

# ***Oakington & Westwick***

October/November 2020

## ***Journal***



**Faces  
of the WI**

**Life at the Local**

**Connecting  
with Nature**



## What's On & Notices

Mon 12 Oct **O&W Parish Council**, 7:30pm. By Zoom. All invited – contact [clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk)  
 Mon 2 Nov **OWN AGM**, 7:30pm. By Zoom. All invited – contact [owneighbours@gmail.com](mailto:owneighbours@gmail.com)  
 Mon 9 Nov **O&W Parish Council**, 7:30pm. By Zoom. All invited – contact [clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk)



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.

**Keep up to date with what's going on in Oakington & Westwick!**



Oaky Folk



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

Journal Team: Jenny Prince & Irène Butlin (editors), Jane Goodyer (distribution manager), Geoffrey Butlin (adviser), Ranko Pinter (chair)

Send contributions to  
**[oakwestjournal@gmail.com](mailto:oakwestjournal@gmail.com)**

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

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 Tuesday 17 November**

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### QUIZ – Spot the Location!

Oakington around the turn of the twentieth century. But where?



Answer to quiz in the last Journal on page 17.

**BIN  
 DAYS**

Thu 15 Oct, Thu 29 Oct, Thu 12 Nov, Thu 26 Nov **Black bin**

Thu 8 Oct, Thu 22 Oct, Thu 5 Nov, Thu 19 Nov **Blue & green bins**

Cover photo: Geoffrey Butlin

As editors we always await the arrival of contributions to the Journal with great interest - and some apprehension! (How closely will they fit into the 24 pages?) The articles this time seem to cluster around two themes, perhaps reflecting the Zeitgeist in Oakington and Westwick.

The first is nature. Bees, butterflies and biotrophs; but also our human connection to and impact on wildlife and the environment. A spring and summer spent in our gardens seems to have increased our awareness.

The other is company – something we might have taken for granted in pre-Covid times. How nice it is to see friends over a coffee in the sunshine. We have features on two long-

standing village institutions which are both places to meet with others: the White Horse and the Women's Institute. And we include some tips for meeting up even when you can't get out of the house.

In the words of one of our contributors, "Company is the answer to loneliness." Don't be isolated this Covid winter: use one of the many contacts listed in the Journal to get in touch with others in the community.



*Irène Butlin & Jenny Prince*  
Editors

## Virtual Get-Togethers

With the Covid restrictions, it's hard to visit family and friends and almost impossible to hold face-to-face meetings and socialise in a group, so thank goodness for the phone and the internet.

If you haven't used video calling before, or find it hard, there's expertise and training available within the village to help you get set up on your tablet or computer – contact OWN (see page 8) for more information.



Many of us enjoy one-to-one online chats using programs or apps like Skype, Zoom, and FaceTime, but connecting with a larger group of people, each in their own home but joining in the same video call, can be more challenging. However, following a few simple rules can make these online meetings easier and more worthwhile.

### Online Meeting Etiquette

If setting up a meeting:

- Consider setting the video off as default. People can turn on their cameras to stream video when they are ready to do so.
- If you don't want the extra admin of a 'waiting room' (if using Zoom), remember to disable this function when you set up the meeting.
- It is a good idea to ask people to register/ email you to say they're coming so that you know who to circulate the link to, rather than putting it on an open platform.
- Make absolutely sure you are on time for your own meeting!
- Allow all people on the call to have a chance to contribute to the conversation. Only one person can talk at a time, so shy participants may benefit from encouragement to join in.
- If you have a large meeting and are inviting people to contribute questions on the 'chat' function, you may want someone else to help monitor the written comments while you concentrate on talking.

- Agree how people will indicate they want to talk. Waving a hand in front of the camera may work better than using the 'raise your hand' function in the call.

If in a call:

- Check if you need to install programs such as Zoom on your device before the meeting.
- Mute yourself while other people are talking, as background noise can disrupt.
- You can experiment with a virtual backdrop if you don't want people looking at your house.
- It helps the flow of the conversation if you give an indication when you have finished your point.

Zoom is widely used for online meetings. We now have a village licence for Zoom which groups can book and borrow, like a virtual village hall. (Contact [oakington.westwick.ca@gmail.com](mailto:oakington.westwick.ca@gmail.com).)

*Alice J*

### Some ideas for activities on Zoom...

- A reading club - not like a book club where everyone has to have read the same thing, but just somewhere to come and tell other people about what you've been reading and to hear some recommendations from others; can be books, articles, poetry etc.
- Knit and Knatter show and tell - bringing a piece of work you've been doing and share your experiences or ask for advice from others
- Comparing notes on gardening this year and planning for next
- Take it in turns to give a masterclass - give a zoom demonstration on something you are skilled in and can do in front of a live zoom, or can show as a video
- Take it in turns to deliver short lectures on areas of expertise or enthusiasm. We have lots of interesting people in the village, so let's pool our knowledge and broaden our horizons.

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### Parish Councillors

**Chair:** Stephen Moore

**Vice-Chair:** Tony Starling

John Bailey   Geoffrey Butlin  
Julie Grove   Luis Navarro  
Ranko Pinter   David Reeves  
Lis Warboys

**Email address** for all councillors  
[clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk)

### Parish Website

[www.oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk](http://www.oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk)

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

Mrs Laura Lawrence - Email:  
[clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk](mailto: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](mailto:cllr.cheungjohnson@scambs.gov.uk)

Alex Malyon – 01954 202859  
[cllr.malyon@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.malyon@scambs.gov.uk)

### County Councillor

Oakington, Westwick, Longstanton,  
Northstowe & Over

Peter Hudson – 07518 417432  
[peter.hudson@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:peter.hudson@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

### Member of Parliament

Anthony Browne – 01223 662171  
[anthony.browne.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:anthony.browne.mp@parliament.uk)

## VILLAGE INFORMATION

### Pavilion Booking Administrator

Tony Leadley – 07936 024587  
[oakingtonpavilion@gmail.com](mailto:oakingtonpavilion@gmail.com)

### Neighbourhood Watch

Jillian Wilkinson – 01223 233 585  
[oakwestnhw@gmail.com](mailto:oakwestnhw@gmail.com)

### Oakington & Westwick Neighbours (OWN)

07902 111786 or 07375 945284  
[OWNeighbours@gmail.com](mailto:OWNeighbours@gmail.com)

### Oakington Primary School

Office – 01223 232328  
[office@oakington.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:office@oakington.cambs.sch.uk)

### Village Stores & Post Office

Raj & Kanwal Sanghera - 01223 232327

## From our Parish Council chair

One of the many activities the Parish Council provides for the people of Oakington and Westwick has been the weekly Monday evening visit of the bus, run by trained youth workers, who provide a variety of activities and counselling to our young people. The youth bus costs us around a quarter of our budget and each year when we review our spending, we agonise over the benefits to the village of spending so much money on a relatively small group of young people. We have explored running our own youth service, but the costs of paying professional youth workers and providing the facilities would be around one third of our budget. Covid has meant that the bus service has been suspended since last March. I think an indication of the value of the youth service to us has been demonstrated by an **increase in vandalism** in the village. Most recently we have had the table and benches in the Community Orchard vandalised and also the tap on the outside of the Pavilion, which we recently installed for use by cemetery visitors, ripped out. Very kindly, Cllr Tony Starling has repaired both, but without his voluntary actions, we would have been faced by an additional cost. Of course, I am not saying that those young people who attend the youth service are responsible for the vandalism, but I think that having a professional group of youth workers coming to the village does have a real value.

Whilst on the issue of vandalism, there has been an increase in anti-social behaviour in Northstowe and as phase 2 starts to build out, moving towards us, with the possible implications for our village, our District Councillors have kindly arranged for us to attend the liaison meetings concerning themselves with the problem of anti-social behaviour.

Still on the topic of Northstowe, you will know that the PC has made a number of objections to the Phase 3 planning application. We now move into the next stage of planning, which involves a response by Homes England to our objections. I will keep you fully informed.

You will all remember that, as a result of the construction of Northstowe, the Parish boundaries are to be redrawn. Following a public meeting, we have argued for the green space between Northstowe and Oakington and Westwick to be within our Parish. A second round of consultation has taken place - to my mind asking us irrelevant questions - and we have repeated our original position. However, I suspect that Homes England may well be unhappy with our position. We shall see.

We have had a number of issues of people engaging in various **anti-social activities in the Recreation Ground car park** over the last year - possibly including drug dealing. We have had a minimal response from the police and so we have decided to install a new camera system at the Rec which records the registration number of cars entering the car park.

Let me finish on a more **positive note**. We have raised the issues of flooding at the Crossroads and the state of the pavements in the village - particularly the footpath in Westwick. We have no direct power to do anything about these issues, as they are the responsibility of the County Council. However, as always, Peter Hudson, our County Councillor, has been on the case and work is being undertaken to remedy both issues.

Each year, we have the chance to make a **bid for highways improvements**. This involves every Parish Council in the County being allowed to submit proposal and then these are ranked by a County Council Committee. We have been fortunate in the last few years to have been successful. The Parish Council usually works in close collaboration with the Transport Action Group, and this year we are submitting an application prepared by them for a blanket 20 mph speed limit in the village. Fingers crossed!

Dr Stephen Moore  
[chair@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk](mailto:chair@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk)



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# Pippa Westoby

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Contact email :  
[pippa\\_westoby@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:pippa_westoby@yahoo.co.uk)





### From the County Councillor

The **draining works** on Cambridge Road were completed on 14 September. The jetting of the rest of Cambridge Road offlets and gullies has also been ordered. Previous reports and jetting works in the area did not show any blockages to the drainage runs adjacent to the Crossroads. Water Lane has been put forward for survey for suitability for a surface treatment, also Longstanton Road, Coles Lane and High Street. If not required, these will be added to the list for resurfacing. The Westwick footpath clearing order is in, and hopefully the work will be completed soon.

Children and young people across the county have sharpened their pencils, polished their shoes and dug out their schoolbags, as many **return to school**. While schools in Cambridgeshire led the way in remaining open throughout lockdown for vulnerable children and those of keyworkers, the majority of our school-aged children have not set foot in a classroom since schools went into lockdown in March. Many parents have stepped into the role of educators, and fitting this in around their own lives. The upshot of most schools remaining open, has been the knowledge and experience they have gained in adapting and adding new measures to ensure a safe environment. Every school in the county was asked to work through a rigorous risk assessment, bespoke to their school.

There is a helpful guide to support parents and young people as they transition back into formal education. It includes a clarification of the Test & Trace process.

#### Community projects

across Cambridgeshire have been awarded a total of £5m from a Community Capital Fund. The allocations were agreed by the County Council's Communities and Partnership Committee. The fund aims to create opportunities and improve lives across the county.

The fund may contribute up to £500,000 capital funding for projects which can address issues which are a specific priority for the local community, address inequality of access to services or activities, and implement community involvement in delivery or design of the project. Since its launch 35 projects have been granted funding from a £5m budget.

The projects include £275,000 for the extension of the Pavilion in Girton, £12,000 towards a youth centre, £20,000 for new playground equipment and some £25,000 for the Overcote Road project in Over.

*Peter Hudson*



### From our District Councillors

We hope that you have all been staying safe and well. Unfortunately, since our last update we have seen the Covid infection rate rising and it is now important that we all follow the guidance as this may determine the sort of winter and Christmas we have.

Further information on Covid can be found via the SCDC website: [www.scambs.gov.uk/coronavirus/](http://www.scambs.gov.uk/coronavirus/)

#### Community Governance Review

The second round of consultation for the CGR closed on 15 September. We would like to thank all residents who contributed to this. We should know the outcome of the CGR by the end of November.

During the CGR consultation there was some confusion raised over the green separation between Oakington and Northstowe. All options showed a proposed boundary that would take a significant amount of the green separation within the Oakington and Westwick Parish. However, this land would still be owned by Homes England. They are still in the process of working out how this would be managed and maintained for the long term.

We anticipate that Homes England will be involving stakeholders in discussions about management and maintenance options and we as councillors will ensure we have every opportunity as a community, with the Parish Council, to feed into these.

You can find all the information about the outcome of CGR via [www.scambs.gov.uk/cgr-lown](http://www.scambs.gov.uk/cgr-lown)

#### Local Plan

Comments from the first round of consultation on our new Local Plan and 'Call for Sites' was published recently.

The Call for Sites is the first stage in the statutory process of creating a Local Plan. Around 600 sites were submitted by landowners across the district and some may have noticed that sites in Oakington have been identified. Just as in the previous plan where only a small number of submitted sites were selected, less than 10%, we envisage that only a very small number of sites on this list will be used in the plan - until then they have no planning status. There will be further consultations with the public later in the process to present and discuss the options for development.

We will continue to stress the importance of the environment, of good green transport links and of community in developing the plan for our area. There is both a need for housing that people can afford and a requirement that any developments be sustainable environmentally, socially, and economically. More details can be found here:

<https://bit.ly/35YIXIe>

#### Business Support Service

A new team has been set up by SCDC to increase support for local businesses – particularly small and medium-sized companies. You can find more information and sign up for the newsletter via

[www.scambs.gov.uk/business/](http://www.scambs.gov.uk/business/)

As ever, feel free to contact us.



*Sarah Cheung Johnson & Alex Malyon*

### Oakington & Westwick Neighbours



It's that time of year when normally activities resume after the summer break, the days are still fairly long and the autumn sunshine bathes everything in golden light. But with the rising number of Covid cases nationally, social groups of more than six are no longer permitted, so regular activities have been put on hold again. As the winter months draw on, we will need to find other ways of connecting by phone or online.

OWN would be happy to support and provide some training for village groups and individuals to use technologies such as Zoom. If this would help you, please get in touch on 07902 111786, 07375 945284 or email [owneighbours@gmail.com](mailto:owneighbours@gmail.com)

Over the past six months about 294 food parcels have been distributed, so a huge thank you to all who have contributed. Use of the Foodbank is now much less, and the donation box is being removed from the village shop unless the situation worsens again. Existing stocks will be distributed, and the Hardship Fund used to purchase food or vouchers tailored to individual situations.

We are also continuing to manage the Hardship Fund in case of future needs, such as redundancy when the government's furlough scheme ends, or if there is another period of lockdown. To contribute to it, please go to: [www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/own-hardship-fund](http://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/own-hardship-fund)

The Hardship Fund has provided valuable, practical help to a number of households in Oakington, mostly to families with young children whose income was cut as a result of lockdown. Some of the funds were used for topping up the food bank so that the boxes included a balanced range of items, as well as baby items such as nappies and baby milk. A small grant was made to enable someone to make contact with agencies who could help them, and a referral was made to a specialist charity which is continuing to provide help. If there is anyone in the village who is struggling financially, please get in touch:

Ben 07342 945373 or Jo 07714 760582 or email [oak.west.hardship.fund@outlook.com](mailto:oak.west.hardship.fund@outlook.com)  
Requests are dealt with sensitively and confidentially.

OWN is very much aware that the pandemic is by no means over, but at the moment daily demand on our volunteers is very low, and many have now returned to work. This means that we can still help but more notice is needed if help is required.

**Our Annual Meeting** takes place on **Monday 2 November at 7.30pm** on Zoom. After the brief formalities we will look back on the amazing community spirit which became apparent from the early days of lockdown, and discuss how we can build on that to support our village life. Everyone is invited to participate in this workshop-style event. Just email OWN to book your place and we will send you all the details you need to join. Bring your own refreshments!

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*Jo Bryant*



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### Environment Action Group

**Verge management.** In the previous Journal the EAG asked for your ideas about managing grass verges in the village to improve biodiversity and appearance. Thank you to everyone who responded. Ideas ranged from sown wild flowers to more regular cutting to keep the grass tidy.

You may remember our starting point is cutting three times a year by Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC), and some residents choose to cut grass outside their properties more regularly. Our plan includes a range of management.

**1. Wild flowers.** In an effort to improve habitat for bees we suggest a one metre strip of wild flowers at the verge on Longstanton Road (near Mead View entrance), behind the seat and along the fence. Graham Tregonning and Gerry Cavender are planning a strip in the Recreation Ground Community Orchard. Both these strips should attract bees and other pollinators in areas away from busy roads so injury from vehicles is minimised. Unfortunately, the village does not lend itself to wildlife corridors so we're stuck with isolated areas.

**2. Cutting grass** three times a year does not produce a tight, tidy sward nor does it allow flowering. So, our recommendation is to reduce to two cuts in roads leading out of the village e.g. Cambridge Road (beyond Mansell Farm). Within the village, people like the frequent cutting by residents. The EAG will



propose the Parish Council takes over verges currently mown by CCC, so that the village has more control over the timing, quality and number of cuts, in return for a payment to the PC equal to CCC's cost. The PC should seek assurances from CCC that it will not reduce or terminate the payments in future.

**3. Mapping the village.** Clarity of the new regime will be sought via colours on maps for wild flowers, number of cuts, and verges voluntarily managed local residents.

The EAG will put these ideas to the Parish Council in November to determine the way forward.

**Village pond.** The green 'mat' covering the water surface is duckweed (*Lemna spp.*), and the smaller water meal (*Wolffia spp.*). It is not an algal bloom which we had some time ago.

The cause of duckweed and water meal is high nutrient status water, probably nitrogen. They feed off rotting material at the bottom of the pond, a black sludge, caused by leaves from trees and nitrogen run-off from elsewhere.

To overcome the problem, we need to slow down entry of leaves and nitrates, which is pretty well impossible. The alternative is oxygen aeration to improve denitrification by introducing certain plants. The EAG have dragged the mat growth off the surface on two occasions and will do so again in November when water temperature is lower and the weed is less inclined to multiply. The good news - the moorhen raised four youngsters this spring.

*Stephanie Smith, Secretary*

### Transport Action Group

After a period of enforced absence from our roads due to the impact of the virus, the speed sign which we share with Longstanton has reappeared. For two weeks it was located in Cambridge Road and then positioned outside the primary school. The results from Cambridge Road is quite revealing with V85 data exceeding the rule of thumb action line of 34 mph in both directions. The maximum speed registered from Girton is 74 mph and to Girton is 83 mph! Perhaps the lockdown with fewer cars about has given people the licence to flout the speed limit, with 47% coming from Girton and 54% going to Girton exceeding the 30 mph limit.

An initial analysis of the traffic data for Water Lane, covering the first two weeks of the school being open, suggest that drivers were more restrained compared to those using Cambridge Road, with 11% exceeding 30 mph and a V85 figure of 30 mph. Maximum speeds of between 50 and 55 were recorded on three occasions.

The Parish Council and TAG are always looking into ways of slowing traffic down and hopefully deter the HGVs and tankers that are travelling through the village. Proposals to improve the traffic calming through the parish have been made by the PC with funding coming from the A14 Legacy Fund. Whilst a promise of money has been made to fund the traffic calming there is little progress to date.

Following on from Girton's successful bid for a 20 mph zone through their village, TAG has made a proposal for Local Highways Initiative (LHI) funding to implement a village wide 20 mph zone. The Parish Council has agreed to support the proposal both in principle and with a generous financial contribution. We also have the support of our County Councillor, Peter Hudson. As with all things highways this will take time, as the County Council Highways Department has to assess the application alongside hundreds of other bids from across the county. Should we be successful with the LHI application, its implementation will take at least 12 months and may stretch into 2022!



Comments have been requested on the next Local Plan which shows the proposed house building program for the next 20 years, including Oakington and Oakington Road, Cottenham. How will the transport infrastructure cope with this extra traffic? We are struggling at the present time and Northstowe Phase 3A will also need to be taken into account. Please go onto the South Cambs website, search for Local Plan and make your comments.

If you would like any more detail on the above please get in touch:

*Jim Bryant, Chair*  
07807184691 [owcp.tag@gmail.com](mailto:owcp.tag@gmail.com)



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### Oakington Primary School

The first couple of weeks back at Oakington Primary School have flown by! The whole school community seems to have embraced our new ways of working and the adaptations we've had to make, meaning it's been a very smooth and happy start to a new school year. Most of all we are happy to be back together as a school family, and for those working in school it's hard not to be uplifted by the positivity and energy the children have returned to school with. Perhaps you've even heard some of this energy when we've been singing in our outdoor socially distanced assemblies! We are thankful the good weather has continued into the Autumn term allowing us to enjoy eating outside together at lunch times.

Of course it is nice to be able to welcome another intake of children into Acorn, our Reception class, and they seem to be settling in well. We will soon be releasing dates for open mornings for prospective parents and children of the September 2021 intake and would love to welcome you to one of these, to talk with you and show you around.

*Nathan Clark, Head Teacher*



### Oakington Retirement Community

As announced in the last issue, we are exploring the possibility of a retirement facility primarily for residents and parents of residents of Oakington & Westwick, and have decided to call it Oakington Retirement Community. This is to emphasise its focus on community and that we want it to be integrated into the wider community.

We are setting up a charitable Community Benefit Society and Community Land Trust as a not-for-profit organisation so that the facility will be owned and governed by the local community in perpetuity. We continue to liaise with local government regarding the project, including discussions concerning potential sites. Our submission to the new Local Plan is a long shot and is not our site of primary interest. We are also in discussions with Hill as our potential developer.

We are working on a web site and will soon be able to share information via that.

*Sean Moroney, Geoffrey Butlin, Stephen Thornton (Girton)*

### Telephone Box Library

The Great Book Shortage is finally over and the Telephone Box Library is open for business! It has been cleaned and disinfected – I cannot promise that *all* the spiders' webs have gone but there are certainly less!

Obviously Coronavirus has not gone away so we still need to be vigilant: wash or sanitise your hands before and after you visit or wear disposable gloves. Take a carrier bag to put your new books in, tie it up and then you can "quarantine" it for 48 hours, indoors or outside, if you think that is necessary.

As well as the books, please also read the notices: don't leave books if the shelves and box are full, and no CDs,

### Neighbourhood Watch

The nights are drawing in! Time to be reminded that we should be wary of unexpected callers, in person or on the phone. You can politely refuse to deal with them, and save yourselves from problems. Never give your bank details to anyone; always check with the alleged authority that the call is genuine. The National Neighbourhood Watch team are reminding us to make sure sheds and garages are secure, that if possible the contents, eg bicycles, are locked, and to keep an eye out for neighbours.

Oakington and Westwick Neighbours (OWN) have been doing a wonderful job of keeping us informed over the course of the pandemic, which isn't over yet, so let us all continue to do our part in being alert to unusual behaviour, and vulnerable neighbours. Report any concerns to me, or contact the police yourselves.

*Jillian Wilkinson*

*NHW co-ordinator C 233 585, oakwestnhw@gmail.com*



### Community Association

Like many, we have regretted having to cancel village events. However, thanks to the commitment of the editors and deliverers, the pandemic did not stop the Journal being issued as scheduled. This provided a vital source of the local information, especially for those who were self-isolating.

The CA committee has continued to meet and has worked on the following items. First, the **CA website** is ready to be launched in October under the domain name [www.oakingtonwestwickca.org](http://www.oakingtonwestwickca.org). It will provide information about the CA's activities as well as links to member clubs and societies who can use the website to advertise their own activities.

Second, following a suggestion from OWN, the CA will take out a **Zoom licence** that can be used by village groups and societies for conducting their meetings online during the current restrictions, beyond the 40-minute limitation that applies with a free licence.

Third, also this year we are planning to put up a Christmas tree near the pub. And, if at all possible within the Covid restrictions, we'll organise a socially distanced Carol Sing-Along in the pub car park. Date to be announced in the next Journal issue.

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



DVDs, photo albums, sad old soft toys or anything else!

Hardbacks, paperbacks, fiction, non-fiction, books for children and adults – all are welcome! If you haven't been yet, the Red Box is on Longstanton Road near the garage and the pond.

*Liz Davis*



### Oakington Vikings

Good to be back!

First Team have played their first league match of the 2020/2021 season, a convincing 9-0 victory for the Vikings.



Under 16's have been promoted to the top league in Cambridge. They are looking forward to their first league fixture and the season ahead.

Under 10's and Under 12's have had a good pre season with lots of training and friendly matches.

Under 8's are looking for players and someone to take on the coaching role, whilst Jamie has work commitments. **Please contact us** if you're interested. The club will support you and put you on a level one FA coaching course.

Under 6's are enjoying getting back to training, developing skills and having fun.



Club risk assessment and Covid policy are in place and being updated regularly. A big thank you to Marcus Till our Covid officer for this.

Any companies looking to sponsor the club or any teams please get in touch. 07834 465188

*James Wilson*

#### Club Contacts – Our Teams and Coaches

- First Team James and Toby 07834 465188
- Under 16's James and Ronnie 07714 099017
- Under 12's Marcus and Josh 07866 635241
- Under 10's Winston and Toby 07968 716290
- Under 8's Jamie 07764 967460
- Under 6's Matt 07990 900600
- Welfare officer Frank 07841 995713

### Back soon...

Groups not able to meet at the moment due to the coronavirus situation:

- Country Dancing
- Tuesday Talk & Tea. Again due to Covid the committee has decided to cancel meetings until January 2021. Should the position improve we will contact members direct.

It is sad we have had to take this sensible step but we urge you to take good care of ourselves and talk to each other. Company is the answer to loneliness.  
*Joan Pettit.*

- Oakington & Westwick Table Tennis Club
- Oakington And Westwick History Society – postponed until September 2021
- Oakington Garden Society – postponed until September 2021
- Ten Sing – are meeting virtually

### Oakington & Westwick Short Mat Bowls Club



We are pleased to say that the Club has received guidance from the English Short Mat Bowls Association (ESMBA), which the committee is working through, as to how we can play again now that the pavilion is available.

As soon as we have satisfied the ESMBA that we can resume playing safely and in accordance with their and the Government's guidelines, we will let you know.

*Dawn Stokes*

### Chess Club

Solution to the chess problem from the last issue. The white Queen plays Qa6-a1. Whatever move the Black plays, the White plays Qa1-h8 ++ checkmate. The fact that all black pieces are in their original place indicate that the Black must have previously moved either its Rook or Queen, thus is unable to castle as its possible defence.

Chess problem J3/20: The White to move and checkmate in two moves.



*Ranko Pinter*

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### Monday Café

As lockdown eased, the Monday Café became an outdoor coffee morning (or afternoon tea) on good weather days. Jenny and Robin Hill started by inviting us to their garden, with pre-booked hour slots and social distancing. Other members followed suit and we have much enjoyed seeing each other face to face again.

Sadly we don't expect to be able to continue this in the colder months, but please contact Liz Davis (C. 232745) if you would like to be updated about any one-off meetings.

*Irène Butlin*



*Afternoon tea at Hetty Cuthbert's*

### Crossways House

Although the Crossways Community Hub sadly had to suspend all its indoor activities because of the pandemic, the forecourt of Crossways House has now become a real social gathering point around the Fantastic Coffee stand of local entrepreneur Chris 'Kash' Bygott. Whilst observing all the necessary social distancing rules, it has provided a great opportunity both for the locals and for the passing trade and recreational cyclists to re-establish that so important face-to-face human contact over a cup of coffee or tea.

*Adrienne Chaplin*



#### Welcome a New Neighbour

If somebody has moved in near you, take them a village 'Welcome' leaflet to help them feel at home. It's a good excuse to knock on the door and say hello.

Contact: Bruce Sutherland  
[brucessutherland@aol.com](mailto:brucessutherland@aol.com) – 01223 236665

### Remembering Brenda

In the spring Oakington lost one of our longest-standing residents and village characters. She was a very friendly lady who loved to stop and chat with villagers whilst out walking her little dog.



Brenda Ann Woollard was born in Cambridge in 1940, with her identical twin, Barbara. When she married aged 18, she and her husband John Mahoney made their first home in Westwick but lived for many years in Coles Lane before finally moving to The Broadway.

Brenda was a keen tennis player at one time, and cycled everywhere, including to work as a bedder at Girton College. By the time she retired she was the longest serving female member of staff. She was very well thought of by the students whose rooms she looked after, to the point of her continuing to receive birthday presents and Christmas cards for years after she retired. On learning of her death, several of them wrote glowing tributes about her.

When her husband died, their one son moved in with his mother to look after her. Sadly Richard died two years before his mother. As she became less able to live independently, she was looked after by friends from church and her "girls" from OWN whose regular visits she so appreciated. John had kept racing pigeons, but it was Brenda who developed "pigeon lung", the illness that eventually led to her death.

Brenda was introduced to the Methodist Chapel by her mother-in-law, Marjorie, another village character! She became very involved with the church, helping with Sunday School and the Youth Club. It was her idea to have a coffee morning at Chapel to welcome newcomers to the village, but she never dreamt that she would still be on the Monday Café Team 14 years later!

*Liz Davis*

### Church Online Youth Groups

At St. Andrew's Church, we run two zoom groups for young people: 'Ignite' on Sunday afternoons for ages 11-17, and 'Streetlight' on Monday nights for 18-25s. In both groups we aim to discuss and learn how the Bible impacts us today and how Christian faith can transform the way we live our lives. We love to hear different perspectives about how we treat each other, what life is all about and we try and answer together some of the big questions too! Whether you're at school, uni or work, come join us for games, group discussion, socials and lots more!

Email Ben ([Benp@standrewsoakington.co.uk](mailto:Benp@standrewsoakington.co.uk)) or Daniel ([Daniels@standrewsoakington.co.uk](mailto:Daniels@standrewsoakington.co.uk)) for more information.

*Ben Phillips, Family worker  
and Daniel Stone, Youth Worker, at St Andrews Oakington*

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## A Visitor Through Oakington

Johanna is a German student of agriculture who passed through Oakington on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> August. She has explored Spain and is now on her way to Scotland on foot accompanied by her Shetland pony, Hechizo, Chizo for short. They average 15 miles a day. By chance they were guided to our front door and how lucky we were to be able to look after them for just one night. I was able to direct them to the village of Broughton which they reached, soaked but happy, where Cheryl at The Crown was eagerly waiting.



Johanna supports La Via Campesina, an international initiative which unites millions of farmers, supports women and children in rural areas, locals, and migrants and seasonal workers all over the world, through the transfer of knowledge and the defence of rural dignity; it ensures social justice and promotes a sustainable approach to nature.

To read Johanna and Hechizo's blog go to [hdlvc.blog](http://hdlvc.blog) where you will find links to the international initiative. (You will find a "translate" button.)

A happier, more positive couple I could not imagine. It was a poignant and important meeting.

Charlotte Jordan

## Roadside Verges

There has been much speculation in recent months with changing the roadside verges to wildflowers. As we are all becoming aware there is a dramatic decline in pollination species. This might sound good for those who are currently being besieged with wasps, but don't be too harsh on these chaps: they are an important link in the greater picture for a steady-state ecosystem. However, the wider picture paints a very frightening scenario. With a decline we must consider how many popular foods that we consume on a daily basis are reliant on pollination. Consider that in the not too distant past we were dependent on grains such as Spelt for food; no supermarket fruit and vegetable selection then. Cereals and maize are all wind pollinated. Consider a world without courgettes, strawberries, tomatoes – the list is endless. It is predicted that by the end of the century the global population could reach 10.8 billion. We must act now to

ensure that there is enough food available to feed this population. An increase in global temperatures means that most bee species are now active throughout the winter. Can I request that you all give up a section of your gardens to wild flowers and nectar rich species, in particular winter flowering shrubs such as the winter-flowering honeysuckle (*Lonicera fragrantissima*) and the winter box (*Sarcococca confusa*)?

It is forgotten that roadside verges were once an important part of the economy for rural areas. Until the late 1950s villagers and smallholders who kept a pony or donkey for transport and deliveries or a house cow would pay a rent to have the right to cut the verges for hay. The verges would be left to become tall and floriferous, and on a hot summer day the air would be heavy with floral scents.

Julie Grove

## Friends of Northstowe Nature

Recently Sir David Attenborough put us in the picture regarding the state of the planet.

In matters of wildlife loss none of us is innocent, so every one of us is therefore potentially part of the solution. We have to act now to make a difference. We can change the world by changing one small part of it.

We in Oakington have the opportunity to fight for a proper green and wild separation from



the town of Northstowe. These photos were all taken recently from an area which is to be subsumed by major roads, lit tarmac express cycle ways, a floodlit sports hub, cemeteries, allotments and manicured pocket parks.

Environmental loss is not just out there in the real world, it's lost from within us too.

If you also feel concerned, please write to our MP Anthony Browne to make him aware: [anthony.browne.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:anthony.browne.mp@parliament.uk)

Charlotte Jordan



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## Beware Pear Rust

Pear rust is spreading to the UK from the continent and is quite prolific in the community orchards this year.



The disease caused by the rust fungus *Gymnosporangium sabinae*, which causes bright orange spots on the upper surfaces of pear leaves in summer and early autumn. This fungus attacks both pears and junipers. In fact it needs both plants in order to complete its life cycle.

**On pears:** Bright orange spots appear on the upper leaf surface. As summer progresses brown, gall-like outgrowths develop on the corresponding lower leaf surface. You should remove these leaves and put them in your green bin. Unless, of course, you have a serious infestation, which would require removing too many leaves and damage the tree.

**On junipers:** Perennial swellings on stems and branches, produce orange, jelly-like outgrowths in spring, following periods of high humidity. The fungus alternates between the two plants, so the spots on your pears this year will contaminate nearby junipers and they will then produce more spores to recontaminate your pear trees the following year.

*Gymnosporangium sabinae* was once almost confined to mainland Europe and very rarely recorded in the UK, but in

recent years has become much more common, for reasons that are not understood. Severe infections may cause reductions in yield.

The fungus causing pear rust is, like all rusts, a biotroph: it feeds on the living cells of the host plant over an extended period without killing it. It is not able to survive on dead plant material, so must either alternate with a different, perennial host, or produce resting spores to pass the dormant season. Pear rust alternates between pears and junipers.



Having a perennial host, like juniper, enables the fungus to survive those periods when the alternate host is absent (if it is an annual) or dormant and leafless (as with pears), although this particular rust can also form perennial cankers on the bark of pear (these are uncommon in the UK).

For more information email:

Oakington Community Orchards Project Team (OCOP)  
oakcomorchards@gmail.com

## Red Admiral Butterfly

Back in the 1980's I ordered four pupae from a Guernsey project to increase numbers. My sons diligently feed them with honey water but only two hatched, so each year I check that this beautiful butterfly still exists in my garden.

Ten years ago in autumn I chanced on a group of ten gorging on ivy flowers but since then, despite flowers to attract butterflies, I have witnessed a steady decline of all species. So can you imagine my thrill to see a group of 25–30 Red Admirals attacking windfall plums with gusto. Is nature telling us something?

Joan Pettit



Struggling to keep your head above water?

Covid19 has caused loss of jobs and income.

Many people are worrying about how to make ends meet.

### The Oakington & Westwick Hardship Fund is there for anyone experiencing financial hardship

We can offer immediate help with food and other essentials like baby needs and fuel.

But financial hardship looks different for everyone, and we also consider other requests, such as urgent travel expenses or the cost of children's shoes.

Plus we can help you to find other local support for a longer term solution.

If you are in need, get in touch – call or text Ben on 07342 945373 or Jo on 07714 760582, or email [oak.west.hardship.fund@outlook.com](mailto:oak.west.hardship.fund@outlook.com).

We know it can be uncomfortable to talk about financial difficulties. We won't ask more than we need and your confidentiality will be respected.

It's been amazing the way people have contributed to the Fund and we'd like to make sure the money is used by people in the village who could do with a hand.



These are difficult times but the Oakington & Westwick Hardship Fund is here to help while you get yourself back to calmer waters.



Donations welcome.  
Food bank – leave in box in village shop or contact Ben. Fund – <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/own-hardship-fund> or contact OWN

## Spot the Location - answer

The quiz photo in the last Journal was of Coles Lane in the early nineties.



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### Humans as part of nature

The idea that we are part of natural systems has come from a number of sources recently. It was the background of an appeal on Radio 4 to stop people littering beauty spots over the August Bank Holiday. It linked with the concept of the way we feel about ourselves. If we feel like rubbish, we should start to feel better about ourselves by taking our rubbish home. If we viewed ourselves as part of nature, we would not think of leaving litter on beaches or the countryside.

In his book 'Eight Master Lessons of Nature', the American author Gary Ferguson suggests we should immerse ourselves in nature and learn what nature teaches us. We tend to concentrate on the aggression of predators and the blood of the kill, but Ferguson urges us to note and copy the many events in nature that are about co-operation within communities of the same species and even between species. He quotes a conversation with a Northern Cheyenne Native American elder who claims that



animals can learn from us but generally it's the other way round. Ferguson could only agree, having seen wolves in snow-covered parts of Yellowstone, sliding down a frozen slope for fun. He is certain we can learn so much about bonding, about communal living, about interdependence, by

observing the natural world. We do seem to be well behind animals in our understanding of connectiveness and the likely outcomes of our actions.

You may have heard of the philosopher Bruno Latour. He reckons that we wrongly separate the 'natural world' and the 'human world'. He believes we do it in education with separate subjects of study instead of developing an understanding of the relationships between people and our environments. So, we continue to exploit landscapes to suit ourselves. There's plenty of evidence, for instance, that Europeans have exploited Australian and North American land instead of following the ways of Aborigines and Native Americans, who have a deep sense of connectiveness to their countryside. How do we score in the UK?

*John Terry*

### Climate Change

#### Wildfires

The recent wildfires (87 in total) in California, Oregon and Washington State are another reminder of the dramatic and devastating events that are now occurring on our planet, partly because of drought through climate change. The extreme heat is sterilising the soil so plant regeneration is difficult. Many wild animals are being killed but happily some are escaping. Wildfires are natural in semi-arid areas, often caused by lightning strikes in very dry vegetation. We humans have not helped ourselves by choosing to turn these environments into low-density suburbs with houses and gardens.

Researchers who have studied wildfires in Australia (last year) and Greece (do you remember 2007?) suggest that these events have come about because of very dry summers and high levels of flammability and strong winds, especially in coastal regions. Where agricultural land has been abandoned, the vegetation can become fuel and most surprisingly, fires have been started by people wanting to claim land as their own.

'Megafires', those damaging more than 100,000 acres, used to be rare. Between 2000 and 2013, there were 12 such fires, not just bigger burns but hotter fires. The area still burning on the West Coast of the US amounts to no less than 5 million acres.

But ironically, fires can also mean renewal to many habitats. Nutrient rich ash from the burnt grass, shrubs and trees can encourage a vigorous regrowth of ground vegetation, which provides great grazing for all herbivores. In Yellowstone in the US, researchers noticed that elk moved towards post

burn vegetation to benefit from the 30% extra growth.

In the same area, many trees exhibit ways of surviving fire. The Ponderosa Pines drop their lower branches as they mature so fire cannot climb the trees. In addition, the tree has very thick bark which insulates the precious cambium layer (growth area beneath the bark) from the heat. Nature will always demonstrate resilience, which we can copy to our benefit.

#### Antarctica

Scientists from the Cambridge-based British Antarctic Survey have recently investigated under Thwaites Glacier in the Antarctic using robotic devices. The glacier is the size of the UK and is vulnerable because warm South Pacific water is undermining it. If this glacier collapses, it could induce a sea level rise of up to 80 cm, enough to demand changes to the Thames Barrier.

#### Public Assembly on Climate Change

You may know that 108 people, representing a range of ages, gender, ethnicity, educational levels and areas in the UK, have been asked to comment on expert views on ways of mitigating climate change. Their replies included eating less meat and dairy produce, extra taxes for people who fly, getting rid of polluting cars, moving to electric vehicles, cheaper public transport, more solar and wind power and buying less 'things'. The chairs of the select committees involved are urging Government to seriously consider their recommendations.

Please contact Gerry Cavender, Paul Kershaw or John Terry to join our local Climate Change Group. We'd like to hear your recommendations.

*John Terry – johnterry23@hotmail.co.uk*



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## Book Corner

**'Norse Mythology'** by Neil Gaiman

From the writer of American Gods, and co-author of Good Omens with Terry Pratchett. Neil takes his turn as fireside narrator of these age-old tales, bringing the gods to life with his wry interpretations of their characters and deeds. Want to find out how Thor got his hammer? How Odin sacrificed himself, to himself? How many children Loki has? It's all here in engaging, captivating style.

*Paul Kershaw*



## Board Games Chest

In **Trails of Tucana** you're exploring an island with villages and treasures scattered on a map. During the game you try to connect villages to treasures on the island, or to other matching villages. Two terrain cards are drawn every turn, and players simultaneously draw a route on their map, connecting tiles matching the two cards.

Are you waiting for the perfect combination of cards, or are you going for a detour? Will you try to discover the treasures first, or do you prioritise connecting villages? Plenty of tactical decisions to be made, but luck definitely is part of the game as well!

Trails of Tucana is a relatively compact and affordable game with very little setup time. It takes 1 – 8 players about 15 minutes to play and has an age rating of 8+.

*Vincent Udo*



## Garden Cuttings

With the mellow autumn days sliding into crisp mornings and cold nights, it is now time to prepare the garden for winter.

Geraniums and fuchsias need to be brought into a frost free environment for protection. After the first frosts, lift dahlias, dry out, protect and place on a bed of gritty compost in a frost free area.

Clear out any spent summer vegetable and flower beds. Compost healthy plant material, but place any diseased or perennial weeds into the green bin. Mulch around cleared beds and borders with compost. This will be taken down into the soil over winter by the worms to enrich and protect the soil from erosion and give a good start to spring growth.

Whilst the ground is still warm, it is a good time to plant fruit trees and bushes now as they will have time to establish before hard winter conditions.

Lovely fruit trees that give bumper crops can be grown in small gardens, as long as the variety is grown on a dwarfing rootstock like M 27 or Gisela 5 (for cherries), which will limit the growth and produce a compact tree.

Even if all you have is a sunny wall, you can purchase ready trained (dwarf) fan trained cherry trees and espalier apples and pears that lie virtually flat against a wall and have the added benefit of both being easy to protect against birds and bearing fruit years earlier than standard size trees.

*Jan Zelnick*



## David's Curry

My recipe's story reaches back some eighty years when Mo's mother went to school in the foothills of the Himalayas. Her best friend, Mavis, later became one of the first Asian women surgeons in Britain, and it is from her book 'Indian Cooking' by Savitri Chowdhary (1954) that this recipe has developed over the past twenty years or so!

First make some Garam-Masala: 1 oz black peppercorns, 1 oz coriander seeds, ½ oz caraway seeds, 2 cloves, 10 or so green cardamoms and less than half a teaspoon of ground cinnamon. I use a coffee bean grinder dedicated to the purpose to turn these ingredients into a fine powder. You could use commercially available Masala, but fresh and original - nothing like it!

So now: 2lbs chicken (I use thighs and legs mix, skin on or off it doesn't matter); take some of the meat off the bones but don't be too fussy as the whole lot is going in to the mix. You can retrieve the skin after cooking as you serve up.

Chop up quite finely (especially the ginger) 3 good size onions, 4 cloves of garlic, a knob of fresh ginger (the size of two medium thumbs), 3 chillies (I use Tesco's medium heat ones) and fry them *gently* in vegetable oil with a knob of butter added, until the onion is just beginning to brown. Add some herbs from the garden – almost anything but mint. And

salt to your taste. I only put a pinch in. Change the intensity of the chillies if you like a hot curry. This one will be medium and you won't need a glass of milk!

Then add the magic!! Two really heaped teaspoons of Garam -Masala and one and a half teaspoons of turmeric. *Turn up the heat a bit* so that the spices are also fried.

Turn out into the cooking pot. Next clean the frying pan by tipping in a tin of chopped tomatoes and let them bubble for a little and then turn them out too into the pot. Now fry the chicken in a little oil. This should pick up all the debris from the spices and tomatoes and turn the meat a lovely golden brown. It will take a few minutes to get the finish I describe. Turn it all out into the pot. Put half a cup of water in the pan to get the rest of the debris, if there's any left in it. Stir the amazing concoction thoroughly, put the lid on tightly and put in the oven (at 'simmer' setting or equivalent) for at least 90 minutes. Check half way through to make sure it has the consistency you like.

Serve and Eat! This recipe serves at least four to five people. Basmati rice is best with a curry, pappadums, lentils, (some people like to fry a finely sliced onion as a garnish for the lentils), and whatever else takes your fancy.

Bon appetit, اچھی بھوک

*David Reeves*



## Oakington Women's Institute – 1950s

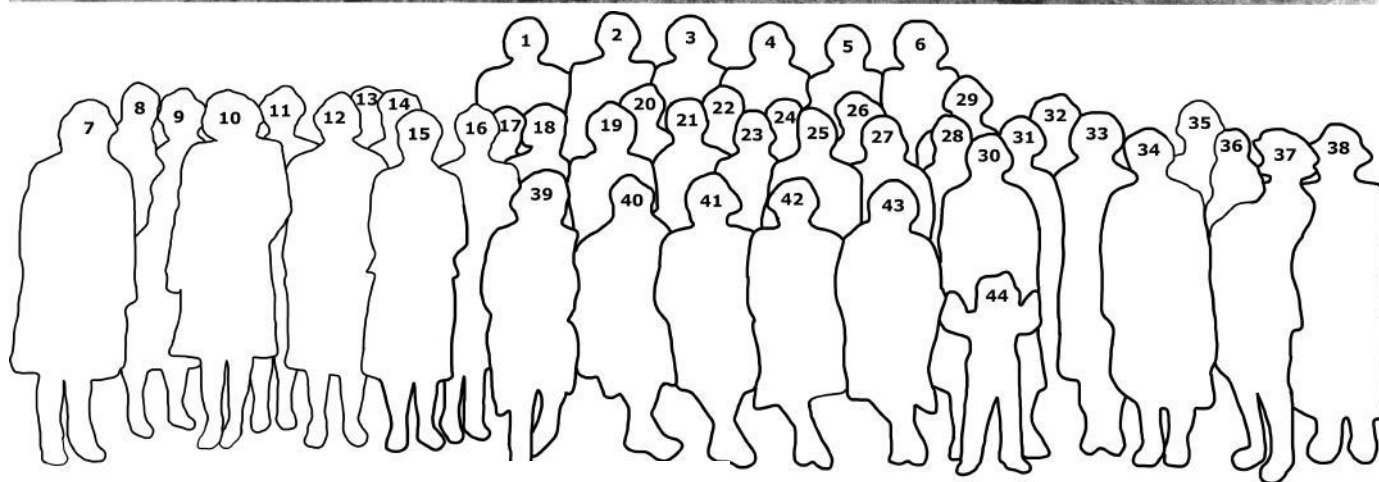
A wonderful photo of a thriving WI group in front of their hut, situated in what is now Arcadia Gardens.

Perhaps some of these ladies had been present some 20 years earlier, when in 1931 the WI hut was built and the Oakington WI relaunched!

Many of the ladies in the photo below are named, but several are missing.

**Can you help please?**

*Answers to the Journal  
or Nick Harrison*



No.	Name	No.	Name	No.	Name	No.	Name
1	.....	12	Mrs Pridgeon	23	Mrs Brasnett	34	Mrs Lilly Smith
2	Mrs Collinge	13	Mrs Ivy Stearn	24	Mrs Liz Chrisp	35	Mrs Whitehead
3	.....	14	.....	25	.....	36	Ann Warren
4	Mrs Prentice	15	Mrs Chamberlain	26	.....	37	Mrs Warren
5	.....	16	Mrs Taylor	27	.....	38	Mrs Wilson?
6	.....	17	Mrs Pauley	28	Mrs May Stearn	39	Mrs Cath Doggett
7	Mrs Rignal	18	Mrs E? Coote	29	Mrs Joan Barker	40	.....
8	Colin Stearn	19	Mrs Norris	30	Miss Emily Barker	41	Mrs Doris Nicholas
9	Mrs Stearn	20	Mrs Pridgeon?	31	.....	42	Mrs Bailey
10	Vi Brickwood	21	.....	32	Mrs Maisie Hales	43	Mrs Golding
11	.....	22	.....	33	Mrs Lilly Hales	44	<b>Richard Barker</b> ☺





**2009 - Left to Right, standing:** Jane Williams, Jen Broadway, Jackie Fabb, half hidden Ann Webster?, Helen Williams, Melanie Moss, Caroline Adams, Anne Williams, Sandra Lodowski, Julie Grove, Jackie Adams, Cathie Neech, Val Berryman, Hannah Angel, Ruby Smith, Jenny Lloyd, Jillian Wilkinson, Joan Sillett, Ellen Chew, Christine McKie, Sheila Rogers  
**Left to Right, seated:** Linda Neech, Dawn Stokes, Nicola Harris

And in 2009, Oakington and Westwick WI came into being once again!

Would you believe it actually evolved somewhat accidentally as a result of a group of 4-year olds starting school!! We as mums were musing one day how we might continue our regular social get togethers without now having little children running around our feet. It would mean we could join together to do something for ourselves such as craft or educate ourselves in some way. Nicola Harris suggested we form a WI and in October 2008 we held a meeting at the Pavilion to gauge interest in the village. To our amazement, the meeting was packed and there was no turning back!

A programme of monthly meetings was compiled, the Methodist Chapel booked, publicity distributed, and on Thursday, 8 January 2009 we opened our doors. We have not looked back.

The wealth and breadth of topics covered at our meetings has been quite staggering. Alongside inviting official WI speakers, more and more we are finding real talent within our own membership and village community of Oakington and Westwick. To name but a few of our residents by talent, we have heard from an author, holistic musician, Thai restaurant chef, baker, drug expert, photographer, mammographer, Singaporean, canoeist, flower arranger, actor.....the list is endless! Pre Covid-19, you have hopefully seen our WI in its more traditional role, providing Tea and Cakes on Village Day and running Cake and Produce stalls at village fairs and social events.

Post Covid-19 (whenever that may be!) we will continue to meet every second Thursday of the month at St Andrew's Church Hall at 7.30pm. In the meantime you may like to join us on Zoom. Details from Helen Williams on C 232614 or Pauline Marsh on C 233443.

*Helen Williams*



### There will be no British Legion Poppy Collection this year

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*Lynda Fentiman*

## Spotlight on ... The White Horse

As you read in the last Journal, drinkers in Oakington and Westwick once had a choice of eight pubs! We are very lucky to have held on to the last – **the White Horse**.

“A typical old-fashioned pub, with a lovely garden.” That’s how manager Ferdan describes it. Having two separate rooms is unusual, she allows, but the arrangement works well, both on the bar side and the quieter restaurant side. The varied menu with daily specials include English favourites, and is the creation of chef and landlord Trevor Holmes.

Trevor came to the White Horse ten years ago from the Sir Isaac Newton on Castle Hill, and Ferdan joined him soon after. Ferdan enjoys working in a village pub, and says the atmosphere’s nicer. “You know everyone. It’s like family here.”



But for three months from the end of March, the pub was totally empty, a victim of Covid-19. Take-aways were offered although proved not to be worthwhile after a couple of weeks. At last, on 4th July, pubs could re-open.

It was tricky with so many rules, and Ferdan says that the first week was hard, telling everyone what to do – follow the one-way system, keep apart, leave name and address. No groups bigger than six are allowed. But overall, she says, “it’s not



been too bad,” although they are “still struggling with some people who don’t respect the rules.” One big change to pub culture has been no standing at the bar.

Some popular activities can take place despite social distancing – Thursdays are still quiz nights and there’s bingo on Sundays. There isn’t room for live music, but poker should soon restart with tables of up to six. Weddings and funerals can be catered for in accordance with government guidelines.

Tables inside must be booked, whether for eating or drinking, although Ferdan knows to reserve tables for her “regulars”. Tables in the garden don’t usually have to be booked. Because of the reduced dining space, and because Trevor can’t work closely with an assistant but has to do more himself, it’s virtually essential to book ahead for meals. But almost anything on the menu is available as takeaway, fish and chips being the most popular. People are welcome to bring their own plates!

It’s good to hear from Ferdan that the White Horse’s regulars have remained faithful this difficult year. “In the early evening some regular drinkers come every single day.” And they’re not all from Oakington and Westwick. Regulars from Longstanton walk or cycle along the old airfield road, and the opening of the local road alongside the A14 has also brought new customers by car or bike, sometimes stopping on spec.

The pub hopes to keep going through the winter with the help of a marquee outside to provide more space. “The local regulars support us, so thanks to them. Otherwise we can’t keep it open.” How best can the community ensure the future of its last pub? “By keeping us busy,” smiles Ferdan.

*Jenny Prince*

### Seeking Committee Members Oakington Village Day '21

Once a year we hold a fete  
To come together and celebrate!  
With stalls and games and even a bar  
Live music and singing from those near and far.  
How is it possible? I hear you cry!  
With a wonderful committee who really try  
their best to put on a brilliant day  
So this is what we have to say....  
Our Village Day really needs you  
to help us plan a fabulous do!  
New people to help, with fresh ideas and  
a little free time,  
we meet once a month (and there’s usually wine!)  
We need several of you to help plan the fun,  
for our next Village Day in June '21!  
So feel free to email - give it a go!  
Volunteering is good for the soul, don't you know....

**Hanna**  
[oakingtonvillageday21@gmail.com](mailto:oakingtonvillageday21@gmail.com)

**Thank you**

**to all our writers and advertisers**

**Please get in touch if you would like  
to contribute to the next Journal!**

**Editors**