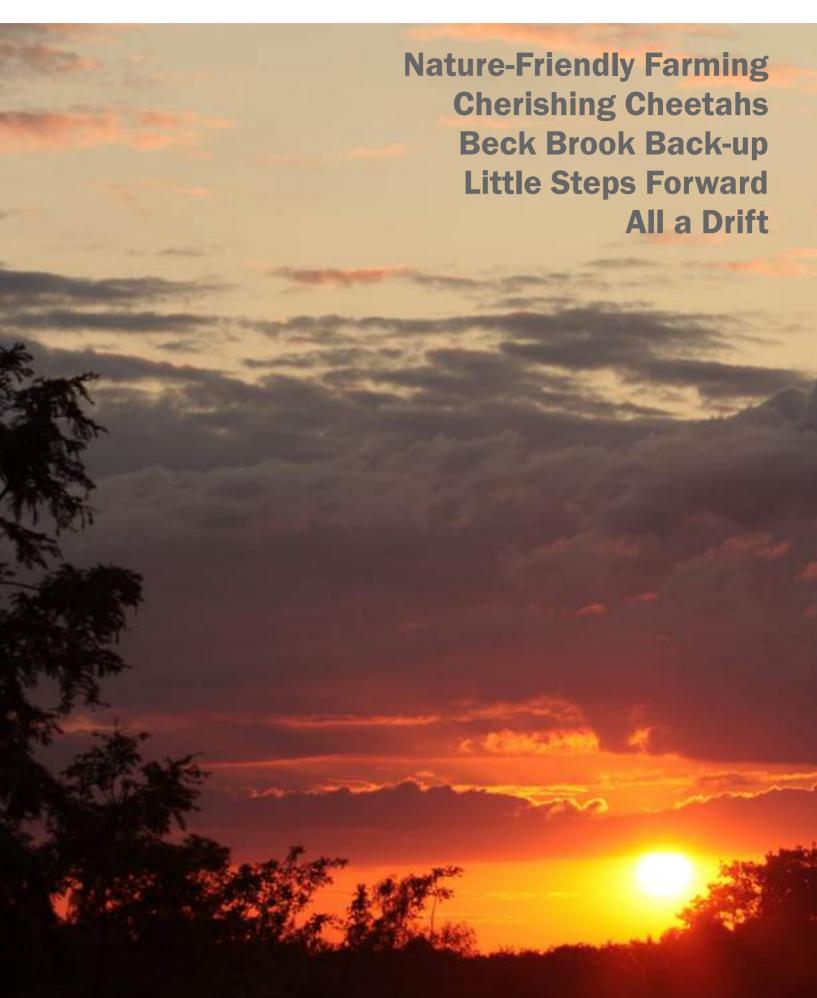
Oakington & Westwick Journal

October / November 2024



What's On

Weekly Mon Monday Cafe, 9.30—noon. Church Hall, £1 Liz Davis - 01223 232745 Youth Club, on a Bus, 7-9pm. Recreation Ground, School Year 7 and above. Free. 07853 795256 Mon Mon Oakington Singers, 7.30-9pm. Church Hall. Elaine Bailey - elainebailey1@live.co.uk Tue Senior Pilates, 11.30-12.30pm. Pavilion. Classes through out the week. Contact: Claire Young - 07766 554413 Cubs, 6-7.15pm. term time. Pavilion. Iain Ramsay - iain.ramsay@oakingtonscouts.org.uk Tue Tue Table Tennis, 7.30–9pm. Pavilion. Gillian L'Angellier – 01223 234758 Tue Poker Night, 7.45pm. White Horse Pub. 01223 232417 Wed Mixed Ability Pilates, 10–11am. Pavilion. Classes throughout the week. Contact: Claire Young – 07766 554413 Yoga, 7-8.15pm. Pavilion. Denise Sibley-Moore - 01954 202235 Wed Thu Mature Movers, 10-10.45am. Pavilion. Katie Harknett - 07541 721059 / info@elementalfitness.co.uk Thu Little Steps playgroup, 10-11.30am. term time. Church Hall. littlestepsoakington@gmail.com Thu Ten Sing, 7–9pm. term time. Histon Baptist Church. Terry King - cambridgetensing@gmail.com Thu Short Mat Bowls, 7.30-9.30pm. Pavilion. Dawn Stokes - 01223 236427 Thu Quiz Night, 8pm. White Horse Pub. 01223 232417 Beavers, 6-7pm. term time. Oakington Primary School. beavers@oakingtonscouts.org.uk Fri Fri Scouts, 6-8pm. term time. Pavilion. Cara Hanman - cara.hanman@oakingtonscouts.org.uk Fri 4 Oct Minibus to Bar Hill, 10am. To book ring Teri Seaber - 07711 531004 Fri 4 Oct Mobile Library, 1.50-2.20pm. Coles Lane. Sat 5 Oct Village Walk & Talk, 10.30am. Meet by Church on High Street. Alice - OWNeighbours@gmail.com Sun 6 Oct Charity Dog Show, 12-5pm. Oakington Dog Day Care Centre, Dry Drayton Road. 07704 709299 Tue 8 Oct Tuesday Talk & Tea, 2.45pm. Church Hall. "Indian Food". Marian Cleaver - 01223 232897 Thu 10 Oct **O&W WI,** 7.30pm. Church Hall. "First Woman Taxi Driver". Elaine Bailey - elainebailey1@live.co.uk Thu 10 Oct Chess Club, 7pm. Crossways. Ranko Pinter – ranpin@gmail.com Fri Country Dancing, 8-10pm. Histon Methodist Church. Kathryn Coles - 01223 233191 11 Oct Apple Pressing, 12-4pm. Old Stables, High Street. All welcome. Alice - OWNeighbours@gmail.com Sat 12 Oct 14 Oct O&W Parish Council, 7.30pm. Pavilion. All invited. clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk Mon Book Club, 7.30pm. White Horse Pub. "Holding" by Graham Norton. Gerry - gedcavander@hotmail.com Wed 16 Oct Thu 17 Oct Philosopher's Café, 7pm. Crossways. Ranko Pinter - ranpin@gmail.com Wed 23 Oct Sustainable O&W and OWN, 7pm. Church Hall. Bring and Share Vegetarian Meal. sustainableow@gmail.com Apple Pressing, 12-4pm. Old Stables, High Street. All welcome. Alice - OWNeighbours@gmail.com Sat 26 Oct Sun 27 Oct Bingo Night, 6pm. White Horse Pub. 01223 232417 Fri 1 Nov Minibus to Bar Hill, 10am. To book ring Teri Seaber – 07711 531004 Fri 1 Nov Mobile Library, 1.50-2.20pm. Coles Lane. Sat 2 Nov Village Walk & Talk, 10.30am. Meet by Church on High Street. Alice - OWNeighbours@gmail.com O&W Parish Council, 7.30pm. Pavilion. All invited. clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk Mon 11 Nov 12 Nov Tuesday Talk & Tea, 2.45pm. Church Hall. Christmas Shoe Boxes. Marian Cleaver - 01223 232897 Tue Wed 13 Nov OWN AGM, 7:30pm. Church Hall. All invited. Talk on scams (TBC). owneighbours@gmail.com Thu 14 Nov Chess Club, 7pm. Crossways. Ranko Pinter - ranpin@gmail.com Thu 14 Nov **O&W WI,** 7.30pm. Church Hall. Elaine Bailey - elainebailey1@live.co.uk Christmas Fair, 9am-4pm. Oakington Garden Centre, Dry Drayton Road. Sat 16 Nov Thu 21 Nov Philosopher's Café, 7pm. Crossways. Ranko Pinter - ranpin@gmail.com Fri 22 Nov Country Dancing, 8-10pm. Histon Methodist Church. Kathryn Coles - 01223 233191 24 Nov Bingo Night, 6pm. White Horse Pub. 01223 232417 Sun

BIN DAYS	Fri 11 Oct, Fri 25 Oct, Fri 8 Nov, Fri 22 Nov.	Black bins
	Fri 4 Oct, Fri 18 Oct, Fri 1 Nov, Fri 15 Nov, Fri 29 Nov.	Blue & Green bins

Sustainable O&W, 7.30pm. Church Hall. "How to have an Eco-Christmas". sustainableow@gmail.com

Christmas Fayre, 1–4pm. Oakington Primary School, Water Lane. *psa@oakington.cambs.sch.uk*Tennis Club Quiz and Dinner. Open to all – contact Tennis Club to register. *oakingtontc@gmail.com*

Cover Photo – Sunset on The Drift, David Reeves

Wed

Sat

Sat

27 Nov

30 Nov

30 Nov

Welcome & 50 Year Anniversary

John Keats in his *Ode to Autumn* wrote of the "Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness" and that is certainly true of Oakington and Westwick, a traditional fruit growing area, as many of the village road names indicate. Some residents are also lucky enough to still have some of those ancient fruit trees in their gardens. And of course we have the relatively new Community Orchards (open to all) and the Jordans' cider apple orchard off Arcadia Gardens. Many of the trees have produced a bumper crop this year as indicated by the number of "help yourself" boxes outside people's gates.

Although, unlike some villages, we do not have an "official" apple day, we do have two apple pressing events coming up, see page 9, where you can join in and, if you have enough of your own apples, bring them along for pressing.

In November, village events move from a harvest theme to a Christmassy one – it seems to come earlier every year!

Jenny Prince & Graham Tregonning, Editors



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

Journal Team:

Graham Tregonning & Jenny Prince (*editors*), Adrienne Chaplin (*distribution*), Jenny Broadway, Ranko Pinter (*chair*), Ella Whellams (*ads layout*) (*one vacancy*)

Send contributions to oakwestjournal@gmail.com

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

DEADLINE FOR
DECEMBER/JANUARY ISSUE:
Tuesday 19 November

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

Advert costs	Single	1 year*
Business card	£21	£84
1/4 page (portrait)	£33	£132
½ page (landscape)	£63	£252

* Six for the price of four

Adverts for the next issue must be received by **12 November**.

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

Cottenham Brass Band – 50 Years

Many congratulations to this local band on reaching their 50th Anniversary. The band entertains at all kinds of events and venues and their varied repertoire includes musicals, marches, hymns and popular classics.

The band has always been a friendly community band. From small beginnings in 1974, they soon had enough members (ca 30) to register for area contests. Joan Keating recruited me and our boys in the early 80s. During the next couple of decades, tens of Oakington and Westwick residents joined for shorter or longer periods. The Junior band, established in 2014, attracts a whopping 40 youngsters! And the current Bandmaster Pete Mackley, warmly welcomes new players.

Recently past members were invited to an Anniversary Reunion – a nostalgic occasion where founder Colin Watson, now 87, regaled us with memories of good times, fun and mishaps. At one engagement, our librarian forgot to bring the music we were going to perform! Another time, on stage ready to play at a contest, somebody realised they had left their mouthpiece behind.

As the band grew in confidence, we too fancied bespoke jackets like other bands. Heated discussions about colour lasted weeks, but when *salmon pink* was proposed, the members quickly united behind the safe, but smart, grey jackets still used today!

Do come to Cottenham Brass 50th Anniversary Concert, with Juniors and Beginners. It is taking place on **19 October**, 7pm at Histon Baptist Church.

Iréne Butlin



Local players in the 80s and 90s included: Sue Jackson & Angus; Ann Osaland; Iona Alexander; Adam & Andrew Fentiman; Paul & Sarah Eldridge; Andrew & James Field; Tom Balch; Sue Heaver & Jonathan; Iréne Butlin & Stefan, Magnus & Tore; Peter Davis; Helen Peters; Joan Keating; Sinnika Wood; Jeremy Cook; Peter Withers; Eileen Wakefield & Timothy; Hannah Port; Jon & Torill Aas; Brian Warboys & Doug Harrison.







I'm a Lettering artist based in Cambridge. My work consists of hand carved memorials, house plaques, garden ornaments, and painted lettering for births, anniversaries and weddings. All my work is bespoke. You can see more of my work on my website: www.pippawestoby.co.uk or on my Facebook page: Letter Carving in Stone - Pippa Westoby.

Contact email: pippa_westoby@yahoo.co.uk





Brookfield Groundcare

A family run business providing a quality and professional service to all aspects of hard and soft landscaping.

- Grass cutting
- Hedge trimming
- Tree surgery
- Fencing
- Paving
- Hedge & tree planting
- Turf laying
- Sports field maintenance
- Paddock maintenance





Contact us to discuss your needs Daniel Wright 07812 670039 Office 01954 252953

Email brookfieldcontracting@gmail.com www.brookfieldgroundcare.com

From the Councils

Parish Councillors

Chair: David Reeves

chair@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk

Vice-Chair: Tony Starling

John Bailey Julie Grove Stephen Moore Ranko Pinter

Jake Camilleri Two Vacancies

Parish Website

www.oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk

Correspondence to the Council should be addressed to the Clerk:

Mrs Laura Lawrence - Email:

clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk

Post: 4 Meadow Farm Close

Oakington CB24 3AS

Phone: 07903 295860

District Councillors

O & W, Longstanton, Northstowe Natalie Warren-Green – 07990 553997 cllr.warrengreen@scambs.gov.uk Tom Bygott – 07765 475 513 cllr.bygott@scambs.gov.uk

County Councillor

O & W, Longstanton, Northstowe, Over Firouz Thompson – 07974 680875 firouz.thompson@cambridgeshire.gov.uk On Facebook:

longstantonoakingtonnorthstowe

Member of Parliament

St Neots and Mid Cambridgeshire

lan Sollom ian.sollom.mp@parliament.uk www.iansollom.org Facebook: lanFSollom

VILLAGE INFORMATION

Community Association

oakington.westwick.ca@gmail.com

Oakington & Westwick Neighbours (OWN) - 07902 111786

OWNeighbours@gmail.com

Oakington Primary School

01223 232328

office@oakington.cambs.sch.uk

Pavilion Booking Administrator

Tony Leadley – 07936 024587 oakingtonpavilion@gmail.com

Village Stores & Post Office

Thiru Kunaratnam - 01223 232327

Hardship Fund

Contact Jo on 07714 760582 or oak.west.hardship.fund@outlook.com

From our Parish Council Chair

Buses & franchising. Catching a number 5 or 6 has for some time proved difficult and sometimes impossible, due to many contributory factors. Buses arriving late or never, changes to the frequency of buses, claims that roadworks have caused delays – just a few of the reasons for residents of both Oakington and Westwick and Girton to be frustrated and angry.

Would you use the number 6 if it were to be reliable and run at a time you want one? Girton PC and this Parish Council are working together to produce a survey of your transport needs. This should be ready soon and will be available online as well as in paper form. Look out on social media for more information. If, in the meantime, you'd like to express your preferences and needs, please do contact the Parish Council.

Franchising could be a way to improve matters by relieving Stagecoach of the right to run a service which is clearly useless for residents. Franchising means that bus companies bid to run bus routes according to the framework laid down by local authorities. Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority have produced a Consultation Questionnaire. It's on their website: cpca-yourvoice.co.uk/bus-franchising-consultation.

Go for the short version – 8 pages, or if you want to, the full 116 pages! It's really important to let the Authority know what you want from a bus service, because franchising means that you will be listened to, not treated in the way that currently serves only the interests of the bus company.

Flooding in Westwick has been a recurring event for many years. Several other parts of the village have also experienced flooding. A replacement bridge a few years ago enabled water to flow more quickly, but flooding is beginning to be a real threat once more. The reason? Surface water backs up in Beck Brook because of blockages, and banks which have not been cleared of vegetation slow the water flow. Beck Brook is classified as a main river, which means that the Environment Agency (EA) is responsible for its upkeep.

A meeting with the EA, County and District councillors and me with our clerk and the Girton PC clerk on Friday 13 September gave some hope that the blockages and other debris in Beck Brook will be cleared, and the work may well have been completed by the time you read this. The accumulation of tons of silt along the river did not seem to be a big enough problem for the EA to guarantee immediate action. I will continue to press for silt clearance.

Very many thanks are due to Andrew Dennis, who also attended the meeting. He has provided a huge amount of information and given a lot of his time in explaining the past and present situation regarding flooding in Oakington and Westwick.

Still two vacancies on the Parish Council – community minded volunteers wanted!



David Reeves

Local Heroes

Would you like to become a local hero? Cambridgeshire are now recruiting on-call fire fighters *tinyurl.com/4atn94b4* (where you are paid for your time) and Special Constables *tinyurl.com/32evpvv2*. (where you get expenses) and obviously you get full training from the professionals. *Cllr Natalie Warren-Green*





From the Council & Community Action Groups

From our District Councillor

As we enter autumn and winter, I'm focusing here on links to help support people with cost-of-living and well-being.

Cost-of-living information

Visit www.scambs.gov.uk/cost-of-living-support for information on: where to turn for benefits, money and debt advice; help with energy and water bills; help for parents and families; help with food and health costs; help with phone bills; help with making your home warmer; Age UK handyperson service and support if you are in distress.

Community Cooking Programmes

South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC), in partnership with The Let's Cook Project, are delivering *free* sessions, aiming to support residents of South Cambridgeshire to improve their confidence and knowledge in healthy eating and cooking. We are looking to deliver four cohorts across the district, and we offer two different programmes for adults and families. All equipment and ingredients will be provided. For more info please contact Emma Jarvis: *emma.jarvis@letscookproject.org*.

Community Hubs

Community Hubs offer residents somewhere to socialise, take part in new activities and receive information on cost-of-living support such as how to reduce bills and access financial support, as well as how to stay healthy and well.

Close to Oakington and Westwick are the Willingham Hub and the Northstowe Community Lounge. Details can be found at: www.cambsacre.org.uk/projects/cambridgeshire-community-hubs-network

South Cambs Business Support: Youth Engagement Programme

An SCDC Youth Enterprise Support Programme helps young people who want to start their own business to get it off the ground. The programme will work with young individuals aged 16–25 to develop essential skills, knowledge and will include opportunities to gain real market experience. Candidates will also be eligible to apply for £1,000 grants to transform their business ideas into local market ventures. Young people who are interested in the Youth Enterprise Support Programme can register to start their journey from conception to commerce at nxgconnect.co.uk/youth-enterprise-programme. If you have any queries please contact Business Support Key Projects Team Leader: Katherine.Southwood@scambs.gov.uk.

Please feel free to email me for support when you need me: *cllr.warrengreen@scambs.gov.uk*.

Cllr Natalie Natalie Warren-Green

See contact details on page 5.

Environment Action Group

Following concerns by some residents at Westwick about the high water levels in the Beck Brook after heavy rain, Andrew Dennis, as lead of our **Flood Mitigation Group**, inspected the condition of the brook between Westwick Bridge and Cuckoo Bridge, some two kilometres downstream towards Rampton. The part of this section nearest Rampton has been maintained by the Environment Agency, but the part nearer Westwick has not been adequately maintained for many years. This is despite the fact that both stretches are classified as a "Main River" and are therefore the responsibility of the Environment Agency. Andrew found at least two blockages in this area caused by fallen branches, which are causing water to back up towards Westwick and Mansell Wood after heavy rain. In



a subsequent
meeting between
Andrew, our
Parish Chair and
Clerk, our County
and District
Councillors, and
representatives
from the
Environment
Agency, the

Agency agreed to remove the blockages and other obstructions as far as they can get access to the brook for their machine. The County Council Highways Department has also confirmed that they will be cleaning out the road culvert at Westwick Bridge later this month. Our Flood

Mitigation Group will continue its efforts to secure a good maintenance schedule for the future.

This autumn, we will wind up most of this year's **Nature Recovery** work, where we linked with SOW (Sustainable Oakington and Westwick). This has been a disappointing year because of a wet spring and because we lacked resources and skills at key times. But some people recorded some great wildlife sightings, and these will give us a good backcloth for next year. The EAG and SOW also helped local farmer Peter Freeman with a pollination survey on the wildflowers around his arable fields.

Looking ahead, the **EAG Christmas tree sale** will take place again this year on 7th December, 12 noon till 3pm at 9 Longstanton Road. Any further details will be posted on OakyFolk nearer the time and in the December Journal.

Finally, James Youd, who has been EAG Chair since 2016, is stepping back a bit because he has so much other work on. The Committee and Volunteers are united in their gratitude for James and the massive work load he has taken on in organising pathway clearance, floral displays, volunteer services and leading the group in its various other activities. John Terry will become Chair and James will continue as a group member. Happily, Stephen Moore is also joining our team bringing a great deal of expertise, experience and enthusiasm.

We are keen to welcome new volunteers to help in our various areas of work, all aimed to make the village safer and more attractive – please contact John Terry on *johnterry23@hotmail.co.uk*.

Stephanie Smith

Gift vouchers available – the ideal present for any occasion

Home based professional salon in a tranquil setting offering personalised whole body beauty care

I offer a choice of waxing products to ensure a treatment tailored to you

T: 01223 473341

79 Longstanton Rd Oakington Cambridge CB24 3AB



www.juliegriffinbeauty.uk

Crossways Hair Studio

For your local hair care professional, friendly and always a warm welcome

Give Vanessa a call - 07746 473853

Crossways House
1 Longstanton Road, Oakington CB24 3BB

CROSSWAYS GARAGE
OAKINGTON
Tel: (01223) 233003
www.crosswaysgarage.com
Service, Repairs & Tyre Fitting to
All Makes of Vehicles & Light
Commercial
Approved MOT Testing Station
Member of the Retail Motor Industry Federation



Community Action Groups

We need a little of your time to help people help others!



Here's your chance to make a difference in our community...We need two people to join the Oakington & Westwick Neighbours steering team.

What's involved?

- 2–5 hours a month
- A lot of it's just background support with a little admin
- Meeting every month or two months, and organising mostly by email
- To coordinate volunteers and requests (there aren't many)
- To back up the Hardship Team (a separate group of people who confidentially arrange support grants from the Hardship Fund)
- To back up the minibus administrator and drivers/volunteers
- To support volunteers if there are any concerns
- To be a lead/contact point for OWN (including taking turns keeping an eye on the OWN phone)
- To chair/minute steering team meetings and a short annual AGM

What's NOT involved?

- You don't have to be an active OWN volunteer yourself
- Fund-raising we have held fund-raising events in the past but grants are available
- Running events unless you'd like to. We have "templates" for easy community events which help people get to know others, but it's not essential

What you'd get out of it:

- The opportunity to "give back" and get involved
- Get to know others in the village
- Use your organisational and/or people skills
- The satisfaction of being part of something really worthwhile

What the community would get from your involvement:

- To be able to continue to support volunteers doing things like shopping for and visiting older people
- To be able to continue the minibus service and the Hardship Fund
- To continue to have OWN which shows we are a community of good neighbours

Please talk to us about roles on the steering group to take OWN forward: 07902 111786 owneighbours@gmail.com

Jo Bryant, Jenny Prince & OWN Team

OWN Annual Talk & Meeting

Wednesday 13 November, 7.30pm, Church Hall

We are hoping to arrange for a talk about scams — something we all need to be well informed about! (To be confirmed.) Everyone is invited, and you can choose whether to stay for the short public OWN AGM afterwards.

RSVP owneighbours@gmail.com / 07902 111786 or just turn up.

Vegetarian Community Meal

SOW and OWN are jointly organising a bring and share vegetarian evening meal on **Wednesday 23 October**, 7pm at the Church Hall.

Please join the meal, bringing a food contribution to share (savoury or sweet, but no meat/fish please). If you have any home-grown veg left, then rustle up a stew and bring it along! Feel free to bring something to drink as well, and a

minimal cash contribution towards rental of the venue will be appreciated.



The pleasure of eating together and tasting other people's cooking is something we enjoy in the summer at the Big Lunch, so we're going to try an autumn version as the nights start to draw in. It will help us

with the planning if you can let us know you're coming, so email *owneighbours@gmail.com*. See you there!

Alice J

Apple Pressing

It's that time of year again – apple season! Blue Barrel Cider will be opening up their yard at the old stables on the High Street 12–4pm **Saturday 12** and **Saturday 26 October**. All welcome to join in washing, crushing and pressing the locally grown apples. There will be free refreshments available at this family favourite event, along with the chance for adults to buy delicious local cider.

If you really want to muck in and get the full experience, you're welcome to come to the Jordans' orchard on Arcadia Gardens to pick the apples in the morning 10–12 noon on each of the two Saturdays.



Alice J

Welcome a New Neighbour

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

Either let Bruce Sutherland know and he will deliver one, or

pick one up from him and take it yourself – it's a good excuse to knock on the door and say hello! Contact Bruce via brucessutherland@aol.com or 07730 817350.



BEST GARDENS SERVICES SERVICES

YOUR LOCAL GARDEN MAINTENANCE, LANDSCAPING AND TREE CARE SERVICE







FOR A FREE QUOTE AND ADVICE

CONTACT ZAID - 07851022474

WWW.BESTGARDENS.CO.UK

BESTGARDENSSERVICES@YAHOO.CO.UK







#BESTGARDENSSERVICES



C. S. Barker Builders Oakington

Alterations / Extensions / New Build







Groups, School & Volunteering

Village Tool Share



To join the WhatsApp group and/or request a loan or a copy of the tools list, contact Jess Winters, Crossways: jess@5asidechess.com.

Little Steps Playgroup

For those new to the village or new parents/grandparents/carers who have never noted what offering you have locally, we are delighted to share that our playgroup has continued on term time Thursday mornings between 10am–11.30am in St Andrew's church hall. A new team are now leading this group since Sharon and Ben have moved on.

For those who have not attended before, the group is intended for children under five, and each session we get lots of toys out, have a short bible story and sing some songs chosen by the children. The children get toast and a drink as a snack halfway through, and the adults have tea and coffee throughout and cake at snack time, volunteer permitting! We are volunteer-run so have support from those who attend to help set up, make drinks and lead the story and songs and tidy up.

If you would like to come along feel free to drop in and meet us or get in touch via our email address <code>littlestepsoakington@gmail.com</code>. The Tuesday Happy Feet singing group has not restarted this September due to no available volunteers to take this on, but if leaders were available this may restart in the future.

Angela Barber



Oakington Church of England Primary School

It has been a very exciting and busy start to another school year. All of the children have settled in to school so well. It has been a pleasure to visit each classroom, seeing the calm and positive atmospheres and the fun learning taking place. Our new prefects have been chosen and are now undertaking their extra responsibilities, such as showing visitors around.

Our "Meet The Teacher" sessions were well-attended and we look forward to another successful and productive year working with our school community. The Year 6 football team competed in a trust-wide tournament, representing the school fantastically. We are also excited by a new climbing frame being installed in the playground.

Nathan Clark, Headteacher

Volunteer opportunity – a couple of Friday mornings a year

MINIBUS DRIVER

Our Oakington community minibus offers a door-to-door service to Bar Hill shops including Tesco on the first Friday of the month.

It's an important, friendly service and we're looking for a volunteer driver. If you are in work maybe your company gives you a volunteering day a year – this is a perfect match and in your own local community. All you need is –

- · A normal driving licence
- To be under 70
- To be happy driving a 15-seater minibus you will get a training session
- To be available on some Friday mornings 9.15 –
 12.45 (includes picking bus up from/dropping off at Histon Baptist Church); up to six times a year (max)

What you get:

- The company of your lovely local clients, many of them older people who have lived in the village for years and have many stories to tell. People do not have to be older – it's a service open to all.
- A volunteer "buddy" who accompanies the driver and helps collect people and carry shopping
- The back-up of the minibus administrator who takes the bookings and organises who is to be picked up
- Time to get your own shopping done at Tesco and have a coffee
- A great feel-good factor, helping people who can't get out easily, and everyone always really appreciates the trip

To find out more, contact OWN owneighbours@gmail.com or ring Teri on 07711 531004.

Clubs and Groups

Oakington and Westwick WI

Our last meeting before the summer break was a fascinating and informative talk about hedgehogs as an at-risk species and how we can help create an environment in our gardens to help them.



Our September meeting was a visual presentation by member Pauline Marsh of the many and varied wildflowers she has seen on her travels along the guided busway. Pauline explained she originally stopped her bicycle to photograph the flowers for identification on returning home. She now uses an App which she shared with members.

Four members took part at the annual Cambridge Federation Quiz at Cottenham and were very pleased with their midway result. We thoroughly enjoyed our interval picnic and tried not to take the evening too seriously amongst the stiff competition of 30 teams and very difficult questions!

We have some extra events planned in the next few months, including bowling at Pidley in November, and a trip to the ADC theatre, to see A Christmas Carol. Plus various craft

workshops for 2025 and our annual group winter meal.

Our next meeting is on Thursday **10 October** when we will have a talk from Marion Leaper about the First Woman Taxi Driver in Cambridge.

Elaine Bailey

Why I love ... being in the WI

"Speakers talking about a variety of subjects, taking part in different activities and meeting new people."

"It's a chance to join with the Federation on a variety of topics and outings they put on."

"Why I love WI is the opportunity to make connections with other locals with no fixed or forced agenda."

"I like being in the WI because it's a chance to meet a good selection of interesting people that I would probably never get to know. Also, there are very interesting talks and activities."

"Why I love the WI is the variety of our monthly meetings but also the extra events we get to try, both organised by our committee and the Cambridge Federation."

"The WI is a place where I meet old friends, make new ones, learn about a wide range of topics, both intellectual and practical."

"Why I love the WI is that it is a chance for me to do something different and sometimes to challenge myself, but most of all I like meeting others and being with a great group of women."

Oakington & Westwick Short Mat Bowls Club



If you would like to give bowls a try, come and join us as our guest. We play throughout the year at the Pavilion, on Thursday evenings 7.30–9.30pm. We have

spare bowls and you just need some soft, flat-soled shoes. If you would like more information, please contact Dawn Stokes on 01223 236427.

Country Dancing

Jane and I look forward to seeing you on Friday **11 October** and Friday **22 November** for our next fun evenings of country dancing. We always have a Caller and music provided by our excellent musicians. All abilities are catered for and you don't need a partner as we all dance with each other. So, do come and join us, either to dance or listen to the music.

Kathryn Coles



Meets in Histon Methodist Church, one Friday a month, 8–10 pm. Adults £4, accompanied children 50p. Soft shoes or trainers are recommended.

1st Oakington Scout Group

Oakington Scouts are looking forward to a busy Autumn term. Our first session back was a big one — spent at the Duxford Air Show. The air show was not only a fun day out but it afforded the chance to work towards a range of badges — air spotters, creative, photography and others. The rest of the term's sessions will happen on our usual Friday evenings at Oakington Pavilion where the scouts will learn how to problem solve, work as a team, be creative and most of all, have fun!

Oakington Scouts are part of the Oakington Scout Group



which comprises a Beaver Lodge, Cub Pack and Scout Troop. We welcome volunteers and our Cub Pack is currently urgently seeking new leaders. We would encourage anyone interested to get in touch and

find out more: tinyurl.com/3rrvav4r

Cara Hanman



Scouts (10½–14) meet 6–8 pm on Fridays at the Pavilion. Contact Cara cara.hanman@oakingtonscouts.org.uk for more details.

Clubs and Groups

Oakington & Westwick Tennis Club

Save the date!

Oakington & Westwick Tennis Club will be hosting their ever popular Quiz Night on **Saturday 30 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. More details in due course.

Meanwhile, the new surface on the tennis courts is making playing even more enjoyable and you can still get excellent value from membership even at this stage of the year.

Gill Attmore

Club members can use hard courts at the Recreation Ground. Our subscription year runs 1 April – 31 March. Membership: £65 family, £45 adults, £20 for juniors. To join or for more info, contact oakingtontc@gmail.com.

1st Oakington Beavers

Oakington Beavers started off the Autumn term by making water filters and paper aeroplanes! Over the next few weeks, we're thinking about some big ideas – global issues, space and air travel. We'll also be joining up with our friends in Cubs and Scouts for some activities later on in the term.

Adults: did you have fun and learn amazing things in Beavers/Cubs/Scouts as a child? Could you help today's young people gain similar experiences? Please get in touch!

Kathryn Bigg



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

If your child is interested in joining Beavers, please contact *Kathryn.Bigg@oakingtonscouts.org.uk*.

Tuesday Talk & Tea

September's meeting included a report on last year's activities, and an exchange of members' holiday memories. As usual we finished with a delicious tea of sandwiches, scones and cake, all home-made by club members.

- **8 Oct** Rama Ram will give a talk and demonstration of Indian food.
- 12 Nov We will pack up our donations for the Christmas Shoebox Appeal.
- 10 Dec Christmas party, preceded by singing carols led by Richard and Tim Brading, interspersed with some chosen and sung by them.

Marian Cleaver



The Tuesday Talk and Tea Club meets in the Church Hall at 2.45–4.45pm on the second Tuesday of the month, for a talk

or activity followed by a delicious home-made tea. We welcome all comers, especially if the subject that month is of special interest to you.

More info: 01223 232897 / marianccleaver@gmail.com.

Sustainable Oakington & Westwick

Our July activity was a guided farming and wildlife walk – read about it in Nature Notes on page 15. Over the summer people have been recording wildlife on Mansell Farm and elsewhere in the village. You can do this using irecord – see *sustainableow.co.uk/nature-recovery-project* for details, and for step-by-step instructions – or by emailing *sustainableow@gmail.com*.

Several people in the village have night-motion cameras and



record nocturnal visitors. Here's a hedgehog in Saxon Close and a badger from a garden in Manor Farm Close next to the field at the end.

- 12 & 26 Oct Apple pressing, see page 9 for details
- 23 Oct Community vegetarian meal see page 9
- 27 Nov "How to have an Eco-Christmas" crafts and ideas for making the festive season more sustainable

Jenny Prince



For everyone who's concerned about nature and the environment. All are welcome to SOW meetings, at 7.30pm in the Church Hall on the last Wednesday in the month.

sustainableow@gmail.com / sustainableow.co.uk

Oakington Vikings Football Club



Standard

Our Teams and Contacts

- First Team James & Ronnie 07834 465188
- Under 16s Marcus & Josh 07866 635241
- Under 14s Winston 07968 716290
- Welfare officer Frank 07841 995713

www.facebook.com/OakingtonVikingsFC

Oakington & Westwick Table Tennis Group



Table tennis is good for your mental health as well as your physical health – heart rate, reaction times, coordination, muscles and joints. Join us for fun and laughter – we are a

small, friendly club, of mixed ability. We play every Tuesday at 7.30pm at the Pavilion, and welcome new players. Bats provided. For more information contact Gillian L'Angellier on 01223 234758.

Want to look back? There is an **online archive of Journal issues** on *www.oakingtonhistory.co.uk/journal-archive*.



A wheelie bin cleaning service for both domestic and commercial customers.

Book a regular or one off clean.

Tel: 01223 277747

Book online at www.wheeliefreshbins.com





Carpet Cleaning & Stone Floor, Upholstery, Rugs

A few points that make us stand out:

Rothwell's has been in business since 1993.

We're an honest local family firm.

Our large truck mounted machines mean

more cleaning & drying power

for the best results possible.

Members of both the NCCA and TACCA.

We will move the furniture.

100% satisfaction or it's FREE.

Call Oliver and Max Campbell for expert help today.

01223 832 928 / 01638 428 060 www.Rothwells.biz

PEST PROBLEM?

LOCAL, PROFESSIONAL, TRUSTED

DRE Pest Control



Rapid, qualified and safe pest control.

Residential, farms, commercial premises, hotels, hospitals, schools & businesses.

Removal of rats, mice, ants, fleas, cockroaches, & wasps.

Are you looking for one-off, emergency or long-term pest management solutions?

DRE Pest Control today!

07789 502556 01954 230708

drepestcontrol.co.uk info@drepestcontrol.co.uk







19 WALLMANS LANE SWAVESEY CAMBRIDGE CB24 4QY

Nature Notes & Retirement Community

A Walk Across Local Farmland

You may know that the most recent edition of the UK Government's State of Nature Report (2023) underlines that the abundance of wildlife in this country has reduced significantly since 1970 and the most important contributory factor has been changes to agriculture. Since the last century, many farmers have abandoned mixed farming (livestock/grass farming alongside arable crops), use more pesticides and artificial fertilizer and have increased winter sown crops, to the detriment of spring cropping.

On the 31st July, sixteen villagers walked around the footpaths of Mansell Farm (which includes land south of Water Lane, west of the busway) to discuss farming and its effect on wildlife. The walk was organised by SOW and I was involved because I used to advise farmers on how to increase wildlife on their farms and I'm keen that we all know more about nature and how our food is produced.

Fortunately, Peter Freeman, one our local farmers, is keen to farm in ways that help wildlife. Additionally, he is happy to encourage people to walk on his footpaths as long as we do not walk off the paths. He has grass for cattle and sheep as well as arable crops: grass in the rotation helps to give the soil good structure and natural fertility. He grows both winter and spring crops.

The big increase in winter crops is because they are more profitable than spring sown crops. They are in the ground longer so yield more, but can be poorer for wildlife. Imagine if you are a ground nesting bird like a skylark. Which crop is easier to build a nest in: a thick and tall winter wheat crop in May or the young, thin leaves of spring barley sown in March? Of course, skylark prefer spring cropping.

But there's more. After harvest the ground is quickly prepared for the following winter crop but with a following spring crop, the stubble can be left overwinter offering weeds and invertebrates for food and also shelter from the weather and predators. Farmland birds, especially corn bunting, tree sparrow, grey partridge and linnet, all benefit from overwintered stubble, alongside small mammals like mice.

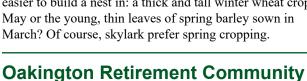
Brown hares tend to graze cereal crops but near harvest the cereals dry out and are unpalatable, so they need grass. Peter

> grows grass for his livestock but also the grass margins around his arable fields provide for hares. These margins also work as a buffer between the arable fields and water courses. reducing the amount of fertilizer and pesticides getting into the water. They also contain wild flowers vital to a whole range of invertebrates, including pollinators. Peter is involved in a survey to record the pollinators that visit his farm and a few SOW members are

involved in this survey. You may have noticed from car windscreens how insect numbers have declined over the last two decades or so. Insect numbers are certainly down, including butterflies and moths.

Peter is a tenant farmer. The land is owned by Cambridgeshire County Estates and they encourage sustainable farming. Sustainability is about using the farm's own resources like manure, so reducing the need for high energy input fertiliser; it's about looking after biodiversity; it's about involving local communities as well as making enough money to keep the business buoyant. We concluded that we are very lucky to have Peter's farm on our doorsteps.

John Terry



(ORC)

We have previously reported that Homes England (HE) managers indicated in a meeting with us that they would consider our proposal to combine the development of our proposed retirement facility with building the long-awaited attenuation pond on the field they purchased with the tomato farm.

Since this meeting 20 months ago, we have not been able to get HE's attention. So we were pleased to have our new MP for St Neots & Mid Cambridgeshire, Ian Sollom, and our Cambridgeshire County Councillor, Firouz Thompson, meet with us to review how we might move forward.

Ian and Firouz kindly agreed to encourage HE to respond to

Emma Fletcher, who has supported our Retirement Village

efforts for the last five years, also attended the meeting. She has been appointed the Low Carbon Housing Director at Octopus Energy and will help us develop the ORC as a zero-carbon community.



Firouz & Ian in Oakington Geoffrey Butlin (ORC Chair) Sean Moroney (ORC Member)

www.oakingtonretirementcommunity.org

(Note: our website needs updating – waiting until we have made progress with Homes England)









School PSA & My Volunteering

Oakington Primary School Parent Staff Association

The PSA were delighted with the success of the village yard sale starting off our fundraising for the 2024–25 school year. The pitches and generous donations resulted in over £300 being raised by the community. It was lovely to see so many walking around the village bargain hunting! We are always grateful for the Oakington community involvement, with many still contributing to the school despite children having moved on to secondary and beyond.





Our next event will be the Christmas Fayre on Saturday **30 November** 1pm–4pm. We have shared a "save the date" poster for this event and and would like to highlight that **stall holder** opportunities are available for a small fee. Please email us if interested: *psa@oakington.Cambs.sch.uk*

As plans progress we will share on our Facebook page and update posters around the village, so keep a look out and get the date in your diary. It is always lovely to see past pupils and those from the village coming along to this event to support your local primary school.

Angela Barber

Supporting Felines

There are 41 species of felines (cats) around the world. Cats first appeared around 25 million years ago and are now present on every continent except Antarctica. Sadly many are threatened by habitat loss and human activity. The domestic cat originated from Sand Cats that live in the deserts of North Africa and the Middle East and were subsequently domesticated by early humans. Our domestic cats share many of the same behaviours as Sand Cats.

Work to support cats falls into two main areas; wild cat conservation and helping domestic cats. There are many organisations that are assisting with wild cat conservation such as the World Wildlife Fund and in the UK the Big Cat Sanctuary.

I was able to see some support work at the Cheetah Outreach Centre just north of Cape Town. Further north of Cape Town lies the Kalahari desert, a place to encounter the deadliest cat in the world. No not the Lion or Leopard but another small wild cat. The Black Footed Cat has the highest hunt success rate of any cat. It gets its prey six times out of ten

attempts, whereas a Lion is only successful twice.

In the UK, The Big Cat Sanctuary is currently rescuing big cats from war torn Ukraine, some sadly with PTSD after nearby missile explosions.

Domestic Cats are the last branch of the cat family to emerge and while they are not an endangered species there are often cats that need help. Cats Protection is the largest cat charity in the UK. With over 200 regional branches and 34 cat centres, Cats Protection helps over 150,000 cats every year and has over 10,000 volunteers. Their work includes rehoming (including a "peace of mind" service to those worried about looking after their pets should they pass away first), education talks to schools and groups, as well as campaigning to improve cat welfare and laws to protect cats. Cats Protection also offers lifeline respite care for anyone who has to move to a refuge due to domestic abuse. One of Cats Protection's biggest campaigns is neutering in order to reduce the numbers of both feral and unwanted cats.

If you are interested in supporting cats, big or small, there

are many opportunities in the UK and overseas. Obviously that could be financial such as donating or sponsorship, but it could also be volunteering, like me with educating school children and groups on cat welfare.



Steve Papworth



EVENTS:

- Bingo 7th September
- Quiz Night 18th October
- Quiz Night 15th November
- An Evening with Iain Carter BBC Sports commentator 2nd November
- Race Night 29th November

CONTACT NICOLA

OFFICE@GIRTONGOLF.CO.UK

Dodford Lane, Girton, Cambridge, CB3 0QE www.girtongolf.co.uk Tel: 01223 276169

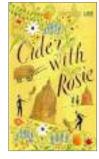


Hobbies & Pavilion

Book Club

Cider with Rosie by Laurie Lee

The book club recently read the old classic Cider with Rosie, which many will have read at school. With much less emphasis on a storyline than many novels, what this book does so well is bring to life the quality of life as lived in the English countryside in a bygone time. The



descriptions are so good you feel like you are walking down the same sun-dappled country lanes with the characters, meeting the same people. The war, industrialisation and the inevitable moving out and exploring by the younger folk see that time and way of life starting to disappear. You are left with having enjoyed it, feeling fond of it and a little sad that times always move on. An experience we all have for part of our own lives eventually, I guess. Enjoyable, heart-warming: we rated it 8 out of 10 and worth a re-read.

If you enjoy reading and would like to meet a friendly bunch join us at the White Horse at 7.30pm on **16 October** to discuss *Holding* by Graham Norton.

Gerry Cavander

Video Game Review

Minecraft



Minecraft is a game where creativity is endless and you can build whatever you want in a pixelated and blocky 16-bit universe. You can build houses or worlds, gather tools and use a crafting table to turn your inventory into new tools and blocks. Advance your world, prepare defences to gear up for battle in survival mode. Defeat waves of zombies and monsters, also aiming to survive the night.

With over 1000+ blocks, items and tools, you can collect resources and prepare to beat the final boss, the Ender Dragon.

Samuel, age 14



Chess Corner

Solution to chess puzzle 4-24

1st White Ng3-f1

1st Black 2nd White

Kg1-h1 Qh3-h1# if g2:Nf1 Qh3:f1#

= checkmate. ':' = takes a piece.





Chess Puzzle 5-24

White to move and checkmate in two moves.

Send your solution to me at ranpin@qmail.com

Ranko Pinter

Gardening Notes

October: Time to plant garlic to overwinter and the last chance to plant Spring Cabbage while the soil is still warm. Remaining root crops like carrots, potatoes and beetroot should be lifted and stored somewhere frost free. It is a good idea to cover any brassicas with fleece or net to deter hungry pigeons. Clear spent vegetable crops to compost and consider growing a green manure like Phacelia or grazing rye which can be dug in next spring.

Now is a good time to divide herbaceous perennials and create extra plants to give away.

Tidy the greenhouse ready for pots of tender plants like Pelargoniums, Eucomis and Fuchsia to spend the winter under cover.



November: Broad beans like

'Aquadulce Claudia' can be sown now for a welcome early crop next spring.

If roses have produced long, new shoots, cut them back by half to prevent wind rock. Elevate outdoor pots on bricks or terracotta feet to allow free drainage and avoid frost damage. Finish planting spring displays of wallflowers and forget-me-nots and sow some pots of hardy annuals and sweet peas to leave somewhere sheltered ready to plant out early next spring.

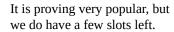
Best of all spend an hour or two looking at the many seed catalogues to see what you might be tempted to grow next year. Happy Gardening!

Ann and Peter Rayner

Oakington and Westwick Pavilion Update

3G Pitch

You will have noticed that we have a wonderful new 3G pitch completed and available for hire.





Should your team wish to book for the season please contact <code>oakingtonpavilion@gmail.com</code> for availability and prices. Please note that due to the new surface strict footwear requirements have been introduced which are nonnegotiable; this is to ensure the surface is not damaged.

Meeting/small function room

Do you know someone who has a business that might want to hire out our function room either on an occasional or regular basis? We have a perfect meeting room that is available during the week.

We are trying our best to use the building as efficiently as possible, and need to generate more income. To hire the building please contact Tony Leadley on <code>oakingtonpavilion@qmail.com</code>.

Please support your Pavilion!

Elaine Bailey





P S Dean Roofing

Traditional Roofing Contractors

Slates, Tiles, Guttering, Chimneys and Re-pointing Re-roofing, Repairs, Lead-work, Free Quotations

01223 572504 07752 711175

paul@psdeanroofing.co.uk www.psdeanroofing.co.uk

22 Longstanton Road, Oakington, Cambs, CB24 3BB

Up My Street & Community Association

The Drift

The Drift was called the 'Fourth Private Road' in the 1834 Enclosure Act. It's not



private, of course, and can be used by anyone, and into the fields at the far end. We have a right of way.



When and where might it have started though? Maybe a Roman track? And perhaps Saxons used it too. Certainly by the eighteenth and nineteenth century there were allotment gardens on both sides and ponds at the back of what is now Mead View. No doubt produce of all kinds

found its way to the station when the railway came through.

Nowadays the Drift has seven homes in it, the oldest

building being the white cottage, probably mid nineteenth century. The others have been built at various times since the 1930s. But wait... what of the barn, now a house called appropriately 'The Barn', built on the site of the old barn?

There was a huge barn in the field at the end of the Drift, and it was moved, in living memory, lock, stock and spiders, all the way across the field and down the track (hopefully it happened in summer when it would have been passable).

In that farmyard area were housed two shire horses, and later a donkey called Zebra, innumerable hens, duck, geese and a one-winged seagull, Cyril. His story is another chapter however.

Imagine the scene – all manner of farmyard noises on a Sunday morning, including a squawking gull, accompanied by songs of praise!

A splinter group of the Strict and Particular Baptists installed a large chicken house (as described by those who saw it) in what is now the drive at number 10. Apparently worship in the village was not strict and particular enough, so twice at least on Sundays worship was conducted there, even in the muddiest conditions.

The Drift was given a tarmac surface in the 1980s a few years after we moved from Rampton in 1982. Hitherto I had helped Harvey Pettit to maintain the surface with a tractor and harrow.

The Drift has seen a number of floods over the years. Drainage improved greatly when new plastic pipes replaced the old clay ones and a trench was dug across the Drift to

take water straight into the watercourse. Later the watercourse was properly maintained by South Cambs District Council. Eight tanker loads of sludge were removed!

Walking along the Drift on a spring or summer day is an uplifting experience. Any number of birds in the hedgerows: later the butterflies, gatekeepers and meadow browns, perhaps, and dragonflies. At dusk you'll be only too keenly aware of the pipistrelle bats.

David Reeves



Community Association

Bonfire & Fireworks Night Cancelled

Unfortunately, it is with a heavy heart that the Committee announces the Bonfire and Fireworks Night this year will be cancelled. The difficult decision has been made on the basis that no volunteers were forthcoming to support the organising and set-up of the event, nor to complete the fireworks training.

There is great community spirit in Oakington and Westwick. This is clear from the support and coming together that we saw on Village Day and the significant number of clubs and activities happening across the village – which really is extraordinary for a village this size.

So, as we embark on planning for the 2025 events we ask you to consider getting involved. These events need volunteers to make them happen – around 6–8 on the organising teams, plus a number of volunteers on the day to share tasks such as setting up gazebos, installing fencing, selling tickets, manning the entrance and packing up.

Our request: We urge you to sign up as a volunteer – no commitment needed at this time. As we approach each event, we'll reach out to check availability, and actions you might be able to take on. Please email oakington.westwick.ca@gmail.com with 'Volunteer' in the subject to be part of the volunteer pool mailing list and support your future community events.

On other news...

The Association is reviewing its constitution to provide simpler governance of the group in future.

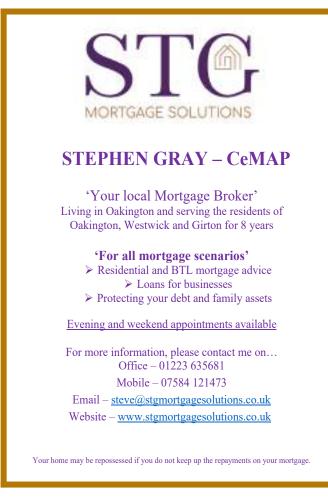
Look out as we announce a new Treasurer shortly. The O&W CA supports village-wide activities, e.g. the Journal and Village Day, with insurance and a bank account, so this is a key role within the team.

If you would like to know more and keep up to date, please join the AGM on Tuesday 28 January 2025 (details to follow) - everyone is welcome to attend.

Elodie Cameron O&W CA Secretary







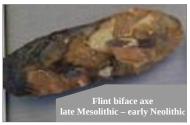


Local Archaeology

Before Northstowe

The story of the archaeology within the Northstowe development area spans across a 10,000 year period, in which the landscape has changed several times over, including in its newest iteration in the community of Northstowe. But to tell this story there have been several surveys, evaluations and open area excavations that have investigated the landscape covered by the former Oakington Airfield, and the former golf course on the north-side area of Rampton Road in Longstanton. The most recent was the search for the Royal Observatory Core post 7/E.2 using Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR).

In 2004–2007, and since 2014, these investigations have been carried out by the Cambridge Archaeological Unit, Department of Archaeology, University of Cambridge, as part of pre-development conditions associated with the planning process for the new town of Northstowe. Funded by Homes England (although Phase 1 was funded by Gallagher's, now L&Q Estates), a tremendous amount of archaeological materials and archives have been recovered and produced, with over half-a-million finds from across 72 hectares of open area excavation. But what has been found? What stories can we tell?



Although human activity starts in the early prehistory, probably in the Mesolithic and Neolithic, and a clearance episode in the middle Bronze Age to

early Iron Age, it is not until the **middle Iron Age** that we start to see a colonisation phase with more permanent settlement (around 350 BCE). This came in the form of roundhouse structures (approximately 30) forming several discrete clusters, which were probably settlements with one or a few households, and enclosures. These settlements start as 'open' i.e. unenclosed, and then become enclosed, perhaps towards the end of the middle Iron Age, around 100 BCE. As a result a community of people and their animals was firmly established, and in the late Iron Age several distinct settlements were formed. Some of them were joined together by long ditches and banks, while other settlements were enclosed with multiple 'lobed' enclosure arrangements.

But in the **Roman period**, around 50 to 100 CE, we start to see a new arrangement. While some of the Iron Age settlement locations continued to be occupied into the early Roman period (during the 1st century CE) many of them

were abandoned. What emerges were two main settlements within the open area excavations:

Inholmes and **Beck Brook**. The former is a complex farm located north of Rampton Road, while the latter was a village across Oakington Airfield; and both were connected together by trackway, with fields in-between.



These two settlements dominated the landscape for the **next 400 years**, modifying their structure and components every few generations. The bulk of the half million artefacts were derived from this period. This was a well connected settlement, with access to huge amounts of pottery, as well as animals for eating and rearing. Human remains were

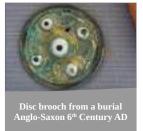
cremations, as well as building materials, burnt stone, worked stone and metal objects, wood and leather. Structures both continued the roundhouse form and included rectangular buildings, some of which had painted plaster walls. We also

found in burials and



see a complex of enclosures across the length of both settlements, forming distinctive parts within it. For example, within the Beck Brook village we see a crossroads, a roadside settlement, a market place, as well as a possible 'public' building, and enclosures for specialist activities such as firing pots. All in all, while Inholmes is a complex farm, either side of a trackway that runs down the middle of it, Beck Brook is a village, what we call a 'polyfocal' settlement.

Both settlements continued into the early-5th century CE, culminating in a diminished form, and then became abandoned but still remembered. Whether or not there was an actual break in occupation is hard to tell, but around the edges of both the former Roman settlements at Inholmes and Beck Brook small settlements formed also during the **5th century**. And these were post-built structures with



associated pits, as well as many burials (mostly associated with Inholmes and a few at Beck Brook) adorned with brooches and metal objects.

After some proto-village activity in the 8th to 9th centuries close to Longstanton, the majority of the investigation areas were turned

into open fields, with ridge and furrow cultivation. It is not until the **early-20th century** that the area is once again transformed into Oakington Airfield, including its re-use as a military camp and then an immigration centre.



Oscar Aldred, Cambridge Archaeological Unit, University of Cambridge



Charity Fun Dog Show in aid of Medical Detection Dogs

Sunday 6th October 2024 – from 12 noon to 5pm Free Admission

Welcome to Oakington Dog Day Care Centre – the Members Only Club for dogs in Oakington! Established over eight years ago, we are very proud of our high standards of care and enrichment activities for our canine friends. If you're curious about what we do at ODDCC, why not come along to one of our Open Days or book your very own VIP tour? We would love to show you around and your dog will definitely thank you for it!

We are thrilled to announce our annual Charity Fun Dog Show is back, raising funds for Medical Detection Dogs.

We are delighted that Dotty McLeod from BBC Radio Cambridgeshire is our judge this year. Dotty will be overseeing a variety of classes and we know you will not make her job easy! And we have the highly contested Fastest Dog Scurry, plus an Obedience Competition, and a fun Agility and Hoopers Competition. It's a fun packed day for your dog and the whole family, so grab a chair or blanket, settle beside the ring, and cheer on your favourite furry companions.

Don't miss out on the popular BBQ run by the Oakington Scouts and grab a drink or nibbles from our refreshments stand. Stalls are welcome: Charity stalls are free, Craft stalls are £10 and if you have a trade stand please contact us for details.





We cannot wait to see familiar faces and meet new friends at our Charity Fun Dog Show. So spread the word, bring your family and friends, and who knows – maybe your dog will be heading home with a shiny new rosette!

Pamela Lawrence-Teulon

Lottery Winners



