

WHAT'S ON

in

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



August / September 2021

Edition 252

www.oakridgevillage.org

EDITOR'S NOTE

So, 'Freedom Day' came and went with varying degrees of returns to 'normal'. Here in our community, many groups and societies are beginning tentative steps toward meeting regularly again – see the various submissions through this publication and the diary dates for more information.

As we welcome new members to the village community, many have also felt the sadness of the recent loss of past villagers, who are remembered on pages 12/13.

Some may be aware that there are plans to change the Parliamentary boundary constituencies, removing Oakridge from the Stroud constituency and making us part of a new Cotswold constituency – see page 9 for more detail, and also Martin Brown's District Council report on page 18. If you have a view on this, please note that comments must be received by 2nd August.

I must say a big 'thank you' to Danny Wilson, for providing such wonderful cover illustrations since the end of 2018; you will be much missed in the What's On. If anyone would like to take on the mantle of illustrator, please do get in touch for the October edition.....

Victoria Beard

WHAT'S ON COVER

I hope you will forgive my self-indulgence, but this will be my last drawing for What's On and I thought it only fitting that it should be the lovely house that Hazel and I have called home for the past 19 years.

As many of you will know, we will be leaving Oakridge in early September and moving to a small village just outside Marlborough. It has not been an easy decision as we love the village and the surrounding area, but the house is simply too big for just two people and as I approach retirement it seemed a good time to make a move.

Moving to Marlborough will put us closer to our two sons and the opportunity to see our grandchildren more often before they disappear into that weird and distant place called...."the teenage years"!

We are going to miss the lovely walks, the beautiful scenery and of course the people in the village who made us feel part of the community from the very beginning. We hope you will make the new owners of Sunnyside, Mike and Sarah, feel just as welcome.

To all our friends and neighbours who have made our time in Oakridge so enjoyable, we want to wish a long and healthy life, with the hope that our paths will cross again sometime soon.

Our love and best wishes to you all....

Danny and Hazel

24th July 2021

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

COVER ILLUSTRATION BY DANNY WILSON

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E&OE

OAKRIDGE RAINWATCH



As measured by my rain gauge, recent rainfall levels were as follows:

May..... 161.8 mm.....about 6.4 ins.

June..... 31.3 mm.....about 1.2 ins.

July (to 16th)..... 34.8 mm.....about 1.4 ins.

Gill Farrar

THE CHURCH IN OAKRIDGE



meeting at St Bartholomew's

VICAR Rev. S Murray 01452 770897

CHURCHWARDEN Mr. Martin Green 01452 770322

GREETINGS FROM THE CHURCH IN OAKRIDGE

We are delighted to say that the church is open for communal worship and we would be pleased to welcome you at our services. Please remember COVID restrictions applicable at the time.

Additional wonderful news, the church is now open from 9am – 5pm, so please feel free to enter for a moment of private prayer or reflection in this peaceful sanctuary.

Weekly information on up and coming events, news and prayer lists can be requested by emailing pewslipsbisley@hotmail.com and asking to be added to the mailing list.

We are keen to hear the view of everyone who lives in Oakridge - about the Church, the value it provides and the way villagers may wish to support it in future. So we are preparing a questionnaire and this will be circulated in the coming weeks to all households. Please help us by letting us have your views.

Look out for us at the Village Show in September. We would love to have your thoughts, questions and suggestions.

Services in August:

1 August	9.30am	Morning Prayer
15 August	9.30am	Holy Communion
22 August	10.00am	St. Bartholomew's Patronal Festival Benefice Service Holy Communion Followed by coffee and cake
29 August	11.00am	BISLEY – Songs of Praise

SEPTEMBER AND HARVEST FESTIVAL

5 September	9.30am	Morning Prayer
19 Sept	9.30 am	Holy Communion

Please also refer to notices at village shop and church.

OAKRIDGE VILLAGE HALL



The hall is now fully open but the NHS QR poster for track and trace is still in place, and it is recommended that hall hirers keep a list of those attending events. We are providing hand sanitizers and disinfectant cleaning material.

COMMUNITY RESTART PROGRAMME

The Village Hall Trust has received significant financial support from the government during the pandemic. To help the local community recover from this difficult period and encourage hall use, hirers will be able to gain free hall usage for a period of six months from September 2021 to February 2022. This will result in some of the grants received by the hall being shared with the community.

How to Book Free Hall Use The hall may be booked for hire free of charge up to the value of £50 per month from September 1, 2021. Any usage over this value will be charged at normal rates.

Eligibility This offer is open to any non-profit organisation based in, or any individual living in, Oakridge Lynch, Far Oakridge, Waterlane, Tunley and Bournes Green.

Booking Booking can be done in the normal way by email via John Loosley (johnloosley40@gmail.com).

CHURCH SURVEY

The Church community has concerns about the future of the Church in Oakridge and is looking for ways to engage with the village community so that we can continue to provide friendship, love and support to all those in the village and to meet their needs.

So we are asking for your help.

We are asking the entire community to take a few minutes out of their day to answer our short questionnaire; 'Tell us how you'd like your church?'

You don't need to be a 'church goer', we would like everyone's thoughts about what having a church in the village means to them and how we can appeal to the wider community.

You can complete the survey by filling in the page in What's On, cutting it out and returning it to either: St Bartholomews Church, Oakridge. Ollie's shop, Oakridge. Kim Barber at Silver Birches, Waterlane.

Or at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/PLK6YS6>

Please complete the survey by 30th September 2021.

Many thanks for your support!

OAKRIDGE SHOW

It's back! The Oakridge Show WILL return on Saturday 4th September from 1.00 pm at the Village Hall. Your Show Schedule is enclosed so get ready to enter all your flowers/vegetables/bakes and more, and make this a show to celebrate the end of lockdown.

This year will be a little different, as we're aiming to 'keep it local', to reduce numbers due to the continuing Covid-19 situation, and to bring villagers (old and new) together once again. There will be hand sanitiser available, and numbers in the Hall to view exhibits may be limited with a one-way system of entry. Although mask wearing is no longer mandatory, if possible, please give consideration to wearing one to give confidence to members of the community. Depending on the situation nearer the time, the Show may need to be cancelled at short notice, but hopefully this won't be necessary.

At the time of writing, the finer details are still to be arranged, but you can look forward to a return of some classic cars (by invitation only); some great food and drink; books; plants; the popular WI jams and cakes stall; and of course, the dog show and agility, plus more.

Donations for the various stalls would be appreciated, eg Cakes, Bottle Tombola, Raffle. Also, if anyone is able to offer assistance with setting up on Friday 3rd, taking down on the day, or in any other way, please contact a member of the Committee – Mark Barnett mbarnett104@gmail.com;
John Loosley johnloosley40@gmail.com;
Caroline Priestley carolinesianpriestley@hotmail.com;
Victoria Beard vbeard51@gmail.com

OAKRIDGE HISTORY GROUP



It was a great pleasure to welcome History Group members and friends to the first meeting since the beginning of 2020. Jane Haines gave an interesting taster on the long and varied history of Tetbury, evidence of which we will be able to see in more detail when she leads us on a walk round Tetbury at the end of July.

We now have a new programme of talks and activities commencing in September, all being well. The first speaker, on 22 September, will be Chas Townley, rescheduled from last year, on "Council Housing in Gloucestershire before the Great War", followed on 27 October, by Steve Hill on "The History of Stratford Park and Mansion".

The full details of talks and activities can be found on the website, but they include topics such as the Lillyhorn Roman Villa, Arts and Crafts war memorials, a visit to Gloucestershire Hub including the archives and Family History Centre, the history of and walk round Painswick, a "Pop – up" museum, and more Oakridge house and family histories.

We are, as always, delighted to welcome members and friends and hope that people new to the village will join us to find out more about the history of the area and the many interesting features and people who have lived here.

Kay Rhodes

NATURE NOTES FROM WATERLANE



I was watching a magpie one day marvelling at how it was dancing between the legs of a moving horse. It is an opportunistic bird, and in this case was looking for any insects and grain disturbed by the hooves of the horse. It was also perching on the backs of the horses to relieve them of any insects they may be carrying; this seemed an amicable arrangement for them both. They make very good parents, both feeding their young. There was a charming scene in my flower bed one morning where a very patient mother was trying to groom the ruffled feathers of her youngster while it was having fun tossing rose petals in the air.

Their presence is often first revealed by their call, a hoarse laughing chatter. It has bold iridescent black and white plumage with a long wedge shaped tail in flight. The hoarding instinct common to all crows is highly developed in magpies, they are liable to hide not only surplus food but also any colourful or shiny object which takes their fancy.

They very often rob other bird nests, including partridge and pheasant, of eggs and young and this is what upset gamekeepers in the past and caused them to be persecuted. It has long been regarded as a bird of bad omen. The most familiar superstition about sighting the handsome black and white bird is expressed in the adage 'one for sorrow, two for joy'. To protect themselves against the sorrow which the sight of a single magpie might bring, people used to cross themselves or raise their hats to the bird.

Alan White

OAKRIDGE GARDEN CLUB



Is it my imagination or have the roses been better than ever this year? They were late in flowering, maybe that was why, or perhaps it was the very wet May. Whatever the reason, they have been, and still are, very lovely. We have had some mixed weather but several glorious golden summer days, one of which was the Wednesday of our first garden club outing to Bourton House. How blessed were we.

We chose to take the Andoversford Road to Moreton-in-Marsh and passed through glorious empty countryside with a patchwork of cared-for fields folding away, several splashed with red poppies. The four of us decided to have lunch at the pub on the hill, and sat in their pretty garden in the shade of trees. One amusing tip we were told by our charming waiter I think is worth passing on to you all. We were discussing the fact that rats were becoming much more common in our gardens as they were after fallen bird seed. He told us his granny always added cayenne pepper to the seeds as squirrels, mice and rats won't touch it, and it doesn't hurt the birds. So all you twitchers buy a jar of spice and scare off the unwanted vermin.

We all gathered on the lawn in front of the huge barn and were told about the history of the house and garden by the Head Gardener, a lady who really knew her plants. It is she who is responsible for the colour schemes and placing or removing of the plants throughout the garden. She told me it was her dream job that she was given three years ago. There were so many beautiful parts to remember, the White Garden, the charming Knot Garden, the Topiary Walk, but for me the star of the whole place was the huge herbaceous border in rich reds, browns, oranges and yellows, with everything from roses to red hot pokers, to a banana tree surrounded with early dahlias. We ended the day with a very welcome tea and scones in the cool of the barn.

We will, as a club, have a stand at the scaled down village show in early September, so any plants left over or unwanted please save for that.

I look forward to seeing you all again – happy gardening.

Gill Wimperis

OAKRIDGE WI



We are up and running again.

The June 'get-together' took place on a lovely evening, so we were able to sit outside for our catch up with a cuppa and cake made by our baking queen, Sue Hemming, and minimum business. We were also able to welcome a new member, Lyndsey – come on ladies, you can do it too.

Before our 98th birthday meeting in July we held a minute's silence to reflect on our memories of Pat Carrick who had been a long-time member of the WI. Pat has been sadly missed over the last few years with her debilitating illness. She was a "full-on" member of our community; influential in beginning many projects and partaking in many events. The party was catered for us by the mobile Fish 'n' Chip van – superb.

August is traditionally our month off meetings when we have a visit for those who are so inclined. This year we are visiting WWT Slimbridge for a "Bat and Owl" evening on the 12th.

4th September will be the Village Show, when we will have our usual stall of goodies.

9th September at the Village Hall for a speaker from an auction house, who will be happy to value items if members bring them along.

14th October there will be a meeting in the Village Hall.

Mary Fern

01285 760261 for further information

CHANGES TO ELECTION BOUNDARIES

The Boundary Commission for England is proposing changes to the constituency boundaries which would remove Bisley, Eastcombe and Oakridge from the Stroud constituency and make this area part of a new Cotswold constituency. It does not involve any change to the District or to Parishes.

Please visit www.bcereviews.org.uk where you are encouraged to explore the interactive map and give your views on the proposals.

If you wish your views to be considered, please ensure they are received no later than the closing date of this statutory consultation period, which is 2 August 2021.

OLLIE'S SHOP

Hello from Ollie's shop, just a couple of updates and news for you.

As you know, we are always striving to provide the very best products and services to you and so we now have a new provider for Dry Cleaning and Laundry services who will be offering a more frequent and broader service than the previous supplier. For more information and a copy of their price list, please enquire at the shop.

Another recent addition to our product offering, Curry Night, has proven very successful and it will be back by popular demand, on the last Friday of August. That would be a bit after our annual holiday which will be from Saturday July 31st until Monday August 16th, when the shop will be closed. We will reopen on Tuesday August 17th. Please keep your eyes and ears peeled for more details about the menu and exact date. Madhu has done her best to accommodate every request and as always, your feedback will be gratefully received.

Please note that we're taking a cautious approach to relaxing Covid-19 measures. As lockdown restrictions ease and the UK finds a balance in living with Covid-19, our priorities at Ollie's remain the same: to keep our customers and community safe and to avoid disrupting our service to you. You would have noticed that we continue to wear our masks, keep hand sanitiser available and limit the number of people inside the shop to allow for social distancing. Due to the sharp rise in Covid cases lately, we think it's the sensible thing to do and while we appreciate that wearing a face covering is now a personal choice, we would be most grateful if you continue to wear one whilst in the shop for the (extra) protection of yourselves and others, however we won't require it for entry. Thank you very much for your understanding and cooperation.

Last but not least, we would like to thank you all on behalf of the Great Western Air Ambulance Charity for your generous donations of loose change: as of July 23rd, this community has raised an incredible £438.37 to help save local lives. THANK YOU.

Have a great holiday and stay safe,
Oscar and Laura

LADIES NIGHT

Hello lovely Ladies of Oakridge and beyond,
It's time to put Ladies Night back onto the calendar. HURRAY !!

I moved into the village 2 years ago and have recently taken over the organising of Ladies Night from Cathy. Cathy has done a fabulous job over the years but is now taking a bow from this commitment, but will no doubt join us occasionally! Thank you, Cathy.

Looking at the previous meet ups, it seemed the consensus of Wednesdays being the best night for us to get together is something we should continue with. I certainly don't want to clash with any of our other fabulous clubs in the village!

So, you are all welcome to our first date of 2021 at The Butchers Arms on Weds 4th August from 7pm .

If you are a newcomer to the village who would like to meet up and chat over a drink for a while, then please join us. The more the merrier!!

Looking forward to seeing you
Tamzin Hutton

BisCAN

BisCAN - Bisley, Eastcombe and Oakridge Climate Action Network - is a group of local residents trying to find creative ways to combat climate change and promote nature recovery in the area. We've planted trees and pulled up Himalayan Balsam; taken the bus to Stroud Farmers Market; encouraged people to waste less and find ways to reduce our Greenhouse Gas emissions. Upcoming events include farm visits, an evening of information about home heating and insulation, and stalls at the flower shows in Bisley, Eastcombe and Oakridge. To learn more about us or join our e-mail list, please e-mail: bisleyeastcombeoakridgecan@gmail.com.

IN MEMORIAM

PAT CARRICK

Patricia Joan Carrick 'Pat', passed away on 13th June with her family by her side. She was an important member of the village community for many years, and a number of tributes follow below in her memory.

Pat, who lived at Hillview, Waterlane, died recently after a long illness. She will be remembered by many for her great interest in the local community and the welfare of its inhabitants. She was for many years on the Stroud District Council, representing Bisley, where she was involved in several initiatives including the promotion the Warmth and Wellbeing programme. She also served on the Bisley parish council where, for some years, she held the position of chair. Pat started the Oakridge Lunch Club and the Oakridge History Group following the publication of *Oakridge, A History* which she co-authored. Another of her interests was the Oakridge Village Hall, and many of the improvements which we take for granted today can be traced back to her involvement in the Oakridge Village Hall Trust. Together with her husband Gordon, she enjoyed the life and history of this rural community.

John Loosley

Pat was always active in our Community. She started with What's On. She was a Parish Councilor for many years and a Ward Chairman. She was also a District Councillor for four years and together with a colleague introduced a scheme called "Warm and Well" which was for loft insulation for the over 70's. On her own initiative she decided something needed to be done about the condition of the village hall, as the previous committee did nothing to improve it and would not apply for grants even at the Millennium. She appointed herself as chairman, formed a committee and under her guidance a grant was obtained from Stroud District Council for a central heating system replacing the high level heaters which were ineffective resulting in the installation of a boiler and several radiators being installed. At around the same time by a stroke of luck after the cancellation of an order for £4,000 of plaster board insulation, the late Richard Bryant offered it to the village hall committee which they very gladly accepted, it was enough to cover the walls. Further grant funded improvements followed including the suspended ceiling.

The next step was to improve the very old kitchen and a grant was successfully applied for from Gloucestershire Rural Community Council on condition of the formation of a Lunch Club which she did and is very popular.

Gill Davis

My memories of her centre round her boundless enthusiasm for everything to do with local people and local history. Collaboration over writing the History Book was an exercise in trying to contain the amount of information Pat collected in the space available - she could never believe that any bit of reminiscence was not worth trying to squeeze in somewhere!

Kay Rhodes

I miss you Pat, with your lovely smile which could light up the room, and your loyal friendship. We shared many happy times together with your dear daughter Sue, with Sheila, and Margaret at family parties. The fun in the early days of the village pantomime, rehearsals often a source of helpless laughter at missed cues and forgotten lines! Such happy memories, another dear friend Daisy once said "memories are the only thing we have left that those ***** up in Parliament haven't taxed yet!"

Thank you Pat, for being part of my Happy Memories. Rest in Peace dear friend.

Ann (Fry)

TONY PARTRIDGE

There will be a Memorial Service for Tony at 2pm on Saturday 11th September in Oakridge Church. All are welcome to join Roger and family.

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: 7.30 pm Wednesday 4th August and Wednesday 1st September 2021

Any issues in the Oakridge Ward of our Parish please contact

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

Cllr Roger Budgeon - roger@greenshopgroup.co.uk

Cllr Dennis Robbins - d.robbins1945@btinternet.com

WINE CLUB



‘A Bit of a Do . . .’

I could write about the other day ...

Wednesday 14 July to be exact, when 30 of us met up again for ‘A Bit of a Do’ on a perfect summer’s evening in the same garden as last year.

I could tell you that ...

as it was also Bastille Day, we acknowledged the Storming of the Bastille, the moment in French history that sparked the French Revolution.

I could go on to say ...

how the monarchy was overthrown and a republic set up based on the ideas of liberté, égalité, fraternité ... LIBERTY, EQUALITY, BROTHERHOOD.

I could then add ...

how the 6 wines we tasted were chosen to reflect all of those values under the simple heading of ‘French Country Wines’.

I could further explain ...

that French regional wine producers have more ‘freedom’ to create the best wine they can. They are not hindered to the same extent as other classic wine growing regions wine laws. They can grow and blend grape varieties of their choice.

I could ask ...

are they creating a revolution of their own?

But ... (fingers drum slowly on the table)

heat of the day (make that plural), has dissolved the ink in my pen.

So you’ll have to imagine the rest for yourselves ...

what it feels like to see people again after a long time, a very long time, people you know and like and really care about, to sit and relax with a bountiful supply of decent wine in your glass, chatting, laughing, reminiscing, rediscovering and remembering all that really matters ... kindness, warmth and friendship. Nothing better.

And the morning after the night before ...?

a collective ‘feel good factor’, rejuvenation and boost in energy, echoed in a chorus of emails. We had it all!

Wine Club will be returning to the Village Hall in Oakridge Lynch after the summer. It is a venue we have used many times over the years as well as our much loved local pub The Butcher's Arms. There has been a lot of new interest since the pandemic started and it is our intention to make contact with all of you before the autumn and the start of our regular monthly meetings (all covid dependent of course).

Any enquiries please contact Jill: 07816955362 or pinky.dink@gransmore.co.uk



OAKRIDGE PLAYERS

Romance Blossoms.... Something rather profound and at the same time simple happened during the Oakridge production of Cinderella in November 2019 on the stage of the Village Hall.

Oakridge Players put on a pantomime in late 2019, in fact it was the last production they put on before covid-19. It was in many ways a roaring success and our audiences loved it as they usually do. But quietly in plain sight something rather lovely was happening to our young leading players. John Cima was playing Prince Charming and Cinderella was Emma Jane. They formed a strong bond and acted well as a couple. Often having extra rehearsals together to perfect those scenes where they were on stage by themselves. As time went on they realised that they had a special connection. After the show ended their need to be together grew stronger.

Covid-19 came and Emma was seriously in the thick of it as a Practice Nurse. But they managed to keep the relationship going remotely often having meals together via Zoom. Emma bought a house and John helped her do it up. It became Rainbow Cottage in memory of Covid19 and all they had gone through. They kept planning and enjoyed getting to know one another especially as the restrictions of Covid19 were relaxed in the summer of 2020. Now Emma and John are expecting a baby and they're looking forward to life together.



It's a beautiful romantic story as it began on the stage of Oakridge and blossomed into a very happy relationship. It's our own fairy story of Prince meeting Princess and, in a thoroughly grounded way, they got together and, we all hope, began living happily ever after. One key ingredient of the relationship is the dog called Geoff who throughout at all observed what was going on and in away encouraged it and is still there keeping watch over them. I thought I would share this with you as it actually represents something glowing and special that happened in spite of the whole world going through this awful pandemic. It's not over yet and it's certainly not over for John and Emma but I hope we can all take something rather profound, special and human away from this.

With all good wishes for the summer Oakridge Players
Tim Toghil Chair

Spotlight on Margaret Heath



When I she told me that tell me. This of Margaret was father ran The ran the Southampton, the Yorkshire local area in Lynch, Water Lynch.

started to talk to Margaret, she had nothing interesting to course was far from the truth. born in Cinderford (where her Bridge pub and grandfather Heywood) and later moved to then Lincoln, Nottingham and Moors before settling in the 1978, having homes in France Lane and now Oakridge

Her late husband Malcolm, was a first-class English professional cricketer playing for Hampshire until his retirement in 1962. After this, the family moved to Lincoln when Malcolm started working in quality control for Guinness. Further job moves took them to Nottingham in 1964 and near Scarborough in 1965.

At the time when Malcolm was playing cricket professionally, wives were sometimes allowed to accompany their husbands but could only use the Ladies' Pavilion and children were only allowed at the edges of the ground. However, Margaret was responsible for laundering Malcolm's cricket whites! Cricketers were often away for up to a week at a time so Margaret was kept busy bringing up their children Richard, born in 1962 and Julia born in 1966. When they moved here, the children were aged 12 and 16 and at first Richard missed the sea-fishing in Yorkshire. They soon settled in though with Richard attending Thomas Keble School and Julia the Deer Park 6th Form. They have both settled locally.

Malcolm later played for Gloucester Gypsies and also Lord Vesty's team when Margaret was able to accompany him to lunches at the Bishop of Gloucester's house.

Margaret's childhood claim to fame is that she was related to the playwright Dennis Potter and was in the same class as him in her primary school in the Forest of Dean. Dennis was part of the gang of children who all played together, so she spent a lot of time with him.

In her early days, Margaret trained as a ballerina and was invited for interview in London at the age of 13 where she could have carried on her training but she didn't want to leave home.

Margaret attended the School of Art in Southampton and she still counts craft, embroidery and water-colour painting amongst her hobbies. She brought along some lovely watercolours of flowers as well as examples of her intricate beadwork. She belongs to Broadwell Beadwork Club near Stow-the-Wold. She also brought me a beautifully made tussie mussie. These 'talking' bouquets of flowers and herbs are meant to be a celebration of craft, folklore and the language and meaning of flowers.



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Until the children arrived, Margaret worked in the dispensary of a pharmacy and met some colourful people in this job. In particular, she remembers a larger than life Egyptian who lived in a lovely home apparently for by the large amount of dollars earned from the sailors on the cruise for services rendered! She used to ask Margaret to go to her house to perm her hair (remember the Toni home perms?) for which she was very well paid. Margaret later enjoyed working at Hunt and Winterbotham at Lodgemore Mill where she dealt with the sale of high quality cloth to the public. For about 20 years she volunteered with Meals on Wheels, collecting the meals, delivering and driving to homes over a wide area covering Oakridge, Chalford and Frampton Mansell.

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paid

Friends she has met along the way include Ann Fry, Gill and John Young, Mary Fern, Jenny Black, Pat Carrick, Judy Mackie, Janet Gaskell and Maureen Dewhurst.

Margaret's favourite

books: "Reading Lolita in Tehran" by Azar Nafisi

"The Hare with Amber Eyes" by Edmund de Waal

music: Vaughan Williams, Jazz – she once went to an Oscar Petersen concert which was so full that to her delight she ended up sitting at the end of his piano

place: the Lake District, Norfolk

flower: roses although she loves all flowers

pet: golden retriever – she has had 4 retrievers and 5 cats

bird: robin, but difficult to choose

Sue Wise

PAINTING WITH JOHN BAILEY

John will be offering Painting Workshops again this autumn, starting in October 2021. The sessions will be held in the Studio, and will be suitable for beginners and people wanting to improve their painting skills.

John is planning to run them for 5/6 weeks, 9.30 – 12.30 on Wednesday mornings, £40 for 5 sessions.

Conditions permitting, he will also be holding his Open Studio event with paintings and pottery for sale on Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th November, and Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th December, all in aid of Cancer Research.

Please ring John if you are interested in more details on 01285 760659 or email jrsbailey@yahoo.co.uk. John's website address is johnbaileyart.com for further information.

DISTRICT NEWS

Telecommunications Mast: EE's proposal to erect a telecommunications mast in Far Oakridge now seems to have been withdrawn, possibly thanks to strong local activism. It is understood they are now looking at a site on the other side of the valley, between Sapperton and Frampton Mansell, where it will be less visible in the woodland.

Illegal Waste Storage and Burning: SDC successfully prosecuted a Bisley landowner for illegal storage and burning of waste, at a site near the Green Shop. Wilfred Hunt admitted four offences and was fined £3426.85 by Cheltenham Magistrates on June 30th.

Tree Preservation Order: A TPO on five trees at St Marys, Eastcombe, opposite Thomas Keble School, was confirmed by the Development Control Committee, over the objection of the landowner. A number of trees on the site had already been felled, to the dismay of local residents. The Parish Council asked for the TPO to protect the remaining mature pines, beeches and a sycamore. The vote of the Committee was unanimous. I was pleased to be one of these votes. ***Please contact me if you have suggestions for trees you think should be protected by TPOs.***

Ebley Mill Council Offices: SDC is still asking residents to make appointments to visit the council offices, though I understand visitors without appointments are being helped. Staff and Council Members are still wearing masks when moving around the offices, and desks and council chamber seats are still distanced. To contact the council on any matter call 01453 766 321 (or outside office hours for emergencies 01453 222104).

Business Grants: £500,000 remaining in the business funding pot was distributed to businesses by the end of June deadline. This means SDC is eligible for an extra £1m to distribute to businesses. Neighbourhood wardens did a good job helping to get businesses to apply before the deadline. SDC has also distributed £3.6 m via the flexible Additional Restrictions Grant.

Local Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP): The County Council is developing 'LCWIP's for areas of the County including Stroud, and gave a presentation on this to the Environment Committee in June. These plans will be the basis for applying for funding for such projects as new cycling routes. ***Please contact me if you would be interested in being part of a local network to help develop the cycling parts of this plan to reach areas such as ours.***

Parliamentary Constituency Boundary Change: This is not really a District Council matter - it will not involve any change to the District or to Parishes - but as you may know, the Boundary Commission for England is proposing changes to the constituency boundaries which would remove Bisley, Eastcombe and Oakridge from Stroud constituency and make this area part of a new Cotswold constituency. My view is that we should remain in Stroud. The historical, geographical and cultural connections of this area to Stroud are strong - indeed, Stroud was once part of Bisley Parish! The consultation period is until August 2nd. Anyone can comment at <https://www.bcereviews.org.uk/>.

Electric Vehicle Charging Points: Gloucestershire County Council is funding a network of electric vehicle charging points, and there is a possibility of bidding to get one (or more) in this area. Please complete this short survey to help assess need and demand:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/FSWV8TB>

Cllr Martin Brown

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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 May 2021 to 24th July 2021:

S.21/0534/HHOLD and S.21/0535/LBC Erection of extension and other works, Watercombe House, Waterlane	Permitted
S.21/0953/HHOLD Construction of extension, garage conversion Hillview, Waterlane	Awaiting Decision
S.21/0758/HHOLD Renovation and extension works Frith House, Tunley	Awaiting Decision

S.21/1212/FUL Conversion of barn to staff accommodation Frith House, Tunley	Awaiting Decision
S.21/1258/HHOLD and S.21/1259/LBC Construction of glasshouse and kitchen extensions Watercombe House, Waterlane	Awaiting Decision
S.21/1131/HHOLD Conversion roof space, new dormer window Tralee, Oakridge Lynch	Permitted
S.21/1106/LBC and S.21/1298/FUL Various works to create holiday let and office space Kings Farm, Tunley	Awaiting Decision
S.21/1573/FUL Stable block and underground energy plant room Frith House, Tunley	Awaiting Decision
S.21/1589/HHOLD Replace existing garage and loose box with new Whitespring, Oakridge Lynch	Awaiting Decision

COUNTY COUNCIL NEWS

It has been a busy month for county Councillors as we return to holding meetings in a socially distanced council chamber although Full council which can also be viewed on- line continue to be held in the large tennis centre in Gloucester.

Council Funding additional Wellbeing for School Staff

The county council is giving all schools, academies, MAT's and independents in the county, free access to specialist support to look after their staff wellbeing over the next twelve months. We recognise what a challenging time this is for schools and for all staff across each school community, who have continued to support the county's children throughout an unprecedented, ever-changing and demanding period. With effect from 1 May 2021 and for the coming year, all staff in schools across Gloucestershire will be able to access support from a 24-hour Employee Assistance Programme (EAP) provided by Health Assured, one of the UK's leading providers of Employee Assistance. Working with the county council since 2016, their counselling service is the only one accredited by the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy.

Cabinet doubles holiday hunger fund to more than £2.7m

At its meeting on Wednesday 23 June, the county council's Cabinet approved a £2.7m fund to support vulnerable children during the school summer holidays. The cabinet agreed to allocate £1.39m of funding from the Department for Education to deliver the Holiday Activities and Food

programme (HAF) which will be available throughout Gloucestershire during August and at Christmas.

Efficient and greener scheme for food waste

A new food waste contractor will help to continue the county's efforts to tackle climate change and save money.

A report going to Gloucestershire County Council's cabinet next Wednesday (21 July) recommends that Ubico is awarded a contract to take Gloucestershire's food waste to a recycling plant in Bishops Cleeve. All six district councils in the county provide a weekly kerbside food waste collection service for their residents and it is the county council's job to recycle this food waste. In 2020/21, the service collected and treated a total of 24,400 tonnes of food waste, which generates clean, green and eco-friendly energy to power homes. The fertiliser it produces also helps farmers grow bigger and healthier crops. Currently four of the districts have their food waste taken to the plant by different providers, but under new streamlined plans it would be collected by just one company. The proposed contract with Ubico, worth £1.6 million, would start in October 2021 and last for eight years offering a potential 20 per cent saving to the taxpayer.

Recycling Metal Really Matters

In a countywide social media campaign, residents are being encouraged to recycle their metal packaging to make every can count. Metal can be recycled endlessly so the county and all six district councils have teamed up with MetalMatters to highlight the benefits of recycling our metal packaging to inspire everyone to get involved and do their bit. With more than 12 billion items of aluminium packaging alone sold every year in the UK, householders are being encouraged to recycle their cans, foil, empty aerosols, trays, tubes and metal screw tops. Every district in the county provides a frequent and convenient door-to-door recycling service so it's never been easier to recycle our metal packaging; and once recycled, it takes around 60 days for a drinks can to return to the supermarket shelf.

Regular rapid testing remains vital to slowing the spread of COVID-19

Around 1 in 3 people who have COVID-19 have no symptoms at all. Rapid tests help to detect the virus in people who might not know they have it, so that they can self-isolate quickly to prevent passing Covid on to their family, friends and work colleagues.

Since the Government first announced that rapid testing was available to everyone in England, the way you can get your free test kit in the county has changed to make it even easier to access.

Here is how you can get yours:

- **Pharmacy Collect.** There are more than 100 pharmacies county-wide that have rapid testing kits in-store for people to collect and use at home
- **On-site pharmacy testing.** Some local pharmacies have come on board to offer on-site testing for people who haven't yet used a rapid flow test, or residents who would like some support and guidance to take the test. For a full list of which pharmacies you can collect your kit from or where you can get support to take your test on-site visit: [NHS Site Finder Map](#).

- **Community Collect.** You can pick up your rapid test kit from Hempsted Meadows, Cheltenham, High Street Car Park and Stratford Park Leisure Centre testing centres. Collection is available Monday-Sunday at Gloucester and Cheltenham between 2.30 pm to 8pm and Monday-Sunday between 1.30pm and 7pm in Stroud. You can check online if the location is open or busy before you go

Cllr Sue Williams

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

AUGUST

Sun 1st – Mon 16th incl. shop shut, reopens 17th

**Mon 2nd Closing date for comment on Parliamentary
Constituency Boundary review**

Weds 4 th	Ladies Night, Butchers Arms	7.00pm
	Parish Council meeting, Bisley	7.30pm
Thurs 12 th	WI trip to Slimbridge	
Sun 22 nd	Patronal Service, St Bartholomews	10.00am
Fri 27 th	Madhu's Curry Night, order at shop	

SEPTEMBER

Weds 1 st	Parish Council meeting, Bisley	7.30pm
Sat 4 th	Oakridge Village Show, Village Hall	1.00pm – 4.00pm
Thurs 9 th	WI, Village Hall	7.30pm
Sat 11 th	Tony Partridge Memorial Service	2.00pm
Weds 22 nd	History Group, Village Hall	7.30pm
Thurs 30 th	Date for Church questionnaire returns	

If you would like to save paper, why not sign up to receive the What's On direct to your email inbox, via the village website – www.oakridgevillage.org.

Please remove this questionnaire and return by 30th September to either:

St Bartholomew's Church / Ollie's Shop / Kim Barber, Silver Birches, Waterlane

'Tell us how you'd like your church?'

1. Do you consider the village church is relevant to your life today?
Yes / No

Please give your reasons....

2. Do you attend Oakridge church? On what occasions do you visit?

3. Do you know when the church services are being held in Oakridge?

How should we make this information available to you?

4. What would encourage you to consider attending a church service?

5. Would you be interested in different types of service or meetings?

- a. Meditation and quiet time
- b. Informal discussions
- c. Mother and baby coffee
- d. Service where the focus is on child participation?
- e. Breakfast meeting
- f. Mid week services
- g. Song's of Praise
- h. Service in Village Hall
- i. Other suggestions?

6. Oakridge Church has a long standing relationship with the school.
 a. Would you be interested in attending services involving the school?

b. Would you be willing to bring your child to that service?

7. Is there anything else in which you think our Church should be involved?

8. What is your age group?

18-29

30-49

50-64

65+

9. Do you have children living at home with you?

Yes / No

If yes, please give their ages

10. Can you offer us any help?

11. Any other comments?

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Thank you for your help.

Name.....

Contact details.....