

Oakington & Westwick

December 2024 / January 2025

Journal

Complicated Caterpillars

Optimum Weeding

Scouts Get Gold

New Plots

PC Award



What's On

Weekly

Mon **Monday Cafe**, 9.30—noon. Church Hall, £1 Liz Davis – 01223 232745
 Mon **Youth Club**, on a Bus, 7–9pm. Recreation Ground, School Year 7 and above. Free. 07853 795256
 Mon **Oakington Singers**, 7.30–9pm. Church Hall. Elaine Bailey – elainebailey1@live.co.uk
 Tue **Senior Pilates**, 11.30–12.30pm. Pavilion. Classes through out the week. Contact: Claire Young – 07766 554413
 Tue **Cubs**, 6–7.15pm. Term time. Pavilion. Richard Young – richard.young@crafthillscouts.org.uk
 Tue **Table Tennis**, 7.30–9pm. Pavilion. Gillian L'Angellier – 01223 234758
 Tue **Poker Night**, 7.45pm. White Horse Pub. 01223 232417
 Wed **Mixed Ability Pilates**, 10–11am. Pavilion. Classes throughout the week. Contact: Claire Young – 07766 554413
 Wed **Yoga**, 7–8.15pm. Pavilion. Denise Sibley-Moore – 01954 202235
 Thu **Mature Movers**, 10–10.45am. Pavilion. Katie Harknett – 07541 721059 / info@elementalfitness.co.uk
 Thu **Little Steps** playgroup, 10–11.30am. term time. Church Hall. littlestepsoakington@gmail.com
 Thu **Ten Sing**, 7–9pm. Term time. Histon Baptist Church. Terry King – cambridgetensing@gmail.com
 Thu **Short Mat Bowls**, 7.30–9.30pm. Pavilion. Dawn Stokes – 01223 236427
 Thu **Quiz Night**, 8pm. White Horse Pub. 01223 232417
 Fri **Beavers**, 6–7pm. Term time. Oakington Primary School. beavers@oakingtonscouts.org.uk
 Fri **Scouts**, 6–8pm. Term time. Pavilion. Cara Hanman – cara.hanman@oakingtonscouts.org.uk

Sun 1 Dec **Advent Service**, 5pm. St. Andrews Church. With Oakington Singers
 Mon 2 Dec **Christmas Concert**, 7pm. St. Andrews Church. Oaktet & Oakington Singers
 Fri 6 Dec **Minibus to Bar Hill**, 10am. To book ring Teri Seaber – 07711 531004
 Fri 6 Dec **Mobile Library**, 1.50–2.20pm. Coles Lane.
 Sat 7 Dec **Village Walk & Talk**, 10.30am. Meet by Church on High Street. Alice – OWNeighbours@gmail.com
 Sat 7 Dec **Christmas Carol Concert**, 2–4pm. Pavilion. Free entry. 1st Oakington Beavers, Cubs and Scouts.
 Sat 7 Dec **Christmas Tree Sales**, 12noon–3pm. 9 Longstanton Road. In aid of the EAG
 Mon 9 Dec **O&W Parish Council**, 7.30pm. Pavilion. All invited. clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk
 Tue 10 Dec **Tuesday Talk & Tea**, 2.45pm. Church Hall. Carol Singing. Marian Cleaver – 01223 232897
 Thu 12 Dec **O&W WI**, 7.30pm. Church Hall. Christmas Party. Elaine Bailey – elainebailey1@live.co.uk
 Sat 14 Dec **Christmas service**, 6.15pm. Baptist chapel. Refreshments afterwards.
 Tue 17 Dec **Village Carol Singing**, 7pm. Outside the White Horse Pub. OWNeighbours@gmail.com
 Wed 18 Dec **Book Club**, 7.30pm. White Horse. "China Room" by Sunjeev Sahota. Gerry – gedcavander@hotmail.com
 Fri 20 Dec **Country Dancing**, 8–10pm. Histon Methodist Church. Kathryn Coles – 01223 233191
 Sat 21 Dec **Therapeutic Stories**, 10–Noon. Pavilion. koka.me.uk/cats Ildiko Dulo – cats@koka.me.uk
 Sun 22 Dec **Carol Service**, 4pm. St. Andrews Church. With Oakington Singers

Fri 3 Jan **Minibus to Bar Hill**, 10am. To book ring Teri Seaber – 07711 531004
 Fri 3 Jan **Mobile Library**, 1.50–2.20pm. Coles Lane.
 Sat 4 Jan **Village Walk & Talk**, 10.30am. Meet by Church on High Street. Alice – OWNeighbours@gmail.com
 Thu 9 Jan **O&W WI**, 7.30pm. Church Hall. "Mindfulness with Steve Iddon" Elaine Bailey – elainebailey1@live.co.uk
 Sat 11 Jan **Therapeutic Stories**, 10–Noon. Pavilion. koka.me.uk/cats Ildiko Dulo – cats@koka.me.uk
 Mon 13 Jan **O&W Parish Council**, 7.30pm. Pavilion. All invited. clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk
 Tue 14 Jan **Tuesday Talk & Tea**, 2.45pm. Church Hall. Games Session. Marian Cleaver – 01223 232897
 Thu 16 Jan **Chess Club**, 7pm. Interested in joining? contact Ranko Pinter – ranpin@gmail.com or 07766 052025
 Fri 17 Jan **Country Dancing**, 8–10pm. Histon Methodist Church. Kathryn Coles – 01223 233191
 Thu 23 Jan **Philosopher's Café**, 7pm. Interested in joining? contact Ranko Pinter – ranpin@gmail.com or 07766 052025
 Sat 25 Jan **Orchard Wassail**, 4–6pm. Orchard by Arcadia Gardens. Soup, cider & tradition. OWNeighbours@gmail.com
 Wed 29 Jan **Sustainable O&W**, 7.30pm. Church Hall. "How to Recycle Everything". sustainableow@gmail.com

BIN DAYS	Fri 6 Dec, Fri 20 Dec, Fri 3 Jan, Fri 17 Jan, Fri 31 Jan.	Black bins
	Fri 13 Dec, Fri 10 Jan.	Blue & Green bins
	Sat 28 Dec, Fri 24 Jan.	Blue bins only

Oakington & Westwick Sports Pavilion Monthly Lottery 2024 - Winners			
Month	Ticket No	Area	Winnings
October	643	Saxon Close	£100
November	422	Cherry Orchard	£100
If you would like to enter the lottery, please text JOIN plus your name, house number & postcode to 07831 828898.			

Cover Photo – Paul Kaufman

There are lots of unsung volunteers who make Oakington and Westwick a good place to live – the Journal is full of them. But in this issue we highlight the Parish Council. Many people don't appreciate what a village Parish Council does (and what it can't do), nor even that its members are volunteers. There's no party politics at parish council level, just a quiet determination to try to get the best outcomes for our villages. Our Parish Council has often gone above and beyond, and this autumn has been awarded “Council of the Year”. We'd like to offer them our congratulations!

It's clear from the many festive events coming up that it's the countdown to Christmas. Oakington & Westwick has a giant Advent Calendar – one which is calorie-reducing, unlike the chocolatey kind, because it involves walking round the village! Spot the window displays for every day of December: see the list on page 24.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the Journal this year!

Jenny Prince & Graham Tregonning,
Editors



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

Journal Team:

Graham Tregonning & Jenny Prince (*editors*), Adrienne Chaplin (*distribution*), Jenny Broadway, Ranko Pinter (*chair*), Ella Whellams (*ads layout*), Ela Yates (*business manager*)

Send contributions to
oakwestjournal@gmail.com

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

**DEADLINE FOR
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be received by **14 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**



Why I love ... Scouting

Here are some of the young people involved in Scouting in Oakington to tell us why they love being Beavers, Cubs and Scouts – and some of the adults who help lead the groups explain why they love Scouting too.



“Scouts has really helped me grow as a person and learn valuable life skills like resilience and perseverance. We do a wide variety of activities and they're all fun.”
(Emily)



“I like Beavers because we do fun things every week and I like seeing people have fun.” (Margot)

“It's fun and you get to do exciting things like archery and go camping. If I had to do only one after school club it would be cubs.”
(Phoebe)

“I like being involved with the local community. Beavers provides a varied programme that teaches the children important messages about kindness, helping each other and the world around them. It's also a lot of fun for them and for me.” (Vic, Leader)

“I like doing exciting things that I have never done before. It is lots of fun.” (Arthur, Cub)

“I like earning badges.” (Joseph, Beaver)

“Scouting is a fun place to learn life skills and have new opportunities and make friends.” (Ian, Leader)



“I love cubs because we play games like dodge-ball and have camps.” (Thomas)

“I have fun with friends and I like the activities, especially things like camping, making camp fires and cooking on them.” (Rowan, Scout)

“I love Scouting because it's so much fun. You get the chance to go on camps and have sleepovers in amazing places like HMS Belfast, Sea Life Centre, Legoland and many more, you meet new friends, and from a Leader's perspective, it's great to see the young people's faces while they are taking part in amazing activities.” (Richard)

“Leading a scout troop is a fun way to get involved in our community, share our experience, knowledge and skills. The scouts have also taught us a lot about how to lead. It's also a chance to revisit things we loved to do as kids and widen our own experience too.” (Cara)



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Vice-Chair: Stephen Moore

John Bailey	Julie Grove
Tony Starling	Ranko Pinter
Jake Camilleri	

Two Vacancies

Parish Website

www.oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk

Correspondence to the Council should be addressed to the Clerk:

Mrs Laura Lawrence – Email:

clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk

Post: 4 Meadow Farm Close
Oakington CB24 3AS

Phone: 07903 295860

District Councillors

O & W, Longstanton, Northstowe

Natalie Warren-Green – 07990 553997

cllr.warrendgreen@scambs.gov.uk

Tom Bygott – 07765 475 513

cllr.bygott@scambs.gov.uk

County Councillor

O & W, Longstanton, Northstowe, Over

Firouz Thompson – 07974 680875

firouz.thompson@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

On Facebook:

longstantonoakingtonnorthstowe

Member of Parliament

St Neots and Mid Cambridgeshire

Ian Sollom *ian.sollom.mp@parliament.uk*

07517 552632 – Facebook: *IanFSollom*

VILLAGE INFORMATION

Community Association

oakington.westwick.ca@gmail.com

Oakington & Westwick Neighbours

(OWN) – 07902 111786

OWNeighbours@gmail.com

Oakington Primary School

01223 232328

office@oakington.cambs.sch.uk

Pavilion Booking Administrator

Tony Leadley – 07936 024587

oakingtonpavilion@gmail.com

Village Stores & Post Office

Thiru Kunaratnam – 01223 232327

Hardship Fund

Contact Jo on 07714 760582 or

oak.west.hardship.fund@outlook.com

From our Parish Council Chair

The planning application for temporary boundary fencing and **replacement hedge planting in Dry Drayton Road** was refused recently. The conifers which were felled on this site were originally sanctioned by a planning inspector in 1986 and not, as I previously thought, because of an oversight by the then Parish Council. It transpires that the inspector specified Cupressus because MAFF (later to become Defra) said that Hawthorn would be unsuitable! Hopefully there will be a satisfactory outcome to all of this in the near future.

We've seen and heard **noisy motorbikes** on the local roads for many months. Latterly the Business Park off Dry Drayton Road has been the target for such activity. This is of course private land but it is hard to imagine that permission will have been granted for such use.

Happily, the amount of motorbike misuse of the new Northstowe Avenue and roundabouts seems to have diminished. But please do keep reporting this anti-social behaviour. Mansell Wood is a favourite cut-through to Histon. The police do act when they are informed.

On a happier and more positive note now! Parish Council and Environment Action Group/Sustainable Oakington & Westwick reps recently met with members of Histon & Impington Green Spaces group who are keen to establish wildlife and conservation areas, particularly **wildlife corridors between the villages** and hopefully Girton too. Beck Brook, the main river, would seem to be a unifying factor in this endeavour as its course takes it through the three parishes. Wildlife might well have its own ideas about what constitutes a wildlife haven.

Whilst writing on environmental issues, I'd like to take the opportunity to consider the contribution made to the parish by the **Environment Action Group**. James Youd's leadership has made the group of volunteers a constant and positive force for environmental good for years now. We can thank them for cleaning the pond near the crossroads, the annual leaf collection from the paths, making pedestrians' life just that bit safer. Not to be forgotten is the regular litter picking that has to be done relentlessly on the parish's behalf.

They could all be at home doing something else, but instead voluntarily turn out in all weathers. Many, many thanks to such a dedicated group. EAG volunteers are covered for their work along paths by the County Council's insurance via the Community Highways Volunteering scheme.

I know I go on in this column about volunteering, but it just is a fact of life that so much that happens in the Parish simply wouldn't happen without the spirit of voluntarism. The list of clubs and societies is a very long one indeed. The Council has been **short of two councillors** for ages, and Oakington and Westwick Neighbours needs help. Contact the Clerk for more information, or just come to the next PC meeting to see what goes on.

Finally, the Parish Council has recently celebrated some good news – see page 17. And there's even more cause for celebration: Laura Lawrence has worked for our community as **Parish Council Clerk** for no less than 25 years! I send our heartfelt thanks to you Laura for all the work you have done and for going the extra mile so many times.



David Reeves



Village Tool Share. To join the WhatsApp group and/or request a loan or a copy of the tools list, contact Jess Winters, Crossways: *jess@5asidechess.com*.



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.

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From our District Councillor

Save the Winter Fuel Payment

My group colleagues and I are fighting to save the Winter Fuel Payment for vulnerable pensioners that is currently under threat from the new government. In October's council meeting, all councillors unanimously supported our joint motion to sign Age UK's petition at tinyurl.com/4c3aw675 to save the payment and to raise awareness of pension credit.

Age UK research suggests that 2 million pensioners who badly need the support to stay warm this winter will no longer receive the Winter Fuel Payment. With the recent Energy Price Cap rise, the physical and mental health of elderly people in the UK is threatened.

We are continuing to work to raise awareness of this issue, including signing a joint letter to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to urge a review of this decision and to protect pensioners at risk of fuel poverty.

Awaiting planning policy from Government

We are still awaiting the new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) from the new national government. It is frustrating and challenging that this has not yet been

decided, particularly as this plan will have a significant impact on South Cambridgeshire.

My group will ensure that residents are updated when the new NPPF is issued. We understand that many residents will be concerned about the new government's housebuilding plans, especially in our area, and we encourage you to get in touch if you have any concerns.

Water authorities attend council Scrutiny meeting

We were grateful for the opportunity to welcome flood management representatives from Anglian Water, the Environment Agency, and from Cambridgeshire County and South Cambridgeshire District Councils to the council's October Scrutiny and Overview committee meeting chaired by Cllr Graham Cone, Deputy Leader of my group.

The meeting provided a useful forum for councillors to raise residents' specific concerns, including recent flooding in South Cambridgeshire, the impact of new housing developments on water supply and management, and improving communication between communities and the water authorities.



Cllr Tom Bygott

From our County Councillor

December and January often inspire us to reflect on the past months and look forward to the year ahead. Here are some key updates for our village community.

Busway Services Update: Addressing the Challenges

November brought further adjustments to the Busway B service to tackle the challenges arising from the 4 September updates. Stagecoach's review revealed a significant 20% year-over-year increase in passenger numbers, with peak times experiencing a surge of up to 58%. This unexpected demand has led to overcrowding and frustration for many commuters.

To alleviate these issues, Stagecoach has implemented the following measures:

- **Additional Peak-Time Journeys:** Two extra morning peak services from St Ives Park & Ride to Drummer Street and two evening return journeys. This is on top of the three extra buses added in September.
- **Route Adjustments:** With Hills Road traffic delays of up to 29 minutes during peak times, morning services to Addenbrooke's have been reduced from nine to five to improve punctuality and reliability.

These changes highlight a growing demand for public transport when investments are made. However, challenges lie ahead, including the government's recent announcement to raise the bus fare cap from £2 to £3 in 2025. I will continue working with Stagecoach and the Combined Authority to advocate for enhanced services that meet the needs of our community.

Bus Survey: A Push for Better Services

The recent bus survey, which closed on 1 December, aims to

gather sufficient data from Oakington & Westwick and Girton villages, to make a compelling case for service improvements. The goal includes advocating for a more efficient bus network and the addition of a night bus service to the village.

O&W Parish Council Wins Prestigious Award

I am delighted to share that Oakington & Westwick Parish Council has been named Council of the Year – a fantastic and well-deserved recognition! Having had the privilege of nominating them, I am incredibly proud to collaborate with such a dedicated team. Special thanks go to the Environment, Transport, and Community Action Group members for their outstanding contributions to our village. The full nomination details are at www.capalc.org.uk.

Additionally, I'd like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Laura Lawrence, who celebrates 25 years of service as Clerk of the Parish Council. Her dedication and commitment to our community are truly inspiring.

Please consider joining the Parish Council

The Oakington & Westwick Parish Council is looking for new councillors to join the team. This is a fantastic opportunity to make a real difference. Serving as a councillor is a rewarding role, allowing you to contribute to important decisions, represent local voices, and help shape the future of our community. We'd love to see some fresh faces and new perspectives, so if you're passionate about our village and want to get involved with an award winning council, please consider applying.

Looking Ahead

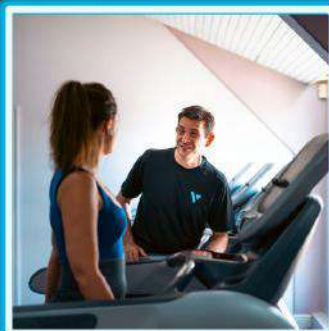
As we step into a new year, I encourage everyone to continue engaging in village initiatives and sharing feedback.



Cllr Firouz Thompson

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From our MP

On 18 November, Anti-Social Behaviour Awareness Week launched at a reception in Parliament. I have heard many residents' concerns surrounding **anti-social behaviour** near unadopted roads and the guided busway towards Oakington and Westwick. I know that County Councillor Firouz Thompson has been successful in ensuring that Homes England follow through on their promise to install CCTV that will now record the licence plate details of motorcyclists and cars.

I continue to be concerned about the **lack of capacity on busway** buses, and I have raised this with the Mayor of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA). I highlighted that while bus franchising may help in the long term, it isn't a solution to the problems local communities face right now. Nevertheless, I hope that many residents took the opportunity to share their view in the CPCA's recent consultation period on franchising.

Another recent focus has been on **London Luton Airport expansion**, and the related change in airspace that has caused noise nuisance to many residents. Last month, I wrote to the Transport Secretary, voicing these concerns and

urging her not to approve plans without first giving the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) appropriate powers to enforce the original plans for the AD6 flightpath that has caused disturbance to so many. I also pressed the CAA to provide a detailed response to community issues raised in their feedback window – which they now have agreed to do by the end of March 2025.

In amongst parliamentary business, I have enjoyed attending **community events** across the constituency. As I write this, I am looking forward during the coming months to dropping into a Girlguiding group for UK Parliament Week, visiting the Cambridgeshire FA in Histon, and attending local Christmas school fairs and festive light switch-on events. If you have an event you would like me to attend, please do reach out.

Finally, I now have regular **weekly surgeries** happening both in person across the constituency and online for those who prefer that option. To make an appointment, please contact me on ian.sollom.mp@parliament.uk and a member of my team will get in touch.



Ian Sollom MP

Environment Action Group

Our **Flood Mitigation Group**, led by Andrew Dennis, continues to monitor possible flood risks to the village. The group has examined the plans for the proposed East–West rail line, for which the company's currently preferred route is alongside the A428 between Caxton Gibbet and Caldecote, and is

satisfied that any water runoff from this development would flow towards either Elsworth or Bourn and not towards Oakington. Water runoff from the new development at Bourn airfield will likewise drain towards Bourn and so should not increase the flood risk in Oakington. We do, however, have ongoing concerns about the levels of silt and the general condition of Beck

Brook downstream of Westwick and, together with our local councillors, continue our discussions over maintenance responsibilities for this important watercourse. We also continue to be frustrated by the lack of progress towards the promised attenuation ponds upstream of the village associated with the Northstowe development.

Recreation ground weeding: Wednesday 9th October brought a mix of showers and sunshine. This was the day when volunteers from a local company came to our recreation ground to work wonders on the two historic seating areas. The beech hedges at the Anglo-Saxon and RAF areas were fast being swamped by weeds until twelve



volunteers from Optimum Patient Care of Coles Lane, Oakington, stepped up with trowels, spades and bags of enthusiasm to tidy up these areas and bring a halt to the weeds' domination. They were undaunted by the weeds or the weather. Their trip was organised by Kelly Woodhouse of Optimum Patient Care, who run Clinical Research trials for respiratory diseases, and Geoffrey Butlin and John Terry



of the EAG. Geoffrey was delighted to explain that his own company used to occupy 5 Coles Lane, where Optimum Patient care now operate from, and that he had been much involved in the recent upgrade of the Rec, with help from the EAG. John, on behalf of the EAG, expressed their gratitude to Kelly and her team and to Tony Leadley for opening the pavilion for some welcome refreshments.

You may have noticed that the **Oakington and Westwick in Bloom** flower tubs have been restocked with winter plants. We are very grateful to the volunteers who look after the tubs, as well as to the Parish Council for funding them and the Garden Centre for doing the restocking.



Finally, we will be selling **Oakington-grown Christmas trees** again this year, on **7th December**, 12 noon till 3pm at 9 Longstanton Road. Please note that these trees are for local residents of Oakington and Westwick only and are not for reselling.

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Oakington & Westwick Neighbours



Thank you to Jon Morris from the Bobby Scheme for his comprehensive talk on 13 November about staying safe from scams and burglary. His approach was informative and, at the same time, reassuring.

In fact, even before he began, a lady spoke with him about a letter she had received purporting to come from HMRC and he was able to assure her that it was not genuine and explain why.



Over twenty people, including several parish councillors, attended the meeting.

Following refreshments, OWN held its AGM. The finances are in reasonable shape despite the fact we were not able to hold a fundraising event this year. However, as several members of OWN's admin team are "retiring", the future of OWN depends on new people able to join the team. This could be your chance to get to know people while doing something really valuable for the community. Get in touch to find out more: 07902 111786 owneighbours@gmail.com

The next event will be carol singing with Cottenham Brass Band outside the White Horse pub at 7pm on Tuesday **17 December** 2024. And join us on **25 January** 2025 for the ever popular apple wassail.

Jo Bryant

Repair Cafe



After a very popular first Repair Cafe in 2024, Oakington Repair Cafe returns to the Pavilion on **8 February** 2025, 11am – 2pm. Join us for repairs, conversation and treats from Oakington's finest bakers!

All repairs are free, thanks to our team of experienced volunteer repairers, although donations are very welcome.

Our cafe will again serve hot and cold drinks, cakes and lunchtime vegetarian savoury snacks, and is open to everyone – you don't need to be having an item repaired!



You can bring along bikes, small household appliances, mechanical, electrical or electronic gadgets, computers, clothes which need mending, and knives or tools which need sharpening. Our repairers will do their best to save your item from having to be thrown away and replaced, and will chat to you while they do it – it's a chance to pick up tips from experts as well.

We recommend booking repairs in advance to avoid a long wait for walk-in slots on the day. In the interest of fairness, it's one booking per person. Booking will open in early January 2025 – keep an eye on <https://tinyurl.com/2hk3873x>

We have enough repairers but still need help with cake baking, serving/preparing/washing up in the cafe, and on the front desk – if you could help in any of these ways, please email oakingtonrepaircafe@gmail.com.

*Jenny Prince, Alice J, Philip & Rachel Garsed
Sustainable Oakington & Westwick*

Hardship Fund Update



All our income during the last year has come from donations from the village, and we are very grateful. We have received five donations including from the Monday Café and from someone who had previously received help from the Fund. Our individual donors have asked to remain anonymous.

We have made 13 grants to 8 households ranging from £50 to £250 per grant. The majority of the people who contact us are families with children. We also made a payment to the school to enable them to purchase items of school uniform to 'top up' their stock of uniforms used to help families in financial need. Altogether we have responded to more requests for help this year. We think this reflects the cost of living crisis and high rate of inflation leading in particular to increased costs for food and heating.

The type of circumstances where we have helped include:

- Small grants to cope until payday
- Benefit deductions without warning, and delay in making decisions on benefits claims which cause short term budgeting issues. In these instances, the requests

were for help to pay for food and other essentials

- Helping households to cope with costs arising from funeral of close family member or travelling to visit seriously ill close relatives.

We continue to provide advice on other sources of support and signposting, but most people who contact us are well-informed about the help they can receive, and manage their money carefully.

Thank you to Ben Phillips who had the original idea for the Hardship Fund and played a key role in the Hardship Team until he left Oakington in August. Celine Pinter and Bee Brennan have joined the Hardship Team, so we are now a team of four with Adrienne Chaplin and Jo Mills. In addition, Joy Brading will help but without being involved in confidential aspects. We maintain a good link with the primary school and other agencies. A flyer with our new contact details will be distributed with this Journal.

In the summer, we reviewed and updated our procedures, which can be found on the OWN website or via the QR code on our posters and flyers.

Jo Mills

Oakington & Westwick Community Association



The O&WCA aims to support opportunities to maintain a vibrant and connected community, including supporting the Village Journal and the sub-committees for such events as the Village Day and Bonfire Night, and providing an umbrella group for community activities and clubs. Please take note of the new date of the Annual General Meeting – Tuesday **25th February**, 7.30pm at the Pavilion. This meeting is open to all. More details in the next Journal.

Many thanks for all your support in 2024. The members of the O&WCA Committee wish you all a wonderful festive season and a happy New Year.

Elodie Cameron

Oakington & Westwick Short Mat Bowls Club



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

Tuesday Talk & Tea

Our next meeting on **10 December** is Carol Singing led by Richard and Tim Brading, including some sung by them alone. This very joyful event will be followed by our annual Christmas tea.

Our meeting on **14 January** will be a games session – giving us time to catch up on exchanging Christmas news.

Marian Cleaver



The Tuesday Talk and Tea Club meets in the Church Hall at 2.45–4.45pm on the second Tuesday of the month, for a talk or activity followed by a delicious home-made tea. We welcome all comers, especially if the subject that month is of special interest to you.

More info: 01223 232897 / marianccleaver@gmail.com.

Country Dancing

Jane and I look forward to seeing you on Friday **20 December** and Friday **17 January**, for more fun evenings of country dancing. All abilities catered for as all the dances are walked through. Newcomers very welcome.

If your New Year resolution is to get fit, this is a very good way to do it! See you there.

Kathryn Coles



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

1st Oakington Scout Group

The winter term is a busy one for scouts. Along with getting settled into a new school year, the scouts also have badges to earn, Remembrance to observe and Christmas Carols to practise (in readiness for the Carol Concert on **7 December** at the pavilion – come along!). While some of our scouts attended their local memorial services for Remembrance Sunday, we were well represented at St Andrew's to reflect and remember the fallen from Oakington.

This term, we are delighted to say that three of our scouts have achieved their Chief Scout's Gold Awards. This is a massive achievement as it requires them not only to join in sessions but to complete some parts of badges in their own time – including volunteering, developing practical skills in the home, taking action for the environment and taking on two personal challenges which can range from physical (eg complete a 5km run or swim 5km) to cerebral (eg read a book a week for the term or learn the BSL alphabet). In total they must earn nine Challenge awards and six other badges to qualify, and we are hugely proud of the young people who took on the task and have succeeded.

As ever, we are always on the look out for new leaders. Whether you think beavers, cubs or scouts is the age group you could volunteer for, please do reach out. It's a great way to stay in touch with the youth of today and also helps you remember the youth you enjoyed!

Cara Hanman



Scouts (10½–14) meet 6–8 pm on Fridays at the Pavilion. For more details contact Cara: cara.hanman@oakingtonscouts.org.uk

1st Oakington Beavers

Oakington Beavers have had great fun so far this term! We've made a name bracelet in morse code, discovered different constellations in the sky and also learnt important things like our parents' phone numbers that we might need in an emergency. By the time you read this, we'll also have been away for an indoor sleepover and visited the Observatory to find out more about the night's sky. Come and see us at our carol concert to hear our special Beavers version of the twelve days of Christmas!

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

Kathryn Bigg



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

If your child is interested in joining Beavers, please contact Kathryn.Bigg@oakingtonscouts.org.uk.

Oakington Singers

I have fond memories from many years ago of our choir turning up to sing Christmas Carols to the residents at Midfield Lodge. What a pleasure it was therefore to receive a formal invitation to put on a proper concert for current Midfield Lodge residents one sunny afternoon in late summer. With Joan at the keyboard and Paul conducting we sang a carefully chosen mix of well known hits from the pop decades and songs from the musicals which soon got our audience tapping their toes in appreciation. Clare Chapman prepared song sheets so that after an interval with refreshments, residents and staff were able to sing along to favourite tunes, bringing the afternoon to a nostalgic and rousing end.

Our most recent performance was at Abbeyfield Retirement Living in Wellbrook Way in Girton. Our pianist Joan is a resident there and such is her popularity (or maybe our reputation went before us?) their dining hall was packed! The acoustic was amazing as was our performance, particularly 'Flying Free' with our own Philip Garsed playing the flute beautifully.



Among our upcoming engagements are these opportunities to hear us, all at St. Andrew's church, Oakington:

- **Sunday 1 Dec, 5pm** – Advent Service
- **Monday 2 Dec, 7pm** – Christmas Concert with Oaktet
- **Sunday 22 Dec, 4pm** – Carol Service

Helen Williams



Come and Sing! We welcome new members! Contact Helen Williams on 232614 / helenwilliams5@outlook.com or just turn up to St Andrew's Church Hall for our Monday rehearsal from 7.30pm till 9.00pm.

Oakington & Westwick Allotment Society.

We are now in the fortunate position of having some allotment plots available on our Cambridge Road site. You may have seen clearing and ploughing happening in readiness for marking out the new plots. Each plot is one-fifth of a true allotment and is approximately 10m x 5m. The cost is £20 a year and includes membership of the National Allotment Society. It is possible to have multiple plots if available. So if fresh air, exercise and excellent produce appeal to you or you need more information please contact Ann Rayner (Secretary) at: ann.rayner42@icloud.com.

Ann Rayner

Oakington & Westwick Tennis Club

The days will soon start to get longer again, thank goodness, so why not get out and enjoy some fresh air and exercise? Oakington & Westwick Tennis Club always welcomes new members, and costing only £65 for a family, £45 for adults and £20 for juniors, our annual subscription gives very good value for money!

We have two hard courts and there is no need to book - you can just turn up and play at any time during daylight hours. It is worth noting that the club doesn't function as some other tennis clubs, which are meeting and socialising clubs, as we don't have a Clubhouse or facilities.

Gill Attmore

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

Sustainable Oakington & Westwick

SOW continues to bring together people in Oakington, Westwick and beyond who care about nature and the environment and want to do something about it. The talk we had in September by Water Sensitive Cambridge got us all thinking about rain in a new way. Heavy rainfall due to climate change causes pollution problems and flooding, but there are ingenious, small-scale ways to "put the rain back in the ground."

In October we enjoyed a meal together, sharing our favourite veggie dishes; as well as apple days – see page 22.

There's no SOW meeting in December but on **29 January**, two people from Foxton and Sustainable Shepreth who organise their villages' terracycle and other recycling collections will come to give us some advice on what we can do here. Lots of us want to recycle more – come along and find out how. And the Repair Cafe is back on **8 February** – see page 11!

Jenny Prince



For everyone who's concerned about nature and the environment. All are welcome to SOW meetings, at 7.30pm in the Church Hall on the last Wednesday in the month. sustainableow@gmail.com / sustainableow.co.uk



Oakington & Westwick Table Tennis Group



Table tennis is good for your mental health as well as your physical health – heart rate, reaction times, coordination, muscles and joints. Join us for fun and laughter – we are a small, friendly club, of mixed ability. We play every Tuesday at 7.30pm at the Pavilion, and welcome new players. Bats provided. For more information contact Gillian L'Angellier on 01223 234758.

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Oakington Church of England Primary School



We had another brilliant fundraiser for Children in Need – it's always lovely to see the children excited to come into school with their Pudsey ears, spots and non-uniform.

We have recently had a new climbing frame installed on the playground, and it has been a great success with all the children. This is part of our ongoing commitment to providing the best learning and playing environment for our children.



We held our annual Remembrance

Assembly on 11 November, when the children stood respectfully in the sunshine, observing the two minutes' silence after Mr Clark had played the Last Post. This was particularly poignant for our upper key stage two children, who are currently studying the Second World War in their history lessons.

Our Year 5 and 6 children enjoyed a great trip to The New Theatre in Peterborough to hear an inspiring talk by Children's Laureate Frank Cottrell-Boyce. Each child received a copy of his new book and we got a signed edition for the school! This trip is a new addition to our extra-curricular offer to enrich our pupils' experiences. Another addition to this is our brass teacher, who now joins our group of peripatetic music tutors, offering piano, guitar, woodwind, drums and choir.

You may have noticed the school is currently encased in scaffolding while we have our roofing replaced. We recognise that this period of work could be disruptive to the wider community, and we are very grateful for your patience during this time. The work is currently running on time, and we expect it to be finished by the middle of December.

Nathan Clark, Headteacher

Oakington Primary School Parent Staff Association

The PSA have been delighted to support a number of activities at school this term including new books for all the classes across the school. We have also been able to provide funding for trips for the whole school to attend the pantomime in Ely and a Year 5/6 trip to a book festival in Peterborough.

The Christmas Fayre on the 30th November will have happened by the time this is printed and we hope the planning and hard work by the PSA will have raised a significant amount for the school. We also hope this event succeeded in getting everyone in the festive spirit ahead of Christmas with our Mrs Claus's Kitchen, crafts and Christmas themed games.

We would like to thank everyone for the ongoing support in 2024, raising funds which enable us to provide resources and funding for trips for the children at the school. Please do look on our Facebook page in the new year for information on our 2025 events which the community can get involved with, including our annual quiz night and some tree planting at the school grounds.

Angela Barber

Oakington Vikings

There are often unsung heroes that serve the local community, ones that give up their time for children and adults alike. Two such heroes have been serving generations of Oakington Vikings, supporting not just the players but their families as well!



Jo Mowatt (Club Secretary) and Sam Nightingale (Club Treasurer) have over twenty years' service between them, both to the village and its football team. Long after the goals are put away and the supporters have gone home, these two continue to work tirelessly to keep the Club going, handling the finances, communicating with the FA, making sure the Club has all the necessary equipment, paperwork and registrations in place so the players can put on their Viking kit and just enjoy the game they love.

They both have raised their own Viking families in busy households and have successful careers of their own whilst still somehow making time for all the Viking players (young and old). They've also had the unrelenting task of keeping the Viking coaches in check (often in their own

households!). Sadly, after such long devoted service both Sam and Jo will hang up their boots this season and we would like to say a very big Viking thank you to two of the kindest, most selfless individuals that we have had the privilege to call our own.

The Oakington Vikings will not be the same without you. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Oakington Vikings FC would very much like to hear from anyone that may be able to support their local football club. May be you would be interested in coaching a new generation of Vikings, or filling a role on the committee such as treasurer or even in a safeguarding capacity. To find out more about the rewarding opportunities at the Club please email the incoming Club Secretary Kirsty Shepherd on kjs64@cam.ac.uk.

W Kho



FA Charter
Standard

Our Teams and Contacts

- First Team James & Ronnie 07834 465188
 - Under 16s Marcus & Josh 07866 635241
 - Under 14s Winston 07968 716290
 - Welfare officer Frank 07841 995713
- www.facebook.com/OakingtonVikingsFC



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Council of the Year Award for 2024

Many congratulations to our Parish Council who have won Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Association of Local Councils (CAPALC) Council of the Year! Read on to find out why – this is the nomination submitted by Firouz Thompson, our County Councillor.

This nomination is based on their outstanding commitment to inclusivity, the tireless dedication of their councillors, and their proactive approach through various sub-action groups.

Oakington & Westwick embodies inclusivity at its core. Every councillor is not only reputable but also deeply committed to serving the community with integrity and dedication. Their collective efforts ensure that every voice within the parish is heard and respected. They are very inviting to their district and county councillors. As a regular monthly visitor as a county councillor, I sit admiringly watching them at work and am consistently impressed by their unwavering commitment to addressing all issues.

Each member of the council brings a wealth of experience and a tireless work ethic. They are actively involved in the day-to-day operations and long-term planning of the parish, ensuring that all initiatives are executed with precision and care. The clerk of the council

'Congratulations to the PC on achieving this award: it is good that people further afield recognise the work of our Council. The EAG has always worked positively and productively with the PC and we aim that this will continue.'
John Terry, EAG Chair

(Laura Lawrence) is exemplary, consistently demonstrating exceptional dedication to her role. The Chairs, of which I have experienced two over the last few years, Stephen Moore and David Reeves, are and have been great leaders for the council,

providing strong leadership to benefit the community.



The council's strategic creation of sub-action groups has been instrumental in addressing key areas of community development, which were formed following the community

engagement survey. The environment sub-action group has launched several green initiatives, including community clean-up days, tree planting events, and working alongside Sustainable Oakington & Westwick. Their efforts have significantly improved the parish's natural surroundings and promoted environmental stewardship among residents.

Understanding the critical role of transportation, the transport sub-action group has worked diligently to improve local infrastructure. They have successfully advocated for Local Highways Initiatives year-on-year and have written to their MP regarding initiatives such as East West Rail.

The community sub-action group has been a pillar of support for residents. They organise events that bring people together, from local festivals to support youth groups. Their initiatives have strengthened community bonds and provided essential services and support to those in need.

In conclusion, Oakington & Westwick stands out as a beacon of effective governance, inclusivity, and community-driven progress. Their innovative approach and unwavering commitment make them truly deserving of the Council of the Year Award.

Firouz Thompson, County Councillor

'I would like to add my congratulations to the whole PC. You have been very encouraging and supportive of the EAG work, and you have certainly helped to facilitate many of our tasks.'
James Youd, EAG past Chair

Want to join this winning team? There are two vacancies on the Council. Contact the clerk (see page 5) to find out more.



L to R: Firouz Thompson, Ranko Pinter, David Reeves, Jake Camilleri, Laura Lawrence, Stephen Moore, Tony Starling, Julie Grove

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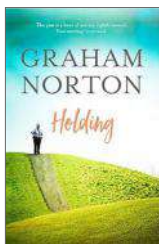
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Book Club

Holding by Graham Norton

This is a whodunit about a small Irish village where the discovery of a body forces the villagers to confront betrayals and secrets that have been kept for 25 years. The book explores themes of secrets, self-image, and the complexities of human nature.



It is a carefully, well-paced debut novel, the characters are recognisable and village life is vividly described; it is an emotional and thrilling story that keeps the reader absorbed as we discover there is not one mystery to solve but several going on in the background as it gradually builds to a dramatic conclusion.

“Holding” was enjoyed by the members and considered well worth a read.

The book group – informal and friendly – next meets on Wednesday **18 December** at 7.30pm at the White Horse Pub, when we’ll discuss **China Room** by Sunjeev Sahota. Always room for more to join!

Angela North

Card Game Review

Woof Days is a charming little card game for two players, child or adult, sold to support Farplace Animal Rescue. At only £5 plus postage it makes a great stocking filler. You have to collect at least one dog card for each day of the week. Once someone has filled all seven days, the game ends and the scores of the dog cards played are added to find the winner. You need to be careful not to fill all seven days when your score is lower than your opponent, otherwise they will win even if they have not filled all their days. It can be more fun with more players, but you will need extra sets of cards for every two additional players.

Graham Tregonning & Grandson



Chess Corner

Solution to chess puzzle 4-25

1st White Nd3-b4+

1st Black Ka2:Na3

2nd White Qb7-a6+

2nd Black Ka3-b

3rd White Qb7-b2#

‘:’ = takes a piece. ‘+’ = Check

‘#’ = checkmate

If you find a checkmate in two moves – let me know!



Chess Puzzle 6-24:

White to move and checkmate in two moves.

Send your solution to me at ranpin@gmail.com

Ranko Pinter

Gardening Notes

December: A good time to prune apples and pears, cutting out any dead, diseased or damaged wood and opening up the centre of the tree.

Start forcing rhubarb by covering emerging shoots with a terracotta pot or an old dustbin, to exclude light and give tender young stems in early spring.

Regularly check any stored produce for signs of rot which can easily spread. Remove and destroy any affected items.

Allow fallen leaves to stay on the borders and act as a mulch to protect the soil from weathering. They will add valuable organic matter as they decompose.

January: Prune gooseberries now by removing about one-third of the old stems and any which are close to the ground.

Plant out Christmas Hyacinths, after flowering, for a scented but smaller display next spring. Christmas trees can be shredded and used as mulch on the borders.

Ventilate the greenhouse on warm days to prevent diseases developing in warm damp conditions, and check and water any overwintering plants in there that have dried out.

Keep dead-heading outdoor displays of pansies, violas and cyclamen to encourage more flowers.

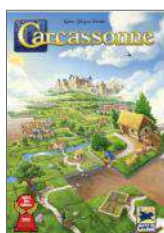
Go through old seed packets and throw away any past their sell-by date. Then decide on the New Year’s planting plan for beautiful borders and tasty veg. Happy Gardening!

Ann and Peter Rayner



But how do you store Tromboncinos?

Board Games Club



Do you enjoy board games – not so much monopoly and scrabble but things like Settlers of Catan, Ticket to Ride, Wingspan, Carcassonne? Or maybe you've never heard of these but are intrigued? A few of us meet the first Thursday of the month to play games of this style and we've room for a couple more. If you are interested, get in touch: oakingtongames@gmail.com.



Jenny Prince

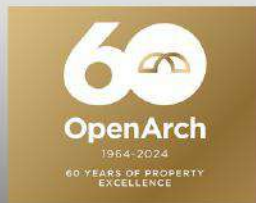


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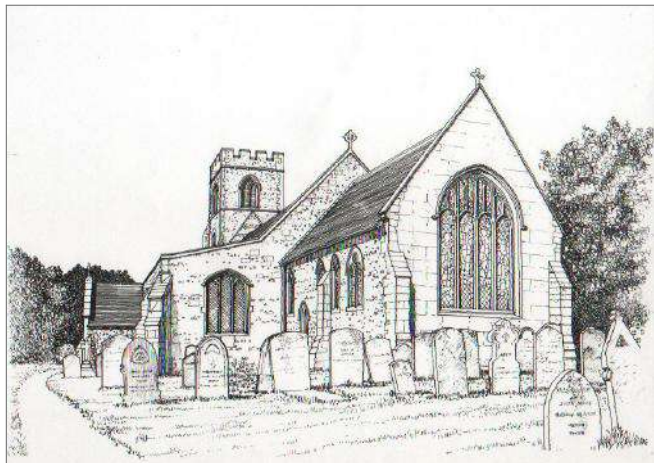
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St Andrew's Church Guide

We are pleased to announce that a new guide book of St Andrew's Parish Church, Oakington is now available to purchase for £5 in the church. Please pay by bank transfer to the Oakington PCC at Barclay Account 63570932, Sort code 20-17-22, reference: Guide Book.



Front cover sketch by Roger Goodden

Roger Goodden, who is – among his many other roles – the guardian angel of the fabric of the church, and I share the same enthusiasm for old churches, and we started to research and write together. The starting point was an old folder that contained the research of the Vicar's father, the late Rev Hugh Crighton Alexander, about the history of the church building. The guide is richly illustrated with old photos of the church, conserved by the Cambridgeshire Collection and the Cambridge Antiquarian Society, together with several ancient documents and artwork by Roger. It takes you around St Andrew's and calls your attention to the stories that we managed to find out about the church building. For example – did you know that there are two fragments of a stone cross built into the walls of the church that were parts of the one blown off from the roof in the gales in c.1978?

You can find the guide book on the Oakington Parish Council website: tinyurl.com/2tybaebm and most of it on Wikipedia too: tinyurl.com/4pjtc46p

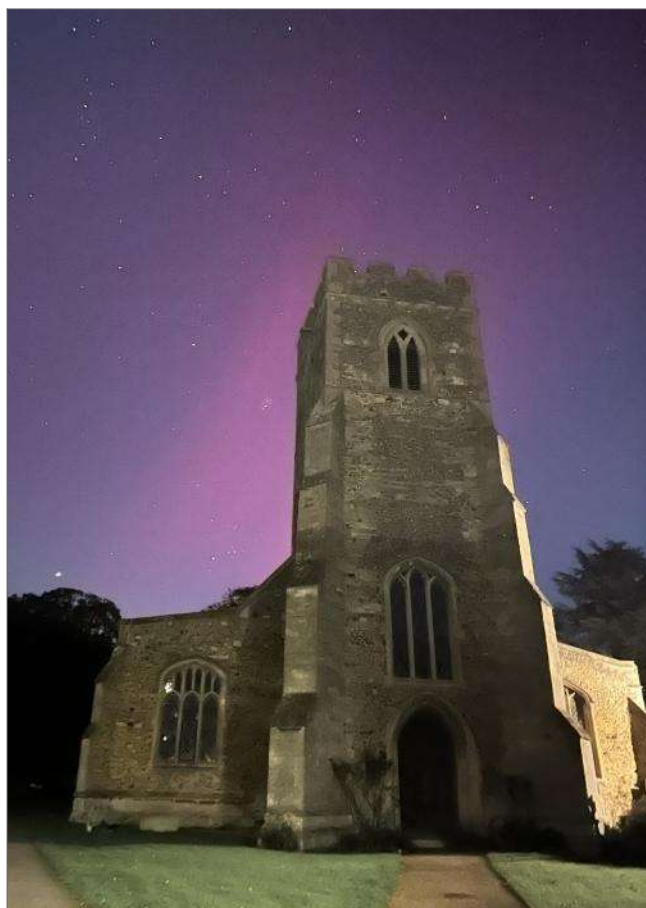
Although we have finished this first version of the guide book, we intend to continue our research and write Volume II. If you have any information, photos or memories about the church building, please contact Roger Goodden and Ildiko Dulo: cats@koka.me.uk

Ildiko Dulo

Borrow a thermal imaging camera

Cambridge Carbon Footprint are again delighted to offer to residents and organisations, across Cambridge and South Cambs, the opportunity to borrow and learn how to use a thermal imaging camera for free. Learn to interpret thermal images, to identify draughts, gaps in insulation, heating problems, etc. All the information to sign up is on our website: tinyurl.com/mpkfnthc.

Fran Sutton, Home Energy Officer



October northern lights extravaganza – back in 11 years!

Photograph – Jo Mills

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Christmas Menu

STARTERS	DESSERTS
CAULIFLOWER AND RED LEICESTER SOUP <i>With Toasted Sour Dough Bread</i>	TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS PUDDING <i>With Brandy Sauce</i>
SALMON, PRAWN & AVOCADO COCKTAIL <i>With Pickled Cucumber</i>	HOMEMADE BAILEYS CHEESECAKE <i>With Chantilly Cream</i>
BRIE & RED ONION TARTLET <i>With dressed, mixed Salad Leaves</i>	CHRISTMAS CHOCOLATE YULE LOG <i>With Chantilly Cream</i>
CRISPY DUCK ON A PANCAKE <i>With Spring Onion Salad & topped with Hoisin Sauce</i>	ENGLISH & CONTINENTAL CHEESE BOARD

MAINS

ROAST GLAZED TURKEY
With Goose Fat Roasties, Chipolatas & Bacon, Cranberry & Sage Stuffing

NUT ROAST
With Roasties & Yorkshire Pudding

9OZ SIRLOIN STEAK (£2 SUPPLEMENT)
With Roasted Vegetables, hand-cut Chips & Peppercorn Sauce

GRILLED SEABASS
With Broccoli, Mandarin, sautéed Potatoes & Cointreau Dressing

MUSHROOM & RED PEPPER STROGANOFF
With Basmati Rice

SLOW-COOKED VENISON CASSEROLE
With Dumplings

All served with a selection of fresh vegetables

£32

PER PERSON
3 COURSES



Download a booking form here: tinyurl.com/3a8zr2ny

Apples, Orchards & Harvest



Apple Days

The apple days at Blue Barrel cidery in October were great community events. Well over a hundred attended across the two days, to help pick, wash and press the apples, admire the apple display, and to chat over refreshments.



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Orchard Wassail

Blue Barrel and OWN will again be running the popular Orchard Wassail community event, 4–6pm on Saturday **25 January 2025**. Come down to the Jordans' orchard on Arcadia Gardens for a fun traditional family celebration to encourage the apple trees to deliver a healthy harvest in the year ahead.

Dress warmly, bring a torch and something to make a lot of noise. Free entry, but donations welcome to cover costs. A welcome cup of free mulled cider on entrance and cash bar for further drinks. Mulled juice and a complimentary cup of warm soup will also be available.

Alice J

Oakington Community Orchards Project

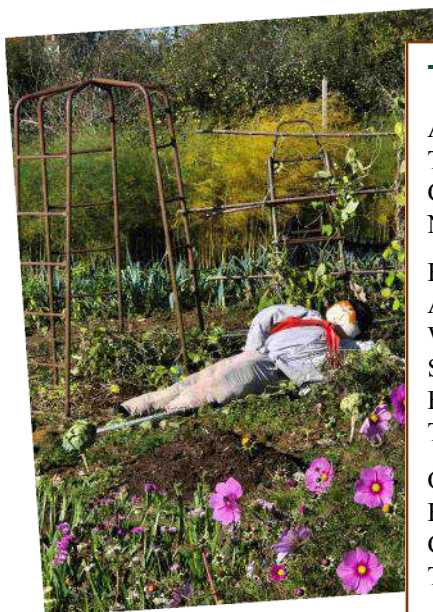


Now recruiting for 2025 – the Oakington Community Orchards Project Team (OCOP) are looking for new members to start in January 2025. The commitment is a maximum of 1–2 hours per calendar month for around nine months of the year. We provide full training, tools when necessary and you get to enjoy the calming atmosphere of our community orchards, along with a group of friendly colleagues.

Did you know – the OCOP also provides an “at home” advice service in January and February for those in the village with fruit trees, who are unsure about how best to look after them. We may also be able to provide help with their maintenance if you are elderly or disabled. If you would like us to visit you, or if you would like to join the team, email oakcomorchards@gmail.com or phone Graham on 01223 233208 and leave a message.



Graham Tregonning



The Reclining Scarecrow

All summer by the climbing frame
The smiling scarecrow with no name
Carries out his tasks with ease
Nodding in the gentle breeze

Hungry and unruly birds
Are treated to his harshest words
Woe betide those naughty bugs
Snails and beetles, ants and slugs
Freedom grants he to the bees
To pollinate as much they please

Others weed, dig, plant and sow
He watches, marvels as things grow
Carrots, lettuce, spuds and beans
The biggest pumpkins ever seen

And once the harvest's gathered in
His smile becomes the broadest grin
All his summer work is done
He rests, enjoys the autumn sun.

John Barnett

Where have all the butterflies gone?

The Big Butterfly Count 2024 has revealed the lowest numbers in the 14 years the survey has been held, and has called a Butterfly Emergency. The wet, cold spring has contributed; in addition, there are longer term reasons: the intensification of agriculture, poor woodland management, fragmentation and loss of habitat because of building, pollution, tidying of parks and gardens and changes in climate. But even without all these reasons, butterflies have always been under pressure because of their complicated life-cycles.



Most people remember from school the four stages of a butterfly's life-cycle: egg, caterpillar (larva), chrysalis (pupa) from which the adult butterfly emerges. The main eating stage is the caterpillar, most eating plant leaves. This stage is very vulnerable to predation by birds, wasps and others as its external skeleton grows and expands. The later stage chrysalis is also easily damaged or eaten.

You may know the larva of the Peacock butterfly eats nettle leaves and the adult seeks nectar from thistles, dandelions, teasels and buddleia. So, this species requires nettles and a range of nectar sources for it to complete its life-cycle.

The Holly Blue has two broods. In the spring the larval food are the leaves of holly and dogwood, and the summer broods favour ivy and a range of other shrubs. The adult is not interested in nectar, preferring to feed on honeydew, which is a sweet secretion from aphids. In a similar complicated way, woodland butterflies are dependent on grassland and wild flowers for nectar.

So, butterfly habitats have to provide leaves for larvae, nectar for adults or sweet alternatives like honeydew or sap.

This complicated arrangement does put butterflies under pressure, because they need a mosaic of habitats, all within a reasonable distance.

As a result of complicated lifestyles and the reasons above, some butterflies are close to extinction. The large Tortoiseshell has probably gone, last being recorded at Knapwell in 2003 (the small Tortoiseshell is still quite common). The Large Blue was extinct, but has been successfully reintroduced. However the Large Copper is extinct in spite of some serious conservation work and the Swallowtail is under threat. Three of our most common butterflies, the Red Admiral, Painted Lady and Clouded Yellow are all migrants, so depend on conditions elsewhere.

So it is important as well as rewarding to make our gardens more butterfly friendly. Lots of wild flowers help, as do a range of shrubs like dogwood, holly, ivy, buddleia, and various trees. Grass management is also important. Different species of butterfly benefit from a range of cutting heights and some parts left uncut until September provide lots of leaf area, which is vital food for larvae, and if wild flowers survive cutting they provide nectar for adults.

John Terry & James Heywood

We have
spaces
available at
Oakington



Come and
join in the fun

Tuesday from
18.00 til
19.15

Oakington
Pavilion

Contact:

Richard.young@craftshillscouts.org.uk



Oakington Baptist Chapel

All welcome:

Sunday services 10.30am and 6.00pm

Sunday school 12.10pm for children aged 5 - 11

Wednesdays 7.00pm

www.oakingtonbaptist.org.uk 07821 914477

Stocks Green, High Street, Oakington CB24 3AG

You are very welcome to join us for our

Christmas Service

Saturday 14th December 6.15pm

Refreshments afterwards





1st Oakington Beavers, Cubs and Scouts



Christmas Carol Concert



Featuring

Cottenham Brass Band

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

Christmas Raffle

Mince pies and Refreshments!

Saturday 7th December

2pm - 4pm

@ Oakington Pavillion

Queens Way, Oakington

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



Village Carol Singing

With Cottenham Brass Band

Tuesday 17th December

7pm

Outside the White Horse

Bring a torch!

Collection for DEC Middle East appeal



- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Days Meadow | 13. High Street |
| 2. Queensway | 14. High Street |
| 3. High Street (Water Lane end) | 15. MeadView |
| 4. Coles Lane | 16. Church View |
| 5. Coles Lane | 17. Arcadia Gardens |
| 6. Kettles Close | 18. Croft Lane |
| 7. Water Lane (Church End) | 19. Saxon Close |
| 8. Days Meadow | 20. Saxon Close |
| 9. Station Road | 21. Holme Close |
| 10. High Street | 22. Days Meadow |
| 11. Water Lane (near school) | 23. Manor Farm Close |
| 12. Manor Farm Close | 24. St Andrew's Church |



Fund Raising

Christmas

Concert

Oaktet & The Oakington Singers

MONDAY | **2** DEC | AT 7:00 PM

St Andrew's Church Oakington

Interval refreshments

In aid of the Ruth & Poppy Nicholas Music Fund
providing musical activities at
Oakington C of E Primary School