

WHAT'S ON



in

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

December 2023 / January 2024

Edition 266

www.oakridgevillage.org

This sad news reached the editor after the What's On had gone to print; Alex would like this note included

I am most grateful for the kind messages of sympathy given to me following the death of my beloved wife Gill. They are heartening in this dark period. Gill died peacefully in hospital after receiving exemplary care.

We had been married for 64 years, 42 of which were spent in Oakridge. Gill was the Editor of What's On for 20 years succeeding Pat Carrick. In the early days she used a manual typewriter, typing the text on stencils. Copies were produced by running them off on a hand turned Gestetner machine using printers ink. An arduous and messy business.

How times have changed!!

My best wishes to you all.

Alex Davis

USEFUL INFORMATION

- The village website – www.oakridgevillage.org - for up-to-date information, including Village Hall availability and Village Events Calendar
-  pages – Oakridge Village Network and Oakridge Village Hall, Oakridge Lynch
- Village network WhatsApp group
- Village Hall bookings – johnloosley40@gmail.com
- 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
- If you prefer the online version and no longer want a paper copy of the What's On, please email editoroakridgewhatson@gmail.com with your name and address



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.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Well done to all those eagle-eyed readers out there who spotted my error in the last edition – it was indeed the October/November edition, not November/December!! For all who have an interest in the long-running saga of dog control in the village, note the official guidelines as set out by Stroud District Council on p.17.

Thank you to all who have made donations to What's On over this past year, whether financially or in terms of written content. As ever, feedback is always welcome.

With all good wishes for a peaceful Christmas season, and a happy and healthy 2024.
Victoria Beard

GILL FARRAR'S OAKRIDGE RAINWATCH



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

September.... 73.8 mm.....about 2.9 ins.

October 164.4 mm.....about 6.4 ins.

November (to 14th).... 96.7 mm.....about 3.8 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

Greetings and Christmas blessings to you all. May you be filled with peace and joy as we celebrate the birth of our saviour Jesus Christ.

SERVICES DECEMBER 2023

Sunday 3 rd	Christingle – family service	9.30 am
Thursday 7 th	Café in Church	10 am – 12 pm
Monday 11 th	Open the Book – With the School	10.10 am
Sunday 17 th	Holy Communion	9.30 am
Tuesday 19 th	School Nativity Play	6.00 pm
Sunday 24 th	Crib Service for Christmas Eve	4.00 pm
Sunday 24 th	Carol Service 9 lessons and Carols	7.00 pm
Monday 25 th	Christmas Day Family Communion	9.30 am

SERVICES JANUARY 2024

Sunday 7 th	Family Service	9.30 am
Sunday 21 st	Holy Communion	9.30 am

We hope to see you at **Café in Church** on Thursday 7th December and share blessings with you over the Christmas Season. All are welcome and we would be delighted to share our celebrations with you and your families.

A **House Group** is meeting on Tuesday 12th December at 7pm until 9pm. The Group meet in someone's house to have a meal together and then look at and discuss the Bible. It is led by Willem and is very informal, all are welcome to join. If you would like to find out more, please contact Sharon Dawes on 07979 522281 or Willem De Jager 07857 535122

Please check the village shop and Church notice boards for any updates.

CAFÉ CHURCH

Hello All,

Just to let you know what's been going on at Café Church in the last couple of months. We have been able to repaint the vestry/kitchen with the funds from the Café which is great news as it was in dire need. So, a big thank you for those who come along to Café Church and buy our homemade cakes and coffee. Also, this month (November) we had John Bailey visiting us and he displayed some of his lovely paintings and pottery. John very kindly donated the money from the sale of his beautiful cards. So, John, a big thank you from all of us at Café Church. We hope to have other artists display

their work, so if you know of any other people who would be interested in coming along to display their art then please let me know. My home phone number is 01285 760665.

December will be our last Café Church until the Spring; we will be holding a raffle so please come along and support us, a warm welcome awaits you. I believe this is our last "What's On" until after Christmas, so I wish you all an early Happy Christmas and New Year and I look forward to meeting up with you next year.

Best wishes from all the Team at Café Church.

Sharon Dawes

Calling All Carol Singers



Carol singers will be meeting outside Ollie's Shop at 5.30 pm sharp on Wednesday 20th December. Everyone is welcome. Song sheets will be provided, please bring a torch. Carollers will visit houses in the village before finishing at the Butcher's Arms for mulled wine and mince pies.

Funds raised will be donated to Home-start Stroud and Gloucester – a local charity which supports parents with children under 5 who are going through challenging times.

We hope you will join the merry throng.

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 and last around 2.5 hours.

More information from Keith and Helen Dewhirst: khdewhirst@gmail.com or 01452 770560. A warm welcome awaits you.

OAKRIDGE VILLAGE HALL

Committed to providing quality social space for our space for our community



The AGM held on 11th October received the following report from the Chair, Paul Timms. Further information, minutes, financial information etc, is available from the Secretary, Chris Gregg email: chrisgregg173@gmail.com

Chairman's Report October 2022 to September 2023

Our Village Hall is pivotal in Oakridge offering a safe, comfortable and desirable building. It is supported by groups involved in recreation, education and training. It allows people of all ages living locally to socialise and learn as well as generally improve community mental and physical health. The trustees serve on a voluntary basis and are proud of the facilities we offer to our community. We will continue to strive to make improvements that enhance the experience for all users.

As Chair I'm pleased to welcome Chris Jones, Claire Robinson and Harold Konig as new trustees. Claire will represent Oakridge Parochial School. Chris and Harold bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to our team. I would like to recognise the long service of Gill Wimperis and Alex Davis. Gill has retired from OVHT having represented both Lunch and Garden Clubs. She has been an invaluable support to the hall over many years and I will miss her enthusiasm. Alex has retired from the EMC, however, he will continue as a trustee. Alex has a wealth of expertise and comprehension for the hall. He has a range of valuable contacts and his involvement in maintaining and improving the hall has left a legacy. Alex is supportive and encouraging and I hope he will continue to mentor and advise me in my role as Chair.

We have carried out general repairs, maintenance, safety checks and minor improvements to the hall during the last year, thanks to Alex, John Loosely, Victoria Beard and Jane Gregg.

John Loosley continues his diligent work promoting the hall and maximising bookings. At times juggling activities to ensure as many users as possible can benefit from the hall. We would like to see the hall used on a more regular basis during the morning sessions. John is a role model and showcases the hall at every opportunity.

Chris Gregg our secretary works tirelessly behind the scenes keeping our administration up to date. A vital role which he performs accurately and with attention to detail.

Chris Stoker the Hall Treasurer remains prudent, financially accountable and responsible. We've had a record year from hiring fees, plus additional revenue generated from film nights. Our costs have increased with inflation, Chris has kept us on track so that we can provide for projects going forward. Chris has a list of improvements that we will work on next year. Big ticket items will be replaced when needed, such as the dishwasher and boiler.

We have benefited from Victoria Beard taking over the role of servicing and cleaning the hall. We know that our hall users appreciate the environment in which they learn, socialise and gather.

Jane Gregg constantly keeps her eye on the hall, she looks out for the small detail and monitors and corrects shortfalls. She deserves praise for the empathy that she gives to the taking care of the hall and its gardens.

Andrew Davison has played a massive part in transforming village hall technology. His contribution is extensive and we would be truly lost without his input. Our equipment is outstanding and we will continue to invest in technology when needed. We know how the audio visual system and the internet have enhanced the Hall experience.

Beth Hughes a long standing trustee with responsibility for social media now represents the Parish Council. We look forward to her local authority advice in the future.

Anne Brain (WI), Alison Hewitt (Oakridge Players) and Sue Korda (The Church in Oakridge) as trustees represent their members' interests within OVHT with diligence and thoughtfulness.

The Hall hosted the Coronation celebrations in May. Another successful event which was enjoyed by the community. Thanks go to Gill Wimperis, Jane Curzon and Penny Newton for organising the event. Film nights, now in their second year, have been a successful addition to the village calendar. A wide range of movies to cover all genres. I would like to thank the following volunteers who enable this event. They listen out for future choices and eventually select a play list. Andrew Davison, Victoria Beard, Helen Bailey, Pauline Lindeque, Penny Newton, Linda Jesty, Caroline Cotterell, Beth Hughes, Alison Hewitt, Sam Timms, Simon Crocker and Fiona Mitchell.

The Village show in September was hugely successful this year. The Hall played its part and fees were kept to a minimum. Congratulations to the organisers. OVHT looks forward to working with you next year.

Our Variation of Premises License has now been in operation for a full year. This has been used by the Hall, Wine Club, The Church Harvest Festival supper, The Twinning social and approved groups. The License has enabled the hall to enhance services offered without the need to apply for temporary event notices.

Sadly, we said goodbye to Bob Gardiner. Bob was hall treasurer and a trustee over many decades. We are indebted to his service and commitment to OVHT. The hall was honoured to host the families of Richard Mackie and Jenny Black. We will continue to offer the hall to celebrate the lives of villagers.

Looking ahead, Oakridge Village Hall is the centre of our community: it is ideally suited to becoming a community hub. We continue to provide a safe space and are looking for ways to share our success with the community. Ideas are on the table and we are open to suggestions from groups currently using the hall. We would like to set up a community fund financed by part of any operating surplus - based on a formula to be agreed.

On behalf of all the trustees I would like to thank the village for supporting OVHT.

First Aid Training Session

The training session on 17th November was well attended by villagers taking the opportunity to learn how to save a life, and how to use the defibrillator which is sited at Ollie's Shop. Huge thanks to Sophie McCracken for providing her expert knowledge free of charge.

LUNCH CLUB



Lunch Club needs volunteers

Lunch club is held in the village hall on the third Wednesday of every month. Price is £8 per head and all are welcome. **The club is in need of volunteers, particularly someone to set up the tables and chairs.** This involves arriving at 9am ish, putting up the tables and chairs and laying the tables. It does not take long, so if you could spare 3/4 hour every third Wednesday of the month your help will be much appreciated. Please contact Caroline Priestley 07587264629.

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.

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 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.

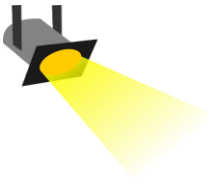
BOXING DAY 5K FUN RUN



We will meet at the Playing Fields for a 0900 start. All welcome to walk, jog, run and spectate. No entry, just turn up. No time limit, no prizes. An opportunity to burn off some Christmas calories.

We would benefit from some marshalls – if you can help, please get in touch:

Paul and Sam Timms 07949 785374 / 07946 484878



Spotlight on.... Daphne Neville



An interview with Daphne at Baker's Mill

Daphne is, I'm sure, known to most people in the area as she and her otter Bee became celebrities in the 1990s in the world of television, education and wildlife conservation.

I was interested to find out more about the person behind the story and spent a very interesting hour or so at the wonderful house chatting to her about her life and how the fame came about.

Daphne's father was in the army with the Lancashire Fusiliers. Her mother was from Scotland and was descended from the aristocracy. She met her future husband whilst she was in Milan teaching English as a

holiday job. Martin, a publicity officer for a group in the Midlands, eventually moved to become a company director for Critchley's in Stroud. This was the reason they moved to the Cotswolds. Daphne had trained at RADA but didn't pursue a career in drama after she married in 1958 and then started a family. However, her eldest daughter Sophie, after working for the BBC directing Children's programmes, did become an actor and is best known for her childhood role in the film 'Swallows and Amazons'. She later moved into writing and film directing and is well-known in this career.

Daphne and her husband Martin moved to the sixteenth century Mill House which they acquired by chance when the builder restoring it ran out of money. They wanted a place with land so that their three daughters would have room for horses to graze. They had to spend time completing the renovations and fencing off the water course and lake to make the garden safe for young children.

The three children all initially attended Oakridge Primary School. The Mill originally supplied flour for the Priory (now Frampton House), the flour being transported up the hill by horse and cart. Apparently, a Mill was built in Oakridge Lynch so that the Oakridge children who worked at Baker's Mill didn't have to make the journey up and down the hill in bare feet.

Daphne and Martin were asked to provide a home for Asian otters by the ecologist Ian Hunter Darling who was very concerned about the decline in British otters and Daphne learned about how important the otter is to the planet in keeping our rivers clean. She

feels that all school children should be taught the ecological facts about otters and their role in maintaining the cleanliness of our waters.

When Bee arrived from Asia, the family acclimatised her to living with them at the Mill House. She became very tame and of course was very much at home in the lake. Being much smaller than the British otter, which is the size of a fox, Bee was easily transportable and Daphne travelled around with her, visiting schools to educate and entertain the children and to highlight the plight of the British otter which was in danger of becoming extinct. Bee became comfortable with meeting all sorts of people and was the star of the show in various situations such as the visit to the American Air Force at Fairford. Such was the attraction of this delightful animal that the BBC eventually became interested in her story and this led her to taking part in programmes such as 'Animal Magic' with Johnny Morris and 'Blue Peter'. Her fame led to contact with famous people such as David Bellamy, David Attenborough, Kit Williams, Angela Rippon, Pam Ayres and members of the royal family. Pam and Daphne became patrons of a wildlife hospital. The Kents from Lypiatt Park were regular weekend visitors.

There were nine otters in total who were welcomed and cared for in Daphne's home and the last one is now happily ensconced in a wildlife refuge in Hampshire. The force of nature that is Daphne has had an amazing life - she feels very grateful and privileged to have spent most of it in this beautiful part of the world.



Sue Wise

OAKRIDGE FILM NIGHT

After a couple of well-received films in October (The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry) and November (Death at a Funeral), the next film will be on Wednesday 6th December – why not join us for what is fast becoming a regular village social occasion! £5 on the door (please reserve tickets via www.oakridgevillage.org/boxoffice to give us an idea of numbers), bar available as usual – cash or card payments accepted. Doors open at 6.45pm, film starts at 7.30pm. As a Christmas treat, we are planning a family film matinee during the holidays, so keep an eye open for details.

To allow everyone a rest from the Christmas festivities, there will be no film in January, but we will return on 7th February. We will be aiming to be cash free, so card payments only please.

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.

OAKRIDGE HISTORY GROUP



Paul Barnett's talk on the Gloucester and Sharpness Canal was well supported and we learned a great deal about the history of the canal and the buildings alongside. The talk was accompanied by matching photographs from the 1950s and the present day which well illustrated the development and changes that have occurred, particularly in Sharpness docks but also alongside the waterway. The rise and fall of different industries and building construction methods were shown and Paul highlighted the dilemmas that arise when old construction materials, now regarded as dangerous, need to be removed.

Tony Conder's talk on Gloucestershire and the Atlantic Slave Trade was a fascinating window into how the slave trade permeated all levels of society and wove into the lives of people in and around Gloucestershire, who benefited from, or campaigned against, the triangular trade between Africa, England and America and the Caribbean.

Evidence of the wealth created can still be seen in numerous places, not only in houses such as Bowden Hall built by families who benefited but also among the papers of widows in reduced circumstances in small cottages found to have inherited one or two slaves amongst their family assets.

Men such as George Whitefield hailed as a compelling preacher and campaigner against slavery was also the owner of a sugar plantation. His is just one example of the complexities of a story that both highlights the dreadful inhumanity of the slave trade and the ways in which it brought prosperity to the country through direct industrial development and philanthropic enterprises funded by the wealth generated.

Tony's message was that this issue is far more nuanced than heeding the call to pull down statues and throw them in the docks! We need to better understand the history from all sides.

In **November**, Larry Banda will be talking on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, then there will be a winter break until **February 28th** when Stuart Butler will be speaking on "The radical history of Stroud and the Five Valleys in 18th and 19th centuries".

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

New members and visitors are always welcome.

Kay Rhodes

OAKRIDGE GARDEN CLUB



Members arrived for the October meeting and were delighted by four tables packed full with shrubs, grasses and herbaceous plants. Paul Green, from his nursery near Newent, talked about his favourite plants, their needs, habits and when they were at their best. His talk was very knowledgeable and full of humour and charm. We have had him before and knew what to expect; we were not disappointed. Much shopping took place, and many delighted members went home with plants.

His was the last of our talks for this year; all have been of a very high standard, thanks entirely to our committee member Sue Brain, who seeks out recommended speakers for us. We are very grateful to her and look forward to more of the same next year.

The Autumn seems to have gone by in a flash, and now we have Christmas heading towards us. I hope to see you all at the social on December 5th, and we look forward to another good season of meetings, talks and visits next year.

Gill Wimperis

NATURE NOTES FROM WATERLANE



Looking at some ivy at the top of my drive in the middle of October I noticed an abundance of bees and red admiral butterflies feeding on the nectar. My neighbours Rob and Katy say the honey from the ivy can be a little bitter but nevertheless it is an important source for wildlife.

There are two distinct life phases of the ivy growing wild in most broad-leaved woodlands and hedgerows. In its juvenile stage its fleshy stem bearing lobed leaves, grows along the forest floor or hedgerow floor until it reaches a tree trunk, rock face or wall, then climbs upwards attaching itself to those surfaces with a cement like substance. Ivy uses the trunks solely for support. Its climbing roots draw no nourishment through the bark, nor does it strangle the tree. Its underground roots, however, do compete with tree roots for soil nutrients, only in that way is it harmful and then to a trivial degree.

Once it gains the upper branches, this juvenile form changes to the adult one. Ivy now bears an upright stem, with oval unlobed leaves all around it, flowers and fruits. All ivy leaves are evergreen, with glossy surfaces to resist water loss. They provide cover and hibernation sites for many insects which in turn attract birds. Ivy bears greenish yellow flowers in October and purplish-black berries in early spring. They are taken by birds that after eating the fruit scatter the small hard seeds. Ivy like holly, was held to have magical powers and at Christmas kept houses safe from demons.

Alan White

OAKRIDGE WI



October did fly by, and our meeting was an amusing one with Lyndsey reading Joyce Grenfell Monologues (with legs in plaster) – reminders of early years schoolchildren – hers were quite a challenging group. Notices for the meeting were re the Quiz team entry, and the panto visit which Celia is kindly arranging for February at the Cotswold Playhouse in Stroud.

November Ashley Dickenson was our speaker accompanied by his daughter Maria and her partner doing the tech stuff. His fascination with "Farm Finds" began with a framed collection of arrowheads that his father Jim had made. As predicted in the last What's On, he has made some amazing finds. Some flints as early as 7000BC, arrowheads and Roman jewellery. His no.1 treasure is a black bead which has been authenticated as coming from Syria, and second best an Oliver Cromwell coin. How these finds (which are very small) can be spotted in a ploughed field is special. Several visitors came along for the evening; I hope they enjoyed themselves and may join us again. The business of the evening picked up after a refreshing break for tea, coffee and homemade biscuits, whilst everyone looked at Ashley's display of finds.

Our 100th AGM was covered and our Treasurer Sue R is pleased that we are financially sound. Anne gave a resumé of the year, and Sue H a big thank you to the committee and all members for their continued support. Ordinary business continued – Christmas Party organisation for December was arranged: a Secret Santa gift please, and our charity will be the Long Table.

2024

11th January brings some sunshine with "Villa Gardens in Italian Lakes" presented by Robert Bryant. His talk last year was fabulous, "Woodchester through a year"

8th February a fellow member, Alison Hewitt, gives us "Embroidery of my Life"; I've been looking forward to this.

Round up of the WI year – 14th March is a DIY craft evening researched by Celia "A Craft Wreath"

Merry Christmas to you all, and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Mary Fern

OAKRIDGE HARVEST SUPPER

The last time I celebrated the harvest I was wearing a short skirt and long socks and I was sitting cross legged in the school hall singing 'We plough the fields and scatter the good seed on the land.' I remember the stage being stacked high with tinned food that we had all been asked to bring in and would later be distributed in little hampers to the old people of Ruislip.

Oakridge's Harvest supper was equally grateful for the food we were eating but more grown up, we were sitting on chairs. There were autumnal posies on the tables and

pretty paper napkins with hedgehogs and butterflies on them. There must have been about 50 people sharing a fabulous buffet, of ham, warm buttered new potatoes, salads and quiches, followed by delicious crumbles with cream and ice cream. Where else could you eat so well for £10?

There was a short quiz to test our memories and the winning teams shared their minty Matchmaker prizes.

As always the hall was cheerfully cleared up and the kitchen cleaned by a collection of neighbours, As I walked home, I reflected on how thankful we all were for the food and company and I imagine that the people receiving hampers in the 1960's would have been younger than the active Oakridge neighbours cooking for 50 and stacking chairs. How grateful for the harvest and we grateful are for our active community.

OAKRIDGE SHOW

Volunteers needed to join the Oakridge Show Working Group...

We have had several members of the Group step down after the Show this year, and are looking for a few more people to commit to generally helping to plan, organise and stage the Show for 2024! We have monthly meetings, starting in around Feb/March, so nothing TOO onerous (!). In addition we specifically need someone to act as Treasurer for the show. Please contact Vicky/Heather/Gaza if you think you can help - it would be much appreciated.

Heather - hkf07@yahoo.com

Gaza - gaza.westfall@btinternet.com

Vicky - vbeard51@gmail.com

LADIES NIGHT

As we're fortunate to live in such a busy and sociable village Ladies night will not be officially taking place this December as we all have so many events to cram in! Our next one will be Weds 10th Jan in which we will be embracing the season and having a meal at The Butchers Arms. Please let me know if you would like to attend our special New Year get-together. Otherwise, we shall be back to our normal shenanigans from February onwards. Second Wednesday of each month.

Look forward to seeing you in 2024.

Tamzin (tamzin@tamzinhutton.com)

OAKRIDGE SCHOOL NEWS



At Oakridge school both classes enjoyed a variety of different activities based on the painting 'Surprised' by Henri Rousseau.

Take one picture week

During take one picture week, class 2 did several collages based on Henri's painting 'Surprised'. These consisted of many jungle scenes with a variety of jungle creatures.

Class 1 on the other hand based many of their other lessons on the same painting. In English they wrote reasons why the tiger was surprised. In Maths, Class 1 did symmetry on the tiger's face.

Children in Need

On Friday the 17th of November 2023 both classes took part in Children in Need by wearing non-school uniform and donating money. A bake sale was also held during break which was helped by the year 6s. All contributions will go to the Children in Need charity.

By Daisy and Iris

TWINNING ASSOCIATION



The Association held a successful Curry + Quiz evening at Oakridge Village Hall on 11th November. The Quizmaster was Gaza Westfall, ably assisted by Paul Holley. We are pleased to report out of the 9 teams taking part, 1st; 2nd and 3rd places were all taken by Oakridge teams. Come on Bisley and Eastcombe, there's a challenge to you for next year to beat the Oakridge dominance!!

We are planning further events into the new year, leading up to a weekend trip to Brittany on a date to be fixed, later in the year. If you

would like to be kept in touch with what's going on, or might be interested in coming on the trip to Plessala, please contact John Hughes on: mail@jmhughes.plus.com

STROUD ROTARY COMMUNITY AWARDS

A programme to support organisations within the Stroud area with a grant of up to £500. For more details go to: www.stroudrotary.org.uk or email community.awards.stroud.rotary@gmail.com.

Closing date for applications 6.00pm 31st January 2024

BUTCHER'S ARMS



As the festive season kicks in, where better to spend an evening than our friendly, warm and lively pub the Butcher's Arms? Ben, Ant and the team have plenty of events lined up to keep everyone in good spirits:

25th November @20.30 - Live music from acoustic duo Gardner and Rose

14th December @20.00 - Open Mic night - don't be shy, come and share your talent!

20th December @19.00 - Carol singing

New Year's Eve @20.00 Come and join the party! Fireworks, prosecco and buffet (£15 per head)

Burger Mondays - Buy 1 get 25% off your 2nd delicious burger

Delicious Christmas Menu in place from 1st December, £50 per head, pre-book only, deposit required.

Tel: 07597 426083

Email: thebutchersarms.oakridgelynch@gmail.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61550522700029>

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 6th December 2023 and Wednesday 3rd January 2024

"Oakridge ward councillors have sought reassurances from Gloucestershire County Council that snow clearance on the secondary village road network will be improved this coming winter. We have had recognition that last year performance was inadequate and that better co-ordination and approval procedures have been put in place for this season. We will monitor carefully over the winter on behalf of the community." *Ian Greves, Snow Warden*

"Keep reporting those potholes!" <https://fixmystreet.gloucestershire.gov.uk/> *Beth Hughes*

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

COUNTY COUNCIL NEWS

The following is taken from Councillor Williams' report to the Parish Council; for a copy of the full report including information on the A417 Missing Link; icy weather control; and fly tipping, contact the Parish Clerk.

Have Your Say On The New Political Map For Gloucestershire County Council

The Commission is the independent body that draws these boundaries. It is reviewing Gloucestershire to make sure councillors will represent about the same number of electors, and that division arrangements will help the council work effectively. The Commission has published proposals for changes to Gloucestershire. It is proposing that there should be 55 divisions and one councillor per division. Upton St Leonards residents may be affected by the proposed changes as Haresfield and Upton St Leonards division north of Stroud incorporates a number of settlements.

The Local Government Boundary Commission wants to hear what residents and local organisations think about the proposals. **A 10 week consultation on the proposals will run until 11 December 2023.** Launching the consultation Professor Colin Mellors, Chair of the Commission, said: *"We want people in Gloucestershire to help us. We have drawn up proposals for new divisions in Gloucestershire. We want to make sure these new electoral arrangements reflect communities. We also want them to be easy to understand and convenient for local people. Residents and local organisations can help us do that. We would like them to let us know whether they agree with our proposals before we take final decisions. It's easy to get involved. Go to our website. Or you can e-mail or write to us. Just tell us what you think and give us some details why you think that"*.

The Commission has a dedicated section on its website where people can see the detail of the proposals and comment on the names of divisions and their boundaries: www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/gloucestershire People can also give their views by email at reviews@lgbce.org.uk, and by post:

Review Officer (Gloucestershire)
LGBCE
PO Box 133
Blyth
NE24 9FE

Or you can email me and I will forward on your behalf. It is important that you make your views known on this.

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

DISTRICT NEWS

SDC's Financial Position: The District Council's medium-term finances are in good shape, unlike those of councils around the country such as Birmingham, Slough and Woking that are facing bankruptcy. The financial strains on all councils are due in part to reductions of 40-50% in central government support since 2010. But thanks to careful financial management, Stroud District Council will be able to maintain all local services for at least the next year. A single year settlement from Government is again expected, but the details will not be confirmed until late December. Council Tax is expected to increase again by 2.99%, less than the rate of inflation, which will require further efficiency savings.

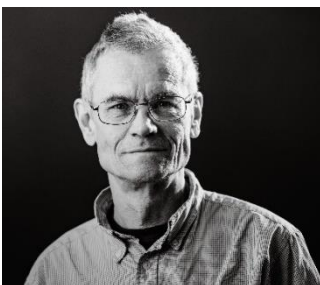
Climate Emergency Assessment: Stroud District Council's actions towards tackling the climate emergency have earned it joint 8th place among all councils in the UK, up two places from last year and the highest ranking of any council in Gloucestershire. The assessment was carried out by Climate Emergency UK.

Public Spaces Protection Orders (Dog Control): Rules which protect the public, dog owners and their pets will remain in force following a public consultation. These rules require dog owners to pick up dog faeces; keep dogs out of areas signed for no dogs, e.g. children's play areas; keep dogs on leads in designated areas such as allotments, cemeteries, car parks, canal towpaths, designated cycle tracks and specified footpaths used to reach schools and colleges; and put dogs on leads when directed to do so by an officer. There are exemptions for assistance dogs. Dog owners breaching these rules could be liable for a £75 fine, or prosecution in court with **a fine of up to £1,000** in cases where dog faeces is not picked up. **And please remember to keep dogs under strict control anywhere near livestock.**

Waterlane Allotments: These are being brought back into use, with a new warden. They are in an area of lovely rich wildlife habitat, which will be disturbed as little as possible. If you are interested in having a plot, or being involved in any other way, please contact me or the Parish Clerk.

Builder's Yard: Planning enforcement officers are investigating this site at the crossroads just outside Oakridge Lynch. It has been a longstanding subject of complaint by residents.

Sound of a River: Downloadable comic book about the state of our rivers, written by Chris Uttley, Stroud Valleys Natural Flood Management Officer, with illustrations by local artist Joe Magee. The book tells the story of Monica, a girl who sets out to find out why her house has flooded. She travels back in time to learn that historical changes made to the river have not only resulted in the loss of wildlife and plants, but also increased the likelihood of flooding. Free to download at <https://nbscomics.com/2023/05/30/2023-sound-of-a-river/>.



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

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 17th September – 18th November:

S.23/1285/HHOLD Porch to existing dwelling (resubmission) The Round, Bournes Green	Permitted
2023/0005/ASSETC Inclusion of Butchers Arms on register of assets of community value	Awaiting Decision
S.23/1657/LBC Repair to roof of main house Waterlane House, Waterlane	Approved
S.23/1649/OHL Installation of new H Pole transformer Waterlane Play Ground	No objections
S.23/1597/HHOLD Erection of single-storey rear orangery Field House, Waterlane	Permitted

OPEN STUDIO of Paintings & Pottery by JOHN BAILEY

www.johnbaileyart.co.uk

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

**Saturday 25th Nov –
Sunday 3rd Dec 2023
11.00 am – 4.00 pm**

**Please call John first if you are planning to come during the week
IN AID OF CANCER RESEARCH**

Holly

(*Ilex aquifolium*)



Photo credit: Pauline Lindeque

Take a walk through the woods in spring or summer and it won't escape your notice that the a strong leafy canopy doesn't allow a great deal of light to filter downwards, and consequently lower-level trees and plants can find it hard to get a foot (or root) hold.

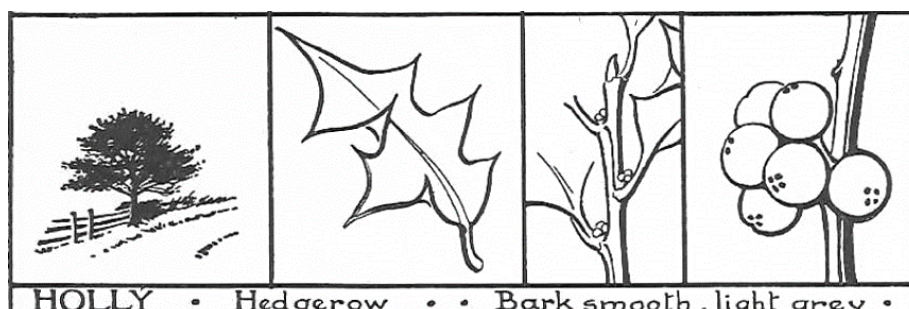
Nonetheless a few evergreen species do seem to thrive in these dull conditions. Holly (along with yew, ivy and box) provides us with some of the only splashes of green to be found in the woods in late autumn and winter.

Holly is a slow-growing bush/tree which tends to form a rather dense untidy conical shape and can reach a height of 15m and live up to 300 years.

Interestingly the dark-green spiky leaves tend to get less aggressive the further up the tree they grow (safer from grazing cattle), although young shoots provide midwinter food for deer who seem to be able to cope with the spikes.

It is a white and dense wood, useful for turning, carving or making walking sticks. In the fireplace it burns well, even unseasoned, and gives a good heat. Holly flowers are white with four petals and appear from May onwards. Keep an eye out for the Holly Blue butterfly, whose caterpillar feeds on the blossoms.

Male and female flowers occur on different trees, and it is the female that produces the red berries that are so sought after by birds for food or by us humans for Christmas decoration. If you are out and about in December looking for a few clippings, you may disturb a mistle-thrush bravely guarding the berries from other birds. They are rather partial to yew berries too but watch out - both are poisonous.



Since pagan times the holly has been surrounded by superstition - the dark evergreen foliage coming to symbolize everlasting life. The leaves once formed part of the treatment for Smallpox as it was thought to relieve fevers.

The holly and ivy of Christmas carol fame is said to refer to a custom in pre-Christian times of dressing boys in a suit of holly leaves and girls in ivy, to symbolize nature passing through winter and into the fertility of spring.

Peter Collings-Wells
whitespringbooks.co.uk



BisCAN

Bisley, Eastcombe & Oakridge Climate Action Network

Spend Less to Save the Planet

Want to reduce your carbon footprint and help save nature? Spend less!

Everything we buy or pay for has a carbon cost and contributes to biodiversity loss and the degradation of nature. The more you spend, the more harm. This is why rich countries do more harm than poor countries. The average climate change effect of a resident of the UK is more than six times that of an Afghan.¹ This probably understates the difference because it does not include the emissions of goods we import – all that stuff made for us in China, for example. *'The world's wealthiest 10% were responsible for around half of global emissions in 2015, according to a 2020 report from Oxfam and the Stockholm Environment Institute. The top 1% were responsible for 15% of emissions, nearly twice as much as the world's poorest 50%, who were responsible for just 7% and will feel the brunt of climate impacts despite bearing the least responsibility for causing them.'*² A report commissioned by the Cotswold National Landscape (the AONB)³ found the carbon footprint of residents of the Cotswolds is around 26% higher than the UK average – because we are, on average, richer, fly more, drive more, and burn more oil and gas to heat our larger houses. (Of course, not all Cotswold residents are rich; the less wealthy among us have lower emissions and cause less environmental damage.) What can we do? **Spend less!** Cut out a flight or two, use a smaller car, turn the thermostat down a degree or two, reduce meat and dairy consumption. **Spend less (and save money)!**

bisleyeastcombeoakridgecan@gmail.com

¹ <https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/per-capita-ghg-emissions?tab=table>

² <https://bbc.com/future/article/20211025-climate-how-to-make-the-rich-pay-for-their-carbon-emissions>

³ <https://www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/looking-after/net-zero-cotswolds/>

HINTERLAND

Welcome to the ward of care where
 Wandering minds find kind residence.
 Subdued eyes stare. I am well aware
 Theirs is a world full of absence:
 Here yet elsewhere, vaguely faraway,
 There freed from greed or vanity:
 No need for much in the bleak byway
 Of stray and sundered sanity.

Soon I spot her, comfortably chaired.
 She opens her eyes in wide surprise
 Her sixth sense mercifully spared
 Whereupon I watch recognition rise
 And the bright dawning of delight
 Just as though with the upspringing
 Of a blind day has displaced night
 And she can hear skylarks singing.

Taking my bare arm as might a child
 With frail fingertip she is tracing
 A blue-branching vein, rapt, beguiled:
 What undercurrents are surfacing?
 What, so entranced, is she perceiving
 In the meandering tributaries
 Of my unsleeved arm, what is heaving
 In her head, what memories are these?

-Who knows? Slow time goes. Eyes close.
 Her trapped-in thoughts stay unspoken
 I stroke her hands I stroke her toes
 Try to croak goodbye but no, so broken
 Am I, so throat-dry, no words come.
 Then, as away I creep as she dozes -
 "There you are! I've been so lonesome!
 Now take me home to see my roses!"

When I go the fields are all-afloat
 Miles to trek in rain so torrential;
 I have no car no coat no boat
 But my plight is inconsequential.
 The She who long I knew has vanished
 Leaving a ghost shorn of self-command
 A glimmer of the true Self banished
 To a dark and uncharted Hinterland.

John Pavitt

CITIZENS ADVICE



Citizens Advice Stroud and Cotswolds shares tips for how to save money on your energy bills

People can make simple changes to save money on their energy bills and don't need to wait until the colder months to do so. These include:

- Washing clothes at 30°C could save around £15 per year - and reducing the number of wash cycles by one per week could save a further £15.
- Reducing shower time to four minutes could save a typical household as much as £75 a year.
- Swapping one bath a week for a four-minute shower could save an average of £17 a year.
- Avoiding overfilling the kettle could save around £12 a year on electricity.
- Draught-proofing windows and doors will help your home feel warmer and could save around £50 a year on bills.
- Turning appliances off at the wall/plug when you're not using them could save an average of £60 a year.
- Turning the thermostat down by 1°C could save around £115 a year.

Installing a Smart Meter can help people get better control of their energy use and budgets. You don't have to have one but may benefit from reduced tariffs with some suppliers. The government estimates that customers with smart meters save an average of £50 a year.

Check you're getting all the support you're entitled to...

Lifestyle changes won't be possible for everyone and may not be enough to cover the hole in household budgets caused by higher prices, so Citizens Advice is also urging people to check they're getting all the support they're entitled to. This could include:

- Checking what benefits you're entitled to by using a benefits calculator
- Warm Home Discount — a £150 annual discount if you get certain benefits
- Cold weather payments — payments if you get certain benefits and the weather is extremely cold
- Grants from your energy supplier — to help you pay off debts you may owe

For more information visit www.citizensadvice.org.uk

If you owe money to your energy supplier, you should speak to them as soon as possible. They're responsible for helping you find a way to pay your bills.

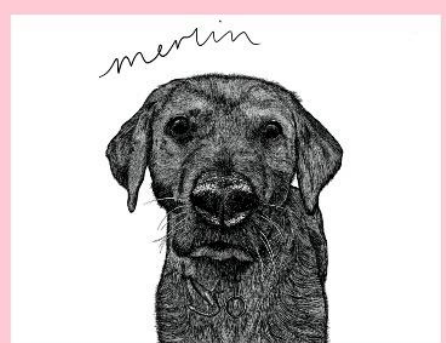
If you cannot access the website or need further help you can contact Citizens Advice Stroud and Cotswold Districts on 0808 800 0510 or 0808 800 0511 Monday to Thursday, or Email us using the form on our website (www.citizensadvice-stroudandcotswold.org.uk).

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)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DECEMBER 2023

Fri 1 st	–	• John Bailey's Open Studio, Winsley Cottage	11.00 am – 4.00 pm
Sun 3 rd		• Family Christingle Service, St Bartholomew's	9.30 am
Tues 5 th		• Garden Club, Village Hall	7.30 pm
Weds 6 th		• Lunch Club Christmas, Village Hall	Noon – 2.00 pm
		• Film Night, Village Hall	6.45 pm
		• Parish Council, Bisley	7.30 pm
Thurs 7 th		• Café Church, St Bartholomew's	10 am – 12 noon
Tues 12 th		• Church House Group	7.00 pm
Thurs 14 th		• WI, Village Hall	7.30 pm
Weds 20 th		• Carol Singing, meeting at Ollie's Shop	5.30 pm
Sun 24 th		• Crib Service, St Bartholomew's	4.00 pm
		• Carol Service, St Bartholomew's	7.00 pm
Tues 26 th		• Boxing Day Fun Run, Playing Field	9.00 am
Sun 31 st		• New Years Eve Party, Butchers Arms	from 8.00 pm

JANUARY 2024

Weds 3 rd		• Parish Council, Bisley	7.30 pm
Weds 10 th		• Ladies Night, Butchers Arms	7.15 pm
Thurs 11 th		• WI, Village Hall	7.30 pm
Weds 17 th		• Lunch Club, Village Hall	Noon – 2.00 pm
Sat 20 th		• Closing date for Feb/Mar What's On	5.00 pm
		•	

20th January, 5pm - CLOSING DATE **for the February/March 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: editoroakridgewatson@gmail.com

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

E&OE