

Oakington & Westwick

June / July 2024

Journal



**Parkrun fun
Jigsaw Winners
Follow the giraffe
Tales of the Riverbank
Where is Whitehall Drive?
Oakington's D-Day Memorial**

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		Happy Feet , 10–11am term time. Church Hall. For under fives. Ben Phillips – familyworker@standrewsoakington.co.uk
Tue		Senior Pilates , 11.30–12.30pm. Pavilion. Classes through out the week. Contact: Claire Young – 07766 554413
Tue		Cubs , 6–7.15pm term time, Pavilion. Iain Ramsay – iain.ramsay@oakingtonscouts.org.uk
Tue		Table Tennis , 7.30–9pm. Pavilion. Gillian L'Angellier – 01223 234758
Tue		Poker Night , 7.45pm. White Horse Pub. 01223 232417
Wed		Mixed Ability Pilates , 10–11am. Pavilion. Classes throughout the week. Contact: Claire Young – 07766 554413
Wed		Yoga , 7–8.15pm. Pavilion. Denise Sibley-Moore – 01954 202235
Thu		Mature Movers , 9.30–10.15am. Pavilion. Katie Harknett – 07541 721059 / info@elementalfitness.co.uk
Thu		Little Steps , 10–11.30am term time. Church Hall. Ben Phillips – familyworker@standrewsoakington.co.uk
Thu		Ten Sing , 7–9pm term time. Histon Baptist Church. Terry King – cambridgetensing@gmail.com
Thu		Short Mat Bowls , 7.30–9.30pm. Pavilion. Dawn Stokes – 01223 236427
Thu		Quiz Night , 8pm. White Horse Pub. 01223 232417
Fri		Beavers , 6–7pm. term time. Oakington Primary School. beavers@oakingtonscouts.org.uk
Fri		Scouts , 6–8pm. Pavilion. Cara Hanman – cara.hanman@oakingtonscouts.org.uk
Sat	1 Jun	Village Walk & Talk , 10.30am. Meet by Church on High Street. Alice – OWNeighbours@gmail.com
Sun	2 Jun	The Big Lunch , 12.30 – 2.30pm. The Recreation Ground & Pavilion. OWNeighbours@gmail.com
Tue	4 Jun	Dry Drayton Road Closed all day for resurfacing, see notice board at traffic lights
Fri	7 Jun	Minibus to Bar Hill , 10am. To book ring Teri Seaber – 07711 531004
Fri	7 Jun	Mobile Library , 1.50–2.20pm. Coles Lane.
Fri	7 Jun	Country Dancing , 8–10pm. Histon Methodist Church. Kathryn Coles – 01223 233191
Mon	10 Jun	O&W Parish Council , 7.30pm. Pavilion. All invited. clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk
Tue	11 Jun	Tuesday Talk & Tea , 2.45pm. Church Hall. Games Afternoon. Marian Cleaver – 01223 232897
Thu	13 Jun	Chess Club , 7pm. Crossways. Ranko Pinter – ranpin@gmail.com
Thu	13 Jun	O&W WI , 7.30pm. Church Hall. “Crowbar to Crocosmia”. Elaine Bailey – elainebailey1@live.co.uk
Wed	19 Jun	Book Club , 7.30pm. White Horse Pub. Gerry Cavander – gedcavander@hotmail.com
Thu	20 Jun	Philosopher's Café , 7pm. Crossways. Ranko Pinter – ranpin@gmail.com
Fri	21 Jun	Summer Fete , 3.30–5.30pm. Oakington Primary School
Sat	22 Jun	Pollination Festival , 9am–4pm. Oakington Garden Centre
Wed	26 Jun	Sustainable O&W , 7.30pm. Church Hall. “Composting for sustainability”. sustainableow@gmail.com
Sat	29 Jun	Village Day , 12.30–9pm. Recreation Ground.
Sun	30 Jun	Bingo Night , 6pm. White Horse Pub. 01223 232417
Fri	5 Jul	Minibus to Bar Hill , 10am. To book ring Teri Seaber – 07711 531004
Fri	5 Jul	Mobile Library , 1.50–2.20pm. Coles Lane.
Fri	5 Jul	Community Pub Night , 7.30pm. White Horse Pub. Jo Mills – bjomills@outlook.com
Sat	6 Jul	Village Walk & Talk , 10.30am. Meet by Church on High Street. Alice – OWNeighbours@gmail.com
Mon	8 Jul	O&W Parish Council , 7.30pm. Pavilion. All invited. clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk
Tue	9 Jul	Tuesday Talk & Tea , 2.45pm. Church Hall. Annual Strawberry Tea. Marian Cleaver – 01223 232897
Thu	11 Jul	Chess Club , 7pm. Crossways. Ranko Pinter – ranpin@gmail.com
Thu	11 Jul	O&W WI , 7.30pm. Church Hall. “Saving our hedgehogs”. Elaine Bailey – elainebailey1@live.co.uk
Thu	18 Jul	Philosopher's Café , 7pm. Crossways. Ranko Pinter – ranpin@gmail.com
Fri	19 Jul	Soirée , evening event on the Vicarage Lawns, all welcome.
Fri	26 Jul	Country Dancing , 8–10pm. Histon Methodist Church. Kathryn Coles – 01223 233191
Sun	28 Jul	Bingo Night , 6pm. White Horse Pub. 01223 232417
Wed	31 Jul	Sustainable O&W , 7.30pm. Church Hall. sustainableow@gmail.com

Cover Photo – aurora borealis viewed from Days Meadow by Julie Russell

As summer comes it's lovely to get out and about, and there's lots going on in the Oakington & Westwick calendar, with Village Day the biggest occasion of the year. Fitting then, perhaps, that 10–16 June is designated "Loneliness Awareness Week". So if you're going out to one of the community events, why not invite a neighbour to come with you. Someone who might like to go, but be uncomfortable about turning out on their own.

Thank you to everyone working hard to plan Village Day. They will find that the recounts on page 23 of preparations

for the village fetes of eighty years ago sound rather familiar! One thing certainly hasn't changed and that's the sense of community created by participating and helping at these events.

Who knows, our sense of community may also be enhanced by enduring together a summer of roadworks! Provisional details are on page 7.

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*), (*advertising / advert layout – vacancies – could you help?*)

Send contributions to
oakwestjournal@gmail.com

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

**DEADLINE FOR
AUGUST/SEPTEMBER ISSUE:
Tuesday 16 July**

To advertise in the Journal,
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* Six for the price of four

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be received by **9 July**.

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

Water Vole Watching

My 5am walk with the dog during the darkness of winter and early spring was my daily slice of Hygge; peace and quiet, just us and the badgers, foxes, hedgehogs and owls. I thought it couldn't get much better, considering we are close to a city, until one morning in March. It was just getting light when I heard a 'plop' in the brook and briefly saw a small mammal whizz across the water to the bank on the other side and then disappear. All within about five seconds. I knew straight away it was a water vole! For a nature-nut like me this was thrilling! I could hardly believe it – in our brook, in Oakington? Surely not.

The next day I saw the same thing! And the next! My dog walk slightly altered at this point. My brisk walking along the brook turned to a crawl, bins poised on short focus. Over the next month or so I found them in six different locations, and if I was quiet enough I could watch them for a good ten minutes just sat on the bank. They leave smooth bottom prints in the mud!

If you should walk along the brook, try to be as quiet as possible, and as well as their perches on the bank edges, look for the holes in the bankside grasses. I have watched them come out of their burrows quite frequently. Bear in mind that once they've been startled, they do tend to just disappear and hide for a while, so you may be rewarded if you just wait silently and patiently.



Water voles are classed as endangered in England due to loss of habitat, water pollution and predation by the invasive American mink, as James Heywood explained in the previous Journal. These factors are concerning; we have dredged the brook for flood mitigation (although I understand this has been carefully managed around them in the past), the brook lies beside arable farmland, and mink are very quickly encroaching our waterways. We, therefore, are incredibly lucky to have water voles here!

Knowing where they are, coupled with increasing light levels early in the morning, I was eventually able to get some photographs, two months in the waiting! They are so beautiful and 'cute'. They are protected by law, so as a village this is a community responsibility by maintaining minimal disturbance to the brook and keeping it as clean as possible. As for the mink, if anyone sees one, they must be reported to the Waterlife Recovery Trust.

Let's take care of 'our' population! Happy vole-watching!

Kate Spink



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Vice-Chair: Tony Starling

John Bailey Julie Grove
Stephen Moore 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.warrengreen@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

South Cambridgeshire

Anthony Browne – 01223 603677

anthony.browne.mp@parliament.uk

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 Ben on 07342 945373 or

Jo on 07714 760582 or

oak.west.hardship.fund@outlook.com

From our Parish Council Chair

Antisocial behaviour (now classified as Dangerous Driving, a criminal offence) has become prevalent in the Parish. Motorbikes of varying sizes and power have been tearing up and down the unadopted roads leading into Northstowe, performing ‘donuts’ on local roundabouts and keeping residents awake until the small hours. Police patrols have helped to reduce the problem. It is noticeably quieter, but you are all asked to report every time you are inconvenienced by this lunacy (next day will do); hopefully no-one will be injured or killed before it is stopped. Please report, report, report!

www.cambs.police.uk/ro/report/asb/asb-v3/report-antisocial-behaviour

On a lighter note (no pun intended!) it’s great to see the **conifers cleared along Dry Drayton Road**. Their replacement, deciduous mixed hedging, which should have been planted there in the first place, will ensure a more attractive approach to the village and of course an abundance of wildlife will hurtle from all quarters to take up residence.

More good news! The grant for a **new 3G surface** on the Rec artificial pitch has been awarded and LED lighting has already been installed for night time use of the facility. Thanks to all those who gave up their time for this achievement in what has been at times a very frustrating process. Work will hopefully begin in late May.

Meanwhile the Parish Council is actively pursuing **grants for solar panels**, infrared heating and conversion of all lighting to LED in the Pavilion. The savings in energy bills will be huge, and we’ll be contributing to reductions in carbon emissions. More news of these efforts as funding streams ask for new bids. We just missed being successful in a recent grant application, but are undeterred!

The future of **speed limits** and speed reducing measures continues in negotiations with Highways, and Girton and Oakington Parish Councils. A way forward is beginning to become clearer.

Despite everyone’s best efforts, Stagecoach has declined to reinstate the **evening bus service** to and from Cambridge. Insufficient passengers using the route is the reason given. Can I ask you to contact the Parish Council if you would have used the Citi6 bus in the evenings – there is no evidence at the moment to show that it could be a viable route.

Most of the roads in Oakington and Westwick will be disrupted during the summer and autumn for gas mains replacement. More details on page 7 and on social media.

The effects of Covid-19 are being felt, still, in a subtle way. Generally, in all walks of life, there has been a marked reduction in the amount of voluntary activity. Many times recently I’ve heard the same comment: ‘If only we had more volunteers to help us!’ The Parish Council has had two vacancies for long while. Please make contact with the PC if you can help or come along to any PC meeting to find out what goes on first. The ‘Parish’ is an administrative level of local Government and has to maintain political neutrality in all its work. It also has no affiliation with any religious group. One meeting a month, and a say in how the interests of Oakington and Westwick are looked after. No previous experience necessary!

David Reeves



BIN DAYS

Fri 7 Jun, Fri 21 Jun, Fri 5 Jul, Fri 19 Jul **Black bins**

Fri 14 Jun, Fri 28 Jun, Fri 12 Jul, Fri 26 Jul **Blue & Green bins**

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Contact email :
pippa_westoby@yahoo.co.uk



From our County Councillor

The County Council has completed its third year as a Joint Administration, which has seen a successful partnering of Liberal Democrats, Independent and Labour Groups. We are now the largest political group; the composition is (vs 2021): Liberal Democrats 23 (20), Conservatives 22 (28), Labour 10 (9), Independents 3 (4) and Non-aligned 3 (0).

The County Council is the statutory Local Authority for Highways, Social Care, Education, Waste and Recycling, Libraries and Leisure, Registration services (births, deaths, marriages), and Public Health. It also convenes citizenship ceremonies.

Highways is the service perhaps most in the public eye as we all encounter it every day: the network consists of some 2,600 miles of roads and over 1,800 miles of rights of way. The well-known 'managed decline' of the Highway Network over many years has left it in very poor condition and the service in a state of fire-fighting. Government provides 33 times more funding to the national highway network than it does to Local Authorities for their highway networks. Workforce is challenging too with a thin officer corps covering a massive brief; our Local Highways Officer covers 21 villages, for example. Huge efforts are underway to introduce gullies cyclical clearing maintenance where none existed, and no log of gullies had been recorded! This has assisted with the reduction of flooding hotspots.

Budget 2024–25

The budget seeks to bridge a potential funding gap for the coming year of £23m in County Council funding for 2024/25 as a result of inflation and other factors. This has

now been closed to c.£2m. Included in the proposals for the coming year are for the council to:

- Invest £57 million to sustain children's and adult social care services.
- Further the Council's commitment to the Real Living Wage, which has increased to £12ph outside London, to take account of the Government uplift of the legally enforceable Living Wage, being paid by adult care providers.
- Prioritise £3m to continue to provide holiday food vouchers for all children eligible for free school meals, despite the government support being likely to end in the next financial year.
- Invest £2.2m to deliver other anti-poverty initiatives – such as support to make sure that vulnerable people are claiming all the welfare benefits that they are entitled to.
- Put £1.3m into delivering more accessible libraries to support vulnerable communities.
- Prioritise investment of £23m into making highways, footpaths, and cycleways safer – on top of a recently announced government allocation of £2.3m. This will be to deliver improvements which both repair and prevent potholes, deliver improved drainage schemes, and reinstate cycleway maintenance and weed clearance. The biggest highways maintenance investment in a decade.
- Put additional funding into schemes for people experiencing mental health issues to prevent them reaching crisis, particularly focussing on younger people.



Cllr Firouz Thompson

Contact details for all Councillors are on page 5.

Highways Street Works June–Sept

Water Lane Junction: Temporary Lights, 3–12 June. Refurbishment and upgrade of traffic signals.
<https://one.network/?GB137875049>

Dry Drayton Road: Road Closure, 4 June. Surface dressing programme following patching works in March.
<https://one.network/?tmi=GB28774026>

Longstanton Road: Possible Closure, 10–13 June. Excavate in footway, carriageway and verge: Cambridge Water are currently replacing the old lead supply pipes and replacing with the modern MDPE (plastic) pipes.

Oakington Gas Mains replacement: 17 June–6 September
<https://one.network/?tmi=GB30962487>

The Health & Safety Executive (HSE) have asked for gas works to be carried out asap, as the old cast iron main keeps failing. They are replacing the mains and services with Polyethylene pipe (PE), which will allow for more sustainable greener gases to be used in the future.

This will cause some disruption for the village. Cadent have sent plans and **rough timings** (weather dependent) for these works. They are one team moving round the village.

Road Closures: **Station Road** 17–28 June, **Mill Road** 24 June–5 July, **Westwick Terrace** 26 Aug–6 Sept.

Temporary Traffic Lights (lights manned at peak times):
Water Lane 24 June–23 Aug. Road closure from Junction Queens Way to Junction Meadow Farm, 1–12 July.

Temporary Traffic Lights: **Queens Way** 8–19 July, **Longstanton Road** and **Cambridge Road** 5–23 Aug (lights will be manned at peak times, manual control 08:00–19:00).

All road closures and temporary traffic lights will be 24/7 as they are in place due to the location of the existing gas main and the excavations will be open for several days.

Customer Contact telephone number for any issues:
0800 151 2404

Letters will be sent out in advance of the works. Physical communications will be posted through customers' doors and displayed on each street on the permit board signs.

Buses – it has been agreed that no-parking cones will be placed at the junction of Meadow Farm Close where we are planning on turning the buses round with a Banksman to ensure it is clear for the buses to make this manoeuvre. Stagecoach will be updating their website and Twitter.

Oakington Village Day Sat 29 June: the team have confirmed there are no works on that day and will make sure they do not affect this event in Queensway.

Cllr Firouz Thompson



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Community Association: Village Day



As the song goes "June is bustin' out all over!"

And nowhere else will it be bustin' more than on **Saturday 29 June** at our very own Oakington Village Day!

After a few initial hiccups, when it wasn't certain if we'd be going ahead this year, thanks to the collective efforts of the Planning Team we have a full programme.

Afternoon highlights include free Scottish Dancing for everyone, free Circus Workshops for all ages, a stilt walker, shoulder massage slots and of course the Bouncy Castle, Helter Skelter and Bungee Trampoline. We have our very own choir and band, too. Plate smashing is always extremely popular and this year I've been saving my own odds and ends of crockery for the day. It'll be good to see others break my plates instead of ME for a change! Then there is the food! And drink! And lots of other fun activities!

We have **THREE** live bands lined up for the evening, and with the bar in full swing it promises to be a very good programme of entertainment.



A big thank you to STG Mortgage Solutions who is sponsoring the marketing of the event and to all those providing Raffle Prizes.

As always, we rely on volunteers on the Day to help run things. It can involve as little as 30 minutes of your time, manning the entrance gate, marshalling the cars, helping put up gazebos etc. Oh, and we require volunteers to sell Programmes and Raffle tickets door-to-door ahead of the Day. There are many other tasks and we appreciate anything you may be prepared to do. As a certain Supermarket says, "Every little helps."

Please get in touch on oakington.westwick.ca@gmail.com. Or contact Irène, 07753 288 955, to help with presales, and Brian, 07722 931 470 (before 9pm) for Day volunteers.

Looking forward to seeing you all there!

Brian Esson, Planning Team Chair

Replacement Trees in the Recreation Ground Orchard



Since the original plantings in 2012–14 a number of trees in the Recreation Ground orchard have died or become diseased. As a consequence over the past few years we have been working towards refilling the gaps. In 2019 Laura and Ian Laurence kindly planted two new Chivers Delight Apples in memory of Laura's grandmother Win Coe, who worked at Chivers in Histon all her life. And in 2023 they planted two more apples, Perfection and Histon Favourite, in memory of Laura's aunt Joan Coe, who did not want to have a funeral.

Six more trees have been planted this year using an award granted by the International Tree Foundation, following a

joint application from the Parish Council and the Oakington Community Orchards Project (OCOP) Team. The trees were bought from the East of England Apples & Orchards Project, who provided the trees for the original planting and specialise in promoting heritage varieties from our region. They selected varieties to complement the existing trees in the orchard. The Parish Council kindly paid for 1 tonne of new top soil, so that all the new trees could be planted in fresh, uncontaminated soil to prevent disease being transmitted from the trees they were replacing.



The OCOP team spends an hour or two at the end every month, maintaining the Community orchards. If you would like to join them and learn a few new "transferable" skills, get in touch by phoning Graham on 01223 233208.

Graham Tregonning

Fireworks on Bonfire Night?

Would we like to have Fireworks at this year's Bonfire Night? Yes? Then we require one (or two) people to come forward **ASAP** to register for a weekend Training Course (probably early September) where you'll learn everything from Firework Types to Display Design to Risk Assessment. The course fee will be paid by the Community Association. *Without a trained person, we are unable to put on a Fireworks display this year.*



Huge thanks to Ben Philips who has carried this responsibility for many years and treated us to fabulous shows.

For more information, please email oakington.westwick.ca@gmail.com.

Thank you

Sharon, Melanie, Adrian and Nicole Oakley would like to thank everyone sincerely for all the cards, words of condolence, offers of help and gifts after the death of Mike. We would also like to thank everyone who came to his funeral and gave so generously in Mike's name to help with research into cancer.

Sharon Oakley



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Oakington & Westwick Neighbours

It may seem that OWN has been a bit quiet of late, although regular volunteering continues as always thanks to the unseen heroes who visit, collect prescriptions, provide IT assistance, and support the monthly Bar Hill minibus trip. But Spring has sprung, and we have some exciting events planned. The first of these was the **plant swap** stall, run jointly by SOW and OWN, on 18–19 May. This year's swap was a great success, with a huge range of edible plants such as strawberries, Mexican tree spinach, and any number of tomato varieties. Houseplants and garden decorative plants were also in evidence, with hellebores, aloe vera and loofahs among other treats. In total over 60 people stopped by to swap plants and chat and generously donate to charity. The village's kind contributions raised over £150 for Cambridge4Ukraine. Thanks are due also to Jillian Wilkinson for hosting us again.



Next on the agenda will be the **Big Lunch** on Sunday 2 June at the Pavilion and Rec. We are always amazed at the variety of food that people bring and it gives an opportunity to meet and chat with your neighbours. As last year there will be musical contributions and community singing.

We will of course have a stall at Village Day on 29 June, so do come and say hello and enjoy making some colourful bunting.

Following the much-enjoyed trip to Hunstanton last summer, on 13 July OWN will be taking the minibus and up to ten people for an **outing to the coast** at Felixstowe. If you would like to come, please call Teri on 07711 531004 to find out if there are any places left and to book. You will be collected from your door and we'll have breaks as needed on the journey, so that everyone can enjoy a few hours at the seaside. We ask for a contribution of £5 towards fuel.

To contact OWN: 07902 111786, owneighbours@gmail.com
Jo Bryant

Environment Action Group

Our **Flood Mitigation Group** (FMG) continues to be frustrated by the lack of progress by Homes England (Northstowe developers) concerning the promised flood attenuation pond. Andrew Dennis of the FMG also attended the Cottenham Flood Forum in April on behalf of Oakington and Westwick Parish Council, who were invited to send an observer. Unfortunately, the Flood Risk Officer at Cambridgeshire County Council did not attend and there was no representative present from the Environment Agency who could address local issues such as the poor condition of Beck Brook and Cottenham Lode between Westwick and the Old West river.

We continue to work with the Parish Council concerning the hard path, seating areas and flower beds at the recreation area that were created last year under the **Open Spaces** project. Of particular concern is the fact that the supposedly self-binding path has failed to bind properly, which is making use of the path difficult for people with wheelchairs and pushchairs. We hope that this issue can be addressed and a better surface achieved.



After looking great all through the winter, the **Oakington and Westwick in Bloom** flower tubs should hopefully have been restocked with summer plants by the time you read this. We continue to thank the volunteers who water and look after the tubs, the Parish Council for funding them, and the Garden Centre for planting out the new stock.

Finally the joint EAG/SOW **Nature Recovery** project has been launched to current volunteers. We welcome new

volunteers to help record garden wildlife and also wildlife seen/heard in other parts of the village. We are recording on iRecord or please send to SOW, sustainableow@gmail.com. This spring, water voles and hedgehogs have been recorded.

Stephanie Smith



Pollination Festival
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SATURDAY 22ND JUNE 9AM-4PM

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Clubs and Groups

Tuesday Talk & Tea

- **11 June** Games afternoon, organised by Joan King and Kathryn Coles
- **9 July** Our annual Strawberry Tea

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.

Sustainable Oakington & Westwick

If you're worried about climate change, but feel that most people don't care and aren't doing anything about it, you'll be encouraged by what we learned in April. 74% of adults in the UK report feeling concerned or very concerned about climate change, and in rural areas like ours the proportion tends to be even higher. And most people (75%) are already making lifestyle changes to help tackle climate change.

Growing and eating vegetables is a great way to reduce your carbon footprint and in May we held the plant swap.



In our March meeting Leo showed us how to graft apple trees. Hard to believe that the sticks could really grow together, but the buds and blossom now showing on our grafted scions prove it does work!

On Wednesday **26 June** (postponed from May) we will have a talk on "Composting for sustainability and wildlife" by Lou Ellis followed by a visit to her garden nearby. 7:30pm at the Church Hall. Our last meeting before a summer break is on **31 July**, topic to be arranged. All are

welcome to SOW meetings, both regulars and one-off visitors!

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.

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Oakington Singers

We were delighted to sing at Claire Barnes's (now Cole) wedding on 13th April. It is always a pleasure to be asked to sing at weddings of people we know in the village and this was a particularly special occasion. Being sat in the choir stalls admittedly also gives us one of the best views!



Of course there are other occasions when we have sung in St Andrew's Church and here is a photo of one such occasion.

Forthcoming events when we shall be providing singing entertainment:

- **Community Big Lunch** on Sunday 2 June at Oakington Sports Pavilion. This is a chance for you to join in singing some familiar tunes with us!
- **Village Day**, Saturday 29 June, when we will have a slot during the afternoon proceedings
- **Soiree** on the Vicarage Lawns, Friday 19 July

Come and Sing! We are a four part community choir and welcome new members! We would love to share the pleasure we get from singing with more people. You do not necessarily need to be able to read music as tunes can be easily learnt by ear. We like to think that there's something for everyone in our repertoire, from very modern through to quite traditional.

If you would like to give us a try, contact Helen Williams, or just turn up. We are confident that, however tired you may feel, you will come away rejuvenated and set up for the week. How do we know? It's something our members so frequently say at the end of our rehearsal.

Helen Williams



We are a four-part community choir which rehearses on a Monday in the Church Hall, 7.30–9 pm. Come along and give us a try! For more information, or if you would like us to sing at your event, please contact Helen Williams on 232614 / helenwilliams5@outlook.com or just drop in.

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.

Oakington and Westwick WI

At the Cambridge Federation WI jigsaw challenge, we had three teams taking part... and one of them won. We were so proud! Helen Williams was one of our members who attended the Annual Council Meeting in Cambourne to collect a certificate from our Chair. Congratulations to the winning team; Linda Ward, Linda Neech, Lynda Fentiman and Dot Reeves.

We had a most enjoyable evening at our May meeting. Our speaker was Leo Jordan from The Blue Barrel Cider company in the village. He told us how he set up a community garden in Nottingham 20 years ago, which led into him starting his own cider company and orchard in Oakington. It was also interesting to hear about the sustainability of the company and his natural pest control, including the Barn Owls. The highlight of the evening was being given the opportunity of tasting the cider and a perry that he brought along!



We look forward to you joining us at our next two meetings:

- **13 June** From Crowbar to Crocosmia
- **11 July** Saving our Hedgehogs.

Look out for us at Village Day on 29 June, when we will be having our annual refreshments stall in the Pavilion with homemade cakes, sweet and savoury scones. We look forward to you visiting us.

Elaine Bailey



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

Oakington & 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.

1st Oakington Beavers

Oakington Beavers has welcomed a large intake of new Beavers this term and has already had a number of exciting sessions! We've learned about healthy eating, had a wonderful visit from paramedic Kate who taught us some first aid, joined with the Cubs and Scouts at the St George's Day Parade and hiked around Milton Country Park hunting for mini beasts.

Coming up soon we're going on camp together with lots of other Cambridgeshire Beavers.

If your child is interested in joining Beavers, please get in touch. Adults: do you have a skill or passion you can share with our Beavers? Please get in touch!

Kathryn Bigg



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

More info - contact Kathryn.Bigg@oakingtonscouts.org.uk.

Oakington & Westwick Tennis Club

What the deuce!

It's still a good time of year to join the Oakington & Westwick Tennis Club as we're early in our subscription year so you can really get your money's worth! No need to book a court once you're a member - you can just turn up and play with friends or family. Membership also covers membership of the LTA and the ability to enter the Wimbledon ticket draw.

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.

Country Dancing

Jane and Kathryn look forward to seeing you on **7 June** and **26 July** for more fun evenings of country dancing. We are accompanied by our excellent musicians and have a Caller. All abilities catered for, so do come and join us, either to dance or listen to the music.

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.



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Oakington Church of England Primary School



The summer term is always a busy one at Oakington C of E Primary School, but always an eagerly anticipated one! Rehearsals have already begun for our annual Key Stage 2 Summer Production – it's lovely hearing the sound of the children practising their songs as I walk around the school. The children are looking forward to Sports Day in July and our Year 6 pupils are excited about their upcoming residential school trip to Rock UK's Frontier Centre, where they will take part in a range of adventure activities, including rock climbing, kayaking and raft building. Also, we have the school fete which will be on **Friday 21 June**. This is always a really fun event for the whole community and we look forward to seeing you there!

We are delighted that the youngest pupils at our school now have a brand new outdoor area to play in. Work was completed earlier this month, and the children have thoroughly enjoyed exploring and playing in their new space. We are looking forward to welcoming next year's Reception families for some taster sessions, and we are pleased to see our numbers are increasing across the school.

We are excited that two of our pupils have had their artwork selected to be part of a trust-wide art exhibition in St Mary's Church, Ely on 7 and 8 June. Well done to Jasmine and Joshua!



A huge well done to our fantastic Year 6 pupils, who have just undertaken their SATs test after working incredibly hard all year. We are very proud of each one of them and will miss them all very much as they transition to secondary school next year.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to each one of our amazing staff members at Oakington. It is a privilege to work alongside such a committed, talented and caring team of people who consistently go above and beyond to provide the best education for the children in our care.

Nathan Clark, Headteacher

Oakington School PSA

The PSA have had a busy term with a school disco and the upcoming summer fete. We are delighted to support the children and have enabled some exciting trips this term with Key Stage 1 going to Hamerton Zoo and Year 5-6 going to Grafham Water.

School Fete

Please do come along to the school fete on **Friday 21 June** 3.30–5.30pm. It is an opportunity for you to see the new additions to the school over the last year including the running track, new Key Stage 1 play area and progress in the school allotment from the gardening club, as well as enjoy performances from the choir and after-school musical theatre and gym clubs. More details are on the poster opposite. We are also still welcoming stall holders so if you're interested do email us. psa@oakington.cambs.sch.uk

Yard Sale



Looking ahead to September the village yard sale is back on Saturday 7 September 10am–2pm. Please use the link below or the QR code to sign up for £5 per pitch and get your location on the map, by Friday 30 August.

This event always creates a buzz around the village and gets everyone out so do consider if you want a stall, if you have had a clear out, or just fancy providing refreshments and cakes on the day.

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Beyond No Mow May

No mow May means no mowing grass in the month of May. It may be in your garden or even road-side grass verges. The campaign was initiated by Plantlife, a conservation organisation, as a way of encouraging both plants and animals and especially our pollinators. Some people, who like their nature to be tidy, find the approach really scruffy, but hopefully you will consider the benefits mentioned below compensate for a bit of untidiness.



By May, most wild bees have emerged and are desperate to find flowers from which to collect pollen and nectar. The pollen is protein rich and important for the developing larvae, while the older bees need nectar to contribute to their 'honey' type food store for all in the nest. Since the 1930s we in the UK have lost 97% of our wild flower meadows, through the intensification of farming, so that many pollinators like bees, butterflies, moths and flies are short of flowers. Leaving your grass uncut means that wild plants can flourish, allowing a whole range of flowers to be pollinated. Wild insects, like bumble bees and solitary bees,

are better than honey bees at cross-pollination because they tend to drop more pollen and they are more active in cold conditions because they carry more insulation.

Some wild bees have short tongues so need open-structured flowers to obtain pollen and nectar. Dandelions and daisies are ideal but their flowers are removed by May mowing. By allowing more wild plants to flower, you will be encouraging plants with different structure and a wider range of pollinators with different needs.

Beyond May

Could you consider not cutting some areas of grass until September? Perhaps you could leave areas that are difficult to mow, like corners or under trees. This would allow more areas of long grass, so providing places for butterflies and moths to lay their eggs. The caterpillars of brown butterflies, such as meadow browns and gatekeepers, eat grass, as do those of skippers. These caterpillars find protection in curled up leaves in long grass from May, and the adults are seen on the wing from June to September.

John Terry

Nature Recovery Project

Hopefully, we can now look forward to warmer weather to encourage insect, birds and other wildlife to flourish and reproduce. Those of us involved in the Nature Recovery Project are beginning to note wildlife in our gardens; brimstone and orange tip butterflies have made early appearances. We plan to explore and record wildlife findings in the wider village.



We also hope to welcome you to the SOW and EAG stalls at Village Day on the 29 June where we will explain our work and seek your views. One week earlier (Saturday 22 June) we will be at the Pollination Festival at Oakington Garden Centre.

We have also been asked to remind you of the Cambridge Nature Festival which is held in and around the city 25 May–30 June. Events include walks and talks, bioblitz and pond dipping.

www.cambridgenaturenetwork.org/cambridge-nature-festival.

John Terry

Why I love ... tennis

I have been playing tennis since I was a child and I have to say that although I have enjoyed many sports, tennis remains my favourite. I always look forward to playing every week and I'm very disappointed if it gets rained off.

I've been part of Oakington & Westwick Tennis Club (OWTC) since about 2000 and joined with three other women so that we could catch a game of tennis one afternoon a week before collecting our children from school, and we've been playing ever since! Twice a week now. The only thing that stops us is the rain and snow, otherwise we are out in all weathers even high winds, we call that Extreme Tennis! It is just lovely to be outside getting some exercise, but also appreciating the nature around us – buzzards and red kites flying over us! Also, the friendships we have are very important and we've seen each other through some very bad times and celebrated some wonderful times too.



Being part of OWTC also means we have managed to get to Wimbledon on several occasions over the years as the club has access to some tickets via a club ballot.

Ali Fisher

Oakington & Westwick Sports Pavilion Monthly Lottery 2024 - Winners			
Month	Ticket No	Area	Winnings
March	021	Mead View	£100
April	632	Saxon Close	£100
May	702	Mead View	£100

If you would like to enter the lottery, please text JOIN plus your name, house number & postcode to 07831 828898.

Community Pub Nights at the White Horse

The next Community Pub Night will be on Friday **5 July**. It is planned to review the level of interest / preferred dates, so do come along. Jo and Sean would love to see you there, or you can contact them at bjomills@outlook.com and seanm@cambridgeelectrictransport.co.uk



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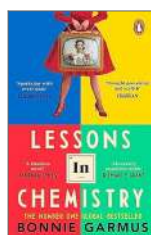
Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus

This, recently read by the Book Club, was an international bestseller that was turned into a TV series in the US. Everyone very much enjoyed it – neither too light nor too heavy, we were entertained and engaged throughout. Lots of amusing touches while you join with the protagonists' battle against gender-based prejudice and bad social treatment. Elizabeth works as a chemistry lab assistant, falls in love with a quirky prof., battles for her own research programme, starts a TV cookery show, has pets, a child and long-lost relatives come out of the past to help deal with the present and future. We go through some difficult events and issues, but overall, the best of mankind comes out foremost. Voted 8.5/10 by most members.

Our next meeting (in the White Horse) will be 7.30pm on Wednesday **19 June** when we are discussing **The Hundred-Year-Old Man Who Climbed Out the Window and Disappeared**. Yes, really!

Look out on Oakyfolk Facebook page for any updates.

Gerry Cavander



Podcast Review

“Sherlock & Co”

(Available on Amazon, Apple & Spotify)



This is a modern-day adaptation of Conan Doyle's original Sherlock Holmes stories. Reimagined in the form of a true crime podcast created by the eager and not particularly tech-savvy John Watson, it has a charm that only grows the longer you listen. With colours of BBC's Sherlock in its leading duo, it nonetheless takes a fresh and entertaining approach in applying the original plots to a modern London. I thoroughly recommend it for fans of the originals and people in search of some British humour alike.

Kay Prince



Chess Corner

Solution to 2-24 in the last Journal

1st White Bf2-a7; 1st Black e7-e6*

*= the only possible move

2nd White Nf3-d4 = checkmate.



Puzzle 3-24

White to move and checkmate in 3 moves.

Send your solution to me at ranpin@gmail.com

Ranko Pinter

Parkruns



parkrun™ began in 2004, in Bushy Park, London when 13 people ran a time trial of 5km. Now hundreds of thousands of park runners run or walk 5km at 9am on Saturday mornings in 20 countries. Some people try to beat their personal best time, others jog or walk, or you can be a volunteer if you don't want to run. You will never be last – there is a tail walker (who has sometimes been spotted wearing a tail).

If you register and take a copy of your barcode along, you can get your recorded time and so follow your progress over time.

We are lucky to have several parkruns not far from Oakington which all take place every Saturday.

Storey's Field is the closest – a fast, flat course on tarmac or gravel paths, and is especially popular when other locations are flooded or very muddy.

Milton Country parkrun is a lovely route through the park. It can get very muddy, but that's part of the fun. Don't wear your new trainers on wet days and take a snorkel!

Fulbourn is the smallest local run. Very friendly with a four-lap course around the grounds of Fulbourn Hospital.

Coldham's Common is busier with a two-lap course around playing fields. On the last Saturday of each month, “5K Your Way”, a support group for people impacted by cancer, meets here and takes part in this one.

Wimpole and Huntingdon are well worth a visit and are lovely courses.

It's for all ages. The oldest participant I've met celebrated her 90th birthday at a parkrun last month. Children can join in too. If they are under 11, they must keep their responsible adult within arm's length, but there are also Junior parkruns on Sunday mornings (Cottenham, Milton Country Park, and Coldham's Common).

There are all sorts of challenges that you can aim for, other than being the fastest runner. Milestones are marked at 25, 50, 100, 250, and 500 parkruns attended. One unofficial favourite is to become an Alphabeteer, achieved by attending parkruns beginning with each letter of the alphabet. (There is no X in the parkrun alphabet).

You could be a “Volunteer of all trades” (volunteer in 10 different roles), or complete the “Pirates” challenge (complete 7 Cs and an R), or the “Staying Alive” challenge (3 Bees and 3 Gees).

Wear what you like. If the parkrun falls on the 22nd of a month, some wear tutus (2 – 2s), and I have recently seen a photo of a pantomime horse completing a course.

I've found the events to be friendly and welcoming and I've met some amazing people. If you're not sure, just give it a go. It's a great way to start the weekend. And it's free!

You can find more information here: parkrun.org.uk/

Jacqueline B


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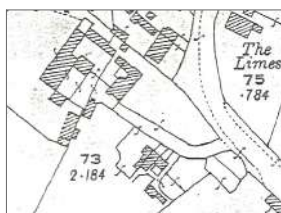


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“Whitehall Drive”



Do you recognise where this photo is taken? Kind of? Front left with the railings is indeed the pond near the Crossroads. In the background we glimpse the thatched Whitehall farmhouse. But the lane first leads to a large

unknown house on the left. According to Dr Charles Ison who grew up in the farmhouse, this was actually three cottages. They had been demolished in the 1950s, having got into disrepair.

When we arrived in 1979, the lane led to a field and an old orchard on the left, with planning permission for two houses. Further along was an old cottage available for renovation. And the lane was still the main access to Whitehall farmhouse and various farm buildings.

Times were different 40 years ago. We could actually discuss our build with the planners and were even encouraged to ‘build something unusual’ on our plot. The Planning officer later came back with visiting colleagues to view the ‘interesting lane with different building styles’.



While self-building our timber frame house (it’s Geoffrey on the roof) we lived in a caravan on site with our young sons. We didn’t know anybody, but when we needed some additional manpower, e.g. to shift concrete before it set, ‘the village’ came to the rescue. We shall always be grateful!

In 1980 Peter and Rosalind Blundell-Jones arrived and began to renovate Dove Cottage. From a rectangular box, architect Peter added imaginative extensions including a three storey tower.

This was built over the farm’s ‘Bell’ well, which had been its main source of water before the mains supply arrived. The octagonal roof required most tiles to be cut to shape, a challenge which Peter much enjoyed. He left the cottage in the early 90s when he was offered a professorship at Sheffield University.



Dove Cottage had been a farmworker’s cottage, dating back to the 19th century. During Peter’s renovations, a fireplace with a metal hook, enabling cooking, was discovered in the chimney stack facing the farmhouse. By 1900, when the old photo was taken, the cottage had been extended by 1/3, as seen by the change in bricks. A range and chimney were added in the new kitchen, with a fireplace in the central room downstairs. Upstairs were two bedrooms and a large landing, at one stage facilitating a family of 10.

Going back, Dennis and Ann Ison bought Whitehall Farm in 1960 and the Grade II listed farmhouse required extensive renovation. ‘Whitehall Drive’, as the lane was called, was the main access to the house and the numerous farm buildings. The thatched barn seen in the centre of the farmyard suffered badly from wood rot and blew down in a storm in the 60s.



The Isons farmed extensively in the area. In the 70s they focused on pig breeding and won many prizes. When the economic climate changed, they gradually sold off land around them, including the

Tomato Farm, and in the mid 80s moved away to farm near Lockerbie. (See Journal article on Ann Ison of March 2019.) Many changes have taken place since then, including there no longer being access to the farmhouse from the lane.

With thanks to Charles for historic information and photos.

Geoffrey & Irène Butlin



Gerry is making the village more sustainable by sharing tools. So why not join the Tool Share WhatsApp group and/or request a copy of the tools list – Coordinator Gerry Cavander. Contact Gerry on 07857 704636 / gedcavander@hotmail.com / gedcavander on Oakyfolk. Or if you have good quality tools that you are happy to share, why not free up some space in your garage and donate them to the tool share. You can always borrow them back!

Oakington Vikings U13 F C

End of Season Review

Having completed a successful 2022/23 (two promotions, one as champions, and three finals, winning two of them) the U13s looked forward to their first season at 11aside in the Premier Colts league. This would be a big challenge for those in orange and black. They would be up against some of the best players and teams that had been in the top league season after season on full size pitches with full size goals. To stay in this league would be an enormous achievement!

As the season began they hit the ground running, winning their opening games, and as the days shortened they continued their great run of form. However, this was the wettest winter since records began. Games were postponed and momentum lost! But the Vikings kept going, they would not give up and somehow at Christmas amazingly they were top of the league.

Sadly the postponements/rain kept coming but they fought on, often playing with reduced numbers. Winter had taken its toll and now they were third in the league, but still hanging in there. On they soldiered, getting across the line with sheer determination.

When April began, they had four matches and needed maximum points to take the title fight to the final day. Three points followed three points. They couldn't could they?

So after 16 matches over 238 days from 9 September 2023 to 4 May 2024 the U13s completed their longest season ever. Sadly this proved one game too many and after a five match winning run they did manage to take the title to the last day of the season, but unfortunately it wasn't to be! In the end it was one solitary goal that separated our boys from the title they deserved.

As one of the coaches it has been a privilege to be a part of this season. However, it would not have been possible



without the support of the parents, friends, and family of all our players. A special thank you has to go to the Club and its hard working committee, all the other Vikings players past and present as well as all those that work hard for the Village (Pavilion Committee, Parish Council etc.). Big thanks to my fellow coaches, and our sponsor Zaid at Best Gardens Services. Finally the biggest thank you of all goes to all the boys that pulled on their boots to represent the Vikings and our fantastic village. THANK YOU!

Many tackles made, many balls won, many goals scored. The crosses, the throw-ins, the pens, the free kicks, all engulfed in those 70 minute matches! Those 70 minutes where our boys played through wind and rain, through pain and heartbreak! Where they worked for each other, when they did us proud, when they were the stars! They are our boys, they are the Oakington Vikings!

Winston Kho
Oakington Vikings U13



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

Oakington Vikings would very much like to hear from anyone interested in helping the next generation of Vikings. Or if you have a son/daughter already at school or will be starting in September and would be interested in forming a team with other parents (with the full support of the existing Viking family) please contact James as above

Local Girl Wed

Some people suggested it was Oakington's "wedding of the century". Be that as it may, the April wedding of Claire Barnes and Alex Cole was certainly special. The church was packed and buzzing long before the bride and her father, Bob, made their entrance. Did anyone notice the white trainers decorated with pearls peeping out from under her dress?

Like all brides, Claire looked beautiful and radiant as she was surrounded by family and friends in a very personalised service. This included her mother, Joan Keating, accompanying the Oakington Singers, Iona a fabulous usher and the Nicholas family ringing the bells. Afterwards everybody gathered for photos in the well-kept Vicarage garden. The Reception took place at Girton College.



Claire Henrietta Molly Barnes grew up in Mead View and made lifelong friends in Oakington. Although she has lived in Longstanton lately, she has had spells staying at the Vicarage and kept connected to Oakington by volunteering at Village Days and Bonfire Nights – and joining the WI.

Claire is a bubbly and adventurous lady but life has not always been plain sailing. Some years ago she worked on Mercy Ships, a Christian medical charity which has helped nearly three million people in developing countries. While in a port in Africa, Claire was shocked to be diagnosed with cancer and to be rushed back to the UK for operations and treatment.

One of Claire's repeat destinations has been the Christian retreat and holiday company Oak Hall, based in Kent. It was here that she met the love of her life. Alex is a teacher and the happy couple will be making their home in Tewkesbury. We wish them a long and joyous life together.

Irène Butlin

The Hall That Never Was

The following is an abridged version of "A Brief History of the Oakington Memorial Hall" by Julie Grove, to commemorate the anniversary of the D-Day landings. To read the full, fascinating story, please contact oakwestjournal@gmail.com.

Following the D-Day landings, 80 years ago in June 1944, the government started an initiative to have a Memorial Hall in every town and village. Fundraising committees were set up across the land and the dream began to take shape.

At the beginning of 2019 a small, very tatty, water damaged notebook was handed in to the Parish Council. What it revealed was a story of hard work, commitment, resilience, and an amazing belief that the Committee at Oakington could achieve this dream.

By 1944 the parish had been trying for half a century to provide a recreation ground.

(Parish Council, 19 March 1896: "A piece of land called Coyers Close, in a suitable situation, came onto the market, but the land was sold before the consent of the Parish Council could be obtained.") However the Cambridge Weekly News reported on 22 September 1954 that "Oakington and Westwick Recreation Ground was opened in the shadow of the airfield as a memorial to the fallen of the last world war. ... The children of the future would say 'thank you' to those who carried out the work. It is planned to erect a Memorial Hall." [Mike Petty's archive]

But what happened to the Memorial Hall? The story unfolds in the Minutes of the Oakington and Westwick Memorial Hall Committee.

The first meeting, held on 23 June 1944 in the Schoolroom, resolved that "it is of the opinion of this Committee a public hall for a War Memorial is desirable and possible" and "that a new committee be elected for organising the raising of funds and furthering the plans."

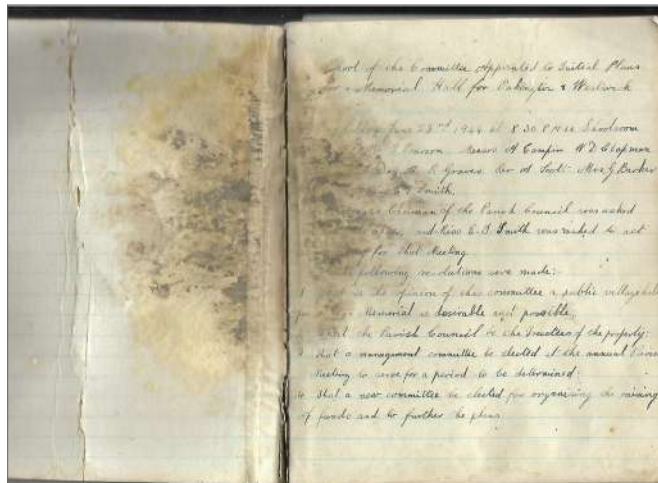
Over the next eight years the Committee worked tirelessly to achieve their dream.

There were fetes at Westwick Hall and Oakington House, tea dances at the school, whist drives: the list is endless. Rolling for a pig where you actually won a pig. They went on to ask the Ministry of Defence if they could purchase a Nissen Hut when the war ended, and approached the Isolation Hospital, when it was closed (now Midfield Lodge) for a Hut from them. They asked Wilfred Pickles to open the fete one year, but he was busy.

For example, the minutes for the eleventh committee meeting (8 June 1945) record that "Some discussion was entered into about a proposed Garden Fete and Mr D. Chapman proposed and Mr J. G. Moore seconded that the

Secretary should approach Mr Womersly for the use of Westwick Hall grounds ... Preliminary arrangements were made for the fete, suggestions were made that the children and adults Fancy Dress, Sports, Produce Hall, Bowls, Darts, Croquet, Shooting Gallery and other attractions to be held. Mr Doggett proposed and Mr Pearson seconded that a small committee be formed to run a small Horticultural Show."

(The small Horticultural Show went on to become the Annual British Legion Produce Show of which I, and many others, had the honour of being asked to be Secretary.)



Minutes of a meeting around two years later show the detailed preparations for another fete. "The Secretary announced that he had provisionally booked Mr Wrights Amplifiers [and] said that Wrights would also do a series of Film Shows if suitable premises could be found and it was proposed ... that the Air Ministry be approached for the use of a Nissen Hut for that day. Mr Pearson proposed that the Air Ministry be asked to lend a

plane and equipment for [sic] exhibition if possible, this was seconded by Mr Graves." Proposals followed for the hire of a marquee from W. Eaden Lilley (the department store in Cambridge), a brass band and a dance band for evening dancing. "The catering was left in the hands of Mr B. C. Smith, Mr J. W. Dellar, and the members of the W.I."

Eight years after fundraising had begun, £500 of the money raised so far was put towards the long-desired Recreation Ground. The minutes of 16 October 1952 indicate that funds would continue to be raised for the Oakington & Westwick Memorial Hall Fund and "that the Secretary [should] call a meeting of the Committee to discuss further activities."

This is just a taster - the records are quite vast.

Over a six-month period, I carefully translated and documented the minutes of the committee to the best of my ability. The record is not complete as some pages were too damaged to decipher. The minute book is now in the County Archive.

Julie Grove

Despite their huge efforts, the Committee could not raise enough money to build a village hall. Liz Davis remembers that in the 1970s, the Parish Council decided to finally use the remaining money, to pay for tennis courts and to add the little servery next to the school hall, which was by then the de facto village hall. If anyone has details to add to the story, we would love to hear from you.

Julie would like to thank the Wilson family for handing the book to Laura, the Clerk, and not putting it on the bonfire, as it gives such a detailed insight into village life at the time. And we would like to thank Julie for all the hard work she has put in bringing this story to life.

Julie Grove & Editors

Lots of fun for all the family, from 12.30 until 9pm

Adults
£1

**Free
Entry**
for Child
under 16

Oakington Village Day

**29th June
2024**

**Bouncy Castle
Helter-Skelter &
Bungee Trampoline**

**Activities
Food & Drink
Raffle Prizes
Entertainment
Games & Crafts**

**The Recreation Ground
Queens Way, Oakington**

A Community Association Event

