

# WHAT'S ON



**in**

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

August / September 2023

Edition 264

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

## EDITOR'S NOTE

In this edition we look forward to the Oakridge Show on 2<sup>nd</sup> September; celebrate the achievements of a young member of the community; and feature the regular articles from our village groups and clubs. Thank you to those who continue to offer donations to the funds of the What's On – these are hugely appreciated. As ever, I would be interested to receive any comments or suggestions, or can provide banking details for anyone wishing to make a donation to keep the newsletter in circulation – please email [editoroakridgewhatson@gmail.com](mailto:editoroakridgewhatson@gmail.com), or call 01285 760339.

## 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
- Village network WhatsApp group
- 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
- 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 [editoroakridgewhatson@gmail.com](mailto:editoroakridgewhatson@gmail.com) with your name and address



Oakridge now has its own Instagram account ([oakridgelynch](https://www.instagram.com/oakridgelynch)), to accompany the Village Hall Facebook page and the village website. The account is run by Claire Robinson and Beth Hughes, but any Oakridge residents or visitors are more than welcome to contribute their pictures of our beautiful village. Contact Claire on 07903 974577 if you'd like to submit some photographs, full credit will be given.

## GILL FARRAR'S OAKRIDGE RAINWATCH



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

May.... 56.2 mm.....about 2.2 ins.

June .... 39.3 mm.....about 1.5 ins.

July (to 15<sup>th</sup>).... 61.5 mm.....about 2.4 ins.

## 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](http://www.bisleybenefice.org.uk)**

**Greetings from the Church in Oakridge, we wish you a happy and peaceful summer.** Weekly information on up and coming events, news and prayer lists can be requested by emailing [pewslipsbisley@hotmail.com](mailto:pewslipsbisley@hotmail.com)

We would be delighted to welcome you to any of our events, our vicar Sue will be happy to chat with you at the Oakridge Show on 2nd September.

Please save the dates Saturday 30th September - Harvest Supper at the village hall, Sunday 1st October - Harvest Festival 9.30 am Saint Bartholomew's Church. All produce and donations received will go to the Stroud Food Bank.

We are grateful to those who have responded with interest and enthusiasm to see the church continue in Oakridge.

### **AUGUST 2023**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday Café Church 10 - 12 noon
- 6<sup>th</sup> Morning Prayer 9.30 am
- 20<sup>th</sup> Saint Bartholomew patronal festival 9.30 am with holy communion
- 27<sup>th</sup> Songs of Praise - 10am Bisley church - requests and suggestions to Vicar Sue by 13<sup>th</sup> August please

### **SEPTEMBER 2023**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Morning Prayer 9.30 am
- 7<sup>th</sup> Thursday Café Church 10 - 12 noon
- 11<sup>th</sup> Monday - Open the book with the school children 10.10 am
- 17<sup>th</sup> Holy Communion 9.30 am
- 25<sup>th</sup> Monday - Open the Book with the school children 10.10 am
- 30<sup>th</sup> Saturday - **Harvest Supper Village Hall 6.30 pm, £7.50 per head**

### **OCTOBER 2023**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Harvest Festival 9.30 am - donations for Stroud Food Bank welcome

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

The team look forward to seeing you then.

## ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CAFÉ CHURCH



We had a wonderful time in July at Café Church. Val Woods came along and showed us how she makes lampshades which was very interesting, and we thank Val for visiting us. As usual there were a great selection of coffee and cake, and it was great to see so many people enjoying catching up with friends in the village.

Our next Café Church is on the 3rd August 2023 starting at 10am until 12.

### STOP PRESS

7th September – Hilary Ruxton will be coming along to our café church, and she will be showing us some of her stained-glass work and how her work is influenced by her Christian faith. This should be exciting, and it would be lovely to see you all there.

## OAKRIDGE VILLAGE HALL



A reminder that the Hall can be booked for parties, meetings, exercise classes.....and don't forget the reduced hire rate for villagers: contact [johnloosley40@gmail.com](mailto:johnloosley40@gmail.com) to make a booking. The Hall offers

- 3.5m screen and audio-visual system
- 12 x 7.5m open space; curtained stage; seats 100
- A fully equipped kitchen
- Separate annexe (ideal meeting/changing room)
- Licensed for live and recorded music; dance, theatre, film and sale of alcohol
- Trestle and card tables
- Piano
- Parking and access to adjacent recreation field

## OAKRIDGE FILM NIGHT

Film nights are taking a break in August, returning on 6<sup>th</sup> September. Card payments on the door and bar are now available, to make life easier for all.

As always, to find out more about upcoming films (and other events), if you haven't already signed up to the What's On Mailing List, then please do so at [www.oakridgevillage.org/maillinglist](http://www.oakridgevillage.org/maillinglist). To help us plan for numbers, please do reserve your seat (pay on arrival) via [www.oakridgevillage.org/boxoffice](http://www.oakridgevillage.org/boxoffice). £5 cash or card on the door and BAR available as usual. Doors open at 6.45pm, film starts at 7.30pm.

## 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.

## JOHN TAYLOR'S FOUNDATION

The John Taylor's Foundation is a local charity that issues small grants to students going on to Higher Education (excluding A Levels) or those undertaking apprenticeships, to assist with the cost of books, tools 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 The Trustees at [jennytaylor1944@outlook.com](mailto:jennytaylor1944@outlook.com) stating your full name, age, address, university course or employer.

The Trustees of the John Taylor's Foundation meet twice a year in March and September when applications will be considered.

## OAKRIDGE HISTORY GROUP



At our May meeting David Aldred took us on a nostalgic journey along the railways in this area in the early 1960s. It was fascinating to see photos of the many small stations and halts which have disappeared, particularly along the line between Stonehouse and Kemble. Also the stations that have closed in Gloucester, Cirencester and in Cheltenham. David was clearly an avid train-spotter and spent a lot of his teenage years cycling around the area to photograph trains, and thus capturing a way of life where train travel was integral to rural lives.

In June, Pete Moore told an interested audience about Lillyhorn Roman Villa, giving an insight into its place in Gloucestershire during the later part of the Roman occupation in 2<sup>nd</sup> -4<sup>th</sup> centuries BC. The villa, probably functioning as a farm and a centre for the area, was one of the largest in the Cotswolds. Recent research suggests it covered a big area on the top of the hill above Bournes Green and had at least 29 rooms. Although partially excavated in the 19<sup>th</sup> century by Thomas Baker, who recorded a lot of information, it has been covered and largely ignored until recently when Pete undertook his work.

A visit to the Corinium Museum in July will be the end of the 2022/23 year's programme. A new programme is now available and will be published on the Oakridge website. It begins on 27<sup>th</sup> September with "A historical journey along the Gloucester and Sharpness Canal". As always, we hope that members and visitors will come and support a varied and interesting series of talks.

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

*Kay Rhodes*

## **VILLAGE SHOP SET TO CLOSE!**

Having lost our pub, we are now likely to lose the village shop as well!

The shop is losing money with the extra costs of electricity and other running expenses. Not enough people are using the shop despite the excellent delicatessen and the everyday needs stocked in the main shop. Oscar and Laura have tried to advertise what it has to offer, but feel that new people in the village and the area are unaware of its value as a convenient local store for the things you may have forgotten or been unable to obtain online or at the supermarket. Oscar and Laura have promised that they will welcome all existing and new customers to the shop and will try to ensure that they stock what people require.

This is without doubt the last chance we all have to save our village shop which apart from its convenience value is an important hub for the social life and communications in the village. Please do your bit!

*John Bailey*

## **DAISY'S 1,000,000 STEPS**

Oakridge School pupil Daisy Robinson has been on the move this month, as she started the Million Step Challenge in aid of Diabetes UK. Daisy, aged 10, was diagnosed with the autoimmune condition Type 1 diabetes, just before lockdown. Her immune system attacked the insulin-making cells in her pancreas, meaning Daisy now needs insulin injections every day.

Daisy is aiming to hit half a million steps by the end of September to raise money for the charity. However, only three weeks in and she has already racked up an impressive 152,000 steps, so she may even reach the one million mark!

A number of generous friends and neighbours have already added to her sponsorship total, which currently stands at £1,020. If you would like to sponsor Daisy, please contact Claire on 07903 974577 or visit

<https://step.diabetes.org.uk/fundraising/daisy1436#share-page> . Thank you.

## OAKRIDGE GARDEN CLUB



The Club's big outing was early in the month, a whole day at Stockton Lacy. We were met by the owner, who gave us an interesting introduction to the very old farm that had been, over the centuries, owned by monks. The farmhouse had fallen into ruins and been rebuilt in 1920, but the outhouses and barns and huge old orchard, and also a listed dove cot, were well used and cared for. The gardens were huge and beautiful, and in some places they just let the wild flowers take over; we were amazed at how good a tangle of purple vetch looked. My favourite part was the bee garden; small and secret with bee skips in alcoves in an old wall. A darling summer house with tiled floor and painted panels all around to lean on. We ate a good homemade lunch in the shade, and then explored the sunken garden with a stream winding its way through the primulas and gunera. It had been a long drive, but so well worth it.

Last week we met locally at Througham Court; what an experience. The owner, Dr Christine Facer, was so nice and so welcoming – she is a scientist of renown and has put her ideas and knowledge into her garden. A lovely part was a sweeping meadow with winding paths down to the Holy Brook in the valley below.

Please can members remember the village show, and bring anything to help boost our stand. I am told items can be left at the hall the week before – plants, excess veg, flowers all very acceptable. See you at our next meeting on August 1<sup>st</sup>.

*Gill Wimperis*

## HIMALAYAN BALSAM

Who knew that a plant with such pretty flowers is an absolute menace and needs to be eradicated? Yesterday, I Instead of sitting at my desk, I volunteered for the TCV group (<https://www.tcv.org.uk/>). I spent the day pulling up arm fulls of these pesky invasive plant. I have not seen this plant in and around our area but let's keep it that way. And here are some good reasons why: the UK does not have animals which will eat it; our pollinators do not get much benefit from the nectar; it just takes over; by an EU retained law, this plant is listed as a species of special concern.



How to identify:

- Green leaves in a sort of star configuration
- Pretty pink flowers when large
- Stem is hollow with a slight pink tinge
- Pulls out really really easily
- Where a stem touches the ground, it will form new roots

What to do:

- Pull it out
- Put it where it can decompose quickly (light, airy) but ideally not touching ground
- And give it good old stomp with your boots

The link below has a lot of information about pesticides and more rigorous control methods. Hopefully it does not come to that in our area.

More reading for you: [Himalayan Balsam](#)

*Pauline Lindeque*

## NATURE NOTES FROM WATERLANE



You'll probably hear them before you see them. The high-pitched screaming of swifts returning from Africa in late April heralds the beginning of summer. We don't see many in Waterlane due to the lack of nesting sites, but Oakridge has plenty of old buildings where gaps can be exploited under the eaves of roofs. Walking around Oakridge I have often seen swifts forming excited mobs dashing around rooftops in the vicinity of their nests. In past times it was known as the devil bird because of this act. They are no trouble as housemates, they won't disturb the fabric of the building and are quiet in the nest.

Adults' sickle-shaped wings and dark underparts distinguish it from the swallow and martin. No bird spends more time of its life in the air than the swift. It collects all its food and nesting material in flight, it drinks and bathes without alighting, it mates and can spend the night on the wing, and in many cases it manages to outfly birds of prey. Its food consists entirely of airborne insects which are funnelled into its wide-open mouth with the help of surrounding stiff bristles.

Swifts never alight on the ground voluntarily and find it difficult to struggle back into the air if they do. But their hawk-like toes are extremely strong, enabling them to cling to house walls and cliff faces. At dusk parties of swifts circle higher and higher in the sky to spend the night on the wing. They cat-nap on the wing on currents of rising air between short spells of flapping to gain height. In early August it returns on its long flight back to Africa.

*Alan White*



## OAKRIDGE WI



We made it – 5<sup>th</sup> July 1923 – 5<sup>th</sup> July 2023 .... 100 YEARS

Several invited former members were able to join us for our 100<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration of afternoon tea with a drop or two of prosecco. Our tables, set with china loaned by members, looked really elegant, proper napkins and china teapots too. The food was very enjoyable and Grace, as our longest standing member, was cajoled into cutting the cake.

Our June meeting was “All about Pearls” with Pam Slater. I didn’t know half of what she proceeded to tell us. Pearls grow in oysters naturally, also mussels and in freshwater molluscs much rarer, and not as we would expect posh pearls to look like. China, with its long coastline, has many oyster fields, and produces most of the world’s pearls. Plastic inserts are added before putting them out into a system that lets seawater in and out. Shape depends on the added insert, however only 20% turn into top notch pearls. Pam showed us her collection and her remaking and rewiring to make very pretty jewellery. Tips on how to take care of your pearls and how to identify real from fake. A good speaker and a very informative evening – we all wore pearls of course.

13<sup>th</sup> July was “Memories Day”. Anne had borrowed the FIRST MINUTE BOOK from 5<sup>th</sup> July 1923 from the County WI Archive; it made most interesting reading. On show were some of our scrapbooks and photographs of previous celebratory events. These will be available for a while for members who were unable to attend.

August is our holiday month when members should be making for our stall at the Flower Show on 2<sup>nd</sup> September.

Meetings get going again on 14<sup>th</sup> September – “Tax, Care and the New Guy” Silver Time Legal

12<sup>th</sup> October – “Joyce Grenville Entertains” with Lyndsey Barnett

Happy holidays to you all

*Mary Fern*

## OAKRIDGE PUB INTEREST GROUP



Red Oak is still trying to find a suitable tenant and has had several viewings of which some were very positive. Sadly no takers. They have recently dropped the price.

The application for registering the pub as a community asset has been lodged with Stroud District Council and is awaiting a decision. The working group met in June and discussed various options and actions available to us. Until Red Oak decide to sell, there is not a lot we can do. If (and when) Red Oak do put the pub up for

sale, there will be a lot of action if we would like to acquire the business as a community pub. In preparation, we would like to gauge the community's appetite for purchasing the pub collectively. Another angle would be to start direct discussions with Red Oak on how we, as a community, can support them to get a tenant. Community ownership is used as a way for a pub or other business to remain in operation. There are over 150 successful community pubs in the UK and many more in the pipeline. So far, many [pubs have been a success!](#) Many of these pubs have diversified to provide a range of other services that the community needs. Can we / do we want to replicate this in our community? There is a link below to an online survey (available through the online version of What's On, or email the group for details).

[Please complete this survey to help the working group in this venture.](#)

(survey closes 7<sup>th</sup> August 2023)

Contact [oakridge.pubIG@gmail.com](mailto:oakridge.pubIG@gmail.com) if you have any comments/questions/information to pass on.

## OAKRIDGE SHOW

The Show is nearly here! Don't forget to keep the date free – Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> September – and note the earlier starting time of 12 noon, just in time for you to come along for lunch before browsing the Show exhibits, books, plants, tombolas, cars, and all the activities that make the Oakridge Village Show such a great community event.

**Donations:** This year, we are opening the Village Hall between 6.30pm and 7.30pm on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> August to take any donations for the various stalls (not the Produce Show). So if you have books, bric a brac, plants or veg, items for the children's or bottle tombolas, please do come along then to drop them off. Donations of fresh cakes and cut flowers can also be made on the day before 11am. Alternatively, items can be dropped direct to the stallholders:

Bric-a-Brac – The Old Post Office – Jane Curzon

Kids' tombola – Weir Farm – Edwina Lidstone

Books – Sunny Acre – Pam & Philip Dawkins

Bottle tombola – Hillcroft – Clive 07973 922985 & Linda Reardon 07794 425915  
 Plants – Hope Cottage – Gill Wimperis  
 Cakes/biscuits – The Old Vicarage – Alison Hewitt

**Help needed** as always, a few requests for help....

- ❖ we're grateful for any **help with setting up on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> from 3.00 – 6.00pm**, and taking down after the Show on Saturday
- ❖ if anyone has a gazebo they could lend for the day, please contact one of the committee below
- ❖ we would particularly appreciate assistance with collecting straw bales from Bisley, either on Friday or early Saturday morning, and returning them on Saturday afternoon, so if you have a trailer/van, please contact Vicky
- ❖ any willing helpers to serve teas & coffees would be great, please contact Alison Hewitt

Your copy of the Show Schedule is enclosed, more available from either Ollie's Shop or online at oakridgevillage.org – we're looking forward to seeing all your entries.....

**Any queries please, to:**

Heather - hkf07@yahoo.com

Gaza - gaza.westfall@btinternet.com

Vicky - vbeard51@gmail.com

## LADIES NIGHT

Calling all Lovely Ladies from Oakridge and Beyond.....we are a friendly bunch who like a chance for a chat and a drink with friends and neighbours. If you are new to the village and would like to meet up, then please join us on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month. No pressure, no agenda. More the merrier! We are hosted by a rota of members on a bring your own basis. Please look out for the emailed location, or contact me on [tamzin@tamzinhutton.com](mailto:tamzin@tamzinhutton.com).

## OAKRIDGE PAROCHIAL SCHOOL



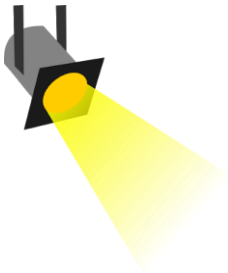
With the summer holidays fast approaching, it is always good to reflect on the past year and the achievements at the school. Amidst the busyness of the school year, it is easy to forget the quantity of things that go on in the life of any school, from the daily routines of teaching the curriculum, to the trips and performances, which the staff work so hard on to make happen. The children have achieved many things over this past year, of which they can be proud.

After 4 years in post, I will be leaving at the end of this academic year to take up another headship in Wales. I have enjoyed my time at Oakridge, with its supportive school community and shall take with me many happy memories. I shall certainly

remember May Revels with fondness, where the whole village community comes together in such a strong, tangible way. Long may this continue.

I have every confidence that both the school and the village will go from strength to strength, and equally that my successor will enjoy being a part of village life.

*Jonathan Preston, Headteacher*



## Spotlight on .....John Bailey

### **A fascinating journey from South Africa to Oakridge**

Born in Simonstown in South Africa, John has had many homes before ending up in his current cottage in Oakridge Lynch. As he moved back to the UK at the age of three, John doesn't remember his time in Simonstown but has since visited to find out about his roots.

When the family moved to Bath John was three and it was wartime - he has memories of the bombing, windows being blown out and seeing Bristol burning in the distance. John's father worked in the Admiralty so moving house became part of life as they had to live wherever the job took them.

When he was seven or eight the family moved to Plymouth and there are happy memories of living next to a farm - collecting milk in an enamel jug, riding on a cart with the farmer's son, helping with the haymaking using a donkey and grabber, the farmer cutting his hair with the animal clippers.

The next move was to Scotland, the family making their home in Dunfermline on the banks of the Forth. At eleven he went to boarding school in Kent after attending eight different primary schools by this age. Although the boarding school was a long way from home, he had grandparents in Ashford so went to them in the school holidays. He really enjoyed school especially taking part in the rugby and cross-country teams. John recalled watching the lovely skies from the window of the Flying Scotsman travelling home from school, perhaps a foretaste of his future love of painting landscapes.



Then it was back to Bath (the Admiralty HQ was in the city) where the family's home was a flat in a lovely Georgian building. John did National Service in the RAF where in spite of being told he was colour-blind, he became a navigator, being posted to Tripoli in North Africa and Germany. After gaining a place at Bristol University where he studied Politics, Philosophy and Economics he joined the university Air Squadron corps.

He was at last able to gain his pilot's licence and learned to fly Chipmunks and enjoyed doing aerobatics. At Bristol he met his future wife Rosemary who was studying Social Sciences and later became a social worker. They married after graduation and made their first home in Wokingham where their first child Mark was born. Two more children followed - Anna, who was born in a heavy snowstorm and the midwife had to be transported to the birth on the local farmer's tractor, and Victoria who is now a teacher and lives in Devon. They had a very happy family life.

John's next move was to work for Rolls Royce in Derby where he was taken on as a graduate trainee in personnel. He then moved to Sperry Gyroscope in Bracknell. Finally, John moved to this area when he was made Personnel Manager at Sperry Gyroscope in Stonehouse. The family bought an old house in Avening (The New Inn built in 1695). John remembers finding a very old bill hidden in the beams while they were renovating the property. Rosemary ran a play group in the village and later helped at Bussage House nursery.

When Sperry began downsizing, John decided to go back to studying and after a Master's degree and a PhD he set up his own business as a Human Resources consultant specialising in job design - helping companies to put job satisfaction and productivity at the heart of their businesses.

It wasn't until he retired that John was able to concentrate on his love of painting and pottery. He had enjoyed painting from a young age, having been encouraged by an

inspiring art teacher, but his artistic talent was on the back-burner while he was pursuing his career. Going on a course in Woodchester got him back into painting and then a pottery course fired up his interest in making pottery. Eventually, John started teaching art and later he ran courses abroad in Greece, Croatia and France where he had a holiday home. He has had yearly art exhibitions in the area and eventually in his house in Bussage. John and Rosemary moved to Winsley Cottage in Oakridge Lynch in 2000 and John made the outbuildings into a studio for his art work and pottery. Latterly he runs his Open Studio days at Christmas each year which many people in the village will be aware of.



John in his studio

The proceeds from this are sent to Cancer Research, a cause close to John's heart as Rosemary sadly died from cancer. So far the charity has benefitted from an amazing £12,000. After being on his own for 5 years, John was lucky enough to meet Jane. They met socially whilst

taking part in French dancing in Horsley - as John put it, their relationship just took off and they continue to enjoy this shared hobby. When Jane retired from teaching 12 years ago, she liked the look of Oakridge and came to join John as his partner in Winsley

Cottage. Jane is also a good artist and potter and they're very happy to live in our lovely village.

John's other interests include listening to music, playing the piano, guitar and cello, classic cars of which he has several and nature and the countryside. John has seven grandchildren and Jane six. They also enjoy taking breaks at their seaside flat in Sidmouth.

*Sue Wise*

*Following the Spotlight feature on Ann & John Fry in the Aug/Sep 2022 edition, I have received this additional comment from Ann.....*

John P Fry, is the oldest living original inhabitant of Far Oakridge, born in July 1932, next door to where we live now (and have done since July 1958!) We have been reminiscing lately over all the changes in our special little hamlet, and remembered that there is a very faded oak insert in the house wall, bearing the inscription WR 1849 (William Restall). When we put the house name on the beautiful wrought iron gate (which we believe was actually made here, in an old forge which fell into disrepair, and is now our shed/workshop), lots of people said "we always called it Mrs Restall's", but there it was on the deeds – "East View". And we do face east, over the beautiful woods towards Sapperton – we can still just see the Church of St Kenelms in the distance. How lucky are we? Our 65<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary has recently passed - such a longtime blessing – and one that still makes me the "newcomer" to East View, even though we are only the 2<sup>nd</sup> owners since 1849!

Very blessed to have the support and loving help from dear friends who have come to our aid so willingly in our advanced years – OK then, I admit it, our OLD AGE! Thank you all so much, we could not do it without you, or our darling son in Cheltenham, daughter in Aberdeen and grandson in Gloucester.

## **OAKRIDGE CRICKET CLUB**

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

Mark – [mlrobbins@btinternet.com](mailto:mlrobbins@btinternet.com)

or

Steve - [Steverobbins97@hotmail.com](mailto:Steverobbins97@hotmail.com)

## TWINNING ASSOCIATION



Our French visitors from Plessala will be arriving on Friday night 25<sup>th</sup> August, and will be staying over the bank holiday weekend with host members and friends in the village until Monday morning when they return to France.

A varied schedule with a mixture of whole group events and less formal trips has been organised for the Saturday. On the Saturday evening there will be a Bring and Share Supper with music, at Chalford Sports and Social Club. This will be free to members, but we will be happy for non-members to join in the fun too. If you would like to come to this event, please phone for tickets and more details.

On the Sunday, the Trust which runs Dunkirk Mill has agreed to do a special opening and running of the machinery for our French guests and their hosts to visit during the day, and we will be organising a Buffet Lunch at Egypt Mill in Nailsworth, again for our guests and their hosts.

After coffee and cakes, the French coach will be leaving from The Lamb at Eastcombe on the Monday morning.

If you would like to get involved in the visit, or even to host, there's still time.

John Hughes: [Mail@jmhughes.plus.com](mailto:Mail@jmhughes.plus.com) – tel: 07810-123511 or

Muriel Brooks – tel: 01452-770346



**OAKRIDGE  
VILLAGE SHOW**

**SATURDAY 2 SEPTEMBER 12 - 4PM**

**STREET FOOD**

**BAR • DOG SHOW • PLANTS**

**CLASSIC AND VINTAGE CARS**

**BOOKS • CAKES • GAMES**

**ANNUAL PRODUCE SHOW**

**£2 entry**

**Kids FREE**

**LIVE MUSIC BY TRIPWIRE AND FLORA FIORA**



*Lime, common*  
(*tilia x europaea*)



*In Germanic folklor*, the linden tree with its heart-shaped leaves is associated with Freya, the Goddess of truth and love. The belief was that you could not tell a lie in its shade. Large lime trees were places of social gathering and weddings, as well as places to assemble to create laws and deliberate on judicial matters.

Common lime is a hybrid of the large and the small-leaved lime, (*tilia platyphyllos* and *tilia cordata*). These are hard to tell apart save for the size of their leaves. As a species they are easily identified in spring and summer by their serrated heart-shaped slightly lop-sided leaves. These are quite fragile and decay quickly once fallen, with the result

that smaller plants are able to thrive underneath and not smothered as in a beech wood.

If you are keen to tell exactly which type of lime you have come across it is the underside of the leaf that is key. If it is hairy all over you have a large-leaved lime. If there are white hairs only along the leaf veins it is a common lime, and if rusty-red then you have a small-leaved lime. Another clue is that large-leaved lime does not produce suckers from the base of the trunk as does its small cousin.

It's a tree popular with park and town planners due to being fast-growing, but try to avoid parking your car underneath as the sweet leaves are much-loved by aphids, and the resultant honey-dew rains down a sticky mess.

Small-leaved lime leaves grow up to 8cm long, the large up to 15cm, and the common, somewhere between the two. On a hot day the large leaves can wilt, taking on a hooded appearance. Limes are hermaphrodite - both male and female reproductive parts are contained within each flower - and these are greeny-yellow with five petals, hanging in clusters of between four and ten below a wing.

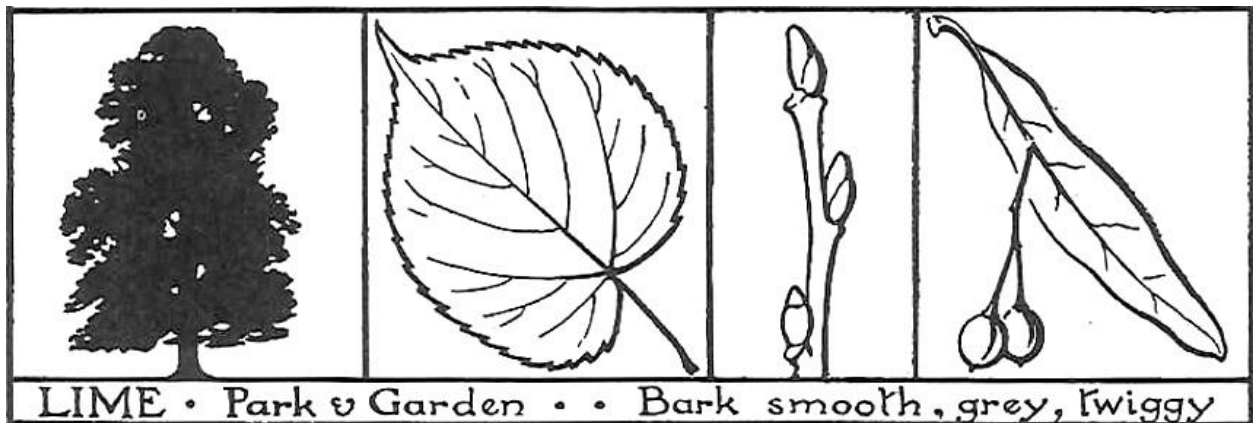
In late summer and though into winter you'll see the conspicuous small hard fruits hanging down on

stalks under this single helicopter wing - used to aid dispersal like sycamore and field maple. The bark is pale grey-brown and smooth when young, becoming irregularly fissured with age.

Cut lime wood is soft and light, white-yellow in appearance and finely textured. It is easy to work with and often used in turnery, carving and furniture making. Lime bark was traditionally used to make rope, and lime flowers were considered a valuable source of food for bees (look out for lime honey).

Lime wood resists warping and is still used today to make sounding boards and piano keys. Limes, especially the small-leaved variety, can be coppiced and used for fuel, hop-poles, bean-sticks, cups, ladles, bowls and even Morris-dancing sticks. During the privations of war-time, lime blossom was used to make a soothing tea.

Symbolically lime (linden) trees used to be planted in rows, most often in France and Switzerland, as a symbol of liberty, and to celebrate success in battles.



There is a lime tree at Westonbirt Arboretum that is now a ring of coppiced growths and is said to be 2000 years old. I can think of one or two politicians who should be made to sit within its shade for quite a while.

**Peter Collings-Wells**  
whitespringbooks.co.uk

(Main photo caption: Lime tree on the school green in Oakridge Lynch - by Pauline Lindeque)

## 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 meeting: Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

There remains a vacancy for a Parish Councillor to represent the Oakridge ward. In addition, the position of Parish Clerk is vacant.

Any issues in the Oakridge Ward of our Parish please contact

Cllr Roger Budgeon - [roger@greenshopgroup.co.uk](mailto:roger@greenshopgroup.co.uk)

Cllr Dennis Robbins - [d.robbins1945@btinternet.com](mailto:d.robbins1945@btinternet.com)

Cllr Beth Hughes

**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.

## 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 19<sup>th</sup> May – 19<sup>th</sup> July 2023:

S.23/1285/HHOLD Porch to existing dwelling (resubmission) The Round, Bournes Green	Awaiting Decision
S.23/0603/LBC and S.23/0602/HHOLD Resubmissions of previous applications Waterlane House	Awaiting Decision
S.23/1241/AGR Erection of Store Kimberley, Bournes Green	Awaiting Decision
2023/0005/ASSETC Inclusion of Butchers Arms on register of assets of community value	Awaiting Decision

## DISTRICT NEWS



**Political Composition of Stroud District Council:** The political balance of SDC has changed over the last year – due to the break-up of the Labour Group, the suspension from his party of one Conservative councillor pending a criminal trial, and the resignation from the council of another due to ill health. The latter resulted in a by-election in Painswick and Upton, won by the Green Party candidate on May 17<sup>th</sup>. As a result of these changes, the composition of the Council is now: 17 Conservatives, 14 Greens, 5 Labour, 4 Independent Left, 4

Community Independents, 3 Liberal Democrats, 2 Conservative No Group, and 2 Independents. The Council is led by a cooperative alliance of the Greens, Independent Left, Community Independents and Liberal Democrats. The Council Leader is Catherine Braun (Green) of Wotton. All 51 seats will be up for election in May 2024.

**My Positions on the Council:** I am on the Environment and Planning Committees, and on the Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity Working Group. I represent the council on the Board of Trustees of Stroud Valleys Project and the Board of the Cotswold National Landscape (the AONB), where I am helping create a plan for the Cotswolds to be Net Zero by 2050 (or sooner), complementing the District Council's Carbon Neutral 2030 goal.

**Brimscombe Port Redevelopment:** The Council and developer St Modwen Homes remain committed to creating a new canal side community at the old port site, despite tougher national economic conditions. It will be an exemplary, sustainable development, with the canal and basin restored; new energy efficient homes with a mix of tenures, including affordable housing; visitor and community facilities; and new habitats to enhance biodiversity and bring nature into the site. The next public consultation on the plan is expected to take place after the summer holidays.

**Other Current Council Projects:** **"Stroud District: The Natural Place"** is a new collaboration with business leaders to stimulate investment in the district. It helps enterprises which want to establish themselves in the Stroud district, as well as existing businesses which want to expand or diversify. **"Night Safe Officers"**: To make the town centre safer on weekend nights, two officers will be patrolling key locations, providing a visible presence to identify issues before they escalate, supporting door staff and marshalling the taxi rank on King Street at peak times. **Cost of Living**

**Support:** The Council continues to offer support to those struggling with the cost of living, including Council Tax relief. Details on the Council website: [www.stroud.gov.uk](http://www.stroud.gov.uk) (search 'council tax support'). **Stratford Park Lido:** The Lido in Stratford Park is now open for the season for safe outdoor swimming. Open seven days a week from noon until 7pm, and lane swimming on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7am to 9am. **Annual Electoral Register Canvass:** The Council is contacting all residents to ensure electoral details are correct so those eligible can vote. You may receive an e-mail from [elections@stroud.gov.uk](mailto:elections@stroud.gov.uk), or letter or phone call. Please check the details are correct so you can vote.

As always, please do contact me about anything District Council-related: Martin Brown, Green Party, [cllr.martin.brown@stroud.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.martin.brown@stroud.gov.uk), 01452 770878.

# BisCAN

**Bisley, Eastcombe & Oakridge Climate Action Network**

## NATURE-FRIENDLY OPEN GARDENS and ALLOTMENTS

**Sunday September 17<sup>th</sup> 2023**

**Wildlife-friendly gardens and allotments open to visit! See what your neighbours are doing to help nature in our area – a pond, a home for hedgehogs, flowers for pollinators, a little wildness, edible plants ..... If you would like your garden or allotment to be included, please e-mail BisCAN:**

**[bisleyeastcombeoakridgecan@gmail.com](mailto:bisleyeastcombeoakridgecan@gmail.com)**

**or call Martin 01452 770878**



***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.***



### **Booked a package holiday? Worried about what to do if something goes wrong?**

Hopefully you'll have a lovely time but if something does go wrong with your package holiday, the Citizens Advice website ([www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk)) has lots of information about what to do if something goes wrong with your holiday and what compensation you may be eligible for.

Firstly, tell the company or travel agent you booked with as soon as possible. This way you're more likely to be able to get it sorted quicker. If you don't say anything until you get home, you might get less or no compensation at all.

If the holiday you went on turned out to be lower in value than the one you originally booked you can make a claim for 'loss of value'. For example you paid for a deluxe room but only got a standard one, if it wasn't sorted out at the time you can claim back the difference in value.

You can also claim compensation for any extra money you have to spend while away, for example the hotel was a bus ride away from the beach rather than across the road as advertised. This is called claiming for 'out-of-pocket expenses'. If this does happen make sure you keep all your receipts for things like bus journeys.

If big parts of the trip you booked didn't happen or services weren't provided, for example a planned two-day excursion was cancelled and no alternative was organised, you can make a claim for 'loss of enjoyment'. You can also make this claim if something happens that causes you distress or disappointment, such as the pool was closed for the whole trip.

It's worth noting that there's no there's no strict guidance on how much you can claim for loss of enjoyment but any claim you make must be reasonable. You can't get compensation if you simply didn't enjoy the holiday or if the problem was out of the holiday company's control - like bad weather.

Check the information you received when you made the booking to see what you're supposed to get. If you don't get the service you've been promised, you may be entitled to compensation for breach of contract. You might also be able to claim from your travel insurance – check if your policy covers this.

If you're still not sure what to do, call the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline 0808 223 1133 or talk to an adviser online through the Citizens Advice website.

## INTER VILLAGE QUIZ

Teams needed from:  
**Bisley Bussage Chalford Eastcombe**  
**France Lynch & Oakridge**

To Compete for a Prestigious Trophy



**Sunday 27th August 2023**

**6.30pm for a 7pm start**

at

**Bisley Flower Show Marquee,  
 Cheltenham Road, GL6 7BJ**

**To Include a Ploughman's Supper.  
 Licensed Pay Bar Available.**

**£36 a Table/Team (max 6 in a team)  
 (no limit to number of teams per village)**

Tickets available from

**<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/Bisley-Flower-Show>**

and from

**Fiona Gill [fiona@gillfamily.org.uk](mailto:fiona@gillfamily.org.uk) 0777 151 3382**

Funds raised for The Bisley Flower Show and All Saints Church



OAKRIDGE COMMUNITY  
CHOIR

CELEBRATE 2 YEARS OF SINGING



You are invited to come and try out our  
choir - listen to us sing or join in this  
celebration of singing together!  
Lunch provided

4TH SEPTEMBER  
11 - 12:30PM

Oakridge Village  
Hall

OPEN CHOIR SESSION

For more information visit the website  
[www.thecommonvoices.com](http://www.thecommonvoices.com)



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### **AUGUST 2023**

Tues 1 <sup>st</sup>	• Garden Club, Village Hall	7.30 pm
Thurs 3 <sup>rd</sup>	• Café Church, St Bartholomew's	10 am – 12 noon
Weds 9 <sup>th</sup>	• Ladies Night	
Weds 16 <sup>th</sup>	• Lunch Club, Village Hall	Noon – 2.00 pm
Sun 27 <sup>th</sup>	• Inter village quiz, Bisley	6.30 pm
Tues 29 <sup>th</sup>	• Donations for Village Show, Village Hall	6.30 – 7.30 pm

### **SEPTEMBER 2023**

Sat 2 <sup>nd</sup>	• Oakridge Show, Village Hall	12 – 4 pm
Mon 4 <sup>th</sup>	• Community choir open session, Village Hall	11 – 12.30 pm
Weds 6 <sup>th</sup>	• Film Night, Village Hall	6.45 pm
	• Parish Council, Bisley	7.30 pm
Thurs 7 <sup>th</sup>	• Café Church, St Bartholomew's	10 am – 12 noon
Thurs 14 <sup>th</sup>	• WI, Village Hall	
	• Ladies Night	
Sun 17 <sup>th</sup>	• Nature-friendly open gardens	
	• Closing date for What's On	
Weds 20 <sup>th</sup>	• Lunch Club, Village Hall	Noon – 2.00 pm
Weds 27 <sup>th</sup>	• History Group, Village Hall	7.30 pm
Sat 30 <sup>th</sup>	• Harvest Supper, Village Hall	6.30 pm

### **Sunday 17th September, 5pm - CLOSING DATE** **for the October/November 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.

Editor: Victoria Beard

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

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

*E&OE*

Cover photograph of lime tree leaves on the School Green  
copyright Pauline Lindeque