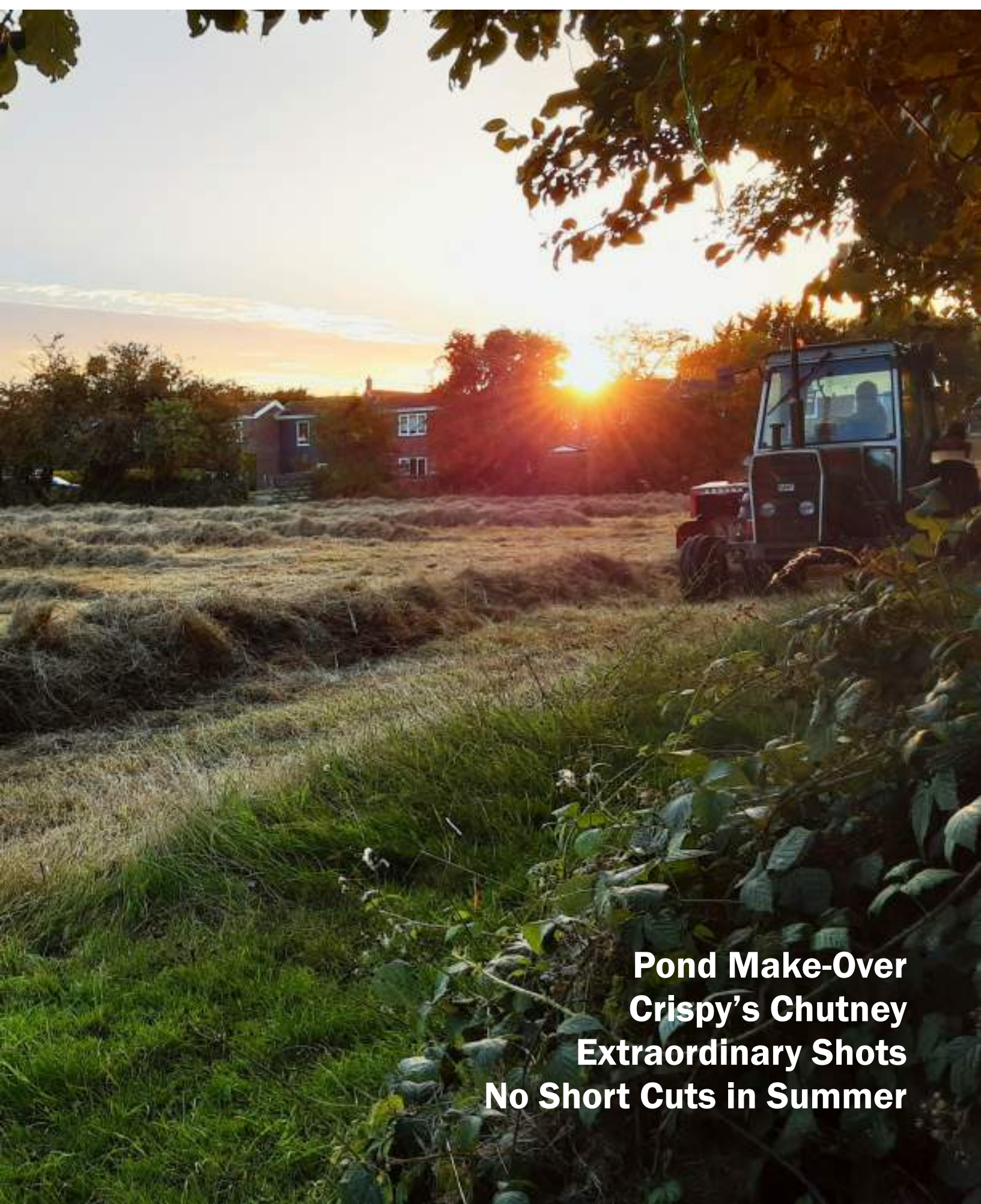


# ***Oakington & Westwick***

**October / November 2025**

***Journal***



**Pond Make-Over  
Crispy's Chutney  
Extraordinary Shots  
No Short Cuts in Summer**



## What's On

### Weekly

Mon		<b>Monday Cafe</b> , 9.30–noon. Church Hall, £1. Liz Davis – 01223 232745
Mon		<b>Youth Club</b> , on a Bus, 7–9pm. Recreation Ground, School Year 7 and above. Free. 07853 795256
Mon		<b>Oakington Singers</b> , 7.30–9pm. Church Hall. Elaine Bailey – <a href="mailto:elainebailey1@live.co.uk">elainebailey1@live.co.uk</a>
Tue		<b>Senior Pilates</b> , 11.30–12.30pm. Pavilion. Classes through out the week. Claire Young – 07766 554413
Tue		<b>Cubs</b> , 6–7.15pm. Term time. Pavilion. Richard Young – <a href="mailto:richard.young@crafthillscouts.org.uk">richard.young@crafthillscouts.org.uk</a>
Tue		<b>Table Tennis</b> , 7.30–9pm. Pavilion. Gillian L'Angellier – 01223 234758
Wed		<b>Mixed Ability Pilates</b> , 10–11am. Pavilion. Classes throughout the week. Claire Young – 07766 554413
Wed		<b>Yoga</b> , 7–8.15pm. Pavilion. Denise Sibley-Moore – 01954 202235
Thu		<b>Mature Movers</b> , 10–10.45am. Pavilion. Katie Harknett – 07541 721059 / <a href="mailto:info@elementalfitness.co.uk">info@elementalfitness.co.uk</a>
Thu		<b>Little Steps</b> playgroup, 10–11.30am. Term time. Church Hall. <a href="mailto:littlestepsoakington@gmail.com">littlestepsoakington@gmail.com</a>
Thu		<b>Mental Wellbeing Drop-in</b> , 6–7.30pm. Contact Ildiko Dulo – <a href="mailto:cats@koka.me.uk">cats@koka.me.uk</a> / <a href="http://www.koka.me.uk/cats">www.koka.me.uk/cats</a>
Thu		<b>Ten Sing</b> , 7–9pm. Term time. Histon Baptist Church. Terry King – <a href="mailto:cambridgetensing@gmail.com">cambridgetensing@gmail.com</a>
Thu		<b>Short Mat Bowls</b> , 7.30–9.30pm. Pavilion. Dawn Stokes – 01223 236427
Thu		<b>Quiz Night</b> , 8pm. White Horse Pub. 01223 232417
Thu		<b>Squirrels</b> , 5–6pm. Term time. Oakington Primary School – <a href="mailto:nikki.henrywood@oakingtonscouts.org.uk">nikki.henrywood@oakingtonscouts.org.uk</a>
Fri		<b>Beavers</b> , 6–7pm. Term time. Oakington Primary School – <a href="mailto:beavers@oakingtonscouts.org.uk">beavers@oakingtonscouts.org.uk</a>
Fri		<b>Scouts</b> , 6–7.30pm. Term time. Pavilion. Cara Hanman – <a href="mailto:cara.hanman@oakingtonscouts.org.uk">cara.hanman@oakingtonscouts.org.uk</a>
Fri	3 Oct	<b>Minibus to Bar Hill</b> , 10am. To book ring Teri Seaber – 07711 531004
Fri	3 Oct	<b>Mobile Library</b> , 1.50–2.20pm. Coles Lane.
Fri	3 Oct	<b>Harvest Concert</b> , 7pm. St Andrew's Church. Donations for Ruth and Poppy Nicholas Music Fund.
Sat	4 Oct	<b>Village Walk &amp; Talk</b> , 10.30am. Meet by Church on High Street. Alice – <a href="mailto:OWNeighbours@gmail.com">OWNeighbours@gmail.com</a>
Sat	4 Oct	<b>Apple Pressing</b> , 12–4pm. 54 High Street. All welcome. Alice – <a href="mailto:sustainableow@gmail.com">sustainableow@gmail.com</a>
Thu	9 Oct	<b>Chess Club</b> , 7pm. Interested in joining? contact Ranko Pinter – <a href="mailto:ranpin@gmail.com">ranpin@gmail.com</a> or 07766 052025
Thu	9 Oct	<b>O&amp;W WI</b> , 7.30pm. Church Hall. "Museum on a Bike" by Roger Lilley. Elaine Bailey – <a href="mailto:elainebailey1@live.co.uk">elainebailey1@live.co.uk</a>
Sat	11 Oct	<b>Charity Fun Dog Show</b> , 12–5pm. Dog Day Care Centre, Dry Drayton Road
Sat	11 Oct	<b>Messy Church</b> , 3–5pm. Church Hall. Cate Lambert – <a href="mailto:catelambert@hotmail.co.uk">catelambert@hotmail.co.uk</a> or 07533 152519
Mon	13 Oct	<b>O&amp;W Parish Council</b> , 7.30pm. Pavilion. All invited. <a href="mailto:clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk">clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk</a>
Tue	14 Oct	<b>Tuesday Talk &amp; Tea</b> , 2.45pm. Church Hall. The Christian Blind Mission. Marian Cleaver – 01223 232897
Thu	16 Oct	<b>Philosopher's Café</b> , 7pm. Interested in joining? contact Ranko Pinter – <a href="mailto:ranpin@gmail.com">ranpin@gmail.com</a> or 07766 052025
Fri	17 Oct	<b>Country Dancing</b> , 8–10pm. Histon Methodist Church. Kathryn Coles – 01223 233191
Sat	18 Oct	<b>Therapeutic Stories workshop</b> , 10–11.30am. Contact Ildiko Dulo <a href="mailto:cats@koka.me.uk">cats@koka.me.uk</a> / <a href="http://www.koka.me.uk/cats">www.koka.me.uk/cats</a>
Sat	18 Oct	<b>Community Bulb Planting</b> , 2–3.30pm. Meet outside pavilion. To be confirmed. <a href="mailto:sustainableow@gmail.com">sustainableow@gmail.com</a>
Wed	22 Oct	<b>Sustainable O&amp;W</b> , 7.30pm. Church Hall. Bring & share vegetarian meal. <a href="mailto:sustainableow@gmail.com">sustainableow@gmail.com</a>
Sat	1 Nov	<b>Village Walk &amp; Talk</b> , 10.30am. Meet by Church on High Street. Alice – <a href="mailto:OWNeighbours@gmail.com">OWNeighbours@gmail.com</a>
Sat	1 Nov	<b>Apple Pressing</b> , 12–4pm. 54 High Street. All welcome. Alice – <a href="mailto:sustainableow@gmail.com">sustainableow@gmail.com</a>
Fri	7 Nov	<b>Minibus to Bar Hill</b> , 10am. To book ring Teri Seaber – 07711 531004
Fri	7 Nov	<b>Mobile Library</b> , 1.50–2.20pm. Coles Lane.
Sat	8 Nov	<b>Messy Church</b> , 3–5pm. Church Hall. Cate Lambert – <a href="mailto:catelambert@hotmail.co.uk">catelambert@hotmail.co.uk</a> or 07533 152519
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Tue	11 Nov	<b>Tuesday Talk &amp; Tea</b> , 2.45pm. Church Hall. Christmas Shoe Boxes. Marian Cleaver – 01223 232897
Thu	13 Nov	<b>Chess Club</b> , 7pm. Interested in joining? contact Ranko Pinter – <a href="mailto:ranpin@gmail.com">ranpin@gmail.com</a> or 07766 052025
Thu	13 Nov	<b>O&amp;W WI</b> , 7.30pm. Church Hall. Elaine Bailey – <a href="mailto:elainebailey1@live.co.uk">elainebailey1@live.co.uk</a>
Fri	14 Nov	<b>Country Dancing</b> , 8–10pm. Histon Methodist Church. Kathryn Coles – 01223 233191
Wed	19 Nov	<b>OWN AGM</b> , 7.30pm. Church Hall. All invited. Speaker – details to follow. <a href="mailto:OWNeighbours@gmail.com">OWNeighbours@gmail.com</a>
Thu	20 Nov	<b>Philosopher's Café</b> , 7pm. Interested in joining? contact Ranko Pinter – <a href="mailto:ranpin@gmail.com">ranpin@gmail.com</a> or 07766 052025
Sat	22 Nov	<b>Tennis Club Charity Quiz Night</b> , 6.30pm. Open to all. Gill Attmore – <a href="mailto:oakingtontc@gmail.com">oakingtontc@gmail.com</a>
Wed	26 Nov	<b>Sustainable O&amp;W</b> , 7.30pm. Church Hall. Wreath making workshop. <a href="mailto:sustainableow@gmail.com">sustainableow@gmail.com</a>
Sat	29 Nov	<b>Oakington Primary School Christmas Fayre</b> , 11–2pm. <a href="mailto:psa@oakington.cambs.sch.uk">psa@oakington.cambs.sch.uk</a>
Sat	29 Nov	Oakington grown <b>Christmas trees on sale</b> , 1–4 pm. 9a Longstanton Road. In aid of EAG.

<b>BIN DAYS</b>	Fri 10 Oct, Fri 24 Oct, Fri 7 Nov, Fri 21 Nov.	<b>Black bins</b>	Recycle <b>Marigold rubber gloves</b> in the grey recycling box in the village shop
	Fri 3 Oct, Fri 17 Oct, Fri 31 Oct, Fri 14 Nov, Fri 28 Nov.	<b>Blue &amp; Green bins</b>	

What/where to recycle: [sustainableow.co.uk/reuse-repair-recycle](http://sustainableow.co.uk/reuse-repair-recycle)

Cover Photo: Haymaking – Charlotte Jordan

A new academic year has begun and households with school pupils or staff are back in the term-time routine. It's all change at the village primary school as we welcome a new temporary headteacher, and look forward to the preschool hut being filled once more with lively under-fives!

Village clubs which stopped for the summer break have begun meeting again. Even for those without the excitement of a new class, autumn is a good time to try something new – there are lots of opportunities for all ages without needing to stir from Oakington and Westwick.

We will however have to go beyond the parish boundaries to mark bonfire night this year, but many other community events are lined up for us to enjoy: the Harvest Concert, Dog Show, apple pressing, bulb planting, Tennis Club Quiz, and, looking further ahead, Christmas fairs and concerts.

And we note another new arrival in Oakington – Squirrels – of the two-legged kind! All revealed on page 13.



*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*)  
Ela Yates (*business manager*)

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

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

**DEADLINE FOR  
OCTOBER/NOVEMBER ISSUE:  
Tuesday 18 November**

To advertise in the Journal,  
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Advert costs	Single	1 year*
Business card	£21	£84
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½ page (landscape)	£63	£252

\* Six for the price of four

Adverts for the next issue must  
be received by **11 November**.

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

## Fifty Years a Beekeeper

Earlier this year young Josiah Nicholas asked me if I could tell him something about beekeeping. I was happy to do so and as it turned out 2025 is my 50th year of keeping bees so I know a little. I started beekeeping when a new neighbour gifted me a hive and taught me the basics.

I spoke to Jos for over two hours and thought afterwards that I must have bored him to tears; how wrong I was! His mother Clare told my wife that Jos had gone home and repeated every word I had said so he had clearly absorbed it all.

One of the many things I told him was that I always keep a small swarm hive on our summer house roof to attract passing swarms of bees to hopefully avoid them setting up home in our roof or shed. I heard nothing more from Jos until about two weeks afterwards when he turned up to show me a swarm box he had built himself! And I have to say it was excellent carpentry!

In April this year we had a glut of early bee swarms and I was able to gift one to Jos which he has set up in his own hive and which it would appear is doing well and producing honey.

There are several beekeepers in the village and one of them, Leo Jordan, asked me if I could show a bee colony in an observation hive on village day. Jos and I appeared in our bee suits and I hope many of you took the opportunity to look at the bees and hopefully you spotted the marked Queen Bee, an essential element of bee colony management.

Some years ago what was then the Ministry of Agriculture decided that to keep control of bee populations you could only keep bees if you had been on a recognised training course; this was particularly aimed at the population of London who were putting a hive on every flat roof not knowing how to look after them. Jos is booked on a Beekeepers training course in January next year, the earliest one he could get on. I come under the “grandad’s rule” – that is to say I have been keeping bees for so long that I am deemed to know what I am doing. I wish!

One thing I have discovered is that even after 50 years I still learn something new each time I open a hive. The life of a colony in the hive is indeed fascinating.

I recently rescued a colony from an old timber barn in Histon so Jos might soon have a second colony.

Consuming honey has many health benefits, crucially if you are eating local honey which has ingredients from your local area rather than miles away or from other countries. I rarely sell honey as with many children and grandchildren there are always willing recipients – “Grandad, mum says we have run out of your honey, please could we have some more...”

*Tony Leadley*



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### Parish Councillors

**Chair:** Tony Starling

*chair@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk*

**Vice-Chair:** Stephen Moore

John Bailey                      Julie Grove

Ranko Pinter

*Four 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 475513

*cllr.bygott@scambs.gov.uk*

### County Councillor

O & W, Longstanton, Northstowe, Over

Luis Navarro – 07817 211960

*luis.navarro@cambridgeshire.gov.uk*

On Facebook:

*longstantonoakingtonnorthstowe*

### Member of Parliament

St Neots and Mid Cambridgeshire

Ian Sollom

*ian.sollom.mp@parliament.uk*

*www.iansollom.org* Facebook: *IanFSollom*

## 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, Bee on

07718 068941, Celine on 07541 997299

or *oak.west.hardship.fund@outlook.com*

## From our Parish Council

**Parish Councillor vacancies** – We now have four parish councillor vacancies, due to a recent resignation. (Thank you Jake for your work on behalf of the village. We hope you will consider joining again one day!)

During the past few years, the Parish Council has been very successful in obtaining grants to improve village facilities such as the new 3G pitch and Pavilion solar panels. We won Cambridgeshire 'Parish Council of the Year' in 2024 with the nomination based on 'outstanding commitment to inclusivity, the tireless dedication of councillors, and proactive approach through various sub-action groups'.

Nothing has changed in terms of commitment and dedication. But the five remaining councillors need more help to be able to progress projects and start new ones as well as support our local groups.

So, please do consider joining us if you care about the future of your village.

For further information, please contact the Clerk, Laura Lawrence – *clerk@oakingtonandwestwick-pc.gov.uk* or phone 07903 295860.

**Speed monitoring detection** – The village now has two speed monitoring devices currently sited in Cambridge Road and Water Lane/Station Road. Initial data has shown that a high percentage of vehicles are adhering to the 20mph limits. It is worth noting that the police now have the power to ticket anyone exceeding the limit and it is not worth the risk of a heavy fine or points on your licence.

**30mph between Oakington and Girton** – Although there have been some delays due to other highways work in our area, work is now well underway to complete the installation of the reduced speed limit infrastructure before the end of the year. We have now been informed, that to facilitate the remaining work, the road between our two villages will be closed from **17 to 28 November, Monday to Friday between the hours of 20.00 and 06.00 only**. This overnight work should hopefully mean less disruption for most road users.

**Biodiversity & Information Boards** – Representatives from SOW, EAG and the PC recently met with the County Council Green Infrastructure manager to discuss possible options for making some of our village verges more wildlife friendly by only cutting them in September/October to allow pollinators to benefit in the spring. We also talked about bulb and wildflower planting as well as our preferred locations for new village information boards that are currently being produced by EAG. Please see the article on page 17 for more information. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Clerk.

**Meetings** – The Parish Council meets on the second Monday of each month (apart from August) at 7.30pm in the Pavilion. All are welcome to attend to share any village-related issues or concerns. You will be assured of a warm welcome!



*Tony Starling, Chair*

## Needed: one hour!

Could spare an hour once or twice a year on a Friday afternoon? We are looking for people who could work in a pair to collect the Journals from the printers in Histon, count and bundle them and drop them off to the deliverers. It would be a great help to our slightly over-stretched team!

*Eds. 01223 233510 or oakwestjournal@gmail.com*

### From our MP

#### NHS Survey – Your views matter

Building on one of my main campaign pledges, I have launched a new health survey where I am asking residents about their experience of the NHS. Specifically, I am interested in hearing about your experiences of ambulance, surgery and cancer treatment waiting times and more general access to GPs and dentists. There is also an opportunity to detail any specific poor instances of NHS treatment that you might have had. Every response I receive will help build a picture of NHS services in our area, and what I need to do to help improve those that are failing.

If you would like to help me fight to improve our NHS, you can find my survey at [www.iansollom.org/NHSSurvey](http://www.iansollom.org/NHSSurvey).

#### National Highways Meeting

Over the summer, I met with representatives from National Highways to raise the most frequent issues that residents raise with me. While significant roadworks may have become the norm for our area – with both the A14 improvement scheme and the A428 dualling taking place in quick succession – it is important that these works cause as little disruption as possible to residents, that lessons are learned from one scheme to the next, and that residents' concerns about the state of local roads are heard.

I asked National Highways how various issues that have arisen since the A14 redevelopment, such as congestion, the death of thousands of roadside trees, and the state of new bridges, are being dealt with, and what lessons it is taking forward for its ongoing work. On the A14 trees, National Highways have a full report coming next year which I will be carefully reviewing. I received confirmation that our new bridges have been monitored for movement and structural issues over the past three years, with high-end monitoring for the past nine months – minor interventions have been made but overall, I am told there have been no major structural issues.

#### Cambridge 25

I recently attended a drop-in consultation session for 'Cambridge 25' – a proposed new employment park next to the A14 just north of Bar Hill. Although this phase of consultation will have ended by the time this edition of the Journal is out, I hope residents got the chance to give their views to developers – though there will be further opportunities to have your say as the proposal progresses through the formal planning process.

#### Get in Touch

I continue to hold both in-person and online surgeries to speak directly to constituents about their issues. If you feel you have a problem I could help with, or you have a policy matter you would like to discuss with me, please don't hesitate to contact me at [ian.sollom.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:ian.sollom.mp@parliament.uk).

If you would like to receive regular updates on my work in the area, please sign up for my newsletter at [www.iansollom.org/emails](http://www.iansollom.org/emails).



Ian Sollom MP

### From our County Councillor

**Local Government Reorganisation.** To nobody's surprise, it has been revealed that the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government failed to undertake its own analysis of the financial implications of the ongoing local government reorganisation, relying instead on analysis by consultants PwC. Fresh analysis of those figures shows that replacing the two-tier system with 58 new unitary councils with populations as low as 300,000 could end up costing £850 million over five years and deliver no long-term savings.

**Adult social care services** have been rated as 'GOOD' by the Care Quality Commission, with its assessment finding that early support and flexible options are helping people stay independent longer. And the County Council has improved the support and stability it provides for **care leavers** in Cambridgeshire, according to a recent Ofsted report.

A building contractor (Bouygues UK) has been appointed to Cambridge **Children's Hospital**, which will be built on the same site that houses Addenbrooke's and Royal Papworth hospitals. Work is expected to start within the next 18 months. This will be the first specialist children's hospital in the East of England, the only region in the UK currently without one. The five-storey building will include 108 inpatient beds, 16 paediatric intensive care beds, 42 day-case beds, 7 operating theatres, imaging and diagnostics, and a hospital school alongside a new research institute.

Could you be a **foster carer**? Cambridgeshire Fostering Service is looking for compassionate individuals and families across Cambridgeshire, who by offering a stable, loving home can make a life-changing difference for children and young people unable to live with their families. Fostering doesn't have to be a long-term commitment. The council also needs carers for short-term fostering and respite care. Find out more: 0800 052 0078 / [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/fostering-and-adoption](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/fostering-and-adoption)

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#### Highways & Transport

Cambridgeshire County Council is taking firm action to reduce disruption on the county's roads, issuing fines totalling £483,000 to utility companies and developers for non-compliant and over-running roadworks during 2024–25. In total, the council processed more than 32,000 street and roadwork permits last year, regulating when and how works can take place on the highway.



Cllr Luis Navarro

### From our District Councillors

#### Consultation reopens on planning obligations document

Greater Cambridge Shared Planning has launched a new consultation on its draft Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) concerning planning obligations, commonly referred to as Section 106 contributions. These obligations are the mechanisms by which developers contribute towards mitigating the impacts of their projects on local infrastructure and communities.

The updated draft takes into account feedback from the first consultation held between November 2024 and January 2025. It provides detailed guidance on when obligations will apply and what they may include. Examples are the delivery of affordable housing, improvements to transport networks such as cycle paths or bus services, and measures to protect nature and biodiversity.

Once finalised, the SPD will replace earlier guidance and support policies in the current Local Plans. It will apply to both Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire, ensuring a consistent framework for development.

Residents and stakeholders can comment until 17 October 2025. The document and submission details are available at: <https://greatercambridgeplanning.org/spd>

#### Investment approved to safeguard the River Cam

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority's Funding Committee has backed a plan to spend £500,000 on urgent works at Baits Bite Lock on the River Cam. A recent survey identified that the lock is at risk of structural failure. If left unchecked, this could threaten river safety, water levels, flood control, and the enjoyment of thousands of residents and visitors who use the river.

The funding will allow the Cam Conservators to carry out stabilisation work, preventing immediate risks while longer-term options are assessed for both Baits Bite and the nearby Jesus Lock, which faces similar challenges. Protecting this infrastructure is vital for maintaining navigation along the Cam and preserving one of Cambridge's most important environmental and recreational assets.

The project is part of the Combined Authority's allocation from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. Final approval will have been considered by the CA's Board on 24 September.

#### Northstowe occupation update

There are now 1,750 houses in Northstowe, 1,651 are new builds. Of these, 188 are in Phase 2 and the remainder in Phase 1.

#### New waste and recycling website launched

A new dedicated website for waste and recycling across Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire has been launched to improve services for both households and businesses: [greatercambridgewaste.org/](https://greatercambridgewaste.org/)

The website aims to provide a single, user-friendly hub for bin collections, recycling information and commercial waste services. Feedback on the site's functionality can be sent to [engage@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:engage@scambs.gov.uk).



Cllr Tom Bygott

#### Expiry of postal votes after three years

Following a change to the law as part of the Elections Act, postal votes no longer apply indefinitely. They now expire after a period of three years. Due to the timing of the reapplication legislation, around 15,000 South Cambridgeshire postal votes are due to expire at the end of January 2026. The South Cambs Elections Team has just started the process of contacting residents whose postal vote will be expiring. If this is likely to affect you, and you want to know more, please email [elections@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:elections@scambs.gov.uk).

#### Low-Income Family Tracker (LIFT) Events and Contact

South Cambridgeshire District Council has helped residents on lower incomes secure up to £3.6 million in benefits they're entitled to, but weren't claiming. The Council's innovative Low-Income Family Tracker (LIFT) software identifies households likely to be eligible for benefits but not claiming them. They are then sent a letter or text encouraging them to apply – with follow-up phone calls also made. If you want to know more about benefits you think you may be eligible for and haven't been contacted please do contact me or use the contact-us link below to get directly to council officers.

#### Need Help from SCDC?

In addition to contacting me (see page 5), the SCDC website is excellent. For specifics about how to contact a service, go to [www.scambs.gov.uk/your-council-and-democracy/contact-us](https://www.scambs.gov.uk/your-council-and-democracy/contact-us). Or call 01954 713000, open 8am – 5:30pm, Monday – Friday (until 6:30pm on Wednesdays).



Cllr Natalie Warren-Green

**Contact details for our MP and all our Councillors can be found on page 5.**

### Thank you

Thanks to Natalie's intervention fence panels have now been repaired between Days Meadow and the adjoining field.

Graham Tregonning

### Open Eco Homes – Highlighting heat pumps in Cambridgeshire



Heat pumps will take centre stage this year for Cambridge Carbon Footprint's Open Eco Homes: Winter Special, **26 October–23 November**. Visit local homes equipped with heat pumps and other low carbon technologies and hear directly from homeowners about their journey towards increased comfort, savings, and sustainability.

Gain practical advice from experts on working with professionals, cutting energy use, saving water, installing solar PV, and making affordable DIY improvements. Whether you're planning your next retrofit or just curious, these events will help you to take your next step.

Tours and talks are available in-person and online: all are FREE; advance booking required. Full details and booking: [cambridgecarbonfootprint.org/what-we-do/open-eco-homes](https://cambridgecarbonfootprint.org/what-we-do/open-eco-homes).

Fran Sutton, Cambridge Carbon Footprint









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### Environment Action Group

Our **Flood Mitigation Group** continues to lobby the relevant authorities regarding the condition of water courses around the village. We hope to be involved in a forthcoming meeting between South Cambridgeshire District Council and the Environment Agency to discuss the maintenance of Beck Brook downstream of Westwick. Meanwhile, we are still awaiting action from the Environment Agency on clearing vegetation from Oakington Brook upstream of Dry Drayton Road, which was previously promised for July, and work by Cambridgeshire Highways which has promised to remove silt from under the Cambridge Road culvert. There is also still no progress from Homes England (Northstowe Developers) on the long-promised flood attenuation ponds on Oakington Brook.

We have also been reviewing the **Cambridge 25** draft proposals for a new business park on land in our parish by the A14 (you may have received a leaflet about these plans from the developers Salhia). Several EAG members attended the public consultations in mid-September to find out more about how it could affect our village. Our concerns at this stage include the potential impacts on water flows and on the risk of flooding if water runoff from the site is not adequately managed.

Back in August, a great job in cleaning up the **village pond** was done by ten volunteers. The aim was to cut back the aggressive reedmace and Norfolk reed to prevent them



blocking the view of drivers coming out of the adjacent driveway and to remove their seed heads to reduce their spread. We also cut back the brambles and removed litter. The low water level allowed us to make good progress, and we are very grateful to all the volunteers who got stuck in to complete this work.



After

We have also been working with the Parish Council on plans to improve the appearance of **Stocks Green**; on plans for maintenance of the planting areas, hornbeam trees and gravel path at the **recreation ground**; and on locations for our planned **information boards** around the village. We have also been working with SOW on plans for improving the biodiversity of roadside verges in the village (see separate article) as well as on the **APollOW pollinator survey**. EAG members have also been involved in litter picking around the village and in the maintenance of the **Oakington and Westwick in Bloom** flower tubs. We are grateful to all of our volunteers who undertake these activities on behalf of the village.

Finally, we plan to sell **Oakington-grown Christmas trees** to villagers again this year on Saturday **29 November**, 1–4 pm at 9a Longstanton Road. This may be the last year of sales before stocks run out. Any further details will be posted on OakyFolk nearer the time and in the December Journal. Please note that these trees are for local residents of Oakington and Westwick only and are not for reselling.

*Stephanie Smith*

### Community Association

Autumn is upon us but the Community Association is already in planning for the 2026 Village Day! This year we were largely a new team who came together only a few months before the event; collectively we were very proud of what we delivered in that time. Therefore, with more time and a year's experience under our belt, we have the opportunity to take on board the feedback received and consider how we can deliver on all aspects of the event next year. There have been enquiries as to how the Village Day performed financially – I am pleased to say we covered our costs for the day and generated enough surplus funds to purchase a new gazebo to house the bar area next year.

From a financial perspective, the Village Day isn't about



maximising profit but it is important that we can meet the costs and comply with the various conditions and requirements of hosting the event. Sadly, with this in mind we have decided not to host the fireworks event again in November. Understandably, the insurance company sets out very strict requirements for such an event and the costs for putting on the night have risen considerably in recent years. With the night itself being at the mercy of the weather, the event carries a high degree of financial risk.

The Community Association would therefore rather focus on delivering another great Village Day next year and we look forward to keeping you updated with all the exciting news in future editions of the Journal.

*Andrew Dillnutt, Treasurer*  
[oakington.westwick.ca@gmail.com](mailto:oakington.westwick.ca@gmail.com)

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### From Oakington C of E Primary School



Many of you may have already heard that at the end of the Summer Term I stepped down as Headteacher at Oakington to take up the headship at Milton C of E Primary School. Having been part of the school as Year 6 teacher, deputy head and Headteacher for the past ten years, it is time for me to move on to the next step.



Oakington C of E Primary School, and the whole surrounding community, have been an enormous part of my life for the last decade. I feel incredibly thankful to have worked alongside incredible staff and enjoyed such a supportive and enthusiastic parent community. Most importantly, it has been such a privilege to work with our fantastic pupils.

Mrs Charlotte Inchbald will be joining Oakington as Headteacher from September, ahead of the permanent Headteacher joining in January 2026. Whilst I appreciate that change can sometimes be difficult, I feel excited about the future of Oakington, and I feel immensely grateful for having had the opportunity to lead such a wonderful school. The new Headteacher of Oakington will be very blessed to have such an amazing community to work with. I look forward to supporting them to ensure a smooth transition.

*Mr Nathan Clark*

On 22 July there was a short presentation in the school playground for Mr Clark. He received a sapling from Oakington, a book with class photos of all the pupils he has taught and a digital card and donation from the school and wider community.

*Jessica Summers*



Hello. My name is Mrs Charlotte Inchbald, and I am delighted to have been appointed as the Headteacher at Oakington C of E Primary School from September to January. After just a few short weeks, I have already come to know that Oakington is a very special place to work, and I have been enjoying getting to know our children and their families.



My background is in primary education, where I have taught across all primary age groups and held leadership roles focused on developing teaching and learning, supporting staff, and helping every child achieve their very best. I am passionate about creating a positive, nurturing environment where children feel safe, happy, and motivated to succeed.

Over the coming term, my priority is to ensure continuity and stability for the whole school community, while also preparing the way for the permanent Headteacher who will be joining in January. I look forward to working closely with staff, governors, and families to maintain the high standards that Oakington is known for.

Most of all, I am looking forward to getting to know each child, watching them grow in confidence and curiosity, and ensuring they feel proud of all they accomplish here at Oakington.

*Mrs Charlotte Inchbald*

### Try Something New

Have a few hours to spare? Want to contribute to the village community? Volunteering opportunities this month:

- Join the Parish Council – see page 5
- Collect/bundle Journals occasionally – see page 5
- Help with Beavers – see page 13
- Volunteer with OWN – see page 15
- Run the Pavilion Lottery – see page 17
- Plant bulbs – see page 17

### Oakington Cottontails Preschool



Hi Oakington! We are delighted to introduce ourselves to you, we are Emma and Laura, currently running Girton Cottontails Preschool and soon to be opening Oakington Cottontails preschool too.

We know in previous times and for many years, the preschool in Oakington has been an important part of the village, and so we are both excited to be opening our preschool here and looking forward to delivering excellent early years education to your children and having lots of fun too!

Last year our Girton Preschool was awarded outstanding by Ofsted and we aim to deliver the same high standards at Oakington too.

The preschool will be located on the former preschool site,

on Water Lane next to the primary school. At the time of writing, we are almost ready to open, with a few last things to finalise and we aim to be open by the end of September.

We will be open to children from the age of two and they can remain with us until they start primary school. Our opening times will be term time, Monday–Friday 9am–3pm with an early start option from 8.30am available too.

We accept government funding for 2-, 3- and 4-year-olds and we accept the government tax-free childcare scheme towards any fees. Please contact us if you would like to apply for a place.

*Laura Norman and Emma Pell*  
*Oakington Cottontails Preschool*

Email: [info@oakingtoncottontailspreschool.com](mailto:info@oakingtoncottontailspreschool.com)

Phone: 07960 588773

Web: [www.cottontailspreschool.com](http://www.cottontailspreschool.com)

Find us on Facebook and Instagram.

### Sustainable Oakington & Westwick

Everyone is welcome to SOW meetings, and 25 came along in July to hear from a volunteer at Shepreth Hedgehog



Hospital about what we can do to make our gardens more friendly to hedgehogs. This is really important because hedgehog numbers have declined drastically in the

last 60 years because of habitat destruction and climate change, but villages can be a refuge. We all know about making hedgehog holes in boundaries, but another important way to help is to provide fresh water. Leaving hedgehog nests (for sleeping, hibernation or breeding) undisturbed and avoiding injuries from strimmers or entanglement (in netting etc) are critical. The top message was "out in the day is not OK" – if you see a hedgehog in daylight, in most cases it needs help. There are more tips on [sustainableow.co.uk/2025/08/27/looking-after-hedgehogs](http://sustainableow.co.uk/2025/08/27/looking-after-hedgehogs).

- **4 Oct & 1 Nov** Apple pressing, see page 15 for details
- **18 Oct** Bulb planting, see page 17 for details
- **22 Oct** Shared vegetarian meal
- **26 Nov** Wreath making workshop

*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](mailto:sustainableow@gmail.com) / [sustainableow.co.uk](http://sustainableow.co.uk)

### Oakington & Westwick Tennis Club

**QUIZ NIGHT – 22 NOVEMBER – SAVE THE DATE!**

Oakington & Westwick Tennis Club will be hosting their ever-popular general knowledge Quiz Night on Saturday **22 November**. This is a joint OWTC and village event open to everyone, with the money raised going to a nominated charity as well as the tennis club.

Keep a lookout for more details in due course.

*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](mailto:oakingtontc@gmail.com).

### 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.

### Oakington and Westwick WI

Jenny Jeffries was our inspirational speaker at our September meeting. After marrying a farmer, she became passionate about ensuring that both farmers' and fishermen's stories are heard. She advocates for farming and makes us aware of their struggles and campaigns to improve sustainability, to ensure farming continues and improves. She promotes food provenance, sustainability, and education in her books and in the media.

Thank you to everyone who came to support us in our cake and produce stall to raise funds for our WI, at the village sign. It was great to hear that one of our cakes and preserves was used the following day by the car wash team at the crossroads!

Our meeting on **9 October** is entitled 'Museum on a Bike' by Roger Lilley, a trustee of the Museum of Cambridge.



We have some extra events planned in the next few months, including the start of our monthly craft club on Tuesdays in the White Horse pub, £5 for visitors. Bring your own portable projects or join in with our poppy making mission. We'd love to see you!

We also have a bowling trip planned at Pidley on a Saturday in November, and a trip to the Panto to see a production of 'Once upon a Time' by the Over Players.

*Elaine Bailey*



We meet on the second Thursday of each month at 7.30pm at the Church Hall. We are a friendly group and visitors are welcome at a charge of £5. Contact Elaine Bailey [elaïnebailey1@live.co.uk](mailto:elaïnebailey1@live.co.uk) for more information.

### Oakington Vikings



FA Charter Standard

Our Teams and Contacts  
First Team Winston & James 07834 465188  
Under 15s & Welfare officer  
Winston 07968 716290  
[www.facebook.com/OakingtonVikingsFC](http://www.facebook.com/OakingtonVikingsFC)

### Messy Church



Held on the second Saturday of the month, 3–5pm at St Andrew's church hall. All families welcome. Messy Church is doing church differently: a chance for the whole family to spend time together, enjoying craft activities, eating together, celebrating and sharing the gift of God's love. For any further information, contact Cate: [catelambert@hotmail.com](mailto:catelambert@hotmail.com) or 07533 152519.



### Tuesday Talk & Tea

We started this Club year in September with a great talk from Patricia Sadler on the part Oakington Garden Centre played in taking a garden to the Chelsea Flower Show. The display was based on pollination, in partnership with a University research group. They won a Silver Gilt medal! All very exciting for a small independent garden centre.

On **14 October** Gill Godber will be speaking on the work of The Christian Blind Mission (World Sight Day is on 8 Oct.)

On **11 November** we will be packing up the Christmas shoe boxes. Some people like to do their own in advance: lots of us prefer to bring in a selection of gifts to add to a 'pool' so we have a good variety to choose from. These days the boxes are supplied by the organisation to ensure size and shape are regular for easy dispatch. This makes it a lot easier for them and us.

*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](mailto:marianccleaver@gmail.com).

### Country Dancing

Jane and I look forward to seeing you all on Friday **17 October** and **14 November** for yet more fun and friendship whilst dancing the night away! We are accompanied by our excellent musicians and have a Caller. All abilities catered for, so do come and join us, either to dance or just to 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.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Oakington Squirrels

#### Squirrels have come to Oakington!

This September we welcomed Squirrels into the Oakington Scouting Group: our youngest section, offering Scouting for 4–6 year olds. With the same emphasis on getting outdoors, working as a team and trying new things as the rest of scouts, we offer a fun, safe environment to get little ones meeting new people and having fun. This half term we are focusing on getting to know each other and being outdoors, with a local hike and even some fire lighting planned.

*Nikki Henrywood*



Squirrels (aged 4–6) meet 5pm on term time Thursdays at Oakington Primary school. If you are interested in joining our waiting list or knowing more, please email [nikki.henrywood@oakingtonscouts.org.uk](mailto:nikki.henrywood@oakingtonscouts.org.uk)

### 1<sup>st</sup> Oakington Beavers

Oakington Beavers is back again this term with lots of fun activities planned. We're going canoeing, hiking, fire lighting, inventing and building our own machines and much more! We'll also be joining up with our friends in Squirrels, Cubs and Scouts for the carol concert on **6 December**.

If your child is interested in joining Beavers, please get in touch.

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.

Contact [Kathryn.Bigg@oakingtonscouts.org.uk](mailto:Kathryn.Bigg@oakingtonscouts.org.uk).

### Thank You from 1<sup>st</sup> Oakington Scout Group

1<sup>st</sup> Oakington Scout Group was recently in receipt of a very generous donation towards camping and activity equipment from Harry's Legacy and the Wilson family. The whole group would like to share our most grateful thanks for this genuine kindness. The funding of tents will ensure all our members and leaders have the right gear to make the most of the nights away camping that our Beaver, Cubs and Scouts sections offer. Supporting the purchase of equipment for activities helps us give children not only at our own scout group but all over the Crafts Hill district the chance to practise life skills and gives access to horizon expanding experiences. We could not offer the wide range of experiences associated with scouting without contributions and support like this.



We would like to thank the Wilsons and all the folk who have contributed to Harry's legacy to remember a vital young man who was living life to the full, and say that we will aim to continue the spirit of Harry's legacy with these items.

Harry's Legacy: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/harrys-legacy>

*Cara Hanman*

### 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.



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## Oakington C of E Primary School Parent Staff Association



We were really pleased to see so many stalls around the village taking part in our yard sale this year. We raised an amazing £180 for the PSA from the event which will be used to enrich the school experience for our children. We saw villagers taking the opportunity to walk around the village, chat with neighbours and browse the stalls. We do think the Cottenham road closure may have made it quieter this year, but would like to thank all those who took part and came out to support the yard sale.



Our next event will be the Christmas Fayre on Saturday

**29 November**, 11–2pm; more details will be shared in the build-up on our Facebook page. We have some opportunities for stall holders at this event for a small fee, especially small businesses who have suitable craft/gifts to sell. These will run alongside the usual activities for the children and our Christmas raffle. If you are able to support us by donating a prize for the raffle or would like to host a stall please contact the PSA using [psa@oakington.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:psa@oakington.cambs.sch.uk).

*Angela Barber.*

## Oakington & Westwick Neighbours



A bit of a muted update from the Oakington & Westwick Neighbours group this time around – sadly we had to postpone our Jazz and Tea event thanks to the relentlessly fickle behaviour of the British summer weather! We're hoping to regroup and run this event in the spring. Thank you to everyone who helped to arrange, and I hope consumption of the unused cakes was some form of consolation!

We are organising our AGM; **19 November** in the Church Hall. Please do come along if you're interested in the group; and we hope to have an external speaker on a topic of interest to villagers. I will update on social media when more details are available.

A refresher on what we do – we help out people in need around Oakington & Westwick – whether that's going to get shopping, getting prescriptions, or just having a chat and passing the time with those in the village who might be lonely. We also run a hardship fund and organise a minibus trip to Bar Hill Tesco once a month. We're all DBS-cleared too. We're always on the lookout for more volunteers and also for the core organising team who meet monthly to co-ordinate volunteers and organise our events. So, if you have some time to spare then we're all ears.

And finally, a big "mea culpa" from me – I mixed up our

Jo's last issue, accidentally diminishing the herculean efforts that both put into our community. So, I'm trying again; a proper belated huge **thank you to the fantastic Jo Bryant** who has stepped down from organising OWN after so many years of help and support, and a big ongoing thank you to Jo Mills who continues to run our hardship team, despite my best efforts to demote her in print! Sorry again to both Jo's.

Contact OWN: [OWNeighbours@gmail.com](mailto:OWNeighbours@gmail.com), 07902 111786.

*Matt Saunders*

## Apple Days

Hurrah, it's autumn, and in our village that means apple pressing! Many of you will know what that is, but in case you need a reminder, it's when Blue Barrel Cider invite all comers to the old stables at 54 High Street. This year it's 12–4pm Saturday **4 October** and Saturday **1 November**. Everyone is invited to join in washing, crushing and pressing locally-grown apples, or to just watch and chat! There will be free refreshments available at this family-friendly event, along with the chance for adults to buy delicious local cider. If you really want to get involved in the full experience, you're welcome to come to the Jordans' orchard on Arcadia Gardens to pick the apples in the morning 10–11am on each of the two Saturdays.

Organised by Blue Barrel Cider, Sustainable Oakington & Westwick and Oakington & Westwick Neighbours.

*Alice J*



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## Why some long grass helps wildlife including pollinators

Do you remember when insects covered your car windscreen even after a short drive? Well not now. A Natural History Museum survey has revealed a 60% decline in flying insects in the UK in the last 20 years, mainly because of habitat loss, land management changes, and pesticide use.

### Why is this important?

Insects are a vital part of the food chain and our eco-systems. They break down rotting plant material and are key pollinators for many wild and crop plants.



### How can we help?

By providing insect hotels, leaving dead wood on trees and on the ground, by encouraging plants that flower and by not cutting all our grass so frequently. Long grass in summer provides so many benefits for bees, wasps, hoverflies, other flies, beetles, butterflies and moths. This approach could help the wildlife in our gardens, but we also have grass verges next to roads in the village that can be managed to improve our biodiversity. Grass left uncut until September allows the flowering of wild flowers so nectar is available to pollinators, but also provides much more vegetation on which butterfly and moth larvae can feed. Uncut grass also holds more water, stores more carbon and encourages more earthworms and other soil fauna. It may look a bit scruffy but can we change our thinking so our wildlife is supported?

### Can we do this in Oakington and Westwick?

Some locations around the village have been suggested as potential places where wildlife could be encouraged in this way, where these changes could be trialled. The plan evolved out of a request to leave the grass by Mill Road Orchard uncut until autumn, and is proposed by Sustainable Oakington and Westwick (SOW) and the Environment Action Group (EAG). The Parish Council (PC) will enable the project.

As a first step, representatives from the PC, SOW and the EAG recently walked around the village with the Cambridgeshire County Council Green Infrastructure Manager to seek her guidance on where these changes can be made. We are also aware that we must take into account the views of people who live near these verges. The County



Council's Manager's emphasis was on safety as well as presenting her views on conservation. With safety in mind, she has to ensure that edges of verges are kept

short to ensure that tall grass does not fall into pathways or obscure the views of drivers.

As you may be aware, County Council mowers are used three times a year within 40 mph limits and twice yearly on

verges between villages. The three cuts within the village are in April, July/August and September/October. We are considering a few areas where grass is left uncut until September/October.

Additionally, we are looking to plant some bulbs to add colour and nectar sources. A spread of flowering can be achieved by a range of daffodils (January to June), crocuses (February /March), native bluebells (under trees), tulips and alliums. Clearly, we must be sure that these plantings will not interfere with electric and telecommunication cables or gas and drainage pipes.

In addition to Mill Road, the nine trial patches being considered for only one cut in September/October will be in Queens Way, Holme Close, Orchard Way, Coles Lane, Croft Lane and High Street, next to the pony field. Please let the PC know if you need further details of this approach. On the same walk we received guidance from the Green Infrastructure Manager on the siting of information boards, carrying historic and other information about our village.

*John Terry (Environment Action Group)*

## Community Bulb Planting

**Saturday 18th October, 2-3:30pm**

Meet by the pavilion. Bring a trowel or bulb planter!  
We will be planting bulbs in some of the verges around the village



Children welcome (but must be supervised)

Organised by the PSA, SOW & EAG

Thank you to the Parish Council for granting funds for the bulbs

*NOTE: this event is provisional on County Council permission – any updates will be posted on Oaky Folk but email [sustainableow@gmail.com](mailto:sustainableow@gmail.com) to be kept informed*



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- 14<sup>th</sup> November 2025
- 19<sup>th</sup> December 2025
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- 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026
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## Book Club

Over the summer the book club read *'Piranesi'* by Susanna Clarke, which was written 20 years after her debut novel, *'Jonathan Strange and Mr Norrell'*. Piranesi is also a fantasy tale set in the modern age and shows the best and worst of human nature. This book was like Marmite within the group – it was either loved or disliked. The writing is very imaginative and descriptive and won the 2021 Women's Prize for Fiction, as well as being a top seller, and really appealed to some in the group. However, it is a slow burn and it's not until over halfway through that you start to become engaged with the book, but some in the group had lost interest by then.

If you are interested in joining the book club, please email me, [nataliewant@hotmail.com](mailto:nataliewant@hotmail.com), to confirm the next meeting date and book choice.

*Natalie Meredith*



## Old Oakington Recipes

Making jams and chutneys is a popular autumn activity in Oakington and Westwick – and it has been for centuries. Here are two recipes collected by Doris Nicholas, who lived here until her death in 1971. Her dairy farm was based at Waverley House in the High Street. Doris's family had been in Oakington for generations, and the first recipe below is from her several-times-great-grandmother Mary Anne Reynolds. The second – unusual but easy – is from one of Doris's great friends, Mrs Elizabeth Crisp, known universally as Crispy, and who lived in Queens Way.



### Mary Anne Reynolds's Preserved Marrow, September 20<sup>th</sup> 1801

Pick a full grown marrow and cut it in small square pieces. Put it in cold water for 12 hours then take it out and put it into a preserving pan or saucepan lined with china. Take an equal quantity weight of sugar. Sprinkle 1lb of it over the marrow and leave it for the night then add the rest of the sugar; the peel and juice of 2 lemons; 2 pieces of ginger slightly bruised; 2 dozen of cayenne peppers tied in a piece of muslin. Boil gently until it becomes quite clear and the syrup thickish. Then put it in pots and when cold tie it down. Should there be any seeds or soft part in the marrow cut them out and preserve only the fine part.

The above spice and lemons is sufficient for 3lbs of marrow.

### "Crispy's Tomatoe Chutney"

2lb green tomatoes. 1lb apples. 1lb dates. ½lb raisins. Salt. 2lb brown sugar. 1qt vinegar. 2 dessertsp mustard. 2 large onions. 1 dessertsp chillies.

Put all through mincer and boil all in the vinegar for about ¾ to an hour.

Thank you to Lillon Harrison, Doris's granddaughter, who copied down the recipes.

*Editors*

## Why I love... Table Tennis

I love Table Tennis at Oakington because we are a friendly bunch. We have players coming from at least six nearby villages. The club consists of players of different abilities.

I like the way beginners are encouraged and included. The really good players do not "wipe" others off the table, they keep the ball in play to give their opponents a good game.

They are always willing to give beginners and improvers coaching tips to help them. I particularly love the fast paced action which requires me to swiftly work out my opponents' moves and react quickly. Table Tennis is very good for improving reactions and balance.

*Jill*

I love Table Tennis because it is a game that can be played by young and old together. The hand-eye co-ordination required is good for everyone. Table Tennis is especially good for improving cognitive function and balance, and the mental sharpness required stimulates different areas of the brain and improves reflexes. Good exercise for the young and the not so young.

*Muneer*



I love the fact that although Table Tennis is a fast moving game it is easy to learn. The rules are simple. Once you know where the ball is going, it's about timing and speed. We have fun, sometimes extraordinary shots are performed, usually quite by accident. We laugh a lot.

*Mike*

Want to try Table Tennis? See page 13.



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### Please leave your leaves!

As we are all aware this year has been the hottest recorded. You will have noticed trees began to drop their leaves early. This action is called early senescence and is self-preservation. Senescence normally starts at the end of September/beginning of October, heralded by the glorious riot of autumn colour, followed by leaf drop. Like us releasing water vapour when we breathe, trees lose water constantly through transpiration. But while we breathe in oxygen and breathe out carbon dioxide, they take in CO<sub>2</sub> and release oxygen, maintaining the balance. Which is also why we need more trees to counter climate change through absorbing CO<sub>2</sub>.

During 2022, the last heatwave, it was estimated that 40% of earthworms were lost, a phenomenal disaster. Darwin defined the importance of earthworms as the engineers of ecosystems and soil maintenance in his famous work of 1881. Earthworms come in three categories: *anecic*, the ground-dwelling surface feeders burrowing deep up to several metres; *endogeic*, ground dwellers rarely surfacing, feeding on soil; and *epigeic*, surface feeders with burrows in the surface soil. So, how do leaves come into this? Well, what do worms feed on? Leaves and surface detritus. This works two-fold: leaves are dragged down into the ground to be digested, releasing nutrients as casts, plus increasing soil organic matter providing nutrients for the trees: the nutrient cycle. Making leaf mould for the garden is not the answer – yes, it will provide yummy plant food; however the worms in the leaf mould are not ground dwelling. Please leave your leaves on the ground so that worms can utilise them over winter to their best advantage.

Julie Grove

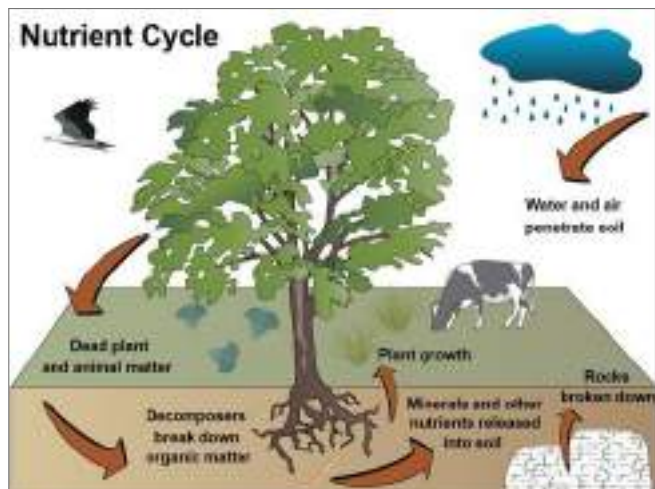


Image: Freie Universität, Berlin

### 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! [brucessutherland@aol.com](mailto:brucessutherland@aol.com)/07730 817350



### Little Steps – over the past year

Our village preschooler group called Little Steps restarted on Thursdays 10–11:30am in September, with an average of 15 children aged between 3 months and 3 years old attending each week. This is our second year running the group since the Phillips family moved up north, and for those who haven't come along yet we are a stay and play session that meets in term time in the church hall. We have a short story and singing as part of our weekly sessions as well as providing refreshments and cake for the tired caregivers, and a drink and toast for the children.

Over the past year we have really enjoyed getting to know the young families from Oakington and neighbouring villages, as well as the grandparents and childminders that have come along. It is a real team effort to run this group and I am grateful to those who make it possible. We will be sad to see some of our group leave as maternity leave comes to an end, but this is the cyclical nature of such a group. We are really pleased to have maintained this group to enable families in the village to connect and build friendships. Ten years on from joining the group myself with my daughter I can testify to the value of it enabling me and my children to make local friends; our hope is that this continues as the children grow up and go to nursery and school together.

Angela Barber



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.

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### Romans Next Door (part 2)

*In the last issue Oscar Aldred described the layout of the half-mile-long Romano-British settlement just north of Oakington, named “Beck Brook” by archaeologists.*

The basic arrangement of Beck Brook’s ‘polyfocal settlement’ seemed to facilitate multiple activities, including a local-production Horningsea kiln among other kilns, a corn drier, and also a sustained battle against water, with a large complex of ditches that managed the flow of water. All these activities were reflected in the disposal and circulation of rubbish found in the many ditches that defined building plots and enclosures.



**Barbotine decorated Roman pottery** – probably dating to the early Roman period. © Cambridge Archaeological Unit, Department of Archaeology, University of Cambridge.

Almost ½ million objects were recovered during excavations between 2016–2019 on this settlement alone. Of these, the majority were animal bones (1.5 tonnes) – representing the butchery of cows, sheep and horses and the debris from eating food – and Roman pottery, which was found in abundance (over 75,000 sherds). About 9,000 metal objects were found also, much of this relatively late in date, but with a large assemblage of almost 2,000 Roman metal artefacts covering functional uses such as personal adornment and dress, household equipment, tools and grave goods. A lot of construction building material (CBM), worked stone (including a moulded stone altar), burnt stone, and worked wood that lined multiple wells and watering holes, were also found. This was a site of Romano-British excess across multiple genres of material.

With regards the ‘living population’ of Beck Brook during the Roman period, it would have been in the region of 16 to 41 people at any one time, if we base it on the burial record. Or 29 to 101 people if we base it on the structural evidence. The population would have been a mix of those that were resident, living at the settlement, and an itinerant group who would come into the settlement on a daily basis. There were two spatially defined cemeteries, but also a scattering of other burials along the western perimeter boundary of the settlement. In total there were 96 inhumations, 45 cremations, and another 22 individuals identified that were ‘disarticulated’ or disturbed. All in all, there were 54 structures throughout the Roman period, though not all of these were contemporary with one another, and not all were

lived in. At Beck Brook’s zenith in the mid- to late-4<sup>th</sup> century CE, there were probably 20 or so structures in use at any one time.

While the beginning of the settlement persisted with the ground plan of the Iron Age settlement arrangement (in the early-1<sup>st</sup> century CE), the end of the settlement (early-5<sup>th</sup> century) was a definite break of a structural continuity. The settlement was largely abandoned and left as a ruin. What emerged subsequently was a small settlement based on a series of post-built structures, either side of the eastern trackway that headed towards Westwick. And we know there was a low-number and continued presence because a few of the buried individuals dated from the early-5<sup>th</sup> century, and there was a scattering of 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> century CE pottery. This was a time when *everything* was changing.

Today, the landscape around this settlement is also changing, and quickly, but our continued efforts to understand this landscape through archaeological investigations and excavation, funded by Homes England as part of the development process, have meant we have gained a huge knowledge and understanding of its archaeology and the past at site- and landscape-scales.

The full findings will be published in 2026 – Oscar Aldred & Matthew Collins *Of Other Spaces. Archaeologies of Northstowe (Longstanton & Oakington, Northstowe Phases 1 & 2)*, and part of the CAU Landscape Archives: *New archaeologies of the Cambridge Region series*.

Dr Oscar Aldred FSA MCIfA  
Department of Archaeology, University of Cambridge




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1<sup>st</sup> Oakington Scout Group



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