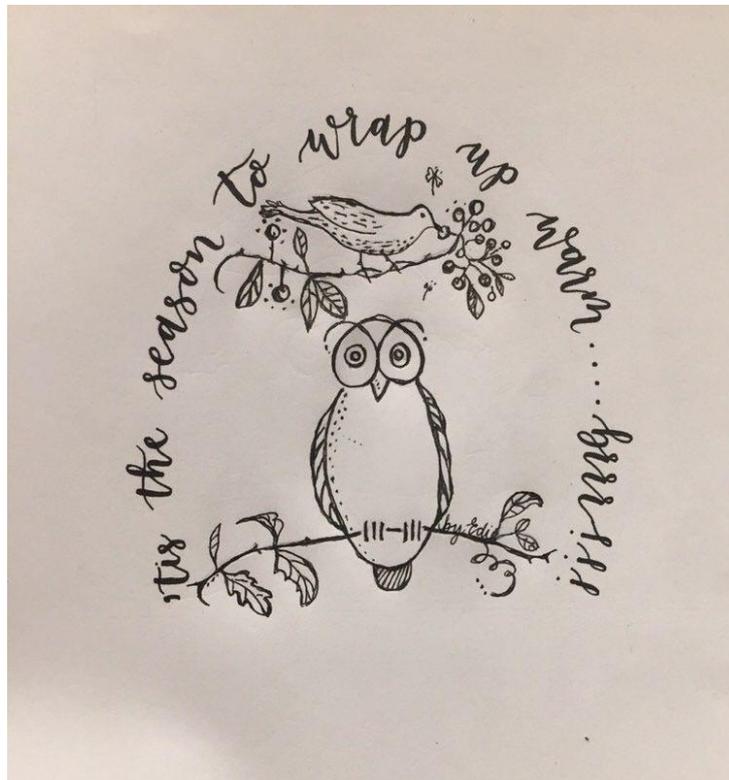


# WHAT'S ON

in

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



December 2021 / January 2022

Edition 254

[www.oakridgevillage.org](http://www.oakridgevillage.org)

## EDITOR'S NOTE

A bumper issue for this last edition of 2021, with lots of Christmassy events to look forward to, from Christmas markets and carol singing to a Boxing Day Fun Run for those feeling energetic! It is good to see local events happening again, but please do remember that social distancing, hand sanitising and/or mask wearing may still be applicable.

Sending Festive Greetings to all, and very best wishes for a Happy and Healthy New Year.

*Victoria Beard*

## **MONDAY 24<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2022 - CLOSING DATE** **for the next WHAT'S ON**

### **USEFUL INFORMATION**

- The village website – [www.oakridgevillage.org](http://www.oakridgevillage.org) - for up to date information, including Village Hall availability and Village Events Calendar
- Various Facebook pages – Oakridge Village Network and Oakridge Village Hall, Oakridge Lynch
- Gigaclear Broadband availability at the Village Hall

### ***Cover Illustration by Edie Bailey***

*Edie is 17 yrs old and currently studying Art at Stroud College, with a special interest in calligraphy – see her Instagram page: Calligraphygirlll*

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E&OE

# THE CHURCH IN OAKRIDGE



**meeting at St Bartholomew's**

**VICAR** Rev. S Murray 01452 770897

**CHURCHWARDEN** Mr. Martin Green 01452 770322

**DEPUTY CHURCHWARDEN** Mr. John Mason 01285 760456

## **Greetings from the Church in Oakridge**

Very best wishes to you all for a Merry Christmas. During this season, we will be celebrating Hope, Peace, Love and Joy; may all four of these fill your life this Christmas and beyond into 2022.

We would be delighted to welcome you to any of our services.

## **December 2021 Services**

Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	9.30am	School Christingle Primarily for the School and parents
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Village Christingle
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Holy Communion
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup>	4.00pm	Family Crib Service Children will be encouraged to participate in this service
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Village Carol Service This will be the traditional 9 lessons and carols
Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Family Christmas Day Holy Communion

## **January 2022 Services**

Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	9.30am	Family Morning Prayer
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Holy Communion

Please also refer to notices at the village shop and church.

## THE QUEEN'S GREEN CANOPY PLANT A TREE FOR THE JUBILEE



This is a national scheme encouraging the planting of millions of trees to enhance the environment and mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. It will run from this October to the end of the Jubilee Year in 2022. However, the best planting time is between now and the end of March.

The Oakridge Ward of the Parish Council is opening a consultation on the best way the village can participate. This will need to cover:

- Locations for tree planting
- Varieties
- Sources viz The Woodland Trust
- Number and size, both initial and eventual
- Costs and funding

There is already a project being explored to randomly plant thirty trees on the road to Waterlane stretching from the Burial Ground to Battledown Farm. This has Council approval. The Parish Council will provide the bulk of the funding covering tree planting, but private donations to the cost would be helpful. Some parishioners may welcome the opportunity to donate a tree in memory of loved ones.

If further information is required, please contact Gill Wimperis (tel. 760528) or Alex Davis (tel. 760354 / email [davisorion@aol.com](mailto:davisorion@aol.com)).

Feedback would be appreciated to ensure the best approach to this significant occasion. Responses preferably by email please, or in a mail box in the shop. Thank you.

## BIN RAIDING DOGS

A request from a Far Oakridge resident to dog owners to please keep dogs under control, 3 times this year dogs have raided bins and made a considerable mess on private property. This was first reported in the Feb/March edition, so clearly is far from a resolved issue.

## OAKRIDGE VILLAGE HALL



The Oakridge Village Hall Trust AGM was held on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November, at which 9 Trustees and 1 member of the public were in attendance. The Chairman's Report for 2020/2021 follows – please do remember that the Hall belongs to the Village community as a whole, and if you

would like to read the minutes of the meeting in full, please contact the secretary Chris Gregg at [chrismgregg173@gmail.com](mailto:chrismgregg173@gmail.com).

### **Chairman's Report for 2020/21**

At the start of November 2020 a National Lockdown came into force in England. We were placed in Tier 2 which allowed us to continue with Dance, Yoga and Keep Fit. OVHT had to decline our normal hirers such as the WI, Garden, History, Wine, Lunch Clubs and The Players. All of whom would normally have been running Christmas functions. As we entered Tier 3 only organised children and student events could continue which saw the end of adult classes and groups. Ballyhoo continued and we found them to be meticulous with cleaning, temperature and ventilation control during their classes and exams. We thank them for being a valuable customer to OVHT. Sadly, restrictions saw Ballyhoo also having to suspend business to keep their students and the community safe.

The third lockdown started on the 6th January 2021 we used this time to actively upgrade the Hall. Redecoration projects in the kitchen and lobby areas were undertaken. All the lighting in the hall has now been replaced with LED's. The Oak front doors have been oiled. Electrical and boiler inspections, gardening, weeding, and general maintenance were carried out. We also took the opportunity to have the hall deep cleaned.

The EMC arranged their first meeting in-person on the 19th May 2021. We agreed to accept the government start-up financial scheme. The funds would help us to look at projects moving forward that will benefit the community. We decided to aid village clubs and societies with reductions in hiring charges so that they could recommence, adding value to the village and surrounding hamlets. Elections took place on the 6th May 2021 in the Village Hall for which SDC paid £150. Towards the end of May we saw the return of Ballyhoo, Yoga, Keep Fit and Tai Chi. We increased numbers from six, to fourteen and then to thirty occupants; still a fraction of our maximum capacity.

Jane Gregg and I met Zoe Phillips, an energy consultant from the Cotswold Energy Group. We discussed the viability of an Air source Heat Pump to replace the oil fired boiler. The estimated cost would be approximately £20,000. Should we decide to proceed in the future we would seek financial assistance from The Severn and Wye Energy Group to provide a government backed grant to assist us with this project.

We were delighted to welcome back the WI in July, Garden Club in August and Lunch Club and History Club in September. All valuable groups to the community and users of the Hall. In August we held a special meeting with Andrew Davison to look at the viability of an Audio Visual system and equipment. The Gigaclear offer of free broadband for a year mirroring Bisley Village Hall was accepted. Andrew, along with John, led a conversation, sharing their knowledge, experience, enthusiasm and energy on the technical specifications of an audio visual system. Andrew advised us on projectors, sound speakers, cabling, security measures and future upgrades. He had a detailed list with an estimate of costs. John and Andrew will update the trustees on their findings to date at the Trustees Meeting. Gigaclear installed broadband and a router and this is now functional for use by the community. It is also accessible from the playing field and car park within a reasonable distance with excellent speed. Gigaclear expect us to market this valuable asset to locals as a condition of contract.

OVHT is thankful to the Oakridge Show committee for organising and donating their profits to the Hall this year. As a community we must thank the dedication of John Loosley who manages the bookings and general day to day affairs of OVHT. He is an outstanding manager who donates an enormous amount of time to running the hall affairs. Chris Stoker ensures our costs and finances are managed with prudence and control. He produces accurate accounts with attention to detail. Alex Davis our diligent project manager who cares for the building, its maintenance and upgrades. Chris Gregg who takes care of our administration, correspondence and office based tasks. He produces documents in a timely and efficient manner. Victoria Beard is the leader of our Safeguarding Policy. She redrafted our policy to reflect the needs of OVHT, placing the onus on users, and this was unanimously approved by the EMC. We appreciate the publishing space Victoria has given to OVHT in the "What's On" newsletter. John Loosley and Jane Gregg have ensured that the cleanliness, posters, supplies and signage during Covid have matched government requirements during Covid restrictions. Finally a huge thank you to all the Trustees who have given up their time and demonstrated a commitment to keeping the Hall in top shape. Our smart, bright and spacious Village Hall is moving into the digital age. We look forward to the rewards and benefits this will bring to all who use and enjoy our facilities.

*Paul Timms*

### **Gigaclear Broadband Access – open to all users of the Hall**

Network: Oakridge Village Hall Gigaclear

Password: OVHT2021

## OAKRIDGE VILLAGE EVENTS SURVEY RESULTS

Many thanks to everyone who responded to the Oakridge Events Survey we were running in the last edition. There was a great response with 52 (almost all online) responses– thank you!

The data provided will really help us shape future events in the village – detailed results will be provided on the village website but the headlines I picked out were:

- There was wide recognition that the existing groups/events provide significant community value, even when people don't plan to attend themselves. This was particularly the case for local interest groups (e.g. History Group, Garden Club, WI etc.) and for social / food and drink events (e.g. Lunch Club, Wine Club, Pancake Lunch etc.).
- For new arts events, there was strongest support for film followed very closely by live music and drama/theatre. This provides some validation for the current proposals to improve audio/visual facilities at the Village Hall.
- Other popular suggestions for new groups included a book club, craft/hobby group/workshop, more fitness groups and something for younger people/children. Mental health, climate and environmental groups, and phone/laptop/tablet training sessions were all highlighted as well as a desire to make more use of the church.
- There was a range of ticket prices that people expect to pay for arts events. £10 was the most popular price point for an adult ticket but most were willing to pay more, depending of course on the quality of the event!
- Very strong support for online tickets and payment.
- Support for potential improvements to Village Hall stage facilities via grant funding for the Oakridge Players.
- Many offers of help and lots of useful comments.
- Community events such as the Oakridge Show and May Revels remain popular!
- Event visibility wasn't always good – is everyone aware of the events calendar on the Village Website and on the back page of What's On? We try to keep the calendar on the website up to date with the latest information.

## OAKRIDGE HISTORY GROUP



At our October meeting Steve Hill shared his experience as a guide to Stratford Park and House, drawing out the evolving history of the place with anecdotes and personal observations. We learned that the original building of the late 17<sup>th</sup> century has undergone numerous modifications, including changing the front of the house to face in a different direction, reducing the building from 3 to 2 storeys and more recently

adapting the stable yard and outbuildings of the house to the present entrance and galleries of the museum. The rejuvenation of the walled garden has added to the attraction of the building in its parkland setting.

Our November meeting was entitled "Riots, unrest and murder around Oakridge in 19<sup>th</sup> century!" Using newspaper reports, including reports that reached the national papers, censuses, prison records, letters and photographs, John Loosley drew a picture of an area which was not unused to lawlessness and unrest during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. We heard of the robbery and shooting in Tunley in 1832 which resulted in large rewards being offered for information and detectives travelling to and from London to apprehend three brothers. Two were found guilty; one was hung, another transported to Australia for life and the third acquitted. Then we learned about James Wyndham who was murdered by his son Frederick at Frampton Place in 1893. Frederick gave himself up and was unrepentant at having killed his father over family disagreements about his relationship with another woman after his wife's death. Frederick was hung at Gloucester Goal and his father was buried at Oakridge. Again the national press took up the story.

Many locals became involved in a riot in 1896 over Stroud Hospital Board attempting to use a small building in the middle of Oakridge Common as a smallpox isolation hospital. Police from across the county were called in to control the situation, but local pressure succeeded in getting the Pest House moved to the outskirts of Stancombe. More than a dozen local men however ended up doing hard labour in Gloucester prison for some months for their part in the disturbance.

The enclosure of the common in 1866 caused local landowners to receive anonymous death threats and on several occasions local police were set upon by men who were pulling down walls, disturbing the peace or resisting officers' attempt to maintain order. It was clearly not without reason that Oakridge had a reputation for being fiercely independent and defiant!

As there are no meetings planned for December and January, we wish everyone a peaceful and healthy Christmas and New Year and look forward to welcoming everyone back in 2022.

*Kay Rhodes*

## NATURE NOTES FROM WATERLANE



This time of the year there is very often a thump on my roof in the middle of the night. We have a community of bank voles in my garden and this time of the year they are very busy foraging for the winter months ahead. This attracts tawny owls from the wood below and the noise on my roof is a sign they are active.

Tawny owls are the size of a wood pigeon and have a rounded body and head with a ring of dark feathers around the face surrounding the dark eyes. They feed on small mammals, notably mice and voles but they may also take small birds, amphibians, large insects and earthworms, the latter taken from short-grassland and lawns on damp nights when the worms are foraging above ground.

Tawny owls make more noise than the other four species put together during October and November. All this extra shrieking, hooting and 'kee-wicking' is down to one thing, territory. They are solitary, nocturnal, fiercely territorial birds and they never move more than a few miles from their birthplace. Year by year, it builds a detailed mental map of its patch, learning the best spots to hunt mice, catch frogs and uproot earthworms. They do kill other owls being intolerant of competition. In the U.K., tawnies dominate the deciduous woodland, nesting in a variety of places but they prefer tree cavities where available. This forces the smaller long-eared owl into less productive habitats such as the edges of pine plantations.

*Alan White*



We are having a Christmas tree on the green outside the Church and School.

On the 14th December at 6.30pm there will be mulled wine and apple juice with mince pies. The proceeds are for the Church and School.

There will be an honesty box by the tree over Christmas so all donations will be gratefully received!

Thank you, Lyndsey Barnett and Sharon Dawes

## OAKRIDGE RAINWATCH



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

September.... 77.3 mm.....about 3 ins.

October.... 138.1 mm.....about 5.4 ins.

November (to 18<sup>th</sup>)..... 9.3 mm.....about 0.3 ins.

*Gill Farrar*

## OAKRIDGE GARDEN CLUB



It was so good to be back together in the Village Hall for our first meeting after 22 months of closure. With all windows and doors open and a hearty breeze blowing through, we kept our coats on while booking our place at the Christmas Social on December 7<sup>th</sup>. There were seed catalogues to collect, and an exciting array of unusual plants to examine from our Speaker's nursery.

Bob Brown gave us a talk entitled "Too many plants, not enough space". My answer to this problem is to enlarge the border and forgo some lawn. He said we should be bold and throw out plants that didn't thrill us and were not worth the space they took up. We saw some excellent photos and picked up several tips. Tom Brown and his son have, what I imagine is, a fascinating nursery if his selection of plants is anything to go by. He was a relaxed, knowledgeable speaker, with a touch of humour and a pleasure to listen to. In Committee we always vote of our speakers. He was well up there with the best.

I hope by the time you read this you will have booked your place at the Social. My job now is to sort out a quiz to keep you guessing. Oh Bizzie, how we miss you! I'm sure we'll have an enjoyable evening, don't forget to bring a drink if you want one.

Happy days putting your gardens to bed.

*Gill Wimperis*

## Oakridge Boxing Day 5K fun run

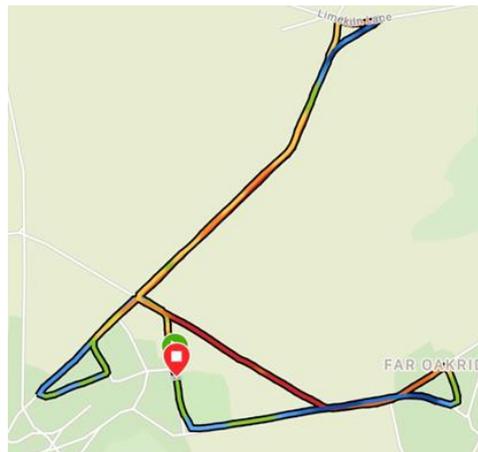
We will meet at the playing fields for a 0900 start.

All welcome to walk, jog, run and spectate.

No entry just turn up, no time limit, no prizes,

An opportunity to burn off some Christmas calories.

Paul and Sam Timms



## A BARMAID'S MEMORIES.....

Whilst on a much-needed and long overdue visit down south to Mum & Dad back in September, I made my first visit to the Butcher's Arms in over 18 months - a long way to go for a pint when you consider that I live more than 500 miles away in rural Aberdeenshire!! I was encouraged, whilst in conversation on that recent visit, to share some memories with you all from my very happy days working there - so here goes. Stepping behind the bar as a extremely shy teenager (I'm not going to reveal quite how many years ago that was...) was a pivotal moment - it really helped me to become a far more confident person and for that I will always be grateful. One of my early Saturday night shifts arrived and I nervously poured one of my first pints - Butcombe Bitter, I believe, into a dimpled pint glass, with a handle. The next drink requested was a gin and tonic, ice and lemon in a wine goblet - both drinks ordered by a wonderful couple, Maurice & Muriel - the pint for Muriel and the gin for Maurice!! I made the rather obvious rookie mistake of placing them in the wrong position, but never repeated that error.

There were many, often quite random, fancy dress nights in the pub during those days, one of the more memorable ones saw me dressed as a bunny-girl - an old navy swimsuit with a cotton wool tail plus a pair of ears on an Alice band - there was method in my madness as it was a busy Saturday night so I opted for comfort and keeping cool....Andy Vowles, however, went in the

opposite direction entirely by dressing as a Beefeater! He looked completely splendid, but oh boy he was roasting!! I have vivid memories of Hugh Baxter wearing a bin liner, with many safety pins, eyeliner and his hair sprayed pink - punk rock lived on!!

A regular table of four would sit in the back bar and play cards on a Saturday night - Eric Pyecroft, Daisy Hunt, Grace Cook and John Hunt; always accompanied by his faithful golden labrador Hank. When Hank got older and a little slower he would wander to the front door around 15 minutes or so before John was due to leave... (someone would always let him out) the two of them would then arrive home at the same time. If I ever hear the phrase 'one man and his dog' John & Hank always spring to mind.

There was always the slight jeopardy of the cellar hatch being opened since it was, and still is I presume, behind the bar (no safety rope across the gaping hole in those days!) but, although there were a few near misses, nobody disappeared without trace!! At that time the hatch to get in and out of the bar was just before the corner end....directly in line with the opening to the cellar, so if one of us had been out collecting glasses and hadn't noticed that the cellar hatch was up...well, you can guess what MIGHT have happened, particularly as I rarely opened the hatch in the top of the bar, but used to limbo underneath it....!!!

It is wonderful to see that some of the people from my days there still visit, and I am delighted that the current owners, Greg & Bev, are such welcoming hosts; the pub is really in very safe hands. Some of the names mentioned in this little trip down memory lane are sadly no longer with us, but they will always occupy a very special place in my heart, as do many others who I have not named. The lovely hosts and the regulars, both past and present, are the very reason that the heart of this glorious village pub beats....long may that continue!

Before I sign off I'll leave you with a tip....never drop a bottle of Advocaat on the floor....it's like trying to mop up mercury.....extremely slimy mercury!!!

*Val Fry*

## JOHN BAILEY'S OPEN STUDIO

Hi Everyone,

Having been unable to exhibit any of my work for two years, I thought I would write to let you know about my Open Studio this year, 27th Nov to 5th Dec, 11am-4pm.

During the lock down and in recent months, I have done many new paintings, mainly of this area, in watercolours, oils and acrylics. I hope you will find these inspiring and a celebration of the beauty and colour of our area. As you know, I also pot, and have introduced new styles into my range of Studio Pottery, including hand moulded bowls and jars with new, colourful designs. There will also be what I hope people will find a treasure trove, of ceramic jewellery and figures, cards and "carnets paintings", in my recently acquired "Gypsy Caravan", together with examples of what my students have done on my recent painting course.

Although we cannot hold a preview in the current circumstances, all are welcome and social distancing measures will apply.

This is what I hope you will find as an opportunity to share the beauty and colour of our area, but also to purchase paintings, prints, cards and pots for Xmas and to support Cancer Research.

I look forward to seeing you!  
John

## OAKRIDGE WI



Meetings take on a change most months. In October we couldn't "Swing into the 60's" due to our speaker's covid contact. However, a long awaited speaker came to us

from the Star Centre in Ullenwood. Monica Farthing gave a superb presentation. The Centre does fantastic work with 16+ youths and their range of challenges. From its humble beginnings in 1960 with 12 residents, there are now 150, plus outreach centres in the Forest of Dean, Wales and Gloucester. Like all charities, Monica stressed how vital fundraising is. Anyone fancy a wing walk or sky dive?

Our 98<sup>th</sup> AGM went well, covering all necessary business as speedily as possible. I stood down after my 5<sup>th</sup> go at President, leaving Sue Hemmings to carry the WI forward for the next 3 years. Framed NFWI certificates were presented to Grace Cooke, a member for 75 years, and Mary Fern for 50 years. Social time was much enjoyed, and charity Christmas cards were on sale.

**9<sup>th</sup> Dec:** is our in-house Christmas Party where members feel more confident to meet

**2022:** 13<sup>th</sup> Jan, 10<sup>th</sup> Feb and 10<sup>th</sup> March are our meeting dates, and annual subscriptions for another year will be due in April.

Christmas greetings to all from the WI and a Happy and Healthy New Year.  
*Mary Fern*

## OLLIE'S SHOP

With lots of Christmas orders already in for our high welfare Christmas meats and our signature festive hampers, it's nice to see how organised you all are this year and rightly so!

Although no shortages are expected (hopefully!), the official deadline for ordering Christmas Meats is the 10th of December, but if you leave it late you may miss out! From free range turkeys and capons to pigs in blankets or sausage meat, the vast selection from the Stroud Market favourite and long time supplier, is simply too good to miss. A full list of what's on offer and their prices is available at the shop.

And if you are stuck for gifts ideas, our selection of gift hampers are always a hit, including our best selling "Taste of Gloucestershire" signature hamper, full of lovely local delicacies that will sure delight the lucky recipient. Whether you're shopping for an out-of-town family member or friend who can't visit you in Gloucestershire right now, or just a loved one who's really missing home, our gift baskets are sure to lift their spirits this Christmas. Not exactly the same as sharing them in person but at least they won't be missing out on the delicious flavours from glorious Gloucestershire. Should they have any particular local favourites, just let us know and we will put together their very own taste of Gloucestershire gift basket. All of our hampers are custom made with love and the good news is that there is still time to post for Christmas arrival, even for international deliveries so go on and give someone you love "the taste of Gloucestershire" wherever they are.

Last dates for posting within the UK are Saturday, 18th of December for 2nd class, Tuesday, the 21st for 1st class and Thursday, the 23rd for Special deliveries.

Last dates for posting internationally are Monday the 6th of December to Australia or New Zealand, Monday the 13th to US or Canada, Thursday the 16th to Germany, Ireland or Spain, and Saturday the 18th to France. For any other international destination, please inquire at the Post Office.

You can also simply give the gift of choice with a multi-store gift card accepted in over 130 high street stores and restaurants nationwide, and online with participating retailers, available from our Post Office counter.

With so many options in store, you don't need to travel far to do your Christmas shopping.

Hope to see you soon at Ollie's.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and may 2022 bring all the best, health and happiness to all.

*Laura, Oscar and Ollie*

## **LOWER WEIR FARM**

Following the notice in the October edition about Strawberry Banks, readers may be interested to know that the fields between Strawberry Banks and the village are now being managed in a long-term partnership with the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust. With the benefit of support from the waste company Biffa, and assistance from the Trust's specialists and teams of volunteers, we are hoping to restore and "rewild" the fields.

To that end we have introduced grazing by Exmoor ponies, removed unnecessary fences, relaid the hedgerows (which had become damaged by some walkers using them as a shortcut), and are creating a dewpond. There have already been visible benefits in the diversity of meadow flowers and greater numbers of butterflies.

Your cooperation in keeping to the paths and holding dogs on the leash would be greatly appreciated.

*Charles Béar*

## OAKRIDGE PAROCHIAL SCHOOL



It has been wonderful to return to school in September after the summer holidays. Following changes to the Government's guidelines, we were able to welcome the children back to school with reduced restrictions. We were also very happy to welcome 4 new Reception aged children. This is the first time this has happened in a number of years and,

together with having an increase in number of children on roll (now 30!) was a very positive start to the year.

Class 2 have also settled in well and it has been lovely seeing them all and welcoming new children into the class. After two years without being able to take part in our traditional camp at the start of term, we were fortunate enough to be able to return to Copsegrove for one night and embrace activities (linked to their topic 'Fighting Fit') which included a long walk in the area following an Ordnance Survey map, foraging for blackberries to make a compote for dinner and working together to put up their tents in a brand new campsite! Well-being has always been central to how we work and camping is a tradition for KS2 to the start of a year but this year as we form more bonds it is even more poignant. We look forward to a year of more of these experiences.

The second part of the term has been busy with the lead up to Christmas. The choir has resumed and are preparing for 'Songs on the green' on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December, outside school @ 4pm. They will also be singing at Stancombe Farm shop on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> December @ 10.15am. We wish everyone a happy Christmas and a safe, peaceful new year.

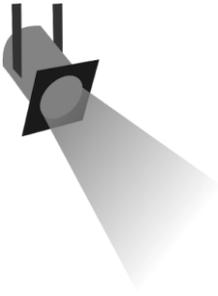
## LADIES NIGHT

Informal Ladies Night every first Wednesday of the month at The Butchers Arms.

We are an amicable bunch of ladies living in and around Oakridge who like the opportunity to pop out to relax and have a drink and catch up with our neighbours! If you or anyone you know would like to join us, then please pop along. You will be made very welcome. We are aware that some may not like walking into a pub on their own, but there is always one of the group there from 7pm!

Here's to a better year ahead.  
*Tamzin Hutton*

## Spotlight on .... Dennis Robbins



Dennis was born in Oakridge and has lived in the village most of his life until he got married to Lesley, (known as Libby) and moved to Frampton and then to Sapperton for a while. Coming from a building firm background, he ended up running his own building firm and building his current house in 1991 where their four children were brought up. After his father retired, he, his brother David and twin brother Lionel worked together at times. His father was the first person to be buried in the burial ground in Oakridge. Dennis met Libby when her family came over to house-sit in what is now Judy and Richard Mackie's cottage.

Dennis went to the village school which he confesses he didn't much enjoy and sometimes got caned by the strict head teacher Mr Weston. There were two classes and in those days the lunches were cooked in the school canteen by Hilda Dangerfield and Lena Neale. The food was good and often made with fresh produce grown by Oliver Hunt in the allotment or in greenhouses on a plot near the crossroads. Dennis went on to Brimscombe polytechnic.

Some of the 'characters' Dennis remembers include:

- George and Dorcas Juggins who used to go by donkey and cart to do their shopping at the Co-op in Bisley. When the donkey died, they walked with a pram to Bisley and back and also brought up coal in the pram from Smarts coal yard down in the valley. Unfortunately their house was burned down and Dorcas died in the fire.
- Billy Greencheese, who had a plot of land near the allotments and was known by everyone a 'Happy Go Billy' as he was always so cheerful.

- Harry Devoll who was a very good woodworker and became part of the 'Arts and Crafts' movement.

I asked Dennis what they did as teenagers for entertainment. He said there was a youth club at the Parish Room, a wooden hut behind the old vicarage at the time. They would sometimes go into Stroud on the bus and watch the wrestling or go on their bikes to Long Newton to the grass track racing or to the Miserden scramble. Dennis also remembers a gang of his friends cramming into the telephone box outside Alex Davies's house. They would remove the light bulb and plug their record player into the socket and listen to records while people queued outside the box to make a phone call.

From the age of 17 or 18 Dennis played cricket for the Oakridge team and was captain for about 14 years. Libby would make the cricket teas or do the scoring.

Dennis has enjoyed trips to Florida with the grandchildren where the highlight was a tour round the space station.

He told me of a tradition peculiar to Oakridge which some of the longstanding residents may remember. Because there were so many Gardiners in the village, the children were called by their Christian name followed by their father's name to help distinguish one Gardiner family from another.

Dennis feels that the village is not quite so friendly these days compared to his childhood when villagers knew everyone by name, but still thinks that it is wonderful place to live in.

Dennis has been on the Parish Council for 5 or 6 years and is in charge of playing fields, the allotments in Far Oakridge, Oakridge and Waterlane as well as the Burial Ground and will be putting new seats in the playing fields shortly.

Sue Wise 01285 762800

## **STROUD FOOD BANK**

Many thanks to all who have contributed to Stroud Food Bank this year, and to Ollie's Shop for providing a collection point for the goods.

Every year the Stroud District Foodbank lovingly prepares 600 Christmas Hampers that go to local households. These hampers provide some extra treats to bring cheer over the holidays to those finding it difficult to provide for their families.

If you are able, please give generously this Christmas. Non perishable food items, toiletries and an additional little something are very much appreciated.



## Christmas Carol Singing

All are welcome to join us on  
Monday 20<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> December.

Meeting 6pm at Ollie's Shop in Oakridge  
Please bring torch, gloves and warm clothing.

If you live in Oakridge and would like Christmas Carollers to call, please telephone  
Gillian 01285 760528 or Linda 07794 425 915

## **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](http://www.bisley-with-lypiatt.gov.uk)  
Next PC meetings: 7.30 pm Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> December and Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Any issues in the Oakridge Ward of our Parish please contact  
Cllr Tony Martin – [tony.martin@bisley-with-lypiatt.gov.uk](mailto:tony.martin@bisley-with-lypiatt.gov.uk)  
Cllr Roger Budgeon - [roger@greenshopgroup.co.uk](mailto:roger@greenshopgroup.co.uk)  
Cllr Dennis Robbins - [d.robbins1945@btinternet.com](mailto:d.robbins1945@btinternet.com)

## DISTRICT NEWS

**The Council Plan** for 2021-26 was adopted by the full Council in October. The main priorities are: **Environment & Climate Change** - protecting our environment and leading the district to carbon neutrality in 2030; **Community Resilience & Wellbeing** - strengthening and supporting our communities so people feel included and connected; and **Economy, Recovery & Regeneration** - supporting a thriving and resilient local economy.

**Council Tenant Representatives:** Two council tenants have been appointed to the SDC's **Housing Committee**. Becky Adams and Mike Richter will represent the views of more than 9,000 Stroud District Council tenants by using their own experiences as tenants, along with feedback from others.

**Jobs with the Council:** Here are a couple of jobs currently advertised: **Site Officer** to work in the Council's 28 Independent Living sites across the District; **Benefits Officer** to join the Revenue and Benefits Team on a permanent basis. For more vacancies or to apply, please see the Council website.

**Apprenticeships** – SDC apprentices have won awards at a county wide award ceremony. Many opportunities are available for apprenticeships at the Council – see the website.

**Volunteers wanted:** The council is looking for people to join its **2030 Community Engagement Board** and help it build on the work the community is already doing to **tackle climate change** and help **social development** in our district. See the Council website for more details.

**Awards for Animal Welfare Team:** The team has received awards from the RSPCA for the way it handles stray dogs and animal licensing.

**Award for Stratford Park** – the park in Stroud has again received a Green Flag Award from the charity Keep Britain Tidy. And the museum is open and always worth a visit!

**SDC website: [www.stroud.gov.uk](http://www.stroud.gov.uk)**

*Cllr Martin Brown, 01452 770878*

*[cldr.martin.brown@stroud.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.martin.brown@stroud.gov.uk)*

# BisCAN

**Bisley Climate Action Network**  
**BISLEY , EASTCOMBE & OAKRIDGE**



**Make this a *Greener Christmas!***



For many of us, **Christmas** is a time of **joy**, a time to spend with family and friends, to **enjoy special treats**. But unfortunately, *Christmas is also a time of greatly increased waste and damage to the environment!*

*Below are just a few examples: (Figures based on information from the 'Zero Waste Week' and 'asustainablelife' websites.)*

- *One billion cards end up in waste every year*
- *Enough wrapping paper is used to gift-wrap the entire island of Guernsey*
- *Over 100,000 tonnes of plastic packaging are thrown away and not recycled*
- *20 million people receive at least one unwanted gift - and one in ten of these ends up in landfill*
- *500 tonnes of fairy lights are thrown out every year*
- *In the UK we waste around 250,000 tonnes of food every Christmas: 4 million Christmas dinners are binned - thousands of turkeys, millions of roast potatoes and mince pies are thrown out*

***But we can enjoy the festive season without destroying the environment!***

Some presents fill a practical need and need to be bought new, but here are some suggestions for **greener Christmas** preparations and shopping:

- If you have a large family, organise a **'secret santa'**, so each person receives one special present, rather than lots of small, possibly unwanted, gifts

- Look for **locally made gifts**, and **shop local** - try charity shops such as Oxfam and Stroud Valleys Project in Stroud
- **Make your own** Christmas cards and presents - for example, bake some special bread, collect seeds from your garden to pass on, use your craft skills
- **Re-gift** something you have and are not using - someone else may like it
- Treat someone to **concert or theatre tickets** - give joy and support the many artists and performers who are struggling
- Give your time to **help and cheer someone** - with a 'voucher' for an outing, gardening, babysitting, decorating
- For those who have all they need: **make a donation to a charity** of their choice - Oxfam have gift cards supporting lots of good projects
- Buy a **live tree** and plant it in your garden after Christmas, or rent a tree (several local organisations offer this service)
- **Recycle** your Christmas decorations and/or make your own
- Find alternatives to wrapping paper, for example decorated newspaper, pieces of fabric; avoid paper with glitter or foil, as it cannot be recycled
- **Reduce** the number of **fairy lights** and **save electricity**
- Find or **create your own recipes** to use any left-over food

*Buy Less, Buy Smart and Think 'Green'*

For more info./to get involved, see [www.biscan.info](http://www.biscan.info), or email [bisleyeastcombeoakridgecan@gmail.com](mailto:bisleyeastcombeoakridgecan@gmail.com) or call Martin 01452 770878 or Lesley 01452 770018



### **Smart Meters**

Smart Meters are being talked about a great deal these days and many people are having telephone calls to encourage them to have one in place of their old meters.

If you would like to know more about smart meters and the in-home display unit and find out what assistance they might be – perhaps as a way to help monitor your use of electricity and gas and possibly save you some money – then contact Citizens Advice on Freephone 0808 800 0510/ 0808 800 0511.

As well as providing smart meter information, we can also discuss any other energy questions or concerns you may have. Please note that eligibility of smart meters may vary and savings require consumer action.



Oakridge School  
Choir  
**CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT**  
9<sup>th</sup> December at 4pm  
Outside Oakridge School

Come along for some Christmas cheer, warming drinks and homemade mince pies to raise much-needed funds for Oakridge School.

There will also be a giant cake sale and a raffle with some great prizes, including a voucher for the Butcher's Arms.



Oakridge Parochial School, Oakridge Lynch, Stroud, Gloucestershire, GL6 7NR

01285 760269

[admin@oakridge.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@oakridge.gloucs.sch.uk)

# Oakridge School

## Christmas Raffle Prize List

**£2 a ticket or £10 for a book of 5 tickets**

The raffle will be drawn on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December at 5pm outside the school during 'Carols on the Green'.

Tickets can be purchased by contacting Gill on 07983 465414 or from the school.

1. Two-night break in Devon, (2 adults or 2 adults and 2 children)
2. £30 voucher to spend at the Butcher's Arms, Oakridge
3. Jolly Nice hamper
4. Family ticket to Painswick Rococo Gardens, (2 adults and up to 4 children)
5. Organic, homemade, luxury Christmas cake
6. £50 family photo shoot with Mouse About Town
7. A Nordic Spruce Christmas tree
8. MOT at the Green Shop
9. £25 voucher to spend at Chalford Chippy
10. A 'hand forged knife' courtesy of Bournes Green Forge
11. £20 voucher to spend at Loose, Stroud's fantastic plastic free shop!
12. Bouquet of flowers from Freddie's Flowers
13. Stroud Brewery three can box set
14. £25 voucher to spend at the Green Shop
15. Stroud Valleys Project bird food bundle
16. An item of pottery by John Bailey
17. Selection of plants from Stancombe Farm
18. Long Table apron
19. Bottle of wine courtesy of Stroud Independent Wine Co.
20. A pair of 9 carat gold earrings by local Goldsmith, Heidi Hockenjos

Please remember to **CLEARLY** write your name and a contact number on the ticket stub.

## COUNTY COUNCIL NEWS

### **Holiday Activities Food**

**Registration for the winter Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme, funded with £1.39m from the Department for Education for children eligible for benefits-related free school meals, is now open.**

The winter programme will run for 4 days between 20 and 23 December 2021. Families who registered in the summer will be automatically enrolled and do not need to sign up again.

Gloucestershire's summer Holiday Activity and Food programme was a great success, reaching 57 per cent of children and young people eligible for Free Schools Meals.

Feedback from families has been used to improve the winter programme and build upon the success of the summer.

**Families who wish to register for the Winter programme can sign up at: [www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/HAF](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/HAF)**

### **Mobile Police Station & Doggy DNA**

The mobile Police station will be visiting Stancombe Ash farm, Stancombe, Bisley GL6 7NQ. (Just down the road from the farm shop)

They will be offering crime prevention advice and selling Doggy DNA kits. They will also be available to discuss any Police related issues.

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> December 10.00 -13.00 hrs**

I would like to thank all those who have contacted me over the past 6 months and wish all residents

***Season's Greetings and all best wishes for 2022***

Sue Williams

County Councillor

[Susan.williams@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:Susan.williams@gloucestershire.gov.uk)

07766318854

## 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 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2021 to 24<sup>th</sup> November 2021:

S.21/0758/HHOLD Renovation and extension works Frith House, Tunley	Permitted
S.21/1106/LBC Various works to create holiday let and office space Kings Farm, Tunley	Permitted
S.21/1298/FUL Various works to create holiday let and office space Kings Farm, Tunley	Withdrawn
S.21/2049/LBC Relocate gateway, works to annexe Iles Green, Far Oakridge	Permitted
S.21/2032/HHOLD Relocate access, extension, various external alterations Cherrypiece Cottage, Waterlane	Permitted
S.21/1936/HHOLD & S.21/1937/LBC Works to Waterlane House, resubmission of application	Permitted
S.21/2161/HHOLD Widened vehicular access, Iles Green, Far Oakridge	Permitted
S.21/2125/HHOLD Extension to existing garage/workshop Tunley Cottage, Tunley	Permitted
S.21/2517/FUL Conversion of barn to staff accommodation Frith House, Tunley (resubmission S.21/1212/FUL)	Awaiting Decision
S.21/2642/HHOLD Erection single garage and changes to entrance Foxfield, Oakridge Lynch	Awaiting Decision
S.21/2430/TCA Works to trees Siccaridge Woods	Permitted
S.21/2386/CPE Equestrian business/grazing	Awaiting Decision
S.21/2244/FUL Erection of replacement dwelling The Knowle, The Broadway, Oakridge Lynch	Awaiting Decision
S.21/1573/FUL Change of use to equestrian (personal) use, erection of stable block, Frith House, Tunley	Permitted



***CHRISTMAS MARKET***  
***Oakridge Village Hall***  
***Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December***  
***10.00am – 1.00pm***

**Wide range of festive gifts including  
Crafts, Cards, Herbal Products,  
Textiles, Prints, Bottle Raffle,  
Christmas Wreaths and Decorations**

**Free Entry**

**Hot Drinks and Mince Pies available**

**Profits to Village Hall funds**

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### **DECEMBER 2021**

Weds 1 <sup>st</sup> – Sun 5 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• John Bailey's Open Studio, Winsley Cottage</li> </ul>	11.00am – 4.00pm
Weds 1 <sup>st</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ladies Night, Butchers Arms</li> <li>• Parish Council meeting, Bisley</li> </ul>	7.00pm 7.30pm
Sat 4 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Christmas Market, Village Hall</li> </ul>	10.00am – 1.00pm
Tues 7 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Garden Club Xmas Social</li> </ul>	
Thurs 9 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carols by Candlelight, Oakridge School</li> <li>• WI Christmas Party, Village Hall</li> </ul>	4.00pm 7.30pm
Tues 14 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mulled wine on the Green, School</li> </ul>	6.30pm
Weds 15 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lunch Club Christmas, Village Hall</li> </ul>	12.30pm
Mon 20 <sup>th</sup> & Tues 21 <sup>st</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Village Carol Singers, meet at Ollie's Shop</li> </ul>	6.00pm
Fri 24 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family Crib Service, St Bartholomew's</li> <li>• Carol Service, St Bartholomew's</li> </ul>	4.00pm 7.00pm
Sat 25 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family Christmas Day Holy Communion</li> </ul>	9.30am
Sun 26 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Boxing Day 5k Fun Run</li> </ul>	9.00am

### **JANUARY 2022**

Weds 5 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ladies Night, Butchers Arms</li> <li>• Parish Council meeting, Bisley</li> </ul>	7.00pm 7.30pm
Thurs 13 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WI, Village Hall</li> </ul>	7.30pm
Sun 16 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Holy Communion, St Bartholomew's</li> </ul>	9.30am
<b>Mon 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>CLOSING DATE FEB/MAR WHAT'S ON</b></li> </ul>	

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](http://www.oakridgevillage.org).