

Oakington & Westwick Journal

Dec 2020/Jan 2021



What's On & Notices

Every Thursday	Ten Sing , 7:30–9pm. By Zoom. Contact jking47@aol.com
Mon 7 Dec	Transport Action Group (TAG) meeting. If you would like to come, contact owcp.tag@gmail.com
Tue 8 Dec	Community Association Members' Meeting , 7:30pm. By Zoom. Contact oakington.westwick.ca@gmail.com
Mon 14 Dec	O&W Parish Council , 7:30pm. By Zoom. All invited – contact clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk
Tue 22 Dec	Kerbside Carol Singalong , 7pm. All around Oakington & Westwick. See centre pages for more info.
Mon 11 Jan	O&W Parish Council , 7:30pm. By Zoom. All invited – contact clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk
Tue 26 Jan	Community Association AGM , 7:30pm. By Zoom. All invited – contact oakington.westwick.ca@gmail.com
Mon 1 Feb	Mental Health Awareness training, 7–9pm. Concludes Tues. On Zoom. Register: owneighbours@gmail.com

To ask for or to offer help:

Call/text **07902 111786** or **07375 945284**

Email owneighbours@gmail.com

- If you are self-isolating and need practical help such as a prescription collected or some shopping
- If you need some technical help getting online, using Zoom, or contacting friends and family on your mobile, tablet or computer
- If you're feeling isolated or have had enough of your own company
- If you'd like to be kept in touch with what's going on or about local services in the village
- If you could spare a little time to volunteer



If you are experiencing financial hardship or are in need:

call or text Ben on **07342 945373**

or Jo on **07714 760582**,

or email oak.west.hardship.fund@outlook.com

Your confidentiality will be respected.

QUIZ – Spot the Location!

Can you identify where this photograph was taken?



Answer to quiz in the last Journal on page 26.



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



Want to keep up with local information and services (from White Horse takeaways to local coronavirus news)? If you're not on Facebook or online, you can keep in touch by joining the village phone tree. Contact Celine Pinter via OWN (**07902 111786**) to find out more.

BIN DAYS

Thu 10 Dec, Thu 24 Dec, Sat 9 Jan, Thu 21 Jan	Black bin
Thu 3 Dec, Thu 17 Dec, Fri 15 Jan	Blue & green bins
Mon 4 Jan, Thu 28 Jan	Blue bin only

Cover photos: Jan Zelnick & G. Cavander, A. Chaplin

This issue reveals many enterprising ways to beat the winter blues. If you're feeling low or lonely over the next few weeks, please use the contacts in the Journal to get in touch with others and join in some of the activities available. Several groups are now meeting on Zoom using the community licence. Young people in particular are finding novel ways to enjoy each other's company across the internet – playing Pictionary, learning the ukelele! But it's not all online. Jigsaws in the phone box library, a round-the-houses puzzle to solve on your daily walk, a Greek treat to bake, sewing for the community quilt, and of course reading. This

time we have a special feature on small local crafts and other enterprises. Perhaps you'll get some ideas for Christmas presents here?

Join in two "whole-community events": the village-sized Advent Calendar, and doorstep Carol Singing – find the programme in the centre pages.

We wish you all a happy Christmas and a hopeful New Year.

Irène Butlin & Jenny Prince, 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 & Irène Butlin (*editors*), Jane Goodyer (*distribution manager*), 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 19 January**

To advertise in the Journal,
please email
oakwestjournal@gmail.com

Adverts	For 1 year	One off
Business card	£78	£17
¼ page (portrait)	£120	£30
½ page (landscape)	£216	£50

Adverts for the next issue must be received by **12 January**.

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

Humpty Dumpty Sat on a Wall... Humpty Dumpty Has a Great Fall

From small beginnings in the home of Lucy Livingston and with the help of her friend and neighbour Shirley Withers (sadly deceased) a pre-school was started. That was nearly 50 years ago, in November 1972. They soon realised they needed bigger premises and while fundraising they met at the Methodist Chapel. In 1977 the turf was cut for a second-hand building next to the school. A team of enthusiastic parents and supporters helped dig foundations, and the building served the community well until 2012.



This first Humpty Dumpty building needed too much "TLC" so the process started to find a replacement. Parents and supporters again rallied round to find the additional monies needed to back the grants and business donations. Now we had a bright new building offering safe and stimulating environment for local children. But the pre-school is not about a building but the people over the years who have made it special.

The building would not operate without a Committee and from the beginning to the end we have had amazing groups of dedicated individuals with talents and skills who have worked tirelessly to keep the Humpty Dumpty operating in such a professional and business-like manner. What amazing fundraising events have happened over the years as well – happy memories. Thanks to all the Chairs over the years, running evening meetings, and for sitting on the little chairs too!

From the start children have been cared for by staff who have been exceptionally experienced, and that has been clear to see from how much children love their time at pre-school and have such positive memories of it. There are too many staff and volunteers to mention, who have all done so much for Humpty Dumpty. Thank for your time, kindness, and dedication to our village children and surrounding village children, you have done them proud. Many readers will be able to think of their own special people and happy memories.

Very sadly the Pre-school closed this autumn. It is the end of an era but maybe Humpty Dumpty will be put back together in another format?

*Elaine Bailey
Trustee, Humpty Dumpty Preschool*



Shop Sign at the Crossroads

You may have noticed the new sign at the Crossroads pointing passing traffic to the Village Shop. The sign has been co-financed by the Community Association as a token of the community's support for the shop and for Raj and Kanwal in these challenging times.

Adrienne Chaplin



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



BEST GARDENS SERVICES EST. 2010

YOUR LOCAL GARDEN MAINTENANCE,
LANDSCAPING AND TREE CARE
SERVICE



FOR A FREE QUOTE AND ADVICE
CONTACT ZAID – 07851022474
WWW.BESTGARDENS.CO.UK
BESTGARDENSSERVICES@YAHOO.CO.UK



#BESTGARDENSSERVICES

WheelieFreshBins

A wheelie bin cleaning
service for both domestic
and commercial customers.

Book a regular or one off clean.

Tel: 01223 277747

Book online at
www.wheeliefreshbins.com

Find us on



*The family
welcomes you!*



*Serving food
12-9.30 everyday*

THE OLD CROWN IN GIRTON HAS NEW OWNERS
AND WE ARE DELIGHTED TO WELCOME YOU THIS SUMMER



**RESTAURANT
PUB & GARDEN**

**SUNDAY ROASTS
REAL ALES**

89 HIGH ST, GIRTON, CAMBRIDGE, CB3 0QD

info@theoldcrowngirton.com 01223 277217

theoldcrowngirton.com

DON PASQUALE
ITALIAN FAMILY DINING



theoldcrowngirton

Parish Councillors

Chair: Stephen Moore

Vice-Chair: Tony Starling

John Bailey Geoffrey Butlin
Julie Grove Luis Navarro
Ranko Pinter David Reeves
Lis Warboys

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

Sarah Cheung Johnson – 01954 489089
cllr.cheungjohnson@scambs.gov.uk

Alex Malyon – 01954 202859
cllr.malyon@scambs.gov.uk

County Councillor

Oakington, Westwick, Longstanton,
Northstowe & Over

Peter Hudson – 07518 417432
peter.hudson@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Member of Parliament

Anthony Browne – 01223 662171
anthony.browne.mp@parliament.uk

VILLAGE INFORMATION

Pavilion Booking Administrator

Tony Leadley – 07936 024587
oakingtonpavilion@gmail.com

Neighbourhood Watch

Jillian Wilkinson – 01223 233 585
oakwestnhw@gmail.com

Oakington & Westwick Neighbours (OWN)

07902 111786 or 07375 945284
OWNeighbours@gmail.com

Oakington Primary School

Office – 01223 232328
office@oakington.cambs.sch.uk

Village Stores & Post Office

Raj & Kanwal Sanghera - 01223 232327

From our Parish Council chair

Dr Stephen Moore - chair@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk

What a busy time since I wrote the last column! So much to catch up on and a real mixture of good, bad and depends-on-your-viewpoint.

Let's start on a positive note. I attended remotely and spoke at the Civic Affairs Committee of the South Cambs District Council which was deciding on the revised Parish Boundaries. You will recall that these were being re-drawn to create a Northstowe Town Council. Homes England made a claim to incorporate the slim 'green separation' between us and Northstowe under the proposed Northstowe Town Council's control. Sarah Cheung-Johnson forcefully supported our position and **the Committee unanimously agreed that the green separation should remain within our Parish boundaries.** This gives us the legal right to be consulted in planning applications on any works that Homes England engage in on this green separation.

Let us balance that good news with some less welcome correspondence. Some houses in Manor Farm Close have received letters on behalf of a property developer who has **purchased Days Field**, that is the field immediately behind the Close. This field does not form part of the 'green separation' between us and Northstowe and is not owned by Homes England. It is therefore likely that the developers will apply for planning permission. According to the developer's website, there is space for 66 properties. This means that the amount of green space surrounding the village will shrink yet again. We will keep you updated as we find out more about this. I foresee another planning battle starting!

I have written about the improvements we are doing to the **cemetery**, starting with the clearance of the paths which had become overgrown. We are now rather concerned that the cleared paths are uneven and so we are looking at re-laying these – if we have adequate funds, of course! We will also be trimming back the yew trees. When all this is done, we can finally install the new benches.

Back to bad news. You may be aware that a large housing development of 200 houses is about to start the construction phase in Cottenham - yes, another one! Some years ago, when planning was applied for and eventually granted, we were not notified or consulted. We now find that **ALL the construction vehicles will be routed through Oakington**, running along Water Lane and past the school. I am deeply concerned about this, no, let me go further, I am very angry about this. Apart from the noise and pollution, I am very worried about the possibility of someone being hurt by the huge lorries thundering along, inches away from pedestrians walking along the narrow pavements of Dry Drayton Road/Water Lane/Station Road.

Alex Malyon, our District Councillor, has been proactive on this issue, informing us as soon as she found out and has made representations on our behalf. I have also contacted the relevant planning officers with a strongly worded complaint. If you value your safety and that of our children, **I urge you to mail the following to protest about this traffic plan:**

The planning officer dealing with this case:

Luke.Waddington@scambs.gov.uk

The planning official for our 'patch':

toby.williams@greatercambridgeplanning.org

The Highways Officer who reviews the traffic plan:

victoria.keppey@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Please quote planning application: S/4116/18/CONDB:

Only if enough people complain will we have any chance of overturning this disgraceful decision – so write an e-mail!



Continued on page 19

 300134

 **Prime
Plumbing
& Electrical**

Gas Plumbing Electrical & Maintenance Boiler Services Kitchens
22a Cambridge Road, Impington, Cambridge, CB24 9NU
Tel/Fax: 01223 237795 - Mobile: 07802 807237
primeplumbing@yahoo.co.uk

 **C. S. Barker
Builders
Oakington**

Alterations / Extensions / New Build

07714 099017 01223 237068

Green Heat Limited

PHONE FOR A FREE NO OBLIGATION QUOTATION
01223 277278

Special Offer:
Free magnetic system filter worth over £200 with all new boilers installed

Smart new high efficiency 'A' rated condensing boilers are over 90% efficient, and will provide you with greater comfort, saving energy and reducing fuel bills.

 Smart heating controls can add a further 4% efficiency and allows you to control your heating from your smart phone or tablet when away from your home. We also have some great solutions to improve hot water efficiency such as 'flue gas heat recovery', enabling efficiencies of nearly 100% to be achieved.

Call Green Heat now to arrange a free visit and receive some expert advice from qualified heating engineers with over 50 years experience of providing home comfort.

 **Green Heat Ltd**
The Energy Efficiency Company



Green Heat Limited: 27 Fairway, Girton, Cambs, CB3 0QF
info@greenheat.uk.com • www.greenheat.uk.com

Brookfield Groundcare

A family run business providing a quality and professional service to all aspects of hard and soft landscaping.

- Grass cutting
- Hedge trimming
- Tree surgery
- Fencing
- Paving
- Hedge & tree planting
- Turf laying
- Sports field maintenance
- Paddock maintenance

 **BROOKFIELD
GROUND CARE**



Contact us to discuss your needs
Daniel Wright 07812 670039 Office 01954 252953
Email brookfieldcontracting@gmail.com www.brookfieldgroundcare.com

From our District Councillors

We hope that you have all been staying safe and well. We know that 2020 has been an exceedingly difficult year and our thoughts are with everyone who has been affected by Covid-19. We are so appreciative of the response shown by the whole community. We would particularly like to thank all the volunteers, coordinated by OWN, who continue to do an incredible job supporting vulnerable members of the community.

Community Governance Review

We are finally reaching the end of this review process. Option A, with some amendments to the proposed boundaries, has been recommended. These changes will mean that a new town council will be created for Northstowe. **Oakington & Westwick will remain a separate parish** and the green separation land between Oakington and Northstowe will be retained by Oakington Parish, something we argued strongly for at the committee.

The new Northstowe Town Council will have 15 Councillors, to be elected in May 2021 for a one-year term, to bring it in line with parish council elections for the whole District in May 2022. You can find more details, including our full statement on this and a map showing the new boundaries, via:

www.facebook.com/longstantonoakingtonnorstowe

Free School Meals. We would like to thank everyone who donated to our fundraiser to provide free school meals during the holidays. We are pleased that the government has now revised the policy on this, but we are still not clear that the money committed will cover all families in need. We will wait for more details and speak with the schools before deciding what to do with the money we have raised so far. If you like to donate go to: bit.ly/36owbkY

Cuts to our local Police Officers. The Chief Constable for Cambridgeshire has announced cuts to community policing, including halving the number of Police Community Support Officers. There are currently five PCSOs for our area and this will likely shrink to one or two officers. This is extremely concerning with the rise in rural crime and antisocial behaviour we have seen. We will be writing to our MP and Police & Crime Commissioner to express our dismay at these cuts and to ask for further scrutiny of the proposals. We would encourage residents who feel strongly to do the same.

As ever, feel free to contact us on these or any other issues.

We hope that in whatever way we can celebrate the festive period this year, that you have a good Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.



Sarah Cheung Johnson & Alex Malyon

From our County Councillor

Local contact tracing scheme expanded across Cambridgeshire

The local contact tracing service in Peterborough has been running since August and has proven very successful in tracing people whom the national service could not. From 18 November the County Council wants to expand the local service to cover the whole county, so that they can increase the effectiveness of Test and Trace across Cambridgeshire.

Council Officers who have undergone special training in contact tracing will be following up on people who have not responded to a call or email from the national service. The officers will initially make contact by phone, text or email, asking people to call a local number – which earlier experiences in contacting shielded people has shown to be more effective than a contact from a national number. But if this fails, the officers, who will all carry local authority identification, will make house to house visits to reach those people who have tested positive.

They will be given advice on how they can stay isolated to break the chain of infection, and prevent it spreading to their household contacts. They will also be asked to share details of others they have been in contact with. Anyone who is concerned by being contacted can call the council or local community hub to check the identity of the tracer on 0345 045 5219.

The quicker we can reach people who've tested positive and get them to isolate – and get them to share details of who they've been in contact with – the quicker the chain of infection can be broken. National Test and Trace isn't always able to do this fast enough – and some people don't respond to the national text and telephone system so the County Council asked Public Health England to let it take this on locally, as it knows our communities best.

Support is available for people who need to isolate and who don't have friends, family or neighbours to help – through the network of support hubs run by councils. This information will be given to all those who are contacted. In addition, local councils are running a Test and Trace Support Payment Scheme which entitles people who meet certain criteria to a one-off payment of £500. Those who do not receive benefits, which is the requirement to claim from the Test and Trace Support Payment Scheme, but are still adversely affected as a result of not being able to work, can also apply for a £500 discretionary payment.

No one contacted will ever be asked for money or their bank details – as the purpose is to let them know how to isolate and get support if they need it. Tests for Covid-19, whether at a mobile testing unit, official drive through centres or elsewhere, or ordered online or by phone, are always entirely free.



Peter Hudson



STEPHEN GRAY – CeMAP

‘Your local Mortgage Broker’

Living in Oakington – Formerly of Mortgage Quest
Serving the residents of Oakington and Westwick
for 5 years

‘For all mortgage scenarios’

Residential and BTL mortgage advice
Loans for businesses
Protecting your debt and family assets

Evening and weekend appointments available

For more information, please call

Mobile – 07584 121473

Email – stephen.gray22@sky.com

Your home may be repossessed
if you do not keep up the repayments on your mortgage

ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS

FOR

PLANNING & BUILDING REGULATION
APPLICATIONS

EXTENSIONS, ALTERATIONS, LOFT
CONVERSIONS ETC

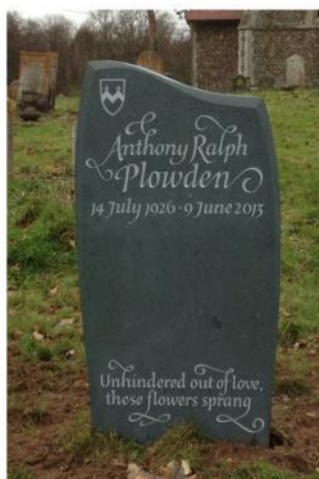
CONTACT US now to arrange a **FREE**
on-site meeting at your convenience to
discuss your project

01353 649649

mail@elydesigngroup.co.uk

ELY DESIGN GROUP

www.elydesigngroup.co.uk



**Pippa
Westoby**
LETTER CARVER

I'm a Lettering artist based in Cambridge. My work consists of hand carved memorials, house plaques, garden ornaments, and painted lettering for births, anniversaries and weddings. All my work is bespoke. You can see more of my work on my website : www.pippawestoby.co.uk or on my Facebook page : Letter Carving in Stone - Pippa Westoby.

Contact email :
pippa_westoby@yahoo.co.uk



Environment Action Group

Interpretation Boards

You will be aware there's a lot of history in Oakington from the Anglo-Saxons to Christian martyrs, and many agree that some information boards explaining details would be welcome to locals and visitors alike.

Nick Harrison and Edgar Stearn of the History Society are working on a series of boards in the village to explain our history. Some members of the EAG are involved in the project which will include notes about ecology.

The Parish Council has requested two boards at the Recreation Ground, one in the Community Orchard, and another special Memorial Board to commemorate the sacrifices of those involved in the D-Day landings in France. Others in preparation may be situated at Stocks Green, at the Mill Road Community Orchard and at Sheep's Green, i.e. the White Horse, giving history of ten former pubs in the village. A board is also being designed for St Andrew's Parish Church, and others are planned for the future.

Verge Management & Wild Flowers

We thank you for feedback about our suggestions that the PC should have a greater say in verge management to

improve biodiversity, without surrendering tidiness. We aim to develop a strip of wildflowers on the Longstanton Road verge by the Mead View entrance, which will run along the fence and behind the seat. This will help to encourage pollinators. *Correction to our article in the last Journal: Our apologies to Mervyn Stokes who is the person championing the new wildflower strip in the Recreation Ground Community Orchard.*

We will again be sweeping up leaves and debris from paths and verges in December.

Oakington & Westwick in Bloom

We would like to record our thanks to Philip at the Garden Centre for providing affordable displays of flowers in the tubs around the village.



Pond

Following lock-down, we will attack the duckweed (green matter on the surface) for a third time, following advice from Daniel Weaver, SCDC Ecology Officer, who suggested we wait for cooler water temperatures.

James Youd, Co-chair EAG



Transport Action Group

Although not part of the formal Northstowe Phase 3A planning application, Homes England (HE) proposed that if needed the Southern Access Road East SARE would join the Dry Drayton Road at a roundabout that would be located roughly where the entrance to the Business Park is. Both the Parish Council (PC) and the TAG have made strong representations against this proposal, preferring a 2007 proposal that joins the SARE to the Dry Drayton Road much nearer to the existing A1307 Local Access Road roundabout. This would also be the stated preferred option of the County Council Highways department in their response to the Phase 3 plans. The Highways department are concerned about all the traffic modelling carried out by HE and require more work to be done particularly as there is likely to be a significant impact on all the local villages. Both the PC and TAG will need to remain vigilant and keep lobbying against Homes England's proposal.

We have been gifted what was the shared MVAS speed monitor by Longstanton as they have now acquired two of their own from the A14 Legacy fund. The MVAS was located outside the school in recent months but has now been repositioned in Cambridge Road. The majority of traffic passing the school is keeping to the 30mph speed limit, but with the No Parking restrictions immediately outside the school, traffic does appear to flow faster and is of concern to the school. At the time of writing we are still waiting to hear if our Local Highways Initiative, supported by the PC, for a 20mph zone throughout the village will be approved, as this will help moderate the traffic further.

Previously we reported that we had installed a pollution monitor in a temporary location in the village. During half term, before the November lockdown, we relocated the monitor to a more permanent position outside the school's main entrance. Hopefully it will give us meaningful information on the air quality close to the school entrances where children and parents congregate at the beginning and end of the school day. Go to the Purple Air website and look on the maps page to get up to date measurements.

There is widespread concern in the village regarding the amount of heavy lorries coming through the village on



their way to other destinations. TAG continue to lobby the parish, district and county councillors and also the planners to try and find ways to stop this dangerous, damaging and polluting through traffic but it appears that there are no legal ways of preventing the movement of heavy goods vehicles through the village.

TAG usually meet on the first Monday of the month, currently using zoom. If you would like to zoom in and join us for the next meeting on the 7th December please contact us at the address below and we'll email the agenda and joining details to you.

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



Alpha Car Taxi Service

We are a local private hire taxi service based in Longstanton. We can transport you to the airport, to an event in London or locally to Cambridge.

We cater for all your transport needs however long or short they may be.

01954 23 23 00

info@alphacarsonline.co.uk

Think Taxi Think Alpha Cars



Wendy's of Girton

Private Hire Taxi Service



Short or Long Distance Travel

Taxi-card Vouchers Accepted

Local
Reliable Comfortable
Affordable

Phone: 528675
or 07815 057 202
Email: wb9wg@yahoo.co.uk

Van Rental

www.stuardarlingvans.co.uk

- Self drive daily van rental
- Discounts for long term rental
- Easy to reach out of town location

Stuart Darling Limited, 3 Greenside, Waterbeach, Cambridge.

Cambridge 01223 441551



Four Wheels

German Car Specialists

Mercedes-trained Staff • Servicing • Air-con • MOTs
Diagnostics • Free Collection • Courtesy Cars

Call Andy Robinson on
01223 880336 • 07720 079697
Unit 8-9 Station Yard, Fulbourn CB21 3ET

D.K.TILL & Son in Law

COAL AND SOLID FUEL MERCHANTS

Family run business for 40 years
Coal, Logs, Charcoal, Gas, Compost

TEL, 01223 232947 David Till, 07523044521 Kevin Crisp
email, dktill@hotmail.co.uk

CROSSWAYS GARAGE OAKINGTON

Tel: (01223) 233003

Service, Repairs & Tyre Fitting
to all Makes of Vehicles
& Light Commercial

Approved MOT Testing Station

Member of the Retail Motor Industry Federation

Oakington Dog Day Care Centre



★★★★★ Rated by South Cambs DC

07704 729299

www.oakingtondogdaycare.co.uk

Vist our   pages for photos of happy dogs having a lot of fun

Dry Drayton Road, Oakington, CB24 3BD

Print-Out

Litho and Digital Printing

Mono & colour copying
Plan printing
Colour inkjet up to A0

Full price list online www.print-out.co.uk

01223 232709

8-10 High Street Histon Cambridge CB24 9JD



Oakington & Westwick Neighbours

We're ahead of the curve... Just over a year ago, we decided at our AGM that our 2020 activities would have a mental wellbeing focus. Little did we know at that time that a pandemic would overtake us and that one of the issues it would impact was mental well-being. One of OWN's planned events was to be a **Mental Health Awareness half-day course** in March which of course lockdown caused us to cancel. That course has now taken place online using Zoom, but if you missed it there is another chance to do this training in February 2021 – contact OWN (see below) to find out more.

We are very much aware that not everyone is online, or feels confident about it, but OWN can provide technical support and assistance with using Zoom. If this is you, please get in touch.

Oakington and Westwick Neighbours AGM this year took place in early November on Zoom and it's interesting to look back and reflect on how busy we have been this year, despite the fact that all the events that had been planned were put on hold by the Covid pandemic. OWN was part of the group which came together to discuss how we could support the local community, particularly those who were having to self-isolate, and many local people volunteered to help.

The OWN committee met weekly for several months to set up processes and procedures, including a system for reimbursing volunteers who had bought shopping for those having to stay at home, organising a local foodbank, purchasing a second mobile phone and contract to make it easier for OWN to be contacted, and setting up a robust yet sensitive scheme to operate a Hardship Fund for anyone in the villages who was impacted financially by the pandemic. The phones and email are still constantly monitored by a rota of OWN volunteers, but please allow time for us to respond.

Weekly, and then monthly, updates were circulated to keep people informed and to remind everyone that OWN was here to help, and several leaflets giving this information have been delivered to all homes in the villages, the most recent in mid-November.

We are so grateful for the financial and other support given to us this year by the Parish Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council, not to mention the ladies in the village whose facemask-making has raised funds for various charities including an amazing £1000 donation to OWN.



As part of our annual meeting this year, a workshop session discussed what makes Oakington and Westwick such a strong community, and how we can build on that to continue to provide support now that we are in lockdown once again and heading into winter. Together with the Community Association, several activities are planned in the lead up to Christmas such as doorstep carol singing and neighbourhood Advent Calendar windows. The village phone tree continues, and is a great way of staying in touch. If you need something to while away the winter hours, jigsaws and books are available in the telephone box library in Longstanton Road, and we are inviting contributions to the community quilt. So if you enjoy crafting, why not create a 20cm x 20cm square (or more than one!) of your favourite things to include in it. Further information about all these activities are elsewhere in the Journal, or contact OWN for further details:

07902 111786, 07375 945284 or owneighbours@gmail.com

Jo Bryant

Community Association

We are pleased to let you know that the new CA website is now live under the name of www.oakingtonwestwickca.org.



As you can see from the website's MEMBERS page, several member groups have links to their own websites. However, you do not need to have a website of your own to be able to have information about your group published on the CA website. Just write a short paragraph about your group with information on meeting times, contact person, subscription, upcoming events etc, and send it as a Word or pdf document to the email address below.

We will then attach the page as a link to your group. If there are any changes to your group, just send us a new page with the information and we'll update the website. It's all very simple and you can use the link for your own publicity if that is helpful.

CA Members' Meeting 8 December, 7:30 pm

With a Zoom licence now in place we would like to arrange our very first online meeting! Not having met together as an Association since February, this meeting is an informal way of reconnecting. While all members have received regular email updates from Liz, our membership secretary, at this meeting we would love to hear from groups if and how they have kept going and from individuals what they have missed, during the pandemic.

To attend the meeting, please email your request for the Zoom link to the meeting by Friday 4 December, to the address below.

Community Association AGM 26 January, 7:30 pm

The Community Association AGM will take place, also via Zoom, on 26 January 2021 at 7:30 pm. This meeting is open to all residents. Please send your request for the Zoom link to the meeting to the email address below.

Ranko Pinter, CA chair
oakington.westwick.ca@gmail.com

COUNSELLING

Experienced, qualified,
NHS & private counsellor

Immediate appointments available

Telephone Mark on 07905 833 288

info@thecambridgecounsellor.co.uk

www.thecambridgecounsellor.co.uk

Crossways Hair Studio

For your local hair care
professional, friendly
and always a warm welcome

Give us a call - 01223 233 984

Crossways House
1 Longstanton Road, Oakington CB24 3BB



BLUE HOUSE Computer Help

SPEED UP, FIX UP, OR UPGRADE YOUR PC

COVID FRIENDLY
MOST WORK CAN
BE CARRIED OUT
REMOTELY

SAVE MONEY
*

GAIN SPEED
*

**IF IT RUNS LIKE
TREACLE, DON'T
THROW IT OUT.**

Take advantage of
our computer
optimisation and
upgrade services.

**SOME OF OUR
SERVICES:**
Getting broken
computers up and
running, even when
Windows won't start
Upgrades for extra
speed and space
Transfer your apps
and files to a new PC

Networking and
WiFi dead spots
Sync files between
devices
Virus and malware
clean-up

**LOAN OF A
LAPTOP
FOR BIGGER
JOBS**

**PROFESSIONAL
INDEMNITY AND
PUBLIC LIABILITY
INSURANCE**

**REPAIRS COME WITH
A 100 DAY
GUARANTEE**

We love keeping
your old
computers in
service and out
of landfill. In fact,
we can make
them work even
better
than when they
were brand new

**WANT SOME
HELP?**

01223
CALL **85 30 20**

hello@bluehouse.help | www.bluehouse.help

Find us on Facebook

BLUE HOUSE COMPUTER HELP, CAMBRIDGE ROAD, OAKINGTON

Julie Griffin Beauty Therapy

Beauty care personalised for each client

Refresh and relax with your
local Beauty Therapist in
Oakington



Now it's your time... a
break from the face mask!
There are great times ahead
and you deserve to shine!
We are open. Full Covid-19
protection in place.

A relaxing facial or
massage for someone
special or treat yourself.

Christmas gift vouchers
available

www.juliegriffinbeauty.co.uk

E: juliegriffinbeauty@gmail.com T: 01223 473341
79 Longstanton Road, Oakington Cambridge CB24 3AB

We're here to help you stay well this winter



This winter, it's really important that we all remember that the NHS is here to help you stay well, safely.

We have been working hard to make changes to how healthcare is provided to make it safe for you during the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

If you're worried about your health, don't delay. The sooner you get advice, the better.

Depending on your symptoms, you can get advice from your local pharmacy, GP practice or NHS 111. For minor health concerns, your local pharmacist can help. GP practices offer remote consultations online or by phone, or if you need a face-to-face appointment, they will tell you what to do.

If you need medical help fast, think you need to go to an A&E Department or you're not sure what to do, use NHS 111 first – online or by phone to get clinical advice or direction to the most appropriate services for treatment for you.

You can also help us to help you. If you are pregnant, over 65, or have a long-term health condition, it is more important than ever this year to ensure you have your free flu vaccination. Just speak to your GP or pharmacist to book an appointment. You can also find more information at www.nhs.uk/flu vaccine

Be sure to also stock up your medicine cabinet with winter

self-care essentials too. Many over-the-counter medicines (including paracetamol and ibuprofen) are available to help relieve symptoms of common winter illnesses and you can find further information at www.nhs.uk.

To help prevent further spread of coronavirus please follow current Government guidelines for the area you live in at all times. If you have any of the main symptoms of coronavirus it's important you get tested as soon as possible. You can apply for a test online via www.nhs.uk/coronavirus, or by calling 119.

Community Lifeline Service

If you live alone or someone in your family is sometimes left alone and may need to call for assistance, the District Council's Lifeline team can help.



In an emergency, pressing a button – worn as a pendant or on your wrist – connects you via a contact centre with family, friends, neighbours, or the emergency services. Giving you peace of mind and reassurance.

One Lifeline customer in Willingham said: "The lifeline service lets me live independently knowing I can call someone in an emergency."

For more information and to apply for a lifeline, please call 01954 713470, email lifelines@scambs.gov.uk or look online at www.scambs.gov.uk/lifelines.

Wash your hands of coronavirus scams!

Friends Against Scams aims to protect and prevent people from becoming victims of scams.

Be aware of people offering or selling:

- Virus testing kits - these are only offered by NHS.
- Vaccines or miracle cures - there is currently no vaccine or cure.
- Overpriced or fake goods to protect yourself from coronavirus such as anti-bacterial products.
- Shopping or medication collection services.
- Home cleaning services.

Protect yourself and others:

- Don't be rushed into making a decision. If it sounds too good to be true it probably is.
- Only purchase goods from legitimate retailers and take a moment to think before parting with money or personal information.
- Don't assume everyone is genuine. It's okay to reject, refuse or ignore any requests. Only criminals will try to rush or panic you.
- If someone claims to represent a charity, ask them for ID. Be suspicious of requests for money up front. If someone attempts to pressurise you into accepting a service they are unlikely to be genuine. Check with family and friends before accepting offers of help if you are unsure.



Contact

For advice on scams call the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline on **0808 223 11 33**
To report a scam call Action Fraud on **0300 123 2040**
Contact your bank if you think you have been scammed.

Be a good friend,
help to protect
your family, friends
and neighbours
from scams.

**Read it.
Share it.
Prevent it.**

**#Coronavirus
#ScamAware**

**NATIONAL
TRADING
STANDARDS**

Scams Team

To learn more about the different types of scams visit www.FriendsAgainstScams.org.uk

TUESDAY 22 DECEMBER 7.00 - 7.15 PM

KERBSIDE CAROL SINGALONG

The Community Association and OWN (Oakington and Westwick Neighbours) invite all residents to come out to the front of their houses on Tuesday 22 December at 7 pm for a Covid-safe *Family Carol Singalong* to bring some Christmas cheer to our streets.



Musicians young and old, accomplished and budding, are called upon to pick up their clarinets, recorders, guitars, tambourines and any other instrument to help us sing in time and in tune! For some simple scores go to our website:

www.oakingtonwestwickca.org

Get ready for a joyous (even if chaotic) noise!

Bring along a candle and hot drink if you fancy



ORDER OF SONGS - note the starting times!

7.00 PM: *HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING* - in F starting on C

Hark! The herald angels sing Glory to the newborn King! Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled. Joyful, all ye nations rise Join the triumph of the skies With angelic hosts proclaim Christ is born in Bethlehem Hark! the herald angels sing Glory to the newborn King!	Hail the Heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Son of Righteousness! Light and life to all He brings Ris'n with healing in His wings. Mild He lays His glory by Born that man no more may die Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth Hark! the herald angels sing Glory to the newborn King!
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

7.03 PM: *AWAY IN A MANGER* - in F starting on C

Away in a manger No crib for a bed, The little Lord Jesus Laid down His sweet head. The stars in the bright sky Looked down where He lay The little Lord Jesus Asleep on the hay.	The cattle are lowing The Baby awakes, But little Lord Jesus No crying He makes. I love Thee, Lord Jesus Look down from the sky And stay by my cradle Till morning is nigh.	Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay Close by me forever And love me, I pray. Bless all the dear children In Thy tender care And take us to heaven To live with Thee there.
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

7.06 PM: *SILENT NIGHT* - in B^b starting on F



Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child
Holy Infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight
Glories stream from heaven afar
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia
Christ the Saviour is born!
Christ the Saviour is born

7.09 PM: *JINGLE BELLS* - in F starting on A with percussion instruments!

*Jingle bells, jingle bells
Jingle all the way
Oh! what fun it is to ride
In a one horse open sleigh, hey!
Jingle bells, jingle bell,
Jingle all the way
Oh! what fun it is to ride
In a one horse open sleigh*



Dashing through the snow
In a one horse open sleigh
Over the fields we go,
Laughing all the way
Bells on bobtail ring
Making spirits bright
What fun it is to ride and sing
A sleighing song tonight!

Oh, Jingle bells

7.12 PM: *WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS* - in F starting on C

We wish you a merry Christmas,
we wish you a merry Christmas
We wish you a merry Christmas
and a happy new year

*Good tidings we bring
to you and your kin,
We wish you a merry Christmas
and a happy new year.*

Oh, bring us some figgy pudding,
Oh, bring us some figgy pudding
Oh, bring us some figgy pudding,
and bring it right here

*Good tidings we bring
to you and your kin
We wish you a merry Christmas
and a happy new year.*



7.15 PM - *HAPPY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE!*





Girton Golf Club

The Networked Golf Club

Join as 5 or 7 day Member

and Play Over 60 other Courses for Free

Special low membership rates for students and the under 30s

Makes a Great Christmas Present



Our Club House is Now Open Daily 10 am to 5 pm

(Covid rules allowing)

Extended lunchtime menu with daily specials

Call in for tea, coffee or something stronger

Stay Safe and Socially Distanced

Girton Golf Club

Dodford Lane, Girton, Cambridge CB3 0QE

Tel: 01223 276169 www.girtongolf.co.uk info@girtongolf.co.uk

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram

Happy Christmas and a better New Year from all at Girton Golf Club

Tuesday Talk & Tea

Decided to cancel all meetings until there is a vast improvement in the Covid situation. We will contact members if a meeting is scheduled. Hopefully Christmas will mean good family times to embrace this joyful event. In the meantime keep safe, tackle chores, hobbies and Christmas preparations with relish.

Joan Pettit (chairperson)



1st Oakington Brownies

1st Oakington Brownies have been running our meetings online since April and we're still at it!

Although we haven't been able to meet face to face, we've still been having fun working towards badges which included looking at their local history, growing plants, and learning how to take care of their health and wellbeing; and Brownies wouldn't be Brownies if we didn't play games! So, we've been learning how to play games on Zoom! From quizzes and scavenger hunts to Pictionary and pass the pen, and the knife and fork game!

We currently working on our Space and Mindfulness badges and we will be taking part in a Countdown to Christmas Challenge.

If you have a budding Brownie aged 7-10, get in touch here: www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter/ or email oakingtonbrownies@gmail.com.

Anne Christie

Brownies



Country Dancing

The Dance Club won't be meeting for the foreseeable future. However Jane and Kathryn wish all country dancers a very Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year.

Kathryn Coles



Oakington Garden Society

The Ivy Bee (*Colletes hederae*)

During these testing times we have been spending more time walking around our village and enjoying wildlife which, in our hitherto normal hectic existence, we would probably not have noticed. Oakington is well known for an abundance of that garden thug ivy (*Hedera helix*), Water Lane being a 'hot spot' for this invasive species. During the warmer days of September and October, when traversing Water Lane in particular, you may have noticed the heady scent of the ivy which filled the air – not good for those with hay-fever. You may also have observed a myriad of tiny wasp-like insects, heavily laden with pollen, which you would not have seen earlier in the year. These busy creatures are the Ivy Bee, a tiny bee (1.0–1.3 cm) first observed in Worth Matravers, Dorset, in 2001. A marker of climate change, it is rapidly colonising across the Southeast of the UK.



The Ivy Bee is a solitary mining bee, meaning that they live in holes in the ground, preferring sandy soil. Their life is a very short one; females appear in September to coincide with the emergence of the ivy flowers and colonies are visible for just three months until November

when the ivy flowering period ends. Although solitary bee may sound contradictory there can be hundreds to thousands at each nest site. They play a very important part in the ecological food chain; the result of their labours is, of course, the follow-on of masses of black ivy berries essential for the survival of birds throughout the winter.

Next autumn when you are out and about pause for a while and observe this tiny immigrant who has colonised successfully in our community.

Julie Grove



Cambridge Ten Sing



Well, the year does not get any easier for a youth performance group! We started to meet remotely in May, which was very positive for the young people, and prompted some very ingenious games and activities that we could do over video. We have now worked out how to do craft sessions remotely, learn to play ukuleles, as well as making smores without a campfire – luckily everyone could use their own microwaves, although some of the results were quite messy. Still great fun, and the best part is that they all can still chat to each other as if they were meeting face to face.

We are always open to new recruits, anyone between the ages of 11 and 18 can join us, there is no audition and we cover all aspects of performance, not just singing. If you would like details of our Thursday evening Zoom calls (7.30 to 9pm) in order to join us, please contact:

Terry King, Administrator, jking47@aol.com

Back soon...

Groups not able to meet at the moment due to the coronavirus situation:

- Oakington & Westwick Short Mat Bowls Club
- Country Dancing
- Tuesday Talk & Tea
- Oakington & Westwick Table Tennis Club
- Oakington And Westwick History Society – postponed until September 2021
- Oakington Garden Society – postponed until September 2021

MOBILITY EQUIPMENT

SCOOTERS, WHEELCHAIRS, RISER/RECLINER
CHAIRS, BEDS, WALKERS, FOOTWEAR,
TOILET & BATHING AIDS, KITCHEN &
HOUSEHOLD AIDS, CONTINENCE CARE,
CUSHIONS, STAIRLIFTS AND MUCH MORE

HOME VISITS AVAILABLE
EQUIPMENT HIRE, SERVICING AND REPAIR
FRIENDLY AND CONSIDERATE SERVICE
GUARANTEED

Scotsdales Garden Centre
Horningssea, Cambridge
CB25 9JG

Tel: 01223 863908
www.orchard-mobility.com
Open: Monday to Saturday
9 am - 5 pm



Rothwell's

Carpet & Stone Floor Cleaning

Carpet Cleaning & Stone Floor, Upholstery, Rugs

A few points that make us stand out:

Rothwell's has been in business since 1993.

We're an honest local family firm.

Our large truck mounted machines mean
more cleaning & drying power
for the best results possible.

Members of both the NCCA and TACCA.

We will move the furniture.

100% satisfaction or it's FREE.

*Call Oliver and Max Campbell
for expert help today.*

01223 832 928 / 01638 428 060

www.Rothwells.biz



Now welcoming new residents

We can't wait to get back to some kind of ordinary, but we also don't see it as getting back to normal. We see it as getting back to better. Even better than it was before. Better procedures in place. Better conversations. Better relationships. A better understanding of ourselves and the world around us.

We are now welcoming new residents to Arlington Manor Care Home. And while we can't wait to say hello, times have changed and so have we. So, what can you expect? Call us on **01223 814900** or visit **hallmarkcarehomes.co.uk** for specifics on the precautions we have in place (and see what we've been up to!).



Proud to provide:
Residential • Nursing • Dementia Care

Chess Club

Solution to a fairly simple 'Mate in Two' chess problem from the last issue: White Rook plays h4-f4, forcing black King into a corner Kh8; any other move by White allows Black King to 'escape'. White now plays Rf4-f8++ check mate!

The chess problem in this issue is more challenging, to ponder over Christmas and the New Year. White – to move – has two pieces' advantage, however seems incapable of stopping a black pawn promotion into a queen. Can you see how it can still win the game?



Finally, the Netflix series about an orphan child prodigy *The Queen Gambit* (which is a chess opening), is currently all the rage among the young, making chess 'cool'. Strongly recommended both for the chess lovers and the rest!

Ranko Pinter, ranpin@gmail.com

What was your apple crop like this year?



Probably like many across East Anglia, you had a lot of blossom and a lot of fruit developing, so much so that you may have removed fruit manually in late June or had fruit naturally drop from your tree(s) to reduce the load on the branches. But what happened after that; many ended up with a relatively poor crop, fruit rotted on the tree, and many in the village orchards were infested with the Codling Moth, which burrows around inside the fruit. (Of course if you are not too squeamish, you can cut out the bit the moth larvae have been enjoying and eat the rest.) Finally many fruits had lumps and bumps, like these poor things down at the Mill Road Orchard. The good news here is that beauty is more than skin deep and, despite the rough looking exterior, the fruit were



perfectly good inside.

For more information email: Oakington Community Orchards Project Team (OCOP) at

oakcomorchards@gmail.com

Meet Online

A reminder to village groups that you can borrow the Community Association Zoom licence (enabling meetings longer than 40 minutes, break-out rooms) to help your group continue meeting up over the winter. Contact *oakington.westwick.ca@gmail.com*.



From our Parish Council Chair

(continued from page 5)

Now onto a bit of good news or a bit of bad news, depending on your viewpoint. As part of the Northstowe Development, funding was allocated to improve the **footpath/cycle path between Oakington and Girton**. We have now received the plans and they involve some minor adjustments to the Crossroads, widening the path on Cambridge Road, after the last of the houses, and improving the corner of Gatehouse Road/Cambridge Road to increase safety for cyclists. Dedicated cyclists will not be happy with the proposed changes, as they do not meet the national standards for a cycle path. The residents of Cambridge Road may be concerned about increases in cyclists passing directly in front of their drives, as they seek to enter or exit. In hindsight, the funds obtained were simply inadequate to provide the sort of cycle route which the village is entitled to.

While I am writing about road matters, we remain concerned about **blocked drains** in the village which cause flooding, particularly in Water Lane. We are also worried about the width and state of the **pavement in Westwick**. We have continued to express these concerns to the County Council Highways Department, supported by Peter Hudson, our County Councillor. The Parish Council had expected the Westwick pavements to be cleared of overgrowth in mid September, in order to make them slightly wider. This work has still not been carried out. A meeting on 19 November will seek resolution to the blocked drains and the clearance of vegetation on the path in Westwick. However, I have to say that the only solution to the dangerous pavements in Westwick and Station Road is for a complete relaying and widening of these pavements. We shall battle on!

Finally, some very sad news. Since the publication of the last Journal, a very active and a much loved ex-Councillor, **Yvonne Graves** has died. Yvonne was a Parish Councillor for many years, during the 1990's right up to 2010. In my first stint on the Parish Council in the 1990's, Yvonne welcomed me, supported me and became a good friend. I remembered being entertained by tales of her Wednesday afternoon 'Ramblers' walks of 15 miles or more. I will miss her.

Stephen Moore

Remembering Yvonne

Vonnie was our neighbour in The Drift for a few years in the early '80s and our friendship continued when she moved to Westwick. We remember her sense of fun, always thinking of something to laugh about, and her rendition of 'The Old Sow' was hilarious. Our children were entranced by her – especially since they had free rein over her garden and always heard the conspiratorial whisper: 'just wait till they've gone out' when she came round to babysit. Whatever did they get up to? And we were entranced too – never hearing a cross word, and in awe of her artistic talents, and her courage.

Mo and David Reeves

Fitness Classes For All

Free Trial Class

SHAPE N TONE

A gentle class divided into three 15 min sections. Easy low impact aerobics, Gentle Toning and Abs and Stretch.

Mondays/Wednesdays Bar Hill 6.30 – 7.15pm

THE FITNESS CLASS

A bootcamp style workout aimed at people in their 30s, 40s & 50s which is easy to pick up.

Mondays 7.30pm Bar Hill/Thursdays 6.15pm Oakington

OVER 55s FITNESS

The class is fun, welcoming & social with loads of nice people to meet - set to music from the 60s & beyond with a range of exercises aimed at a pace for the mature adult.

Tuesdays 10am Bar Hill/Fridays 10am Oakington

Classes cost £4.50 per session (concessions £3.50)

Or £36 for 10 sessions (concessions £30)

**Call Simon on 01223 236945 or visit
www.bodyinmotionpt.co.uk for more info**

Buttercups CHILDCARE LTD



Childcare and Early Years education for children aged 4 months to 5 years.

We are now open and following stringent Government guidance.

Staff trained in Covid-19 Awareness.

Monday to Friday, 7.30am to 6pm (excluding Bank Holidays), 50 weeks a year.

2 and 3 year old funded spaces available (including 30 hours.)

Video tour available on request.

Find us in Gladeside, Bar Hill, Cambridge, CB23 8DY.

Contact the Nursery

Phone: 01954 488081

Email: nursery@buttercupchildcareltd.co.uk



www.buttercupchildcareltd.co.uk

revolution health & fitness

Join the new revolution in Cambridge

Fully refurbished gym

New life fitness cardio and weight machines

Jordan free weights

Unlimited studio classes

New functional fitness area

Over 30 classes per week



New boxing rig and prowler track

Free fitness analysis and gym programmes

Free trial day

No contract or joining fees

Membership starts from £29 per month

Cambro Business Park,

Oakington Road,

Girton,

Cambridge. CB3 0QH

Tel: 01223 519548

Website: revolutionhealthfitnessgirton.co.uk

Book Corner

Discworld by Terry Pratchett

During Lockdown 1 I began to re-read Terry Pratchett's Discworld novels. There are 41 of them, and I have just started the 35th, so I hope they will last me through Lockdown 2.



The Disc is a round world (like a Frisbee, not a football) resting on the backs of four enormous elephants borne through space by a cosmic turtle. So the novels are fantasy, containing witches and wizards, elves, gnomes and trolls, as well as humans and gods.

But like all good fantasy novels, they also deal with serious subjects including racism and nationalism, war, religious belief, IT (the wizards have a computer called Hex which started out as an ant colony) and gender. Above all they are full of humour, and sly allusions to other writers, from Homer and Virgil to Shakespeare, Descartes, Tolkien, Agatha Christie... The first one is *The Colour of Magic*, but really you can start anywhere, and I urge you to do so!

Gillian Jondorf

Garden Cuttings

Frosty dawns and crisp nights herald the slowing of the garden season. This change of pace gives us time to appreciate the more structural elements of a winter garden.



There are many plants, (other than the obvious evergreens and colourful red dogwoods) that can bring texture, shape and scent to the winter garden. The wonderful clematis 'Winter Beauty' with its highly scented waxy white bells (December to March) and the architectural seed heads of Phlomis, along with frosted wavering grasses can give your garden an uplifting and year round interest. For more ideas and inspiration, look at other gardens and visit the local garden centre.

With the festive season fast approaching it can be nice to have a colourful winter pot to brighten things up. Find a suitable frost proof pot, half fill with a good quality compost (add a little sand or grit for drainage), water, drain and assemble your chosen plants.

It is good to have a central evergreen, like box, dwarf Hebe or conifer, to give a strong focal point, surrounded by an alternate planting of colourful plants like winter pansies or violas interspersed with decorative ivy or euonymus, which will give a lovely foil to the other plants. Firm the plants in gently, and protect from frosts for a couple of nights until the plants have time to recover.

With the nights drawing in and winter rain pounding the windows it's the perfect time to curl up with a hot drink, a few good gardening books and a selection of plant and seed catalogues, to inspire you for a wonderful next season.

Jan Zelnick



Kourabiedes

Kourabiedes are the traditional biscuits made in Greece at Christmas. They are a Greek version of shortbread spiked with brandy, filled with almonds and dusted with icing sugar. You may have seen them sold at the airport if you've been to Greece.



My mother used to make tray-loads of them. This recipe makes around 70 kourabiedes, so halve the recipe for a smaller batch.

500 grams butter at room temperature	80ml brandy
100 grams icing sugar	1 teaspoon baking soda
1 egg at room temperature	200 grams whole almonds (skins on)
2 egg yolks	850 grams plain flour
2 teaspoons vanilla extract	500 grams icing sugar to coat
½ teaspoon nutmeg	

Toast the almonds on a baking tray in an oven at 200°C (5 to 10 mins, watch them like a hawk so they don't burn), then allow to cool and roughly chop them. Turn your oven down to 170°C fan.

In a large bowl or preferably in a stand mixer, beat together the butter and icing sugar until very pale and fluffy (approx. 10 mins). Beat in the whole egg, egg yolks, vanilla and ground nutmeg. Dissolve the soda in the brandy and beat this into the mixture. Knead in the chopped toasted almonds and flour until the dough no longer sticks to your hands, but is soft and buttery (you might not use all the flour or you might need a bit more). Don't overwork the dough, because the biscuits will become hard. Let the dough rest for 20 mins, then roll walnut-sized pieces of dough into balls and slightly flatten them. Bake on a lined baking sheet in the preheated fan oven at 170°C for around 35 mins until golden and cracked at the top. Leave to cool for 5 mins on a wire rack, then dust liberally with icing sugar.

When completely cold, store them in a tin. Liberally dust the base of the tin with icing sugar, place a layer of kourabiedes in the tin, then cover with more icing sugar and kourabiedes. If kept dry and airtight they will last for several weeks.



Tina Cave

Board Games Chest

Wizard Card Game

A trumps-based game like Whist but with a dramatic difference: the normal pack is extended with Wizards (which always win) and Jesters (which always lose.) Players guess before each round how many tricks they will take, but cunning play by your opponents will upset your plans! For ten-year-olds upwards; this game will have everyone addicted. The German version is pricier but with much prettier cards!



Jenny Prince

Wanted and Unwanted Species

Mink

If you travel to Denmark in the near future you will have to quarantine for two weeks on your return. Why? Because mink on their mink farms have been found to be carrying a new strain of Covid-19. All mink in these farms are being dispatched (killed).

You probably thought that mink farming was history. Well, it is in the UK; the last were closed down in 2003, but there are a few European countries where it continues. We still have a legacy of mink in the UK. Many were set free by 'animal loving' protesters in the '90s and there are escapees. Mink are a powerful illustration of what alien predators can do to our countryside. They are strong swimmers and eat fish, young water birds, crayfish, and have decimated water vole populations.

In our part of East Anglia, there are very active volunteer groups that are catching mink so happily numbers of water voles (Ratty from Wind in the Willows) are recovering. Volunteers are active in the Cam and the Ouse catchments. As yet there is no evidence that mink in this country have Covid-19 but volunteer groups have been warned. It makes the plan to eliminate mink from the UK even more worthwhile.

Pollinators

You will be aware of the importance of pollinating insects and that their numbers are in decline. Pollination is transferring pollen from the male anther to the female

stigma of the plant. At least one third of our food depends on insect pollination, including apples and strawberries (wheat and barley are wind pollinated), so declines in pollinating insects are bad news for food production, for all flowers, including wild plants, and for biodiversity in general.

Which insects pollinate? Honey bees, bumble bees, solitary bees, wasps, flies including hoverflies, butterflies, moths and some beetles. According to the UK Pollinator Survey, numbers are declining because of wild flower losses in the countryside through land use change, and fragmentation of habitats. Pesticide use is mentioned. Insecticides called neonicotinoids confused bees and prevented them from returning safely to nests. Currently these are banned. Climate change is encouraging insects to move north.

Help is at hand. Defra launched a National Pollinator Strategy in 2014, encouraging cooperation at all levels. We can do our bit. Julie Grove has given us a lead (previous Journal), by suggesting we can all plant more plants that encourage pollinators, in our gardens.



Robins

The association with Christmas began in the 1860s when greetings cards became fashionable, and were delivered by postmen in red tunics, who became known as 'robins'. The birds are very territorial and males can be very aggressive. Not at all like the season of good will!

Christmas greetings to you all.

John Terry



"If nature thrives, we thrive"

At the end of October, I counted approximately 100 wild geese resting on Oakington's wonderful lake. Real joy.

Let's all do everything we can to protect Mother Nature. She is doing all she can to look after us.

It's easy

- Have small gaps at the bottom of your garden fences - this is vital.
- Consider having one cat max. per household
- Feed the birds in frosty weather
- Leave seed heads when the flowers finish. Birds will eat them and insects will use the stems for a winter home.
- Clean out your bird boxes as soon as possible, to reduce parasites. They may even be used by clusters of small birds for shelter this winter.
- For the more ambitious a little pond helps many species. Autumn is a good time to start one.

A few years ago this was an apple tree. It fell down, and now it feeds hundreds of honey and bumble bees.



The vixen comes to my garden for worms and fallen fruits. She trusts me and watches me gardening.

Charlotte Jordan
Friends of Northstowe Nature

Climate Change and the Brain

There is mounting evidence that people throughout the planet have difficulty dealing with the idea of climate change, even though many have been exposed to dramatic changes in climate, the devastating outcomes and good science to explain the changes.

One explanation is that the human brain is not wired to understand large, slow moving events. Greg Harman, writing in the Guardian in November 2014, explained that collaboration between neuroscientists and psychologists, using functional magnetic resonance imaging, allows them to see how the brain makes choices. Our brains allow us to get out of the way of a fast moving ball but longer term thinking is much more challenging. Apparently we have a built-in optimism bias, we seek knowledge to support already established viewpoints and respond decisively to those things we know for certain. Individuals also have cognitive bias to instant gratification.

This has been reflected in surveys. Gallop readings of the % of people 'very concerned' about climate change in the US are:

1997	2000	2005	2010	2015	2019
27%	30%	38%	48%	42%	35%

The figures never reached 50%, even after the freezing winter of 2015 or the 2019 heatwaves.

Tima Bansal of the Network for Business Sustainability sums it up. 'There's a two year old in the back of our minds. Very

few people want to destroy planet Earth. It's just our other agendas get in the way of things that might have a longer time horizon.'

She put forward four reasons for this lack of appreciation of climate change:

5. Too complex to understand: too many causes and effects: ice melt, wild fires, sea level rise, oceans becoming more acidic so coral is dying, storm events which are frequent and more dramatic.
6. Jurisdiction and accountability. Everyone is accountable but few people consider themselves so. Are we guided by laws or rules? If we act responsibly, how are others, who do not similarly control their lifestyles, penalised?
7. Collaborative action/trust. People are loath to make lifestyle changes because others cannot be trusted to do the same. Also people lack trust in governments and multi-national corporations.
8. Imagination needed. Journalists and teachers understand the importance of stories in putting across important messages. Climate change is rarely covered in fiction.

Do you care? We would love to hear your reaction to these views and how these problems can be overcome. Meanwhile, we are dreaming of a climatically appropriate Christmas.

John Terry: johnterry23@hotmail.co.uk

Gerry Cavander: gedcavander@hotmail.co.uk

Paul Kershaw: paul.kershaw42@mac.com



Mental Health Awareness Course

Oakington & Westwick Neighbours with Promote Mental Health will be running this course for residents and volunteers in Oakington & Westwick on 1st/2nd February evenings, 7-9pm.

The course will be delivered online by Claire Harris, Lead trainer and Mental Health and Wellbeing Specialist at Promote Mental Health.

1. What mental health is and how to challenge stigma
2. An introduction to some common mental health issues
3. Confidence to support someone who may be experiencing mental ill health
4. Ways to look after your own mental health and support wellbeing

There are 12 places available and delegates must attend both sessions to qualify.

To register for this course please contact OWN at OWNNeighbours@gmail.com.

Neighbourhood Watch



A reminder of the need to be careful about scams related to the coronavirus pandemic. Since the publicity about the development of a successful vaccine, it's likely that fraudsters will try to sell fake goods: testing and vaccine will only be available from your local GP... and not for some time yet. (See page 13 for more information.)

If you are doing your Christmas shopping online this year, keep online security in mind. Check out a seller or shop you don't already know and trust by doing a little research first, e.g. seeing if other buyers have had good experiences. Use a strong, separate password for your email account.

Jillian Wilkinson

NHW co-ordinator C 233585, oakwestnhw@gmail.com

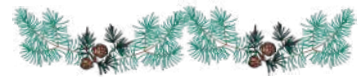
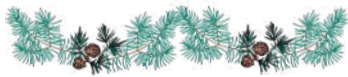
Oakington Retirement Community

We have published our initial website which presents details of our vision for this facility:

oakingtonretirementcommunity.org

It contains a contact form to receive updates, volunteer to support its development or register interest in living there when built.

Geoffrey Butlin and Sean Moroney



Nails
BY ROSIE



*Specialist in The Gel Bottle manicures & pedicures
Daytime & Evening appointments available*

*Dry Drayton Road Oakington CB24 3BD
07834780300
rozruss1985@hotmail.com*

Feel Good Fitness

*Mix up your fitness routine!
Body Circuits, HIIT, Kettlebell Blast, PiYo. Build core strength and develop your muscle tone.
Expand your cardio fitness.
Enjoy working out again!*



Michelle runs friendly fitness sessions for all levels of fitness. Whether you work out regularly, are looking to get back into a fitness routine or have never done it before - Michelle's classes are for you! Make time for yourself this winter. Looking for 1-2-1 sessions? Ask about Personal Training options or see information on my website.

Classes:

*Monday 19:30 - 20:15 - Body Circuits - Oakington Pavilion
Wednesday 19:00 - 19:30 Kettlebell Blast
19:45 - 20:30 PiYo - Cottenham.
Saturday 07:30 - Metafit - Oakington Rec
Online Sessions - workouts you can do at a time to suit you
2-weekly rotation of Body Circuits, HIIT and Kettlebell Blast*

A range of pricing options starting at £6 per session
(monthly options available)

07714 587366 www.goodfitness.co.uk

michelle@goodfitness.co.uk

Find Michelle and Feel Good Fitness on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/groups/73910369982738




Locally based
qualified carpenter/builder
with 25 years experience
in all aspects of building.


No job too small.

Kitchens, bathrooms/wet rooms,
bespoke joinery, flooring, doors,
gates, roofs, windows, fences,
garden studios.

07899 901 240
ben.bmbuild@gmail.com
Find us on Facebook



Professional Member of
People Dancing
the foundation for
community dance

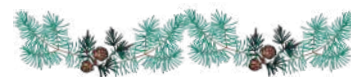
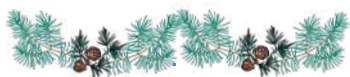


Your Community Dance School for over 7 years
Strengthening Bodies and Minds!

- Children's Ballet
- Adult Ballet
- Parent and Toddler Hip Hop & Bop
- Children's Hip Hop & Bop

Newcomers always super welcome, please get in touch to enquire about any of the above classes.

Contact Ellen on 07912 059 736 or visit us on Facebook @The Barre Community Dance School



Masks for Charity



Last March when the country went into lockdown a group of sewers in Oakington, inspired by Paola Moore, began making scrubs for the NHS.

It soon became clear that everyone would be needing masks too and so they began making masks for charity, raising over £3,000.

Now there are Christmas masks on sale in our Village Shop, £4 donation to charity.

These are all 3 layers, some with pockets for filters (available on amazon or ebay) and some are reversible.

*Why not include one
in your Christmas cards to friends?*

Frankie and The Sewing Machine

I make and sew *personalised gifts, decorations and home decor*, all with a special personalised touch.

My most popular product is my **personalised name cushions**. Prices start at £28. The letters are hand cut from white felt and appliquéd onto fabric before I make it into a cushion.

New for this year are my **keepsake Memory Bears and Bunnies**, using special clothing like baby grows, shirts and jackets with sentimental value. Memory Bears are made in remembrance of a loved one or as a keepsake to provide comfort during loss and grief. Prices start at £55.

New **for Christmas** I'm making personalised stockings that are available in 5 colours @ £18 each.

My range includes tote bags, zip up pouches, hair accessories and face coverings. All products are made to order and I love working closely with my customers to select the right fabric colours, font style and personalised details. You can find me on

Facebook and Instagram @frankieandthesewingmachine.

Products can also be bought online in my Etsy shop
www.etsy.com/shop/frankiesewingmachine/
For more information please call me on 07881 936071



Claire Howieson DESIGNER JEWELLER



Hand crafted individual and bold pieces of jewellery using silver, gold, precious and semi-precious stones, by Oakington-based Claire Howieson designer jeweller.

You can view Claire's work on her website and follow her on social media. Claire also welcomes commissions and can take orders for any item you see that you might prefer in a different metal, stone or finish.

Prices start at £50.



07870 276088

www.clairehowieson.com

enquiries@clairehowieson.com

@clairehowiesondesignerjeweller

@clairehowiesondesignerjeweller

© Claire Howieson 2020

Christmas Wreaths

Handmade for you

Country Christmas or Festive Orange



Each wreath is made using a re-useable rattan base, locally grown greenery and hand-selected decorations. **£20.**

*For every wreath sale I will donate
£2 to Macmillan Cancer Support.*

Orders to: Jenny Broadway
Email: jennystanley@hotmail.com
Call: 07765 403498

In the News

Oakington and Westwick appeared periodically in the local newspapers, the Cambridge Chronicle (founded 1762) and the Cambridge Independent Press (which began half a century later.) Back in 1989, village historian Terry Chapman gathered some of the most interesting (and in some cases, bizarre) reports, and his collection remains in the village archive.

16 Dec 1786. SHOP BROKEN INTO. Yesterday, Saturday night, a shop at Oakington in this County was broke open in the day time, while the owner and his wife were at Cambridge, by some travelling tinkers and robbed of some silver and a considerable quantity of goods.

10 April 1852. MAN SOLD WIFE. A curious fact, a few weeks ago, a man *sold* his wife to a farmer of this place for £10, as the seller could not get the money, he would not deliver up the *goods*, but the lady being out of patience, told her husband on Tuesday last, she would not be fooled about any longer and that she would go home with the buyer, as she liked him much the best and he might help himself how he could, for she picked up her clothes and followed her purchaser to his house, whither she was escorted by a large train of boys beating tin kettles.

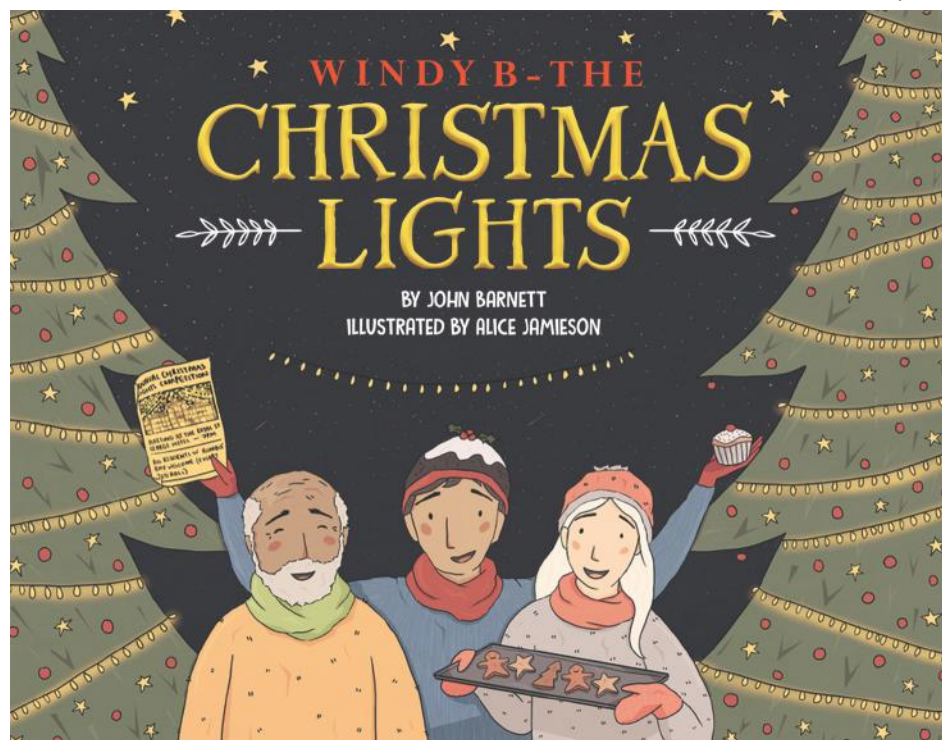
Spot the Location - answer

The quiz photo in the last Journal was taken in Westwick, opposite where Scallywags (Westwick Hall Farm) is now. The caption in the Archives states: "While Mr and Mrs Fred Morris were downstairs, the top part was taken off by an aeroplane during the War, the house then being fully demolished. They were unhurt."



Local Enterprises

When Fred Roll, Windy B's favourite baker, opened his shop door early one December morning, a gust of wind blew in an invitation to take part in the annual Christmas lights competition. Just like his dear dad many years before, it was something that Fred could not resist. For Fred, his wife, Heidi, and everybody living in the amazing Bumble Bay, this particular Christmas would be one that they would never ever forget.



Windy B - The Christmas Lights

This illustrated children's Christmas book is now on sale at all major Cambridge bookshops in both hardback and paperback editions. E-book versions are available from www.austinmacauley.com

Signed charity paperback versions of 'Windy B - The Christmas Lights' are also available from the author: John Barnett, 1 High Street, Oakington.

Just pop round and see John if you would like a copy.

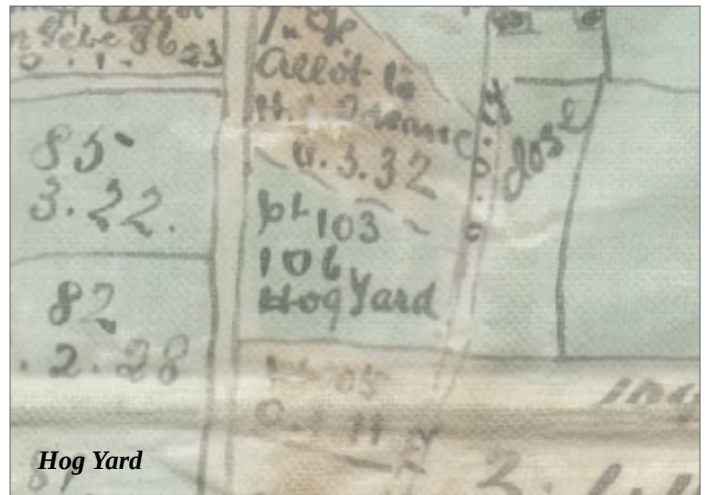
All proceeds from the signed books go to charity.

Ancient Lanes and Forgotten Names

Names have changed many times over the years, including the village name. Our earliest reference is the Domesday Book of 1086 where the village is listed as *Hochinton*, with a population of 55. The meaning is said to be "estate of a man called Hocca". (Or maybe a woman called Hocca, given the quantities of females found in our Anglo Saxon cemetery with high status grave goods and even one with a cow!) Later in the 1834 Enclosure Award the village is referred to as *Hoggington*, as well as *Oakington*, and by studying the Enclosures map here, you will find a 'Hog Yard' was where the bungalows 106-110 Water Lane now stand.

Further examination of the map reveals two 'Ancient Lanes', both in what are now the fields of Mansell Farm on the opposite side of the stream to the Recreation Ground, and a second (probably the original) route of the stream, which has since been filled in. It is most likely the stream was straightened to make it more navigable to be able to bring barges with the Barnack stone here to build the church.

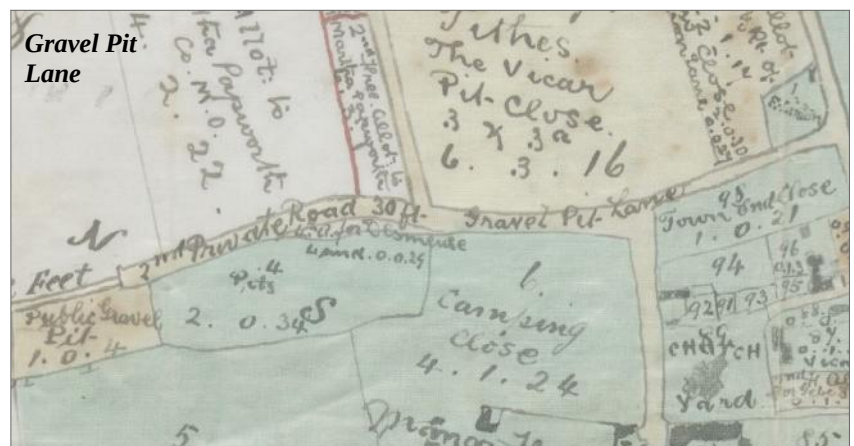
Many of our streets and lanes have changed names too. Mill Road was once called 'Gravel Pit Lane' as it led up to the area of greensand in the village, which is now Church View and the airfield, where a number of gravel pits were dug. Longstanton Road at the crossroads end was called 'Broad Green' in 1520 and then 'Ale House Green', as was the land either side, which was the site of the original White Horse. The other end of Longstanton Road was called 'Sheeps Green', around the area where the 'new' White Horse is now.



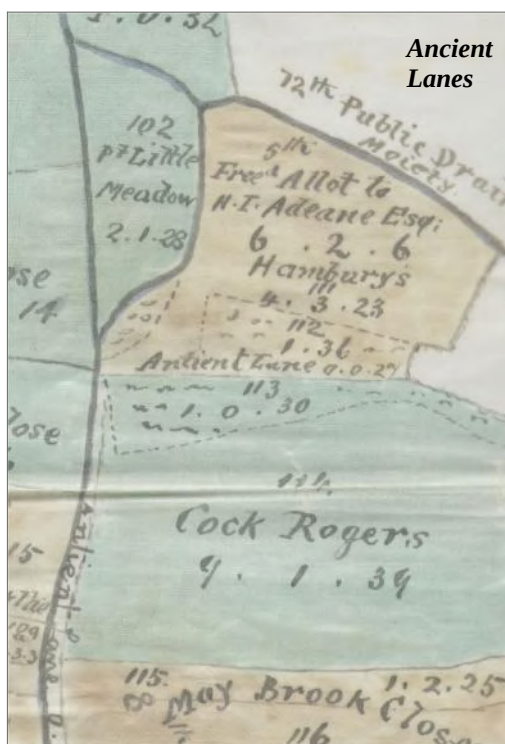
Hog Yard

Dry Drayton Road, as it was called in 1834, again at the crossroad end was known as 'Gimblets Bridge Road' where unsurprisingly it crossed 'Gimblets Bridge', and there was also a 'Gimblets Way', presumably off Longstanton Road somewhere. From around 1891 to 1950, its name changed again to 'Wheeler Street' or 'Wheelwrights Street', to at least as far as the bridge. Cambridge Road has also been known as 'Girton Road' and 'Cambridge Lane' over the years.

Nick & Sarah Harrison
archives@oakingtonhistory.co.uk



Gravel Pit Lane



Ancient Lanes



VILLAGE ADVENT CALENDAR

Turning Oakington & Westwick into One Big Advent Calendar

In the first lockdown, rainbows and other symbols of hope and solidarity brightened windows and brought a smile to passers-by. This Christmas, more than ever, we would like to suggest a similar spirit of neighbourly togetherness to mark our streets in the form of a village-wide advent calendar!

The idea is for households to make a simple Christmas design of the number of the day leading up to Christmas - starting with 1 on the 1st of December - and to put this in their window for all to see. The numbers will need to be updated every day just as you would open new windows on a normal advent calendar.

One fun project for families might be to walk through the village and try to spot as many numbers as they can - or spot any wrong numbers if these have not been updated! (The idea is a simplified version of similar ideas in other areas.)

Get creative and have some fun!

The Community Association and OWN (Oakington & Westwick Neighbours)



House Name Scavenger Hunt

Go around the village to find the **house names** of the addresses numbered below. Then fill in the gaps to complete the story.

- | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1. 47 Longstanton Rd | 5. 70 High Street | 9. 51 Water Lane |
| 2. 11 Water Lane | 6. 27 Water Lane | 10. 8a Coles Lane |
| 3. 1 Station Rd | 7. 27a Cambridge Rd | 11. 13 Water lane |
| 4. 42 Longstanton Rd | 8. 71 High Street | |

Once upon a time, or last 1. _____ if you want to be exact, a young 2. _____ by the name of Jane was making her way round the village. It was springtime, and even though she had only noticed a 3. _____ ge in the weather she was sure that the animals would be out enjoying the sunshine. Jane spotted a 4. _____ in the big 5. _____ tree behind 6. _____. Jane got was so excited she let out a small shriek, which prompted the startled bird to take flight. She tried to run after it, but the path she followed ended in an old 7. _____ which she couldn't get past. Disheartened, she looked around to see if she could spot any other wildlife. On her walk back Jane noticed that the flowers in front of the 8. _____ had bloomed. To her delight the flower bed had her favourites, 9. _____. But she didn't get up too close to them as they were right beside the 10. _____, which tended to make her sneeze, so she admired them from afar instead.

After Jane arrived home from her walk around the village, her mum asked her if she had any adventures on her walks. Jane smiled and said: 11. _____ .

Alice J