion, and welcome new players. We have four tables and spare bats – all you need is a pair of trainers. Junior players must be accompanied by an adult. For more information contact Gillian L'angellier on 234758.

Cambridge Ten Sing

It has been a busy couple of months for Ten Sing, including a team-building event and our Annual Concert, which took place successfully on Saturday 11 March.

The team-building event was in the form of a sleepover. Everyone arrived on the Friday evening, did some practice of the dance routine for the concert and played some games, before settling down to sleep after hot chocolate. The next day we went to Clip and Climb in Cambridge where a tiring hour was spent on the climbing walls, before we returned to base for lunch. We played some more games, rehearsed more of the concert and then sent them all home, tired but happy. The feedback was that everyone had enjoyed themselves immensely and was desperate to do it all again!

The concert was a success too, with a theme of Reignite, as we celebrated Ten Sing continuing to happen despite lockdowns and now once again performing. Many of our new members have never performed in public, so the concert was a great learning curve for them as they practised stage entrance and exits, singing with microphones and all of the additional work that surrounds putting on a concert. A great way to learn skills you can apply in other aspects of life.

Terry King, Administrator



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

Tuesday Talk & Tea

We have had three well attended meetings this year so far. In January we had a games and quiz afternoon, in February we heard about a school trip to Greece and in March Pat Caine gave a fascinating talk and demonstration of silk painting and batik that left us itching to try it out for ourselves.

On **11 April** we have a talk by a speaker from The National Trust, entitled "One Place, One Time, One Life: Lord Fairhaven's Life at Anglesey Abbey".

On **9 May** George Armstrong, a popular speaker from the Church congregation, will talk on the different stages of his working life – and they are very different!

All talks are followed by homemade sandwiches, scones and cake – worth coming for alone! We welcome everyone and there is always plenty to go round.

Marian Cleaver



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



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Neighbourhood Watch

Cambridge Water Data Loss

As I have just been through the experience of having my personal data sold on, I thought it might be useful to recount what happened.

We were paying for our water by direct debit and, like everyone else, we received a letter from Cambridge Water in December 2022, telling us our data had been compromised. They recommended that we register for a subscription to TrueIdentity, which we did almost immediately, adding our bank details for tracking on the dark web. However, we have had no alerts, so either TrueIdentity are not very good or our data has been sold openly, rather than on the dark web.

Cambridge Water also recommended we sign up for Protective Registration using CIFAS; unfortunately I was put off by the £25 fee.

On 8 February, I received letters from insurance brokers to say that car insurance had been taken out in my name, which they believed to be fraudulent. When I checked my bank account, ten direct debits had been set up by various insurance brokers, mainly for motor insurance. I cancelled them all before any money was taken. When cancelling a Direct Debit you are supposed to notify the company involved, but in most cases this was not possible as I had no contact details.

I immediately phoned Action Fraud (0300 123 2040, Mon–Fri 8am–8pm), although it is probably easier to register online (reporting.actionfraud.police.uk), and obtained a crime number. Some companies will not cancel fraudulent activity without it, so this is an essential step. I then spent my £25



with CIFAS and that has stopped all further fraudulent activity, so far.

Since cancelling the direct debits, I have had a series of letters from the various brokers, some advising me that they have recognised fraudulent activity, some questioning why I have cancelled the payments and some debt collection letters. I have subsequently been able to email or phone all of them. All have been reasonably helpful, but have required the Crime Number.

If anyone would like further details or advice feel free to contact me on 01223 233208. *Graham Tregonning*

Neighbourhood policing community meeting

- Meet your Neighbourhood Policing Team
- Find out what the team have been working on in your area
- Share your concerns
- Help shape the local policing priorities

Online meeting 7–8pm, Tue 2 May
tinyurl.com/yckuzade

Cambridge Constabulary
Creating a safer Cambridgeshire



Belated congratulations to Thiru and Anu from our village shop. They celebrated their traditional wedding in late 2022.

Community Association



There have been several changes in the CA and the Journal Team recently. First of all, a big thank you to Bernie Yates who has decided to step down from his role as the CA and the Journal Team treasurer, for keeping our finances in order. I am delighted that Hady Aouad has now taken over this important role. I also want to thank Geoffrey Butlin, who – based on his past experience as the Journal Editor – has had an important role as an Adviser to the Team. His valuable guidance will be greatly missed.

I was pleased to see, that, although the Community Association pulled out of organising a big Coronation Celebration due to a lack of support, OWN have now decided to organise the Big Lunch on the day, thus offering our community an opportunity for celebrating this important historical event, even if in a somewhat scaled-down format.

On our part, we are going ahead with preparations for our traditional **Village Day**, which this year will take place on **Saturday 24 June**, from 12 noon. This event is organised and run by volunteers, and we are calling for volunteers to come forward and help us make it again a great day out to enjoy with your family.

Ranko Pinter
oakington.westwick.ca@gmail.com



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My Volunteering

When I semi-retired I thought it would be good to try volunteering; aware of so many good causes, ... help people who face difficulties. The planetary situation was worrying me too and I wanted to do something to reduce carbon emissions and silly waste. I searched and quickly came across Cambridge Re-Use. They collect and supply used furniture to help those on low income. If you are on low income, you can buy a good sofa from them for £40–60.



I remembered once as a child when we were going through a rough patch (the North East boom and bust economy and when the pits closed down...). Our sofa was an old red velvet scrap heap ... you hesitated bringing friends home for tea because it was so leprous. I remember we had to put up with it a long time and the feeling when the new sofa arrived ... a surprising but veritable rise in self-respect, pride etc. When delivering sofas as part of the Re-Use van crew I sometimes fancy I see the look on a kid's face as we go through the door... happiness and relief that something nice is coming into the house ... satisfying. And guys who tell you they've been on the street for years and the council have just given them the flat we are delivering a bed, tables and chair to ... really appreciating the help they have received from all parties. Good to be involved in such transactions.

I've been doing between 3 and 4 days' volunteering a week there for the last 6 years now, varying roles, depending on the charity's need (marketing, board of trustees/directors, driver, receptionist, sales assistant). Such a variety of roles are possible, it's not all bucket collections and marathons by any means.

As an older person now I'm glad I've spent some years doing some good, not just profit, and working with lots of nice people, from all walks. A warm feeling.

Gerry Cavander

Care Together

Care Together is a programme led by Cambridgeshire County Council in collaboration with our partners and local communities. The aim is to help more older people to remain living independently and happily in their own home for longer. It will change the way care and support for older people in the community is commissioned and delivered.



To ensure that it is helpful for you, they would like your participation in answering an online questionnaire at smartsurvey.co.uk/s/36MHL6/. They especially want to hear from you if you are over 55 or caring for someone over 55.

If you do not have access to the internet, please call 01954 286 002 or 07771 545 674 Monday – Friday 9am–2pm to request a paper copy or if you prefer to answer the questions over the telephone instead of on paper or online. Please leave a contact number if asked to do so. Outside of these hours paper copies can be requested via the email care.together@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Liz Davis has also kindly offered to support those in the village without internet access. Give her a call on 01223 232745 if you would like a form to fill in. She will then drop it off for you at one of the collection points (Libraries).

Please note the closing date for submissions is 15 April.

*Leneva Nwachukwu, Commissioner
People Services, Cambridgeshire County Council &
Peterborough City Council, Telephone – 01954 286002*

Over Bike and Pub Challenge 2023

To help the Over Day Centre raise £50,000 towards solar panels and solar-powered bathing for clients, amongst other events, the Day Centre is planning to hold again in 2023 two very popular days.



Sunday 14 May: The 5-Pub Challenge – The 12-Mile Walk will have a choice of stops at the usual watering-holes of Pike & Eel, Needingworth; The Ferryboat, Holywell; The Three Tuns, Fen Drayton; The White Horse, Swavesey; and the Community Centre, Over. The walk will start at the Over Day Centre, Drings Close, CB24 5NZ.

Sunday 25 June: The Bike Rides – will have a choice of fully route-marked rides, planned by Willingham Wheels and Swavesey & Over Cycling Club. You can choose from 100km, 50km and 3 family routes through local countryside and villages. Afterwards you will be welcome to join us for an after-ride social with bbq, bar and live music at the Over Community Centre, The Doles, CB24 5NW. The rides will start at the Over Community Centre or Northstowe Community Wing, CB24 1AA.



Willingham Wheels are also organising a 'Sofa-to-50k', 8-week training programme for novice riders, to gradually increase their distance, culminating in the 50k ride. For details, please contact Nigel at sofa250k@outlook.com.

*Dr Adrian Tranter, Trustee
The Over Day Centre Association*



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Cambridge Nature Network

In February, members of the EAG and SOW convened to listen to a presentation of the 'Cambridge Nature Network', delivered by Cambridge Past Present and Future. Based on a report produced in part by the Wildlife Trusts, five Priority Areas and one Opportunity Area were defined around the city of Cambridge as being of particular importance for the habitats they support, their role as wildlife corridors or both. The point of the network is to provide funding opportunities to groups at any scale who wish to create or enhance habitats for nature. For the most part, they are defined by the presence of so-called 'Priority Habitats', i.e. those habitats that support rare or specialist species and/or those habitats which are in themselves rare or threatened.

To the south-east of Cambridge are the areas of Chalk Grassland, characterised by grazing on chalk or limestone soils and supporting some Nationally Rare species eg. Moon Carrot *Seseli libanotis*, Great Pignut *Bunium bulbocastanum* and Grape Hyacinth *Muscari neglectum*. All of these have small isolated populations in and around the Cherry Hinton Chalk pits, so the opportunity to provide more suitable habitat will greatly reduce the risk of local extinction.

Similarly, to the west is the so-called 'Boulder Clay and Woodlands' area around Madingley. Woodland ground flora are some of the earliest species to come into flower, taking



advantage of the early spring warmth before the trees above come into full leaf. Viewers of the latest landmark BBC series 'Wild Isles' will have seen the intricate methods used by a familiar woodland plant, Lords and Ladies *Arum maculatum*, also known as Cuckoo Pint, to entice a pollinating insect into its 'dungeon' at the base, douse it with pollen, only to be released to the

next plant. Lords and Ladies are abundant on the paths in and around Mansells Wood – next time you are there and they are in flower, try giving them a sniff!

So to the area of most relevance to us, the 'Fen Edge Orchards and Drovers' Opportunity Area. Lying to the north of the City, it has the potential to provide a stepping stone for wildlife from the River Cam corridor to the south to the River Ouse catchment to the north. But why Orchards? Firstly, fruit growing was a regular part of our local economy - the Chivers Factory in Histon is testament to that. Readers of this column will already be well aware of the great benefits orchards can have. But you may be less aware that Traditional Orchards too are considered as Priority Habitats alongside reedbeds, broadleaf woodland and chalk grassland. What makes a traditional orchard so special? The key is in its management. Traditional orchards typically are managed in a low intensity fashion – the ground vegetation is often a species-rich grassland, perhaps with pockets of scrub, all of which are great for invertebrates. The oldest traditional orchards also tend to have some very old trees, and with that comes lots of deadwood, again great for beetles and others that specialise on feeding on this much reduced resource. And then there are their predators: lesser spotted woodpecker, one of Britain's rarest and fastest declining breeding birds, thrives in habitats rich in deadwood for feeding and nest building.



We plan to take this work forward locally by using the Nature Recovery Toolkit developed by Natural Cambridgeshire. We welcome the help and support of local people who could help us develop plans, maps following surveys and activities to help nature recovery in Oakington and Westwick. We only look for interest in nature; you don't have to be an ecologist and you can put in as much time as you choose. Please contact James Heywood, John Terry or Sustainable Oakington & Westwick.

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

Emergency Alert Trial on all Mobiles

A siren-like alert will be sent to mobile phone users across the UK next month to test a new government public warning system. It allows the government and emergency services to send urgent messages warning the public of life-threatening situations like flooding or wildfires. The test is expected to take place in the early evening of **23 April**.

Phone users will have to acknowledge the alert before they can use other features on their devices. A message will appear on the home screens of people's devices during the test, with vibration and a loud warning sound that will ring for about 10 seconds, even if the phone is set to silent. Messages would only ever come from the government or emergency services and will initially focus on the most serious weather-related events, with the ability to get a message to 90% of mobile users within the relevant area.

Graham Tregonning

Changes to Battery Recycling Collections

Adjustments to bin lorries mean that small plastic bags containing used batteries can now simply be left (tied up) on top of green, black or blue bins for collection by crews on their usual rounds.

Most small common household portable batteries can be placed out for collection at the kerbside, including AAA, AA, C, D and button cells. Please do not include mobile phone, laptop batteries or those that are attached to a device. Search online for 'recycle small electrical items' instead.

Residents of flats with shared bins should not leave batteries on these but can take them to the Co-ops in Histon, Girton, Longstanton and Cottenham and Tesco at Bar Hill.



Cllr Tom Bygott

Orchard Wassailing



It was an immensely fun evening of feathers and fire, with spiced cider and warming soup thrown in for good measure. CONNECT 2 was fortunate to team up with Blue Barrel Cider for another community activity as they revived the Orchard Wassail in their family orchard. We were thrilled to

welcome more than 60 people of all ages to join in the old tradition of chasing away ill fortune with loud bangs and whistles. It was a perfect opportunity to use this custom as a pretext to spend some quality social time outside, chatting with friends and meeting new people.



A ring of fire leapt around the oldest tree in the orchard, and this was followed by 'toasting' the tree with a libation of cider and then jokingly impaling slices of toast on the branches to encourage a healthy harvest.

The wassail was led with aplomb and charisma by Mathai, the evening's Master of Ceremonies, in a glorious hat adorned with apples and pheasant tail feathers. As soon as the occasion was over, we immediately came up with plans for next year, so we hope to build on this year's success in the future.



Alice J

Pavilion Update

The Pavilion Committee has successfully managed the Sports Pavilion now for over 15 years and has survived Covid and all the challenges that faced us over that terrible time. We have a wonderful building, for the use of this village and surrounding villages too but it is very expensive to run, and this is where we need the village to support.

This year alone our heating bills were over £6000 next year they are estimated to be over £8000. We cannot sustain these expenses and need to find a way of generating revenue. How can you help?

Firstly, you can support our Pavilion Lottery. I encourage every household to buy at least one ticket. It could really make a difference.

Secondly, do you know someone who has a business that might want to hire out our function room? We have a perfect meeting room that is available during the week.

We are trying our best to use the building as efficiently as possible, we need to generate more income to keep the building going.

To hire the building please contact Tony Leadley on oakingtonpavilion@gmail.com

Please support your Pavilion!

Elaine Bailey
Pavilion Committee Chair

Please join the lottery & support The Pavilion.
To join Please text JOIN plus your name, house number & postcode to 07831 828898 or Complete the form below & return to the Pavilion with your payment. Thank you

The cost of one annual ticket is £10 for 10 draws (March to December 2023). Tickets must be applied for and paid by 31st March 2023. There is no limit to the number of tickets that you can buy. The monthly prize is £100 with a prize of £150 for the December draw.

Please text the number above or complete the form below and we can either call to collect your payment (telephone 01223 235187 to arrange this) or you can take it to the post box at the pavilion. Please make cheques payable to "Oakington & Westwick Sports Pavilion". On receipt of your payment your tickets will be allocated and delivered in due course.

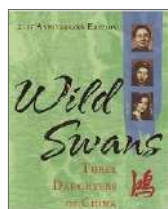
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Promoter: Oakington & Westwick Sports Pavilion Management Committee, Queens Way, Oakington, Cambridge. CB24 3AW.
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Book Club

Wild Swans by Jung Chang

The story of a daughter, mother and grandmother in China living through the Imperial dynasty, Japanese invasion, communist revolution, associated cultural revolution (including the death by starvation of 15–40 million people). The biggest grossing non-fiction paperback in publishing history, selling more than 10 million copies.



We reviewed in a little room in Oakington. Mary “so depressing I couldn’t finish it”; Natalie, “very depressing, and shocking that it happened”; Gerry “many say ultimately uplifting but I’m not feeling that yet ... but hard to put down”. How awful what they suffered ...

We agreed ... her family had to suffer in silence or be beaten, she wrote the book to reject, finally, for all her loved family, the order to be quiet, to ignore evil and just do what you are told. Not a novel, a *true-life story*. What better reasons to tell a story could there be: love and justice. Awesome!

Next month’s book will be John Updike’s “In the Beauty of the Lilies”. If you are interested in joining the group, contact me at gerald@cambridgereuse.org.uk / 07857 704636

Gerry Cavander

Podcast Review

People fixing the world. Brilliant solutions to the world’s problems. Meet people with ideas to make the world a better place and investigate whether they work.

Just some people dotted around the world who didn’t get the memo that there’s nothing they can do; that it’s hopeless; that their idea doesn’t stand a chance of success; that any attempt to change the world for the better is futile. Or is it?

Paul Kershaw, Editors



Chess Corner

Solution to chess puzzle 1-23 from last Journal:

White	Black	White
Nd5-e7;	if Kd4xRe5	Bb4-c3#
	if b7-b6	Ne5-c6#
	if g4-g3	Ng5-f3#
	if Nf4-**	Re5-d5#
	if Nf2-**	Re5-e4#
		# checkmate

**any move by that piece



This time time a slightly easier chess puzzle 2-23. White to checkmate in two moves

Ranko Pinter

Dog Training

Don't complain: Manage and Train!

While many of us enjoy sharing our lives with dogs, it’s fair to say not everyone feels the same way about our pooches. And even dog lovers might sometimes feel tested by the behaviour of their own, or other people’s dogs. Although serious injuries caused by them are thankfully rare, vets and groomers are reporting an increase in dogs that are difficult to handle and trainers are seeing many we’d describe as ‘unruly’.

There are two key measures to keep our dogs under control and everyone safe: Management and Training.

Management means avoiding putting your dog in situations where their behaviour is problematic or they could develop expectations or habits that will be a problem in future. Do you want your dog to expect strangers in the park to give them a fuss or treats? Do you want your dog to expect to play with every other dog they see? Possibly not!

Keeping the lead on, doors shut and thinking carefully about where you take your dog are examples of good management.

Training for the longer term; it is important to teach your dog the life skills to live compatibly around humans. Good manners include paying attention and coming when called, being able to settle when alone or when you take them to places, walking calmly on the lead past distractions rather than pulling. Training makes life easier and more enjoyable for you and your dog!

The Blue Cross (bluecross.org.uk) and other organisations have many good training guides online, or speak to your vet about training options.

Susannah O’Hanlon

At the White Horse, Oakington

Every Tuesday Poker at 7.45pm

Every Thursday Quiz Night at 8pm

Last Sunday of the month Bingo at 6pm

Telephone: 01223 232417



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Mill Road

Mill Road is one of the shortest (and steepest) roads in Oakington. There are just four houses, numbered confusingly 1, 2, 7 and 15, although social events are usually extended to our neighbours on the corners, and ex-Mill Road residents living locally – we're a friendly street! Bob and Linda have been here the longest (30 years). Hannah Angel, now in Cottenham, moved to Mill Road back in the early 70s and lived at number 1 until 2012.

Hillcroft Cottage (number 15) is the oldest house, the earliest part of which dates from 1919 – probably the first house to be built in Oakington after the first world war. The Radfords who lived there had an orchard and a market garden on the west side of the road. Hannah says that asparagus was grown and sent off on an early train at the village station. Their daughter Ruby was nanny for many years at Westwick Hall.

The Radfords' land was divided into three building plots around the 1960s. The one at the top of the road was bought by Mrs Olive Doggett, who lived in Myrtle Cottage

(80 High Street), to prevent anyone building a house next door to her. In the middle plot and lower plots, Ruby had her bungalow built (number 7), and then in the late sixties, number 1. She lived in the bungalow in her old age, with Hannah keeping an eye on her. At the turn of the present century the bungalow was extended.



By the 1970s Mrs Barrett and her son, a university academic, lived at Hillcroft Cottage. Hannah recalls that she accidentally set fire to it! A plot on the other side of the road, formerly owned by Queens College, had been sold in 1926 to the Doggetts at Myrtle Cottage, and Mrs Doggett kept chickens there which used to get out onto the road. Nick Harrison's sister

Susan bought this land and had the road's fourth house built there in the early nineties.

Until the second world war, Mill Road was actually one of the longest lanes in the village – it

led past where Church View is now to a windmill, and a path continued beyond. Another road, Drift Road, branched right to a sand or gravel quarry. This all disappeared when the airfield was built, but plans for Northstowe include a footpath/cycle track along the old Mill Road route. Northstowe will press very close up to Oakington here, but we hope the taller trees beyond the community orchard will provide a visual barrier.

Cambridge City Tours

Explore the city with a qualified
Green Badge Tour Guide



With Spring on the way, now is the time to plan activities for family and friends who want to see and hear more about this fascinating and historic city.

Why not book a tour with one of our professional and knowledgeable guides by visiting:

www.cambridgecitytours.com

Email: info@cambridgecitytours.com

Mill Road Fact File

Celebrity wildlife: owls are often heard; gardens are visited by jays, woodpeckers and a heron; a hedgehog family was brought up on the Mill Road side of 1, Station Road last summer

Come and see: the community orchard, a smaller sibling of the one at the Rec

Forgotten names: the 1834 enclosures map shows that at this time Mill Road was called Gravel Pit Lane and the plot on the west side (where 1, 7, 15 now are) was called Town End Close

Jenny Prince, with Hannah Angel, Linda Ward, Nick Harrison, and other current and former Mill Roaders

Up your street?

Could you ask around your neighbours and collect together some interesting snippets about your road? They could be historical, people's memories, or about the residents of today. Get in touch if you'd like your street to feature next! oakwestjournal@gmail.com

Big Thank You

Oakington residents have once again shown a great sense of generosity with donations now heading to Ukraine. Diane and Ross Smith suggested we used their 5asideCHESS and Life Café at the Crossroads as the collection point, and donations poured in. In addition, Liz Davis helped with packing some 50+ boxes and Gerry Cavander helped driving the consignment to the NGO's collection point in Basildon.



Celine Pinter



Concert for Ukraine



Oakington Singers held a "Come & Sing" charity concert on 25 February at St Andrew's Oakington. We were joined by over 50 singers from local choirs in towns and villages around Cambridge to sing works by Mozart and Handel, and three Ukrainian songs: Shchedryk (the tune known in English as "Carol of the Bells"), and two beautiful pieces in the Ukrainian Orthodox style: "A Ukrainian Prayer" by local composer John Rutter, and a setting of Kyrie eleison (Lord have mercy; Gospodi pomylui in Ukrainian).

It was an honour and privilege to be joined at the end of the concert by the Ukrainian women's choral folk ensemble "MALVA", a group recently formed by refugees from Ukraine together with Ukrainians already living locally, who sang a number of evocative and moving folk songs: an inspirational and emotional experience.

Over £3000 was raised for Direct Support for Ukraine and Union of Help to Kherson, two charities doing vital work to help the most vulnerable communities in Ukraine.

If you would like to see the Ukrainian Singers they are at youtu.be/gz81V6a39LQ or the whole concert is at youtu.be/SQLkVjI_rLM and you can enjoy the massed choir singing Shchedryk at youtu.be/Xqy7JhF6kTk

Paul Tann, Oakington Singers



Oakington Singers are a four-part harmony choir which rehearses on a Monday in the Church Hall, 7.30–9 pm. Come along and try us! For more information, or if you would like us to sing at your event, please contact Elaine Bailey on elainebailey1@live.co.uk or just drop in.

Minibus Service

Did you know we offer a monthly service of a Friday morning trip to Tesco's?



The drivers are all volunteers and this is one of them. Kris also happens to be an Advanced Driver and loves volunteering when work allows the time. There are places available and it's a free service, we pick up from the doorstep around 10 am and the whole trip usually takes a couple of hours so back for lunch. Trips are the first Friday of the month, except the next trip is

Friday March 31st because of Easter. If you would like to book a place, it's very easy – call Teri on 07711 531004 before midday on the Thursday.

The monthly minibus service to Tesco is much appreciated by local residents. One happy customer is Mrs Hetty Cuthbert who celebrates her 90th birthday in May.



But anyone of any age is welcome to use the minibus service, whether or not they have a car or would usually drive themselves.

Maria Varallo, Editors

Seaside Trip

We are hoping to run a day trip to the seaside using the minibus one Saturday in June or July. You'd be collected from your door and we'd have breaks as needed on the journey so that everyone can enjoy a few hours at Hunstanton.



There are ten places so if you'd potentially like to join the party please let us know so we can add you to the list of interested people. Call Teri on 07711 531004.

Jenny Prince



YOU ARE INVITED TO

Coronation Weekend Big Lunch

Bring & Share lunch – bring a plate of food if you can



👑 Free event 👑



Sunday 7th May, 12.30 – 2.30pm



Recreation Ground & Pavilion

Feel free to bring a picnic rug
or gazebo

👑 Community Sing-along at 2pm 👑

