

Oakington & Westwick

Journal

March 2019



Anyone for Tennis?
Ready for Emergencies
Behind the Pavilion Doors

What's On

WEEKLY

- Mon **Monday Café**, 9:30–noon. Church Hall, £1. Liz Davis – C 232 745
- Mon **Bodysculpt Pilates**, 9:30–10:30 am. Pavilion.
- Mon **Senior Pilates**, 1:30–2:30 pm. Pavilion.
- Mon **Brownies**. For further details please contact Anne Christie – oakingtonbrownies@gmail.com
- Mon **Good Exercise**, 7–8pm. Pavilion.
- Mon **Oakington Singers**, 8–9:30pm. Rehearsal, Church Hall. Richard Hinitt – richard@organistanywhere.co.uk
- Tue **Happy Feet**, Rhythm & Rhyme, 10–11am. Church Hall. Ben Phillips – familyworker@standrewsoakington.co.uk
- Tue **Cubs**, 6–7:15pm. Pavilion, £30 per term. Jo Mowatt – oakingtoncubs@yahoo.co.uk
- Tue **Table Tennis**, 7:30pm. Pavilion, £2.50. Gillian L'angellier – C 234 758
- Wed **Pilates**, 10:30–11:30am. Pavilion.
- Wed **Yoga**, 7:30–9pm. Pavilion.
- Wed + Oakington Viking **Football Club**. Many teams. Recreation Ground. Info: James Wilson – james@selsius.co.uk
- Thu **Little Steps** Toddler group, 10–11:30am. Church Hall. Ben Phillips – familyworker@standrewsoakington.co.uk
- Thu **Short Mat Bowls**, 2:30–4:30 pm and 7:30–10pm. Pavilion, £4 per week. Dawn Stokes – C 236 427
- Thu **Ten Sing**, 7–9pm. Histon Baptist Church, £45 per year. Theresa King – jking47@aol.com
- Fri **Over 55s Fitness**, 10–11:30am. Pavilion. £4.50/£3.50 concessions. Simon – C 236945
- Fri **Beavers** followed by **Scouts**. £30 per term. For more information contact Lou Ellis – lou.ellis@oakingtonscouts.org.uk
- Sat **Yoga**, 10–11:30 am. Pavilion.

MARCH

- Thu 21 Mar **History Society**, 7:30pm. Church Hall. "Life Around Histon Pond". Julie Grove – C 233951
- Fri 22 Mar **Country Dancing**, 8–10pm. Histon Methodist Church Hall. £1.50/50p. Kathryn Coles – C 233191
- Wed 27 Mar **Garden Society**, 7:30pm. Church Hall. "The Wonderful World of Orchids". Julie Grove – C 233951
- Thu 28 Mar **Mobile Library**, 2:30–2:55 pm. Coles Lane.
- Sat 30 Mar **Ten Sing Annual Concert**, 7:30pm. Histon Baptist Church. Tickets on the door. jking47@aol.com

APRIL

- Sat 6 Apr **Spring Market**, 2–5pm. Around the White Horse pub. Jo Mills – C 233244
- Mon 8 Apr **O&W Parish Council**, 7:30pm. Pavilion. All invited. Clerk: Laura Lawrence – oakingtonnpc@btinternet.com
- Tue 9 Apr **Tuesday Talk & Tea**, 2:45pm. Church Hall. "Trip around local churches & quiz". Joan Pettit
- Thu 11 Apr **O&W WI**, 7:30pm. Church Hall. "Fish & Chips & Sea Shanties". Helen Williams – C 232614
- Mon 15 Apr **Stainer's Crucifixion**, 7pm. St. Andrew's Church. Oakington Singers. Richard Hinitt 07824 643224
- Thu 18 Apr **History Society**, 7:30pm. Church Hall. "First World War in Fenland Communities". Julie Grove – C 233951
- Wed 24 Apr **Garden Society**, 7:30pm. Church Hall. "Drought Tolerant Plants". Julie Grove – C 233951
- Thu 25 Apr **Mobile Library**, 2:30–2:55 pm. Coles Lane.
- Fri 26 Apr **Country Dancing**, 8–10pm. Histon Methodist Church Hall. £1.50/50p. Kathryn Coles – C 233191
- Mon 29 Apr **Annual Parish Meeting**, 7pm. Pavilion. Refreshments & talk on Northstowe. oakingtonnpc@btinternet.com

MAY

- Tue 7 May **Copy deadline** for the Journal. oakwestjournal@gmail.com
- Thu 9 May **O&W WI**, 7:30pm. Church Hall. Local author – John Barnett. Helen Williams – C 232614
- Mon 13 May **O&W Parish Council**, 7:30pm. Pavilion. All invited. Clerk: Laura Lawrence – oakingtonnpc@btinternet.com
- Tue 14 May **Tuesday Talk & Tea**, 2:45pm. Church Hall. Joan Pettit
- Sat 18 May **Plant & Produce Sale**, 2–4pm. Pavilion. Garden Society. Julie Grove – C 233951

Bin days



Thurs 21 Mar, Thurs 4 April,
Fri 3 May, Thurs 16 May



Thurs 28 Mar, Thurs 11 April,
Sat 27 April, Fri 10 May

Summer Dates for your Diary

Sunday 9 June – **Big Lunch Bring & Share Picnic**,
12.30–2.30pm at the Rec.

Saturday 29 June – **Village Day** – 12 onwards at the Rec



Cover photo: Mark Woods-Nunn

Growing

This is such a lovely time of the year to be living in a village in the country. Blackthorn blossom gives way to mayflower in the hedgerows, as lacy cow parsley follows the daffodils beneath. Birds sing and nest and lambs appear in the fields. There's a theme of growth in this edition of the Journal, with tips from two writers on how to make the most of the season in your garden.

Bad news jolts us with sudden headlines, but good news can grow slowly. Read to catch up with the many groups - and individuals - who are quietly busy making Oakington and

Westwick better places to live. Someone doing this years ago was Ann Ison, whom longstanding residents may remember. Her memories of life in Oakington make fascinating reading.

As usual, there's plenty going on. Don't miss the Spring Market on 6th April. Find out more on 29th April about the town growing alongside us. And stock up your garden at the Plant Sale on 18th May!

Jenny Prince

Editors: Jenny Prince & Irène Butlin



Oakington Church of England Primary School

In this period of fast and positive change at our village school we would like to give you an update.



As from 1st May we will become an **academy**, joining the Diocese of Ely Multi-Academy Trust, DEMAT. This is an exciting prospect for us and there is lots of work going on behind the scenes to make this a smooth transition.



We have had a busy Spring term so far with our pupils involved in vast and varied extra-curricular events! To name some: football matches, a swimming gala, an inter-school Dance Share, maths

and English challenges, entertaining a visiting harpist, a

visiting author/illustrator, the Astronomy Roadshow and the Mad Science Show! It is wonderful to see the children engaged in their passions and inspired to learn.

We are continually looking to the future and finding ways to implement our ideas and plans for improvements. Over the next few months these will include exciting work with the Oakington & Westwick Environment Action Group and the Garden Society to **improve the school grounds** and our nature reserve. We are grateful to members of our school family and the wider community for their offers of time and skills, and would encourage anyone else who would like to be involved to contact us.

We continue to work with the Parish Council and local police teams to address road safety concerns around **parking outside our school**. Please avoid parking on the double yellow lines or on the white zig-zags. Vehicles are no longer permitted to enter or leave our school car park during school drop-off and pick-up times, to help make the area safer for everyone.



Oakington & Westwick Journal

Published on behalf of the Oakington & Westwick Community Association to inform residents of events, activities and issues in the parish.

Journal Team: Jenny Prince & Irène Butlin (editors), Nykki Rogers (treasurer), 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 MAY ISSUE:
Tuesday 7 May**

(DEADLINE FOR ADVERTS: Tuesday 30 April)

Delivered week beginning Saturday 18 May
covering period up to 13 July

To find out more about what's going on in our village school, please look out for our fortnightly newsletter on our school website. You can also follow us on Twitter!
@oakprimary #OakingtonPrimary

To contact the school, please email us at
office@oakington.cambs.sch.uk, or call us on
01223 232328.

Nathan Clark
Acting Head of School

The Caretaker's Catapult

Our Pavilion is full of mysterious doors. The one labelled “Office” reveals the lair of Tony Leadley, caretaker and booking officer. Its walls are lined with whiteboards covered in charts; there's all the equipment for a busy administrative hub. And a catapult.



“I'm not a full-time employee, but I'm effectively on call-out 24/7,” explains Tony. “The worst part of the job is when the burglar alarm goes off at 2.30 am.” The intruders turn out to be helium balloons, which escape into the rafters after children's parties, then trigger the sensors as they descend overnight. The only safe way to retrieve them earlier is to shoot them down – with screws and a catapult.

Tony's roles encompass many other tasks. There are formidable lists of daily and weekly caretaker's checks. “I've done it for so long, it's second nature.”

Looking around the Pavilion, it's clear why so much is involved. As well as the hall, small committee room, and kitchen, with its fridge, freezer, dishwasher and crockery, the rear section of the Pavilion can be hired out separately. Here are more doors: sets of changing rooms and showers for the Referee, Home team and Away team.

The cub/brownie and table-tennis cupboards at the back of the hall are complemented by larger storage rooms upstairs. “Because there's only one staircase, with no alternative means of escape, we can't use the upper storey for any other purpose.” Scout tents, Community Association marquees, emergency flood resources and Parish Council paperwork all now find their place in the Pavilion.

Many readers will remember the old scout hut on the far side of the Rec. Used by a whole variety of groups, it had a very short life left when they initiated the project for its replacement. Huge community fundraising efforts culminated in the opening of a beautiful new building eleven years ago.

Enter Tony, who had just moved into the village with his wife Lyn, ostensibly to retire! He had been working for South Cambs District Council, doing “everything under the sun” and ending up as Assistant Finance Director, in charge of all buildings. He had barely arrived in Oakington when Edgar Stearn, whom Tony knew from housebuilding days, turned up on his doorstep in Queensway: “I think I've got a job for you.” It's hard to imagine anyone better qualified – or located!

Initially caretaker, Tony took on the role of booking officer three years ago. He reports to the Pavilion Management Committee, a group of hardworking volunteers, including representatives from the regular non-commercial user groups. The Parish Council owns the building, formally

leasing it to the Pavilion Committee, whose principal management objective is required to be ensuring the pavilion does not run at a loss.

The biggest source of income is the MUGA or Multi-Use Games Area. Non-footballers might be unfamiliar with this facility, tucked away behind the Pavilion. Its fenced-in, artificial surface was designed for a variety of ball games, but tends to be hired out by football teams, for year-round practice – lights enable activity to carry on until 9:30pm.

Roughly half the hirers come from beyond the Parish, and this ratio also holds for hirers of the Pavilion. Regular users include five different pilates, yoga and fitness classes, a home-schooling session, as well as badminton, table tennis, bowls, brownies, beavers, cubs and scouts. The majority of one-off bookings are for parties, but the hall is also used for everything from wedding receptions and funeral wakes to concerts and jumble sales.

The third income strand is the Pavilion Lottery. It gives everyone a chance to support this well-equipped village-hall-cum-community-sports-hub. Lottery profits make it possible to offer discounted hire rates to many village non-profit groups. Asked why people who have no direct involvement in pavilion activities should consider buying a lottery ticket, Tony responds, “because of the number of local people who do use it. You're supporting local children and their activities.”



Tony says the best part of his job is meeting people. In turn, it's a delight to meet Tony, whose enthusiasm, commitment and can-do attitude are surely a large factor in the pavilion's success. Not to mention his skills with the catapult!

Jenny Prince

Hiring the Pavilion

There are fixed rates for both building and MUGA; village groups may attract a discount. The best way to make contact with me is by email on oakingtonpavilion@gmail.com. I am normally in the pavilion about nine each morning for anyone who wants to check out the facilities.

The pavilion can be hired regularly or for one-off events. We currently have regularly available slots in the pavilion on Tuesday and Wednesday daytimes and Friday afternoons, and most days/evenings on the MUGA.

Stipulations for party bookings are that music must be off at 11.30 pm and hall cleaned and locked by midnight. Any event involving the sale of alcohol requires a Temporary Event Notice from SCDC who limit these to 15 a year for any one premises. Those who wish to have a marquee or bouncy castle as part of the event need the separate approval of the Parish Council who manage the recreation ground. Hire is by written agreement with a £200 returnable deposit against damage as well as the hire charge, £15 per hour.

Tony Leadley, Pavilion Booking Officer

Transport Action Group

Speed Camera

The movable speed camera finally arrived in late December. As the equipment is shared with Longstanton an agreement has been reached where each village has it for four weeks at a time, the fifth week being used for any maintenance. We used it during January, first in Cambridge Road and then in Station Road. It revealed that approximately 37% of the traffic along Cambridge Road exceeded the 30mph speed limit. In Station Road, looking at traffic flowing to and from Cottenham, 14% was exceeding the limit. The speed camera will be in Water Lane, opposite the school, to monitor traffic flow until the middle of March.



Road has an alternative route entering Cambridge from the north and proposes that there should be a “notional” Northstowe Station which, according to their information, is actually situated in Oakington somewhere near the Garden Centre. The proposed route then passes between Histon and Cottenham and onwards to Waterbeach. What detail there is currently available is only a proposal but would impact the village significantly!

Rural Travel Hub Consultation

The public consultation regarding siting a Rural Travel Hub in Oakington and Westwick has been closed and preliminary results have been published. Of the 349 responses that were received, those from Cottenham were in favour of a hub that had a bus turning circle and parking whereas respondents from Oakington and Westwick were in favour of a bus turning circle but with no parking.

The analysis showed that, of the responses received, 146 were residents in Cottenham and 106 from Oakington and Westwick. The number of houses in both parishes totals 3,230 so this represents about an 8% response rate on a per household basis. The decision by the Greater Cambridge Partnership on the future of the Rural

Travel Hub is due to be made on the 20th March, after the deadline for this edition of the Journal.

If you would like to get involved or obtain detail on other aspects of TAG activity, please get in touch using the contact details below.

Jim Bryant

*Transport Action Group Chair
owcp.tag@gmail.com -
07807184691*

East West Rail Link

The East West Railway Ltd, set up by the Department of Transport to re-establish the old varsity line linking Cambridge and Oxford, has a number of possible routes that enter Cambridge from the south as the preferred options. A pressure group called Cambridge Bedford Rail



Oakington & Westwick Parish Council Emergency Plan

South Cambridgeshire District Council recommends that each parish should compile an emergency plan. The local plan for Oakington & Westwick Parish Council is nearly complete. It contains, for example, risk assessments, village locations which may be used as rest centres in time of need and useful local contact numbers and helplines.

We are looking for people with any skills and expertise which would be useful in a time of crisis and who would be happy to be included in the emergency plan. In particular the following are of interest: first aiders, carpenters, plumbers, electricians, gas engineers or people with tractors, trailers, 4X4s, chainsaws.

This is voluntary and does not place you under any obligation, but if you would be willing to provide your contact details, please contact

*Lis Warboys, Councillor on 01223 234365
or email lis@thewarboys.co.uk*

Drivers needed!

Cottenham Care Car is a Community transport service. Without its amazing drivers, we would not be able to offer the independence our daughter needs. Heather loves going to her art college and completing her photography course on the days she is not running her own business – Heather Bee Arts. Sadly, there is no direct bus service her courses and with her anxiety and disability she would otherwise have to stay at home. Each day the driver collects Heather and picks her up at the end of the day, giving her the opportunity to access her passion for the arts and learning, meeting new people and gaining confidence.

We are so pleased to have the opportunity to use this wonderful service, but they need more drivers. **Could you help a few hours a day – or a couple of times a week – and make a difference?**

Please contact: Cottenham CARECAR – 01954 251929
carecar@pobbroadband.co.uk

Elaine Bailey

Environment Action Group



Back in January we reviewed our project list for what we hope to achieve this year. Our top priority remains flood mitigation, and our **Flood Mitigation Group** has continued working hard. The Chair of the Parish Council and our district councillors met with the Northstowe developers in February to express our concerns about the outline proposals for some rainwater from Northstowe Phase 3 to drain towards Oakington and also about the apparent lack of progress in the plans for flood attenuation ponds on Oakington Brook upstream of the village. We received assurances that they are committed to the attenuation ponds despite land acquisition taking longer than expected, and also to improving the drainage route from the Phase 3 land. We continue to press them on these issues. Meanwhile, we have also been working with the Parish Council on the village's Emergency Plan including use of the flood kit recently received from the Environment Agency.

Our **footpath sweeping** work has continued this month with a small group of enthusiastic volunteers clearing pavements around the village of debris and encroaching vegetation. Many thanks to those who took part! Our **Oakington and Westwick in Bloom** project will also be continuing, and we are very grateful to the Parish Council who have agreed to fund the restocking of the flower tubs, as well as to the village volunteers who look after the tubs.

Besides this ongoing work, we have been working with Nick Harrison from the History Society to investigate the possible creation and installation of **information boards** at historic sites around the village. We aim to include maps, sketches, and notes on history and wildlife on these boards, which we hope will inform residents and visitors alike about our village's heritage.

Finally, let us expand our horizons to consider the wider state of our planet. Greenpeace have **described climate change** as '*the greatest environmental threat humanity has ever faced*' and although tackling climate change requires action at national and international levels there is much that we can do individually and as a community. Simple steps include choosing 'green energy' from companies that have active alternatives to fossil fuels, saving energy around the home through insulation, energy-efficient light bulbs and the like, reducing car use by lift-sharing and alternative means of transport, and reducing waste. As an Environment group we hope to make working towards sustainable Oakington and Westwick one of our goals for 2019!

As always we welcome your comments and suggestions: please contact our group chairs James Youd (jamesyoud51@icloud.com) or John Terry (johnterry23@hotmail.co.uk)



Stephanie Smith
EAG secretary (sgs30@cantab.net)



Oakington and Westwick Neighbours' activities have got off to a cracking start in 2019. In the last Journal you should have received our new all-colour leaflet explaining what we do and how to contact us. This has been well received, and a comment on Oaky Folks Facebook page was "*Just wanted to say well done and thank you to those who have produced the Oakington and Westwick Neighbours leaflet and website – professionally designed and comprehensive*".

Our first event of the year was a Prize Bingo session for all the family at the Pavilion on Saturday 9 February which was great fun. Our bingo caller Joan did a great job, although there were toys available for children whose concentration lapsed! As ever there was an impressive array of cake. Comments about the day were "*My family and I loved the bingo event on Saturday, well done to everyone involved*" and "*It was a really good afternoon and great to see so many people*".

Saturday 16 March will see an OWN-sponsored First Aid course taking place for volunteers. Having first aiders is an essential part of carrying out risk assessments for our community events, and this will mean we have a larger pool of trained people.

Our next event is the **Big Lunch**, a shared picnic at the Rec. This year it will be happening on **Sunday 9 June from 12.30 to 2.30pm** by the Pavilion. In previous years the weather has been glorious, and the tables laden with delectable dishes contributed by everyone. We've ordered the weather (!) but the rest is up to you. You will see more publicity nearer the time.



In the meantime, the week by week practical support continues around the village, helping with shopping, transport and using IT, among other things. If you, or someone you know, needs a helping hand even if only for a while, we can be contacted by calling **07902 111786**; or via email OWNeighbours@gmail.com. For more information find us on Facebook, or check our website ownneighbours.wordpress.com

Jo Bryant

Wildlife gardening

March is a good month for reviewing your garden and considering changes. Maybe you'd like to redesign parts of it or just tinker with a corner or two. Whatever your plans, how about making your patch a bit more wildlife-friendly?

The key is understanding the connection between wildlife species and their habitats. Wild animals have three simple needs; to feed, to breed and to protect themselves from harsh weather and predators. Your garden can contribute and you can learn more about nature. We should not forget that plants are important for wildlife habitats and that healthy soil contains masses of diverse organisms like earthworms, spiders and fungi that are vital parts of food chains. You may have heard that the decline in insect numbers is eight times as big as the decline in other wildlife, so they really need our help.



Here are a few thoughts: **Ponds** are great to provide drinking water for a wide range of small mammals and birds as well as encouraging dragonflies, water beetles, frogs,

toads and newts. The positioning of the pond is important. It is best to create a pond away from deciduous trees so the water is not choked with leaves each autumn. These sink to the bottom and the water quality can quickly deteriorate. The design should include a shallow area so that amphibians can safely come out of the water, also providing hedgehogs and other small mammals an escape route.

Wild flowers with grass provide pollen and nectar for bees, butterflies and other pollinators. 95% of wild flower meadows have disappeared over the last 150 years, so an area in your garden could help redress the balance as well as adding colour in spring and summer. The grass can provide food for butterfly larvae and pollen for adults. It's good to have a mix of annual and perennial wild flowers amongst the grasses and once established, they do not need cutting until July or August (after flowering), so that seed drops to the soil to provide plants for the following year. It's beneficial to take the plant debris away to reduce soil fertility. Wild flowers grow stronger in areas of poor fertility because they do not have to compete with aggressive grasses – and the debris can make very good compost.

All plants provide food or cover for wildlife. Those that are particularly valuable are: *Buddleia*, known as the 'butterfly bush', attracts up to 12 species, especially red admiral, comma, and peacock butterflies.

Honeysuckle, encourages hawk moths, white admiral and marsh fritillary. Plants with perfumed flowers attract moths because they work at night when colour is of little value. Bees love working *clover*, and comma, clouded yellow and common blue butterflies are also attracted. Clover also makes its own nitrogen fertiliser in the nodules in its roots, so a lawn with clover can stay green without fertiliser. *Ivy* flowers well into winter, providing nectar for red admiral and good cover for birds.



John Terry – johnterry23@hotmail.co.uk



Celebrating 25 years of Childcare

2019 is a special year for us as Scallywags will be celebrating its 25th year of childcare.

Scallywags first opened its doors to welcome our little people on 5th April 1994 – in Girton. Girton nursery was a small setting providing childcare for just 15 children, and the founders, Ian and Alison Bradley, had a vision to extend and excel not only in outstanding provision, but also in outdoor play and activities.

25 years on we are incredibly proud to be able to offer the best childcare we can to over 150 children per day, across our two settings. Alongside which we have our very own in-house Forest School environment, providing Forest School sessions every day for many of our children. At these sessions children are encouraged to understand and respect nature and animals, through a series of activities and hands-on sessions, which build confidence and a life-long connection with the environment. We are also very proud to have been awarded the first-ever plaque from the Green Light Trust, to reflect the dedication and commitment of delivering Forest Sessions here at Scallywags.

Scallywags continues to thrive and be a wonderful, happy and exciting place to be, for children from babies right through to our pre-schoolers, who will be heading off to big school come September.

May we take this time to say a massive 'thank you' to all our parents, past and present, who have supported us on our journey. We are extremely grateful for your continued business. Thank you again; it has been a terrific adventure so far, with more adventures to come.

Alison and Ian Bradley, Founders

Oakington & Westwick Sports Pavilion Monthly Lottery 2018 - Winners			
Month	Ticket No	Area	Winnings
March	500	Coles Lane	£100
April	140	High Street	£100
May	230	Manor Farm Close	£100
June	143	Longstanton	£100
July	254	Meadow Farm Close	£100
August	644	Saxon Close	£100
September	341	The Drift	£100
October	341	The Drift	£100
November	640	Saxon Close	£100
December	504	Church View	£150

Humpty Dumpty's Wall

February 16th was Humpty Dumpty Preschool's Annual Jumble Sale and what a success it was! £796 was the grand total including money raised from sending left over jumble to Bags 2 School. The staff and committee worked hard to sort and organise the terrific amount of jumble that had been donated by the village. Thank you to all who donated their unwanted clothes and bric-a-brac to the event. Thank you also to Oakington Primary for hosting the Jumble Sale and to all those who helped set it up and run it. Some of the money has been used already to purchase a new security system for the front door.



The preschool will now be accepting younger children: parents can apply for their child to start from the term after their child's second birthday. Contact Laura Peat, the manager, or drop in to collect a prospectus and to arrange a visit.

This month we are also raising a glass to manager Laura Peat who has been at the preschool for ten years. Her expertise, commitment and dedication to the village preschool, despite her not in living in Oakington, is truly outstanding and she has taken the preschool from strength to strength with her fantastic energy and excellent leadership.

On behalf of the committee, staff and the village, we would like to say a very public "THANK YOU" to Laura!

Jessica Summers

Looking Back

The reopening of the Oakington Women's Institute was celebrated by a social and dance. Music was provided by Mrs E.C. Papworth at the piano and Mr Boutellier's jazz band was very much appreciated. The competition cake was won by Miss Francis and the mysterious competition for gentlemen by Mr W. Elmore. Oakington ladies should be proud that their menfolk took a great interest in the movement.

13th November 1931, as reported in a Cambridge newspaper. With permission, from Mike Petty's collection

Could This Be You?

Someone with a couple of hours a month to spare, who could contact local firms to seek more advertising for the Journal? A list of suggested businesses can be provided – all you would have to do is phone or e-mail them and follow up.



Are you someone who'd enjoy getting to know the advertisers a little – many of them are village residents – to help them get what they need from the Journal?



Not a big job – but it would make a big difference, helping the Journal to continue to be delivered freely to all residents with room for lots of useful and interesting content.

Find out more – get in touch with Jenny or Irène, oakwestjournal@gmail.com.

Jenny Prince

Ten Sing



On a cold night in February a dozen teenagers transformed a church hall into an Italian venue. They had spent most of the day decorating, preparing and cooking wonderful Mediterranean dishes before serving some 50 guests! They also entertained us with some great singing. The teenagers were on a mission to raise funds for new gazebos – needed when performing at outdoor events.

Coming up on Saturday **29 March** is Ten Sing's annual concert "Destiny" at Histon Baptist Church, 7.30pm. Tickets on the door. The annual variety show is



always a treat and suitable for young and old alike. If you are a 'regular' you know you are in for a great evening and if you have never been, this is a wonderful opportunity to see what the Ten Sing youth group is all about!

Irène Butlin

Cambridge Ten Sing's Annual Concert 2019

DESTINY
Saturday 30th March 2019

Oakington and Westwick Tennis Club NEEDS YOU!



OWTC was formed some 50 years ago when there was a distinct possibility that the two tennis courts on the recreation ground were going to be grassed over and lost for good. Back then a band of Oakingtonians offered to run and manage the courts and created an affordable club for all the village. Today the club is still run on this basis and part of the club's constitution states that the courts and club must be affordable and available for all residents in Oakington.

The courts are a valuable village resource but, without the support from the residents of Oakington, we could face their loss again. Over the past 10 years we have seen the number of members dwindle and now we are down to a few stalwarts who are desperately trying to keep this club afloat.

The annual membership goes towards covering the cost of maintenance to the court, for example spraying to keep weeds at bay, key cutting and more expensively, resurfacing. The membership fee is astonishingly good value compared with other tennis clubs in the area.

Tennis is a great game and if you have never played but would like to give it a try we could arrange some professional coaching, depending on numbers coming forward. If you already play tennis, then please consider joining us and take advantage of this amazing village resource.

Even if you are not a tennis player, you might like to consider joining the club just to keep the courts from disappearing and help maintain this village asset for future generations. We run a few social events through the year that you would be able to come along to and meet other members.

For more details on the courts and how to join please contact us at francispinner@aol.com.

Sue Heaver

Garden Society



We meet on the last Wednesday of the month Sept-April, 7:30 pm at St Andrews' Church Hall.

- **27 Mar** Rob. Brett: The Wonderful World of Orchids
- **24 April** Barry Gayton: Drought Tolerant Plants.
- **18 May** Annual plant and produce sale, Oakington Pavilion, 2-4 pm.



Hosta 'Big Daddy,' spring 2018. Julie Grove

New and regular members always welcome – we are happy to discuss all aspects of gardening.

Membership (£15) includes 10% discount at Oakington Garden Centre (excl. Olive Tree Café.)

Julie Grove C 233951

Oakington Singers



According to a recent article in the Guardian, one of the top ten ways to meet new people is to join a choir. Our local choir is the Oakington Singers. Why not come along and try it free for a week? You'll see we are a friendly bunch of singers with a wide repertoire from Abba to Bach. We rehearse every Monday evening from 7.45 to 9.30 pm in St Andrew's church hall, Oakington. If you would like more info or you're looking for a choir to sing at your event, please contact Richard on 07824 643224 or email richard@organistanywhere.co.uk.

After a successful winter concert with the Oaktet in December, we have started the new year with a new musical director, Richard Hinitt, and are looking forward to an exciting 2019 starting with a busy Holy Week in April at St Andrew's Church:

- **31 Mar** Evening service 6:30pm
- **15 April** Stainer's Crucifixion 7pm
- **18 April** Maundy Thursday 7:30pm
- **19 April** Good Friday 10am

Richard Hinitt

History Society



Oakington and Westwick History Society meets on the third Thursday of the month, September to April, at St Andrew's Church Hall at 7.30pm. Our membership is £15 single, £25 family, visitors £4.

Members enjoyed a memorable evening with a talk by James Fairburn and Anthony Haskins from Oxford Archaeology East on the raising of a WW2 Spitfire that crashed at Holme Fen near Huntingdon.

21 Mar: "Life around Histon Pond"

David Oates will be returning with the history of the houses and cottages that surround Histon Pond, famous residents and events, fairs etc. which have been part of this neighbouring village's history for centuries.

18 April: Mike Petty will be back to talk about the impact the First World War had on Fenland communities.

This will be our last talk of this season – back again in September.

Julie Grove 01223 233951

Tuesday Talk & Tea



Last month Kathryn entertained us with memorabilia from her trip to Singapore.

- **9 April** Trip around local churches plus social quiz
- **14 May** To be arranged

Both meetings at St Andrew's Hall at 2.45 pm, incorporating English tea.

It's good to chat!!

Joan Pettit (chairperson)



From the WI

Were you thinking of joining us this year and didn't get around to it? Well the good news is it's never too late as you can now take out membership at any time in the year and be charged the remaining months only! Please contact Helen on 232614 or Pauline on 233443 for details. You can also visit our Facebook page: Oakington and Westwick Women's Institute. We meet every second Thursday in the month at 7.30pm in St Andrew's Church Hall.

Our meetings in March and April have a Foodie theme! On 14th March we will be visited by Tiptree Jams and are assured that sampling is obligatory! Our 11th April meeting is entitled "Fish and chips and Sea Shanties". What more can I say?

Such is the talent within our own village, that each year our programme incorporates a homespun speaker. In May therefore we have invited Oakington author John Barnett to share some of his published (and not yet published?) works with us!



A good evening was had for our AGM in February at which we all successfully managed to make a Danish heart to mark the fact it was Valentine's Day!
Helen Williams



Short Mat Bowls Club

We are a small, friendly club and would welcome new members. You don't need any previous experience playing bowls – just come along and give it a try as our guest. We have spare sets of bowls for you to use – all you need is a pair of smooth-soled shoes.



We play throughout the year on Thursdays at the Sports Pavilion in Queensway, Oakington. There are two sessions of play, one in the afternoon and one in the evening. There has been a **change to the start time for the afternoon session** and players now meet at **2.30 pm**, playing until 4.30 pm. The evening session is from 7.30 pm to 10.00 pm.

For further information please contact:

Dawn Stokes 01223 236427

Vikings Football Club

All our teams are enjoying a fantastic season with lots of development, football skills, fitness, fun, goals, sportsmanship and Viking team spirit.

The Under 6's are progressing well and played their third friendly match against Cambourne recently. The team put in a great performance and the crowd went wild when their first ever goal went in!



All of our teams are always looking for new players. Please see contact details if you or anyone else may be interested in joining the Vikings FC.

Club Contacts - Our Teams and Coaches

- Under 6's Jamie A 07563563359
- Under 8's Toby 07881496552
- Under 10's Marcus and Josh 07866635241
- Under 14's Ronnie and James 07714099017
- Adult team James and Toby 07834465188

James Wilson

Country Dance Club

Jane and I look forward to seeing you at Histon Methodist Church Hall on **Friday 22nd March and Friday 26th**

April at 8.00 p.m. for two more fun evenings of friendship and dancing. We cater for all abilities so, if you are a beginner or an advanced dancer, you will be most welcome. We have live music and a caller each month.

Adults: £1.50 Accompanied Children: 50p. See you there.

Kathryn Coles



Table Tennis Club

We are a small, friendly club, of mixed ability. We play throughout the year, every Tuesday at 7.30pm at the Pavilion. We welcome new players. We have four tables and spare bats - all you need is a pair of trainers. Junior players must be accompanied by an adult. For more information contact Gillian L'angelier on 234758.



Garden Cuttings

Spring is just around the corner, the bulbs are up and the birds are singing and with the increasing light and temperature levels the garden is waking up to another exciting year.

Although it is one of the busiest times in the garden, with sowing, pruning, potting on and planting out, it is also a good time to take a brief look back to last year. Which plants or projects were successful? Which plants didn't do so well, or may need to be treated differently or moved to another location to thrive? A quick review could help you plan for a more successful 2019, and it is always fun to look at new varieties to try!

Although last summer was unusually hot and we can't predict what this year will bring, if the structure of your soil is improved this will help plants to cope with any extremes of weather. Using well-rotted compost will improve structure, drainage and give crucial nutrients to emerging plants. Mulching around plants with compost or other



organic matter will help retain moisture and keep weeds down too.

Adding water butts to downpipes off sheds or other roofs will ensure that you have water for the garden if we experience a hose pipe ban.

Kits to attach water butts to drip pipes can be added too, so that the water can be piped to the bottom of the garden.

To help you choose plants that stand a better chance of being successful in your soil and avoid costly mistakes, find your soil type and check the pH level with an easy-to-use soil testing kit.

For the best chance of success, always remember to start with clean seed trays, secateurs and tools – this helps to reduce introducing pests and diseases – and obviously read planting instructions and seed packets, as some will need quite different treatment from others!

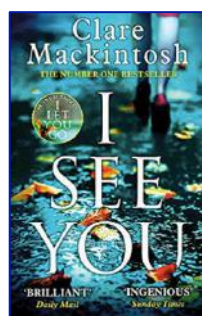
Now is the time to sow many types of vegetables, herbs and flowers. For example, lettuce, peas and spring onion can be sown directly outside, as can hardy annuals. Sow under cover tender vegetables like cucumber and tomatoes and half-hardy annuals eg. antirrhinums, zinnias, cosmos. Sow very fine seed mixed with horticultural sand to help disperse seed more evenly.

After seedlings have emerged, 'prick out' (lift by the plant's first set of true leaves and not the delicate stems which are easily damaged), and pot them on using a suitable 'potting on' compost, water and place into a light, well ventilated but draught-proof area.

Make sure that the seedlings have the correct spacing for their variety as overcrowding will result in weak and 'leggy' plants.

Gradually 'harden off' established seedlings by placing them in a cooler but protected environment (a cloche is ideal) for a few hours more each day – until all danger of frost is past. The plants are then ready to be left out at night and planted

Book Corner



I See You by Clare Mackintosh
"You do the same thing every day, you know where you're going. You're not alone...."

This book was amazing!! It had me gripped from start to finish and I didn't see the twist coming, which is unusual for me!

This is my perfect kind of book, slightly

sinister but very believable, set around modern family life in London. Clare Mackintosh definitely knows how to write a good psychological thriller, she grabs your attention and leaves you wanting more!

A perfect read for curling up on the sofa under a blanket with a cuppa!



Hanna Lumley

Let them eat cake

This is one of my favourite recipes. It is very quick and easy and DELICIOUS.

Crumble Cake with Apples

Ingredients:

300g plain flour
 75g cornflour
 1 heaped teaspoon baking powder
 1 medium egg
 200g caster sugar
 225g butter/margarine
 1 teaspoon of vanilla
 2 big apples peeled and cut into thin slices (or 3-4 small apples)



Sift the dry ingredients into a bowl. Add the egg, sugar, fat and vanilla and beat with a handheld electric whisk until crumbs form (only takes a few seconds. Try not to overbeat it). Put $\frac{3}{4}$ of the mix into a big, well greased springform tin (or two small tins), press down gently and arrange the apples on top. Cover with the rest of the crumbs and bake in a preheated oven at 170° for about 40mins, until nice and golden.

This recipe also works really well with any other fruit like raspberries, redcurrants, rhubarb or tinned apricots.



Maria Barnett

into their beds or final position.

Make a note of the varieties and date planted, on a sturdy label with pencil or waterproof marker for your pots and beds, so there are no mysteries later on!

Have a great growing season!

Jan Zelnick

Keep Abreast of Affairs

.... over a glass of wine and light refreshments!

Come to the **Annual Parish Meeting** on Monday **29th April**, 7pm at the Pavilion. Enjoy socialising, hearing about what's going on locally and finding out what it will be like living nine minutes from a town centre!

This meeting is organised by the Parish Council specifically for O&W residents.

Editors



Protection against Fraud

Please be aware there have been a number of courier/telephone banking frauds carried out across South Cambs villages, including Oakington.

Your bank or the police will **never** call you to ask you to verify your personal details or PIN by phone or offer to pick up your card by courier. *Hang up if you get a call like this.*

If you need to call your bank back to check, wait five minutes as fraudsters may stay on the line after you hang up. Alternatively, use a different line altogether to call your bank.

Never call a telephone number given to you by a suspected fraudster. Use the number on the back of your bank card!

from Cambridgeshire Police



Find Your Customers Here

Do you work for yourself, or for a local business? Let everyone in Oakington and Westwick know about it, by advertising in the Journal! The Journal survey 15 months ago indicated that 90% of readers look at the adverts, and that 40% keep the Journal to look up a business's details. Your next customers could well be among the 650-odd readers who receive free copies every two months.

Dog walkers, plumbers, taxi services, builders, electricians, cleaners, gardeners, decorators, pet sitters, window cleaners... people often want to use services like these. So if you know of anyone who offers them, point them here!



Adverts	for 1 year (6 copies)	one-off
Business card size	£66	£15
1/4 page (portrait)	£99	£25
1/2 page (landscape)	£198	£45

*Contact the editors
oakwestjournal@gmail.com*

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What does the Parish Council do?

Who is responsible for what?

In the second of a series of articles on the workings of the Oakington & Westwick Parish Council (PC) we aim to shed some light on what it does and what it can do.

Local Government services are divided in various ways, and in the area around the villages of Oakington and Westwick there are three main divisions:

- Cambridgeshire County Council
- South Cambridgeshire District Council
- the PC

All have varying, though sometimes divided, responsibilities for the services and resources made available to members of the public, and for ensuring compliance with the various pieces of Local Government legislation that are in force.

The PC is responsible for a predefined area within the District or County, usually including and surrounding one or more villages, and known sometimes as a 'civil parish'. This should not be confused with the type of parish associated with a church. Whereas the County and District councils can tend to be fairly political in their policies, the PC is independent in political orientation, focused more on the requirements of the people and resources in the local area although it does of course have to operate within the constraints of national law.

Money to support the operation of all three tiers of local Government is provided through Council Tax, or direct from the Government. In the case of a parish council the money budgeted and spent each year is mostly obtained from the Council Tax through what is known as the "Parish Precept" (explained in the January issue of the Journal).

Services are provided at various levels of council:

Service	Cambridgeshire County Council	South Cambridge District Council	Parish Council
Community centres/halls	No	Yes	Yes
Education	Yes	No	No
Highways	Yes	No	No
Housing	No	Yes	No
Parks & open spaces	No	Yes	Yes
Planning	Yes	Yes	Yes
Recycling and bin collection	Yes	Yes	No
Social services	Yes	No	No
Street lighting	Yes	Yes	Yes

The PC has an overall responsibility for the well-being of its local community. Its work falls into three main categories:

- Representing the local community
- Delivering services that meet local needs
- Trying to improve quality of life in the parish

The PC might provide and/or maintain some of the following services:

- burial grounds / cemeteries
- car parks
- community transport schemes
- footpaths and bridleways
- charities
- bus shelters
- commons / open spaces
- crime reduction measures
- leisure facilities
- clocks

The PC has a duty to consider providing allotments if demand is unsatisfied.

The PC will also co-operate with the District and/or County councils on:

- litter bins
- local youth projects
- open spaces
- public toilets
- planning
- street cleaning
- street lighting
- tourism activities
- traffic calming measures
- village greens

The PC has the power to prosecute and defend any legal proceedings in the interests of the community – none that the councillors can recall.

The PC has an additional statutory power known as the 'General Power of Competence'. This means that the PC has the power to do anything which they consider would achieve the promotion or improvement of the economic, social or environmental well-being of their area. There are particular criteria they must follow to do this but it means that they can, for example, do anything an individual may do, including taking out a loan and establishing a company or co-operative.

A full list of the PC Powers and Duties can be found on our website under Documents Archive/Miscellaneous:
<https://tinyurl.com/y3ft6sbl>

Geoffrey Butlin, Councillor

Welcome a New Neighbour

If somebody has moved in near you, take them a village 'Welcome' leaflet to help them feel at home. This has a map of the villages and some key information for new residents.

It's a good excuse to knock on the door and say hello.

Contact: Bruce Sutherland
brucessutherland@aol.com - 01223 236665



What's On at the White Horse

Monday:	<i>Darts (until end of March)</i>
Tuesday:	<i>Poker night</i>
Wednesday:	<i>Pétanque (from end of April)</i>
Thursday:	<i>Quiz night</i>
Friday:	<i>Mexican night</i>
Sunday:	<i>Sunday Roast menu</i>

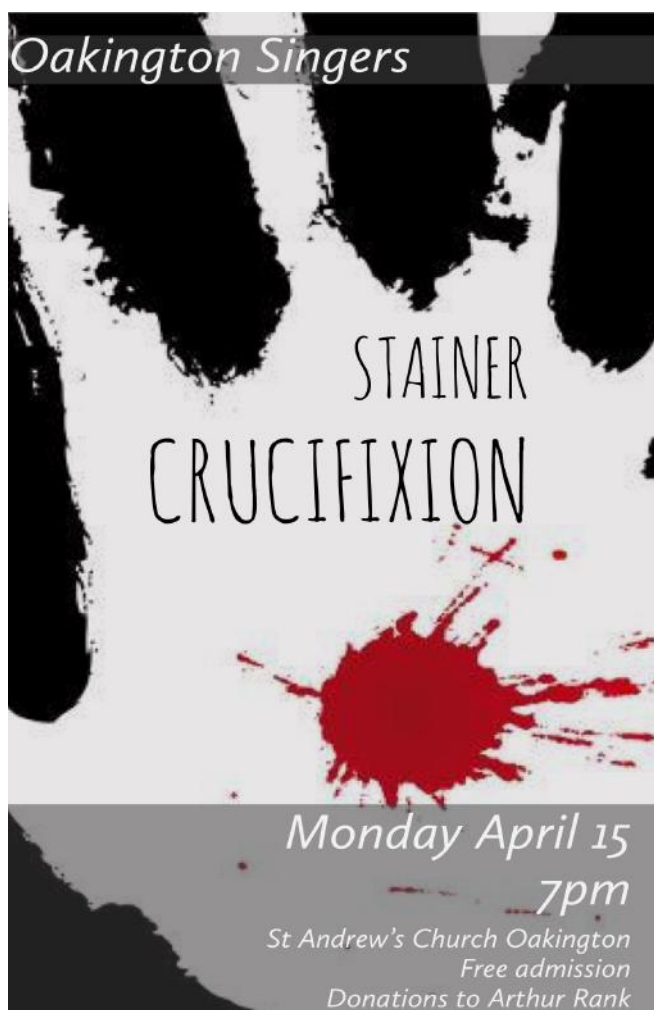
Heidi Allen, MP's surgeries & contact details

Friday 5 April, I'll be at Bar Hill Tesco 3.30–5pm

Saturday 6 April – “Drop in” surgery,
10.30–12.30pm at Abbeyfield, Wellbrook Way,
Girton CB3 0GQ. No appointment necessary!

My next “by appointment surgery” will be on
Thursday 2 May 3–5pm at my office in Hardwick.
Call 01223 830037 for an appointment.

In the meantime, if you would like to contact me,
please email heidi.allen.mp@parliament.uk or call
my office on 01223 830037.



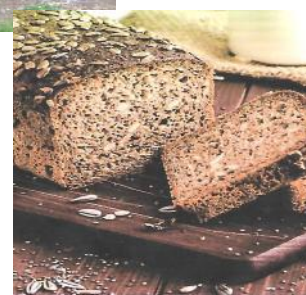
OAKINGTON GARDEN SOCIETY ANNUAL PLANT AND PRODUCE SALE

SATURDAY 18TH MAY 2 – 4 p.m.
OAKINGTON PAVILION



Vegetable
and bedding
plants, rare
and exotics
etc.

We also have a
selection of
home-made
Bread and
Cakes.
Craft Stalls.



Ann Ison

Whitehall Farmhouse on Longstanton Road is a Grade II listed building, the main part dating back to the 17th century.

By the 1950s the house had fallen into disrepair and become rather dark and uninviting. However, when the then Ann Malyon saw the thatched cottage for the first time, the sun was shining through the rooms and she fell instantly in love with it. The year was 1958 and she had just got engaged to Dennis Ison.

Ann was born in Great Shelford in 1937 and she met Dennis through friends at Young Farmers. They went on to farm Whitehall, Poplar and Phyper's farms and one in Girton, covering some 5–600 acres. Together they put their energies into renovating the house and breeding pedigree Large White pigs. They also kept cows, sheep and chickens.

In the early years Dennis travelled a lot on business, predominantly to Eastern Europe. Pigs were sought after there, for being the most efficient in converting grains to protein. He also regularly attended shows exhibiting their prize-winning pigs. Ann held the fort at home, with help on the farm and in the house. Many in Oakington will have been to school with Charles, Mary, Jane and William.

Ann remembers the days they would get livestock delivered by same-day train from Aberdeen to Oakington Station! On one occasion a ram had been tied in the guard's van, but it resolutely refused to get out and the staff were afraid to tackle it. The stationmaster sent for Ann, who provided entertainment for the delayed passengers by grabbing the ram and leaping onto the platform with it!

Several times they were phoned up from the control tower at the airfield asking for permission to remove a plane which had overshot the runway and landed in a field. Later a metal



mesh fence would catch planes near the airfield perimeter.

Ann was involved in the local community too, with the PTA at school, including raising funds for the swimming pool; the Mothers' Union at church, e.g. Flower Festivals and fabric restoration; and she spent several periods on the Parish Council. The PC met at the old Methodist Chapel or the School back then.

In the wider community Ann was chairman of the local Conservative Party and sometimes had to assist Francis Pym, MP for Cambridgeshire. When Northern Ireland Secretary, Mr Pym would fly from N Ireland to Oakington Airfield to be picked up by the Isons. Once Ann turned up at the guardhouse, provided her password only to be disbelieved and military trucks hemming in her car. When

the protection officers came off the plane greeting her with a 'Hello Ann', followed by Francis giving her a kiss, the guards realized they had messed up!



In the 70s the financial climate changed and pig farming became less profitable. So Ann started working for Laser Scan on the Science Park, followed by a stint at the estate agent January's at the time of the Kite development.

However, she then found her niche with Save the Children, ending up

as Regional Manager of East Anglia. Perhaps the most prestigious event was securing a visit to Cambridge by Princess Anne, President of Save the Children. The newspapers carried photos of the visit, including the princess meeting Oakington children.

It was not all glamorous, though. One December afternoon, Ann gave a radio interview in Peterborough. When she drove home it was dark, the wind had got up and it was snowing. She made it to Dry Drayton Road, but soon had to abandon the car due to snowdrifts. It was a cold and frightening mile and a half walk home. No mobile phones in those days! However, it would seem that the inclement weather had caused more people to stay in and listen to the radio, because donations were noticeably up!

By 1985 Dennis and Ann had decided to leave Oakington for a farm near Lockerbie, Scotland, to concentrate on sheep and cattle breeding. Ann particularly regretted having to leave their farm house. She was also sorry to have to tender her resignation to Save the Children. However, to her surprise they offered her a challenging vacancy in the North, bringing together the work in Yorkshire and Lancashire.

Sadly Dennis died three years ago. Ann is grateful that her son, Charles, is now running the farm and living next door. She is also unexpectedly happy in her "new" but old house, which only dates from 1880!

Irène Butlin

Adverts removed for online version

Parish Councillors

Chair: Stephen Moore

Vice-Chair: Tony Starling

John Bailey

Geoffrey Butlin

Julie Grove

Luis Navarro

Ranko Pinter

Lis Warboys

Email address for all councillors
oakingtonpc@btinternet.com

Parish Website

www.oakingtonandwestwick-pc.org.uk

**Correspondence to the Council
should be addressed to the Clerk:**

Mrs Laura Lawrence

Email: oakingtonpc@btinternet.com

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

Monthly newsletter:
www.sclibdems.org.uk/email_signup/longstanton

News and updates:
www.sclibdems.org.uk/longstanton/news

Facebook group:
www.facebook.com/groups/2066298150052161/

County Councillor

Oakington, Westwick, Longstanton,
Northstowe & Over

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

Pavilion Booking Administrator

Tony Leadley – 07936 024587
oakingtonpavilion@gmail.com

From our Parish Council chair

The results of the consultation on the proposed siting of a **Rural Travel Hub** were published last week (I am writing this at the beginning of March). I must admit to being surprised at the lack of interest in the village, with only 106 people responding. The majority of those who responded were in favour of a Hub without parking provision – though a substantial minority (c. 40%) of respondents did want some parking. However, residents of Cottenham, who were also included in the consultation, were strongly in favour of a Hub with parking provision. After a number of meetings with the relevant team from the Greater Cambridge Partnership, the Parish Council came to the view that a Hub with parking provision would have little benefit to Oakington and Westwick residents.

If a Hub with parking provision does go ahead, Westwick residents and anyone living on Water Lane/Station Rd can expect an increase in traffic, as people drive to the guided busway from Cottenham and nearby villages. There is also likely to be increased off road parking, and we have not been assured of any parking places at the Hub being reserved for Oakington and Westwick residents. The Parish Council and our County Councillor, Peter Hudson, have therefore objected to a Hub with parking provision. We were pleased that our concerns have been recognised as being reasonable by the Greater Cambridge Partnership and we now wait for the appropriate committee to make a final decision on March 20th.

If you have any views on this or any village topics, then you have the opportunity to air them at the **Annual Parish Meeting on 29th April at 7pm in the Pavilion**. It promises to be an interesting meeting with excellent refreshments available and a talk on our new town centre of Northstowe (9 minutes by bike from the village) which is being built right now! I have already attended a talk on the style and design of the centre and it was absolutely riveting, so do come along to the Annual Parish Meeting and find out more.

I would like to express my appreciation of the work done for the village by all three of our local authority Councillors. I have mentioned County Councillor Peter Hudson above, but also our District Councillors, Alex Malyon and Sarah Cheung Johnson, organised and attended a successful meeting between myself and Northstowe management. I had been trying to arrange a meeting for over six months without success; Alex and Sarah intervened and achieved this in a couple of weeks. Issues of green separation, flood attenuation and road/bridleway links with the new town were discussed. Hear more about these, too, at the Annual Parish Meeting.

Finally, we are still one Parish Councillor short. Fancy helping to make the village a great place to live? Become a Parish Councillor – hours of endless fun and unlimited appreciation from villagers! If you want to know more, contact me at the address below.

Dr Stephen Moore – oakingtonchairman@gmail.com



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.

From our County Councillor

County Council Budget

The County Council met in February to approve the administration's budget and set council tax for 2019/20 in the context of its 5-year business plan. The overall objective is to continue to protect and invest in vital services whilst using service transformation, efficiency, investment and commercialisation to offset cuts in government funding. We are on our own as the County Council now receives no general funding from the Government. The transformation of the way the Council works is a key factor in delivering best value for money and to support this the budget includes

"We are on our own as the County Council now receives no general funding from the Government" an increase of £4.764m into the transformation fund; we used a £1.436m surplus built up in this fund to balance the 2019/20 budget without the need to make unpalatable cuts to services. The Council has so far invested £8m from this fund into initiatives to transform services or manage demand, which has returned a £40m reduction in costs.

The Council's commercial projects to date are due to return a profit of £11.2m in 2019/20 including £1m from the Soham solar farm which this month met its annual £1m income target 2 months ahead of schedule. This month saw



a proposal to generate solar power at Babraham Park & Ride., putting carports over parking spaces to support solar panels. The Council has completed a high-level business case to support a planning application in 2019 with construction starting in 2020. Cambridgeshire County Council's plans for commercialisation and investment are set to return more than £58m to support frontline services over the next five years. The County Council will continue to invest in vital services aimed at vulnerable adults and children and increasing funding on highways repairs, which means:

- £45 million in additional spending planned for adult and children's services over the next five years.
- £18 million additional spending planned for highways improvements in the next five years.

Designing Libraries for the future

The Library Service has teamed up with CIVIC, a national charity specialising in animating communities. They and the County's Business Intelligence team have worked over the past few months to identify five possible models of libraries and a shortlist of pilot locations. They will soon be engaging with the pilot communities and starting to co-design the libraries of the future that reflect the diversity of communities and contexts. This will form a blueprint for all councils across the country to use in the future.

*Peter Hudson, County Councillor
Oakington, Westwick, Longstanton, Northstowe, & Over*

From our District Councillors

The report on the **Rural Travel Hub** (RTH) consultation has now been published:

www.greatercambridge.org.uk/transport/transport-projects/rural-travel-hubs/

Key findings include:

- 82% of respondents supported the proposals for a RTH; the majority indicated they would use it.
- 73% of respondents preferred option 1 (with parking), although contrasting views were apparent based on respondent's location. Cottenham residents were most supportive of option 1 and Oakington and Westwick residents most supportive of option 2 (without parking).

The GCP board meet on 20th March to decide the next steps for the project.

At February's community forum we got the latest **updates from Northstowe**; this included exciting news on the proposed masterplan for Northstowe town centre. The centre will be approximately 8 minutes from Oakington. The proposed plans reflected the changing nature of town centres and the move away from traditional retail, with more emphasis placed on working space and other leisure activities that would bring people into the town. Public transport and cycle access will be key to the plans.

More details on this, full notes and the slides from the

Northstowe presentations can be found on our Facebook page, or contact us via email.

At February's meeting of the full **South Cambs council**, members approved the new council budget and business plan. The four priority areas agreed in the business plan were:

- Growing local business and the economy
- Housing that is affordable for everyone – including doubling the number of council houses built each year
- Being green to our core – developing plans for South Cambs to become carbon-neutral, exploring opportunities for green energy production and improving air quality
- Making SCDC a modern and caring council.

"Plans reflected the changing nature of town centres"

Councillors also agreed at the meeting to a £5 per year increase in Council Tax for the average band D home. This is the equivalent of 10 extra pence per week. The council also approved plans to charge higher council tax on homes that are left empty, to encourage them back into use.

More details can be found on the SCDC website:

www.scambs.gov.uk/news/
Alex Malyon & Sarah Cheung Johnson



Oakington & Westwick Sports Pavilion



2019 Monthly Lottery



Please join the lottery & support The Pavilion.

To join Please text JOIN plus your name, house number & postcode to 07831 828898.

or

Complete the form below & return to the Pavilion with your payment. Thank you.

The Lottery is run by the Oakington & Westwick Sports Pavilion Management Committee. This has been very popular and successful over the years with all profits from the lottery going towards the future development of facilities at the Pavilion.

The lottery commences at the end of March. The monthly prize is £100 with a prize of £150 for the December draw.

The cost of one annual ticket is £10 for 10 draws (March - December 2019). Tickets must be applied for and paid by 31st March 2019. There is no limit to the number of tickets that you can buy.

We hope that you will take part, you could be lucky and it helps raise funds to develop facilities at the Pavilion which in turn are enjoyed by many local clubs & groups.

Please text the number above or complete the form below and we can either call to collect your payment or you can take it to the post box at the pavilion. Please make cheques payable to Oakington & Westwick Sports Pavilion. On receipt of your payment your ticket will be allocated and delivered to you in due course.

Thank you to all those that have supported the lottery in the past and to all newcomers for 2019. Please call 01223 235187 if you would like us to collect your payment! Thank you.



Promoter: Oakington & Westwick Sports Pavilion Management Committee,
Queens Way, Oakington, Cambridge, CB24 3AW
Registration Number: SL0120



Number of tickets required @ £10.00 per ticket per year: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____ **Telephone:** _____