

WHAT'S ON



in




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

April / May 2024

Edition 268

www.oakridgevillage.org

USEFUL INFORMATION

- The village website – www.oakridgevillage.org - for up-to-date information, including Village Hall availability and Village Events Calendar
- Facebook  pages – Oakridge Village Network and Oakridge Village Hall, Oakridge Lynch
- Village network WhatsApp group
- Village Hall bookings – johnloosley40@gmail.com
- Butcher's Arms 07597 426083 or thebutchersarms.oakridgelynch@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
- Instagram  account (oakridgelynch), to accompany the Village Hall Facebook  page and the village website. Contact Claire Robinson on 07903 974577 if you'd like to submit some photographs, full credit will be given

EDITOR'S NOTE

A bumper edition this time, lots of interesting pieces of information/things to read from the groups around the villages. There's lots to look forward to in the coming months, from the regular Film Nights, a Ceilidh, the popular school May Revels and performances by the Oakridge Players; hope you can make it along to some of these events.

If you prefer the online version of What's On and no longer want a paper copy, please email editoroakridgewhatson@gmail.com with your name and address and I can adjust the printing circulation list.

Victoria Beard

VILLAGE DEFIBRILLATOR

After the successful defibrillator training held in November, a rolling programme of future training will be organised, so if you missed it last year, look out for the next opportunity. For those who aren't aware, the defibrillator is situated in a central location in Oakridge Lynch, on the wall outside Ollie's Shop (a yellow box, accessible 24 hours). If anyone needs to use it, when calling 999 as an emergency, the operator will give the caller a code to access the machine and guide the user in its operation – so even if you haven't had the training, it should be possible to use the defibrillator to save a life.

Note that the School now also has access to a defibrillator during school hours.

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, church and village noticeboards

Greetings from the Church in Oakridge, we hope that you have a blessed and joyous Easter. There will be a service of Celebration at Saint Bartholomew's on Sunday 31st March at 9.30 am.

We would be delighted to welcome you to any of our events. The church is a quiet place to sit and reflect or remember a loved one, Saint Bartholomew's is open from 9am - 5pm and welcomes everyone. Vicar Sue will be happy to chat with you, should you have any thoughts to share or questions to ask. Please give her a call on the above number.

We are grateful to those who have responded with interest and enthusiasm to see the church continue in Oakridge. Please keep your thoughts and ideas coming and how they may be implemented.

Café Church will be returning on 4th April 10am-12 noon. We look forward to seeing you at our coffee mornings which will be held on the first Thursday of the month.

A fortnightly, evening House Group meets to share a meal together before reading and discussing a section of the Bible. This informal group is led by Willem. All are welcome to join, for more information please contact Sharon Dawes on 07979 522281 or Willem De Jager 07857 535122.

Thank you to those who helped with the Mother's Day posy making, it was lovely to welcome so many families, Mother's and Children in Church on Mothering Sunday.
 Diary for April and May 2024

April

Thursday 4 th	10.00 am – 12 noon	Cafe Church
Sunday 7 th	9.30 am	Morning Worship
Sunday 21 st	9.30 am	Holy Communion
Monday 22 nd	10.10 am	Open the Book – with the School

May

Thursday 2 nd	10.00 am – 12 noon	Cafe Church
Sunday 5 th	9.30 am	Morning Worship
Sunday 19 th	9.30 am	Holy Communion
Monday 25 th	10.10 am	Open the Book – with the School

CAFÉ CHURCH

4TH APRIL 10AM-12AM

Calling All Coffee/Tea Lovers!

I hope everyone is ready and looking forward to Spring, I most certainly am after all the wet days that we have been experiencing. Café Church is opening in April, and we would love to see those of our regulars and those who haven't tried us yet. A warm welcome awaits you.

We will continue to open every first Thursday of the month unless otherwise stated.

So come along and give us a try. We serve lovely cake and coffee. So put it in your diaries!

Sharon Dawes

GILL FARRAR'S OAKRIDGE RAINWATCH



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

January 91.8 mm about 3.6 ins
 February 162.3 mm about 6.3 ins
 March (to 16th) 51.7 mm about 2.0 ins

OAKRIDGE WALKING GROUP

Need some company while getting some exercise? Then come and join us. We're a friendly, local walking group who meet every other Tuesday morning for a walk and a natter. Walks are typically about 5 miles, start at 10 am and last around 2.5 hours.

The programme for the rest of the year as follows:

9th April – the Old Lodge Inn, Minchinhampton Common
 23rd April – the Bell Public House, Avening
 7th and 21st May
 4th and 18th June
 2nd, 16th and 30th July
 13th and 27th August
 10th and 24th September
 8th and 22nd October
 5th and 19th November
 3rd December

If you would like to join the group on any of these walks, please contact Keith or Helen Dewhirst on 01452 770560. A warm welcome awaits you.

LUNCH CLUB



Lunch club is held in the village hall on the third Wednesday of every month. Price is £8 per head and all are welcome. If you would like to come along, 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

Committed to providing quality social space for our community

The Pancake Lunch held in February was a success, despite not being much advertised – the regulars knew when to turn up! Film Nights continue to be the main fundraising event for the Hall and provide a great social occasion for the village as well as welcome funds to the Hall accounts.



At the recent Trustee meeting it was felt that a hustings style event to introduce the candidates in our new parliamentary constituency, North Cotswolds, might be a good idea, especially with a General Election looming at some point this year. All known candidates have been invited to the event on Wednesday 10th April; at the time of writing those able to attend are the Lib Dem and Green candidates, but it is hoped others will be able to join them on the night.

OAKRIDGE FILM NIGHT

The first two films of 2024 were well received, *Pride* in February, and *Spotlight* in March. Both thought-provoking and of recent historical interest in their own way. The next Film Night is on 3rd April, so why not come along and join us? As usual, £5 on the door (please reserve tickets via www.oakridgevillage.org/boxoffice to give us an idea of numbers), and a well-stocked bar will be available. Doors open at 6.45pm, film starts at 7.30pm. Please note, **CARD PAYMENTS ONLY**.

As always, to find out more about upcoming films (and other village events), sign up to the What's On Mailing List at www.oakridgevillage.org/maillinglist. - this will give you a sneak preview of this film.

MEET THE CANDIDATES

NEW NORTH COTSWOLDS CONSTITUENCY

The known parliamentary candidates for our new constituency in the forthcoming General Election have been invited to give presentations to highlight the make-up of the new constituency and their approaches to the issues facing our area.

Paul Hodgkinson, Liberal Democrat candidate, tells us he will be in listening mode and we hope he will be able to shed light on how, if successfully elected as our MP, he would best represent the Bisley-with-Lypiatt Parish in such a geographically wide and diverse constituency.

Chloe Turner, the Green candidate, is keen to understand what is important to our community, and will set out how she would use her financial skills and environmental experience to champion rural issues, nature, and fairer, greener communities in Westminster.

Presentations will be followed by a Q and A session.

Date: **Wednesday 10th April**

Venue: **Oakridge Village Hall**

Time: **7.00 pm**

This event has been organized by Oakridge Village Hall Trust and is open to all residents of the Bisley-with-Lypiatt Parish.

OAKRIDGE GARDEN CLUB



The first meeting of the year was well attended. Members were able to pay their sub and get the card with details of speakers and garden visits. Those who were unable to attend can pay at the April meeting. We were delighted to welcome six new members – we have around 70 in all.

The AGM never takes too long; all the committee were re-elected, and we quickly got onto the talk give by Carl Sadler from the Forest of Dean. He sat on the stage surrounded by wood soaking in hot water, anvil nails and tools. While he talked, he made a garden trug, bending the willow to shape. I would have like to hear more about the history of the trug and not quite so many odd stories. Why did they originate in Sussex and when were they first used? I didn't feel he was of the high standard of speakers we have had of late.

The committee met last week and details of the first visit will be sent out soon. We also talked about our new summer social to be held in July to replace the winter meal. A menu of dressed salmon, coronation chicken and baked ham was mentioned, along with strawberries and meringue. There will be a minimal charge for what, I hope, will be a delightful evening.

We hope for a good turn out for the April meeting, a talk of "Remarkable Vegetables".
Gill Wimperis

FRITHWOOD SURGERY

Survey

Have your say on Frithwood Surgery, the things you like about it and anything you think you'd like to improve, by filling in the new Frithwood Patients Participation Group patient survey. Pick up a paper copy at the surgery, scan the QR code or visit: <https://bit.ly/PPGSURVEY2024>

Fundraising

Join Frithwood's 100 Club, which helps raise money for new pieces of equipment to benefit all patients at the surgery. Fill out a form at the surgery or visit the club's website: <https://sites.google.com/view/frithwood100club/home>

Health walks

The PPG Health Walks recommence on April 3rd 2024 and then take place every alternate Wednesday thereafter. They start from Frithwood Surgery at 10am and cover a flat 1.5mile circuit. If you are in need of exercise and company, PPG chair Dr Tim Crouch would be delighted to see you. Pick up a registration form from the Frithwood reception or sign up on the day. After walk refreshments are available.



Keep in touch

Find out about the latest initiatives from Frithwood Surgery's PPG by reading out latest newsletters, printed copies of which are usually available from the surgery. Copies can also be accessed through our Facebook page and Facebook group page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/FrithwoodPPG/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/frithwoodppg/>

VANDALISM IN FAR OAKRIDGE

There has been an incident of vandalism to a gate on a property along Pig Track in Far Oakridge. The local residents would like to kindly remind dog walkers that dogs should be kept under control and not allowed to run into gardens, that dog mess is picked up and taken home with them, and walkers should not trespass across private land.

OAKRIDGE HISTORY GROUP



The February talk by Stuart Butler on the radical history of Stroud took a completely different approach from the one with which we are normally presented. Instead of learning history through major events and prominent people, this was, as Stuart emphasised, history from the bottom up, following in the footsteps of the workers and the jobless around Stroud through the 18th and 19th centuries. Stuart had collected together examples of eye-witness accounts of the rural situation – the poverty amidst the beautiful hills and valleys, the mass demonstrations (for example on Selsley Hill), the torching of property during the Swing Riots and the widespread transportation for life meted out to people of Stroud and the surrounding villages driven to desperation by the collapse of the woollen trade. A good-sized audience enjoyed Stuart's less formal but extremely informative approach.

A summary of Ray Wilson's March talk about "Gloucester Docks, past, present and future" will appear in the next edition of What's On.

On 24th April David Elder will talk about "**Secret Cirencester**" and on 22nd May Steve Blake will talk about "**Gloucestershire's medieval churches**". Both should be interesting evenings and we hope you will come and join us.

Meetings are held in the Village Hall at 7.30pm and new membership cards with details of all the forthcoming talks are available for £3 per person.

New members and visitors are always welcome.

Kay Rhodes

Spotlight on

Jack Hemming



Jack was born in the Chalford valley at the start of WW2 and lived in Chalford High Street.

Before the war, Jack's father had worked for the Co-op delivering bread and Jack remembers helping him at weekends and holidays. He can still remember the houses and names of people they delivered to in Oakridge, many of the houses being unrecognisable these days. Back then, a high percentage of people had the surnames of Hunt or Gardiner and to identify them they were referred to by their Christian name such as Albert George, or by their nicknames, some of these being less than flattering. If members of the same family fell out with one another, they would often change the spelling of their surname to disassociate themselves from the rest of the family. After the war, Jack's father went back to his delivery job and drove one of the first delivery vans. Meat was also delivered and it would be tied onto the wing of the van to keep it cool. Jack's grandfather also delivered bread in the Chalford area, using a donkey and cart at that time.

Jack went to Christ Church Primary School and was a choirboy and took part in ringing the church bells. Later, he went to the boys' Technical School to learn a trade. At the age of 11 he joined Chalford Silver Band playing the cornet and then the euphonium for the next 20 years. Conductor Ken Wear was one of his friends at school. During this time he appeared in the 1971 BBC film 'Cider with Rosie'. Christmas was an eventful time for the band back then playing around the many pubs with the inevitable intoxication of the players!

In 1960 after bell-ringing practice on a Friday night, Jack's best mate's girlfriend came down from Oakridge bringing her friend Nora. Jack and Nora hit it off and they have been together now for over 60 years.

Nora was born in Oakridge, the daughter of Fred Orton who was a craftsman cabinet maker for Ernest Gimson, the well known Arts and Crafts designer at Daneway who made furniture, church screens etc. The workshops eventually moved to Daneway House. Nora attended Oakridge Primary School at the time when Mr Weston was Head Master.

Fred would cycle to work wherever the jobs took him, even cycling as far as Lincoln. The family originally came from Burton on Trent with Fred's father William working in the brewery trade and coming to Stroud to sort out a problem with barrels at Stroud Brewery.

Jack and Nora were married in Oakridge church in 1963. Nora's father gave them a plot of land next to his cottage and Jack designed and drew up the plans for Jaeno where they still live today. The build was begun on Boxing Day but the infamous weather in the winter of 1963 meant that the build was put on hold for 7 weeks as heavy snow meant that the village was virtually cut off. The builder of the bungalow was Tyrell Hunt with Jack and Bob Fern doing the plastering.

Jack served an engineering apprenticeship at Geo Waller and Sons graduating from draughtsman to design engineer after which he went to work for Simon Baron and



The lovely view over to Frampton Mansell from Jack and Nora's home.

Simon Engineering in Gloucester, latterly as Project manager. Geo Waller was an engineering company at Thrupp which made large compressors and exhausters for Towns Gas, some being driven by steam.

He then went to SAP Ltd based on the Chalford Industrial Estate. SAP were suppliers of powder storage and handling systems and Jack eventually became Managing Director. In 1989, he set up his own business, Cleeve Materials Handling Ltd, designing and supplying powder handling and storage systems. His firm obtained major contracts such as a batch plant to store, weigh and mix the twelve materials necessary for the production of lead crystal glass for Dartington Glass. In the glass industry Jack supplied a sand dryer for Asfour Crystal in Cairo which he visited to give a quote. His expertise also took him to Finland, Norway, Berlin and Madrid as an Engineering Consultant.

Jack and Nora have two sons - Steve who is married to Dawn and lives locally and they have four grandchildren in Vancouver where Tim and his wife Jen live. Steve worked in design draughting and at one time worked with his Dad. He currently has his own on-line store supplying in model car kits and specialised paints as well being proficient in leather and woodwork. Tim is director of IT at BC Place stadium in Vancouver.

Jack's hobbies include gardening and restoring classic sports cars.

Jack and Nora have fond memories of what a great community Oakridge was just after the war with everyone pulling together.

Sue Wise
07766 705357

OAKRIDGE SHOW

Save the Date! The Oakridge Show will be held on Saturday 7th September this year, and early plans are to include the usual favourites – bric-a-brac, books, and the ever popular vintage car display - plenty for all the family to enjoy.

For those who like to enter the Produce Show, watch out for a few changes to the format and timings – good luck with the coming growing season, and we all hope for plenty of flowers and veg to enter.

We are looking for an outstanding raffle prize – that “money can’t buy” type of thing – if anyone has any suggestions, please contact Heather below.

As always, help is much appreciated, so please contact one of the committee if you are able to offer assistance – we are looking for a Treasurer to join us

Heather - hkf07@yahoo.com

Gaza – gaza.westfall@btinternet.com

Vicky - vbeard51@gmail.com

NATURE NOTES FROM WATERLANE



I have noticed a pair of bullfinches in Waterlane which seem to come to life this time of the year; they are the arch-enemy of fruit growers. Although one of Britain’s prettiest birds, the bullfinch can also be one of the most destructive, this is because in late winter and early spring it literally nips fruit trees in the bud. Attacks on fruit trees and ornamental shrubs occur mainly when the bird’s natural food is scarce from January to April. Its short rounded bill with especially sharp cutting edges is an excellent adaption for this purpose. Bullfinches seem to mate for life. Whenever a glimpse is caught of the black-capped pink breasted male, its mate will be flitting a little way behind, looking like a toned-down copy with the colours filtered out. I find the best way to

spot them is in flight with the black cap, white rump and white wing bars conspicuous. The call note, often the only clue to its presence, is a soft piping ‘dui’ which sounds like it is falling off a cliff. It has considerable carrying power but is often difficult to locate. They are resident all year and generally found all around the country.

Talking of fruit trees, the residents of Waterlane are in the process of setting up a small community orchard. It will be sited adjoining the upper part of the allotments which have recently been renovated. It will encourage wildlife and help us protect our green spaces.

Alan White

OAKRIDGE WI



As I write, Easter is almost upon us but we have packed quite a lot of activity into the past two months.

2nd February... We had a wonderful evening at the Cotswold Playhouse, joining in the pantomime atmosphere with Snow White and the very different 7 Dwarfs "oh YES we did". Corny jokes and laughs aplenty.

8th February... Alison Hewitt talked us through her big adventure with embroidery and design. We had a mystery object to start the evening – a bracelet. What was it made from? We mostly all guessed banana – no, it was parsnip. As a child of the 50s, like many of us she had to sew and knit. However the 90s was the decade that she took things a little further, progressing through the City & Guilds curriculum, finishing with a Diploma in 97/98 covering 92 techniques. Alison has also worked on altar frontals, designed and completed a new banner for her then MU. The exhibition of her work was extensive, an evening just looking at these projects would be a full one.

11th March... The bi-annual WI Quiz took place at Bisley Village Hall. Celia, Pam, Sue R and Mary made amazing searches through their grey matter, gaining 3rd place out of 12 teams with a score of 68. 72 points were gained by Avening, 71 by Siddington, therefore the 2 highest scores go forward and we remain in reserve.

14th March... Craft Night – "Paper Art", just when we thought that playgroup was 'out' we embraced torn painted paper and glue. Some very lovely pictures appeared out of these mediums, and we had fun. Many thanks to Celia for coming up trumps again. So pleased to have Sue H back for this meeting.

Sad news about the Long Table site being sold. That was our 2023 Christmas charity, funds for which were gratefully received. 37,000 meals were served there in 2023. Sale of the site also means all of the other recycling facilities will have to move – we do hope a new site can be found for them.

11th April... Next month's meeting will be subscription night, £48 for 11 meetings. Visitors will be £4, a slight raise from what seems to have been to cost forever, so do join us occasionally if you do not want to commit for a year. However, the annual programme goes with the sub. The speaker will be Rev Dr Henderson from Cirencester, topic "3 Tudor Queens".

When this goes to print, Anne Brain and myself will have attended GFWI Annual Meeting at Cleve School.

Easter greetings one and all
Mary Fern

LADIES NIGHT

Every second Wednesday of the Month the lovely Ladies of Oakridge and beyond, meet up in the Butcher's Arms for a drink and a chinwag. All ladies are welcome to join us from 7 pm. If you are new to the village, this is a great way to get to meet your neighbours and our friendly bunch will always provide a warm welcome!!

Tamzin (tamzin.hutton@outlook.com)

OAKRIDGE SCHOOL NEWS



Oakridge Parochial

**** Oakridge Parochial School now has a defibrillator. It is available for use during term time from 8.30am – 3.30pm ****

The spring term at Oakridge School was packed with interesting projects, days out and activities.

Class 1 learned all about Africa and took part in an African Drumming workshop, which everyone enjoyed immensely. The children also learned about healthy eating and cooking skills when Yvonne from the Great Plate came in to run a series of workshops. Part of the Grace Network (which includes The Long Table and Stroud District Kids Stuff) the Great Plate's team of experienced chefs work together with schools to develop nutritious and appealing menus. Class 1 made some delicious salads, using fruits from the class story book 'Handa's Surprise'. And, as spring finally appeared in Oakridge, the younger children spent some happy days out in the fresh air taking part in Forest School.

Class 2 has also had a busy time. They enjoyed a trip to the Cotswold Canals Trust Visitor Centre in Wallbridge, where they listened to a talk about the canal and its history, watched a lock demonstration and best of all got to take a trip down the canal in a barge. Back in the classroom they studied map making, created a range of amazing sapient robots with Dan from OhBots and also learned all about pulleys, levers, inverted planes and Rube Goldberg contraptions during STEM Week.



The whole school enjoyed a very special Book Week, with parents and carers coming in each day to read to the children. Class 2 had an online workshop with Vashti Hardy, author of Brightstorm. As ever, World Book Day (on 7th March) saw children and staff dressed in wonderfully imaginative costumes based on their favourite fictional characters. But like any good story, this year had a special twist – the children came back to school in the evening dressed in pyjamas, where they snuggled up in their candlelight classroom, drank hot cocoa and listened to a series of fantastic tales delivered by poet and storyteller Pie Corbett.

Oakridge School continues to go from strength to strength. Our Year 6 students all had their secondary school places confirmed with, once again, several students achieving places at local grammar schools. And as our oldest students prepare to start the next phase of their story, we are delighted to have welcomed a number of new pupils this term. We hope to see you all at the May Revels on Saturday 18th May!

Ceilidh

Come and dance with us!

After the success of last year's fantastic ceilidh, the Oakridge School Association (OSA) have lined up another event for the whole village on Saturday 13th April.



Tickets sold out last time and we were delighted to see so many villagers joining the parents, children and teaching staff on the dancefloor. Music this year will once again be provided by the wonderful folk band Between The Acts, and there will be plenty of delicious hot food and a fully-stocked bar.

All money raised will be used to provide day trips and equipment for all the pupils of our lovely village school. Book early to avoid disappointment by calling or texting Hester on 07526 671846. See you there!

Open to all ~ Come and dance with us!!

OAKRIDGE SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

CEILIDH

SATURDAY 13TH APRIL
5.30pm-8.30pm

LIVE BAND
FOOD AND LICENSED BAR


 £10 Adult (in advance) Message
 £12 Adult (on the door) **07526 671846**
 £5 Child (under 5s free) to book

Venue: Oakridge Village Hall, Oakridge Lynch, GL6 7NZ

May Revels

The much-loved May Revels will be held on the school green on Saturday 18th May, from 12.00-4.00pm.

The Revels are the school's biggest fundraiser of the year and this year they will be bigger and better than ever. As well as numerous stalls selling books, cakes, plants, toys and bric a brac, we will have facepainting, a bouncy castle, a fancy dress competition and a whole host of games to keep little people (and big ones) amused. Visitors will be treated to delicious street food, a fully stocked bar and ice cream from the Cotswold Ice Cream Company.

Raffle tickets will be on sale soon and this year we have over 30 fantastic prizes donated by an array of wonderful local businesses. Companies who have generously donated include: Gifford's Circus, Loose, the Green Shop, Cotswold Gliding Club, School of Larks, Cotswold Playhouse, Jolly Nice, Tesco Stroud, the Sub Rooms, CoCo Cakes and Catering, Cotswold Wildlife Park, Stroud Brewery, Equine Elements, Neptune Homeware, Steve's Supper Club, Fox Lane Flowers, Common Soil, Woodchester Valley Vineyard and the Butcher's Arms... and the list goes on and on. To purchase tickets, please contact the school or Claire Robinson on 07903 974577.

TWINNING ASSOCIATION



The date has been fixed for this year's biennial trip to Plessala. We were invited by our French counterparts for the weekend of 6th-9th September. As usual, the coach will leave here late afternoon of Thursday 5th September, for the overnight ferry crossing from Plymouth to Roscoff.

After a leisurely trip through Brittany including breakfast and lunch stops, we will arrive in Plessala on Friday afternoon. We will leave early on the Monday morning and we will as always be staying with French families in the village. Lavish entertainment and trips to places of interest are always laid on by our French hosts, and the cost of the trip is subsidised by the Twinning Committee here. Knowledge of French is unnecessary, but a willingness to muck in with our hosts and enjoy the French way of life is. If you haven't been on one of the previous trips to Plessala do please consider joining us, so let us know as soon as possible if you are interested so we can give you full details and get a better idea of numbers.



One of the plusses of your joining the Twinning Association is that you may be able to benefit from an offer Brittany Ferries have started to provide to our members of discounted fares when travelling for holidays or other trips on their ferries throughout the rest of the year.

We held our AGM on 19th March, when a new committee was elected, and following a successful antique valuation event in February, we are looking forward to holding at least one more social event during the

summer before September's trip to France.

John Hughes

07810-123511 or mail@jmhughes.plus.com

OAKRIDGE CRICKET CLUB



Oakridge Cricket Club
Est 1900

Oakridge Cricket Club have been playing in the Village for nearly 125 years!

Having been promoted in 2023, Oakridge now play Saturday league cricket in the Gloucestershire County League Div. 7. We also play some Sunday friendly / memorial games through the summer.

Oakridge also run a youth training session on Friday evenings from May onwards. We run both the ECB All Stars & Dynamos programmes for children looking to get into cricket. The club also plan to run hardball coaching sessions, for more experienced able young cricketers.

Winter nets

Oakridge CC winter nets will be held at Thomas Keble School.

These will be Thursday nights on the dates and times below.

All new & old players of any ability welcome.

March 28th 8pm – 9pm

April 4th, 11th, 18th & 25th 7pm-8pm

The club is always looking for new playing and non-playing members. We run as a non-profit making club who rely on our members and volunteers to keep the club running. If you would like to join, support, donate to the club, or help out in any way, for more information please contact:

Mark Robbins

mrobbins@btinternet.com

Oakridge Cricket Club 2024 Home Fixtures

May 11th Painswick
 June 1st Hatherley & Redding's
 June 29th Cam
 July 27th Eastcombe
 August 24th Oaksey

May 18th Tetbury
 June 15th Haresfield Gladiators
 July 6th Ruardean Hill
 August 10th Lechlade

What Is All Stars Cricket?

All Stars Cricket provides a fantastic first experience for all children aged 5 - 8 years old where they're guaranteed 8 weeks of jam-packed fun, activity and skills development. The programme is designed to introduce children to the sport, teaching them new skills, helping them make new friends and have a great time doing so. Every child that registers will receive a backpack full of goodies. Your child's pack will include:

- Backpack
- Cricket bat
- Cricket ball
- Personalised t-shirt with your child's name

All children returning to All Stars will receive a kit bag, a set of stumps, a new ball and a personalised t-shirt.

What is Dynamos Cricket?

Dynamos Cricket provides a fantastic next step for all those graduating from All Stars Cricket and the perfect introduction for all 8 - 11 year-olds new to the sport! Dynamos is all about fun and provides children with a more social offer, focusing on developing the fundamental skills required to play cricket. We know how important it is to look like the heroes of the game, so every child who registers will receive their very own Dynamos Cricket New Balance t-shirt, personalised with their name and number.

Direct links to sign up:

All Stars: <https://ecb.clubspark.uk/AllStars/BookCourse/27afc410-7076-4377-9cc1-77b1ead1554d>

Dynamos: <https://ecb.clubspark.uk/Dynamos/BookCourse/9d88bcc3-9f08-4239-9653-a9ac3dcc2fa0>

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: Wednesday 10th April 2024 and Wednesday 1st May 2024

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 Beth Hughes - beth.hughes@bisley-with-lypiatt.gov.uk

Cllr Ian Greves - ian.greves@bisley-with-lypiatt.gov.uk

Parish Clerk:

E: admin@bisley-with-lypiatt.gov.uk

Save Our Verges:

As you probably know, I'm always ranting about potholes and that's one of the reasons why I joined the Parish Council. While I'm on the subject briefly, the more we report, the more likely problems will be fixed - <https://fixmystreet.gloucestershire.gov.uk/> even better download the app! You can report ANYTHING from potholes to ash dieback, grass verges, manhole covers and fly tipping.

For a while now, and some of this problem stems from the awful weather we have been having, I have been steadily shocked by how damaged our verges are. Having lived in the village for 19 years this is probably the worse it has been.

Some of Gloucestershire's roadside verges are historical remnants of old meadows but all are vital refuges and corridors that interconnect insects (bees, moths, beetles) and home to rare and wild flowers. Billions of plants and wildflowers need this habitat, which in turn support many other animals further up the chain, birds, bats, amphibians...

Year on year, you can see verges being worn away and some all but destroyed. **How can we do our bit to try and combat this:**

- Please don't take verges for granted. Help protect them by using obvious passing places, don't drive up on to the verge. Electric cars are heavier than petrol/diesel cars and can do more damage. Drive with thought so other drivers are not forced onto the verge.
- If you have a drive, please use it. Some cars are also parked on hills, this causes blind spots and is dangerous within the villages.
- If you don't have a drive and I appreciate that not all have one, please where possible park on the road, not the verge.
- If you have horses please park by your gate or in the field. Parking in a random, haphazard way damages a larger footprint along the verge.
- Please report any photos of damage to myself: beth.hughes@bisley-with-lypiatt.gov.uk
- If you have a slightly damaged verge outside your house, maybe take personal remedial action before the ground gets compacted and dry in the summer. I am going to contact Highways and see what they can do for us as well.
- If you see damage to a verge, report it on FixMyStreet!

What we will do as Councillors:

- Comment on planning applications (anyone can do this) and lobby district councillors and GCC Highways Planners where damage to verges is thought likely or has been damaged. For proposed large scale developments eg large extensions or new houses, seek direct and on-going support from applicants to protect verges during construction works. Any damage to be made good.
- I am currently in the process of raising current verge damage due to large construction vehicles with Highways, but it is also delivery vans as well, who do have a bad habit of dumping their vans while they make a quick delivery.
- Take photos to record current state of all village roads so comparisons can be made in future, should a particular issue arise eg with a new development site.
- Consider leaving the verges to grow in the summer, only cutting back where drivers need to see as they approach junctions, to deter people driving on to them.
- Look into creating suitable passing places, signage, and building up existing verges. This needs to be looked into at the next Highways meeting.
- Raise awareness of biodiversity matters

Other Business:

The Tennis court is getting a long-overdue facelift for the spring! It is being professionally cleaned and repainted in the next few weeks and we hope that this will encourage you and your friends to sign up for the 2024/2025 season. £25 for the year. Please email our Clerk if you are interested: admin@bisley-with-lypiatt.gov.uk

The drains on the road down towards the school and around the green are due to be cleaned out by the 1st April and SDC are also due to clean the roads of winter debris. The footpath that runs in front of Cherry Blossom Cottage and down to The Forge is hopefully being cleaned soon as it is very dangerous when wet under foot due to moss and debris from the blocked drain at the top. This drain is also due to be emptied of silt at the same time as the ones around the round green.

Don't forget if you live in Far Oakridge there are a couple of allotment spaces up for grabs. Why not grow your own veg for the summer!

The Parish Council have now completed the rehabilitation of the Waterlane allotments for re-use and includes retaining a small wildlife refuge area to protect and encourage biodiversity on the site (contact Kim Barber).

COUNTY COUNCIL NEWS

Get in touch

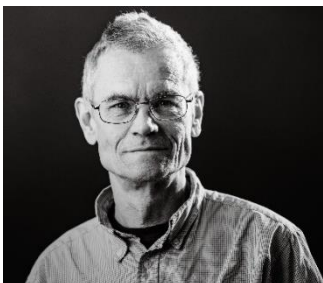
Do please contact me if you have any comments / questions or concerns
 Cllr Susan Williams Susan.williams@gloucestershire.gov.uk Mobile 07766318854

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 20th January – 23rd March 2024

2023/0005/ASSETC Inclusion of Butchers Arms on register of assets of community value	Approved
S.24/0075/HHOLD Extension and upgrade to property Woodside Cottage, The Broadway, Oakridge Lynch	Application Withdrawn
S.24/0042/LBC Clean stonework Orchard Cottage, Bournes Green	Approved
S.24/0407/VAR Variation to previous permission Hillcrest, Oakridge Lynch	Awaiting Decision
S.24/0359/HHOLD Replace oil boiler with air source heat pump Summerfield House, The Broadway, Oakridge Lynch	Awaiting Decision
S.24/0235/HHOLD Erection of single storey extension and garage conversion Far Oakridge House, Far Oakridge	Awaiting Decision
S.24/0207/HHOLD Single storey extension Glendale, Far Oakridge	Awaiting Decision
S.24/0484/HHOLD Erection of rear extension and associated landscaping Lynch Cottage, Oakridge Lynch	Awaiting Decision

DISTRICT NEWS



The 2024-25 budget was passed at the February Council meeting, including these major items:

- The District Council's share of council tax (11% of the total bill – the rest is County Council, Police and Crime Commissioner, and Parish Precepts) to increase by 2.99%.
- Council tax support for those in need to continue at up to 100%; and for Care Leavers it is extended to age 24.
- Premiums on council tax for empty and second homes: From

April 2025, second homes will pay a 100% premium i.e. double the standard rate; empty houses will pay a 100% premium after one year (currently two years), increasing to 200% after 5 years and 300% after ten years (i.e. three or four times the standard rate).

- Funding for improved pedestrian and cycle access at Stroud train station and purchase of the Brunel Goods Shed.

- A freeze of 85% of parking charges in Stroud, a digital sign of spaces available and new secure cycle parking at the London Road multi-storey car park.

At Development Control Committee on February 27, permission was granted for the 'missing mile' of the Stroudwater Canal, under the M5 at Eastington. It will include a towpath with new pedestrian bridge, a new mooring basin with space for 44 non-residential moorings, and a two-storey building including café and canal basin manager's accommodation. This will finally link Stroud to the River Severn and the rest of the country's canals. Work will start later this year.

I was appointed Vice Chair of Council. Of course, this and all appointments are only until the District (and Parish) Council elections on May 2nd. Please don't forget to vote!

As always, please contact me about any council-related matters: Martin Brown, martin.brown@stroudgreens.org.uk, 01452 770878

Promoted by Rob Brookes on behalf of Martin Brown and Stroud District Green Party, all at Shiraz, Lower Street, Whiteshill, Stroud GL6 6AR

ART COMMISSIONS AVAILABLE

HERMIONE ROSE

BA Fine Art student at Goldsmiths, University of London

Art commissions can incorporate a range of different subjects, sizes and media. Examples of works may include portraits of individuals, families or pets; landscape works; or more abstract pieces. These works can be created using a variety of media such as acrylic, oil and watercolour paintings or graphite, charcoal, coloured pencil and digital drawings.



I would love to chat about any ideas that you may have so please feel free to get in touch using my contact details below:

Email: hermionerosenewton@outlook.com | Instagram: [@hermionenewton](https://www.instagram.com/hermionenewton)



Blackthorn blossom

Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*)

Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*)

These two companions of the hedgerow each have their own way of announcing that winter has finally let go of the Cotswolds. In early spring you will notice that on each side of our narrow lanes things start greening up nicely, and that every so often splashes of delicate white blossom appear from bare spiky branches. It is hawthorn providing the green in early spring, cherry and then blackthorn, the white.

Both species are remarkably useful to the farmer - and gardener - for hedgerows and barriers, as they both grow tangled, spiky and impenetrable, and are capable of holding back livestock. But what is an annoyance to sheep, cattle and foxes is a haven for mice, voles, rabbits, birds and insects who welcome the shade and safety that the prickly hedge corridors provide. Motorways are often lined with alternating plantings of hawthorn and blackthorn so as to provide a long-lasting and attractive barrier to larger mammals straying where they shouldn't.

Blackthorn - part of the rose family - is usually the first to flower and does so before its leaves unfurl, and at its peak every inch of its outer twigs seem to be covered by simple white flowers, often appearing singly or in pairs along the length.

Hawthorn sensibly waits until its leaves are out before adding the blossom - possibly so as not to confuse the onlooker - by which time the blackthorn flowers are over and it now begins to show its green.

Both have near identical flowers - 5 small petals with delicate stamens, each flower on a short stalk. The hawthorn's group together in clusters - and you'll see them against the leaves - whereas the blackthorn's gather in ones and twos on bare branches. Buds in both types appear alternate along branches and are small and brown, growing at an angle. In blackthorn the buds grow along those spines too.

The hawthorn berries - the haws - appear green soon after the flowers have withered and by autumn have turned deep red and hang in long-stalked bunches. These are eagerly devoured by fieldfares and redwings especially and thus the hard-cased seeds are spread around. The blackthorn fruit is the blue/purple sloe - of gin-flavouring fame and is ripe in early autumn.

Key identifiers are leaf shape and spines - see illustrations - the hawthorn leaf is multi-lobed with a toothed edge, while blackthorn is oval with a finer toothed edge. The spines in hawthorn grow out short and sharp from near the leaf base, whereas in blackthorn the spikes are longer and often have buds along their length.

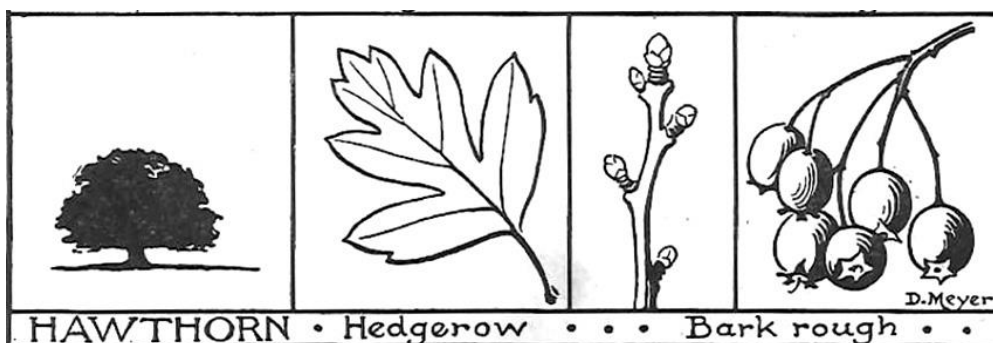
It's worth noting that contrary to popular belief, the blackthorn's spines are not themselves poisonous, but that the wound produced is often deeper than the hawthorn and if left un-cleaned can become septic.

The UK's most famous hawthorn is the Holy Thorn of Glastonbury. Legend has it that Joseph of Arimathea arrived in Glastonbury with a few disciples and two vessels containing the blood and sweat of Jesus. He is said to have thrust his staff into the ground - it sprouted and became a thorn tree. The tree's descendants are still believed to stand on the hill. This particular hawthorn is said to bloom twice a year 'biflora', once in May and again around Christmas. A sprig of one of these Glastonbury thorns from outside St Johns Church, was traditionally sent to the Queen at Christmas. Sadly the famous bush was vandalised in 2010.



Of course hawthorn is known as the May tree, and we have the famous adage: "Ne'er cast a clout 'till May be out", warning us not to put away our winter clothes until the hawthorn flowers. Time will tell if global warming puts paid to this lovely saying.

Hawthorn blossom



Blackthorn has a more sinister reputation in folklore, certainly in Irish tradition, as it was associated with the Cailleach, the goddess of winter, often portrayed as a twisted blue-veiled old woman, blackthorn staff in-hand. With this she was said to create mountains, lakes and valleys, as well as snow-storms and other inclement weather. Again in Ireland blackthorn is used to make shillelaghs, once a lethal weapon - a cross between a walking stick and a club. Designed to be able to be passed off as one but able to be used as the other should the need arise!



Fortunately I don't think we're troubled by highwaymen or footpads in the village these days.

Photo Credit: Pauline Lindeque

Peter Collings-Wells
whitespringbooks.co.uk

Oakridge Players present:

Lark Rise is the re-enactment of the first day of harvest as set in a rural Oxfordshire village. The play is written by Keith Dewhurst and based on the renowned Flora Thompson's first book, Lark Rise. It brings together music, song and drama in a lively country village in the late 19th century. Oakridge Players have teamed up with the local music group, Meerkats, to entertain us in style.



Lark Rise

Oakridge Village Hall
8th, 10th and 11th May 2024 at 7:30

£10 cash payment on the door. Children £5. Cash bar.
Reserve your seat online at www.oakridgevillage.org/boxoffice



TURBULENCE

all morning the wind from the west
 has been bellowing its bad intention
 the sky above is fraught and stressed
 the fields below full of apprehension.
 there is no doubt the days of drought
 are done, the omens are so compelling
 no doubt what clouds are shouting out
 what so loudly they are foretelling.
 parched trees are fretfully gyrating
 as if debating the best and the worst
 of the tempest they are anticipating
 since sated thirst risks bough-burst.
 inside wide woods beside dried brooks
 tall stalks are ceaselessly cavorting;
 stark sky grows doubly dark with rooks
 and crows contending and contorting.
 steered by wind those stealthy spears
 of rain that first come adventuring
 duly prove to be but probing pioneers
 of the onslaught shortly occurring.
 antlered branches clash ash-tops crash
 as a flurry of squawking feather-flap
 from panicking pheasant greets a flash
 of lightning and fearsome thunderclap.
 its as if all of heaven has burst
 every rut is sudden river surging
 every crevice immediately immersed
 sun-baked surfaces fast submerging.
 throughout the tournament of turbulence
 veterans give vent to lung and tongue
 beasts who trust their life-experience
 dispense survival sense to naive young;
 creatures all, tame or wild, big or small
 being true specialists in subterfuge
 whether in farm or field wood or wall
 will find refuge from rampant deluge.

- but storm must stop. otherwise its not.
 blue breaks through, cows browse meadows.
 gnats swarm, swallows come, fox-cubs trot:
 a warm sun charms the happy hedgerows.

John Pavitt

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

CAFE CHURCH REOPENING

THURSDAY 4th APRIL

**and the 1st THURSDAY
thereafter**



10:00 AM – 12 Midday



**Books to buy or exchange
Plant Sale
Charity Card Sale**



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

APRIL 2024

Tues 2 nd	• Garden Club, Village Hall	7.30 pm
Weds 3 rd	• Film Night, Village Hall	6.45 pm
Thurs 4 th	• Café Church, St Bartholomew's	10.00 am - noon
Tues 9 th	• Oakridge Walking Group	10.00 am
Weds 10 th	• Meet the Candidates, Village Hall	7.00 pm
	• Parish Council, Bisley	7.30 pm
	• Ladies Night, Butchers Arms	7.00 pm
Thurs 11 th	• WI, Village Hall	7.30 pm
Sat 13 th	• Ceilidh, Village Hall	5.30 - 8.30 pm
Weds 17 th	• Lunch Club, Village Hall	Noon - 2.00 pm
Tues 23 rd	• Oakridge Walking Group	10.00 am
Weds 24 th	• History Group, Village Hall	7.30 pm

MAY 2024

Weds 1 st	• Film Night, Village Hall	6.45 pm
	• Parish Council, Bisley	7.30 pm
Thurs 2 nd	• Local Elections, Village Hall	All day
	• Café Church, St Bartholomew's	10.00 am - noon
Tues 7 th	• Oakridge Walking Group	10.00 am
Weds 8 th	• Ladies Night, Butchers Arms	7.00 pm
	• Oakridge Players present "Lark Rise", Village Hall	7.30 pm
Thurs 9 th	• WI, Village Hall	7.30 pm
Fri 10 th & Sat 11 th	• Oakridge Players present "Lark Rise", Village Hall	7.30 pm
Weds 15 th	• Lunch Club, Village Hall	Noon - 2.00 pm
Sat 18 th	• May Revels, Oakridge School	12.00 - 4.00 pm
Sun 19 th	• Closing date for What's On	
Tues 21 st	• Oakridge Walking Group	10.00 am
Weds 22 nd	• History Group, Village Hall	7.30 pm

Sunday 19th May, 5pm - CLOSING DATE
for the June/July 2024 WHAT'S ON

The What's On is created from articles written by members of the community. We have great regular contributors, but always welcome new features/writers/artwork for the cover. Donations toward costs are always appreciated – please contact the editor for details.

Editor: Victoria Beard

Email: editoroakridgewhatson@gmail.com

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

E&OE

Printing by Wheatley Printers Ltd, Thrupp