

Hello All

This Newsletter is different to the usual as we are not having a monthly meeting at Great Oakley Village Hall.

AND

**Kingswood Neighbourhood Centre staff have asked us to help by joining a "Rainbow" event by wearing Colours on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> July (next Friday) and contributing to the "Fund for Florence" by wearing Rainbow Colours and help a family who have done an enormous amount for the community.**

**If you use Danesholme or Kingswood Neighbourhood Centre's, or the Old Village Community Centre, donations can easily be made when you pay for premises.**

You may well have heard of Florence and seen headlines such as "Corby's family's desperate bid to raise £500k for life-saving treatment for their little girl"



Florence in one of her princess dresses

Her dad is headteacher at Kingswood Primary School and her mum Stacey works as a healthcare assistant at Corby Urgent Care Centre and at Kettering General Hospital. Florence, a Princess loving girl who turns six this month lives in Corby with her Mum Stacey dad Andrew and brother Freddie,

eight and is a year one pupil at Oakley Vale Primary School.

Florence had a range of blood tests at KGH and when the results came back, ashen-faced doctors gave Stacey the crushing news that her daughter had blood cancer.

She was first sent to Leicester Royal Infirmary and then on to Nottingham Children's Hospital in the Queen's Medical Centre.



Florence Bark with mum Stacey, dad Andrew and brother Freddie.

On May 13 she was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia and, because of her genetic makeup, her prognosis was grave as Florence's gene type meant she was at very high risk. A campaign was launched to get as many people as possible (under 30's) to sign up to the stem cell transplant register and to raise £500,000 should a stem cell transplant fail and the family has to seek expensive last-ditch treatment abroad.

Florence isn't allowed out of the hospital so her parents are being helped by a charity called Billy's House so they have somewhere to stay together in Nottingham.

There is another AML patient from Northampton on the same ward as Florence and the Barks are working with them to increase knowledge of the stem cell donation register.

Florence has had one grueling round of chemotherapy but this did not work well as hoped so she had a more intense, 5-day round of emergency chemo which was completed on June 25<sup>th</sup>.

The next step is a bone marrow transplant in around 5 weeks. There is no complete match on the register so everyone is hoping that the bone marrow transplant will work. If it doesn't work there is one possible last-chance route a Car T-Cell therapy where cells are taken from the patient and changed to attack cancer cells. Large numbers of the cells are grown and infused back into the patient's body but the treatment is not offered on the NHS and is incredibly expensive, costing up to £500,000.

If Florence is eligible for Car T-Cell, she may need to fly to Singapore for treatment.

Stacey and Andy launched their Just Giving campaign on social media to an absolutely overwhelming response from Corby people and £20,000 was raised in less than 12hrs and the fund now stands at well over £100,000.

Because Florence's leukemia is aggressive, time is of the essence. The family needs to get as many people as possible signed up to the blood stem cell donor register before a possible transplant in five or six weeks.

**Myeloid leukaemia** is a quick-developing type of cancer that affects blood-producing myeloid cells in the bone marrow (the spongy material inside some of our bones). It usually affects adults and only 100 children are diagnosed in the UK each year.

**Remember: On Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> July as we are having the Coach Trip to Althorp.**



**There are still some spaces on the Coach and you should contact Sue Stachini by e-mail to [vicechairgou3a@gmail.com](mailto:vicechairgou3a@gmail.com)**



The coach is leaving Great Oakley Village Hall (you can park your car there) at 10am. On the way to Althorp House. Damian Tracey is giving a talk to give us an insight to the House, Gardens, a potted history of the Spencer family and the Lake, the last resting place for Princess Diana.

After arriving at the house, close to 11am. Opening time you can walk around this magnificent Home at your own pace, with guides to assist, give useful information & answer questions.

You can walk through the gardens and take around a 15-minute stroll to the Lake and sit on one of the many benches to reflect and enjoy the surroundings.

At the far end of the lake is a monument where people often leave flowers for Diana.

There is a glorious Courtyard and picnic area with plenty of tables and benches available for you to sit and eat your own food if you wish.

We plan to set off from Althorp circa 4pm, and drop you off at the Great Oakley Village Hall at around 5 pm.

**Trip to Windsor**

**There are 20 places on a Coach Trip to Windsor on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> September.**

**The coach will leave from close to Elizabeth Street Taxi Rank at around 8:30 am., picking some travellers up opposite the Beeswing in Kettering before travelling to Windsor and dropping off travellers in the centre of town.**

**The day is yours to do what you may in this historic town.**

**The coach will leave Windsor at around 4pm. And will return to Elizabeth Street via Kettering.**

**If you are interested in the trip, contact John Bugby or send an e-mail to [Viceichair.gou3a@gmail.com](mailto:Viceichair.gou3a@gmail.com)**

**This Year's Meetings**

**August 24<sup>th</sup>** – Carly Jane – A local brilliant singer

**September 28<sup>th</sup>** – Our very own Ukulele Group by popular request.

**October 26<sup>th</sup>** – Inspector Scott Little (returning as requested) & John Kinloch.

**November 23<sup>rd</sup>** – Historical Talk to be confirmed.

**December 28<sup>th</sup>** – Old style Christmas Party with Singer & Choir plus Christmas Food.

Please tell Sue Stachini or Peter Moden your views on meetings by e-mail to [chair.gou3a@gmail.com](mailto:chair.gou3a@gmail.com)

**Questionnaire**

Many thanks to all of you who completed and returned the questionnaire. have more of your opinions.

You can complete with a pen or pencil and return to John Bugby or complete on this newsletter and forward to [Viiceichair.gou3a@gmail.com](mailto:Viiceichair.gou3a@gmail.com)

**AND Now**

An Obituary to Common Sense!

Today we mourn the passing of an old friend, Common Sense.

No one knows how old it was, the birth records were long ago lost in newly invented red tape. *It will be remembered as given us valuable lessons such as: Knowing to come in out of the rain;*

*Why the early bird gets the worm;*

*Life isn't always fair;*

*Sometimes it is good to admit something was your own fault.*

Common Sense lived by simple, sound financial policies such as:

*Don't spend more than you can earn*

*and strategies such as adults, not children, are in charge.*

*Its health began to deteriorate rapidly when overbearing regulations were set in place which saw.*

*Reports of a 6-year-old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate;*

*Teens suspended from school for using mouthwash after lunch;*

*A Teacher was fired for reprimanding an unruly student*

as it supposedly made the situation worse

*Common Sense lost ground when;*

*Parents attacked teachers for doing the job that they had failed to do in disciplining their unruly children.*

*Common Sense declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer sun lotion or an aspirin to a student; but could not inform parents when a student became pregnant and wanted to have an abortion.*

*Common Sense lost the will to live when*

*Churches became businesses;*

*Criminals received better treatment than their victims:*

*You couldn't defend yourself from a burglar in your own home and the burglar could sue you for assault.*

*Somebody failed to realize that a steaming cup of coffee was hot, spilled a little in their lap, and was promptly awarded a huge settlement.*

Common Sense was preceded in death by:

*It's parents, Truth and Trust.*

*It's partner, Discretion,*

*It's Sibling's Responsibility and Reason.*

*It is survived by its relatives:*

*I Know My Rights*

*I Want It Now*

*Someone Else Is to Blame*

*I'm A Victim*

*Pay me for Doing Nothing*

*Not many attended its funeral because so few realized it was gone.*

*If you still remember Common Sense, pass this on.*

*If not, join the majority and do nothing.*



***Web Site***

Peter Moden, our Chair has been undertaking some work and updating the Web site and would be grateful if you could visit the site at

<https://u3asites.org.uk/great-oakley/home>

and forward any comments to

[chair.gou3a@gmail.com](mailto:chair.gou3a@gmail.com)

***Suggestions Welcome***

By completing and returning the questionnaire we will gain an insight into the way forward.

We really want to hear from you so if you do not like Questionnaires but want us to hear about any new activities, ideas or interest in a subject that you would like to know more about or share please tell us.

We would also welcome ideas for the Monthly Meetings and would be grateful if you could contact Sue Stachini or Peter Moden in person or by E-Mail to [chair.gou3a@gmail.com](mailto:chair.gou3a@gmail.com)

***National Office***

You can find information on The Third Age Trust at

[The Third Age Trust \(campaign-archive.com\)](https://www.thirdage.org.uk/campaign-archive.com) This link will allow you to Zoom in to Articles and easily look at other items and you can view information as a leaflet in Colour or Black & White or you can go to <https://www.u3a.org.uk/member-link>

**We look forward to meeting you all on the trip to Althorp on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> July or at the meeting on August 24<sup>th</sup>**

**Take Care**

**Great Oakley & District u3a Committee**

The Committee are working hard to try and ensure that new initiatives and activities are successful. We have received some feedback through the Grapevine and we would like you to help us to help you and be grateful if you could take a little time to complete the and return to John bugby or by E-Mail to [Viceichair.gou3a@gmail.com](mailto:Viceichair.gou3a@gmail.com)

**Question****Answer**

Would you like to go on organised trips (anticipated cost around £50 each	Trips Yes                  No
Would you prefer to have any trips on the same day as the monthly meetings	Trips instead of meetings Yes                  No
Where would you like to Go	Trip Suggestions
Would you like trips to local events such as those at Rockingham Castle or Boughton Hall	Local Trips Yes                  No
Would you travel to local events yourself	Yes                  No
Would you like to go to? Bletchley Park Windsor Christmas Shopping at Cambridge Belvoir Castle	Coach Trips Yes Yes Yes Yes
Do you have any ideas for trips and the best day in the week for you to take that trip?	
Do you have any Ideas for Groups?	Groups
Could you help with a Group	Yes                  No
Would you like to keep receiving the Great Oakley Newsletter	Newsletter Yes                  No
Would you like more Group News in the Newsletter	Yes                  No
Would you be able to help by joining the Committee or a Sub Committee with a dedicated task	Yes                  No
What skills do you have if any to assist us?	Skills
Name and / or membership No if you can help	

Thank you for Completing this Questionnaire