

WHAT'S ON



in

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

June / July 2023

Edition 263

www.oakridgevillage.org

EDITOR'S NOTE

Welcome to a bumper edition of What's On, featuring among the regular articles a focus on the future of the Church; tributes to members of the community we've recently lost; news of a successful May Revels, and a truly village Coronation celebration; and a new feature on trees in the village(s). For the first time, a poem written especially to bring a different element to the regular village news.

As ever, I would be interested to receive any comments or suggestions, or can provide banking details for anyone wishing to make a donation to keep the newsletter in circulation – please email editoroakridgewhatson@gmail.com, or call 01285 760339.

USEFUL INFORMATION

- The village website – www.oakridgevillage.org - for up-to-date information, including Village Hall availability and Village Events Calendar
-  pages – Oakridge Village Network and Oakridge Village Hall, Oakridge Lynch
- Village network WhatsApp group
- Village Hall bookings – johnloosley40@gmail.com
- Ollie's Shop – 01285 760239 Mon-Fri 9-5 Sat 9-1 Sun 9-12
- Oakridge Parochial School – 01285 760269
- Sign up to receive news of events, films and the What's On direct to your email inbox, via the village website – www.oakridgevillage.org/maillinglist
- If you prefer the online version and no longer want a paper copy of the What's On, please email editoroakridgewhatson@gmail.com with your name and address

The What's On is created from articles written by members of the community. We have great regular contributors, but new features/writers are always welcome. Please would anyone intending to submit an article or announcement that is not a regular item, let the Editor know as far in advance of the closing date as possible.

If anyone would like to submit artwork for the cover image, please contact the Editor.

Editor: Victoria Beard

Email: editoroakridgewhatson@gmail.com

E&OE

THE CHURCH IN OAKRIDGE



VICAR: Rev. S Murray 01452 770897
CONTACTS: Brenda Cox 01453 883907
 Peter Scott 01452 770382

Service details at www.bisleybenefice.org.uk

Greetings from the Church in Oakridge

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

Weekly information on up and coming events, news and prayer lists can be requested by emailing pewslipsbisley@hotmail.com

June 2023

1 st	Café Church	10 - 12 noon
4 th	Morning Prayer	9.30 am
5 th	Open the Book with the school	10.10 am
18 th	Holy Communion	9.30 am
19 th	Open the Book with the school	10.10 am

July 2023

2 nd	Morning Prayer	9.30 am
3 rd	Open the Book with the school	10.10 am
6 th	Café Church	10 - 12 noon
16 th	Holy Communion	9.30 am
17 th	Open the Book with the school	10.10 am
30 th	Combined service for local churches in the Benefice Followed by Baptism	10.00 am

Please refer to notices at the village shop and the Church for further information.

A House Group is meeting regularly in Oakridge

**If you would like to find out more about this, please contact Sharon Dawes
on dawes101@btinternet.com**

Your Church needs You!

The Future of the Church in Oakridge

The Church in Oakridge is likely to close within the next few years without help from those living within the village.

Since 1837 the Church has played an important part within the Parish of Oakridge. This includes Oakridge Lynch, Far Oakridge, Tunley, Waterlane and Bournes Green. The Church is important to many living in our village, whether you attend Church services and activities; or you use it as a quiet space, for weddings, baptisms, funerals and special occasions; or as a link with the past and with the School. All of this will end if the church closes.

Some background.

The church has too few members who actively support it by attending services and making financial donations. The annual cost of running the Church is over £22,000. This covers the running costs for the building and the contribution we make to central funds for the cost of ministry including your vicar. Our income from donations is around £20,000. We do not receive any support from elsewhere. So there is a shortfall in income of around £2,000. Other Churches in the Benefice are facing similar issues. The future for Christ Church in Chalford is under review. Many of you will know that Eastcombe Church has already closed, and the building sold.

What are the PCC doing about this?

We continue to engage within Oakridge. For the wider community there are Mothering Sunday services, Harvest Festival, Easter and Christmas services and activities, Remembrance Services and Open the Book – (dramatised bible story telling for the School), the church café and a House Group.

We are discussing with other churches in the benefice whether we should close some churches and consolidate into a smaller number of buildings. Oakridge church is at risk.

What can you do? Do you want your village church to remain open? Churches are a feature of an English village and in the past have been greatly valued. Once they are lost they do not re-open.

If you would like to help your village church

- make suggestions on what we can do to keep the Church going
- by joining us at one or more of our services
- with cleaning, flower arranging, providing music
- with the maintenance and upkeep of the building
- with publicity, notices and meetings.
- by joining our mailing list, so you receive details of services events and other news
- with financial help, The primary need is for regular income. The Diocese runs a Parish Giving Scheme which anyone can join. All donations, both large and small, are gratefully received

Contact details –

For regular giving and donations please contact John Rhodes our Treasurer – phone no 01285 760264 john.rhodes@jkmiddlefield.net

For other ways of helping please contact Linda Reardon 07794 425915 –
Linda_adam2000@yahoo.co.uk

Thank you for reading this, and for your interest in the Church in Oakridge.
We look forward to hearing from you.

Oakridge PCC

ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CAFÉ CHURCH



Hello Everyone,

Café Church continues to do well, and the feedback is that everyone is enjoying the coffee, cake and chats and meeting up with friends. However, it would be great if more people could join us. Why not pick up a homemade "yummy" cake if you haven't got time to stay. At Easter we raffled an Easter Egg, which was won by Mrs Naylor which we hoped that she enjoyed.

As the weather gets warmer, we will opt to hold our coffee mornings outside in the church garden which really worked well last year.

Our next coffee mornings are on the following dates:

1st June 2023 at 10am – 12 noon

6th July 2023 "

3rd August 2023 "

The team look forward to seeing you then.

Editor's Note: Before the Rainwatch data for this edition, I would like to remember Bob Gardiner, who started the feature years ago, and who on his move to Cirencester passed on the mantle of recording rainfall to Gill Farrar. His huge and varied input to the village over decades will be much missed.

GILL FARRAR'S OAKRIDGE RAINWATCH



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

March.... 221.2 mm.....about 8.7 ins.

April 107.5 mm.....about 4.2 ins.

May (to 15th).... 56.2 mm.....about 2.2 ins.

OAKRIDGE VILLAGE HALL



The Village Hall continues to be much used as a community resource for a wide number of events, and regular group meetings. Don't forget the reduced hire rate for villagers: contact johnloosley40@gmail.com to make a booking.

Oakridge Village Hall opened in 1954. It was built with money raised by the village on land donated to the village. The land is held in trust by the Charity Commission and the hall is run by trustees on behalf of the villagers elected at an annual meeting open to all villagers.

The trustees have, over many years, considerably improved the facilities of the hall through a combination of fund raising, donations, grants and hiring to outsiders. The hall is now considered to be one of the best in the area.

The trustees' vision is to provide a modern, safe, welcoming and environmentally friendly village hall for all villagers and to raise sufficient funds to ensure that this vision is achieved.

LUNCH CLUB



Lunch Club is held at the Village Hall on the 3rd 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.

OAKRIDGE FILM NIGHT

Our May film "Living" was hugely popular, with over 64 people in the hall for another great evening. For the first time an online survey was conducted to determine the next film, with an outright 'winner' which will be shown on Wednesday 7th June – hope you've got your tickets booked to avoid missing out! To find out more, sign up to the What's On Mailing List to receive notice of films (and other events) in advance at www.oakridgevillage.org/maillinglist. Please do reserve your seat (pay on arrival) via www.oakridgevillage.org/boxoffice. £5 cash on the door and CASH BAR available as usual. Doors open at 6.45pm, film starts at 7.30pm.

OAKRIDGE HISTORY GROUP



Martin and his wife Shan gave a fascinating talk on Cotswold Arts and Crafts and Folk Music at our April meeting which was well attended. He talked about the various people in the arts and crafts movement who came to live in Sapperton and Oakridge in the early 20th century and how they revived the folk song tradition mostly through the work of people such as Emily Gimson in Sapperton. Whilst we are familiar with the male figures in the arts and crafts movement it was interesting to learn more about the work of the women in our community.

On 24th May David Aldred will be talking about "Cotswold Railway Journeys 1961 -64", then on **28th June Pete Moore will share his research on the Lillyhorn Roman villa and local archaeology.**

Our visit on 26th July at 2.00pm to the Corinium Museum will include an introductory talk and tea. Details and a list to book a place will be available at preceding meetings or can be obtained from John Loosley or Kay Rhodes.

Members and visitors will be most welcome. All talks take place in Oakridge Village Hall starting at 7.30pm

Kay Rhodes

NATURE NOTES FROM WATERLANE



Going back a few years on one of Richard Mackie's dawn chorus walks, we were standing on the crossroads between Oakridge and Water Lane in the dark wondering why Richard had brought us out so early. Then it started, high up in the sky a skylark started singing its heart out even though it was pitch dark where we were. It was so high up it could see the dawn breaking before we could and is a perfect example of its body clock at work. Skylarks are stimulated

to sing by the changing light intensity in the sky and it brought about the saying 'up with the lark' from past times.

Birds have several clocks controlling the major processes of their lives. A daily clock tells them when to sleep and awaken, while an annual clock dictates when they should start singing, breeding or migrating. Clocks must be accurate, a clutch of blue tits must hatch when the glut of caterpillars is at its peak, birds must migrate south when the time is right, while a swallow must compute the sun's position to its internal clock to maintain the correct direction.

Birds sleep in a similar way to us, but their cycles are much shorter and could perhaps be better understood as a series of naps. What is quite different is that birds are literally only ever half asleep: only one half of their brain goes to sleep which ensures they are alert to danger and allows napping while flying.

Alan White

OAKRIDGE GARDEN CLUB



We have not enjoyed much lovely weather this Spring – one or two warm, clear, blue days and the rest rather chilly and damp. It did mean that daffs and tulips lasted a bit longer than usual, which was a bonus, but young veg plants have been slow to take off. No damage to the fruit blossom with what looks like a bumper crop of Damsons, and let's hope the apple trees will escape the late frosts too.

Early in April we had Bob Rickett give us one of the best evenings we have had. He was just returned from a month lecturing across the USA. He spoke about BEES – their different types, their needs and habits, their history and what would happen if there were none. How we can help and what to plant to help them to flourish. He spoke with such ease and charm for well over an hour, we all felt we could have sat there for much longer. Most of us went home with an amazing jar of his honey, but all of us with a huge amount of enthusiasm.

Now we are looking forward to a day out at the Stockton Bury Gardens near Leominster on 1st June. Home cooked lunch in the barn is an extra, but I believe you can take a picnic. I am looking forward to meeting the owner, who gave us an interesting talk last year on being the editor of a gardening magazine. She handed over that position to

concentrate on her own garden. This should be an enjoyable day out and we hope for fine weather.

Gill Wimperis

IN MEMORIAM

We have recently said a sad farewell to two prominent members of our community, Richard Mackie and Bob Gardiner. Bob's memories of growing up in Oakridge were featured in the October/November 2020 edition, and Bizzie White adds her tribute to Richard below.

Richard was a true gentleman, so wise, so interested and involved in Oakridge and its environs. He was special, so much part of the community and loved by all. His devotion to his family and they to him was heart-warming for all of us." It is impossible to think of a more perfect memorial to someone much loved.

Many wrote of his enthusiasm for wildlife which was inspirational and sprang from a profound understanding of the natural world and of birds in particular. Happiness shone out of him in the dawn chorus walks. The walks finished very satisfactorily with breakfast at the Old Cottage organised by Judy and Sylvia White.

He was, of course, very hands on with helping clear scrub from Strawberry Banks, Three Groves Wood and Siccaridge Wood. Sue Dodds remembers Richard in his element "Bounding down the steep slopes like a mountain goat, while I trailed cautiously behind him. One day we were taking a ladder down to Three Groves Wood to put up bird boxes. A passer-by asked why were we carrying a ladder in the wood? Richard replied, "to clean windows." Ask a silly question of a schoolmaster.....

Ann Fry from Far Oakridge remembers Richard when he was a pupil at Kelly College. Who would have thought a Devon lass and a Devon lad would meet up again about 50 years later in a small Cotswold village? Richard much enjoyed her very special cinnamon buns.

Richard's connexion with St Bartholomew's was long and deep. He was for many years churchwarden with Meryl Short. They worked so well together that I'm not entirely sure I believed him when he said he was very much in awe of her. He loved being in the choir, front row of course, and he also sang with Geraldine's choir in Nailsworth. Music was such a great part of his being.

For many years he helped with the bookstall at the village fete and contributed his "Nature Notes" in the village magazine, What's On.

He loved swimming and friends remember his zest for life as he ran into the waves at Croyde Beach, without wetsuit, surfing on his wooden board. Friends wrote that there are some people who make our lives richer, and one of those, was Richard.

Dear Friends,

My family and I would like to thank so many friends who have supported both Richard and me as his health deteriorated and latterly me after Richard slipped away in March. I have received so many loving cards, often with treasured memories of Richard over the decades. I was overwhelmed by the support during and after the funeral with the exquisite flowers, the full choir which had been part of Richard's life for so long, the amazing, delicious and such generous donations of food afterwards and the physical help in preparing the hall and clearing up afterwards. Not only that but so many of you have contacted me since with comfort and encouragement. I feel so fortunate to live here in Oakridge. Thank you so much.

Judy

To our Oakridge Friends

A huge thank you to the friends who organised, made and served a marvellous buffet following Bob's funeral on May 2nd. It was very much appreciated by myself and the family. A donation has been made to the Longfield Hospice as a thank you. Wherever Bob was in the world, his heart was always in Oakridge, and he is now back there in his chosen last resting place.

With our love,

Jenny, David, Helen, Anne & Nicola

OAKRIDGE PLAYERS

Oakridge Players' Call to Arms

To all budding thespians in the village – Oakridge Players are putting on 2 events in the coming months and need your help:

- A Bit of a Do (7/8 July): Singing, acting, magic, acrobatics, music and anything else that can be performed on a stage in 15 minutes. Do you have skill to offer?
- Lark Rise (19-22 October): A play based on the semi auto biographical novel by Flora Thompson. Actors, and in particular men needed for various roles.
Rehearsals to start in June

Please get in touch by emailing pauline.lindeque@gmail.com if you are interested. Look out locally for more detail on the actual performances and how to get tickets.

The Night Shift



During the day we are all used to seeing and hearing birds. If we walk in the countryside or in our gardens we see butterflies and bees busy pollinating flowers; more observant people will spot a range of creepy-crawlies such as hoverflies, shield bugs, ladybirds, dragonflies, caterpillars and spiders.

At dusk the birds gradually disappear and become quieter, the butterflies and bees disappear and then if we are lucky we may see some bats before it

gets completely dark. This is when the night shift starts. In place of butterflies and bees, the moths and beetles are pollinating flowers; we have around 2,500 species of moth in this country – only two of them are a real menace with clothes, and around 3,000 species of beetle. There are about 7,000 species of fly and they are mostly nocturnal to avoid predation. Mice, voles, frogs, toads, slugs, caterpillars and bats are other members of the night shift trying to avoid being eaten while owls, foxes, badgers and bats (again!) are among the night shift predators hoping to eat them.

But what happens if it doesn't get dark because of artificial lighting?

There is ample evidence of urban birds being active later in the day and starting earlier in the morning and even singing all through the night so we know the day shift is affected by street lights. For the night shift, evidence is harder to come by because scientific research is quite difficult but there is a fair amount of research using moths and bats because they are relatively easy to study.

Moths and many other insects are attracted to light, including streetlights. It has been found that moths caught near streetlights carry less pollen and that it comes from fewer plant species than moths in dark areas so pollination suffers. Moths often stay near streetlights during the day and birds soon learn where to look for an easy meal. There is some evidence that there are fewer caterpillars in well-lit areas but they develop more quickly which could cause problems with the timing of their life cycle. The newer, energy efficient LED lights appear to be worse for insects than the old yellowish sodium lights.

While pipistrelle bats can be seen feasting around streetlights, some other bats have serious problems because their eyes have evolved to function well in very low light conditions, an LED streetlight has the same effect on a bat as full beam car headlights would for us. Bats must travel from their daytime roosts to their feeding sites, streetlights create barriers to their journeys which may seriously limit their range and/or feeding time which, in turn, can reduce viability of the roost.

One of the effects of climate change is to make budburst on trees earlier so that caterpillars hatch and start feeding earlier in the year. This creates a potential mismatch with when birds need to start feeding their chicks. A 2016 study for the Royal Society

found that in well-lit areas budburst can be up to 7.5 days earlier than in unlit areas, other studies have suggested that autumn colouring of leaves may be delayed but that is more complicated.

In the public realm, while lighting can increase the perception of safety, security or ambiance, benefits can be subjective. To minimise the impact upon bats, lighting levels should not be excessive for the task and lamps with a "warm" spectrum should be used, i.e. less than 2700K. The lights should be directed downwards only, with no upward spill above the horizontal plane. Motion sensors or timers should be used with short durations. The emitted light should fall within the boundary of the area being lit and not beyond – soft landscaping can be used to shield the lights from view beyond the boundary.

Compiled by Roger Budgeon with information from Bob Smith (Butterfly Conservation) and Nick White (International Dark Skies)

OAKRIDGE WI



13th April...."Swinging 60s" with Virginia and David Absett. Another previously booked event waylaid by Covid. They exhibited a huge collection of 60s memorabilia. Reminders of media events, eg Churchill's funeral and the moon landing; household products and styles – melamine and pyrex appeared; Mothercare opened in 1968; clothing styles and fabrics. A real

memory jogger.

11th May...."Keeping abreast of things" with Alexandra Stanbrook. Some readers may remember Alex's Hat Shop in Cheltenham and her talks about hats. An accomplished speaker, diagnosed age 30 with breast cancer, her journey through this awful time was her topic this evening. The road travelled has not been an easy one but full of determination and great family support. Education about cancer has been at the forefront of her mission, reporting in the media top priority for reform. How do you condense such a talk to a few words? WOW!

Next meeting 8th June...."All about Ponds" with Pam Slater, with a bring and buy stall

5th July....our 100th Birthday

13th July...."Well – what did you do" members

I hope you found the Coronation weekend as spectacular as I did.

Mary Fern



(This tree is on private land - but it is visible from the road)

Willow
Goat willow (Salix caprea)
Crack Willow (Salix fragilis), White Willow (Salix alba)

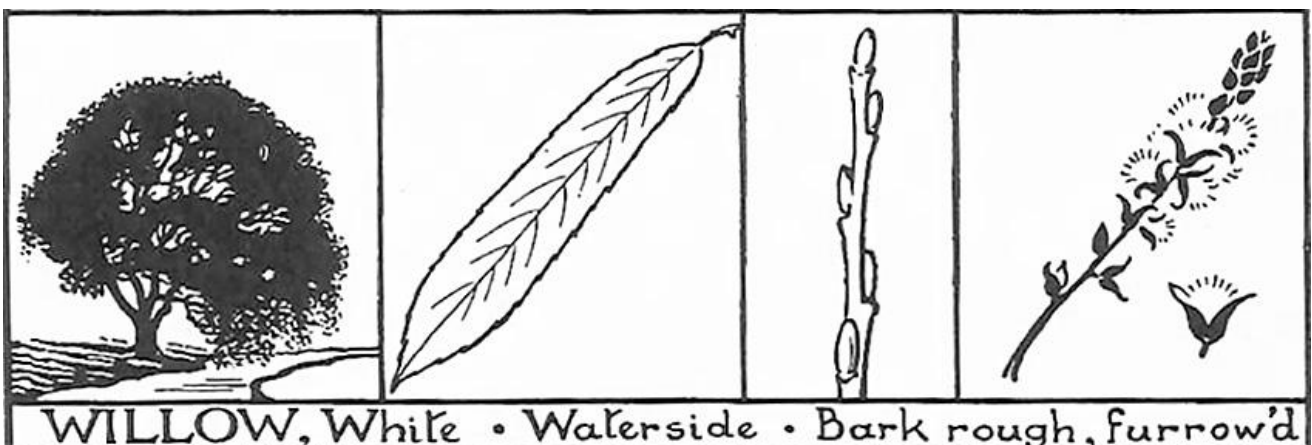
Toad of Toad Hall, river banks, cricket, slender drooping branches, willow is an integral part of our country's identity. There are twelve species, and a bewildering number of hybrids (willow is very cross-compatible) including corkscrew, weeping, creeping, cricket bat, black, dwarf, bay willow and osier.

Most willows have a thick, gnarly bark on the main trunk, which soon branches and smooths to become those "willowy" twigs that are so characteristic. Leaves in general are long and narrow, although notably on goat willow they are much more rounded, with crinkled edges and a downy underside. Leaves of the white willow are whiter underneath, and in the wind give a silvery wave impression.

Willows tend to flower before they leaf in April/May and the yellow male catkins and female green catkins grow on different trees. This makes willow highly reliant on insects for pollination, but it does have another method of propagation - twigs and branches will grow if planted in the ground.

When a female catkin is pollinated it produces very fine, light, downy seeds. These have no endosperm (food supply) and thus have a short life, and need to land on moist ground so that they can germinate quickly.

Crack willow is so-called for a branch's tendency to snap under its own weight - it is less supple than other willows. The bark is deeply furrowed and the leaves are generally a darker green. Goat or pussy willow is easily identified by its more rounded leaves and those delightful silky round catkin buds.





Cricket bat willow (*Salix alba Caerulea*), is a native to the UK, where it is grown and selected specifically for our cricket bat industry. Straight, knot-free growth is essential and saplings are planted at a specific spacing to encourage tall straight growth as they compete for light. Each is carefully protected from livestock nibbling and any buds are regularly rubbed off to prevent side growth and knots in the wood. You'll often see willow pollarded (cropped to above deer-

nibbling height) and new growth is widely used in fence or basket-making. Weavers use various species that are very flexible, some of these types are Black Maul, Dicky Meadows and Brittany Green.

Willow supports a wide range of moth and butterfly larvae, and is the primary food source of the Purple Emperor butterfly. The bark is still used in the preparation of leather as it is a source of tannin, and also produces salicin which was once used for pain relief and is a pre-cursor to aspirin.

So if life or politics is giving you a headache this summer, why not find yourself a grassy riverbank, lean back against a willow in the dappled light and chew on a piece of bark? I'm sure Ratty would approve.

Peter Collings-Wells
whitespringbooks.co.uk

(Main photo caption: Weeping willow at Oakridge Farm, Far Oakridge, as seen from the public footpath - by Pauline Lindeque)

OAKRIDGE PUB INTEREST GROUP

Sadly no update to pass on, but if you would like to stay in the know, please sign up by emailing oakridge.pubIG@gmail.com or follow the link [InterestGroup SignUp](#).

OAKRIDGE SHOW

Planning for the Show goes on apace – please do get in contact if you can offer to help on the day, with setting up etc. We are hoping to increase the number of childrens' entries to the Show, by providing a mix of classes which can be prepared in advance, so if you know you'll be away in the run up to 2nd September, it will still be possible to enter! Look out in the Show Schedule with the next What's On....

If you are a cup holder from 2022, please make arrangements to have it engraved (if you wish) and return to Vicky Beard by the end of June, as we plan to review the trophies before this year.

Heather - hkf07@yahoo.com

Gaza – gaza.westfall@btinternet.com

Vicky - vbeard51@gmail.com

OAKRIDGE PAROCHIAL SCHOOL



Oakridge Parochial

The sun shone brightly and the school green was a hive of activity at the annual May Revels, as visitors flocked to the village to soak up the atmosphere and enjoy the numerous stalls, activities, food and drink on offer. As ever, masses of hard work went on behind the scenes from our dedicated parents, teachers and pupils, ensuring that the village had another very special day to remember.

Outgoing May Queen Thea Taplin handed over her crown to Eeva Poole, and the schoolchildren put on the now-traditional maypole dance, as well as a special Jamaican dance to reflect the subject of diversity that they have been studying this term. This year, we were also lucky enough to enjoy a number of extra performances from Ballyhoo pupils, who wowed the crowd with their talents.



Food was once again served by Long Table chef Maisie, while Cranham



Orchestra provided the wonderful music. At the end of the afternoon the annual tug-o-war was as fiercely fought as ever, this year resulting in a tie!

The parents of Oakridge School Association would like to say an enormous thank you to everyone who attended, to those who gave up so much time and energy to help organise the event, and to the local businesses and

individuals (including the Green Shop, Jolly Nice, Painswick Rococo Garden, Holbrook Garage, Fox Lane Flowers and Loose) who donated raffle prizes.

With your help, we raised an incredible £3,243, which is amazing in the current climate and will make an enormous difference to our lovely little school.

Claire Robinson, OSA Treasurer

The Oakridge May Revels **By Iris and Daisy**

The Oakridge children and Ballyhoo students danced up a storm in many dances such as maypole and Caribbean. also the OSA raised plenty of money through lots of stalls such as bric a brac, food and books.

Class 1 ...

Class 1 enjoyed the bouncy castle, face painting and many more. They also contributed to many of our wonderful dances.

Class 1 quotes

“I love the may revels”

“my favourite was the bouncy castle and the face painting

Class 2...

Class 2 played a large part in both dances thoroughly enjoying themselves. They also helped their parents with many of the stalls including 2 kids from class 2 who raised money for barn owls.

Class 2 quotes

“I loved all the different stalls”

“I thought the may pole dance was really fun because we had a laugh”

Teachers quotes

“I was really proud of all the children”

“lovely atmosphere perfect weather and lovely to see everyone smiling”

May day craft ...

Cupcake case flowers...

You will need:

- Scissors
- 6 (or more) cupcake cases in colours of your choice

Method:

- 1.layer up your cases.
- 2.make at least 20 small cuts around the edges of the stack of cases.
- 3.ruffle your “petals” into the centre of your flower.
4. use them to decorate things in a way that you see fit.



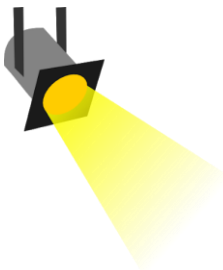
LADIES NIGHT

Calling all Lovely Ladies from Oakridge and Beyond.....we are a friendly bunch who like a chance for a chat and a drink with friends and neighbours. If you are new to the village and would like to meet up, then please join us on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. No pressure, no agenda. More the merrier! As the Butchers Arms is currently closed, we will be hosted by a rota of members on a bring your own basis. Please look out for the emailed location, or contact me on tamzin@tamzinhutton.com.

Tamzin Hutton

FRITHWOOD SURGERY HEALTH WALKS

These Health Walks are held alternate Wednesdays, starting from and ending at Frithwood Surgery. The route is mainly flat and a distance of 1.5 miles. It is designed for anyone in need of exercise, be it to help recovery from illness or to improve fitness, mental and/or physical. All are welcome and there are after-walk refreshments with a chat.



Spotlight on*is taking a rest, if you would like to shine in the Spotlight, please contact Sue Wise 01285 762800. 07766 705357*

OAKRIDGE CRICKET CLUB

Oakridge are competing in the Cotswold District Division One again this year. After finishing 3rd in 2022 they have high hopes for a successful season.

The season opener against Longborough was cancelled due to rain and that was followed by a low scoring affair on the long trip to Chipping Campden. Oakridge lost by 6 wickets. Positives to take from this were captain Ed Bryant's patient 74 not out and Richard Heath picking up his first wicket of the season with his first ball. His 360th wicket for the club.

Youth cricket has begun on Friday evenings at the club. The first session was attended by some 30 youngsters keen to get out on the field. A fantastic number for the village to attract. A massive thank you to our qualified coaches who volunteer their time towards this. Anyone wishing to find out more should contact Mark Robbins – mlrobbins@btinternet.com

Fixtures June /July - all 1.30pm start

Saturday 3rd June - Away v Fairford 2nds
 Saturday 10th June - Home v Buscot Park
 Sunday 18th June - Home - Libby's Day (Club Day)
 Saturday 24th June - Home v South Cerney
 Saturday 1st July - Home v Barnsley Beeches
 Saturday 8th July - Away v Longborough
 Saturday 15th July - Home v Chipping Campden 2nds
 Saturday 29th July - Home v Cirencester 3rds

Results get posted on our website after each game and there are statistics loaded for all matches back to the 1960's. It is an ambition of the club to get all matches loaded on to the website back to the clubs first season in 1900. If you were a past player from the 1960's to today you will find your stats online. www.oakridge.play-cricket.com

If anyone would like more information about the club we are always looking for additional members either in a playing capacity or supporting the general running of the club. Please contact

Mark – mlrobbins@btinternet.com

or

Steve - SteveRobbins97@hotmail.com

Local Freelance Hairdresser

Hi all,

I am a hairdresser, currently working in Tetbury with 8 years' experience in the hairdressing industry and am looking to pick up some additional haircuts and colours locally.

For cutting, I currently charge £35 for women and £20 for men. I can also do children's cuts (up to age 12) for only £10 - £20 depending on age.

For colour, I offer a complimentary consultation service where prices will be customised to your colour requirements.

As part of these services I will travel straight to your home.

If you are interested, contact me on 07527 879607

Hopefully see you soon!

Bunty



A Crowning Glory

Royalist or Roundhead, wasn't the King Charles III's coronation a fabulous affair? I don't mean in Westminster or Windsor, but in Oakridge Lynch. Saturday 6th May was the day King Charles III was crowned as the 62nd monarch and it was the 3rd royal occasion marked at Oakridge village hall inside a year. So, it's no wonder that it all went like regimental clockwork. Eventually. There was a flurry of

WhatsApp messages about potato salads on the village group two days beforehand. Do you think the Royals were all messaging each other night before to make sure they all had a lift to Westminster Abbey?



The plan was to celebrate the new Carolean age and our village community in pomp and a relaxed style. The hall's fabulous audio-visual equipment (expertly operated) allowed us to witness the events with BBC's first-class camera work and commentaries. It might have been a damp day, but the hall gave a street party feel with the protection of a roof. A roof decorated with Union Jack bunting and fairy lights. On the tables were posies of red, white and blue - wild garlic, cow parsley, blue bells and verbena - and on the stage,

were flamboyant majestic arrangements.

Before the ceremony began the sound system was ramped up and Holst's (a Gloucestershire lad), Jupiter Movement ('I Vow to Thee to My Country') boomed through the hall, giving the staff in the kitchen a thrill as they divided out the biscuits onto plates. And the South African opera singer, Pretty Yende sang Sacred Fire, everyone titivating the hall, stopped. They were transfixed by her. And throughout it was the music that elevated the ceremony. The music was not only celebrating the crowning of a new King and a new Queen, but the mix of music was being celebrated. There were 11 new commissioned pieces.

As people arrived in the hall and we recognised our neighbours and we nodded to each other, on the screen the international Royals arrived, and the politicians nodded at each other. When the Gatcombe mob arrived in the Abbey, Princess Anne, Zara and Peter, it was like being in the queue at The Jolly Nice Shop.

The village hall might not have the pageantry of a royal coronation, but the rules are just as formal. Whilst the king was taken behind screens to be anointed with sacred oils whilst the choir regaled him with Handel's, Zadok the Priest, the new staff in kitchen were being gently smoothed into the succession of how the hall is organised. The coronation is the day when the mantle of sovereignty is formally presented to the new

monarch along with the symbol of power, the crown, sceptre and orb. And in Oakridge village hall experienced citizens showing newer villagers how the hall is run. The crown might be passed to one man and his wife but our village hall is a team effort.

Without a buffet fit for a king, there would have no opportunity for us all to sit with our neighbours and talk not only about what we had witnessed and to share news about our own lives. Whilst King Charles III was surveying his troops in the back garden of Buckingham Palace we were all surveying the tables filled with coronation chicken, ham, salads, trifles and Bakewell tarts. It was washed down with Pimms, Prosecco and beer.



The evening of Sunday 7th brought the second celebration for the coronation in another royal back garden at Windsor. There were the famous stars performing, but more moving was the modern coronation choir which included farmers from Northern Ireland, refugees living in Wales, a fully deaf choir and lifeboat men amongst others. In the hall, there was chatting, dancing and sausages in bread rolls. And when the performers on stage finished the right royal clean up started. Down came the decorations and the kitchen was left as clean as a pin; well that's what happens when we have BA cabin crew on the job.

It is often said that no country puts on a better show of pageantry than the United Kingdom and it could also be said that nowhere puts on a more heart felt celebration than Oakridge Lynch.

TWINNING ASSOCIATION



The villages in the Parish (Bisley, Oakridge, Eastcombe) have been jointly twinned with the rural community of Plessala in Brittany for over 30 years. See our website:

<http://www.bisleytwinning.org.uk/>

Twinning visits ceased due to Covid and the lockdown in 2020 and are resuming this August when we will be welcoming a party of 25 from Plessala over the weekend of 25-28th August.

In the past when they've visited us, there have been lots of social events, joint visits, eating, dancing and even paddleboarding, and our committee is planning a varied weekend, to include the usual multi-lingual(!) barn dance on the Saturday night.

People who came to the Curry & Quiz evening in October, will have a flavour of what the Twinning

Association is about. If you're interested to learn more, do contact us, and we'll keep you fully informed as the build-up to the August Bank Holiday weekend progresses.

If you have space and can offer to host, or would simply like to join in the weekend's programme we'd love to hear from you. Knowledge of French isn't required – when they come, our French visitors bring along special joie de vivre which breaks through any language barriers, and they are great fun. Many speak English – some don't: bit like us when we go to France!

Contact details:

John Hughes: Mail@jmhughes.plus.com, or tel: 07810-123511 or

Muriel Brooks tel: 01452 770346



Our 2019 visit to France.

COUNTY COUNCIL NEWS

Get in touch

Do please contact me if you have any comments / questions or concerns
Cllr Susan Williams Susan.williams@gloucestershire.gov.uk Mobile 07766318854

COLD COFFEE

EVER STRONG, MEMORIES OF HER GARDEN ROOM
STRENGTHENING THE MORE THE LONGER THEY STAY
CLAIM IT WAS A PLACE OF PERPETUAL BLOOM
ALL WAS GOLD NEVER GRAY—UNTIL THAT DAY

LONG-TERM AND SEMI-ATTACHED FRIENDS WERE WE
AS THE CASE CAN RARELY BE, NO HIDDEN INTENT,
CONTENT TO STAY THAT WAY, HALF-PAIRED, HALF-FREE,
MEANT WHAT WAS SAID AND SAID WHAT WE MEANT

ONCE WERE DONE OUR BORING MORNING CHORES
WE SPENT HAPPY HOURS AMONGST HER FLOWERS
WITHIN WIDE-OPEN SUMMER DOUBLE-DOORS
WHERE A SHARE OF SCENTED PEACE WAS OURS

COMES THE DAY WE SIP TEA OR WAS IT COFFEE
HAVE WORD-PLAY AND CONTEMPLATE THE CORRECT
SPELLING OF 'FEOFFEE' OR WAS IT 'FEOFFE'—
WHY QUELL OUR QUIRKINESS OF INTELLECT?

IN DUE COURSE DUTY CALLS ME; I GO WITH WORDS
OF CHEER OUT THE DOOR; ALL IS FINE; YET I RETURN
WITHIN A WEEK TO FIND A MIND-QUAKE OCCURRED
SHE HAS TURNED SO TACITURN, SO CURT, SO STERN

COFFEE COMES COLD AND BLACK, SPEECH IS STILTED
THE ANTE-ROOM OF WELCOME FRIGID WITH FROST
THE PERENNIALS HAVE PREMATURELY WILTED
NOR THEY ALONE WHOSE PERMANENCE IS LOST

SOON I GO, AS GO I MUST, TO FOLLOW FARM-TRACKS
THAT ARE BRISTLING WITH BRAMBLES AND THISTLES
ALL IS WRONG; BREEZE IS GALE; I HEAR TREES CRACK
BIRDS MOCK ME WITH THEIR FOOLISH WHISTLES

HOW DID POISON ENTER HER BUNGALOW? I KNOW
ONLY THIS: I GO OUT HER OPEN DOOR THEN WITHIN
ONE WEEK COME BACK TO DISCOVER THE LOW
SNAKE OF SUSPICION HAS SLITHERED IN

John Pavitt

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 7th June and Wednesday 5th July 2023.

A new Parish Councillor is needed following the departure of Tony Martin – we need someone who is willing to champion some of the issues that the village is facing (particularly roads, wildlife & nature). If anyone would like to join us for a monthly meeting, please contact Helen Jones for an informal chat.

Any issues in the Oakridge Ward of our Parish please contact

Cllr Roger Budgeon - roger@greenshopgroup.co.uk

Cllr Dennis Robbins - d.robbins1945@btinternet.com

Cllr Helen Jones - libisimo@gmail.com

Parish Clerk: Arlene Deane

E: admin@bisley-with-lypiatt.gov.uk T: 01452 771089

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

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 19th March – 19th May 2023:

S.23/0408/HHOLD New dormers/fenestration alterations 5 The Crescent, Oakridge Lynch	Permitted
S.23/0351/FUL Installation of solar panels on farm building Fourways Farm, Waterlane	Permitted
S.23/0332/HHOLD External staircase to garage and other works 1 The Taut, Oakridge Lynch	Permitted
S.23/0292/HHOLD Alternations to provide first floor extension accommodation Longridge, Oakridge Lynch	Permitted
S.23/0167/HHOLD Residential annexe and new porch to existing dwelling The Round, Bournes Green	Permitted
S.23/0505/HHOLD 2-storey extension, conservatory and replacement garage Whitespring, Oakridge Lynch	Permitted
S.23/0603/LBC and S.23/0602/HHOLD Resubmissions of previous applications Waterlane House	Awaiting Decision

DISTRICT NEWS

Stroud District Council is working to make the district carbon-neutral by 2030. Recent achievements and plans include:

- **Council home energy efficiency.** SDC won a Government grant of £1.7million to improve the energy efficiency of 250 council homes. Funding means the council can help cut tenants' energy bills and carbon emissions, boost the green economy and improve the health and wellbeing of tenants. The latest work on 187 homes, including insulation, ventilation and window replacements, is due to finish in the autumn, and should reduce annual energy bills by £200 on average and save 200 tonnes of carbon emissions. SDC is aiming for all council housing to reach an EPC rating of C by 2030.
- **A switch to renewable energy** for heating and hot water at three big public buildings will replace ageing gas boilers, ensuring the buildings are heated into the future. A grant from the Government's Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme will be used to install heat pumps at Stratford Park Leisure Centre, the Museum in the Park, and The Pulse Leisure Centre in Dursley.
- An additional **half a million pounds has been committed for walking and cycling schemes**, including accessibility for public spaces.
- **Electric vehicle charging points** will be installed in council-owned car parks across the district, including the London Road and Parliament Street car parks in Stroud.
- **Replacement of recycling and waste vehicles.** Wherever possible, SDC will replace retiring diesel vehicles with electric. Where the technology does not yet permit (in particular for the large Refuse Collection Vehicles) Ubico will use palm-oil-free Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) in the vehicles as a transitional fuel until they can be electrified. This fuel has substantial carbon savings compared to diesel. Where technological developments allow (including hydrogen-based) and following the progress of other councils closely, SDC will continue to adapt the fleet of vehicles.
- A **Strategic Lead Officer for Nature Recovery and Biodiversity** has been appointed. Among much else, her role will include leading for SDC on the development of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Gloucestershire, and its implementation in Stroud District, and leading the development of Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) policy.
- **Vehicle Emissions Policy for Taxi and Private Hire Vehicles.** Following consultation, a new policy setting out the rules for taxi and private hire vehicles was adopted to encourage the long-term phasing out of higher polluting taxi and private hire vehicles in the district. From 1st April 2025 all renewal vehicle applications must be Euro 6 compliant unless they are ultra-low emission vehicles (ULEVs) or electric vehicles (EVs), with wheelchair accessible vehicles (WAVs) remaining exempt.
- **Housing for Refugees:** 15 homes, part-funded by the Government's Local Authority Housing Fund will become part of the SDC council housing stock, after serving their purpose of housing Afghan and Ukrainian refugees.
- A **Bicycle Mayor** has been appointed, a volunteer whose role is to champion all things cycling in the district. Since the first Bicycle Mayor was elected in Amsterdam in 2016, 109 more have been appointed. They collaborate with residents, activists, government, and industry; promote the work of others

in their area; share best practices and lessons learned; and collaborate on regional and global efforts.

- And the **Big Bike Ride**: A family-friendly mass bike ride from the Bike Drop at Brimscombe Mills (Long Table/Grace Network) to Stroud Farmers Market, every first Saturday of the month 10am. It's fun! Contact me if you'd like to go together.

As always, please contact me about anything District Council-related: Martin Brown, Green Party District Councillor, 01452 770878, cllr.martin.brown@stroud.gov.uk



BisCAN

Bisley, Eastcombe & Oakridge Climate Action Network

GARDEN FOR NATURE

Let's make our part of the Cotswolds a haven for wildlife! Even in a small garden, there is much we can do. If we all garden for nature, we can create mini nature reserves and even wildlife corridors for insects, birds, mammals and all the amazing micro-organisms that live in our soil, plants and trees.

- **Don't use pesticides or slug pellets:** They contain poisons that kill not only the things you don't like but also many other organisms – pollinators and food for other creatures, many in decline because habitats and food sources are disappearing. ***The Parish Council has already banned pesticides (including herbicides) on land it owns and manages.***
- **Use only peat-free compost:** Peat in nature is a major store of carbon, as well as a vital habitat for innumerable living organisms. Make your own compost, or get it from Bisley Community Compost Scheme, or buy only peat-free brands (available from the Farm Shop).



- **Give your lawnmower a break:** Mow your lawn a bit less and you will soon see the benefits, as daisies, dandelions, clover, cowslips and trefoils begin to appear, bringing colour to the garden and providing nectar for visiting insects.

- **Leave some areas uncut and undisturbed:** We humans tend to like a well-cut lawn or field, but wildlife thrives in the untidy corners and edges that sometimes get overlooked. ***Untidy is good!***

- **Create a pond:** This will attract wildlife into your garden and provide many hours of enjoyment. Ponds swiftly attract amphibians, dragonflies and all manner of other creatures, as well as providing a water source and bathing area for wild birds and mammals.



- **Create a pile in a corner of the garden:** Use any old brush, logs, bricks, stones, etc. This will provide invaluable habitats for amphibians and reptiles as well as insects and small mammals, which in turn provide food for hedgehogs and birds. **Leave dead wood alone** - it is a vital habitat for many species, from fungi and insects to the birds and animals that nest and feed in and around it.

BisCAN, together with ChalCAN and Sheepscombe wildlife group, are hoping to create a map of all the things, great and small, that we are doing – and we would love to add your contribution to the map! Please tell us what you are doing – no matter how small or large: bisleyeastcombeoakridgecan@gmail.com

BisCAN is a community of groups and individuals in the Parish of Bisley-with-Lypiatt, which aims to mitigate the impact of climate change by reducing our local carbon footprint, and to aid nature recovery in our Parish. We hope to encourage the residents of our communities to lead lives that are healthy and happy while putting nature first. We are open to all residents of the Parish.

If you'd like to find out more about what we do, please get in touch: www.biscan.info, or email bisleyeastcombeoakridgecan@gmail.com or call Martin 01452 770878 or Lesley 01452 770018

JULIET HARMER

Exhibition of Paintings

Sapperton Village Hall

Saturday 10th June

to

Tuesday 13th June

10.00am to 6.00pm

sappertonvillagehall.org



Inspired by the Big Help Out to consider volunteering? Do you want to be part of a friendly team helping your local community?

Citizens Advice Stroud and Cotswold Districts needs volunteers now more than ever to help make a difference to local people. In the last year we have faced an unprecedented demand due to the cost of living crisis.

We are appealing for new volunteers from all backgrounds who are looking for a volunteering role that is both challenging and rewarding. We are looking for people who can give 8-10 hours per week and are currently recruiting for the following roles:

Administration/triage assistants. You will provide a professional welcome to callers at the door of our Stroud or Cirencester offices. You will triage callers without an appointment - identifying emergencies and providing information and signposting to other agencies when needed (no advice giving involved). You will also undertake a wide range of administrative tasks, including contacting clients by telephone and text, and handling inward and outbound post.

You must be computer literate but full training in triage and our IT systems will be given.

Volunteer Advisers. You will give advice and information (face to face, by telephone and email) to clients on a wide range of problems. No prior advice experience is necessary as full training will be given. Information sessions for volunteer advisers will take place on 24 May 2023 (2-3.30pm) in Stroud and on 7 June 2023 (10.30-12 noon) in Cirencester.

Elizabeth Hall, our Chief Executive Officer said:

“Now more than ever, you can really make a difference by volunteering with us. We’re seeing more and more people needing support as living costs spiral. As well as helping the local community, we know people who volunteer their time get a lot back. We’ll give you all the training you need and would love to hear from you.”

To find out more about these roles or register your interest for a volunteer adviser information session please contact our Learning and Development Officer at training@ca-scd.org.uk. You can also find further information on our website www.citizensadvice-stroudandcotswold.org.uk.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

JUNE 2023

Thurs 1 st	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Café Church, St Bartholomew's • Garden Club trip 	10 am – 12 noon
Weds 7 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Walk, Frithwood Surgery • Film Night, Village Hall • Parish Council, Bisley 	2.00 pm 6.45 pm 7.30 pm
Thurs 8 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WI, Village Hall 	7.00 pm
Sat 10 th – Tues 13 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Juliet Harmer's Exhibition of Paintings, Sapperton Village Hall 	10.00 am – 6.00 pm
Weds 14 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Walk, Frithwood Surgery • Ladies Night 	2.00 pm
Weds 21 st	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lunch Club, Village Hall 	Noon – 2.00 pm
Weds 28 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Walk, Frithwood Surgery • History Group, Village Hall 	2.00 pm 7.30 pm

JULY 2023

Weds 5 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WI 100th Birthday Celebrations • Film Night, Village Hall • Parish Council, Bisley 	6.45 pm 7.30 pm
Thurs 6 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Café Church, St Bartholomew's 	10 am – 12 noon
Fri 7 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Bit of a Do", Village Hall 	
Sat 8 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Bit of a Do", Village Hall 	
Weds 12 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Walk, Frithwood Surgery • Ladies Night 	2.00 pm
Thurs 13 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WI, Village Hall 	7.00 pm
Weds 19 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lunch Club, Village Hall • Closing date, What's On 	Noon – 2.00 pm
Weds 26 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Walk, Frithwood Surgery • History Group trip 	2.00 pm 2.00 pm

Wednesday 19th July, 5pm - CLOSING DATE
for the August/September WHAT'S ON

Disclaimer: The editor reserves the right to edit or omit material.