

Oakington & Westwick

Oct/Nov 2022

Journal

Bonfire Night

Drought Effects

Oakington Turns 20



What's On

Weekly

Mon	Monday Café , 9:30–noon. Church Hall, £1. Liz Davis – C 232 745
Mon	Brownies , 6–7:15pm. Pavilion. Hanna Lumley – 07557 090322
Mon	Oakington Singers , 7:30–9pm. Church Hall. Elaine Bailey – elainebailey1@live.co.uk
Tue	Happy Feet , 10–11am. Church Hall. For under 5s, term time. Ben Phillips – familyworker@standrewsoakington.co.uk
Tue	Cubs , 6–7:15pm. Pavilion. Contact iain.ramsay@oakingtonscouts.org.uk
Tue	Table Tennis , 7:30–9pm. Pavilion. Gillian L'angellier – C 234 758
Thu	Little Steps , 10–11:30am. Church Hall. For under 5s, term time. 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 – C 236 427
Fri	Tool Share open, usually 4:30–6pm. Contact gerard@cambridgereuse.org.uk / 07857 704636
Fri	Beavers followed by Scouts , 6pm. Pavilion. beavers@oakingtonscouts.org.uk , cara.hanman@oakingtonscouts.org.uk

Sat	1 Oct	Village Walk & Talk , 10:30am. Meet by church on High Street. Alice – OWNeighbours@gmail.com
Fri	7 Oct	Minibus to Bar Hill , 10am. To book ring Teri Seaber – 07711 531004
Fri	7 Oct	Mobile Library , 1:50–2:20 pm. Coles Lane
Fri	7 Oct	Harvest Concert , 7pm. St. Andrew's Church. Enjoy village talent and refreshments. See back cover.
Mon	10 Oct	O&W Parish Council , 7:30pm. Pavilion. All invited. clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk
Tue	11 Oct	Tuesday Talk & Tea , 2:45pm. Church Hall. Musical Afternoon. Joan Pettit – joanpettit93@yahoo.com
Wed	12 Oct	Northstowe Community Forum , 6pm. Northstowe Secondary College. northstowe.community@scambs.gov.uk
Thu	13 Oct	O&W WI , 7:30pm. Church Hall. Members' evening: "Worth a Visit". Elaine Bailey – elainebailey1@live.co.uk
Fri	14 Oct	Country Dancing , 8–10pm. Histon Methodist Church Hall. £2/50p. Kathryn Coles – C 233 191
Sat	15 Oct	Apple Pressing , any time 11am–4pm. Old Stables on the High Street. Alice – OWNeighbours@gmail.com
Wed	26 Oct	Sustainable O&W , 7:30pm. Church Hall. "Eco Homes". sustainableow@gmail.com
Sat	29 Oct	Apple Pressing , any time 11am–4pm. Old Stables on the High Street. Alice – OWNeighbours@gmail.com
Sat	29 Oct	Drawing/painting group , 10am–12:30pm. Church Hall. Jenny Lloyd – Lloydjenny13@hotmail.com
Sat	29 Oct	Oakington Royal British Legion service , 2pm. St. Andrew's Church. To lay up and replace Standard

Tue	1 Nov	OWN AGM , 7:30pm. Pavilion meeting room. All invited. owneighbours@gmail.com
Fri	4 Nov	Minibus to Bar Hill , 10am. To book ring Teri Seaber – 07711 531004
Fri	4 Nov	Mobile Library , 1:50–2:20 pm. Coles Lane
Sat	5 Nov	Village Walk & Talk , 10:30am. Meet by church on High Street. Alice – OWNeighbours@gmail.com
Sat	5 Nov	Bonfire Night , 5pm. Recreation Ground. See back cover for details. oakington.westwick.ca@gmail.com
Mon	7 Nov	Transport Action Group meeting. White Horse. Email Jim Bryant for details – owcp.tag@gmail.com
Tue	8 Nov	Tuesday Talk & Tea , 2:45pm. Church Hall. Christmas shoe boxes. Joan Pettit – joanpettit93@yahoo.com
Thu	10 Nov	O&W WI , 7:30pm. Church Hall. TV baker Ian Cumming. Elaine Bailey – elainebailey1@live.co.uk
Fri	11 Nov	Country Dancing , 8–10pm. Histon Methodist Church Hall. £2/50p. Kathryn Coles – C 233 191
Sat	12 Nov	Tennis Club Quiz . For more details and to enter, email oakingtontc@gmail.com
Mon	14 Nov	O&W Parish Council , 7:30pm. Pavilion. All invited. clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk
Sat	26 Nov	Drawing/painting group , 10am–12:30pm. Church Hall. Jenny Lloyd – Lloydjenny13@hotmail.com
Wed	30 Nov	Sustainable O&W , 7:30pm. Church Hall. "Building a Bird Box" (TBC). sustainableow@gmail.com
Fri	2 Dec	Minibus to Bar Hill , 10am. To book ring Teri Seaber – 07711 531004
Sat	3 Dec	Village Walk & Talk , 10:30am. Meet by church on High Street. Alice – OWNeighbours@gmail.com



Thank you very much to all those who completed my commuter survey last month. Your help is invaluable to my studies!

Ella Darling

BIN DAYS

Thu 13 Oct, Thu 27 Oct, Thu 10 Nov, Thu 24 Nov	Black bin
Thu 6 Oct, Thu 20 Oct, Thu 3 Nov, Thu 17 Nov, Thu 1 Dec	Blue & green bins

Cover photo: Hanna Lumley

Welcome & Royal British Legion

We're preparing the Journal just after the funeral of Queen Elizabeth II. It was a day of shared stillness, after nearly two weeks of grief and gratitude, not just for our longest reigning monarch but for a person who was widely loved and respected for her long life of dedication. Like all amazing nonagenarians, she had lived through war and events now locked in history for most of us. But unlike most, she never retired, carrying out her duties right up to her death.

That she touched so many people is evident from the queues

to see her lying in state. Many of us have felt sympathy for the family, having to experience their loss of a mum and granny so publicly.

The national attention has now moved on to other things. But the values that the Queen held continue in our lives here in Oakington and Westwick: unity in community, a sense of our roots, service to each other. Spot them as you read.

Jenny Prince & Irène Butlin, Editors



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

Journal Team:

Jenny Prince (*editor*), Irène Butlin (*co-editor & advert layout*), Jenny Broadway (*distribution*), Jane Goodyer (*advertising*), Geoffrey Butlin (*adviser*), Ranko Pinter (*chair*).

Send contributions to
oakwestjournal@gmail.com

or phone: 233510 (Jenny)
or 234383 (Irène)

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Tuesday 22 November

To advertise in the Journal,
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Adverts for the next issue must be received by **15 November**.

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

Royal British Legion – New Standard



In the past the RBL was a significant part of life, particularly in villages. It is now largely associated with the poppy collection – the village collected £752 last November with the help of local businesses. The existence of the social clubs and local initiatives to support ex service personnel and their families goes unnoticed.

The RBL Oakington branch is administered by Histon and Impington branch from the Social Club premises in Histon; there are but a few members left in Oakington. The Standard of the women's section has long since been laid up and can be seen in the church above the War Memorial. The existing Standard for Oakington is to be laid up and replaced in a special service. All are welcome to come to the service in church at **2pm on Saturday 29th October**.

Kevin Fentiman

Oakington and Westwick History Society



People around the world were saddened by the recent death of Queen Elizabeth II. Over the years there have been several royal visits to Oakington and Westwick, primarily around the airfield. These included a visit to RAF Oakington in July 1944, when Princess Elizabeth accompanied her father (King George VI) and mother to visit No 7 Squadron. Princess Alexandra of Kent attended the 1956 passing out parade for RAF Oakington flying school. Whilst he was a student at Cambridge University, in the late 1960s, Prince (now King) Charles visited the airfield RAF Flying School on a number of occasions where he received instruction in flying different types of aircraft. After the airfield became Oakington barracks, Princess Margaret visited the 1st Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment in 1997.

So, Oakington has connections to both our previous and our new monarch.

Steve Gamble

Oakington and Westwick Neighbourhood Watch



There are several ways to reach the police via the internet, which preserves 999 and 101 call handlers' time for real emergencies and people that need help the most.

However, always **call 999 in emergencies**, or when: a serious offence is in progress or has just been committed; someone is in immediate danger or harm; property is in danger of being damaged; a serious disruption to the public is likely.

Online reports s-url.co/STABAA are there for when you would like to provide police with information about anything from antisocial behaviour to fraud and corruption. Submit a report online and it will be progressed exactly the same way as a 101 call. The **live web chat** s-url.co/sjABAA is available around the clock and can be accessed via the police website any time by clicking the green icon in the bottom right of the screen. Finally, you can also tell police about a public place in your local area where you feel unsafe using the **StreetSafe** tool: s-url.co/szABAA.

Jillian Wilkinson oakwestnhw@gmail.com 01223 233585



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Parish Councillors

Chair: Stephen Moore

chair@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk

Vice-Chair: Tony Starling

John Bailey	Julie Grove
Will Bailey	Ranko Pinter
Matt Davidson	David Reeves
One Vacancy	

Email address for all councillors

clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk

Parish Website

www.oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk

Correspondence to the Council should be addressed to the Clerk:

Mrs Laura Lawrence – Email:

clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk

Post: 4 Meadow Farm Close
Oakington CB24 3AS

Phone: 01223 232398

District Councillors

Sarah Cheung Johnson – 01954 489089

cllr.cheungjohnson@scambs.gov.uk

Alex Malyon – 01954 202859

cllr.malyon@scambs.gov.uk

County Councillor

Oakington, Westwick, Longstanton,
Northstowe & Over

Firouz Thompson – 07974 680875

firouz.thompson@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Member of Parliament

Anthony Browne – 01223 603677

anthony.browne.mp@parliament.uk

VILLAGE INFORMATION

Community Association

oakington.westwick.ca@gmail.com

Neighbourhood Watch

Jillian Wilkinson – 01223 233585

oakwestnhw@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

From our Parish Council Chair

I write this on the day of the Queen's funeral. The country is united in grief for the loss of a woman who conducted herself with great decorum and devoted her life to fulfilling the duties of a monarch. To think that only two days before her death she insisted on fulfilling her constitutional duty of appointing a new prime minister, is testimony to her commitment to her role. The Parish Council would like to take this opportunity to welcome the reign of Charles III. To respect the death of the Queen, the September Parish Council meeting was cancelled and all business is being added to the October meeting. A meeting with the developers of Northstowe was also cancelled.

However, the Parish Council remains very much in action, with a number of initiatives having taken place over the summer. The most obvious change, resulting from liaison between the Parish Council, the Transport Action Group and the County Council, has been the introduction of the **20 mph** speed limit and the construction of speed tables in the roads most used by through traffic. I know these are not popular, but attempts by the Parish Council over the last few years to have speed cameras introduced in the village or regular police speed checks were unsuccessful. In the end, the PC felt the only way to slow traffic down was the use of physical obstructions and consequently obtained enough funding to have the tables installed. According to our speed monitor, the tables have already led to a reduction in traffic speeds, though as always, there are those anti-social, thoughtless people who continue to speed. Without police enforcement, there is little we can do about them.

We have received a few comments from concerned parents regarding the **flashing lights** near the school, warning drivers to slow down. Just to confirm, these will not be removed. We are also receiving feedback from residents regarding the new speed control measures and I am pleased to say that they are very positive. One issue that is being raised is the need to introduce lower speed limits entering the village from Girton and Dry Drayton; we also need to extend the 20 mph limit to include Westwick.

After the harvesting in August, the condition of Longstanton Road was frankly appalling, with a thick layer of mud covering the road. Concerned residents took direct action, blocking the tractors. The same contractors had caused similar problems last year and had also ripped up the end of The Drift, making it dangerous for anyone walking. Eventually, with the intercession of our county councillor, Firouz Thompson, cleaning has been undertaken. However, the drains will now need checking, as the previous year they had been blocked by the huge amount of mud swept into them. It is clear that County Highways will need to intervene for both drain clearance and to repair the road at the end of The Drift.

You may recall that over the last year there has been a requirement for the Parish Council to comment on sites that developers have identified in the proposed **Local Plan**. We thought the process had finished, but developers are interested in additional sites in Oakington and Westwick. We are not being asked to support or object – yet. I will keep you informed.

I am very pleased to note that the **Telephone Box Library** is, once again, open. We believe that it is unlikely that there will be a repeat of the vandalism which forced us to close the box. While it was closed we took the opportunity to renew and repaint it. Thanks to Parish Councillors Tony Starling and David Reeves for their hard work. Thanks also to Liz Davis for restocking and running the library.

In the recent spate of vandalism, the **defibrillator** at the Pavilion was destroyed. I am pleased to say we have now replaced it.

Open Spaces. I have been writing quite a lot about the proposed new perimeter path and optimistically told you that work would start in August. I should have known that all building work is complex and delays are inevitable. Yes, the project is happening, just a bit of a delay!

Dr Stephen Moore

chair@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk



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From our District Councillors

Local Water Issues. In our last Journal article, we provided an update on local water issues. The council have now published information online to function as a 'frequently asked questions' document to help residents understand the issues involved. This is updated regularly and you can find links to documents, including the independent hydrology report and the District Council's Action Plan, to address these issues. scambs.gov.uk/community-safety-and-health/northstowe/northstowe-groundwater-investigations/

New scheme for recycling small electrical items. Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Service, a partnership between Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC), has now placed eight new pink collection banks for small electrical items at recycling points, with more locations planned. In the Greater Cambridge area, figures from the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Waste Partnership (RECAP) show that an average of 450 tonnes of small electrical equipment is disposed of in black bins every year, ending up in landfill.

What small electrical items can I recycle? Anything up to 29cm in its largest dimension, that has a plug, battery, or cable. If batteries are removable, take these out and recycle them separately. Locations for the new bins include Tesco car park in Bar Hill. Full details of what you can recycle and a list of other locations for the new bins can be found via the SCDC website or visit recycleyourelectricals.org.uk/

Northstowe Forum. It was good to see the Northstowe Forum returning to a face-to-face meeting in July. These meetings are not just for Northstowe residents; we would really encourage Oakington residents to attend, as they provide an opportunity to find out about issues affecting the communities surrounding Northstowe. During July's meeting there were updates from developers L&Q, Homes England, SCDC and the Willingham GP practice. Presentations and notes from the meeting are all available at scambs.gov.uk/community-safety-and-health/community-forums/northstowe-community-forum/

You will also find a link there to Frequently Asked Questions. It is worth having a look at these to find answers to questions like when will the first shops and cafés open at Northstowe or when will Northstowe get its own GP surgery? If you have a question or answer that you would like added to the page, follow the links at scambs.gov.uk/community-safety-and-health/northstowe/your-common-northstowe-questions-answered/

The next Forum will be held at Northstowe Secondary College on 12th October with drop-in from 6pm, presentations from 7pm. If you would like to ask a question or would like a specific topic or theme discussed, please email northstowe.community@scambs.gov.uk Please find our contact details on pg 5.

Sarah Cheung Johnson
and Alex Malyon



From our County Councillor

I would like to start my report by expressing my deep sorrow following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth and my deepest sympathy goes to our King Charles and the Royal Family.

We're now well into autumn with wonderful colours but fading light at either end of the day. Please take care with changing road and path conditions and set out to travel safely wherever you go.

Cost of living crisis. Cambridge County Council (CCC) has been working with partners including District Councils and the Fire Authority on the help that needs to be made available to local residents facing huge cost of living challenges in the months ahead. They are collating helpful information and advice on a single webpage. This includes information about schemes the Council is running or administering, as well as schemes run by others. More information will be added as it becomes available. tinyurl.com/39mj9hwa

Household Support Fund. CCC is reminding residents of the household support fund to increase uptake from eligible people of pensionable age. The Council is producing a leaflet on this fund for distribution through faith and community groups and at foodbanks. tinyurl.com/49fvr2dd

Warm hubs. Cambridgeshire ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England) is working with East and

South Cambridgeshire District Councils on the provision of a network of 'warm hubs' to enable people to stay safe and warm over what is likely to be a very challenging winter of fuel and food poverty for many. tinyurl.com/4543845k

CCC budget gap widens. Galloping inflation is a problem for households and businesses, but also for the Council. It has significantly widened the Council's budget gap, as well as leaving more residents in need of serious financial help from the Council, as energy bills soar and the cost of living continues to rise.

Highways - A14 Legacy Fund, 20mph scheme and Westwick footpath resurfacing: all these works were completed by early September, consisting of speed cushions and road humps in Cambridge Road, Water Lane and Station Road in Oakington and road humps for 20mph scheme across various streets within Oakington, and included some white line repainting. Following the completion, a list of outstanding issues, many of which have been reported by residents (for which we thank you), have been sent to our contractor for remediation. We hope that all works will have been completed by the time you read this article.



Please find my contact details on page 5. *Firouz Thompson*



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Transport Action Group

Traffic Calming. The work on installing new cushions and round-top humps is now complete. The new rubber speed cushions are designed to be safer for cyclists.

20mph speed limits. The installation of new speed limit signs is complete so we very much hope that the 20mph limit will be observed.

As advised in the last edition, Westwick did not meet the criteria for 20mph but we intend to continue our efforts to have Westwick included.

EastWest Rail. A statement on the future of EWR was expected after the change of Prime Minister when it was popularly expected that the Bedford to Cambridge section would be scrapped, despite pressure from various groups, e.g. estate agents to complete the link. TAG are keeping up with any developments and, if it is not cancelled, taking steps to safeguard the interests of Oakington and Westwick.

Kings Park development, Cottenham. After the problems caused by the steady stream of construction traffic coming through the village from the first two housing developments in Cottenham, we are very pleased to



announce that South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) have barred Tilia Homes from routing construction traffic from the Kings Park estate via Oakington. Our thanks to our district councillors for enabling this.

Garden Centre. The bus stop has proved to be a very useful introduction. The owner has undertaken to examine means of making the entrance safer for cyclists and pedestrians.

Water Lane. It is becoming increasingly difficult and dangerous for pedestrians to pass along the footpath by the paddock on Water Lane. For legal reasons the EAG (Environment Action Group) are not able to take action to cut back overhanging vegetation. We urge any affected residents to report a fault to the County Council on Report a Highways Fault on the County Council website. The link is highwaysreporting.cambridgeshire.gov.uk.

The next TAG meeting is on Monday 7th November in the White Horse. If you would like to join us please contact either myself or the Chair, Jim Bryant at owcp.tag@gmail.com or 07807184691.

Brian Baxter

01223 234606 baxterb@baxterb.plus.com



Environment Action Group

Concerning **flood mitigation**, there is very slow progress in our quest for attenuation ponds beside the brook but, in the meantime, we understand that there are proposals to either remove or reduce the size of the hedge between the brook and the ex-tomato farm in order to overcome the issue of fallen branches etc which cause obstructions to flow every year. We await the results with interest.

Orders have been placed for most of the items needed for the **Open Spaces** project to develop the recreation ground but the start of the ground work is waiting for the last bit of admin from SCDC. We are very much hoping to start in October and be finished by Christmas.

Back in August we spent a happy morning pulling bulrushes out of the **village pond** and trimming those near the road. This work was necessary because they were obstructing the view of drivers coming out of the adjacent driveway and so causing a traffic hazard. These plants are also very



aggressive and given a chance would completely take over the pond to the exclusion of other species. The water level in the pond was lower than

any of us could ever remember seeing it, due to evaporation and the lack of rain we experienced in July and August. This meant that we could not skim off the duckweed on this occasion as most of it was already sitting on the mud exposed by the low water level.

We have also been working with the History Society on our **information boards** project. We hope to be able to install interpretation boards at sites of historic and ecological interest around the village, including Sheep's Green (where the pub is), Stocks Green, the recreation ground, and the community orchards. The plan is for the boards to include maps, photographs (old and new) and some explanatory text along with QR codes that will link the History Society's website where more information will be available.

Finally, as you may have seen, the Oakington and Westwick in Bloom **flower tubs** have been looking stunning all summer thanks to the efforts of the volunteers who water and look after them. We are very grateful to everyone involved with this aspect of keeping our village looking nice.

Stephanie Smith, Secretary

Oakington & Westwick Sports Pavilion Monthly Lottery 2022 - Winners			
Month	Ticket No	Area	Winnings
August	020	Mead View	£100
September	552	Waterbeach	£100
If you would like to enter the lottery, please text JOIN plus your name, house number & postcode to 07831 828898.			



Oakington Vikings

Congratulations to our under 17s!

Here they are winning the under 17s Cambs Saturday Cup, beating the likes of Linton, St Ives, Milton, Potton, Isleham and Haverhill on the way. The Final was held at Cambridge Stadium, where they beat St Ives.

Our Teams and Contacts

- First Team James 07834 465188
- Under 18s James and Ronnie 07834 465188
- Under 14s Marcus and Josh 07866 635241
- Under 12s Winston 07968 716290
- Welfare officer Frank 07841 995713

The next generation... Have you ever thought about coaching a team??

Oakington Vikings would love some younger teams to start. If you're interested do not hesitate to contact us. We can help you. We have all the facilities ready to go.

James Wilson



Oakington Scout Group



We are looking for assistant leaders and helpers for the three sections (Beavers, Cubs and Scouts).

No experience required as we will provide the necessary online training respective to every position. Kindly also note that they will be required to provide a DBS check.

Hady Aouad

Sustainable Oakington & Westwick



We had a lively discussion at our July meeting about a range of environmental issues, and also shared eco tips, eg: shampoo bars, freecycle, moss/clover lawns, trainsplit website, egg timer in the shower!

This Journal will be delivered towards the end of the national Great Big Green Week, but it's not too late to follow the "green trail" around Oakington and Westwick – start at the notice board near the shop and see what you find!

It's also the middle of Cambridge Open Eco Homes, and amazingly out of nine homes open this year for tours and talks, two are owned by Oakington residents. Open Eco Homes is a great way to get inspiration and know-how for low-carbon, energy-efficient home improvements. Go to cambridgecarbonfootprint.org/what-you-can-do/open-eco-homes-events to register. Or come to our October talk!

Get more inspiration from books about nature and "eco" subjects from SOW's "green library" in the telephone box on Longstanton Road.

All are welcome to SOW meetings, at 7:30pm in the church hall on the last Wednesday in the month.

- **26 Oct** Eco Homes – get tips and inspiration from SOW members who have renovated their homes with the environment in mind
- **30 Nov** Bird Box Building – how to make a bird box from reclaimed wood (TBC)

If you're concerned about nature and the environment, get in touch and link up with what we can do within the village and further afield: sustainableow@gmail.com / 0785 7704 636 (Gerry Cavander) / sustainableow.co.uk

Jenny Prince

Cambridge Ten Sing



After a lovely summer break, Ten Sing has started again with several new potential members coming to see what we do, and we are hoping to have more. We have a new Young People's Committee, who have already come up with some amazing ideas for events this year – going to see a show in London, perhaps a Ten Sing holiday or trip to a festival, and new songs to sing and games to play.

Some of the older members, who had finished exams before the summer, then took the time to go and visit some schools to take part in assemblies in order to show people what Ten Sing was all about and encourage some new members. One of the visits was to Oakington Primary School, where we had a fantastic welcome and some enthusiastic participation, which was great to see. We hope some of the young people will come to try us out – we would love to welcome them and their amazing acting talents!

We welcome anyone aged 11–18 to come and try us out on a Thursday evening, 7 to 9 pm at Histon Baptist Church during term time. If you need any more information, please email cambridgetensing@gmail.com.

Terry King, Administrator

Oakington Singers



Thank you to everyone who came and supported our performance at the Diamond Jubilee. £484 was raised and divided between Arthur Rank Hospice Charity and East Anglian Children's Hospices.

We rehearse every Monday evening from 7.30–9.00 pm in St Andrew's Church Hall, Oakington. So, if you are a singer yourself and fancy joining us, or if you would like us to sing at your event, please contact:

Elaine Bailey elainebailey1@live.co.uk

Oakington & Westwick Short Mat Bowls Club



Our weekly sessions are now up and running without restrictions and we would be very happy to welcome new players. We play from 7.30 to 9.30 pm on a Thursday evening at the Sports Pavilion in Oakington. If you would like to give bowls a try, come and join us as our guest for the evening. We have spare bowls and you just need some soft, flat soled shoes. If you would like more information on the Club, please contact Dawn on 01223 236427.

Dawn Stokes



Tennis Club Quiz
Saturday 12 November
Teams of four – Meal included
oakingtontc@gmail.com



Tennis Club Quiz Night



Oakington & Westwick Tennis Club will be hosting their ever popular quiz on Saturday 12th November. This is a joint OWTC and village event open to everyone, not just club members, with money raised going to charities as well as the tennis club.

Tickets are per team of up to four people, and these must be booked and paid for in advance via entry form only which can be obtained by emailing oakingtontc@gmail.com. The ticket price includes a hot meal and there will be a cash bar available.

Gill Attmore



Tuesday Talk & Tea



Memories of members' meetings with the late Queen and present Royal Family made for an interesting and informative afternoon.

- **11 Oct** Richard & Tim Brading musical afternoon
- **8 Nov** Filling Samaritan's Purse children's Christmas boxes

Both meetings at St Andrew's Church Hall, High Street, 2.45 pm.

Coming together to enjoy entertainment, company and English tea; even the late Queen couldn't resist that, can you? Look forward to meeting you.

Joan Pettit (chairperson)

Country Dance Club



Jane and I look forward to seeing you at Histon Methodist Church on Friday, 14th

October and Friday, **11th November**. All the dances will be called and walked through and the music will be provided by our usual musicians. Do come along for an evening of fun and fellowship. Soft shoes or trainers are the recommended footwear.

Adults: £4.00; accompanied Children: 50p. See you there.

Kathryn Coles

Oakington and Westwick WI



Our September meeting included a fascinating presentation and a demonstration from Francesca Shaw. Francesca is a beekeeper, originally from Spain, who makes wax wraps as an environmental alternative to cling film or foil. We were able to purchase her kits at the end of the evening with sales going to Macmillan Cancer.

We have a varied monthly programme planned over the next few months. We meet on the second Thursday of each month at 7.30pm at St Andrew Church Hall. Why not try us? We are a friendly group and if you want to try us out the first meeting is free.

- **13 Oct** Members evening: "Worth a Visit" – a chance to share places we have been to near and far!
- **10 Nov** Tales from TV travelling baker Ian Cumming. Ian was a Bake Off finalist.
- **9 Dec** Christmas Social.

For more information please contact:

Elaine Bailey elainebailey1@live.co.uk

Oakington & Westwick Table Tennis Club



We are a small, friendly club, of mixed ability. We play every Tuesday at 7.30pm at the Pavilion, and welcome new players. For more information contact Gillian L'angellier on 234758.

Mick Dorling



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Oakington & Westwick Neighbours



The cost-of-living crisis is affecting people everywhere. There is a **Hardship Fund** in the village, set up during Covid, which can help anyone in urgent financial difficulty or cash flow crisis – buying food, paying for bills, children's needs, or for example if the washing machine dies at a time when there are no savings to replace it. You can contact the Hardship Support Team *confidentially* – they understand it's hard to ask. (See flyer in this Journal or details below.)

Another OWN initiative we'd like to highlight this time is the monthly **minibus trip to Bar Hill**. You can catch the Stagecoach bus to Bar Hill, but the minibus is a door to door service, no waiting around at bus stops, and with help carrying shopping. It's nice to have a chat with other passengers and a laugh with our lovely drivers. It's on the first Friday of the month and there's room for more – contact Teri on 07711 531004 if you'd like to give it a try.

A very big thank you to everyone who helped at, played at or came along to the **Tea & Jazz** fundraiser in September. It raised over £360 for the work of OWN.

OWN links people who need a hand with friendly village neighbours who can help. Do get in touch if you are in either category (most of us are in both at different times!) We also run **CONNECT 2** events giving everyone a chance to see new faces or get to know people. On Tuesday 1st November we'll be holding our **Annual General Meeting** to which everyone in Oakington and Westwick is invited. As well as hearing about OWN's work, you can get involved in the discussion about how to make our community an even better place to live.

Jenny Prince

To contact the Hardship Team: call or text Ben on 07342 945373 or Jo on 07714 760582 or email oak.west.hardship.fund@outlook.com.

To contact OWN, leave a message on 07902 111786 or email OWNeighbours@gmail.com

CONNECT 2

CONNECT 2 activities are open to all and free to participate. Come and join our regular **Walk and Talk** on the first Saturday of each month. We meet at 10:30am at the High Street end of the Church. Next walks are **1 October, 5 November, 3 December**. Dress for the weather, and enjoy 60-90 minutes in the company of other locals on a gentle walk.

We're absolutely delighted to be working with Blue Barrel Cider again this year for two **apple-pressing sessions** at the Old Stables on the High Street. All are more than welcome to come and join in a hands-on family session. We'll wash, chop and press the apples from 11am-4pm on **Sat 15 October** and then again **Sat 29 October**. Leo and Emma Jordan are local cider makers who invite us in to see and take part in the production process. You don't need any expertise or equipment, just a willingness to have fun and muck in.

It may only be autumn, but we're looking ahead to December and can tell you that we'll be organising the **Carol Singing** at the White Horse again this Christmas. Please pencil in **Wednesday 21 December**.

Last year saw a fabulous range of households engaging in the **Village Advent Calendar** with window displays throughout December. Please get in touch with OWN if you'd like to be involved this year, or would even like to coordinate the calendar.

Alice J



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Getting to know you

Dorothy Hughes & Roger Gooden

New love in old age! Many of us were surprised but delighted to learn that long time Oakington residents Dorothy Hughes and Roger Gooden recently got married.

Following the loss of their former spouses, their love for each other developed out of a long term friendship. Their respective children are also very happy to know their parents have found love together.

Dorothy has enjoyed living in the village for 50 years. She was born on the Isle of Man, in 1940. Her childhood passion was her pony, riding on the beach and over the hills on the island. She left home at 18 and started training as a nurse in Birmingham. Aged 21 she married John, who was a mining engineer. After their daughter and son were born, they left England to live and work in west Africa for ten years. Returning to England in 1972, John worked for CITB (Construction Industry Training Board) and they found 'the perfect home' in Lowbury Crescent.

Following the vicar, James Alexander, knocking on their door, Dorothy started going to St Andrew's. Attending the huge annual Christian festival 'Spring Harvest' in the eighties, she says she moved from being 'just a churchgoer' to having a personal faith in Jesus Christ.

Dorothy worked at Churchill College and then at King's as Domestic Manager until she retired. Some of us remember Dorothy being chosen to read one of the lessons in the Christmas broadcast from King's. We were all so proud of her! Apart from work she also found time to do volunteering and in any spare time she has enjoyed playing golf.



Roger is a relative newcomer to Oakington, arriving here some 20 years after Dorothy.

He was born near St Neots in 1940 but brought up in Surrey. He started work at Middlesex County Council in central London, at the same time also studying architecture.

He married Barbara in 1962 and while living in

Epsom they had two daughters. By then he had moved to the private sector. After qualifying as an architect, in 1968 he helped to open a branch office in Cambridge and the family moved to Great Gransden.

Roger describes himself as having had a nominal faith for many years. However, this changed after encountering some Christians who prayed for him, and which led to him and Barbara visiting St Andrew's in Oakington at a Saturday evening Celebration. They realised that this church was their new 'home' and so moved to the village in 1992.

Since retiring, Roger has enjoyed having time for his main hobby of water colour and oil painting.

Roger says: 'Dorothy was one of the first people we met here and she was very supportive of Barbara, especially in latter years, until her passing in early 2021. We are now very happily married and sharing our life together. We thank God for many blessings including the love and friendship of so many good friends and neighbours.'

Irène Butlin



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Has there been a 'false autumn'?

This phrase has been used to describe the early leaf fall in some trees and the premature ripening of fruit like blackberries this year. It's probably no surprise to you that the hot weather and drought is the reason. With a shortage of water, a survival strategy kicks in. If a tree is not getting enough water to support a full canopy of leaves, it sheds some. Makes sense?

Young trees are most at risk because they have not developed an established root system. Some trees planted last autumn at the recreation ground have suffered. The condition was made worse because last winter was wet and so roots of young trees did not have to go deep in search of water.

The position is further complicated by some trees suffering from pest and diseases which induce early leaf browning and loss. You will have noticed this in horse chestnuts over the last two decades, where leaves have been going brown as early as June thanks to blight and also a leaf miner – a moth caterpillar which tunnels into the leaves. Some control can be achieved by sweeping up the fallen leaves and burning them.

The leaves of deciduous trees have usually changed colour in October and November. They shed leaves as a strategy to survive harsh weather because leaves are susceptible to damage from the cold and losing leaves enables trees to conserve energy and water. The leaf loss is triggered by hormones which cause the leaves to be cut off (abscission) but only after the tree reabsorbs valuable nutrients from the leaves to store them in the roots. Chlorophyll is one of the first to move, leaving red and purple (beetroot pigment) or orange and gold (carrot pigment) colours depending on the tree species. Trees without leaves are also less prone to



being uprooted by winter winds. You may remember the big blow on October 15th, 1987, when the leaves were still on, and millions of trees in the South and East were knocked over. Lack of leaves may also help the spread of tree pollen in spring.

The trees recycle the green chlorophyll, transporting it to the roots to return to the new leaves next year. The leaves fall to the ground for soil fungi to use the nutrients and to help the build-up of carbon in the soil.

Droughts are making life difficult for wildlife. Berries have been small and less juicy this summer and this will blunt birds' and small mammals' attempts to build up their fat reserves for winter. It underlines the need for us to provide some help this winter with fat balls, nuts and other high energy foods.

Ponds are always important for wildlife, but this summer have proved vital. Water levels have been very low, not only because of lack of rain, but because of evaporation, an aspect we often overlook.

I asked Peter Freeman of Mansell Farm to indicate how the drought has affected his farming. He replied: the lack of rain from early spring has affected arable crop yields. There was a slight reduction of grain yield, but despite the dry spring, this was not as bad as expected. Quantity of silage and hay was also affected and we are now having to feed this (our winter feed) to the animals due to lack of grazing available. This has also meant that we have had to bring some animals away from their usual grazing early. Now, as we try to cultivate the land and prepare it for winter seed sowing, it is hard work although the recent rain has made shallow cultivation slightly easier. The deeper work, in order to break down the soil, puts wear and tear on machinery.

John Terry

Walkies?

Almost half of owners have concerns about walking their dogs, according to the latest PDSA report. Many are worried about their dog being attacked by other dogs. Others are concerned about their own dog's behaviour, especially their dog not coming back when called.

How can we ensure everyone can enjoy their walks peacefully?

1) Teach your dog to come back when you call them. Use REALLY tasty, smelly treats like sausage, cooked chicken or cheese. Regularly call your dog to give them something delicious. Never tell them off for coming back slowly, they will likely be even slower next time!

2) In situations that are just too exciting or with tempting distractions, keep your dog on lead. NEVER walk your dog off the lead around livestock or ground-nesting wildlife. If your dog is likely to charge up to another dog or person in the distance, pop them on lead until you have passed.



Longlines are long, flat leads that are useful when you want to practise your dog's recall but minimise the risk of them not responding. Attach the longline to a harness rather than a collar, to avoid injury to your dog's neck. At the beginning stages of training, giving your dog too much line or leaving it trailing can pose a risk to others. Keep hold of the longline and give your dog

2–3 metres of line. Practise calling them back at this distance and praising and rewarding them every time they come back. When they are reliably returning every time, give them another metre of line. Your dog earns themselves more length of line only by showing they can consistently come back to you when you call them.

There are a lot of young, elderly or nervous dogs (and people) that want to enjoy the countryside without strange dogs rushing up to them. We have two great tools at our disposal: the lead and a recall cue trained using positive, reward-based methods. Use both wisely and enjoy your walks!

Susannah O'Hanlon



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My Hobby

Ever since I was given a Raleigh Arena racing bike as a young boy in the early 80s I have loved riding bikes. I progressed on to road racing, time trials, and track racing on the velodrome before realising I was not going to be the next Greg Lemond (the 1986 Tour de France where he did battle with Bernard "The Badger" Hinault was the first time it was broadcast in the UK and it is still the best one ever in my opinion).

After attending University where other things caught my attention (studying not necessarily being top of the list), I fell back in love later in life and became a MAMIL (middle-age man in lycra). It was like I had never been away, with the same sense of freedom.



The benefits are many, from the obvious health and fitness but also to mental health, which was particularly important during the pandemic. You tend to notice more of the world around you as you are not insulated from

it. There are some lovely places around Cambridgeshire that you might not otherwise see.

I ride for both the Cambridge Triathlon Club (www.cambridgetriathlonclub.com) (though I only swim and run under duress) and Histon and Impington Bicycling Club (www.histonimpingtonbicycleclub.org.uk). Both are excellent and very welcoming of riders of all abilities. I would also recommend Camcycle (www.camcycle.org.uk) who do great work on behalf of Cambridge cyclists.

As my old cycling mentor would say when we encountered some of the rough stuff, "It's all rideable".

Ian Beardsley

Chess Corner

Solution to the chess puzzle 4-22 from the last Journal:

1. Black Queen from c7 to h2 Check+. White Knight takes Black Queen on h2.
2. Knight on e2 to g3 checkmate!



Chess puzzle 5-22. White to move and checkmate in two moves. There are two solutions depending on the Black King's move.

Ranko Pinter

Book Corner

Explaining Humans – What science can teach us about life, love and relationships by Camilla Pang



Ever wondered what it is like to be autistic? Camilla Pang, now with a doctorate in biochemistry, asked her mother when she was five, "Is there an instruction manual for humans?" as she was finding it difficult to relate to the world around her. Frightened by the unpredictability of the world, which we all find "intuitive", she has used her science training to adapt the laws of maths, physics and chemistry, to predict how the humans around her will behave. Obviously you cannot literally apply these laws to human behaviour, but they work sufficiently well to allow her to go out into the world, without the fears that she experienced when growing up. In 2020 at the age of 28 she won the Royal Society's Science Book of the Year Prize for her book. It is a fascinating and touching read.

Graham Tregonning

Garden Success in Summer 22?

Cleanse me with hyssop and I will be clean: wash me and I will be whiter than snow. (Psalm 51)

What was your greatest garden 2022 success? Without doubt mine has been hyssop.

It started flowering in early July and is still a joy. The muntjac have ignored it and the goldfinches, bees, butterflies and hummingbird hawk moths have loved it.

Hyssop has a lovely fresh scent that opens up your airways, and makes a refreshing tea. It's a member of the mint family but not invasive as it has no runners.

Obviously, it's drought resistant. Grow it from seed close to your kitchen window and enjoy not only the pretty plant but all its wonderful visitors.

Other lovers of summer '22 were the Hardy Ice Daisy and Helichrysums.

Charlotte Jordan



Phone Box Library Open Again

Bring and borrow books (for adults and children) and jigsaws in sealed boxes. No CDs, DVDs etc!



Village Tool Share

Join the WhatsApp group to borrow/share tools from your own shed/garage or from the central store. Contact Gerry@cambridgereuse.org.uk / 0785 7704 636.





Oakington & Westwick
BONFIRE NIGHT – 5 Nov
Recreation Ground

Gates open with BBQ at 5pm

Burgers, Hot Dogs, Veggie burgers
Hot chocolate, Mulled wine, Mulled juice
Soup. Other food & drink available

Firework Display starts
6:15pm

Family of four: £10 Adult: £4
Child: £2 Under 2: Free

Bonfire Night, CA & Harvest Concert

Community Association

At the recent CA members' meeting in September, representatives of a dozen of the village groups met to reflect, share and plan. Another seven sent their apologies, so at our next meeting on 22 November, we hope to have 20+ participating.



Reflection. With a successful Village Day behind us, the CA 'should pat themselves on the back', to quote one member! Considering all the challenges after the pandemic, we did do well to run a great event and achieve a final surplus of £1,822. What is not required for our Reserves may be used to make next year's Village Day even better.

Sharing. We heard from the various groups how they were getting on and what needs they have. Just about all would like more members and/or volunteers! So anyone in the village who is not already involved in a group, do look through the Diary on page 2 and find something that might be of interest to you.

Planning. The upcoming **Bonfire Night** was the main item on the agenda. A number of ideas were suggested for an enjoyable community event on this dark and often cold evening.

Now we just need **volunteers** to help make it happen! Ranko Pinter has a long list of small (and some bigger) tasks. Please contact him on 07766 052025 – or at the email below – if you can help beforehand or on the day.

Irène Butlin, secretary
Oakington.westwick.ca@gmail.com



Harvest Concert

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