

Oakington & Westwick

Dec 2022/Jan 2023

Journal

Christmas Events

**Transport
Consultation**

**Turf
Cut!**



What's On

Weekly

Mon		Monday Café , 9:30–noon. Church Hall, £1. Liz Davis – C 232 745
Mon		Brownies , 6–7:15pm. Term time. Church Hall. Hanna Lumley – 07557 090322
Mon		Beavers , 6pm. From January. 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. Church Hall. For under 5s, term time. Ben Phillips – familyworker@standrewsoakington.co.uk
Tue		Cubs , 6–7:15pm. Term time. Pavilion. iain.ramsay@oakingtonscouts.org.uk
Tue		Table Tennis , 7:30–9pm. Pavilion. Gillian L'angellier – C 234 758
Thu		Little Steps , 10–11:30am. Church Hall. For under 5s, term time. 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 – C 236 427
Fri		Tool Share open, usually 4:30–6pm. Contact gerard@cambridgereuse.org.uk / 07857 704636
Fri		Beavers (in December) followed by Scouts , 6pm. Pavilion. cara.hanman@oakingtonscouts.org.uk
Fri	2 Dec	Minibus to Bar Hill , 10am. To book ring Teri Seaber – 07711 531004
Fri	2 Dec	Mobile Library , 1:50–2:20 pm. Coles Lane
Sat	3 Dec	Village Walk & Talk , 10:30am. Meet by church on High Street. Alice – OWNeighbours@gmail.com
Sun	4 Dec	Oakington Singers at the Grand Arcade, 1–3pm. Elaine Bailey – elainebailey1@live.co.uk
Thu	8 Dec	O&W WI , 7:30pm. Church Hall. Christmas social: “The Best Buys”. Elaine Bailey – elainebailey1@live.co.uk
Sat	10 Dec	School Christmas Fayre , 1–4pm. Oakington Primary School. £1 adult. psa@oakington.cambs.sch.uk
Sat	10 Dec	Christmas service , 6.15pm. Baptist chapel. Refreshments afterwards. enquiry@oakingtonbaptist.org.uk
Mon	12 Dec	O&W Parish Council , 7:30pm. Pavilion. All invited. clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk
Tue	13 Dec	Tuesday Talk & Tea , 2:45pm. Church Hall. Christmas tea with carol singing. Marian Cleaver.
Sun	18 Dec	Carol Service , 4pm. St. Andrew's church.
Mon	19 Dec	Christmas Concert by Oaktet and Oakington Singers, 7pm. St. Andrew's church. elainebailey1@live.co.uk
Wed	21 Dec	Village Carol Singing , 7pm. By Christmas tree outside the White Horse. OWNeighbours@gmail.com
Fri	23 Dec	Deadline for responses to “Making Connections” consultation, 12 noon.
Sat	24 Dec	Christingle service , 3pm. St. Andrew's church. Ben Phillips – familyworker@standrewsoakington.co.uk
Fri	6 Jan	Minibus to Bar Hill , 10am. To book ring Teri Seaber – 07711 531004
Fri	6 Jan	Mobile Library , 1:50–2:20 pm. Coles Lane
Fri	6 Jan	Country Dancing , 8–10pm. Histon Methodist Church Hall. £4/50p. Kathryn Coles – C 233 191
Sat	7 Jan	Village Walk & Talk , 10:30am. Meet by church on High Street. Alice – OWNeighbours@gmail.com
Mon	9 Jan	O&W Parish Council , 7:30pm. Pavilion. All invited. clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk
Mon	9 Jan	Transport Action Group meeting. White Horse. Email Jim Bryant for details – owcp.tag@gmail.com
Tue	10 Jan	Tuesday Talk & Tea , 2:45pm. Church Hall. TBC. Marian Cleaver.
Thu	12 Jan	O&W WI , 7:30pm. Church Hall. Contemporary dance. Elaine Bailey – elainebailey1@live.co.uk
Sat	21 Jan	Orchard Wassail , 3–6pm. Orchard by Arcadia Gardens. Soup, cider & tradition. OWNeighbours@gmail.com
Wed	25 Jan	Community Association AGM , 7pm. Pavilion. All invited. oakington.westwick.ca@gmail.com
Wed	25 Jan	Sustainable O&W , 7:30pm. Church Hall. “Heating including heat pumps”. sustainableow@gmail.com
Sat	28 Jan	Drawing/painting group , 10am–12:30pm. Church Hall. Jenny Lloyd – Lloydjenny13@hotmail.com

Oakington & Westwick Sports Pavilion Monthly Lottery 2022 - Winners			
Month	Ticket No	Area	Winnings
October	133	High Street	£100
November	713	Coles Lane	£100
If you would like to enter the lottery, please text JOIN plus your name, house number & postcode to 07831 828898.			

BIN DAYS

Thu 8 Dec, Thu 22 Dec, Sat 7 Jan, Thu 19 Jan	Black bin
Thu 1 Dec, Thu 15 Dec, Fri 13 Jan	Blue & green bins
Sat 31 Dec, Thu 26 Jan	Blue bin only

Cover photo: Geoffrey Butlin

Winter may be settling in but there are lots of Christmassy events to look forward to in December. The school fair, a concert, carol singing, the street-scale Advent Calendar, as well as church services and parties mark this special time of year. Find all the details in this edition – plenty there to cheer us up.

Looking ahead to the New Year, why not be inspired by what's in the Journal to take up something new – perhaps join a village group or get involved in volunteering?

In view of these difficult times, advertising rates have been held unchanged. We are very grateful to the local businesses who support the Journal, enabling it to be delivered free to every household. Please support them if you can.

Thank you to everyone who has helped with the Journal this year – and indeed to everyone who contributes to the community life of Oakington and Westwick!

Jenny Prince & Irène Butlin, 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 (*editor*), Irène Butlin (*co-editor & advert layout*), Jenny Broadway (*distribution*), Jane Goodyer (*advertising*), Geoffrey Butlin (*adviser*), Ranko Pinter (*chair*).

Send contributions to
oakwestjournal@gmail.com

or phone: 233510 (Jenny)
or 234383 (Irène)

**DEADLINE FOR
FEBRUARY/MARCH ISSUE:
Tuesday 17 January**

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Adverts for the next issue must be received by **10 January**.

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



**A Happy Christmas to all our readers
from the Journal Team and Contributors**



From the Parent Staff Association

After a busy start to the new school year, the children are all settled back in and are looking forward to lots of exciting events as we move towards Christmas. We are delighted to confirm that our Christmas Fayre will return this year and promises to be a very special afternoon. We would love for as many of you to join us to support the school on **Saturday 10 December from 1pm to 4pm** in the school hall to enjoy local crafts, activities, stalls, refreshments and possibly even a seasonal special guest! We also have Christmas Raffle which has some great prizes from local businesses, but if you would like to donate a prize please do contact us. Raffle tickets will be available at the Fayre. We are thrilled to be joined by Carl and Angela from CI Photography who will be snapping family portraits – an ideal gift! We have pre-bookable slots available for photo sessions as well as visits to Santa's Grotto, with the links for both of these accessible via our Facebook page or by emailing psa@oakington.cambs.sch.uk.



We were delighted to see so many people turn out for the annual village firework display. The PSA had a stall selling a range of delicious hot drinks and we were delighted to raise over £300 for the school – so thank you to everyone who enjoyed a drink from us!



As Christmas approaches did you know you can now choose Oakington C of E Primary School PSA as your Amazon Smile charity? We have shared the link on our PSA Facebook page and on Oaky folk but you can also find it by searching on the Amazon smile homepage using 'Oakington C of E Primary School'. This is a great way to support us without it costing you anything, with donations going direct to the charity.

Angela Barber & Jo Farrington

Free advice from the OCOP Team



Not sure how to deal with young or overgrown apple trees? If you have new or old fruit trees in your garden and are not sure how to prune them, the OCOP team can pop around in January to help you sort it out. Contact us at

oakcomorchards@gmail.com

Wendy's of Girton (Taxis)

This is to let you know I'm retiring 14 Jan 2023

I want to say thank you for all the custom over the last 15 years. I have had a lot of fun along the way and made some lovely friends. I've learned lots from all the conversations, laughed at all the funny stories and cried at the loss of people who have moved on from this world.

I won't miss the 3am starts but I truly will miss the people who have put their trust in me and allowed me the privilege of transporting them to all sorts of places, near and far.

With much gratitude and affection

Wendy

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chair@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk

Vice-Chair: Tony Starling

John Bailey	Julie Grove
Will Bailey	Ranko Pinter
Matt Davidson	David Reeves
One Vacancy	

Email address for all councillors

clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk

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

Natalie Warren-Green

cllr.warrengreen@scambs.gov.uk

Tom Bygott

cllr.bygott@scambs.gov.uk

County Councillor

Oakington, Westwick, Longstanton,
Northstowe & Over

Firouz Thompson – 07974 680875

firouz.thompson@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Member of Parliament

Anthony Browne – 01223 603677

anthony.browne.mp@parliament.uk

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

From our Parish Council Chair

Let me begin by wishing everyone a very Happy Christmas and a warm New Year!

The single biggest yearly item of expenditure by the Parish Council is on the **Connexions Youth Bus**. This comes every Monday evening to the Recreation Ground and is open to all our young people. I regularly pop along to talk to the youth workers and I am immensely impressed by the services they offer to our youth. Many villages consider the expenditure on a youth service for their young people as a waste of money, but I am proud of what we do to support our young people.

It is therefore particularly upsetting that a small group of young children from this village regularly act in a silly manner, disrupting meetings and activities at the Pavilion. May I appeal to parents living near the Recreation Ground to ensure their children are not involved in this behaviour.

We are installing new **car park lights** to make people feel safer, particularly at the far end of the car park away from the Pavilion. Also, we are replacing four young **trees** planted next to the tennis courts, which unfortunately died in the dry summer, and we are planting the Platinum Jubilee oak tree towards the front of the Pavilion.

We have been heartened by the number of people who picnicked in the village **orchard** at the Recreation Ground. We have therefore replaced the old picnic table with a new one. Do continue to enjoy the orchard.

The tragic death of a teenage cyclist on the Girton-Oakington Road is a powerful reminder of how cars are lethal weapons. Since the introduction of the 20 mph limit in our village, it is pleasing to note that our **speed monitor** shows a significant decline in traffic speed. Sadly not all residents seem to think the limit applies to them. Please note that the 20 mph limit applies throughout the village and we introduced it to make the village a safer place.

The Parish Council was heavily involved in **lobbying Stagecoach** to maintain the half hour Citi6 bus service and to continue running the Citi5 via Oakington at night. Stagecoach replied that it was a commercial company which only ran profitable bus routes. It is not a public service.

This issue of “public” transport brings me to the proposals for a **congestion charge** for Cambridge. This seems to have been turned into quite a political debate, rather than on a discussion on the best way forward for a rapidly expanding “Greater Cambridge” to cope with traffic, congestion and pollution. There seems to be considerable focus on the congestion charge element of the plan and far less on the provision of public transport which the charge would facilitate. I have set out a very brief summary of the facts on page 11. The proposals will have a huge impact on the lives of us all and I urge you to read the full plan before making up your mind.

One of the big issues in Oakington is that of flooding, but in Longstanton the opposite problem of a **drop in the water table** has occurred. It is assumed that this has something to do with the development of Northstowe, though no causal connection has yet been definitively proved. This has led to some concern in villages around Northstowe and, indeed to Northstowe Town Council as well. As a result of this, a group of local villages, including Oakington and Westwick, have linked together to form an “Inter Parish Hydrology Group” to liaise and act together, where it seems appropriate.

Finally, are you a sceptic about climate change? Well, traditionally each village in this area had its own (horse drawn) **snow plough** to clear the roads each year when the snow came. I think you would agree that it would have got little use in this century. Well, we have kindly been offered our old snow plough back, courtesy of John Missen. The Parish Council will install it near the tennis courts on the Recreation Ground. Thank you, John!

Dr Stephen Moore

chair@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk





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From our District Councillors

Following the by-election for two District Councillors I would like to thank all those residents of Oakington and Westwick who voted for me and I feel both honoured and privileged to have now signed my acceptance of office.

Nine candidates stood for election to replace Cllrs Alex Malyon and Sarah Cheung Johnson. I would like to extend my gratitude and appreciation to Sarah and Alex, who have fully briefed me following their decision to step down and focus on their families after four years serving this Community. Their hard work has been recognised by many residents and I have been told often while canvassing that 'theirs are big shoes to fill'. I am pleased to remain in contact with them to provide continuity. I also would like to thank Cllr Firouz Thompson for her support and I look forward to working with her as well as with Cllr Bill Handley, Lead Cabinet Member for New Towns and Cllr Tumi Hawkins for Planning at South Cambridgeshire District Council.

Personally I am looking forward to learning more about the communities of the Ward. I am keen to apply my experience of change, transformation and transition in the public and private sectors to help address local frustrations; and to support progress on housing and amenity development, local transport and related charges and issues with water and environmental factors being experienced across the Ward.

On 14th November I attended the Oakington & Westwick Parish Council Meeting for the first time as a Councillor.

I went along this time to listen only, rather than report, and I have taken on board the discussions regarding the ongoing struggle with flooding. Readers will have seen previous reports by Sarah and Alex with links to documents, including the independent hydrology report and the District Council's Action Plan; I encourage you to continue to refer to these at scambs.gov.uk/community-safety-and-health/northstowe/northstowe-groundwater-investigations/. As someone already working in the space of Climate Transition, I aim to support the Community to resolve environmental issues and will report on progress made.

I have listened hard to a clear message from residents in this by-election that they trust the LibDem run District Council, but that we need to show progress on local issues including water, the delivery of facilities in Northstowe, as well as about public transport. I'll be working hard with the Ward Councils, community groups, residents, and Senior Delivery Managers at SCDC to make a difference.



I look forward to discussions with the Conservative District Councillor, Tom Bygott, and I'm confident that we can work together to get the best for our community



Please find our contact details on page 5.

Natalie Warren-Green



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From our County Councillor

With the recent by-election in our ward, I would like to congratulate my fellow LibDem District Councillor Natalie Warren-Green and Conservative Councillor Tom Bygott.

Support for residents in coping with the cost of living.

The Council is continuing to collate information about help for individuals and households struggling with the cost of living crisis. cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/communities-localism/support-with-the-cost-of-living

BUSES

Citi 6 Bus Route – Oakington – Cambridge

After several conversations with myself and the Parish Council, Stagecoach agreed to add further buses from Cambridge to Oakington – 17:20, 17:50 and 18:20, although this still means no buses in the evening. The frequency is 30 mins peak then hourly. See timetable tinyurl.com/bdfcb79d

Combined Authority (CA)

The CA's bus procurement concluded last month; all 18 routes which had been cut along with the five reduced services saw some level of service reinstatement. Part of the Citi 5 bus that was cut beyond Northstowe is now a new route 5A that will loop around Longstanton Park & Ride, Willingham, Over and Swavesey. The CA had set aside £1.7m for subsidies, however currently the total cost is expected to be about £1.25m because the operators were limited in what services they were prepared to provide. The CA will be monitoring how the new services are working. The CA is also working to put in place a sustainable and affordable bus network from April 2023 onwards. Currently, along with 60% of bidding authorities in England, including Cambridgeshire & Peterborough, we receive no Government funding for our Bus Service Improvement Plans (BSIPs). The region does not meet a number of the Department for Transport's criteria including the "deprivation index score". A refreshed Bus Strategy for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough is due to be presented to the CA's Transport & Infrastructure Committee in November, alongside a refreshed BSIP and a case for Government investment. Work is also continuing to further develop the business case for a

franchised bus network in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, but this will need money for the necessary investment in the service. Passengers with questions about bus services can email: passenger.transport@cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk

Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP)

The GCP has now opened its public consultation on its proposals for a significant expansion of bus services in Cambridge and the city's travel to work area, including South Cambridgeshire, to be paid for by the introduction of a congestion charge in Cambridge in 2027/28. It is very important indeed that local residents here in South Cambridgeshire read the proposals, complete the survey, and let the Greater Cambridge Partnership know what the proposals would mean for them.

The survey closes at midday on Friday 23 December. The consultation website, with the survey, brochure, map book, FAQs, public events and webinar dates and contact details are at consultcambs.uk/engagementthq.com/making-connections-2022

Mayoral precept

One idea raised at an informal meeting was whether there might be a case for setting a Mayoral precept to fund bus services beyond March 2023. This suggestion was leaked to the media, with some council leaders taking the opportunity to oppose the idea from the outset. We understand Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council would both have a veto over such a proposal. A bus network covering more than just a few key urban routes will need public subsidy, and the money for this will need to come from somewhere. The Government has already refused to fund Cambridgeshire's BSIP once. Will we be more fortunate this time? The Chancellor is also looking for billions of pounds in spending cuts. How likely are we to see the kind of Government investment we need?

Please find my contact details on page 5.

Firouz Thompson



Oakington C of E Primary School

The busy term continues at Oakington Primary School. The children marked **Remembrance Day** by painting poppies on a pebble and putting them all together to make a large poppy shape on the school playground. The children were able to talk about why this day is so important and the two minutes' silence was observed impeccably. This week has been **Anti-Bullying Week**, which started off with Odd Socks Day, and our theme has been 'Reaching Out', helping children to understand what bullying is and how to give or get support if and when needed.

Our **Open Evenings and Morning** were very popular and it was lovely to share all the fantastic experiences we offer our children with prospective families. Once again our prefects



did us proud, representing the school brilliantly and describing our school so articulately. Any families unable to visit during these events are welcome to contact the school office to arrange a visit and walk-around, at a time that suits you – we would love to see you and share what we do! With **Christmas play** rehearsals beginning and **Christmas Fayre** preparations underway, the school, though very busy, has an exciting atmosphere and is the best place to be at this time of year. We are sad to be saying goodbye to **Mrs O'Sullivan** this week. Since joining us in March 2019, she has worked as Office Administrator and has been the 'face' of the school. Greeting everyone with a welcoming smile and going above and beyond to help everyone, she has contributed to the school community immensely in so many ways. She will be sorely missed. We wish her all the best in her new school.

Nathan Clark, Headmaster



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Making Connections: Congestion Zone Charge – the Facts

You will probably have heard that there is a proposal to create a “Sustainable Traffic Zone” in and around Cambridge. The context is that something will have to be done about the increase in traffic and pollution which is being caused by the rapid growth of Cambridge and the surrounding areas. There is a lot of misleading information about, so I have gathered the key facts below.

For more information and to comment please go to:
consultcambs.uk/engagementthq.com/making-connections-2022

The Proposals

1. A charge to be placed on all motor vehicles which “move into, out of or within the Zone, not just those crossing the boundary”. So, it is not just those who enter the Zone from outside, but vehicles leaving the Zone or travelling within it.

2. The charge would operate 7am to 7pm weekdays. There will be no charge outside these hours and at weekends.

3. The charge would be £5 for cars and motorcycles and the charge would increase for vans/lorries etc. A wide range of vehicles would be exempt. Examples include: those used by professional care workers; emergency vehicles; vehicles registered to charities; Blue Badge holders and other registered disabled; people attending A&E at Addenbrookes, plus any other patients diagnosed as unfit to use public transport. This is not a complete list.

Taxis would only be exempt if they are electric powered and able to carry disabled passengers.

4. The Congestion Charge Zone essentially covers the majority of housing developments in Cambridge, stretching as far out as Trumpington to the South and Orchard Park to the North, Cherry Hinton to the East and Eddington to the West. See map on page 16.

Oakington and Girton, Histon and Impington are all outside the proposed Zone.

5. There would be a very significant increase in public transport provision, with an additional £50 million spent each year on public transport, with an increase (a) in the number of buses per hour, (b) in the number and range of bus routes.

Specifically, for Oakington and Westwick, the bus service would run earlier in the morning until late at night (the proposals state that bus services will be available from 5am until 1am.). The Citi 6 would be every 20 minutes and the guided busway would have a bus every 5 minutes.

6. Specifically, for Oakington and Westwick, the ticket price would be £1 single. There will be a cap (not specified in the documentation) on the total cost if a person needs to change buses.

7. For those further from bus stops, there would be ‘demand-responsive transport’ to link them to bus routes, similar to the Dial-a-Ride schemes.

Timeline

Improvements to bus services begin 2023/24.

In 2024, lower fares on buses.

In 2026, congestion charges introduced between 7am and 10am.

In 2027/28 full scheme starts.

Stephen Moore

Check on ya Mate at Cambridge’s first Chess & Life café

Pop down for a coffee and cake or a game of chess at Cambridge’s first 5asideCHESS & Life café in Oakington. John Healy, award-winning author of *The Grass Arena*, opened the 5asideCHESS & Life café on Saturday 15th October.

5asideCHESS started its journey a few years ago to provide a welcoming space for people of all ages, abilities, ethnicities, and backgrounds to meet new friends, hang out and have a chat in a safe environment. It all started with the big ‘battling suicide bus’ which toured up and down the country visiting a range of locations including supermarkets and festivals. The bus travelled to 40 towns in 66 days bringing comfort and support, disguised through the beauty of a simple cuppa and a game of chess.

Following the success of the bus tours and Saturday morning drop-ins at the Edge café on Mill Road, Cambridge, it was clear there is a need for a permanent, regular space during the week. April Cox, 5asideCHESS organiser explains: “Through the opening of the volunteer-run café, we are delighted to now provide a stationary place that you can rely on. We’re waiting to welcome you to our warm setting that keeps you out the cold during what may be a difficult winter ahead.”

With one of the core values being celebrating difference, regular features will include a book club, philosophy meet-ups, Saturday morning free kids’ storytelling and more! Let the 5asideCHESS & Life café be at the heart of your best next move. Come along to our community café or find out more on our Instagram page [@5aside_chess_and_life_cafe](https://www.instagram.com/5aside_chess_and_life_cafe). We can’t wait to meet you!

April Cox

CHRISTINGLE service

Saturday
24 December

3pm

St. Andrew’s
Oakington

For more info contact Ben Phillips
familyworker@standrewsoakington.co.uk

Oakington Singers

What do you get from being part of the Oakington Singers? Singing together ... fun ... friendship ... meeting people ... feeling good!



This is what the Oakington Singers can be for you. We are a four-part harmony choir that rehearses weekly on a Monday in the Church Hall from 7.30–9 pm. Come along and give us a try!

What events the Choir have coming up –

- **4 Dec** Carol singing Grand Arcade Cambridge, 1–3pm, raising funds for Macmillan Cancer
- **18 Dec** Carol Service – 4pm, St Andrews Church
- **19 Dec** Concert – 7pm, St Andrew Church – see page 24. Fundraising for the Ruth & Poppy Nicholas music fund which provides musical activities and events at Oakington C of E Primary School

If you are a singer yourself and fancy joining us, or if you would like us to sing at your event, please contact Elaine Bailey or just drop in.

Elaine Bailey elainebailey1@live.co.uk

Country Dance Club

Jane and I look forward to seeing you at Histon Methodist Church, on the following Fridays at 8pm – **6th January**, 3rd February and 3rd March, 2023 – for more evenings of fun, friendship and dancing. We have a Caller each month and the music is provided by our excellent musicians. Do come along and try us out. Soft shoes or trainers are the recommended footwear.



Adults: £4.00, accompanied children: 50p. See you there.

Kathryn Coles

Monday Café

The informal Monday Café, with its coffee and cake at £1 and second hand books at 50p, continues to be a popular social hub. It's open Mondays in the Church Hall, 9:30 – 12.



Two volunteers are 'on duty' every week. We would love to increase our team, so if you can spare a Monday morning once in a while, that would be most welcome! (Duty frequency to suit the volunteer, e.g. once every two months.)

Liz Davis

Tennis Club Quiz Night – a huge success!



The annual Oakington & Westwick Tennis Club quiz night was held on 12th November and a very big thank you goes to John Barnett for being such an excellent quiz master yet again! There were fifteen teams altogether and the photo shows the “heroes” of the evening – the winning team led by Paul Tann.



A significant sum of money was raised and this will be split between the charity Magpas and the tennis club. As always, many thanks to all the willing helpers and volunteers who helped make the event such a success.

We're already looking forward to Quiz Night 2023. The provisional date is 2nd December so you may want to pencil that in your diaries!

Club membership will be up for renewal on 1st April so please do join us for the new tennis season ... or sooner if you can't wait that long.

Gill Attmore

Oakington & Westwick Short Mat Bowls Club



If you haven't ever seen or played short mat bowls, here is a brief description of the game.

Short mat bowls is played indoors on a portable mat between 40 and 45 feet long and 6 feet wide. You bowl to a smaller bowl called a jack and the object of the game is for your woods (bowls) to be nearer the jack than the opposition. There is a block midway down the mat which provides an obstacle that must be avoided, primarily using the bias of your woods. It can be played by all ages and abilities and is a very enjoyable way to spend your spare time and make some new friends.

So, come and give us a try, as our guest. We meet every Thursday at the pavilion and play between 7.30 and 9.30 pm. We have three mats and a range of spare bowls. We just ask that you wear soft soled shoes.

For more information, please contact Dawn on 236427.

Dawn Stokes

Oakington and Westwick WI

We thoroughly enjoyed our painting session in October ... and for once, silence was the order of the day as we all concentrated on creating!



Our November meeting included an amazing talk by Ian Cumming, photographer and Great British Bake-Off Finalist. He firstly showed us some of his fascinating scenic photography from around the world before explaining how he came to apply for Bake Off.

Ian gave us an insight into how genuine the programme really is; the sceptical members amongst us were taken aback with his tales of his weekly trials to get through to the next round – using his engineering skills – and of course baking skills. It really is filmed in real time! At the end we tasted his most delicious bake – what a night! Sometimes the WI can be about cakes!

- **8 Dec** Christmas Social. All welcome to share an evening of “The Best Christmas Buys” – a fun blind tasting session of mince pies, stollen, crisps, and of course mulled wine.
- **12 Jan** An opportunity to enjoy some contemporary dance, at our own pace with Cathy Middleton. She will be getting us warmed up, ready to try some new moves!

Both 7.30pm at St Andrew Church Hall. Why not try us? We are a friendly group and the first meeting is free.

Elaine Bailey elainebailey1@live.co.uk

Tuesday Talk & Tea

We have been shocked and saddened by the unexpected death of Joan Pettit. Joan has been chairing the group for a number of years and will be greatly missed.

The scheduled meeting on **13 December, 2.45pm** in the Church Hall will go ahead: Christmas Tea with carol singing accompanied by Tim and Richard Brading.

Marian Cleaver

Oakington & Westwick Table Tennis Club

We play every Tuesday at 7.30pm at the Pavilion, and welcome new players. For more information contact Gillian L'angellier on 234758.



Mick Dorling

Sustainable Oakington & Westwick

SOW's September meeting included a talk by a representative of Cambridge Sustainable Food. The key messages were that our food choices do make a difference, and that we should ask questions about where food has come from and how it was produced.



In October we heard from two members whose environmentally inspired retrofit projects featured in this year's Cambridge Open Eco-Homes. Insulation and ventilation are key to energy efficiency, but also to feeling comfortable inside our homes.

There'll be a more in-depth look at heating systems in our January meeting, so if you want to find out more about air source heat pumps, ground source heat pumps, and more, please come along on **Wednesday 25th January, 7:30pm** in the church hall.

Don't forget the “green” shelf of books about nature and “eco” subjects in the phone box library.

Jenny Prince

sustainableow@gmail.com / sustainableow.co.uk



FA Charter Standard

Oakington Vikings

The Vikings U12s have had a great start to the season! Having scored a fantastic 33 goals and conceding just six currently sit top of their league (played seven won seven). They are also through to the second round of the League Cup after a well deserved victory.

With Christmas just around the corner they are very much looking to extend their unbeaten run into the festive season.



The Vikings would like to say a very big thank you for all the fantastic support they receive in the Village and wish all their players, families and friends a very Merry Viking Christmas.

Our Teams and Contacts

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

James Wilson

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www.pippawestoby.co.uk or on
my Facebook page : Letter
Carving in Stone - Pippa Westoby.

Contact email :
pippa_westoby@yahoo.co.uk



Hockey Stars



Congratulations to Finley Burling and Samuel Harris for scoring their first goals playing for Soham Rink Hockey Club.

The boys train with Cambridge and Cottenham Rink Hockey Club, but have been loaned to Soham Under 13s for this season.

Claire Harris

Cambridge Ten Sing



What an exciting autumn! We have doubled our numbers with new members, and it is wonderful to have so many new young people join us - their enthusiasm is very infectious. They also have lots of great ideas which we are feeding into our planning for events and activities in the next few months.

The group has a lot of keen actors and dancers, so they particularly like the drama games we do. Recently we have focused on Christmas songs, though, in readiness for the Christmas Weekend in Histon and Impington where we have been asked to perform. This will be the first performance for the new members.

In our weekly sessions, we mix singing, dancing and drama with other activities, and so we had a Mad Hatter Tea Party where we made themed hats in under half an hour, and then had mixed fruit juice drinks to celebrate. Incredible designs and imaginations – challenge successfully met! We look forward to the next few months, watch this space for more details of events. We welcome anyone aged 11–18 to come and try us out on a Thursday evening, 7 to 9 pm at Histon Baptist Church (term time). For more information, please email cambridgetensing@gmail.com.

Terry King

1st Oakington Brownies is CLOSING!



Have you ever thought about volunteering? Do you want to inspire young girls with new experiences and encourage their dreams? Would you like to gain new skills, qualifications, and become a member of a dynamic team?

If you answer yes to any of these then please get in

touch with our District Commissioner, Fran Sutton, on 07713841391 or histondc@gmail.com or enquire online at www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/become-a-volunteer/register-your-interest/ now.



1st Oakington Scout Group



The Oakington Scout Group has had a busy term. Lots of badge work has been carried out, life skills have been developed, independence has been encouraged and a tonne of fun has been had by all.

Beavers have been working on a variety of badges, learning about how to be a good Beaver scout and what it means to be a part of scouting in the UK. Cubs have learnt about fire safety and recycling, been litter picking, made a wreath for Remembrance Sunday, done some backwoods cooking and rope making - it's been a very busy term.

The scouts have been working on two complex badges. For the DIY badge, they have designed and built soap box carts - learning about tool safety, a bit of engineering, how to avoid splinters and how to drive a soap box cart. For the Survival Skills badge, they've done first aid for remote situations, learnt knife skills, maintenance and safety, about distress signals and had some fun with backwoods cooking. Life skills for a huge range of situations.

The Group was represented by nearly 50 children at the recent Remembrance Service at St Andrew's as Scouts recognised and honoured the sacrifice made by (particularly our local) service personnel.

Our groups are always looking for more leaders. If you are interested in being a part of scouting – showing children skills they will use for life and having fun doing it – please get in touch with hady.aoud@oakingtonscouts.org.uk.

Cara Hanman

Oakington Recreation Ground

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Environment Action Group

PC/EAG Open Spaces project

We are delighted! After years of planning, the first turf cutting was on 24 November.

Our Flood Mitigation Group (FMG) continues

to see frustratingly slow progress concerning the promised attenuation ponds on Oakington Brook. Apparently, the Environment Agency has completed some modelling of the impact of the A14 improvements on flooding, but modelling for Oakington Brook is still awaited. Once it is available the model can be used by Homes England (Northstowe developers) to provide a design for the proposed attenuation pond on land they currently control. Efforts continue to see this information.

Meanwhile, we have been following the recent attempts by Cambridgeshire Highways to carry out a CCTV survey of the tunnel that carries drainage water under Longstanton Road near the post box. The survey could not be completed because of service pipes crossing the channel, and because of an accumulation of silt caused by the downstream ditch not flowing properly. This ditch is the responsibility of South



Cambridgeshire District Council, who have confirmed to us that it was last cleaned out in 2017. They have agreed that some silt removal is needed, and we hope that this work can be completed soon.

We have also been monitoring the condition of drains in areas around the village where large puddles/localised floods form during heavy rain. Following the information that we provided to Cambridgeshire Highways and the efforts of Cllr Firouz Thompson, we understand that work has been scheduled to clear the drains in three areas: Water Lane, Dry Drayton Road and Mill Road.

Very many thanks to the volunteers who helped with **footpath sweeping** in late November. Fallen leaves were removed from footpaths and verges to help make our village tidier and safer. We are always in need of more volunteers to help with the ongoing work of keeping our footways clear and safe for users, so if you feel you might be able to spare an hour or two occasionally, please contact James on jamesyoud51@icloud.com. We are aware of the issue of overgrown vegetation on Water Lane, but unfortunately the Cambridgeshire Highways Volunteering scheme under which we operate does not cover us to work on this hedge due to it being private property.

Finally, the Oakington and Westwick in Bloom **flower tubs** have been restocked with bulbs and flowers for a spring display. Two of the tubs have also been moved to provide hopefully better growing conditions. We continue to be grateful to the volunteers who water and look after these tubs.

Stephanie Smith, Secretary

Transport Action Group

Making Connections 2022 consultation

This is part of the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) City Access programme to improve the way that people and vehicles move around the city, whilst reducing congestion and improving air quality. The text below is from a GCP document:

Transforming the bus network: From as early as mid-2023, we're proposing to change the bus network through more services to more locations, with cheaper fares set at £1/£2.

Investing in other sustainable travel schemes: Alongside the bus network, we are proposing to invest in new sustainable travel schemes, such as better walking and cycling links.

Creating a Sustainable Travel Zone: We are proposing the introduction of a Sustainable Travel Zone in the form of a road user charge on behalf of Cambs County Council. Vehicles would be charged for driving within the zone between 7am and 7pm on weekdays, and money raised would fund improvements to the bus network and other sustainable travel schemes. The Zone would be fully operational in 2027/28 but only once the first bus improvements are introduced.



The proposed travel zone extends from Orchard Park and the Science Park in the north and includes Addenbrookes in the south. Eddington is included in the west and it stretches across to include Cherry Hinton and the airport in the east. Gorton, Histon and Impington, and Milton are not included. The daily fee that is being discussed is £5.00.

You can respond to the consultation by:

- Completing the survey using https://consultcambs.uk.engagementhq.com/making-connections-2022/survey_tools/making-connections-2022-survey
 - Emailing consultations@greatercambridge.org.uk
 - Writing to The Greater Cambridge Partnership, PO Box 1493, Mandela House, 4 Regent St, CB2 1BY
- The consultation closes at midday on 23 December.

Oakington and Westwick Traffic Calming

The introduction of the 20 mph zone throughout Oakington along with physical traffic calming is now complete. The "speed camera" that has been situated in Cambridge Road has shown that the newly installed speed limit and cushions have significantly slowed vehicle speeds from an average of 34 mph to 24 mph. Over the coming months the equipment will be moved and used to assess the impact of the calming in other locations.

TAG meets on the first Monday bi-monthly. If you have any comments on this article or would like to join us, please get in touch and we will email the agenda and meeting details.

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

Oakington & Westwick Neighbours

OWN held its AGM in November, reviewing both sides of our activities: practical support and community events, primarily the free CONNECT 2 events. OWN is in a sound financial position, and the **Hardship Fund** is also healthy. Donations to the latter have included a £400 grant from the District Council and an anonymous gift of £1000. The fund tends to help with small one-off payments to help in a crisis. It does not provide ongoing financial support but signposts where other help is available. Most recipients have been families with young children. The challenge for the team is encouraging people to ask and the Parish Council paid for a leaflet included in the last Journal. All enquiries are treated confidentially.



The **CONNECT 2** initiative arose out of a desire to provide a soft approach to mental health support, and to build community. Anyone is welcome to participate in CONNECT 2 events, which are free of charge. Numbers have ranged from 2 to 130, with one of the most popular being apple pressing in October. Outdoor activities have generally been more successful than indoor.

Di Wisbey and Paul Kershaw are stepping down from the OWN committee and were thanked for their significant contribution to OWN over recent years.

With the conclusion of the AGM, a **Community Workshop** on supporting each other to build local resilience considered which global or national issues are affecting us locally, and what can we do to mitigate that impact?

It was felt that Covid, the cost of living crisis, transport issues, food security, climate change, social media, loneliness and mental health issues have a huge impact. Some matters are so big that, as a small community, there seems little we can do, but we can help by acting locally. Activities can provide a focus, and once people meet up, new ideas can grow. Suggestions included sharing resources via Oaky Folk, pooling garden produce to cook and eat communally, make do and mend skill-share workshops e.g. how to use a sewing machine. We could identify opportunities for village groups to collaborate. A lot of these ideas already exist in the village, so the challenge is to ensure they are more widely known about.

Contact us on owneighbours@gmail.com or 07902 111786.

Jo Bryant

Christmas Trees – £10

Oakington-grown Nordmann Christmas trees (4' – 7') will be available at £10, for collection from the driveway of 9 Longstanton Road on the following days:



- 1 – 2 and 5 – 9 December from 3pm to 6pm
- Saturdays 3 and 10 December from 11am to 4pm.

EAG members will be helping with the harvesting and half the proceeds go towards EAG funds.

CONNECT 2



The shops have been full of Christmas since the end of September, and it's a time of year we look forward to and dread in equal measure especially with the cost of living affecting so many. But there are some things to look forward to that don't involve expense.

The **advent calendar** makes an appearance in Oakington's streets again from 1–24 December. Each day, a different house will display the date's number prominently in the window. As December goes by, more and more numbers will appear and you can trace them through the village. A list of which roads will have which numbers is on page 24.

The Christmas theme continues with the annual **carol singing** in the pub car park around the Christmas tree (supplied by the Community Association) on **21 December**, 7pm. Live music generously provided by the Cottenham Brass Band. There'll be mulled wine for sale in the pub and free mince pies brought round for all to enjoy. We'll be collecting in support of the local school if you're able to bring some cash to contribute.



We had some great days apple pressing in October – see page 20. Our CONNECT2 activity for January is another collaboration with Leo and Emma Jordan of Blue Barrel Cider. There will be an **Orchard Wassail** 3–6pm on **Saturday 21 January** at the Jordans' orchard on Arcadia Garden. We'll be arranging a community get-together with free soup for all and a cider bar. The ancient Wassail is an occasion to make noise to wake the apple trees and promote health and a good harvest in the coming year. Bring your curiosity, something to bang or blow to make a noise, and your enthusiasm as always. Dress up warmly and join the family fun, weather permitting.

Jo Bryant & Alice J

New Citi 6 Bus Times to Cambridge

(Manor Farm Close) Every 30 min 6:17–9:47, every hour 9:47–14:47, every 30 min 15:17–17:47. Last bus back from Cambridge 18:20. Sundays hourly 7:47–17:47. Last bus back 18:20. There is no evening Citi 5 service now. Currently there often seem to be cancellations! Busway buses are more frequent, and run in evenings.

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by Lucy



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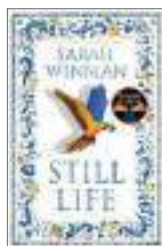
Book Corner

Still Life by Sarah Winman

Still Life begins in Tuscany in 1944 and documents the life of Ulysses Temper, a young English soldier. The story explores the journey back to post-war life with its hopes and challenges. It is set between Ulysses' pre-war life in the East End of London, which can never be the same, and a new life and opportunities in Florence.

Still Life is a compelling read, with compelling characters. It has been described as an 'exceptionally beautiful and charming read' and I would highly recommend it as a novel that deals sensitively with life's saga of loyalty, loss and change.

Jane Goodyer



A few words from the Book Monitor

It is great to have our Telephone Box back and it's nice to see that it is being well used. However if the shelves and box are full please don't leave books lying about. Despite our best efforts, whenever it rains the floor gets wet (that is why the box is raised on a brick.) Recently a large amount were piled up on the floor and, unfortunately, by the time I find enough shelf space for them all many will only be fit for the bin! The smell of damp is very pervasive so even the books on the shelves may have to be thrown away, too, which would be a sad waste.

Liz Davis



Chess Corner

Solution to chess puzzle 5-22 from the last Journal.

1. B2-b4. With black pawn blocked, King has only two possible moves.

If Kd3-c4, 2. Bh5-e2 Checkmate.

If Kd3-e3, 2. Rb1-b3 Checkmate. Elegant, isn't it?

Chess puzzle 6-22. This one from my friend Ross even foxed me! I hope you have a better luck.



White to move and checkmate in two moves.

Ranko Pinter

Ride and Stride

On Saturday, 10th September, my brother, sister, dad, and I went on the Ride and Stride in Cambridgeshire.

We first went to St. Andrews Oakington. At the church we saw Marian Cleaver getting the snacks and drinks out for the riders. While we were there, we had a chocolate bun. Also, Marian gave me a Tunnocks biscuit for the journey.

On our arrival at St. Andrew's Church Swavesey, we were welcomed by a kind man who took us up the tower and we watched and heard the Tenor Bell strike 12:00. After lunch at Fen Drayton lakes, we went to St. Ives Parish Church. Here we saw a model bell! It was very realistic and could actually ring. After that we carried on the route to St. Mary's Fen Drayton.

When we arrived in Fen Drayton, we had to ask where the church was! On finally finding the church, it was nice to see free bottles of water for riders to take.

When we got home having cycled 19.12 miles, we were very tired, but had had a good day for a good cause!

Caleb Nicholas age 10

Getting training or behavioural help for your pet

There are a number of different approaches and when faced with a problem behaviour it can be difficult to know where to go to seek advice. Hint: Tiktok and Facebook forums are not always the best sources! So where to start?

The big animal welfare organisations in the UK – RSPCA, Dogs Trust, Blue Cross, and of course our neighbouring Wood Green Animal Charity – give good advice from experts. Wood Green also has a free pet support line which you can ring for advice on training and emergency behavioural issues –

0300 303 9333 or there is a form on their website. You should always consult your vet over serious behaviour issues including aggressive or reactive behaviour towards other animals or people, or distress when left alone.



If you employ a dog trainer or behaviourist, check their accreditations and experience. Stay clear of anyone using tools such as rattle cans or pet corrector spray. Your dog relies on you to protect them, not to hurt or scare them!

If the problem is medical, but vet costs are a worry, don't forget that if you are on benefits or low income, you may be eligible to register at the RSPCA clinic off Newmarket Road. This provides low cost veterinary care, including an out of hours service for registered clients. 01223 609689.

Don't ignore behavioural, medical or financial difficulties with your pet or struggle in silence: speak to your vet, Wood Green or the local RSPCA. There is help and support out there.

Susannah O'Hanlon

Apple Pressing & Bonfire Night



Local Apple Pressing

Over a hundred people joined in over the two weekends of apple pressing. There were refreshments for everyone, and plenty of opportunity to get stuck in washing, chopping or pressing the apples.

People of all ages took part, with the Jordans demonstrating their legendary hospitality to make everyone welcome.

This has become a much-loved addition to the annual village calendar of CONNECT2 events.

Alice J



Bonfire Night



The answer lies... under our feet

How many names can you think of to describe soil? How about dirt, mud, earth? OK, but some scientists have elevated its reputation by calling it 'the source of all life', 'our saving grace when it comes to climate change' or 'the solution under our feet.'

There's a lot more interest in soils now because of a realization that there's three to four times more carbon in the soil than in the atmosphere and if we manage it carefully, we can get a lot more carbon sequestered (captured and stored) in the soil. One way of doing this, whether it's soil in our gardens or on farms, is to reduce the amount of cultivating and digging we do. Cultivation may serve to bury previous crops and plant debris, but it also encourages the loss of water and carbon from the soil as carbon dioxide.



If you want proof of this, travel to Holme Fen, near Yaxley and the lowest point in Britain, and you will see a cast iron pole which was sunk into the fenland soil in 1851. The end of the pole, which was completely buried, is now 4 metres above the surrounding soil level. In 171 years, 4 metres of peaty soil has oxidised because of cultivation and drying out. The same thing happens to a lesser degree in mineral soils (soils lower in organic matter).

This loss, through intensive farming, has happened all over the country. Some soil scientists believe that most arable

fields in East Anglia will be unfarmable in 50 years time because of this loss of organic matter. The United Nations' Food and Agricultural Organisation believe that one third of soils on the planet are highly or moderately degraded.

What can we do about it?

Most important is the need to recognise soil as something better than dirt or mud. Soil is a living entity with more biodiversity than what we have above ground. We all know that soil contains earthworms but don't forget beetles, fungi and microbes, which get their energy from dying plants and other leaf debris. Cultivation kills this biomass so lack of soil disturbance allows these organisms to flourish and encourages carbon sequestration. So, the soil becomes healthier, has more biodiversity, it maintains a better structure so it produces better crops, is more resilient to flooding and drought, and is a significant carbon sink.

Regenerative agriculture delivers carbon sequestration and other benefits

As well as limited cultivation, regenerative agriculture involves rotations and cover cropping to avoid bare soils. Many Governments are supporting it through research and funding on farms, aiming for soil health but also more biodiversity above and below ground. It is believed that pesticides and artificial fertiliser can damage soil organisms so regenerative farming includes elements of 'organic' farming. You may know that the 'organic' movement grew out of care for the soil rather than healthy eating, but clearly the two go together. So put your spade away and try sowing directly into your top soil.

John Terry

Community Association (CA)

The CA was pleased to again be able to hold the traditional **Bonfire & Fireworks Night** in November. The highlights of the evening were a spectacular fireworks display, organised by a pyrotechnical team led by Ben Phillips, and a huge blazing bonfire, expertly built by a team led by Andrew Brennand (Bee).



After two years of cancelling this event due to Covid, our community again had an opportunity to get together and enjoy food and drink whilst watching the spectacle. In the Pavilion volunteers from the CA, led by Irène Butlin, provided reasonably priced refreshments, including a delicious home made soup by Paola Moore. Our stall on the Rec selling glow-sticks, was run by Sue Heaver. The school PSA team led by Angela Barber had a stand offering mulled cider and luxury hot chocolate. And Dave Robinson's popular Hog Roast Kitchen provided a wide range of burgers and other hot food.

The weather was kind to us during the two critical hours between 5 and 7pm, and some 600 people turned up to watch the extravaganza. This helped us to make a reasonable surplus of around £500, including a welcome £50 donation from Dave Robinson. It should be noted that the upfront costs of organising this event are over £2,000 (for fireworks, hire of pavilion, cash floats and insurance).

Numerous volunteers had been busy throughout the day preparing for the night. A massive 'thank you' to all who helped before, during and after the event! We couldn't have run the event without you.



In the run up to Christmas, also this years the CA will add some yuletide cheer by putting up a **Christmas tree**

on the corner of Longstanton Road and Coles Lane. This will also provide a festive backdrop for another of OWN's activities, that of **carol singing** in the White Horse pub's car park, eating mince pies and drinking mulled wine on 21 Dec.

Finally, our **AGM** takes place in the Pavilion on Wednesday 25 Jan 2023, 7 for 7:30 pm. (Please note the change of date.) This meeting is open to all.

Ranko Pinter, Chair
oakington.westwick.ca@gmail.com

Oakington Retirement Community

Sadly the housing association that has been pursuing negotiations with the local authorities have decided that the Westwick field is not big enough to justify the cost of the exhaustive planning process, so regrettably we have had to abandon our ambition for this site.

Our only option now is to aim at the field north of the business park in Dry Drayton Road which is owned by Homes England. So far we have not been able to get them to even discuss this, but we will continue to push for that. Until we get some indication of interest, we will hold off on gathering local support.

Geoffrey Butlin

Poppy Collection

A grand total of **£793.17** was raised from this year's Poppy collection boxes and Church collections in 2021 and 2022. Thank you.

Lynda Fentiman

Crocheted poppy decoration by Pauline Marsh





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Thank you Irène

"Two editors? How are you going to make that work?" Since the outgoing editor was Irène's husband Geoffrey, we felt we must prove ourselves! Each using different software, we had to divide the pages between us, yet collaborate closely to ensure everything fitted and looked consistent. It turned out to be possible, effective and fun!

Editing the village Journal has very much played to Irène's talents. Her creativity and instinct for pleasing layout is matched by her command of language and skill in sensitive précis. Her many contacts from longstanding community



involvement are invaluable. Although keen to try new ideas, she has a clear sense of the Journal's purpose.

The front covers, photo montages, and fascinating articles about village characters have been Irène's speciality. As well as the intensive production weeks, for much of the last five years she has also managed the advertising.

After thirty editions, Irène is handing her editorial role on to Graham Tregonning. I'd like to thank Irène on behalf of the Journal Team and the whole community for all her hard work and achievements. You have been a great pleasure to work with; we wish you a happy "retirement" and more time to do other things!

Jenny Prince

Oakington and Westwick Neighbourhood Watch

There are new scams going around: either "Hi Mum, I need you to send me some money" or offers to help us claim our winter fuel allowance.

This last is unnecessary, as any problems can be dealt with by a government agency. (Telephone number 0800 731 0160, have your NI number to hand.)

As always, if we have an unexpected phone call, text message or email, check the source, and if it's from a cash-limited child, contact them in another way to see if it's true that they have had to pay for a new iPhone.

All good wishes for the Christmas and New Year festivities, be careful and joyful.

Jillian Wilkinson



Welcome a New Neighbour

If somebody has moved in near you, a village 'Welcome' leaflet will help them feel at home. This has a map of the villages and some key information for new residents. Either let Bruce Sutherland know and he will deliver one, or pick one up from him and take it yourself – it's a good excuse to knock on the door and say hello! Contact Bruce via bruce.sutherland@aol.com or 07730 817350



Minibus to Bar Hill

The OWN minibus trip to Bar Hill runs on the first Friday morning of the month for all those things you can't get at the local shop.

Pick up from your house from 10am and drop off home when you're all done. To book a place, please call Teri on 07711 531004 before midday on the Thursday.



Oakington Baptist Chapel

Sundays 10.30am and 6.00pm

Sunday school 12.10pm

Wednesdays 7.00pm

www.oakingtonbaptist.org.uk

enquiry@oakingtonbaptist.org.uk

07821 914477

All are welcome to any of our services

You are very welcome to join us for our

Christmas Service

Saturday 10th December 6.15pm

Refreshments afterwards





Christmas Fayre

£1 per adult entry fee

Saturday 10th December 1pm-4pm
at Oakington Primary School, Water Lane, CB24 3AL

Santa's Grotto*
Craft and Gift stalls
Mulled beverages from Blue Barrel Cider
Raffle
School Choir

Refreshments & Cakes
Story time with John Barnett
Cl photography*
Christmas crafts

***Prebooking essential**

Please bring cash as not all stalls will take card payments

*To pre-book Santa's grotto and the family photoshoots please email the PSA psa@oakington.cambs.sch.uk or see facebook.com/oakingtonpsa for a link to our online booking page

FUNDRAISING CHRISTMAS MUSIC CONCERT

WITH



OAKTET

AND

THE OAKINGTON SINGERS




ON MONDAY 19th DECEMBER
AT
ST ANDREWS CHURCH
OAKINGTON
FROM 7.00PM



THE CONCERT IS IN AID OF THE RUTH & POPPY NICHOLAS MUSIC FUND WHICH PROVIDES MUSICAL ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS AT OAKINGTON C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

Oakington Village Advent Calendar 2022

Thursday	1st	Lowbury Crescent
Friday	2nd	Coles Lane
Saturday	3rd	Manor Farm Close
Sunday	4th	Kettle Close (corner of Water Lane)
Monday	5th	Saxon Close
Tuesday	6th	Coles Lane
Wednesday	7th	Manor Farm Close
Thursday	8th	Water Lane (opposite school)
Friday	9th	High St
Saturday	10th	Queens Way
Sunday	11th	Water Lane (between Saxon Close / Meadow Farm Close)
Monday	12th	Forge End
Tuesday	13th	Days Meadow
Wednesday	14th	Meadow Farm Close
Thursday	15th	Saxon Close
Friday	16th	High St
Saturday	17th	Mead View
Sunday	18th	High St
Monday	19th	Arcadia Gardens
Tuesday	20th	Coles Lane
Wednesday	21st	High St
Thursday	22nd	Days Meadow
Friday	23rd	The Vines
Saturday	24th	St Andrews Church Hall




Village Carol Singing

With Cottenham Brass Band

Wednesday 21st December
7pm

Outside the White Horse

Bring a torch!

Collection to support the school



