

# WHAT'S ON

in

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



October / November 2022

Edition 259

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

## THE CHURCH IN OAKRIDGE



### VICAR CONTACTS

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

### GREETINGS FROM THE CHURCH IN OAKRIDGE Meeting at St Bartholomew's

We are so very grateful to the Oakridge Show steering group who provided an excellent Oakridge Show this year and have donated a much appreciated £500 towards the repair of the Church gates. Thank you, this will enable us to carry out much needed safety maintenance. Thank you to all who came for a chat with those of us at our Church display, it was a pleasure to see you.

Weekly information on up and coming events, news and prayer lists can be request by emailing [pewslipsbisley@hotmail.com](mailto:pewslipsbisley@hotmail.com) and asking to be added to the mailing list.

### Services and Events

1 <sup>st</sup> October	Saturday 6.30 pm	Harvest Supper Village Hall Tickets from village shop
2 <sup>nd</sup> October	Sunday 9.30 am	<b>Harvest Festival</b>
6 <sup>th</sup> October	Thursday 10.00 am – noon	Cafe Church
16 <sup>th</sup> October	Sunday 9.30 am	Holy Communion
23 <sup>rd</sup> October	Sunday 9.30 am	Holy Communion Bible Sunday
6 <sup>th</sup> November	Sunday 9.30 am	Morning Prayer
13 <sup>th</sup> November	Sunday 9.30 am	<b>Remembrance Day</b>
20 <sup>th</sup> November	Sunday 9.30 am	Holy Communion

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

We will be delighted to welcome you to any events, services and the Café.

### Condolences from the Church in Oakridge

Millions of us from across the United Kingdom and throughout the world watched the funeral of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on Monday. After her death more than 250,000 people waited for many hours to walk in silence by her coffin to pay their respect, to reflect on her life, and grieve.

Her Majesty had been part of our lives for seventy years. Since her death we have heard a vast number of tributes to her. Politicians from across the political spectrum, religious leaders from all faiths, people from all walks of life, people from different cultures and places, young and old have all spoken of her commitment to duty and service, her constancy, her kindness, her love, the care and concern she had for the wellbeing of all people. Archbishop Justin, in his tribute to her, spoke of her deeply held Christian faith, that faith which underpinned all she did, that faith which gave her strength and courage throughout her long life.

To many of us her death has brought great sadness, real personal grief, and a sense of personal loss like you might feel when a loved one, who has been close to you has died. Grief can make it seem as though the world has changed, something is lost, nothing is certain, and this is how some people are feeling right now. As people of faith we can hold onto the words of Jesus that death is not the end, words we heard at the Queen's funeral in a reading from John's Gospel. 'In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. I go to prepare a place for you'.

Queen Elizabeth has made the world a better place by her faithful journey through it. Her goodness and love and care and concern will live on in our hearts and minds. Our Queen has not left us because, her example of a faithful life will be a treasured legacy for all of us.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Matt 5.4

Saint Bartholomew's Church is open to all for quiet reflection and prayer, daily from 9.00am until 5.00 pm.

Should you wish to talk to our vicar, Sue Murray will be happy to hear from you - telephone 01452 770897

God bless our new monarch, King Charles III. May he uphold the same spirit of service and faith for the years to come.

# The Church in Oakridge – What we do

St Bartholomew's Church, the Parish Church,  
has played an important role in the Village  
of Oakridge since 1837

Weddings – Baptisms – Funerals and memorial Services

Festivals and Special Services

Christmas, Mother's Day, Easter, Harvest festival, Remembrance, Carol Service

Today's Regular Services

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in the month – 9.30 am Morning Prayer

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in the month – 9.30 am Holy Communion

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in the month 10 am Benefice service –in one of the Benefice Churches

Other activities

Café in Church – usually first Thursday of the month 10 to 12 – all welcome  
Coffee, Book exchange, Plants and Produce

Open the Book – dramatised bible stories for the School on a number of Mondays in  
term-time at 10.10 am

Harvest Supper – Saturday 1 October Oakridge Village Hall at 6.30 pm. All welcome,  
Tickets will be on Sale at the Village Shop.

Further details on Church Notice Board, What's On and the website  
[www.bisleybenefice.org.uk](http://www.bisleybenefice.org.uk)

## What YOU can do for the Church in Oakridge

There is risk the Church may not be here in a few years, maybe sooner. St Bartholomew's Church, the Parish Church, has played an important role in the Village of Oakridge since 1837 and we need your help and support if this is to continue.

How can you help?

- Join in our events and services
- Come to coffee at the Café
- Offer to help with -
  - Church Cleaning
  - Building Maintenance
  - Flower arranging
  - Financial support to help with our running costs
  - Open the Book

## BISLEY-with-LYPIATT TWINNING ASSOCIATION



For those of you who are new to the villages, the Parish of Bisley with Lypiatt (which incorporates Oakridge and Eastcombe), has been formally twinned since 1993 with Plessala, a village in Brittany. Visits took place every year from 1993 up to 2019, when Covid caused a temporary halt.



Photos of each year's visits are on the website [www.bisleytwinning.org](http://www.bisleytwinning.org). On the website head to "our exchanges with Plessala" for the photos, and see how many current villagers you recognise in all sorts of weird guises!

In addition to welcoming visitors from Plessala here every second year, and a party from our Association visiting Plessala in the intervening years, the Association has always organised a varied schedule of social events in the parish over the year, to provide a focus for members, and enjoyment for anyone who would like to attend.

One of these social events, is a **Curry + Quiz** evening held at Oakridge Village Hall. Last held in 2018, we are re-starting the tradition, again at **Oakridge VH** on **Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2022** starting at 7:00pm. You don't have to be a member to attend, although naturally we'd like to think having met us, you'd like to join. Annual membership is £5 per family.

The Quiz isn't fiendishly difficult, and is fun level, so everyone can take part. There is always a choice of curries which are all home cooked, and there will be an Indian type dessert, and there will be a licensed bar. All this for £10 per adult and £5 per child (under 16).

For tickets, please e-mail or phone:

John Hughes: [mail@jmhughes.plus.com](mailto:mail@jmhughes.plus.com) or 01285 760177

Paul Hunt: [paul@selsleyfoods.com](mailto:paul@selsleyfoods.com) or 01285 821705

Muriel Brooks: [mbrooks@nicework.co.uk](mailto:mbrooks@nicework.co.uk) or 01452 770346

## **GILL FARRAR'S OAKRIDGE RAINWATCH**



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

July.... 19.5 mm.....about 0.7 ins.

August.... 25.3 mm.....about 0.9 ins.

September (to 21<sup>st</sup>)..... 57.2 mm.....about 2.2 ins.

## **THE JOHN TAYLOR FOUNDATION**

The John Taylor Foundation is a local charity that issues small grants to students going on to Higher Education or those undertaking Apprenticeships to assist with the cost of tools, books or equipment.

If you are aged under 25 and live in the Ancient Parish of Bisley (the area includes all of the civil parish of Bisley with Lypiatt, including Eastcombe and Oakridge, most of Bussage and part of Chalford), please apply in writing to Mrs J Taylor, email: [jennytaylor1944@outlook.com](mailto:jennytaylor1944@outlook.com), stating your name, age, college, course or employer.

## **THE CHARITY OF THE ANCIENT PARISH OF BISLEY (CAPB)**

This Charity, serving what is known as the Ancient Parish of Bisley, has been in existence for over 50 years. It has its roots in a dozen very old charities that were amalgamated in the 1950s by consolidating their funds, and gifts of land, into one charity and investing the combined assets in the Charity Commission's managed investment funds. The only exception to this was the Chestergate Allotments in Bisley which are still owned by the Charity and leased to the Parish Council for the benefit of the village. We are often asked, 'what is this Ancient Parish of Bisley, and what are its boundaries?' The area includes all of the civil parish of Bisley with Lypiatt, including Eastcombe and Oakridge, most of Bussage and part of Chalford; an area of increasing population. Six Trustees, who include Parish Council representatives from the Parishes of Bisley with Lypiatt and Chalford, administer the Charity. The rules of the Charity allow the Trustees to offer help to those residing in the 'Ancient Parish' in many ways. These include gifts of money to help the sick, suffering and convalescing; the hospitalised and those who visit them; help towards residential care; support for young people with work related experience at home and abroad where this is of a charitable nature, and in many other areas. The Trustees are not, however, permitted either to commit themselves to making grants in relief of rates or taxes, etc, or to make recurring gifts. Over many years the CAPB has been able to help support

children at our local schools, other young persons to gain valuable work related experience overseas, as well as helping the sick, suffering and bereaved.

Because the Trustees are anxious to use their income to provide help where it is most needed, they are always pleased to hear from Parishioners living in the 'Ancient Parish' who know of someone in particular need whom the Charity could help, or perhaps who are in need themselves. If so they should write in confidence to the secretary Mrs Jane Bentley, The Old Post Office, High Street, Bisley, GL6 7AA

## Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Today was the funeral of Queen Elizabeth II. Eleven days after she died, a Queen who served the United Kingdom, the Commonwealth and the World was laid to rest. Her state funeral and the procession were screened at The Oakridge Village Hall on the first-class audio visual system. Outside, the Union Jack flown at half-mast was blowing in the wind, on a grey September morning. Inside about forty local people gathered to witness this historic event.

A portrait of The Queen found in a back cupboard, a prop from the Oakridge Players' production of Fawlty Towers, was propped up on the piano at the front of the hall with candles on either side. On the card tables covered with table clothes were small vases of country flowers, each one with a sprig of rosemary for remembrance. There were also plates of biscuits, a small candle and printed orders of service.

Whilst tea and coffee was served from ten o'clock onwards people chatted, sharing memories of The Queen and exchanging village news and then at about ten to eleven, ten minutes before the service started everyone took their seats, including the servers behind the tea hatch. And the hall hushed as the royal family processed to their seats and The Queen's coffin was hoisted onto the pallbearers' shoulders and carried into Westminster Abbey.

For the service, the coffin draped in the red, yellow and blue Royal Standard stood alone on the plinth. The flowers on her coffin included dark pink roses, oak leaves and rosemary, like the flowers on our tables that came from our gardens, The Queen's flowers came from her own garden at Buckingham Palace.

The beautiful music soared in Westminster Abbey and on the big screen in the Oakridge Hall it felt as if we were there. But we also had the benefit of a bird's eye view of the proceedings inside and outside of the abbey, and tender close-up images of the choir and those reading. When the Archbishop of Canterbury spoke of The Queen's service he said, 'Her Majesty famously declared in a 21<sup>st</sup>

birthday broadcast that her whole life be dedicated to serving the nation and Commonwealth. Rarely has such a promise been so well kept. Few leaders receive the out-pouring of love we have seen' And a little voice in the hall asked 'Why is he speaking so loud?'

In a moment of silence, the cameras showed people gathering together around the country, in parks and town squares, doing what we were doing, watching on big screens the outstanding spectacle of thousands of people working together to remember an outstanding monarch; Belfast, Wolverhampton, Edinburgh and Oakridge Lynch.

When The National Anthem started with the still unfamiliar first line of 'God Save our Gracious King', the assembled people movingly stood up, right through to the end of a more unfamiliar second verse.

Delicious cucumber sandwiches, with the crusts cut off, were handed round after the service. And the people sat fast on their chairs as the coffin was taken out of Westminster Abbey into the autumn sunshine and carefully placed back on the gun carriage which was to be pulled by 98 Royal Navy Sailors to the hearse at Wellington Arch. It was compelling viewing as the sailors in faultless formation marched through the narrow Horse Guards Arch leading onto the parade ground and round bends to rhythmic sound of marching boots, drums and the mournful music from the marching band. Behind the coffin, walked King Charles III, The Princess Royal, Prince Andrew, Prince Edward, Prince William and Prince Harry amongst others, accompanying the Queen for the last time past Buckingham Palace where the palace staff lined the pavement.

Just before 2 o'clock the Queen's coffin was safely delivered to the next part of her final journey and the people in the hall started to stir. As the clearing up was done talk changed from the sombre to the positive. Justin Welby's last words in his sermon were 'We will meet again,' and behind the hatch in the village hall the talk turned to planning a party for Charles III's coronation.

## **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.



## OAKRIDGE VILLAGE HALL



All residents aged 18 years and over are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Trust, which will be held on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October at 7.00pm in the annexe of the Village Hall. More information if required from the Secretary, Chris Gregg - [chrisgregg173@gmail.com](mailto:chrisgregg173@gmail.com).

The Trustees are looking to enhance the facilities by applying to vary the premises licence, as shown on p.22 of this edition of What's On.

## OAKRIDGE SHOW

A massive thank you to everyone who helped make the Show the success it was, from all the helpers setting up and taking down, to the volunteers who ran the stalls on the day, and of course all those who came along to spend some money: it really was an amazing day. The sum of £2,450 was raised, of which £1,500 was donated to Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust and £500 towards the refurbishment of the Church gates.

The day was admirably compered by Charlie Wise, with the ever popular book stall and dog show among others drawing people in, yummy cakes served up with the teas and coffees, and the lovely WI jams and preserves adding to the atmosphere. The Wine Club ran a fabulous bar, and BBQ food was on offer. And with the entertaining Mary Lou Revue returning once again, and a fantastic dancing display from Ballyhoo, there was plenty to keep visitors busy. Thanks go also to all who kindly donated prizes or items for stalls.

Entries to the Flower and Vegetable Show were considerably reduced on previous years but we still had more than enough to fill the hall and it looked great! This despite another difficult growing season that may have affected produce availability. Childrens' entries though were again low (none at all in the under 4 year old groups) – if anyone has suggestions as to how to make these classes more attractive to potential entrants, please do get in touch. The quality of entries throughout was of an excellent standard – very well done to all trophy winners below, and huge thanks to the judges.

Flowers: Ali Mills

Vegetables: Mike Dolman

Longest Runner Bean: Ali Mills

Miscellaneous Garden: Susie Trotter

Flower Arrangements: Gaza Westfall

Baking & Preserves: Susan Hemming

Handicrafts: Helen Scott

Photography: Sue Korda  
Children aged 5,6 & 7: Anya Tillman  
Children aged 8-11: Alma Tillman  
Children 12 yrs upwards: Mia Gal  
Best in Show: Gaza Westfall

As a final note, the Village Show would not be possible without the enormous work of the committee. This year we say goodbye and extend HUGE thanks to Mark and Lyndsey Barnett, and Caroline Priestley for all their incredible hard work over many years. That means we have spaces on the committee for people who would like to be involved in taking the Show forward for future years – if you are interested, please contact Vicky Beard at [vbeard51@gmail.com](mailto:vbeard51@gmail.com).



## From Michael Scott: OAKRIDGE SHOW 3<sup>RD</sup> SEPTEMBER – THANK YOU!

Our Village Show was a great success, thanks to a small but dedicated band of organisers and helpers. The occupants of the 66 vintage and classic cars and motor cycles love coming to Oakridge, many returning year after year. On their behalf, can I say a big “thank you” to all those who gave the motorists such an enjoyable afternoon: first, a very small organising group, namely Caroline and Tom Priestley, Mark Barnett, Victoria Beard, John Loosley and Andrew Davison (Andrew alone organised the Village Hall exhibition): next, the welcome group which energetically erected the tents on Friday and took them down again late on Saturday: third, those who worked so hard to give us lunches, teas, wines and beer: last, but certainly not least, those who set up and ran all the popular and successful stalls and attractions for us to enjoy.

As they left the field, many of the car owners told me “See you next year”. But perhaps they hadn’t appreciated just how much work must be done before Oakridge Show 2023 can take place – it will rely on the active participation of our local folk. I do hope anyone interested in helping with this task will contact the organisers to ensure our long running Village Show tradition continues.

Meanwhile, thanks again, everyone!

## OAKRIDGE HISTORY GROUP



First an apology for giving the incorrect date for the September meeting at which Liz Davenport was speaking on “Woodchester Mansion, an unfinished masterpiece”. We look forward to a stimulating beginning to this year’s programme.

The final activity of the 2021/22 season was in August when Carol Maxwell led a group of us round Painswick, looking not only at the obvious landmarks such as the church, the stocks, the R.C. church and various substantial vicarages, but also at the less obvious - the historic bowls club (one of the oldest in the country apparently) and a somewhat mysterious tower adjacent to a 1926 house by Sidney Barnsley thought to be possibly a drying tower for the wool industry. We saw the changes in streets where rows of tiny cottages inhabited by families of the poorest mill workers once faced grand houses of the mill owners. Now the cottages have been knocked through and transformed into big houses themselves, owned by an entirely different class of residents. We were very fortunate to be invited on the spur of the moment by the owner into one of the

oldest houses in Painswick to see part of the 16<sup>th</sup> century interior. It was a fascinating evening.

Our meeting on **October 26th** will be a talk by Chas Townley on "The rise and fall of the Bisley Path from Gloucester to Cirencester" and the following meeting will be **23<sup>rd</sup> November**, exploring and sorting the Oakridge historical archives.

*Kay Rhodes*

## NATURE NOTES FROM WATERLANE



During our recent hot spell it was a pleasure to walk at midday into the woods below Water Lane. The beech trees are predominant here and create a thick canopy overhead in summer, which also prevents growth of plants beneath. In spring bluebells, anemones and the garlic flower splash the wood with colour, but in full summer the wood is dark and

relatively colourless, for the opened leaves let little sunlight through to encourage growth below. The leaves are so arranged that all get some light, but very little filters between them. In the same way, the leaves intercept most of the rain that falls. This lies on the leaves, to be evaporated again after a shower and does not reach the soil beneath. The woodland floor though dry, does provide food for fungi and for birds and mammals. The raucous cry of the jay in autumn always greets me as I enter the wood as it is irritated by intruders encroaching on its territory. The grey squirrel can also be heard scampering overhead collecting its stash of beech nuts for winter. Beech roots thrive in shallow but fertile soil, spreading laterally just below the surface. The shallow roots make it vulnerable to drought in the U.K, it is feared that in the future, beech woods could become a thing of the past. In autumn beech leaves turn yellow and then orange and give us a magnificent display along our roadsides.

Other main species of trees in our wood are ash, holly, pine, larch, sycamore, hazel and on the fringes silver birch although the ash die back is leaving some holes in the canopy.

*Alan White*

## OAKRIDGE GARDEN CLUB



We were sorry to have to cancel our August meeting. The speaker was in hospital and, not surprisingly, forgot all about her talk on poisonous plants that she was booked to give us. Maybe another year.

The Village Show was the next club event at which we always sell bulbs. It is often a concern as to whether they arrive in time, we have to bag them up and get them labelled. Some did not come this year, so members, please bring some change with you to our next meeting as they will be on sale again. I was sorry not to be home for the Show; it's always a fun event and made even more this year.

Our October meeting will be interesting as she is an amusing and excellent speaker telling us all about being an editor of a gardening magazine. There will also be garden tools on sale if anyone is thinking of early Christmas presents.

Please all make a note that our winter social is NOT on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December as our card tells us, but on Friday 16<sup>th</sup>. This is because we cannot get into the Hall to set up tables and start to cook until too late on the Tuesday. It will be an excellent meal, as we have our own Mary Berry of Oakridge cooking for us. There will be the usual raffle and a cash bar on that evening.

I hope you have all had a good Autumn with some lovely days full of dew and dahlias. My apple crop has been, and still is, amazing.

*Gill Wimperis*

## OAKRIDGE FILM NIGHT

The second Film Night was supported by over 50 people coming to enjoy Jim Broadbent and Helen Mirren in *The Duke*, a 'ridiculously charming' British true life comedy drama.

The next events will be on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October, doors and bar open from 6.45pm, film at 7.30pm; Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November and Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November. 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.html](http://www.oakridgevillage.org/maillinglist.html). To help the team plan for numbers, please visit our box office to reserve a seat but pay on arrival - [www.oakridgevillage.org/boxoffice.html](http://www.oakridgevillage.org/boxoffice.html). Tickets are just £5 (cash only) on the door. Cash bar available.

### **FOOTBALL COMES TO OAKRIDGE VILLAGE HALL**

*Why not come to watch the live screening of the Lionesses playing to a sold-out Wembley crowd on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October, when England play the USA. Doors open at 7.30pm, kick off at 8.00pm. Free entry, cash bar available.*

## LADIES NIGHT

Calling all Lovely Ladies from Oakridge and Beyond.

Our monthly get-together will now be every 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month. This is so we can all enjoy some of our other wonderful clubs we are so lucky to have within the village, without having to choose!

We are a friendly bunch who like a chance for a chat and a drink with friends and neighbours in our Village pub. If you are new to the village and would like to meet up, then please join us. No pressure, no agenda. More the merrier!

We will be in The Butchers Arms any time after 7 pm on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October.

Look forward to seeing you  
*Tamzin Hutton*

## OAKRIDGE WI



On a very hot August day, several of us made a visit to the Butterfly Garden attached to Dundry Nurseries. The recycling projects carried out there are above and beyond.

Forty huge containers left the site prior to our arrival, and the community had shared a lunch cooked on site before we met Chris Evans for our tour. I recommend you take some time to visit and find out for yourselves the wonderful work that is undertaken there.

The Village Show was a lovely day and our stall selling preserves was, once again, sold out, enabling us to give a good contribution to the charity and swell our own funds also. Thank you everyone for organising such a truly village event for us.

**8<sup>th</sup> September 2022** A date to remain in history, the loss of our dearly beloved Queen Elizabeth II. This was uppermost in all our thoughts before commencing our meeting. Sue lit a candle and we held a minute silence for reflection.

September was our Open Meeting, quite poorly attended for one reason or another. However, it was a super evening. "Bomber Down" was an illustrated talk given by Peter Drover which delved deeper into the WWII plane crashes in our village on 25<sup>th</sup> July 1940, a photograph of which is on the front cover of the book "Return to War" which he and his fellow researchers have produced. The

British pilot killed, Captain Bird, has a remembrance plaque on our Village Memorial.

13<sup>th</sup> October Alison Cameron-Price will tell us of the work of Sue Ryder hospices. There will be a Bring and Buy stall  
 10<sup>th</sup> November our 99<sup>th</sup> AGM – after formal business has taken place we have “Humorous Poems” readings. Plenty of natter time, tea and cake

Christmas thoughts are now forming in our heads, but we hope to see you all before then. Remember, visitors are always made welcome.

*Mary Fern*

## OAKRIDGE PLAYERS



The Oakridge Players are now planning their next production which is a cowboy pantomime (yee-haa!), scheduled to run at the end of January. More to follow, but in the meantime if you are interested in joining the Players in any capacity (on stage, back stage or front of house) please contact Steve (07768 466821, [steve.rickards@uk.zurich.com](mailto:steve.rickards@uk.zurich.com)) or Pauline (07802 613965, [paulinelindeque@gmail.com](mailto:paulinelindeque@gmail.com)).

The Players are also running an informal acting workshop towards the end of October and would welcome potential new members at the workshop to have a bit of fun. If you are interested, again please contact Steve or Pauline.

## Spotlight on ..... Ralph Turner



Ralph was born in Gloucester in 1928 and grew up in Estcourt Road. He passed the secondary 11+ exam and attended Crypt Grammar School where he was in the first intake at the new school site at Podsmead.

He had a distinguished school career both as a scholar and a sportsman of considerable talent. He secured a place at Pembroke College, Oxford. Alas, things were to change in his life such that his destination on leaving school with a Higher School Certificate in 1947 was to be as a National Serviceman conscripted for three years to the Army.

His sporting prowess was recognised and he represented the Gloucestershire schools at both cricket and rugby - he also played hockey for Crypt School. At the age of 13 and being only a reserve for the school cricket 1st XI, he was offered to the visiting side as they were one short. He joined the last batsman in a tenth wicket stand of 100 which was sufficient to give the visitors victory. From then on he was a regular in the Crypt side and became captain in the Sixth Form.

In his early days of Army training at Oswestry, Ralph used to write weekly letters to the family of a young soldier who

couldn't read or write - the family lived in Chalford and appreciated the regular exchange of messages.

Part of the military training was at Oswestry where he represented the Western Command both in athletics and cross country running. From there he went to the education training centre on the southern shore of Loch Lomond before being posted to North Africa to such places as Tobruck, Port Said and Suez. The harbour port of Tobruck was packed with sunken ships and the main roads around Tobruck still contained many unexploded landmines after WW2.

In Tobruk, Ralph remembers the troops being allocated 50 cigarettes a week as part of their allowances. He used to trade them in for currency with the locals.

Whilst there he continued as a member of the Education Corps and particularly enjoyed this experience. As the only member to have passed the higher level school certificate he was asked to give the men lessons in basic English and maths as well as taking them on classical trips to places like Benghazi and Derma to see the ruins. They were restricted to staying close to the roads because of the unexploded mines. He and his men also had instruction in recreational sailing.

On his return to the UK Ralph had thought about taking up his place at Oxford but, given that jobs were hard to come by after the war, he took a post with the civil service after successfully passing their exams. He was initially involved in the decommissioning of naval dockyards and handing them back to their country of origin, predominantly to Malta and South Africa. Later he worked for the Exchequer and Audit Office (now the National Audit Office) where he also had links with Remploy, an agency for disabled employees, which offered wounded ex-service personnel much needed help, guidance and placement.

Ralph met his wife-to-be Peggy, an attractive and outgoing girl from Sidcup, in London in 1949 where she was working as a clerk in the Admiralty Office on the same site as Ralph. They would



meet in the lunch hour to play table tennis together. They married in 1951 and lived near Wembley. They were able to watch many famous tennis players at the Wembley Arena (formerly Wembley Pool) which is where big matches were played before the professional competitions of Wimbledon - Ken Rosewall, Donald Budge, Pancho Segura and Pancho Gonzales. He was lucky enough to get hospitality tickets through his work. He also played cricket for the Civil Service where they had an ex-professional as a coach.

Working in London became somewhat difficult and he eventually left behind the smog and train strikes and in 1974 moved to Lightpill, Stroud and then later, in 1985, to the village of Oakridge - neither of them had heard of Oakridge before! They were already blessed with four daughters - Alison now lives in Sussex, Gillian lives near Leeds and Jackie is in Cashes Green. Sadly, their youngest daughter Kathryn died in June last year. Peggy sadly passed away in 2017.

After successfully running the local Spa shop in Lightpill for many years with six members of staff, they bought 'Highridge' which was then the local shop and post office in Oakridge. The Lightpill shop had become very busy and they wanted more leisure time, particularly to be able to make the most of their static caravan in Brean Sands. Counter service was the order of the day before the transition to 'self-service' and Ralph was successful in expanding both of these businesses. When Ralph retired in 1994 at the age of 66 he and Peggy moved to Ralph's current home. Mike and Kim Gorny took over the business, renting initially, before purchasing the premises later.

Some of Ralph's lasting memories:

- Cribbage players at the pub - Mary Davies, her father and husband, Lionel Pugh, Bill Oakes and John Hunt were amongst the regulars who played crib at The Butchers Arms at least once a week. They were competitive and travelled by minibus to various competitions in the county.
- Skittles, football and cricket teams provided recreational outlets for the release of any excess energy - stories and tales of 'post-play' activities at the pub and of many local characters still live on.
- Harry Duval, a leading contributor to the Arts & Craft movement was working with wood from his workshop close to the Green by the Primary School and lived in the village.
- A resident parrot conversed with passers-by from his/her secured vantage point on a perch in the garden of a house close to the War Memorial.
- Arthur Cox, a local house builder and grower of over 300 roses who exhibited these flowers at local and regional shows, built the shop as well as two houses in the same road (one of which includes Ralph's current home).
- The names Gardiner and Hunt though not always related were prominent in the area. Other positive references to the Dean and Fern families were cited as were comments made about the joy of living in the area.
- Certainly between 1985-1994, some local residents thought the Parochial School was 'fighting for its life' due to falling numbers. The occasion of the annual May Revels always attracted the generous support of community members.
- Agricultural workers, trades people and dry stone-wallers were amongst the most prevalent occupations.
- The Methodist Church was active.

Three lasting memories - a mere sample included:

Ralph and Peggy visited Westminster Hall and saw George VI lying in State. The next morning, there was a front page photograph on the Daily Mirror of Ralph and Peggy at this occasion.

Ralph's father took him to Twickenham to see an international rugby match and he recalls travelling to London, having lunch at Simpson's in the Strand, riding in a Rolls Royce to the ground and returning to the West End to see the Crazy Gang in the West End for the evening show.

At 94, Ralph still lives independently in spite of impaired vision and a pacemaker after a heart attack in his 80s. He enjoys listening to music, particularly by Johann Strauss and he loves listening to the regular Andre Rieu concerts on Sky Arts. He also listens to talking books and a talking version on

a memory stick of the Stroud News and Journal each week. He has regular visits from his daughter Jackie and has a lovely rescue greyhound called Flash who is good company.

Ralph and Peggy were happily married for 66 years!

I asked him the secret of his long life. He said he has always been an 'early bird' and always stayed active.

Of his long and happy marriage, he said the secret was 'give and take' and just enjoying life together.

Sue Wise. 01285 762800. 07766 705357

OPEN STUDIO of Paintings & Pottery  
By JOHN BAILEY

[www.johnbaileyart.co.uk](http://www.johnbaileyart.co.uk)

Winsley Cottage,  
Oakridge Lynch, Glos, GL6 7NZ  
01285 760659

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> Nov –  
Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> Dec 2022  
11.00 am – 5.00 pm

IN AID OF CANCER RESEARCH

## 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](mailto:Susan.williams@gloucestershire.gov.uk) Mobile 07766318854

## 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 5<sup>th</sup> October and Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 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

**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)



## THE COST OF LIVING CRISIS

Here at Citizens Advice Stroud and Cotswold Districts we are seeing an increase in demand for our services as a result of the cost of living crisis.

Over the last three months we have seen a 92% increase in requests for charitable help from the same period last year, with people seeking help with food, fuel or hardship fund payments.

Whilst the Energy Price Guarantee announced on the 8<sup>th</sup> September comes as a huge relief to households, energy bills are still very high. In winter 2021, the energy price cap was set at £1,277 for typical use. The new Price Guarantee starting on 1st October for households on typical use will be £2,500 a year.

We are very concerned about how vulnerable residents will cope this autumn and winter when temperatures drop and they need to turn their heating on. Many of our clients have been unable to afford their essential costs during the summer months. We have already had clients on prepayment meters who do not have enough credit to run medical equipment that relies on electricity; clients who cannot afford to heat their water; parents who are skipping meals to feed their children and pensioners unable to afford their fuel bills. In our largely rural districts many residents rely on oil for heating and hot water and we have been contacted by people who cannot afford the cost of the minimum order.

### **What to do if you are worrying about money**

If you are worried about paying your bills there are a few simple things you can do:

1. Work out your budget. Find out exactly how much you have coming in, and what's going out, and think about where you may be able to make savings. There is a useful budgeting tool on the national Citizens Advice website (<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk>) to help you.
2. If you don't think you can pay your energy bills, contact your supplier. There are schemes to help customers but if you don't tell them you are struggling then they can't help you.
3. If you have debts, look at the guidance on debt on the national Citizens Advice website.
4. Check if you might be entitled to any benefits. If you have internet access you can use Turn2Us, Entitledto or Policy in Practice benefit calculators to check what you might get.
5. Make sure you have received any cost of living payments that you are entitled to. If you are in council tax Band A-D property you should have received a rebate on your council tax and if you are a pensioner, on benefits or disabled there are various payments that you should be receiving.

If you cannot access the internet please call us on our freephone number **0808 800 0510** to access advice.

If you are really struggling and don't have enough food to eat you can call the Trussell Trust Help through Hardship Helpline on **08082 082138**.

Please do ask for help – we understand that these are worrying times.

You can get advice by calling us on our freephone number (**0808 800 0510**) and email advice through our local website (<https://www.citizensadvice-stroudandcotswold.org.uk/>) under the Get Help section. We are also seeing clients by appointment in our Stroud and Cirencester offices and in the community at various venues across both districts – currently Dursley, Paganhill Community Hub, Stonehouse APT, Wotton-under-Edge, Moreton-in-Marsh and Tetbury.

We are also looking for new volunteers to train as admin assistants in both our Cirencester and Stroud offices – if you are interested please email [info@ca-scd.org.uk](mailto:info@ca-scd.org.uk). We also welcome donations to support our service – find out more on our website <https://www.citizensadvice-stroudandcotswold.org.uk/>).

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



***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](http://www.biscan.info), or email [bisleyeastcombeoakridgecan@gmail.com](mailto:bisleyeastcombeoakridgecan@gmail.com) or call Martin 01452 770878 or Lesley 01452 770018

## 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 25<sup>th</sup> July – 24<sup>th</sup> September 2022:

S.22/0794/FUL Change of use from agricultural to equestrian stables, Hawthorneden, Far Oakridge	Awaiting Decision
S.22/0956/FUL Install ground mounted solar PV System S.22/0920/FUL Convert barn to staff accommodation 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	Permitted
S.22/1314/HHOLD 2 storey extension, Hillcrest, Oakridge Lynch	Permitted
S.22/1836/FUL Install ground-mounted solar PV system to rear of Waterlane House, Waterlane	Awaiting Decision
S.22/1801/HHOLD Ground floor extension, Trillis, Far Oakridge	Awaiting Decision



**COME & MEET YOUR FRIENDS  
at ST BARTHOLOMEW'S COFFEE CORNER**

**OPEN THE 1<sup>ST</sup> THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH  
10AM – MIDDAY  
6<sup>th</sup> October / 10<sup>th</sup> November / 8<sup>th</sup> December**

*also books to buy or exchange, plant sale and charity cards*

## NEWS FROM HILLHOUSE FARM

Thank you to all our neighbours who supported us last year by purchasing our 'as' organic lamb. Our wish is to bring affordable happy meat to as many of you who wish to enjoy it, as possible. Our lambs enjoy love and the best care we can give them from the day they are born to the day they die. Consequently the meat is amongst the tastiest you can find and we fully believe this is the way forward for us all in the future. I can deliver locally.

Despite the rising prices around us we have managed to make only minor changes to last year's prices.

The current prices are as follows:

Whole Lamb	£145.00
Half Lamb	£75.00
Whole shoulder	£23.00
Whole leg	£26.00
Half shoulder	£13.00
Half leg	£14.00
450g mince	£6.00
Bag of bones	£3.00
Liver	£4.00
Kidneys	£2.00
Heart	£1.00
Breast	£7.00
2 x chops	£4.00
4 x burgers	£5.00 - These are gluten free and without any nasty ingredients

We invite you to taste our happy meat.

As one customer commented. "I like eating meat but it's the stress that the animals go through that stops me". She then went ahead and bought a quantity of our stress-free lamb!

Louisa – Hillhouse Farm, Tunley. Tel 01285 760684

## LICENSING ACT 2003

### APPLICATION TO VARY A PREMISES LICENCE

We the Trustees of Oakridge Village Hall Trust, hereby give notice that we have applied for the VARIATION of a Premises Licence in respect of **Oakridge Village Hall** as follows:-

To permit the sale of alcohol and provision of late night refreshment on Sunday – Thursday 0900 – midnight

To permit the sale of alcohol and provision of late night refreshment on Friday & Saturday 0900 – 0100

To permit the screening of licensed films and other televised events Sunday – Saturday 0900 – midnight

To extend the terminal hour for recorded music on Friday & Saturday from midnight to 0100

Any interested party or responsible authority may make representations on this application in writing to the Licensing Officer, Licensing Section, Environmental Health, Stroud District Council, Ebley Mill, Westward Road, Stroud, Glos, GL5 4UB, or by email to: [licensing@stroud.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@stroud.gov.uk) by no later than **23<sup>rd</sup> October 2022**

The full application can be inspected by contacting the Licensing Section (see above) or at the Council's website – [www.stroud.gov.uk](http://www.stroud.gov.uk)

**IT IS AN OFFENCE** knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application for which you may be liable to a fine of up to £5000 on summary conviction.

Date of Application: **26/09/2022**



## 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
-  pages – Oakridge Village Network and Oakridge Village Hall, Oakridge Lynch
- WhatsApp group – Village network
- 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 news of events, films and the What's On direct to your email inbox, via the village website – [www.oakridgevillage.org/maillinglist](http://www.oakridgevillage.org/maillinglist)
- If you prefer the online version and no longer want a paper copy of the What's On, please email [editoroakridgewatson@gmail.com](mailto:editoroakridgewatson@gmail.com) with your name and address

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

*Edie is currently studying for a Level 3 in Early Years and Childcare at Stroud College, whilst developing her creative interest in calligraphy, photography and dance with Ballyhoo – see her Instagram page: Calligraphygirlll*

**24<sup>th</sup> November 2022, 5pm - CLOSING DATE**  
**for the Dec / Jan WHAT'S ON**

**Editor: Victoria Beard**

Tel: 01285 760339

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

E&OE

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<b><u>OCTOBER</u></b>		
Sat 1 <sup>st</sup>	• Harvest Supper, Village Hall	6.30 pm
Sun 2 <sup>nd</sup>	• Harvest Festival, St Bartholomew's	9.30 am
Tues 4 <sup>th</sup>	• Garden Club, Village Hall	7.30 pm
Weds 5 <sup>th</sup>	• Film Night, Village Hall • Parish Council meeting, Bisley	6.45 pm 7.30 pm
Thurs 6 <sup>th</sup>	• Café Church, St Bartholomew's	10.00am – noon
Fri 7 <sup>th</sup>	• England v USA Women's Football, Village Hall	7.30 pm
Weds 12 <sup>th</sup>	• Ladies' Night, Butchers Arms	7.00 pm
Thurs 13 <sup>th</sup>	• WI, Village Hall	7.30 pm
Tues 18 <sup>th</sup>	• Village Hall AGM	7.00 pm
Weds 19 <sup>th</sup>	• Lunch Club, Village Hall	Noon – 2.00 pm
Weds 26 <sup>th</sup>	• History Group, Village Hall	7.30 pm
Sat 29 <sup>th</sup>	• Twinning Curry + Quiz Night, Village Hall	7.00 pm
<b><u>NOVEMBER</u></b>		
Weds 2 <sup>nd</sup>	• Film Night, Village Hall • Parish Council, Bisley	7.00 pm 7.30 pm
Weds 9 <sup>th</sup>	• Ladies' Night, Butchers Arms	7.00 pm
Thurs 10 <sup>th</sup>	• Café Church, St Bartholomew's • WI AGM, Village Hall	10.00am - noon 7.30 pm
Sun 13 <sup>th</sup>	• Remembrance Day Service, St Bartholomew's	9.30 am
Weds 16 <sup>th</sup>	• Lunch Club, Village Hall	Noon – 2.00 pm
Weds 23 <sup>rd</sup>	• History Group, Village Hall	7.30 pm
<b>Thurs 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>CLOSING DATE FOR NEXT WHAT'S ON 5pm</b>	
Sat 26 <sup>th</sup> – Sun 4 <sup>th</sup> Dec	• Open Studio of Paintings and Pottery, Winsley Cottage	11.00 am – 5.00 pm
Weds 30 <sup>th</sup>	• Film Night, Village Hall	7.00 pm