

Oakington & Westwick

June/July 2020

Journal

Clues from the Enclosures



Partying Apart



Join the Phone Tree

Living in Oakington & Westwick through the Coronavirus Outbreak

To ask for or to offer help:

Leave a message on
07902 111786 or **07375 945284**

Email **owneighbours@gmail.com**

Get in touch if you...

- are self-isolating and need shopping delivered, a prescription picking up or pharmacy supplies, or other practical help
- need technical help with contacting friends and family on your computer or mobile
- are among the many finding this time difficult because of financial hardship
- would like a chat because you've had enough of your own company!
- need anything else – leave us a message and we'll do our best
- would like to join the village phone tree, to stay connected



Domestic Abuse

You may have seen the headlines that the National Domestic Abuse Helpline has had a sharp increase in the number of calls for help since the lockdown started. Domestic abuse can affect anybody, anywhere, even in Oakington and Westwick.

There are useful details and contacts here:
www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/getting-help-for-domestic-violence/

In Cambridge, South Cambs and East Cambs, the Cambridge Women's Aid outreach service is currently providing telephone and email support to women experiencing abuse at home. You can call 01223 361214 for telephone support and advice, or email outreach@cambridgewa.org.uk. If emailing or leaving a phone message, please include safe contact details and times and someone will contact you within 2-3 working days.

Oakington Garden Centre now open

Max 25 customers, with a maximum of two people per household (including children). Where possible please pay by card. Deliveries to the self-isolating are possible, although the service may be suspended at times of high demand.



BIN DAYS

Thu 11 Jun, Thu 25 Jun, Black bin
Thu 9 Jul, Thu 23 Jul

Thu 18 Jun, Thu 16 Jul Blue and green bins

Thu 4 Jun, Thu 2 Jul, Blue bin and maybe
Thu 30 Jul green bin – put it out



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.

Covid-19 Scams

All residents need to be alert to the fact that there are several Coronavirus-related scams in operation. If you are not sure if something is genuine, check with someone you trust and do not give any personal details to anyone by phone or email or on the doorstep.

Face Masks for Sale. In the Village Shop. Made by the WI, all proceeds to charity. £3 (£1 for children's masks)

Food Bank and Hardship Fund

Oakington and Westwick has its own Food Bank and items can be donated in the village shop. Ben Phillips co-ordinates this and a number of families have been receiving boxes of essentials. For more information: benp@standrewsoakington.co.uk **07342 945373**

Grateful thanks to the generous donors who have given nearly £1500 (at time of writing) to the OWN Hardship Fund. The aim of this fund is to act as a lifeline to anyone who has been adversely affected financially by the coronavirus crisis. For support, please contact OWN on **07902 111786 / 07375 945284** or email owneighbours@gmail.com and we will try to respond promptly. Your details will be kept confidential. The fund can help with such things as energy bills, baby and child needs, personal hygiene products, and other needs depending on circumstances, e.g. travel expenses to go to a funeral. OWN will also help you to find other local support for a longer term solution.



Jo Bryant

Thank you to all who provided VE Day celebration photos for this issue.

Keep up to date with what's going on in Oakington & Westwick – including regular updates on local Covid-19 initiatives



Oaky Folk



To join the email list, email clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk

If you are not online and would like the updates, contact OWN to arrange for them to be delivered to you.

Life in Lockdown

Coronavirus has impacted on us all in different ways. We extend our deep sympathy to those who have lost loved ones, had their livelihoods affected, or who are finding social isolation unbearable. Many people have commented on a renewed sense of community, of neighbours helping each other, and looking out for the lonely. We have more in common than we did before. Weedless gardens, walks in the sunshine, the frustrations of homeschooling while homeworking, or for others, the time to read, bake or sew.

Despite the suspension of many usual activities, there is plenty to read about in this issue. Some groups are already meeting online. Find out how to sew for the NHS, about a pause in pollution, where to spot nursery rhyme figures or stand on Ale House Green, and – pick of the month for parents – Pre-school give a playdough recipe! Keep well and safe.

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
AUGUST/SEPTEMBER ISSUE:
Tuesday 21 July

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

Adverts	For 1 year	One off
Business card	£69	£16
¼ page (portrait)	£102	£27
½ page (landscape)	£198	£48

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

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

Overcome Social Distancing!

The two-metre dance around each other as we pass in the street has become part of our lives for now. But for many of us, especially those stuck at home, these weeks of isolation and missing friends and family have been very hard.

But two initiatives in the villages have been launched recently by Oakington & Westwick Neighbours, to bring people back together and give them the chance to see and chat with others, despite the lockdown.

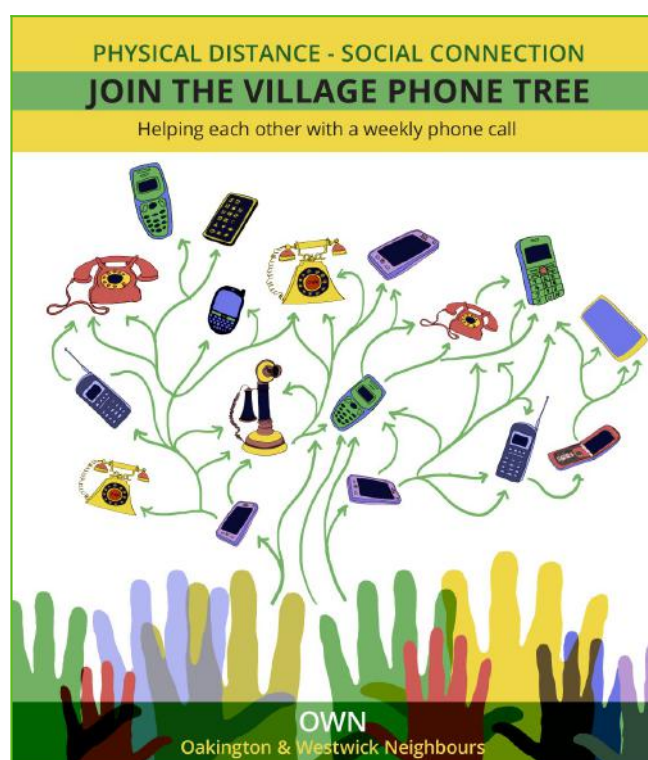
Village Phone Tree

If you can spare a few minutes a week, help others with a friendly chat by joining the Village Phone Tree.

Each week you call two people (the same people every week), and you will get a call from a third person in the Tree.

It's a way that you can support others even if you are self-isolating yourself. If you're a bit shy, conversation starter suggestions can be supplied!

To join or for more information, contact OWN on **07902 111786 / 07375 945284** or email owneighbours@gmail.com.



Virtual Café


Every **Thursday from 10.00 – 11.30am** there is a Virtual Café on Zoom hosted by Ben Phillips. You can grab a coffee, or tea and biscuit, and meet up with others from the comfort of your own home. Look on Oaky Folks or call OWN (see above) for details. If you have a computer but have never used Zoom, OWN can also help you get set up.



Jo Bryant & Jenny Prince



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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

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 Shop

Raj & Kanwal Sanghera - 01223 232327

From our Parish Council chair

I do hope you are well. This is a hastily re-written contribution to the Journal; I just received the 300 initial planning documents for Northstowe! As I have only had a day to scan through some sections, I can only flag up a couple of issues here, but I will keep you informed on the new **Parish Council website**.

If you have been following the saga of Northstowe and attended the various meetings we have organized, then I do not think you will be too surprised at the documents.

Let me start with what appears to be a major problem for Oakington and Westwick – **traffic**. There will be a new road built from Northstowe across Longstanton Road, around the Business Park, emerging at a new roundabout on Dry Drayton Road, immediately to the west (towards Dry Drayton) of business park land. According to the traffic modelling provided by Homes England themselves, this will result in increased traffic through the village, along Water Lane and Cambridge Road. We will be challenging this. Already, we have an excessive level of traffic through the village and we simply cannot accept a development which worsens the situation and will increase pollution. I will keep you updated.

I note that the green space between the village and Northstowe is confirmed as rather narrow and will have a significant proportion given over to allotments, pocket park and an attenuation pond. On the positive side, they intend keeping most of the trees, which will provide a visual barrier. Related to this, as in the plan produced at the public meeting, there will now be housing development closer to the east of our village, than in the original plans.

We are not convinced by the current proposals for run-off drainage, from thousands of houses, to go, via an attenuation pond, along the ditch and culvert in Longstanton Road and then across through the village to the Brook. We also await details of mitigation for the area around the Crossroads.

Please do look through the plans
applications.greatercambridgeplanning.org/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=Q9APPCDXHHC00 Don't be overwhelmed! You might find the document *Planning Statement* a good starting point.

Until now it has been a relatively quiet time for the PC because of the lockdown. The safety repairs required to the children's playground are delayed and the renovation of Stocks Green is likely to go ahead again in August.

However, may I direct you to our **new Parish Council website** www.oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk, now up and running. **Please can I urge all local groups to link their activities to it.** One central place for information on the village would be a tremendous step forward, allowing all villagers to know about activities and groups here. So please, if you run any group or activity in the village, could contact Laura Lawrence clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk We would like the website to be the default for people to go to in order to find out about village life.

Finally, a paragraph of thanks! First, **Oakington & Westwick Neighbours** (OWN) and their amazing volunteer helpers. Their wonderful work has meant that, where needed, shopping has been bought and delivered; prescriptions collected; people provided with social contact; a food bank has helped those struggling to feed the family; and financial help offered to those in despair with nowhere else to turn to. Second, to the small group of **WT members** who made the masks for the village shop and scrubs for the *Scrubs for Cambridgeshire Campaign*. Last of all, aren't we the luckiest village in Cambridgeshire (OK, the country!), to have **Raj and Kanwal** in the village shop. As always, with their trademarks of courtesy, helpfulness and generosity, they have kept the village supplied throughout the emergency. Don't forget to keep supporting them in the future!

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



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From our County Councillor

Covid-19 update. You will be pleased to know that all critical services are currently running satisfactorily.

Performance against PPE to date has been checked, and inside Cambridgeshire we have never run out of PPE, neither in a hospital setting nor in community services. However, there have been times of working hand to mouth. Primary care, though, had no stock at the outbreak of the pandemic, but all sectors should now have appropriate PPE.

There should be no further issues if stock is used appropriately, following Public Health guidance. Additional ventilators have been received and are being used in Cambridgeshire's hospitals with additional hospital staff trained to work in Intensive Care. Inside Addenbrookes the ICU has been increased to 350 beds.

The cost of PPE is rising significantly, see below.

	<u>JANUARY Costs</u>	<u>APRIL Costs</u>
Aprons (pack of 100)	£3.66 +VAT	£13 +VAT
Gloves (box of 100)	£3.66 +VAT	£9.38 +VAT
Facemasks (box of 50)	£7.15 +VAT	£30 +VAT increasing to £40 +VAT

To date, the County Council has spent in excess of £20 million and this is expected to rise in the coming weeks.

Nursing and Care Homes speak of 'much appreciated support' from the County Council during 'the hardest weeks of our lives'. Some comments:

"Thank you. We have been very well supported during the pandemic, please pass this on to your team."

"The staff team and I would like to thank you."

"We really appreciate your understanding and support. The phone calls every week from Cambridgeshire County Council is reassuring us and they are supporting with any issues".

Support from the CC to residential and nursing homes has included a 10% uplift in funding from April 10; support and advice and providing additional staff including those redeployed from other roles in the council.

In a further response from a care home in Cambridge came this tribute: "Thank you for your support so far in providing us with the necessary staff cover during this crisis."



Peter Hudson

From our District Councillors

We are so proud of how our communities have pulled together during these difficult times. We'd like to take this opportunity to thank Oakington Parish Council, Oakington and Westwick Neighbours and all the volunteers who have been helping the most vulnerable members of our community, it's been a fantastic local response.

Support and Advice for Residents, Communities and Local Business

South Cambs District Council have dedicated pages with information for residents and communities on coronavirus, the support that is available and services impacted by the current crisis:

www.scambs.gov.uk/coronavirus

There is also information on the support which is available for local businesses and the self-employed:

www.scambs.gov.uk/business/coronavirus-information-for-businesses/

Community Governance Review

Unfortunately, all face to face meetings and consultations planned as part of the CGR process have had to be cancelled at present. We are hoping to hold an online consultation session, date TBC. The Council has been looking at options for pausing or extending the consultation and we will let residents know as soon as there is a firm plan for this.

It is still possible to view and comment on the three options being proposed as part of the second phase of the CGR consultation. All three options involve Oakington and Westwick remaining as a separate Parish and retaining the green separation land with Northstowe. Full details, maps and a link to submit comments can be found here: www.scambs.gov.uk/cgr-lown

Northstowe Development

The government has made it clear that the planning process should continue despite the pandemic and so the outline plans for 4000 homes as part of Northstowe Phase 3a, the part of the development closest to Oakington and Phase 3b, 1000 homes on land west of the B1050 in Longstanton, have gone out to consultation.

Plans for Phase 3a will also include 2 new primary schools, a local centre, including shops, offices and research and development space and community and sports facilities.

We are encouraging residents to submit their comments via the formal consultation. You can view the plans for Phase 3a by visiting www.scambs.gov.uk/planning/view-or-comment-on-a-planning-application and using the reference number 20/02171/OUT. This consultation runs until **6 July**.

Comments on the Phase 3b proposals can be made via the same link and entering the reference number 20/02142/OUT. This consultation is due to close on **23 June 2020**.

If residents have any questions or comments, they can also contact the planning department via planningcomments@greatercambridgeplanning.org

The closing dates for the consultations will be kept under review, considering current restrictions, and can be extended. To raise awareness of the consultation, letters are being sent to all residents. We are also planning an online forum to discuss these applications, again date TBC.

As ever, feel free to contact us.

Sarah Cheung Johnson
Alex Malyon





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Environment Action Group

Our regular meetings are currently on hold due to social distancing, but work is still going on relating to some of our projects.

The Oakington and Westwick in Bloom flower tubs will be restocked with summer planting in the next few weeks, now that the risk of frost is over. We continue to be very grateful to the volunteers who look after the tubs, and to the Parish

Council for financing the restocking. The winter pansies in some of the tubs died off in the spring after looking good in the autumn; this may have been caused by the high rainfall we experienced in December and February.

The Open Spaces project to develop the area around the recreation ground (joint project with the Parish Council) is currently on hold.

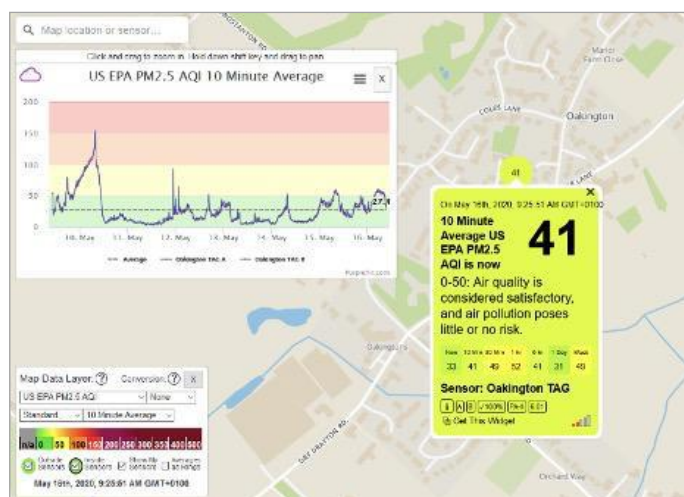


Transport Action Group

Getting a handle on vehicle pollution

Concern was expressed over the volume and type of traffic passing through the village and in particular that which passed the school as the children were entering and leaving.

Transport Action Group (TAG) along with the financial support of the Parish Council purchased a sensor that measures the number of particles in the surrounding air and calculates an Air Quality Index (AQI) based on certain criteria – the lower the better. As the unit had just arrived from the supplier when we went into lockdown it was decided to install it, as a temporary measure, adjacent to the High Street and Water Lane Junction. The original objective was, with the agreement of the headteacher at the school, to position it outside the school and then subsequently in some locations inside the school. The headteacher saw additional educational opportunities in using the data, which is freely available.



Meanwhile, the trees that were planted in January have been doing well and are being watered weekly by the Parish Council's contractor.

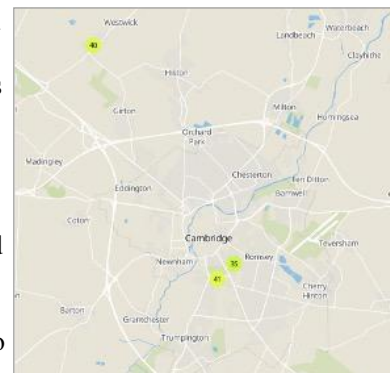
Work at Stocks Green to clear overgrown bushes and trees is also currently on hold. We cleared the large pile of cut vegetation arising from the work in March (reported in the previous journal) into a skip, working under social distancing rules, but further work will need to wait until the Covid-19 situation improves.

Our Flood Mitigation Group has continued to follow the plans of the Northstowe developers regarding flood mitigation ponds on Oakington Brook and drainage from Northstowe phase 3A. We also continue to follow issues reported on Cambridgeshire County Council Highways 'ReportIt' website and have been pleased to note that some remedial action has taken place recently, although a lot of the work is on hold due to lockdown. We also have some concerns about the mowing of grass verges in the village by Cambridgeshire County Council in April, especially regarding the timing of this work and the mowing of wild flowers in some places.



Stephanie Smith

In fact the data is available to anyone on the internet via the Purple Air Maps website – see purpleair.com. The website map shows all of the sensors installed around the world and can display the same data as shown in the image on the left. There is also the ability to download data for each individual sensor for more detailed analysis, but that requires additional processing of the data to get the AQI.



As you can see from the map there are two other sensors installed in Cambridge, one located off Brooklands Avenue and the other near the Railway Station. Once lockdown is lifted we will be able to place the sensor near the school to get the data that we are looking for. It is possible to move the sensor to any position in the village providing there is an accessible mains supply and wifi router it can be connected to. We are also investigating acquiring a monitor for measuring polluting vehicle emissions.

Since lockdown we have been unable to install the MVAS speed monitor that we share with Longstanton but, again, once we are out of lockdown it will be reappearing in the parish.

If you have comments to make on the above, would like more information or wish to be involved with TAG, please get in touch.



Jim Bryant (Chair)

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Sewing Scrubs for the NHS

Scrubs for Cambridgeshire / Helping the NHS was created with the intention to work together as a community to help the NHS.

I used to run Art & Sewing Clubs for kids & adults in the area. When I learnt that NHS hospitals were in need of scrubs uniforms, I rolled up my sleeves, unpacked my sewing machine and started working!

Initially I offered to help make 10 scrubs. However, the demand was for 150, so consequently I asked my adult students from my sewing club then extended my request for more help through social media. The response was overwhelming; now there are more than 500 group members and almost 300 people sewing with their soul for this cause. The goal is simple: To help as many NHS hospitals, doctors' surgeries, centres and care homes with as many scrubs, masks, hats and laundry bags as possible.

Our volunteers are mainly from Cambridgeshire. Frances Guinee from Oakington has been very supportive being in charge of helping our volunteers on the making of surgery hats and sharing some sewing tips with them.

So far we have made nearly 700 scrubs. To make one scrub we need about 3.5 meters of polycotton fabric. With fabric prices at £2 – £3.45 per metre, to make 100 scrubs we need to spend approximately £1,100 in fabric! To date we have raised nearly £6,000 via our Gofundme Facebook page & Just giving page. Transportation to distribute fabrics, scrub collection, delivery to hospital, the making of the scrubs are ALL done by our wonderful volunteers.



In addition to buying new fabric, we decided to use recycled material by asking the community to donate old polycotton bed sheets. We also make wash bags and surgical hats from these fabrics.

The success of our scheme has been due to

the support received by the entire community in Cambridgeshire; this includes ALL the volunteers, fabrics donated and funds received to keep this cause going forward. We are happy volunteers who genuinely want to help and support the front line workers from the NHS - it is our way to say "Thank you".

There are many other scrubs groups out there. We still need help to help the NHS! We are looking for skilful volunteers able to make scrubs for our heroes. Please contact Emori Cordero if you would like to help at EmoriScrubsforCambridge@gmail.com. Any donation would also be really appreciated: www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/gio-gomez-2 Or find Scrubs for Cambridgeshire / Helping the NHS on facebook.

Gioconda Gomez

Scrubs and Masks in Oakington

The Oakington group working for 'Scrubs for Cambridgeshire' were in the first ten under the organiser Gioconda Gomez.

The people who have been making scrubs from the village are Lynda Neech, Linda Ward, Pauline Marsh, Jane Goodyear and myself. And we also have Francisca Shaw from St Neots who has made quite a lot of them.

Village Initiative

Independently of the scrubs, as a village initiative, we have been



Paola delivering the latest batch of scrubs to organiser Gioconda



making masks for use in the community. Raj and Kanwal from our village shop have been wonderful in selling them on our behalf. So far we have banked over £900 for the users of the Cherry Tree Day Centre, part of Age UK, in Cambridge. These masks were made by the same group of women, mostly belonging to the WI.

Paola Moore

Join the Community Quilt Project

Do you like to sew, paint, weave, knit, crochet? However you like to create, we'd love to include your handicraft in this shared community project. Make a square, 20cmx20cm, with a theme of something that makes you happy, or that is helping you through the experience of the public health crisis. It can be the technique itself that gives you peace of mind, or it could be an activity you love. Perhaps you're sewing scrubs and would like to put a mini-set of scrubs on display? Whatever it is, say it in a square, and we'll join the quilt together (on a backing to allow for different textures and techniques) and display it once we can meet again.

Alice J alice3000@mail.ru



Help in the Lockdown

Oakington & Westwick Neighbours have been at the core of our community's response to the difficulties caused by Covid-19.

A rota of OWN volunteers have been responding to texts, phone calls and emails, and arranging help for those in isolation – mainly shopping and prescription deliveries, but also errands like posting a letter which are impossible if you can't get out. We are tremendously grateful to the 80+ volunteers who signed up to help and whose support and enthusiasm are such a testament to the community spirit in Oakington and Westwick.

The expanded OWN Covid-19 Response committee has been very busy over the past two months, meeting weekly on Skype to discuss arrangements, providing the maximum possible support for all the residents of Oakington and Westwick. Two information leaflets have been distributed to every household and weekly updates have been put online (OWN website, Oaky Folk Facebook page, parish council email list.) If you aren't online and would like to get these, please give us a call. (07902 111786 / 07375 945284)

We have been trying to make contact with anyone who might be particularly badly affected by the crisis. If you



Square from the Community Quilt



know someone who is struggling, please suggest they get in touch. We can offer practical support, help for those in financial hardship, or just a chat on the phone if that's what's needed.

OWN has worked with the parish council, which has funded the printing of both information leaflets and a second phone to use as a contact. Thank you to them, and a big thank you to Raj and Kanwal at the village shop, who have worked so hard and kept so many households going!

What volunteers say...

"I've enjoyed the thankys that I get from the recipients having delivered either a prescription or a home delivery, and it's been rewarding knowing I'm helping somebody in need of some help."

"I think it's clear to see that volunteers are more than willing to help which means that self isolating residents shouldn't feel bad or feel they are putting on people because as far as I can see there is never more than a few minutes before a volunteer responds, which is brilliant."

"Just to say that it has been a pleasure being involved with OWN during Covid-19."

OWN has also promoted the Food Bank, started a Hardship Fund, set up the Village Phone Tree and a Virtual Café – see pages 2–3 for more details.

Jo Bryant & Jenny Prince
ownneighbours@gmail.com

Cambridge Ten Sing

Ten Sing is an informal YMCA performing arts group, run for young people (aged 11–18), by young people, with singing, dance and drama. No audition – participation is more important than ability.



Like most groups, Ten Sing has had to put our usual activities on hold during the current situation. We have had a couple of virtual meet ups so we can check how everyone is doing, but our young people all appear to have been working very hard on schoolwork, even though it is online!

However, we want to try and put something together for people to watch! So after half term, from 4 June onwards, we are going to hold regular virtual sessions at 7pm on a Thursday. The sessions will probably be 20-30 minutes long, but we are going to try playing games, having reflections and attempting song practice. If anybody would like to join us to see what Ten Sing is all about, then please contact me.

Hopefully we will be returning to a "new normal" routine in September. Remember we now accept young people in the term they turn 11, so those who will be the new Year 6s are welcome to come and try us out. It should be an interesting year, with events such as the London Marathon due to take place in October, and we will be going into our 25th year of Cambridge Ten Sing!

Terry King, Ten Sing Administrator jking47@aol.com

Tuesday Talk & Tea

Plans for our future depend on how successful coming out of lockdown is – looking to maybe having a get together in July.



However, I think it is loneliness that has been more difficult to bear as this virus continues to cause havoc. Ever thought about recording your childhood memories, also those of your parents and grandparents and the facts that have been passed on to you, for a memory box for your own children and grandchildren?



I would like to encourage you to be more positive in the future – do you have to isolate yourself once this is all over – no – make a decision to change your life and visit the Monday morning cafe every week or Tuesday Talk & Tea second Tuesday of every month 2.45pm – both at St. Andrews Hall. A warm welcome awaits you, so come and make new friends. (Members will be contacted when Tuesday Talk & Tea recommences, but you can also ring OWN on 07902 111786 or 07375 945284 to find out.)

Take good care of yourselves.

Joan Pettit (chairperson)

Tennis – a fun, socially-distanced sport for all

Tennis is one of the few sports we can play at the moment because it lends itself well to social distancing (you are on one side of the net, your opponent on the other). For that reason, we were able to reopen the courts of Oakington and Westwick Tennis Club (situated at the recreation ground) on 13th May.



There are guidelines that need to be followed of course, the most notable being that you can only play singles unless you are playing with members of your own household, in which case doubles is allowed (full guidelines for safe play can be found on the LTA website at www.lta.org.uk) but the good news is you can now do something other than walk, run or cycle if you'd like to mix it up a bit!

Tennis has often been seen as the sport of the well-to-do, but with family memberships at OWTC costing just £65 a year or £45 for an individual, and entry-level adult and junior rackets available from as little as £9 online, there is no reason not to try your hand at this terrific, fun sport. If you would like to learn how to play like a pro, we can help you arrange some coaching (please note only 1-to-1 coaching is allowed at present) but you can also just find your own way and enjoy some exercise with family members or a friend.

OWTC is run by a team of volunteers who give their time to keep the club going. In normal times, we arrange social tennis, the occasional BBQ, Tennis and Pimm's evenings and an annual quiz. Membership fees are used to cover court maintenance, insurance and rent. If you would like to give tennis a try, and support your village club so that the courts remain here for the future, please do join us! Just email francispinner@aol.com for a membership form.

Frank Pinner

Philosopher's Café

*Meets third Thursday of the month,
7:30pm, at Crossways.*

Despite Crossways being closed for the foreseeable future due to Coronavirus the Philosopher's Café has continued on Zoom. On 16th April we had a lively debate on the topic of ego and consumerism – what is it that makes us buy things that we do not need and often cannot afford? The café is not about academic philosophy but about any issue of general human concern. The next meeting on the 21st May, again via Zoom, tackles the importance of listening, exploring the ways that would make us all much better listeners. The meetings last for 40 minutes and everyone is welcome to join. For instruction on how to join the online session please contact Adrienne Chaplin at Crossways on crossways.ca@gmail.com.

Adrienne Chaplin



Oakington Vikings

Club Contacts - Our Teams and Coaches

- Under 5s Matt 07990 900600
- Under 7s Jamie A 07764967460
- Under 9s Toby 07881496552
- Under 11s Marcus and Josh 07866635241
- Under 15s Ronnie and James 07714099017
- Adult team James and Toby 07834465188



FA Charter
Standard

We will start training again as soon as we are advised it is safe to do so by the FA and government.

James Wilson

Oakington & Westwick History Society

As we are all very aware, we are unable to meet safely at this testing time.. We will see how things go and start to plan the next season, probably in a different format in the coming days. ZOOM anyone?



VE day celebrations were very different. Many houses put out bunting and we heard of several 'social distanced' celebrations. Church View certainly did their bit. Steve Gamble has been researching our village. Please let us have any stories that you would like us to record for the archives. (archives@oakingtonhistory.co.uk). Hopefully, we will be free to celebrate VJ day in a proper Oakington style. It was amazing to see the old Pill Box in Station Road revealed, thanks to Nick Harrison, not just a reminder of the significance of our Airfield but also relevant to the present day when, once again, we face an uncertain future. My grandparents' neighbours had a state-of-the-art air raid shelter – what fun we had after its original significance had passed.

Julie Grove. C 233951

Oakington & Westwick WI

Whilst Oakington and Westwick WI meetings themselves are currently suspended, many members are keeping themselves busy behind the scenes. Read about our scrubs and mask sewing on page 11.



Staying in touch is important during these unprecedented times. Our Secretary Pauline Marsh has set up a weekly Zoom meeting for members to keep in touch. Likewise we send regular emails out to members to share news on how we are keeping ourselves busy. Many have turned to craft and we are sharing some of these ideas on the Facebook Oaky Folk page. If you are not aware, can I highly recommend you take a walk down Longstanton Road/The Drift. On the corner of The Drift your spirits are guaranteed to be lifted! Look for the incredible display of crocheted characters from a comprehensive selection of Nursery Rhymes. See if you can put a name to each one. Well done Pauline for bringing us such cheer!

*Helen Williams C 232614
helenwilliams5@outlook.com*



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CA thoughts and comments

Just as the previous Journal went to print, the UK went into lockdown and we have been in this state ever since. Consequently, all regular activities, including the Village Day, have had to be cancelled.

However, this did not stop the Philosopher's Café, that normally meets at Crossways, to continue meeting online. Perhaps other groups may consider doing it online too? I hope that village activities will soon take place as usual – separation or not – as we need the communing events more than ever to help us with keeping our spirits up!

There seems to be little doubt that the same spirit of humanity that saw this country through the war is now being manifested in large measure during this Covid-19 crisis. It is as if we need to be pushed out of our daily routine into something extraordinary before we start to realise our dependency on each other. This, in turn, seems to bring out – with most – what is the best in us; consideration, cooperation, patience, resilience, gentleness, concern – and above all, love for each other.

The demonstration of it has been made vivid to us all by various activities that are taking place throughout the village. The most notable are the selfless actions of the OWN volunteers, who deliver food and medicine to those who are vulnerable in our community and likely to suffer as a result of the lockdown. We have a Food Bank. Then there are actions by the teachers helping parents with home schooling, providing them with educational material.

There are also window displays – including the children's paintings of the rainbow and teddy bears sitting on the windowsills – welcoming those passing by, all symbols of our innate need to connect with each other.

We step out of our houses and together clap for the front line workers on Thursday evenings. Then there are a number of people who have got involved making scrubs, hats, bags or masks for the NHS and Care Homes.

During the hiatus, the CA Committee has been working on ways of improving its communication online, both email and website. If the requirement to maintain physical distancing continues, we are looking to conduct meetings online. We'll keep you informed.

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



Humpty Dumpty's Wall

On Friday 20 March Humpty Dumpty closed its doors when the lockdown restrictions came into effect, well over eight weeks ago. Having a child at home who usually attends pre-school, I know that he is missing it very much and the staff are also missing caring for the children who attend. Following the government's latest announcement about childcare settings opening from 1 June, we are now looking at what re-opening the pre-school may look like and when it may be viable for this to take place, with communications going out to parents via email and updates on our Facebook page.

We very much hope to welcome the pre-school children through our doors again soon, in a safe and happy environment. In the meantime you may like some ideas for activities to do at home:

Playdough recipe

*8 tbsp plain flour
2 tbsp table salt
60 ml warm water
1tbsp vegetable oil
Food colouring (optional)*

- 1 Mix the flour and salt in a large bowl. In a separate bowl mix the water, oil and food colouring if you are using it.
- 2 Pour the liquid mix into the flour mix and bring together with a spoon.
- 3 Dust your worktop with flour and knead the dough for a few minutes until smooth.
- 4 Store in a plastic bag to prevent your playdough drying out.

The website Twinkl has lots of ideas and resources for activities to do with pre-school-aged children and currently registration is free. You can access the site here: www.twinkl.co.uk

Sarah Stokes



Oakington Primary School

At Oakington C of E Primary School, we have had to adapt somewhat to the current crisis. Our fantastic staff have worked incredibly hard to provide remote learning through online resources.

We are still open to vulnerable children and those of keyworkers, and are enjoying doing a lot of outdoor learning and extra-curricular activities. We've toasted marshmallows on our fire-pit, made and cooked pizzas in our pizza oven, and created large chalk mosaics on the patio, amongst other things.

We are all very proud of how our children have responded to these changes, and are impressed with the work they are completing at home, as well as the pictures of the fun they are having. We're now working hard on our preparations to welcome more children back.

Nathan Clark, Head Teacher



Holiday Club Coming to Oakington

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Climate Change

The pandemic is giving us all a horrific time, but even so there is a tiny silver lining. With aircraft numbers down by 90% and with road traffic showing a similar reduction, the planet has seen a great improvement in air quality. Ironically, the virus that gets us in the lungs is giving asthma sufferers a break. Paris, for instance, is seeing nearly 50% reduction in air pollution; and the air over Delhi, usually reminiscent of London smog in the 50s, is so clear that locals can see the Himalayan range from there. All this is because fossil fuel burning has been drastically reduced, bringing about a massive drop in demand for oil.

In our February Climate Change Workshop leaflet, we suggested the way forward is with alternative energy sources and that fossil fuels should stay in the ground. We did not expect such a rapid response! The last two months has seen a two billion tonne reduction in carbon dioxide in our atmosphere. But there is no scope for celebration: we need a gradual move away from fossil fuels to alternatives.

But the virus has proved one thing. It is that we, as a community, be it a planet community or a local community, can change and we can work together; people, businesses and Governments. Not as well as we would have liked perhaps, but we are gradually moving to overcome this horror show. And just as we have done it with the Covid-19 virus, we can also do it with Climate Change. The time scales may not be quite as immediate as the battle against the virus, but it is our next challenge. And as the pandemic has proved; those who start early and are organised and determined, can succeed more easily. Returning to business as usual will not do.

A not so humble bee. We saw evidence of climate change in our garden on 25 March and again on 10 May. We spotted a solitary bumble bee, one inch long called the Carpenter Bee (*Abeja carpintera*) on mahonia flowers. This not so humble bee is too big to get into most flowers so it cuts its way into the back of petals to get pollen, hence the name Carpenter Bee. It is a recent immigrant from the European mainland. As Charles Darwin pointed out, it's not so much intelligence that counts in a changing world but adaptability. Let's hope we can follow the example of the Carpenter bee in these challenging times.



We are still keen to continue work on climate change mitigation in the village. We believe a new group should be formed, separate from the Environment Action Group, and we are keen to hear from you if you are interested in being involved. Please contact johnterry23@hotmail.co.uk

'Mother Nature has put us on the naughty step'

This quote from a teacher in Australia who used to live in Impington, does not seek to belittle the horrors of the Covid-19 virus, but does remind us of how our lifestyle before the pandemic was damaging nature.

Of course, we started to keep nature at bay thousands of years ago when our ancestors started to cut down trees and cultivate land for food. The difference in the 21st century is the rate of destruction. But currently there are reports from all over the planet of nature having a break from man's damaging ways.

Fish and jelly fish have returned to the canals of Venice, and

the shores of Thailand, usually teeming with tourists, are full of a wide range of marine life. Wild boar have been seen in the empty streets of Barcelona, coyotes in San Francisco and goats have wandered down from the hills into Llandudno.

Because of lack of road traffic, seismologists have been able to listen to the movements of the Earth's tectonic plates more easily. Lots of people in the UK have reported that they have heard more bird song this year. It is also hoped that road kill numbers will be way down on the tens of thousands each of hedgehogs, deer, badgers and foxes per year in the UK. There's been suggestions from scientists that we should be reconsidering our interaction with wildlife, to reduce spread of disease in both directions by putting buffers between us and special wildlife habitats.



This very nasty virus has given us a break from our old ways and a chance to reassess the way we live. It's been good to see local people walking in our countryside and lovely to see cheery waving (from a distance) and young lambs skipping about on pasture.

The moorhen nesting in the village pond may be a sign of hope for the future.

John Terry

From the Garden Society

Much emphasis has been placed on the current situation of lockdown and uncertainty increasing mental health issues. We are told that if you are in the fortunate position of having a garden and being able to get outside you are in a privileged position. Gardening is a real boost to morale, mental and physical wellbeing. This is not a new concept. We were brought up in Pepys Way, Girton, before the war. Grandad, Dad and Uncle Percy had a building firm and built a fair section of Girton. Uncle Frank and family lived opposite; when he and Aunt Mary passed away, their daughter Margaret, who lived and worked in London, kept the house on as a weekend retreat. Margaret was a brilliant academic. In the 1960s she had been working on a modern education system with John Downey (don't ask me who he was!). The upshot is it drove her to a nervous breakdown. The Consultant Psychiatrist who was treating her at a London clinic told her the best cure was to commune with nature and garden. She retreated to Pepys Way and set about redesigning her parents' garden with some vigour. On finishing the back garden she moved around to the front garden. One morning the postman rang our bell and said, "You need to go over to Miss Skinner's urgently." Cousin Margaret was busy weeding along the front of the road boundary – stark naked! She did recover and returned to work.

Last week I was having a complete meltdown because my garden was at an impasse and I had no means of obtaining any compost or any garden stuff. I emailed Philip at the Garden Centre with an order. My gloom was lifted when I went into the front garden the next day and there on the drive were, at first glance, three stunning Heucheras. Closer inspection revealed my full order. We are so lucky to have Philip and Melanie Sadler and family here in our village. Could I ask all gardeners if, when you go out to clap next Thursday, you can clap for *OAKINGTON GARDEN CENTRE*.

Julie Grove

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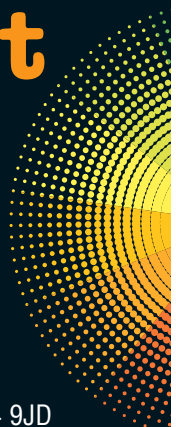
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Cambridge Academy of English 1975 - 2020

On 15th April 2020 the Cambridge Academy of English (CAE) celebrated its 45th birthday. It was an unusual birthday as the school was completely empty. The coronavirus crisis meant that CAE, along with all other schools in the UK, had been forced to close. The wonderful CAE staff had been teaching students online for a few weeks until the students could all be repatriated and flown home. Our amazing homestay hosts had gone the extra mile, as they always have done, to ensure that all our remaining students were cared for and well looked after until transport arrangements had been sorted out.

How different this year's birthday celebrations were compared with those of previous years. For the last twenty years, April had always been the 'Thai Month' at CAE. The annual Thai group was a highlight of the year and there was always a special treat for the homestay hosts of Girton and Oakington, when the Thai group leaders hosted all-comers for an evening of delicious Thai food, dancing and even a demonstration of Thai boxing (we always had a first aid kit at the ready just in case of mishaps!). Along with the Thais, there were usually about 20 different nationalities at CAE at any one time during the year. We actually had over 100 different nationalities at CAE over the years.

The imposing building on the corner has seen different owners in the last 200 years and it was in 1975 that the pioneering and indefatigable founder principal, Mrs Adams, and a group of Japanese students, started the CAE story. The Kamiya family in Japan, owners of two private adult colleges in Japan, had bought the school from Littleton House and set up a base for students of their Faculty for British and American Studies to come over to the UK for English courses lasting 4 weeks to one year. The school soon became an international one as Mrs Adams encouraged other nationalities to come and study at CAE.

Buses

If paying by cash, drivers are currently unable to give change. Pay with an exact fare or use contactless. Any leftover change, where customers have paid more than the exact fare, will be donated to a local foundation.

All bus services are currently running to a reduced timetable. An hourly Citi 5 service picks up at Oakington Crossroads. The Citi 6 route through the village only runs for a few morning journeys Mon-Fri.



In 1988, the inspirational and visionary Arnout de Waal took over at the helm and added further courses, such as English for Law and summer courses for young learners. Arnout soon realised that to expand further other sites outside Girton would be needed and, after a few years, he started a summer residential course at Moreton Hall School in Bury St. Edmunds. Three other summer courses followed at boarding schools near Hitchin, Lavenham and Thetford. Each July over 300 CAE youngsters spent their summer somewhere in the beautiful English countryside. Just imagine Girton (and

Oakington) having to cope with that lot each year!

I took over as principal of the school in 2002 and thought I had got through everything: mad cow disease, SARS, swine flu, Icelandic ash clouds, even Brexit! All had a huge impact on the school, but nothing like the current crisis, which sadly means that CAE will not be celebrating its 46th birthday next year. The school building has now been sold to another educational establishment and I hope the new owners will enjoy many happy birthdays of their own in their new home.

CAE could not have existed without the support of the local residents and we will always be grateful to Oakington for welcoming our students and for hosting them over many years. Our students often refer to CAE as their second home and to their homestay hosts as their second family. Although it was a very sad day when CAE closed on 30 April 2020, we were heartened by an email we received that very same day. It was from a former student who had studied at the school over 10 years ago. In lockdown, and with time on his hands, he wrote to inform us that he was thinking of CAE and how grateful he was to the school. While he was studying English at CAE, he met and fell in love with another student from another part of the world and from another very different culture. He went on to say that their love had overcome geographical, cultural and economic hurdles. They had married and were raising a family together.

Arnout used to say that nothing brought the world together more than learning languages, sport and music. I would add something else: love.



John Barnett



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Scavenger Hunt

Get out and about around the village as a family or on your own. Use your mobile to see how many of the following you can find and take pictures of:

- * A blue Flower
- * A cat of any colour
- * A picture of a wren
- * A public rubbish bin
- * A dock leaf
- * A white bird
- * A birch tree
- * Solar panels
- * A bridge
- * A bird feeder

Alice J

Garden Cuttings



The sun is out and the days are long, giving a real boost to all the flowers and vegetables growing in the garden.

Keep on top of deadheading (unless you want the plant to form seeds or hips), and give an occasional feed with an appropriate fertiliser to encourage a second flush of blooms.

Tie in runner and French beans, and keep sowing quick growing salad crops.

Keep feeding and watering tomatoes, and 'pinch out' side shoots on cordon (non bush) plants as this will concentrate the plant's energy into producing tomatoes, which will be extra tasty if watering is slightly reduced a couple of days before picking.

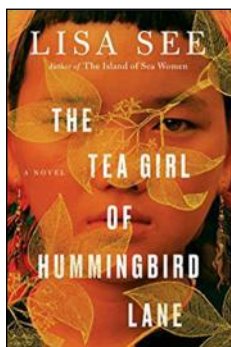
If planting out during warmer weather, try to pick an overcast day, water the pot well and dig a hole wide enough for the roots to spread out happily – water the hole very well before you put the plant in. Once planted, draw some soil around the roots and water again and then fill to required soil level with dry soil. What this will do is encourage the roots to go downwards to look for water, and the dry top soil will reduce evaporation and also deter slugs looking for a tasty meal.

Enjoy the lovely plants and summer sun and better days to come.

Jan Zelnick

Book Corner

'The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane' by Lisa See



A fascinating novel which is set between a traditional village in rural China and California, USA.

Through the lives and loves of Li-Yan and her family, the author explores the economy of tea in modern China and confronts the reality of East-West adoption during the period of China's 'one-child' policy.



A riveting and informative read.

Jane Goodyer



ANZAC Biscuits

An authentic recipe from New Zealand

125g flour (I use wholemeal spelt)
75g sugar, light brown or white

100g desiccated coconut
125g rolled oats
100g butter
1 tablespoon golden syrup
½ tsp bicarbonate of soda
2 tablespoons boiling water
(a handful of dried cranberries)



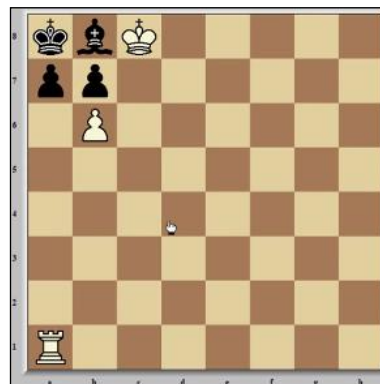
Mix together flour, sugar, coconut and oats. Melt butter and golden syrup, dissolve the bicarbonate of soda in the boiling water and add to the butter mix. Make a well in the centre of the flour mix and stir in the liquid mixture (and optional cranberries).

Place spoonfuls on greased trays, flatten slightly with a fork: it might help to roll the spoonful into a ball.

Bake 15 to 20 minutes at 180°C.

Jillian Wilkinson

Chess Club



Here is another famous chess problem, either to delight you or to frustrate you during the lockdown.

White to move and check mate in two moves!

Chess problem J1/20

Ranko Pinter

Board Games Chest

Although it's not a very summery theme, "Hey, that's my Fish" is a family friendly (ages 8 and over) strategy game for 2-4 people. It's easy to learn and one round takes about 20 minutes.



The board consists of 60 ice floe tiles with a number of fish on it. Each player moves their penguins around the board, collecting fish before others take them. But be careful you don't get stuck on a small ice floe with nowhere left to move! This may sound easy, but you never know what your opponent has planned for you.

The best part: you can even play it online with your friends and family on www.yucata.de. Alternatively, you'll also find interesting games on www.boardgamearena.com/ for an online board games night!

Lotte van Beek and Vincent Udo

Following on from the last journal, the Lancaster photo has generated responses from three villagers who had relatives who were stationed at RAF Oakington during the war. We hope to collate the information into an article for a future journal.



Pillbox

As many of you will have seen, a banner was produced ready for the VE75 weekend. It was a last-minute idea and as such we would like to thank Chameleon Studios Screen & Graphics, PS Dean Roofing and Edgar Stearn for making it happen.

Obstruction Light

Last year we were approached by the church, who explained that they still had the obstruction light in the church tower, and suggested that it could be lit up during the VE75 service

that was to be held. Edgar Stearn took on the restoration of the light but unfortunately it could not be installed back in the church and was displayed in the High Street.



VE75 Celebrations

Everyday events will become history in time. The Village Archives are growing in material of both the present and the past. Recording what life is like today, coping with the current restrictions is just as important as those images of people that have gone before us.

Thank you to everyone who has sent in photos of VE75 celebrations – we would love more, to hold in the archives for future generations. This could be photos of buildings, people, displays. All will be a pictorial record of the celebrations in our village.

Please send to
archives@oakingtonhistory.co.uk.
Sarah & Nick Harrison

RAF Oakington Film

Tod Nicol, film producer and historian who lives in Oakington, has produced a short film on the history of RAF Oakington, a VE-Day 75th Anniversary tribute to the men and women who served there. It uses footage recorded before the station was demolished, archive film (by permission of the Imperial War Museum), an interview with a 101 Squadron Pilot and photos courtesy of 7, 218 and 218 Squadron Association's archive as well as the Oakington Village Archive.

The film is not a commercial venture, but is available to anybody interested in the history of RAF Oakington on this special anniversary to view via the following link on Tod's Outposts of Empire website: outposts-of-empire.co.uk/ve-day-75/4594941005



QUIZ – Spot the Location – and what's the event?



The 1834 Enclosures Act

The 1834 Enclosures Act was broadly a means of primarily identifying ownership of land but also the usage of the land and rights of way and common. For every Parish two copies of the Enclosures Act were produced. One a County copy and the second a Parish copy, ours for instance was to be kept in the Parish Church. Recently we have finished transcribing the 1834 enclosures Act. This is a project that we have been working on (on and off) for the past ten years and have borrowed the Act from the Parish Council who are the current custodians. We are fortunate that the Oakington Parish copy still exists and is currently in the custody of our Parish Council.

There are a number of street names or public areas that have been lost or had their names changed. In the image of the Cross Roads here you can see there was an area called Ale House Green (which is adjacent to the site of the original White Horse) either side of Longstanton Road. It extended as far west as the bridge on Dry Drayton Road called Gimblets Bridge and to the east to nearly as far as another bridge on Water Lane called Collins Bridge – now a culvert.

The Adeane family owned several enclosures in Oakington and Westwick. One of them, Henry James Adeane, was educated at Trinity College Cambridge, and was MP for Cambridgeshire between 1830 and 1832. His great grandson was Michael Edward Adeane (Baron), educated at Magdalene College Cambridge and Private Secretary to the Queen 1953 to 1972. His son, George Edward Adeane, was Private Secretary to the Prince of Wales from 1979 to 1985.

Answer to quiz in last Journal: Water Lane, near Kettles Close

The old post office is on the left, and the Baptist chapel and church tower are discernable in both photos.



The 1834 Enclosures Awards and Map can be found on www.oakingtonhistory.co.uk.

Sarah & Nick Harrison

Oakington & Westwick Neighbourhood Watch



The Community Police have advised us to be careful about home deliveries, or unsolicited offers of help, from people we do not know. OWN is offering a safe and reliable way to have shopping collected from the village shop, and delivered to the doorstep, and also prescriptions from the various surgeries and pharmacies around us.

For people living alone, who might need help but are unable to open their front door, it is suggested that a key is left with a trusted neighbour, and a discreet little sign on the door directing emergency services to that address. Or there are key safes which can be opened by the trusted neighbour using the code they share.

A key safe is fixed to an outdoor wall. Prices vary; the more expensive key safes are stronger and heavier.

If you decide to use a key with neighbour or a key safe, remember not to leave the key in the lock on the inside of the door – a key cannot be inserted outside if there is already a key in the lock!

Let us all look out for our neighbours, even after this present crisis has abated.



Jillian Wilkinson

Co-ordinator C 233 585, oakwestnhw@gmail.com

Local VE Celebrations

