

WHAT'S ON

in

Oakridge Lynch; Far Oakridge; Waterlane;
Bournes Green & Tunley



Oakridge Farm
Far Oakridge

February / March 2021

Edition 249

EDITOR'S NOTE

So here we are in the third lockdown of the Covid-19 pandemic – I hope all are coping with the demands this brings, whether it is home schooling, working from home, or continued shielding. As a result this edition is once again online only (with a couple of printed copies for those unable to access the online version); hopefully everyone will be able to reach it in some capacity – if you know of someone who will struggle, please let me know, or maybe print off a copy and drop it round to them.

Thanks go to Sue Wise, who is hoping to highlight a long-standing villager in each of the forthcoming editions – starting in this edition with Bill Pankhurst on page 11.

Below is the annual summary of the What's On finances – many thanks to those who have very kindly made donations to the running costs. If anyone wishes to donate, please contact either myself or Gill.

WHAT'S ON FINANCES 2020

	£	£
Opening balance 1 st January 2020		236.44
Donations (cheque)		60.00
Parish Council Donation		150.00
Interest (net)		<u>0.52</u>
Treasurers Account		429.00
 Cash in Hand (inc £10 cash donation)		 <u>27.96</u>
<u>Closing balance 31st December 2020</u>		<u>£456.96</u>

Hopefully Spring will be upon us by the next edition, many more will have been successfully vaccinated, and life might be returning to something a little more like 'normal'.....

Victoria Beard

24th MARCH 2021 - CLOSING DATE
for the next WHAT'S ON

COVER ILLUSTRATION BY DANNY WILSON

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E&OE

YOUR PAGE

If you have any comments on the current issue or concerns about any matters that have arisen in the village just get in touch with Bizzie White, on 01285 760729 / 19biz45@gmail.com or the editor, Victoria Beard, vbeard51@gmail.com.

Gill Wimperis has suggested that Oakridge should have a community tree planting project but where, what trees, how to go about it and why?

Where? To grow a number of trees within the village is problematical with shading, blocking views etc. Ideas received include planting an avenue starting from near the bus shelter and carrying on the road to Waterlane. Alternatively, plant them (say 80 trees in all) along the four roads radiating from the crossroads, so each road has 10 trees on each side of each road.

What trees? Wide spreading or columnar? Small or large? Ornamental or forest? Ideas have included Rowan (Mountain Ash), Whitebeam, Acers (Maples), types of Oak.

How? As a community project funding would be needed from grants, village organisations and individual donations. Highways and adjoining landowners would need to be consulted.

Why? This would be a positive village memorial to this terrible year and our small contribution towards combating climate change. It would enhance what can be a bleak part of our landscape and would, hopefully, be a project to look forward to.

Please give us your opinions, comments and ideas. Phone Gill on 01285 760528 or Bizzie on 01285 760729 or email 19biz45@gmail.com

Stop Press!

Alex Davies has spoken to The Woodland Trust who will provide us with the trees free of charge if we choose from silver birch, rowan, wild cherry, common oak or crab apple.

Bizzie's Grumps Corner

Things that make me grumpy:

- Trying to cancel Amazon Prime
- Trying to get the battery off the strimmer with small arthritic hands
- People who use 'like' instead of 'as if' eg, "Think of Lockdown like you've got Covid."

Fish

Just a little warning to anyone with a fish pond - we have a 3 foot deep pond with a raised brick edging and have lost all of our about 20 golden orfe, some quite large. Remnants of fish scales and some small pieces of flesh have been left around the pond and a trail through the garden and down the lane below us. It is definitely not the usual 'village' heron as it eats whole fish and usually carries prey away. Our trail camera has revealed a very hazy picture of an animal, not enough to readily distinguish it, but it was larger than a mink, and maybe an otter?

Anne Brain, The Venture

** **

School Governor

Charlie Wise, who has recently completed his term as a governor, would like to say how much he enjoyed working with the members of staff and governors of the two confederated primary schools. It was also a privilege get to know so many local children and parents in our lovely community.

** **

Dear all

Yesterday I had a typical and not unusual situation, two black labradors, they arrived, raided under the bird feeders and then proceeded to empty my dustbin. I shouted and the owner turned up, apologised and cleared up the bins. We regularly have a golden retriever do the same, and random other dogs. In the autumn there was a spaniel in my greenhouse and when I walked towards the greenhouse to get it, it panicked and destroyed some of the crops growing in the greenhouse. Thursday on my way home I noticed a torch in the bottom of my field next to pig sty and chicken run. I thought it was the person who has the cows here and she was looking for them so I went to help only to discover it was a chap walking his dog around the field edge, nowhere near the footpath.

The general point is these dogs are "not under control" and the owners seem to just let them run free. The risk to the cattle ingesting dog poo is not even consider by them. Also I have given up picking up poo bags, either off the hedge or wall where they have been put, or just off the ground, again this is irresponsible dog owners.

Roger Budgeon, Far Oakridge



Thanks to Claire Robinson for the beautiful pictures of the recent snow



THE CHURCH IN OAKRIDGE



meeting at St Bartholomew's

VICAR Rev. S Murray 01452 770897

CHURCHWARDEN Mr. Martin Green 01452 770322

In view of the guidelines to protect the NHS and saves lives, our Church is currently closed for communal worship.

These dates are provisional and under review.

Please check the Church notice board and village shop for any updates.

FEBRUARY 2021

21st Parish Communion 9.30 am

MARCH 2021

21st Parish Communion 9.30 am

28th Parish Communion – Palm Sunday 9.30 am

Greetings from the Church In Oakridge

In these difficult times of lockdown, it is comforting to know that St. Bartholomew's will continue to be open for private prayer on Thursdays and Sundays between 10am and 12 noon. If you are in Church, please remember to sanitise your hands, wear a face-mask and respect social distancing.

Those who visited the Church during the Christmas festival would have enjoyed it's peace and beauty. Thank you to all the flower arrangers who made it such a special place to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

On-line Morning Prayer is available Monday – Friday at 9.30 am, via Bisley Benefice Facebook.

Live Zoom Worship on Sundays is at 10.30 am.

Should you not have on-line access, or need to chat, our Vicar, Sue, is open to phone conversations,

Blessings to you all.

CENSUS

"Ready, steady, census"

The decennial census is almost upon us.

Households across **Bisley-with-Lypiatt Parish** will soon be asked to take part in the nationwide survey of housing and the population. It has been carried out every decade since 1801, with the exception of 1941.

Information from the digital-first census will help decide how services are planned and funded in your local area. This could mean things like doctors' surgeries, housing or new bus routes.

Households will receive a letter with a unique access code in the post, allowing them to complete their questionnaire online. Paper questionnaires will be available on request.

Census day is 21st March 2021.

For more information, visit: www.census.gov.uk

OAKRIDGE RAINWATCH



The rainfall in November and December, as measured by my rain gauge, was as follows:-

November..... 74.2 mm.....about 2.9 ins.

December.....191.6 mm.....about 7.5 ins.

So far the rainfall in January (to 19th) is 47 mm.....about 1.8 ins.

Gill Farrar

OAKRIDGE VILLAGE HALL



Taking Government guidance into account, we are unable, at present, to hire out the Hall. As restrictions ease, we hope to be able to return to limited use by Ballyhoo Dance School, Oakridge School and exercise classes, and eventually to wider social gatherings and community events once more.

The annual Pancake Lunch will be cancelled this year, but plans are afoot to hold a replacement as and when Covid restrictions are lifted. Thank you to all those who have supported OVHT with their purchases through [smile.Amazon.co.uk](https://smile.amazon.co.uk).

THE BUTCHERS ARMS



Butchers Arms

(Oakridge Lynch)

Valentines Dinner

(served on Saturday 13th February)

Starters

Chicken liver parfait with a spiced apple chutney
& warm bread

Smoked salmon blinis with cream cheese & caviar

Main Courses

Seafood Linguine with king prawns, mussels, calamari
& clams in a creamy white wine and garlic sauce
with fresh parsley

Stuffed chicken supreme (skin-on) stuffed with
sundried tomatoes & chorizo served with buttered new
potatoes
and caprese salad

Trio of desserts

White chocolate & raspberry cheesecake

Chocolate fondant

Vanilla panna cotta with a strawberry compote

Three courses with a bottle of red or white wine £55 for
two.

Please call 01285 760390 to book a time slot

Make it special with a little help from the Butchers Arms

OAKRIDGE HISTORY GROUP



Sapperton Railway Tunnel

It is interesting to speculate on the effect the construction of the railway tunnel had on the local community.

In 1837 Charles Richardson, Brunel's engineer, began surveying the line of the proposed tunnel by sinking trial shafts and erecting large staffs to assist the surveying on the surface. It was on the 27 April that the people became fully aware of the surveying activity as a large staff was raised. This is described in Richardson's journal.

"Got hauling pegs &c driven – got large sheer legs up and had some difficulty to get the hauling parts in the right place. The Staff had a violent shake when first lifted off the props. Raised it easily, steadily and without the slightest accident – large crowd of spectators many of whom lent a hand. Tried several ways of getting up the Staff but was forced to climb up by the main hauling rope. Tightened cross tree gyes and plumbed the head of the Staff thereby. Cast hauling tackle adrift and was lowered down. Tightened the gyes but was forced to put a sheepshank, about a yard long, in each."

The construction of the tunnel commenced in 1838 and was completed in 1845. A series of shafts were excavated, and miners were lowered down these shafts to dig out the tunnel and the spoil was hauled up these shafts.

These railway miners came from all over the country and the 1841 census records many lodging at Sapperton, Frampton Mansell, Daneway, Far Oakridge and Oakridge Lynch. There was a total of 48 recorded and some miners had families with them, and they rented cottages. This activity must have brought in welcome business to the area where there was high unemployment due to the collapse of the woollen cloth industry in Chalford.

Although, no doubt, many locals obtained casual labouring jobs, few were employed as miners but Amnon Bishop of The Frith the son of a local weaver is described in the census as a miner and brothers James and Henry Hayden of Oakridge became tunnel miners later working in many parts of England and Scotland.

Following the opening of the railway many Oakridge men went to work on the railway both on track maintenance and on the trains. This of course was not the first time that "foreign" miners had come to the area as in 1784 work commenced on the Sapperton canal tunnel which was completed in 1789. Most of these miners were accommodated at Daneway and, according to Norman Jewson, in barracks on the road from Sapperton to Frampton Mansell.

John Loosley

OAKRIDGE GARDEN CLUB



Like many other societies we will be having our February AGM distantly so be assured we are still alive and we will be up and ready to get going again as soon as we are able. Think of it: getting together in the village hall, visiting beautiful gardensit will happen.

In the meantime, let's think about our own gardens in February and March. Enjoy the snowdrops, also known rather charmingly as the Fair Maids of February and Candlemas Bells.

An interesting way of growing summer flowering clematis is to have three posts with a rope running along their tops and a clematis on each post. When the old growth is cut down, which should be done at this time of year, to two strong buds, a good clear space is opened up. Bulbs such as camassia, fritillaries and crown imperials (challenging!) can come through and flower in April and May. When the clematis have climbed up and made their growth, they are trained along the rope bridge and their growth and flowers mingle delightfully.

If you didn't get round to moving border plants during October or November you can still move them, but not if it's too wet. (I'm writing this as Storm Christoph rages.)

Main prune buddleias in late February/March. Be ruthless: cut them down to about 6 inches so you get straight new growth and lots of flowers, maybe a little later but worth the wait.

Restrain yourselves from sowing too many seeds too early. Hardy seeds can be sown in February but in the cold Cotswolds late into March is probably better. If a seed sits cold and wet it may just rot in the ground.

Watch for frog spawn and tadpoles in your ponds.

March should see the finish of the rose pruning season but if you've left it a little late and new growth is showing, you won't actually damage the plant but the regrowth and flowering may be later than usual.

January was the time for armchair gardening, February is for preparation: tidying and cleaning the greenhouse, checking, cleaning and oiling tools, getting in potting compost etc and March is the start of full - on gardening. Seed sowing, getting the vegetable plot going, serious weeding.

Enjoy crocuses and daffodils, Spring is on its way.

NB. See Your Page for the idea of a community planting of an avenue of trees.

Bizzie White

NATURE NOTES FROM WATERLANE



I awoke one morning during the cold spell to find three roe deer in my garden pruning the bushes. I marvelled at what they could digest, it seems as long as it was green they would quite happily munch on it. They were inquisitive to, putting their noses to the window to see what was going on, which gave me an excellent view.

The berries in the garden have been a great source of natural food for many of the birds, in particular blackbirds, redwings, fieldfares, song and mistle thrushes. The blackbird in my garden guards a pyracantha bush jealously as it tries to ward off any encroachment from other birds. Unfortunately for the blackbird when the redwings and fieldfares arrive it has to give way to numbers. Different species will feed on different kinds of berries, thrushes and waxwings prefer berries with smaller seeds like rowan as they tend to only eat the flesh of the berry. Hawfinches on the other hand eat the seed itself, so are attracted to berries with big seeds such as hawthorn and blackthorn.

Ivy is also an important conservation plant this time of year. It provides shelter and sustenance for many species and if allowed to grow to maturity its berries are an important food source. Wood pigeons in particular enjoy the berries in winter, it is a traditional food source of theirs together with acorns and weed seeds when the farmers' crops are scarce.

On January 1st I witnessed a rainbow over Water Lane in the afternoon, an unusual sight at this time of year and hopefully a sign of better things to come.
Alan White



Photo Credit: Beth Hughes



Spotlight on William Pankhurst



1. ***Where were you born?*** - Woodbine Cottage where I live now. My family has been in Oakridge since about 1885.
2. ***What are your earliest memories?*** - My Mum's wooden shop and post office, the winter of 1963 sledging down Butts Hill and Farm Lane, the village being cut off for several weeks because of snow drifts. We had to pull up supplies for the shop on our sledges from the bottom of Farm Lane
3. ***Did you go to the village school? If so what did you think of your time there?*** - Yes, it was a lovely place to go to school. We were lucky enough to play on the village green. In 1963 the school was frozen up and the teacher (Mrs Harrison) gave us lessons in the kitchen of School House.
4. ***What are the biggest changes in the village since your childhood?*** – Newcomers and the alteration of small cottages into larger houses.
5. ***Which 'characters' do you remember from the past?***
Harry Couldry, John Fowles, Sid Gardiner, Bessie Young, "Dipper" Wright
6. ***What led you to become a blacksmith?*** – I always liked working with my hands and making things – job satisfaction.

WE ARE THE SURVIVORS! **(For those who were born before 1945)**

We were born before television, before penicillin, polio shots, frozen foods, photocopiers, plastic, contact lenses, videos, frisbees and the Pill...We were born before credit cards, laser beams and ball point pens...before dishwashers, tumble driers, electric blankets, air conditioners, drip dry clothes....and before man walked on the moon.

We got married and then lived together (how quaint can you be?) We thought "fast food" was what you ate in Lent, "Big Mac" was an oversized raincoat and "crumpet" we had for tea. We existed before house husbands, computer dating, dual careers and when a "meaningful relationship" meant getting on with cousins and "sheltered accommodation" was where you waited for a bus.

We were born before day care centres, group homes and disposable nappies. We never heard of fm and DAB radio, personal computers, artificial hearts, yoghurt and men wearing earrings. For us, "time sharing" meant togetherness, a "chip" was a bit of wood or fried potato, "hardware" meant nuts and bolts, "streaming" a bad cold and "software" wasn't a word.

Before 1945 "Made in Japan" meant junk, the term "making out" referred to how you did in your exams, "stud" was something that fastened a collar to a shirt and "going all the way" meant staying on a double decker to the bus depot. Pizzas, McDonalds and instant coffee weren't heard of. In our day cigarette smoking was "fashionable", "grass" was mown, "coke" was kept in the coal house, a "joint" was a piece of meat you had on Sundays and "pot" was something you cooked in. "Rock music" was a grandmother's lullaby. "Eldorado" was an ice cream, a "gay" person was the life and soul of the party and nothing more while "aids" just meant beauty treatment or help for someone in trouble.

We who were born before 1945 must be a hardy bunch when you think of the way in which the world has changed and the adjustments we have had to make. No wonder we are so confused and there is a generation gap today...BUT

By the grace of God.....we have survived!

Gill Wimperis

OAKRIDGE SCHOOL



IMPACT OF LOCKDOWN ON SCHOOL LIFE

Following the Prime Minister's announcement on 4th January that we were entering another lockdown, Oakridge School closed for all but children of key workers. Teachers and staff have since been working hard to get to grips with Google Classroom, a remote learning platform where children can access their lessons. These are currently approached in a variety of ways and include a good mix of livestreaming and video recordings of teachers supporting the children to access their learning. Although a new and different approach to learning, this is proving very successful, with a high number of children engaged thanks to the dedicated support of parents at home (which is no mean feat!) Teachers are in regular contact with families to clarify any concerns or questions. We will continue to deliver remote learning until we are able to welcome all of the children back to school, which is something we very much hope we will be able to do soon.

An example of the sort of things the children are doing is as follows:

Class 2 are entering their third week of remote learning through their cross-curricular topic Pole to Pole linked to the fabulous text Shackleton's Journey by William Grill. Last week we wrote letters to Ernest Shackleton persuading him that we should be employed as a crew member for his ship. Children joined online English lessons to contribute ideas. This week we are preparing for our journey; children will create a leaflet on how to survive Antarctica researching the physical features in geography and watching David Attenborough's One Planet Antarctica to help them with their leaflet. In the coming weeks we will investigate global warming's impact on Antarctica again hearing the latest facts from David Attenborough and make our own presentation using Google Slides to our class.

Jonathan Preston

Executive Headteacher



Photo credit: Beth Hughes

WINE CLUB



SIZE MATTERSAND SHAPE !!!

When asked, what do you want for Christmas, I had one thing on my mind.....wine glasses!

Stop right there and hold that thought. What thought? That thought of 'hmm... boring', or 'hmmm....got plenty already', or just 'hmmm... nah, not for me'.

A wine glass is so much more than just a drinking vessel...it's all about performance!

If you want to renew your relationship with wine, allow me to take you on a little journey ...

When Oakridge Lynch Wine Club started ten years ago, the first thing we had to buy was a set of wine tasting glasses, six in all, nicely segmented in a cardboard box. Being small and uniform, about the size of a port or sherry glass, they were quite handy to carry along to each Wine Club meeting then home again for washing. Although inexpensive, they became invaluable. Officially known as ISO Wine Tasting Glasses (International Standards Organisation), recognised and used all over the world by connoisseurs, vineyards, sommeliers and merchants.... and of course, us! Scientifically designed, their standard shape has a rounded bowl with narrow sides and a short stem. Big enough for wine to be swirled easily without spillage and plenty of room to nose the wine too, whatever the shape of your snout! The fine rim helps contain all the aromas allowing you to sample wines across a broad range of styles.

Oh, and one more thing.... comfortable to hold. Perfect!

Now that every member of our Wine Club had the same equipment, tastings were always fair in measure. No argument there. We had the right tools for the job in hand, literally!

With guidance from the founders of our village Wine Club, who were true wine experts (Neil and Olivia Donnan), we could set about learning how to taste properly. It was so much more than a quick look, sniff and then 'down the hatch'! However, we never hung about too long waiting for something to be poured into our glass. It's a Wine Club after all and who wants to stare at fresh air?

So what did we learn? Fundamentally to start with clean glasses, hand-washed only, have never seen a dishwasher and never will! With a measure of wine poured almost to the widest part of the bowl, about 60mls, enough for several sips, the basic steps of tasting could begin.

APPEARANCE - clarity, intensity, colour

Take a proper look. Firstly straight down into the glass, then hold it up to the light and finally give it a tilt, so the wine rolls toward its edges. Holding a piece of plain white paper behind the glass can help determine what you see.

NOSE - condition, intensity, aroma characteristics (fruits, flowers, spices, vegetables, oak)

Hold the glass by the stem and gently rotate to swirl and aerate the wine by increasing the surface area. This will release all the aromas as they attach themselves to oxygen making them easier to smell. Take a good long whiff. What do you detect? You may find one nostril is more powerful than the other. **Wine is primarily 'tasted' with the nose!**

PALATE - sweetness, acidity, tannin, body, flavour characteristics (fruits, flowers, spices, vegetables, oak), finish (short, medium, long)

Take a small sip, swish it around your mouth as if it were mouthwash until it coats every part of your tongue. This will warm up and further aerate the wine helping to release its flavours. Then swallow. Note how the wine tastes when it hits different parts of your tongue. Tannin is that astringent sandpaper feel mainly detected on the gums. The finish is how long the wine stays with you...count this in seconds until it's gone.

CONCLUSIONS - quality (faulty – poor – acceptable – good – very good – outstanding)

Did you like it? Would you drink it again? Give it a rating or berating!

.....
Our journey now divides into three parts ...

1 - TONGUES

We've all got one, hopefully? That indispensable muscle in our mouths we take for granted, enabling us to speak, eat, kiss.....and taste wine. Tongues detect certain tastes, bitter / sour / salty / sweet, in different areas. A tongue map is required.

Mid-Back - Bitterness

Some varieties are known for their bitterness, ie Pinot Grigio. It manifests as a sort of light, pleasant tonic-water-type flavour. To test this, drink some tonic water and focus on that part of your tongue. Too much bitterness will make a wine undrinkable.

Mid-Sides - Sourness

This comes from acidity making the sides of your mouth pucker with a natural mouthwatering reaction. All wines will have some sour because all grapes inherently have some acid. This varies with climate and grape type.

Front-Sides - Saltiness

Described as salinity and can be relative to minerality and/or a vineyard's proximity to the ocean. Think Fino Sherry or Muscadet where the salty sea air influences the flavour of the grapes. (Minerality describes a flavour or aroma that is not fruit, herb or spice. It is associated with the terroir, the region the wine is produced, particularly if the soil is high in minerals and is rocky. Imagine the taste of oysters or the smell of fresh rain.

The Tip - Sweetness

This comes from natural grape sugars left over after fermentation has stopped, referred to as 'residual sugar' or RS for short. A wine that contains more RS will be sweeter. Try a dessert wine or off-dry Riesling. Wines without sweetness are called 'dry' wines. You can't ever smell sweetness though, since only your tongue can detect it.

2 - SIZE AND SHAPE

The correct size and shape of a wine glass can do wonders to improve the flavours of a wine. Its shape will deliver to certain parts of the tongue first and other parts thereafter.

Take your wine glass by the hand and note its **four basic parts**: the rim, bowl, stem and foot.

- 1 The **rim** allows wine to flow into the mouth and hit the most sensory areas of the tongue.
- 2 The **bowl** helps to capture and spread the wine's aromas.
- 3 The **stem** allows you to hold a wine glass without transferring heat from your hands.
- 4 The **foot** keeps the glass upright and stable (**there's a joke in there somewhere**).

There are hundreds of different glass types... help is at hand below.

SPARKLING WINE AND CHAMPAGNE GLASSES (Asti, Cava, Champagne, Prosecco)

The Coupé / Saucer - the oldest type of champagne glass with a stylish wide and shallow bowl, most popular during the roaring 20s. Charming to look at but due to the large surface area, the bubbles and aromas dissipate quickly. Drink fast or your fizz will go flat!

The Flute - Both classic and classy with a tall thin bowl and medium to long stem. A rough bead at the base of the Flute causes bubbles to congregate and rapidly rise to the surface. It delivers 'fizz' to the senses but there is very little room at the top of the glass for flavours and aromas to develop. The Flute is suitable for younger wines but not recommended for older wines with more complex flavours.

The Tulip - Shaped like a tulip flower with a slim base opening into a wide bowl and narrowing slightly towards the rim. Like the Flute, the Tulip develops and maintains lots of bubbles, but due to its larger aperture, the bubbles hit the right regions of the tongue rather than ending up in your nose. This wider bowl also allows for more aeration and a greater development of flavours and aromatics. Top choice especially for a vintage champagne.

WHITE WINE GLASSES

The bowl of a traditional white wine glass is generally more upright and u-shaped with a smaller rim than a red wine glass. As white wine is usually served cold, this shape enhances and preserves aromas while also maintaining the wine's cool temperature. The wine aerates less so it retains more delicate and lighter notes.

Younger white wines benefit from a glass with a slightly bigger opening so the wine is directed to the tip and the sides of the tongue to accentuate its sweetness. More mature white wines are usually best served in taller and straighter glasses so the wine is dispensed to the back and the sides of the tongue in order to taste the bolder flavours.

Chardonnay / Viognier Glass - The white wine glass described above is considered as traditional and "all-purpose". It is versatile and appropriate for Chardonnay and Viognier wines as the slightly narrow rim concentrates the nose of these highly aromatic white wines.

White Burgundy / Montrachet Glass - Top quality Chardonnay from the Burgundy region of France. The glass has a wider bowl so you can better smell the complex aromas. It also has a wider rim to direct the wine to the edges of the tongue so the wine's sour and acidic flavours are accentuated. These wines can be powerful and rich with complex fruit flavours and notes of earth and minerals. This 'Chardonnay' glass will actually resemble the Pinot Noir glass, only smaller.

Sauvignon Blanc Glass - Designed for more fruity wines, this glass is tall with a slender bowl to help focus the floral and fruit aromas. Its narrow mouth helps deliver the aroma straight to the nose and spotlight the front of the tongue. In addition to Sauvignon Blanc, this glass can also be used for wines like White Bordeaux or Loire.

Riesling Glass - The Riesling glass is smaller, taller and more narrow than a typical Chardonnay (all purpose) glass. This helps to keep the fruity aroma at the top of the wine glass and it directs the wine to the back of the mouth so the drinker isn't overwhelmed with sweetness.

RED WINE GLASSES

A traditional red wine glass has a full, round bowl and a wider rim. The larger surface area allows the wine more contact with the air to release all the aromas and flavours. More space to get your nose in too and get a really good whiff!

Bordeaux Glass - The Bordeaux glass is designed for heavy, full-bodied wines, higher in alcohol and tannin. It is taller with a large bowl and plenty of room for the wine to aerate and soften the tannins. The long stem helps direct the wine to the back of the mouth and maximise flavour. You can use this glass for Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Malbec and other rich, strong wines.

Burgundy Glass - The Burgundy glass is designed for lighter, full-bodied wines like Barolo, Barbaresco, Red Burgundy. This stem is shorter than the Bordeaux glass. It has an extremely wide bowl allowing plenty of aeration and a tapered rim to concentrate the delicate aromas. The wine is directed to the tip of the tongue to taste the bright rich fruit.

Pinot Noir Glass - The Pinot Noir glass also has a tapered lip but with a slight curve and a wide bowl. The stem is shorter compared to other red wine glasses.

Shiraz Glass - The Shiraz glass stands out from other wine glasses because it's significantly tapered inwards. It has a wide base and bowl and a mid-sized stem. This glass is designed to focus the fruit aromas and allow plenty of aeration to mellow tannins in these massive red wines. Suitable for Syrah, Amarone, Barbera.

3 - **YOUR GLASSWARE COLLECTION**

Only you will know. It could range from a magnificent display cabinet full of gorgeous goblets, vintage crystal, all gleaming and spotless ... to an eclectic mix of left overs, a motley crew of oddballs. What haven't you used for ages, is it kept for 'best'? If so, best what? Or how about that lonely glass lurking on its own, never gets an airing? Even the one with a chip? It could be 'the one'.

Trying different glasses you would not normally reach for, with different wines in them too, is the whole point of this exercise. To put it to the ultimate test... pour the same wine into a range of your different shape glasses and get tasting. **Proof is in the Palette!**

Our journey ends here ... almost ...

RULES OF THUMB

Hold by the stem, never fill beyond the widest part of the bowl and hand wash only.

But what if your glass is Stemless? Oh dear, I can't get my head around those, am I missing something? The stem perhaps? For me, the only time to put your hands around the bowl is on a brandy glass because it is intended to be served warm.

And that ... What's On readers, is that!

(If you are interested in joining Oakridge Lynch Wine Club please call Jill - 07816955362)

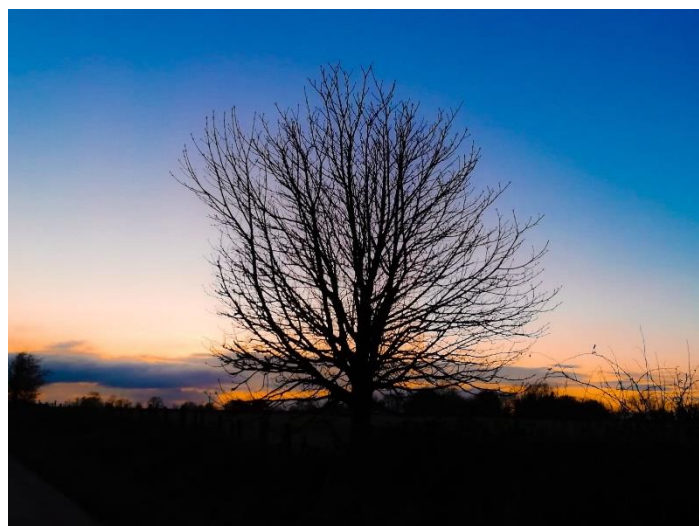


Photo Credit: Beth Hughes

Bisley-Eastcombe-Oakridge Climate Action Group



**Help develop our local response to the climate and
environmental emergency ...**

... home insulation, community energy,
car share, re-use and repair, swap and trade, safer cycling,
nature recovery, grow your own, healthier wildlife, healthier
lives ...

... and ***your*** ideas! **Be creative!**

Join us for a Zoom meeting on 18th February 2021

Please contact:

Martin Brown 01452 770878

or Lesley Greene 01452 770018

or Roger Budgeon 01452 770272

or e-mail bisleyeastcombeoakridgecan@gmail.com

BISLEY-WITH-LYPIATT PARISH CLIMATE EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN

Note this is a "live" plan to be modified as appropriate

Climate change is affected by everything we do. The Parish Council has committed itself to making the parish net-zero by 2030, in line with Stroud District Council's ambition for the District. This will not be easy to calculate and quantify but establishing the principle is the first step. The PC cannot achieve this alone. Collaboration with residents, businesses and neighbouring parish councils is essential. But there are some measures we can take immediately in our own activities that will both have some – limited – effect, and set an example and allow the PC to take an active role in encouraging and enabling others to act.

With Immediate Effect:

- Recognise that there is also a broader ecological emergency, inextricably related to the climate emergency, of biodiversity and habitat loss, and identify Nature Recovery as a key principle of climate change action
- Identify one person/group whose responsibility is to ask the question "what is the impact on climate change and biodiversity" of all decisions and actions we take.
- Support and collaborate with any independent climate action group in the Parish.

Within 12 months:

Measures to reduce harm and raise awareness:

- Assess the impact of PC activities, and look for and implement ways to reduce harmful effects, including carbon emissions:
 - energy used in pavilions and sports/playing fields - heating, lighting, materials used, etc.
 - travel by users of pavilions, sports fields etc.
 - maintenance of playing fields etc. owned/maintained by PC – mowing, tree work, etc.
 - as a consultee on planning applications, require plans to reduce energy use/ increase energy generation; enhance biodiversity (including linking wildlife corridors) and benefit flora and fauna, wherever appropriate. (cf. NPPF Ch 14; Climate Change Act; Environment Act).
 - change pavilion lighting to LED.
 - ensure our electricity supply is from renewables.
 - review pavilion heating systems – look at a long term plan.

- travel by Clerk and Councillors on Parish business – including to attend meetings
- energy expended by the council office on heating, light, printing etc.

Policy: The Council will take all practicable measures to aid nature recovery and reduce energy use and carbon emissions in its own activities, including travel to meetings, lighting and heating of council offices and facilities such as pavilions, and maintenance of buildings and land for which the Council is responsible.

Policy: As consultee on planning applications, the Council will make Climate Change Mitigation and Nature Recovery primary considerations in all its responses.

Positive (“offsetting”) measures:

- Allotments and local food production – consider how to increase climate/biodiversity-positive effects
- Parish grants scheme: Ask applicants to say how their request would affect climate change/biodiversity; seek “off-setting” projects.
- Set up new grants scheme to address climate change innovations.
- Appoint a climate change assistant to the Clerk. This may be a young person’s job opportunity, perhaps for students from Thomas Keble School.

Policy: The Council will take all practicable measures to increase carbon “off-setting” actions in the Parish, including tree-planting, composting, and other carbon-sequestration. It will support such efforts by other organisations within the Parish, for example by making grants to relevant projects.

- Tree strategy:
 - Assess loss of trees by Ash die-back in the Parish - climate and ecological impact of loss and plan to mitigate
 - Plant more trees; seek advice from GWT on where to plant (and not plant) trees to ensure most benefit to wildlife.
 - Establish time scale for target planting.
- Ensure verge and field cutting is in line with best practice for environmental benefit.
- Renewable energy generation:
 - Seek more potential for energy generation on PC buildings and land.
- Reduce or eliminate use of plastic in PC activities and events.

Policy: The Council will seek to increase renewable energy generation on its buildings and land, and where reasonable support such projects by other organisations in the Parish.

Engaging with the wider community:

The role of the PC in helping to achieve the goal of net-zero for the Parish as a whole – and for the District – will involve engaging with residents, businesses and other entities(?). The aims will include:

- Reduced energy use in housing – especially heating, by insulation and conversion from gas/oil. (In Stroud District 31% of carbon emission is caused by housing.)
- Reduced use of fossil fuel vehicles – by increasing walking and cycling, switching to EVs, less travel for work, etc.
- Increased local energy generation, from PV panels on roofs to larger scale solar/wind projects.
- Increased local food production and reliance on local producers.
- Reduced energy use by businesses, including agriculture.
- Increased environmentally positive farming and land management.
- Increase awareness of the role individual residents can have in enhancing biodiversity and nature recovery: e.g. helping hedgehog initiatives.

These aims will need to be made into action plans – probably by the PC in consultation with residents, businesses, farmers, etc. The role of the PC is likely to be one of enabling and encouraging, bringing people together and facilitating change, rather than direct action. We may be able to promote community projects – such as community energy schemes, car-sharing, and so on. *This part of the plan is not yet an **action** plan.*

BISLEY-with-LYPIATT TWINNING ASSOCIATION



As readers will know, the parish of Bisley-with-Lypiatt, which includes Oakridge, has been twinned with Plessala, a similar sized village in Brittany, for nearly 30 years. Over that time, there have been regular, annual visits by members of the Bisley Twinning Association to

France, and reciprocal visits by our French counterparts to us.

Our French friends were due to come to stay with families in Bisley, Oakridge and Eastcombe over the VE weekend of 8 – 11 May 2020, and a full schedule of events had been planned by the Committee here to entertain them. That was until Covid hit, which meant the ferry booking for the coach bringing the party from France had to be postponed and all the arrangements we had made for the weekend had to be cancelled.

We have been receiving regular updates from Benoit Roncin, who many of you will know, and who is the Chairman of the Comité de Jumelage in Plessala. His reports have painted a picture of even more stringent restrictions than we have

been subject to, up to very recently, even to go outside of your house in Plessala, residents had to have a Certificate explaining the reason for their visit. Leaving the home was only permitted for a medical reason, to go to work which had to be supported by a certificate by the employer, or for a weekly food shop. They have been allowed to go out for exercise activity once a day, limited to an area of 1 kilometre from home, for one hour.

Like here, those restrictions had been slightly relaxed, but now more stringent restrictions have been imposed again. The only good news is that, so far as we know, there have been no deaths within the membership of the Plessala Association.

We are still hoping against hope, to welcome the French visitors to Bisley later in 2021, if a vaccine means travel between our countries is once again feasible, although more realistically maybe the visit will not be until 2022. Either way, the relationship between our two communities remains strong, and to this end we will be organising and reporting on a full schedule of social events as soon as we are able. As always, the Association gives members and supporters of various ages here the chance to make new friends, attend social events throughout the year and if they wish to, get involved with the exchange visits to/from Plessala. You do not need to speak French, but there is plenty of chance to practice your rusty school French with our French friends if you want to give it a go.

In the meantime, if you would like more information, and to be kept updated during 2021 as things become clearer, please contact Muriel Brooks at mbrooks@niceworkuk.co.uk or 01452-770346; or John Hughes at mail@jmhughes.plus.com or by phone 01285-760177.

Nous souhaitons à tous une bonne nouvelle année 2021, et bonne santé à tous!



MEMORIES OF OAKRIDGE PAST

More memories from those living in the village(s) across the decades. If you would like to make a contribution, please get in contact with Victoria Beard.

Schooldays, part 2

The second part of Miss Alison Gardiner's schoolday memories

I was in the middle class at Oakridge School when War broke out and I remember 25th July 1940 very clearly, when the German Junkers bomber and the Hurricane crashed, but this day's events have been eloquently described already, by my peers.

Each morning the heavy screen between our room and the top class was pushed back on its runners for morning prayer and closed again when classwork began.

What filled me with dread was the appearance of a green canvas filing box on the headmaster's desk. This could only mean the imminent arrival of either the Doctor or the Dentist. The former I did not mind, for that only meant we were weighed and measured and told to breathe in and out while the Doctor listened with his stethoscope. The Dentist's visit was a different ball game. His name was Mr Fletcher and he would turn up in his smart motor car with the execution chair in the boot.

The Infants had to evacuate to the Parish Room down at the back of the Vicarage, and their classroom became the temporary surgery. I used to sit in misery at the Parish Room awaiting the arrival of a senior pupil, who, looking very important, would announce the name of the next patient and escort him or her up to school for treatment. Following tooth extraction there were no laid on facilities for rinsing, and the sight of the foot-operated drilling machine did not offer much comfort. Parents did not attend or fuss over us – we just had to get on with it.

The Parish Room was used by us on happier occasions such as school plays, and always had an earthy smell of rotting beech leaves with which it was surrounded.

DAME MARGARET WESTON

Dame Margaret Weston, born in Oakridge in 1926, the daughter of Mr Weston, headteacher at Oakridge School in the 1940s (and remembered in several of the recent 'Memories' articles), has recently passed away at the age of 94. Following education at Stroud High School and Birmingham Municipal Technical

School, she was one of only 3 women alongside 300 men, selected for a student apprenticeship at The General Electric Company, where she became a Chartered Electrical Engineer. Following qualification, she joined the Science Museum in London in 1955, rising to become the first female director of a national museum in 1973. Her aim there was to make the Science Museum more fun, more accessible to children, and more various in its contents, including making its galleries more interactive. She was also instrumental in creating a network of museums extending outside London, the nationwide Science Museum Group.

Appointed a Dame in 1979, she retired in 1986 and spent her last years back in Stroud, where she helped set up the Museum in the Park, and was a patron of the Stroudwater Textile Trust and Cotswold Canal Trust.

OAKRIDGE PLAYERS



The Players have spent the year online like most! We had Zoom play readings, quizzes, and a Desert Island Disks sessions which went down very well. We realised as time went on getting back on stage in 2020 was going to be impossible! Looking to 2021, we have a couple of Shows

we would like to do, but time will tell whether your Oakridge actors, techies and front of house thespians will get together on the grand old stage in the Village Hall.

Meanwhile, it's worth remembering we are 100 years old, plus a few! At some time we intend to celebrate that massive achievement! The residents of Oakridge have been getting together to entertain themselves and anyone they can entice into an audience since the 1910s!

Oakridge Players – still here, still standing – like most waiting for that spotlight at the back of the hall to be switched on again so that we can all get together and enjoy ourselves.

All good wishes
Tim Toghill, Chair

To whet the appetite, photos from Oakridge Players' last Pantomime, November 2019. Here's hoping for another show soon...



LEISURE & WELLBEING REVIEW

Stroud District Council have commissioned a Leisure and Wellbeing review which started in December 2020 and is due to finish in July 2021. The purpose of the review is to develop the Leisure and Wellbeing strategy for the entire district looking at current leisure and wellbeing habits, along with aspirational ones. This will also include the facilities within the district.

This next phase of the review is "public consultation" with our local councils and residents. The focus will be on: 1. Physical activity levels (pre, during and aspirational post covid) 2. Activities supporting the development of positive mental health and well being 3. A review of venues including Stratford Park Leisure Centre, The Park, The Museum and The Pulse 4. Exploring which community venues and organisations are currently used and how they can continue to develop and grow to support ongoing community leisure and wellbeing needs of the local residents 5. Active travel and the use of outdoor space within the District is of particular importance especially around cycling, walking and other activities which all contribute to healthier lifestyles.

Access to the survey is via this link: <https://tinyurl.com/stroudcommunity> The closing date for the survey is the **12th February 2021**.

BISLEY-with-LYPIATT PARISH COUNCIL

Please see the Parish Council website for Ward information and minutes of Council meetings www.bisley-with-lypiatt.gov.uk

Next PC meetings: Wednesday 3rd February and Wednesday 3rd March 2021

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The business of the PC has been continuing throughout this pandemic but meetings have been conducted online via Zoom. Our PC meetings happen usually at 7.30pm on the first Wednesday of each month. The location and agenda is posted on all notice boards around the Parish. Firstly you need to contact our Parish Clerk (Debbie Meredith) by email on admin@bisley-with-lypiatt.gov.uk. She will give you a link to join the Zoom meeting. You will have to download the free software from Zoom onto your computer (www.zoom.us/download) or get the app for your mobile. Once you have downloaded and installed the software, you will be able to click on the link at the appropriate time then you will be allowed into the meeting by the person controlling the online meeting. You may need to switch on your microphone and video but your computer should tell you this.

Cllr Tony Martin – tony.martin@bisley-with-lypiatt.gov.uk

Cllr Roger Budgeon - roger@greenshopgroup.co.uk

Cllr Dennis Robbins - d.robbins1945@btinternet.com

LOCAL PLANNING NEWS

Information relating to local planning issues, as outlined on the Stroud District Council website: <https://publicaccess.stroud.gov.uk/online-applications>. See the Parish Council website for local input. Here is a summary of local planning news in the period 24th November 2020 to 24th January 2021:

S.20/2409/HHOLD Alterations to existing stone barn, Tunley Barn House	Awaiting Decision
S.20/2335/HHOLD Various alterations to existing property, Springbank House, Tunley	Permitted
S.20/2288/REM 1.5 storey Dwelling, The Folly, Oakridge Lynch	Approved
S.20/2201/HHOLD Erection of greenhouse, Pipers Cottage, Oakridge Lynch	Permitted
S.20/2092/HHOLD Alterations to outbuildings, Rodborough Cottage, Oakridge Lynch	Permitted
S.20/2665/HHOLD Construction 2 storey rear extension, 1 The Taut, Oakridge Lynch	Awaiting Decision



Photo Credit: Beth Hughes

A WORD FROM STROUD CITIZENS ADVICE



News from Citizens Advice – employment problems during Covid pandemic

Please let anyone with difficulties know that we are able to offer advice by Freephone and email, but sadly as yet, not face to face contact.

Unfortunately, the number of enquiries about Employment problems has soared over the last 10 months. Many people have needed advice on whether they are entitled to furlough pay, how this is calculated, and whether they might be able to claim Universal Credit in addition. Redundancy is also a big issue and many have concerns about how they will get a redundancy payment if their employer is unable to pay it.

The reason so many people need further help to understand the system is shown in the following example:

Mrs D was managing by having 2 jobs, this meant that in lockdown her income came from a mixture of paid work and furlough payments. It got further confused by a change in the National Minimum Wage during this time which gave her a small increase. She was then offered redundancy from one job, and again it was important to be aware of the calculation of her redundancy pay, and any other payments which she might be due. Finally, she needed to know if she had any entitlement to Universal Credit to boost her income. Being uncertain of how she would be able to manage and what action she should consider, understandably caused Mrs D great anxiety. By having these payments calculated and explained to her by our adviser meant that she was able to make informed decisions and became able to cope with her situation.

We also advise on a whole range of other employment issues. The knock-on effects of job loss can cause financial as well as relationship and housing difficulties.

For help with any of these issues contact Stroud Citizens Advice on Freephone: 0808 800 0510 or 0808 800 0511 Monday to Friday 10 am to 4 pm.

or Email:

<https://www.citizensadvice-stroudandcotswold.org.uk/stroud-cab-email-advice.php>