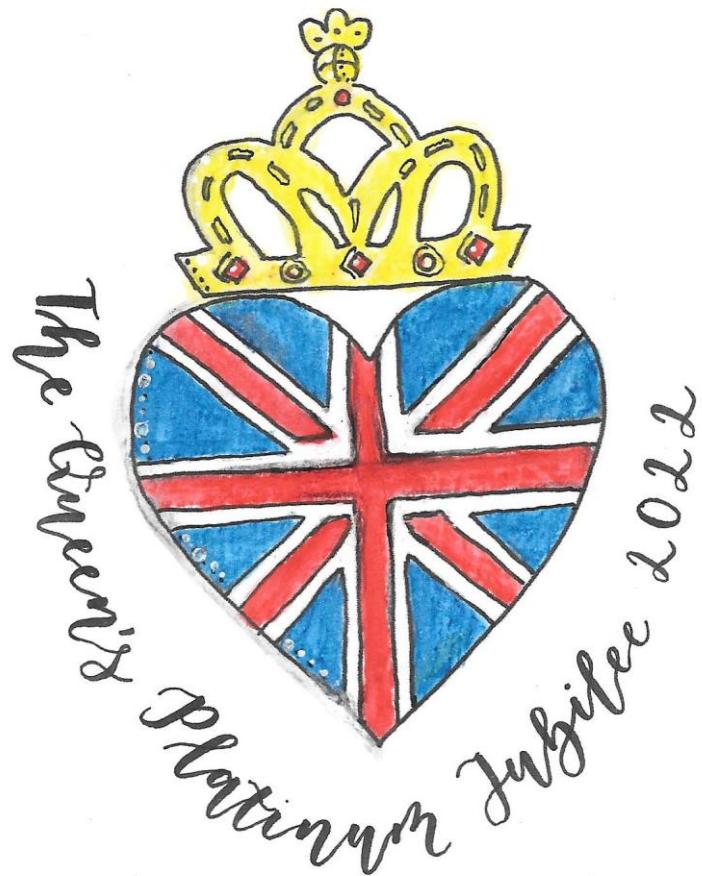


# WHAT'S ON

in

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



June / July 2022

Edition 257

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

## 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
-  Oakridge Village Network and Oakridge Village Hall, Oakridge Lynch
- Village Hall bookings – [johnloosley40@gmail.com](mailto:johnloosley40@gmail.com)
- Ollie's Shop – 01285 760239 Mon-Fri 9-5 Sat 9-1 Sun 9-12
- Butchers Arms – 01285 760390
- Oakridge Parochial School – 01285 760269
- Sign up to receive the What's On direct to your email inbox, via the village website – [www.oakridgevillage.org](http://www.oakridgevillage.org).

***Cover Illustration by Edie Bailey***

*Edie is currently studying Art at Stroud College, with a special interest in calligraphy – see her Instagram page: Calligraphygirl111*

**TUESDAY 26<sup>th</sup> JULY 2022, 5pm - CLOSING DATE**  
**for the Aug/Sept WHAT'S ON**

**Editor: Victoria Beard**

Tel: 01285 760339

Email: [editoroakridgewhatson@gmail.com](mailto:editoroakridgewhatson@gmail.com)

E&OE

## OAKRIDGE RAINWATCH



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

March.... 43.7 mm.....about 1.7 ins.

April.... 25.6 mm.....about 1 ins.

May (to 18<sup>th</sup>).... 45.5 mm.....about 1.8 ins.

*Gill Farrar*

# THE CHURCH IN OAKRIDGE



**meeting at St Bartholomew's**

**VICAR**

Rev. S Murray 01452 770897

**DEPUTY CHURCHWARDEN**

Mr. John Mason 01285 760456

Mr. Peter Scott 01452 770382

## **Greetings from the Church In Oakridge**

We would be delighted to welcome you to our events in church. Please check the village shop and Church notice board for any updates.

### **June 2022**

5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Pentecost</b> – Jubilee Morning Prayer	9.30 am
19 <sup>th</sup>	Parish Communion	9.30 am

### **July 2022**

3 <sup>rd</sup>	Morning Prayer	9.30 am
17 <sup>th</sup>	Parish Communion	9.30 am

### **CAFE CHURCH**

We look forward to you joining us for coffee and cake between 10 – 12 on the first Thursday of the month.

**Please note, the change of date to avoid the bank holiday in June to Thursday 16<sup>th</sup>.**

## **LUNCH CLUB**

Lunch Club is held at the Village Hall on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month, at a price of £8 per head. All welcome, arrive from 12 noon, to sit for 12.30. A wonderful chance to catch up with friends, or meet new. If you would like to come but haven't already put your name on the list the previous month, or need to cancel your place, please leave a message for Ali Mills on 01285 760568. This must be done by the Friday before the Lunch Club at the latest, to allow for food ordering and preparation.

Please note, the September lunch will be a week early, on 8<sup>th</sup> September.

## VILLAGE PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

The date is now **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June**, with a Bring & Share Afternoon Tea Party from 3.00 pm at the Village Hall, followed by the screening of the Jubilee Concert, live on the new 'big screen' – hope you can come along to some or all of the celebrations.

Children's activities will be provided in the afternoon, and younger children are encouraged to make a flower crown to wear. There will be a licensed bar throughout, serving wines, beer and soft drinks, together with teas and coffee.

Please bring contributions of sweet & savoury treats – to make sure there is a variety we kindly ask.....

Surnames A-M please bring savoury dishes (sandwiches, sausage rolls, finger foods etc)

Surnames N-Z please bring sweet dishes (cakes, pastries, scones etc)

To take us into the evening, ready to enjoy the varied line up of the Jubilee Concert, sausages in a fresh bread roll (or vegetarian alternative) will be served.

Volunteers are asked to meet at the Village Hall on Friday 3rd June at 5.00pm. The plan is to decorate the hall in red, white and blue, with bunting, flags, balloons and flowers arrangements. Volunteers are also needed to generally help with catering on the day. Please contact Paul Timms on 07949785374 or 760397 if you are able to offer any assistance.

Look out for updates on the Village Hall Noticeboard - Looking forward to a great village get together!

## CANAL RESTORATION PROPOSALS

Stroud District Council have produced a draft strategy for development of the Stroud canals which is available for comment, which includes the stretch up from Chalford to Sapperton. Whilst the official date for comment was 27<sup>th</sup> May, it may be possible to comment through our local District Councillor, Martin Brown (details on page 18). For more information, the strategy can be found online at <https://www.stroud.gov.uk/canalstrategy> or contact [info@friendsofthefrome.org.uk](mailto:info@friendsofthefrome.org.uk), a group who are concerned about the impact on the wildlife of this stretch of the canal.

## OAKRIDGE VILLAGE HALL



Following the advert in the last What's On, a regular cleaner has now begun work to keep the Hall in tip top condition, and looking great for all the varied users.

Eagle-eyed villagers will have noticed a new green noticeboard at the entrance to the Hall; this will be specifically used to promote Hall events, as opposed to the more general village noticeboard on the playing field.

We have a vacancy for a Trustee – if you would like to join the dedicated group of volunteers who look after the Hall, please contact Chris Gregg at [chrisgregg173@gmail.com](mailto:chrisgregg173@gmail.com) for more details.

### **Gigaclear Broadband Access – open to all users of the Hall – help us to keep the service available by signing up**

Network: Oakridge Village Hall Gigaclear

Password: OVHT2021

## OAKRIDGE SHOW

Don't forget - the Show will be held this year on **Saturday September 3<sup>rd</sup>**, complete with the annual produce show, the ever popular display of classic cars, and much much more. Look out for your Show Schedule in the next edition, to plan your produce entries..... Proceeds this year to a local charity.

The Show Committee has a few requests – we are looking for gazebos to borrow for the day – if you can help with this, please get in touch. If you would like to help run, or take on the organisation and running of, the BBQ, we'd love to hear from you! As always, this popular village event can only go ahead with the commitment of villagers willing to assist with setting up and taking down the gazebos, running stalls etc, so please do get in touch to find out how you could help make this year another huge success.

Mark Barnett - [mbarnett104@gmail.com](mailto:mbarnett104@gmail.com)

Caroline Priestley - 07587 264629

Victoria Beard - 07763 124285

John Loosley - 760460 / [johnloosley40@gmail.com](mailto:johnloosley40@gmail.com)

## OAKRIDGE HISTORY GROUP



A visit to the archives at Gloucestershire Hub and Family History Centre was a great success. For some it was the first time they had seen the extent of the materials available to view and for others a chance to see more details than they had before. Kate Maisey had got out a number of documents requested specific to Oakridge, and we were able to see the original church burial register, school logbooks, WW2 map of the area showing where bombs were dropped, sale particulars of some houses and farms and many photographs taken by Stanley Gardiner.

The May meeting was a chance to browse a collection of documents, photos, scrapbooks and stitched and sewn pieces held in the History Group collection (ex Oakridge Museum) which have not been on view for years. Letters, cuttings books, banners from the Wesleyan Chapel school, account books, catalogues, photos, and children's samplers were on display. The mixture was wide-ranging - there were glimpses of people, artefacts, institutions, and the surrounding natural environment.

Records are in various forms and range from a fabric hanging in memory of the death of a school pupil, to a photographic 'snapshot' of the millennium, from a catalogue of the fabulous animal carvings by William Simmonds, to records of wild flower distribution and plans for wild flower preservation at the Pleasure Ground. With another Jubilee celebration imminent, we viewed the records of some previous events and festivities.

At our 22<sup>nd</sup> June meeting we will be holding a brief AGM followed by Carol Maxwell who will talk about the rich history of Painswick and its mills and then on August 10th (not July 27<sup>th</sup> as originally planned) she will lead a walk round Painswick looking at the buildings themselves.

## NATURE NOTES FROM WATERLANE



This time of the year what could be more magical than walking through our woodland and coming across a carpet of our native bluebells. They are common in most parts of Britain, blooming in woods, hedges and scrubland, on sea cliffs and mountains. They are found in the Atlantic areas

from north-western Spain to the British Isles and are a symbol of humility, constancy and gratitude. It is early flowering allowing it to make the most of the sunlight that is still able to make it to the forest floor before the canopy becomes too thick,

A common folk name for bluebells was 'crowtoes' and their small white bulbs

were used to make glue. The bulbs also contain starch which was used to stiffen the elaborate ruffs worn by the gentlefolk in Elizabethan times. Other names for the bluebell are wild hyacinth, woodbell, bell bottle, cuckoo's boots, Ladies Nightcap and witches thimbles.

Nowadays digging up bluebell bulbs for any purpose is illegal, but recent scientific research has shown that it is the trampling-down of the leaves by heavy-footed sightseers that most threatens the survival of the bluebell. The plant can survive without the flowers, but if the leaves are crushed, it dies for the lack of food.

The other bluebell commonly found is the Spanish bluebell which was introduced by the Victorians as a garden plant but escaped into the wild. I find the best way to differentiate the two is our native bluebell has deep violet-blue, narrow, tubular-bell flowers with tips that curl back and the flowers are on one side of drooping stems.

Another threat to the native bluebell is the competition from the wild garlic plant, which is clearly seen below us in the woods at Water Lane where the wild garlic has over-run the bluebells. The best place to see our native bluebell locally is in the woods at Tunley.

*Alan White*

## OAKRIDGE GARDEN CLUB



What a splendid spring it has been, if a little dry. I can't remember so much blossom, and the wild flowers have been amazing. Things are looking good in the garden, with a mass of promising rose buds. I hope a lot of members will come and see members' gardens on June 21<sup>st</sup>; there are 6 to view, all very different, and then wine and nibbles at Church Cottage to end the evening. The visit to Wotton-under-Edge sounds interesting, and then another near Tetbury in July.

I greatly enjoyed our talk on ferns by Heather Godard Kemp. What a fund of knowledge she had, and all so well presented with a light easy manner. Right up there as one of our best speakers. As for the tempting plants for sale, we all seemed to be going away with some. Mine are doing really well and are happily settled in my new bog garden. This was a very unsatisfactory pond last year and now proudly sports a Gunnera with its' huge leaves and stately growth - I see it's sporting a fat flower head. I have never spent so much money on one plant before, but I love it and have no regrets.

Enjoy early summer in your gardens.

*Gill Wimperis*

## 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!

*Tamzin Hutton*

## GWT CREATES GOLDEN VALLEY 'SUPER RESERVE'

Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust has recently purchased two new nature reserves which will link with other wild spaces in Stroud's Golden Valley to form an eco highway for wildlife. Creating bigger, better and more connected areas for wildlife is part of GWT's strategy for the next eight years, and was an important factor in the recent purchase of Trillis Banks and Blackness Banks in Stroud's Golden Valley.

### Trillis Banks

A hidden gem of the Golden Valley Nature Recovery Zone (NRZ), Trillis is situated next door to Siccidge Wood nature reserve, linking with Daneway Banks and Sapperton Valley reserves to form a 'super reserve' for wildlife.

With a south-east facing bank of species-rich grassland, Trillis has a slightly different aspect to the other grassland reserves with increased habitat niches that allow species to adapt to climate change. Southern-facing grasslands, traditionally the most species-rich in the cool British climate, may suffer in the future with increasingly drought-like summers. Having an increase in aspects and slope will allow wildlife to adapt to seasonal fluctuations.

"We have been working with the previous owner for a couple of years, providing advice on conservation grazing and securing funding to install infrastructure to allow this to happen," said Alan Sumnall, GWT's Lead Land Manager East. "When the opportunity arose to purchase this magnificent site, we were supported by a very generous private donation to make it happen".

The reserve also has areas of ancient woodland, scrub, and part of the disused canal adjacent to Sapperton Valley – this adds to the mosaic of habitats protected and will support an increased number of species as GWT begins work

on connecting habitat by creating soft edges between grassland and woodland boundaries.

This further complements GWT's connectivity work in the Gold Valley NRZ and builds on the momentum with current funded projects, working with landowners to connect Daneway Banks to Dimmels Dale nature reserve further along the valley.

### **Blackness Banks**

Further along the valley, this nature reserve adds to the Golden Valley NRZ which links GWT's working area to the adjacent Stroud Commons, managed by the National Trust. The purchase of Blackness Banks was possible thanks to a legacy donation, a great example of where money left in a will can go towards protecting our country's wildlife for future generations to enjoy.

"This is a game changer as we are making real steps in meeting our aspirations to create thriving habitats for insects in our NRZ," said Alan. "It is also the first where we can showcase what we can do working with private landowners and project partners such as the Royal Entomological Society, with whom we co-own Daneway Banks."

With the purchase of these two wild spaces, GWT has increased the amount of species-rich grassland it manages in the Golden Valley by 75%. Active management of land in between all the green spaces in the Golden Valley NRZ will benefit a number of species, such as adder, Roman snail and the small blue butterfly, allowing them an opportunity to disperse and build larger populations more resilient to future challenges.

*(reproduced with permission from the membership magazine for Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust)*

### **OAKRIDGE WI**



Our speaker for 14<sup>th</sup> April about the work of Sue Ryder will now be with us in October. Best laid plans and all that! However, at short notice we were delighted to welcome Chris Evans, with a fascinating talk about the

Butterfly Garden charity, and what a wonderful and lovely informal evening it was.

Chris told us of his family history at Dundry Nursery, and how his love of horticulture from an early age progressed to helping autistic spectrum and challenged children, initially for ONE afternoon a week through a school connection. Expansion of the site over 20 years provides, along with planting and growing, several 'sheds', craftwork shops, a kitchen and now helps 283 students of all ages. Help is also offered to immigrants in order for them to

overcome their mental health issues. The site is open to visitors, an option we hope to undertake in the near future.

12<sup>th</sup> May "The History of Recorded Sound" with Patrick Furley. Well! What a performance! A huge display was presented of recording and playing machines. His talk began with the playing of a record 'Memories', followed by 'In the Mood'. Were we in the mood? YES! Little did we know what an amusing and entertaining evening we were in for. A short history about Edison and his inventions intended for use as dictation machines from 1840 onwards, which he eventually dropped for his interest in electricity.

Wax discs were, of course, the original form of recording, and Celia recorded a message on a wax cylinder which was played back to us later. Amazing. 1920's evening entertainment on record a musical Quiz. 1912 a record from the singers on the Titanic. A vast subject covering all emotions, the outstanding one being laughter.

4<sup>th</sup> June WI hope to see the whole village turn out to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee

9<sup>th</sup> June our speaker will be Sue Andrews, the Bisley Shepherdess

14<sup>th</sup> July "The Two Sues" – Sue Smith and Sue Dodds "Tree"

August is traditionally a month off, however we do try to have an outing somewhere to be confirmed.

*Mary Fern*

## OAKRIDGE PLAYERS



Thanks to all those who attended our recent production of Fawlty Towers! The cast and crew had a great time and it sounded like the audience did too. Thank you as well for your generous raffle ticket purchases which raised £400 for the Ukraine DEC appeal.

Enthused by the recent production, the Players have had a run of recent social evenings including at the Butchers Arms, the Cotswold Playhouse and even back in our own village hall for a social evening of musical theatre direct from Broadway on our new cinema screen.

Always looking for new members, do join us!

[www.oakridgeplayers.com](http://www.oakridgeplayers.com)

## OAKRIDGE PAROCHIAL SCHOOL



*Report by Elin Pritchard Thompson (class 1)*

Oakridge school has been hard at work, learning about India.

Class 1 have been learning about the mountains, in closer inspection the Himalayas. With Mrs. Hayes they have been looking at yetis and theories about yeti's existence. With Mrs. Holburn they've been looking at living in a village in the Kumon Himalayas and the Abominables by Eva Ibbotson.

Class 2 are learning about The Journey to the river sea by Eva Ibbotson which is a fictional story about a girl who goes to the Amazon to meet her only relative, these mean cousins. Because of this they are learning about the Rain forests. For DT they are making seasonal tarts in groups for The Queen's royal jubilee.

### **May Revels 2022**

The school green was buzzing with activity recently with the return of the much-loved May Revels. The last Revels were held way back in 2019, so this was the first chance for our newest pupils, parents and villagers to experience the real spirit of Oakridge School. The weather was beautiful and visitors came from far and wide to soak up the atmosphere and enjoy the various stalls, activities, food and drink that the parents had worked hard to put together.



10-year-old Thea Taplin accepted her crown from the previous May Queen, Frankie Salmon, and the schoolchildren put on a dance display around the new maypole. Food was served up by Long Table chef Maisie and her husband Shane, while Cranham Orchestra provided much of the background music (along with John Bailey, who dusted off his accordion). At the end of the afternoon there were a few hard-fought, male vs female battles in the tug-o-war - with the female teams scoring a resounding victory every time!



The Oakridge School Association would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who attended, to those who gave their time and energy to help organise the event, and to the local businesses and individuals (including the Green Shop, Jolly Nice, Exedra Nursery, Painswick Rococo Garden, Holbrook Garage and Loose) who donated raffle prizes or items for sale.

With your help, we raised an incredible £3,622, which far exceeded our expectations and will make an enormous difference to our lovely little school.



## PERSONAL MESSAGES

A few personal messages from villagers....

### **Jane Jones**

After the death of Stephen in January this year, Jane has now made the extremely difficult decision to move away from Far Oakridge, the village she has loved for many years, and to move closer to her family in Bath. Jane's association with Far Oakridge has spanned over 60 years, both as a resident herself and through her parents, who rented the cottage she now lives in, for 2 years during the '40s.

Jane would like to express her regret at not having been able to say goodbye in person to her many friends in the area; she will miss you all. She will never forget the kindness and help that has been on offer since Stephen died. She wishes you all a fond farewell, and hopes that you will enjoy many more happy years in this beautiful part of the country.

### **Eileen Herbert**

My Mum has lived in Oakridge since 1988, firstly with my father and after his death in 1999, on her own. She has loved living there. A member of first the Methodist church and latterly St Bartholomew's, Mum was very active in the church and 'Adventurers' - a children's club which she ran with Eileen Dyer at the Methodist church, and which is still spoken about today. Not only this but Book club, Wine club, Walking group, Gardening Club, WI were all important to Mum. As a people person she loved welcoming people to the village and often entertained new arrivals. She loves all things to do with gardening and proudly was part of a group who opened their gardens to the public through the National gardens scheme.

The community of Oakridge is one she was proud to be part of. In the last couple of years Mum's health has not been the best and it was during this period that my siblings and I were so delighted by the way my Mum has received love and care from so many; as we are not local it has been a godsend and given us peace of mind! Visits, tea parties, shopping delivered, lifts to medical appointments and meals are just some of the kindnesses she has received on a regular basis.

This is what a community should be like. Oakridge is an amazing place. Mum loved it and we wanted to thank you all for your kindness.

*Ruth, Paul and Rachel (Eileen's children)*

## **Ann Fry**

A very grateful pair of old residents of Far Oakridge would like to say a word of thanks to so many lovely caring people who have looked after us – family and wonderful friends. 2 Guardian Angels, who possibly do not want to be named, but this crafty old 88 yr old who loves quizzes and dropping clues.....their Christian names could lead you to the V&A in London!

Also we would like to say how marvellous our local "Ollies' Shop", Laura and Oscar are to us, so helpful and all done with such good grace and a smile.

Our Dr's surgery at Frithwood, all so very helpful, the ladies in the Dispensary, the friendly girls on reception, who steer us gently to the right 'department', wonderful doctors and nurses. How lucky we are to have all these dedicated, kind and loving people who go out of their way to help us, in these extremely difficult times. I am more than Blessed as I face another Breast Cancer (after op) care.

With my love, God Bless all of you; we don't know how we would have got through any of this without you! Thank you. Thank you!

## **EVERYONE CAN SING!**

Come and try out our new choir!! We sing uplifting songs in every genre from folk, jazz, pop, gospel and world music. No previous experience is required, no auditions or note reading skills needed. Whether you are a confident singer or a shower-only warbler – come and see for yourself. Men and women of all ages welcome. The emphasis for this choir is on fun and feeling good. The first session is free and then £7 per week after that. No need to book – just come along and see for yourself!

**MONDAYS at OAKRIDGE VILLAGE HALL 11am-12.30pm**

Contact Biddy on 07814 652735 or via email:  
[oakridgevillagechoir@gmail.com](mailto:oakridgevillagechoir@gmail.com)

## OAKRIDGE CRICKET CLUB FIXTURES 2022

June 4th Away Poulton  
June 11th Home Cirencester  
June 18th Away Chipping Campden  
June 25th Away Barnsley Beeches

July 2nd Home Bourton Vale  
July 9th Home South Cerney  
July 16th Away Longborough & Sezincote  
July 30th Away Ashton Keynes

August 6th Home Poulton  
August 13th Away Cirencester  
August 20th Home Chipping Campden  
August 27th Home Barnsley Beeches

September 3rd Away Bourton Vale  
September 10th Home Lechlade

Contact Committee Member Steve Robbins at:  
Telephone: 01285 760375  
Email: [steverobbins97@hotmail.com](mailto:steverobbins97@hotmail.com)

### **Oakridge Cricket Coaching**

Cricket coaching for girls and boys  
aged 5-8 (All Stars) Fridays 5.30pm-6.15pm  
aged 8-11 (Dynamics) Fridays 6.30pm-7.30pm

Contact Mark Robbins, email: [mlrobbins@btinternet.com](mailto:mlrobbins@btinternet.com)

## COUNTY COUNCIL NEWS

Please contact our local County Councillor, Sue Williams, with any issues that you feel require input at County level.  
[Susan.williams@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:Susan.williams@gloucestershire.gov.uk)  
07766318854

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



BisCAN continues to collaborate with ChalCAN and Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust on a wildlife corridor to connect the Toadsmoor and Slad Valleys. Everyone with a garden can contribute to this: Let your garden be a little bit wilder, for birds and bees and other pollinators. Allotments are also a vital part of this effort. The National Allotments campaign this year is “Bugs, Bees and Broccoli”. Nature does fine if we let it! And of course, avoid pesticides and compost with peat.

BisCAN will be recycling at Eastcombe’s Jubilee Party on June 5<sup>th</sup> – and also at Bisley’s on the same day. Look for us there – and try not to have anything that needs recycling – remember it’s only the 3<sup>rd</sup> of the 3 Rs: Reduce (or Refuse), Re-use, Recycle!

And join BisCAN – an active group! [bisleyeastcombeoakridgecan@gmail.com](mailto:bisleyeastcombeoakridgecan@gmail.com)  
[biscan.info](http://biscan.info)

# open studio invitation

PLEASE VISIT US AT STROUD OPEN STUDIOS SATURDAY AND SUNDAY 11TH/12TH AND  
18TH/19TH JUNE  
to see works including  
PAINTINGS, PRINTS, LIGHTING and WOOD FURNITURE BY  
CHERYL PERRETT AND JOHN FLEXEN

[cherart.uk](http://cherart.uk)  
[flexen.co.uk](http://flexen.co.uk)

SITE FESTIVAL BROCHURE- BISLEY ROUTE NO.10  
6 Blackbody House  
Castle street  
Stroud  
GL5 2HP  
OPEN 11-6  
Tel: 07850 936420



## Spotlight on ..... Maurice and Anne Brain



Maurice was born in Drybrook, in the Forest of Dean and Anne was born in Bristol. Maurice was not particularly enamoured of secondary school (then Abenhall School in Mitcheldean) but loved playing cricket. He eventually went on to become a qualified civil engineer. They met when the first Severn Bridge was opened and Maurice used to go into Bristol on nights out. After they got married, they first lived in Gloucester and then in Hempsted but weren't particularly happy with either place.

In 1973 Maurice and Anne were lucky enough to buy a piece of land in Oakridge after the original buyer from Birmingham was banned from driving and consequently backed out of the purchase. The land had been used for pigs and had a small derelict building on site; Anne and Maurice lived in a caravan on the site for 10 months while the house was built. Being a civil engineer, Maurice was able to design the property and did a lot of the building work himself in his spare time. They initially had trouble getting the design through as planning wanted mullion windows, but planning was eventually granted. Maurice had help from his friend Frank Finch, a real local character and a kind man, who used his equipment to dig out the foundations for the house which

they appropriately named 'The Venture'. They were fortunate also to have local experts (Trevor Fern's father for roofing and plastering and Barry Hunt for woodwork).

Maurice started his civil engineering career with a private company, then Gloucester Rural District Council before moving in 1974 to Cotswold D.C., with a later brief spell on the motorways with Gloucester C.C. before becoming Works Manager in Stroud District Council where Anne also worked in administration for 17 years, with some of their years coinciding.

In 1977 Maurice took a job on an irrigation scheme in the desert in Saudi Arabia, with Anne joining him later. Although initially he found the move difficult, they both ended up loving it. Anne worked in admin for both the consultant and the contractors. As a woman, she wasn't strictly allowed to work and, on one occasion, climbed out of the office window to avoid a visit from the local police (who usually announced their intended visit!)

On returning to the UK in 1980, Maurice's next job was working on the Orwell Bridge in Suffolk - a big change in temperatures after living in Saudi. Seeking more adventure, they moved in 1981 to a sugar plantation in Nigeria with a Commonwealth organisation but life proved difficult and they returned home in 1982.

Lovely neighbours, Mr and Mrs Turner (Blandfords Cottage), looked after the house in Oakridge while they were away. A while after returning they took Mrs Turner and the wheelchair she needed, on a trip to Amsterdam - the first time she had been in a plane.

Now happily settled in their retirement in Oakridge they love the village and appreciate the friendly and helpful community. They contributed to the running of the Oakridge Show for more than 20 years.

If you would like to be featured, please contact Sue Wise on 01285 762800

## **BISLEY COMMUNITY COMPOSTING SCHEME**

Many Oakridge members – and residents who aren't members - of the Bisley Community Composting scheme may not be aware of the wider educational work that BCCS undertakes. Since 2014 we have campaigned against the use of peat in gardening and now are working closely with Bisley Climate Action Group to take that message further.

We have always worked with schools and other voluntary groups raising the profile of composting. In International Composting Awareness week and with support from Stroud District Council's Community Officers and the County Council's Master Composting Scheme, we worked with three marvellous groups at Nailsworth Scouts Groups. We made compost bins, explored biodiversity in the soil, and how a live soil is essential for our health and helps keep carbon in the ground and so helps prevent climate change. Reminders for BCCS membership renewal will be going out in June.  
<https://bisleycommunitycompostscheme.org.uk/workshops-celebrating-icaw/>

Biodiversity is also a key theme for allotment holders and gardeners. The Parish Council has banned the use of pesticides on its own and managed land, thus supporting nature recovery community actions. This year the National Allotment Society's campaigning theme of "Bugs, Bees and Broccoli" is supported by the Parish Council and we ask all allotment tenants and gardeners to protect those wonderful bugs and record them for our survey.

*Lesley Greene*

*BCCS and Bisley Allotment Warden*

## **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> June and Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July 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)

**Parish Clerk:** Arlene Deane

E: [admin@bisley-with-lypiatt.gov.uk](mailto:admin@bisley-with-lypiatt.gov.uk)

T: 01452 771089

Office Address: The Old Bell House, High Street, Bisley.

## **DISTRICT NEWS**

- **Thomas Keble School Rebuilding:** An application has been submitted to SDC for this project. It can be seen, and comments submitted, on the council website: <https://www.stroud.gov.uk/planning>. I have requested

a 'call-in' to the Development Control Committee for this to be considered by councillors – rather than just officers under delegated powers.

- **Motion – 20's Plenty:** I proposed a motion at the last full council meeting calling for Gloucestershire County Council to make 20mph the default speed limit for residential areas throughout Gloucestershire. The motion was passed by a majority. The council joins many parish and town councils (including Bisley) and other district councils throughout the county in this campaign.
- **Council Tax Energy Rebate:** The council is issuing the £150 rebates to residents in Council Tax Bands D and below, and others who qualify. If you pay by direct debit, you should have received your rebate by May 26<sup>th</sup>. Others will be contacted by letter or e-mail and told how to apply.
- **A Thread of Light:** Exhibition of glass art by internationally known artists, including five who live and work in Stroud, at the Museum in the Park, until June 12th. It's free, and the museum in Stratford Park (and the park!) is always worth a visit.

**Contact Me:** As always, I would be pleased to hear from you about any matter related to the council, or anything with which I may be able to help you:

*Cllr Martin Brown, 01452 770878      [cllr.martin.brown@stroud.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.martin.brown@stroud.gov.uk)*

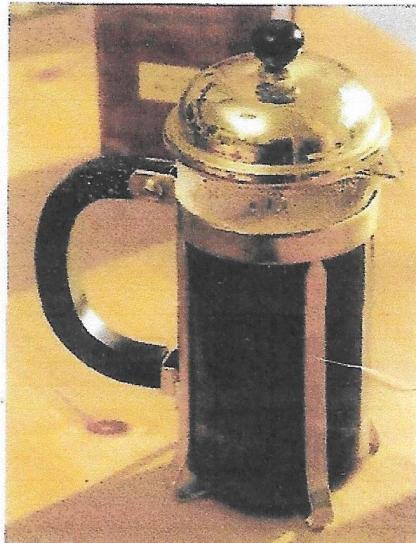
## **LOCAL PLANNING NEWS**

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 24<sup>th</sup> March – 24<sup>th</sup> May 2022:

S.22/0467/HHOLD Removal of garage, construction of artist studio 3 The Broadway, Oakridge Lynch	Permitted
S.22/0335/HHOLD Alterations to outbuildings, resubmission S.17/1409/HHOLD Weir Farm, Oakridge Lynch	Permitted
S.22/0210/FUL Refurbishment of sewage treatment works The Crescent, Oakridge Lynch	Permitted
S.22/0873/FUL New dwelling and home office Limekiln Lane, Waterlane	Awaiting Decision
S.22/0794/FUL Demolish stables, reconstruct and relocate swimming pool Hawthorneden, Far Oakridge	Awaiting Decision
S.22/0741/HHOLD Construct garden pergola Far Oakridge House	Awaiting Decision
S.22/0883/HHOLD Erection of single storey extension Mill House, Oakridge Lynch	Awaiting Decision
S.22/1002/LBC Redesign landscaping Waterlane House	Awaiting Decision
S.22/0956/FUL Install ground mounted solar PV System S.22/0920/FUL Convert barn to staff accommation S.22/0857/FUL Extend existing parking arrangements for 2 years Frith House, Tunley	Awaiting Decision
S.22/0933/HHOLD Rear extension and outbuilding Pigeon House, Oakridge Lynch	Awaiting Decision

## COME & MEET YOUR FRIENDS AT ST.BARTHolemew's COFFEE CORNER

NEXT DATES FOR DIARY   THURSDAY 16th JUNE  
THURSDAY 14th JULY



**10:00 AM – 12 Midday**



Books to buy or exchange  
Plant Sale  
Charity Card Sale



## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

### **JUNE 2022**

Weds 1 <sup>st</sup>	• Ladies Night, Butchers Arms	7.00pm
Sat 4 <sup>th</sup>	• Parish Council meeting, Bisley WI Hall	7.30pm
Thurs 9 <sup>th</sup>	• Jubilee Celebrations, Village Hall	from 3.00pm
Weds 15 <sup>th</sup>	• WI meeting, Village Hall	7.30pm
Thurs 16 <sup>th</sup>	• Lunch Club	12 noon
Sun 19 <sup>th</sup>	• St Bartholomew's Coffee Corner	10.00am – midday
Weds 22 <sup>nd</sup>	• Parish Communion, St Bartholomew's	9.30am
	• History Group, Village Hall	7.30pm

### **JULY 2022**

Weds 6 <sup>th</sup>	• Ladies Night, Butchers Arms	7.00pm
Thurs 14 <sup>th</sup>	• Parish Council meeting, Bisley WI Hall	7.30pm
	• St Bartholomew's Coffee Corner	10.00am – midday
Sun 17 <sup>th</sup>	• WI meeting, Village Hall	7.30pm
Weds 20 <sup>th</sup>	• Parish Communion, St Bartholomew's	9.30am
TUES 26 <sup>th</sup>	• Lunch Club	12 noon
	• <b>CLOSING DATE JUN/JUL WHAT'S ON, 5pm</b>	