

WHAT'S ON



in

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

February / March 2024

Edition 267

www.oakridgevillage.org

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. Contact Claire Robinson on 07903 974577 if you'd like to submit some photographs, full credit will be given.

EDITOR'S NOTE

In this first edition of 2024, may I wish all readers a very happy and healthy new year.

I would like to remember those lost to the community in 2023, tributes to many of whom have already been made in previous editions. A tribute to Far Oakridge resident Jane Powell is published in this copy. The news of the passing of Gill Davis, previous editor of What's On, came too late for publication in December, but a separate note was inserted into circulated copies. Gill was editor for well over 20 years, taking up the position at the end of 1986, and although she largely handed over the reins to Teresa Howes in 2014, she remained co-editor and advisor until very recently.

The 2023 accounts for information:

	£	£
Opening balance 1 st January 2023	642.04	
Cash in hand credit	60.00	
Donations received	560.00	
Advertising income	85.00	
Grants received	300.00	
What's On printing costs		-740.00
Village Show printing costs		-75.00
Closing balance 31st December 2023		£832.04

Huge thanks go to all those private individuals and village groups who have made generous donations to enable the printed copy to remain in circulation.

Victoria Beard

THE CHURCH IN OAKRIDGE



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

Service details at www.bisleybenefice.org.uk, church and village noticeboards

Greetings from the Church in Oakridge, we hope that you had blessed and merry Christmas and wish you a happy and healthy 2024.

We would be delighted to welcome you to any of our events. Vicar Sue will be happy to chat with you, should you have any thoughts to share or questions to ask. Please give her a call on the above number. We are grateful to those who have responded with interest and enthusiasm to see the church continue in Oakridge. Please keep your thoughts and ideas coming and how they may be implemented.

There will be a Mother's Day posy making session on Saturday 9th March, please contact Linda Reardon 07794 425915 if you would like to come along. We hope to see many mothers and children in church on Sunday 10th March.

There will be no Café in Church during February. We look forward to seeing you at our coffee mornings which will resume in the spring.

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

We wish you a peaceful lent and Holy Week and a joyous Easter.

February

Sunday 4 th February	9.30 am	Morning Prayer
Sunday 18 th February	9.30 am	Holy Communion
Monday 26 th February	10.10 am	Open the Book – With the School

March

Sunday 3 rd March	9.30 am	Morning Prayer
Saturday 9 th March	10.30 am	Posy Making for Mothering Sunday
Sunday 10 th March	9.30 am	Mothering Sunday Family Service
Monday 11 th March	10.10 am	Open the Book – With the School
Sunday 17 th March	9.30 am	Holy Communion
Monday 18 th March	10.10 am	Open the Book – With the School
Sunday 24 March	9.30 am	Palm Sunday
Sunday 31 March	9.30 am	Easter Sunday Celebration

Please check service details and Holy Week events at <http://www.bisleybenefice.org.uk>

CAFÉ CHURCH

Dear All,

Happy New Year to you all: let's hope it's a healthy and happy one for everyone.

Thank you to all those who supported us last year at Café Church and I hope you will continue to support us throughout 2024.

Our last Café Church in December was a particularly cold damp morning so a big thank you to those who ventured out to support us. However, the church looked wonderfully festive, so thank you to those who decorated the tree and for all the flowers it looked quite lovely. Candles were burning bright on the tables, and everyone was full of Christmas cheer despite the weather. Our theme for the December café was of course Christmas and a big thank you goes to Chris Palmer who made table decorations and wreaths to be sold. Chris also made a decoration that was raffled off. Pamela Dawkins made a couple of jars of vegetarian mincemeat. Of course, not forgetting the homemade cakes that were made by the ever faithfully hardworking team.

We will start up again in April, date to be yet confirmed.

Sharon Dawes

CAROL SINGERS 2023



A huge thank you to all the carol singers who joined us to bring and sing joy to Oakridge on 20th December. We had expected about 17 people or so to tour the village with us, but so many turned up that we failed to be able to count everyone on the night - it was well over 30 people of all ages. Also many thanks to the lovely children who patiently went to each house with the charity boxes for everyone to be able to donate. They were a delightful addition to the evening.

A massive thank you to the Butchers Arms, who laid on mince pies and mulled wine, together with a lovely log fire for the carol singers as we finished our tour. I believe we all thoroughly enjoyed the evening.

We managed to raise £414 for the charity Home Start, who help families with children under five who are struggling. The charity are so grateful to us all, so thank you to all who donated so generously.

Please be sure to keep the day free for next year.

With love and gratitude to you all,
Louisa and Penny

PS, from the singers – a big thank you to Louisa, Geoff and Penny for organising this!

RECENT THEFTS

As many will know, there has been a recent spate of thefts in the villages, from offroad motorbikes in Far Oakridge, to allotment equipment and even petrol siphoned from a car. Councillor Beth Hughes will be meeting with the Neighbourhood Warden/PCSO in the near future to discuss this and will report back both to the Parish Council and in the next What's On. If anyone has any concerns, please do contact her (details on pg.17). Please be vigilant.

GILL FARRAR'S OAKRIDGE RAINWATCH



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

November 129.7 mm about 5.1 ins
 December 162 mm about 6.3 ins
 January (to 17th) 41.6 mm about 1.6 ins

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.

BOXING DAY 5K FUN RUN

The Oakridge 5K Boxing Day fun run was supported by 23 runners and joggers. Locals, family and friends all enjoyed the course. The winner from Waterlane finishing in an amazing 18 minutes 50 seconds. Thank you to all the volunteers who stood outside to guide and support the runners. We'd love to grow the event to 30 participants this year.

Paul and Sam Timms

JOHN BAILEY'S ART EXHIBITION

John would like to thank all who came along to support his recent Art Exhibition. He has raised over £400 to donate to Cancer Research.

A TRIBUTE TO JANE POWELL

Jane Powell, a pioneer in environmental retailing, died in November after a long illness. Born in 1945, Jane developed the Greenshop near Bisley, starting work there in 1996. She was one of the early pioneers in environmental retailing in the UK and, at one point, knew every environmental product supplier in the UK. She would be hard pressed to know every supplier now, which shows how far we have come.

Jane will be known to many as someone who really lived the life of someone who cared for the world. Her home, designed with her partner Roger Budgeon, used environmental building methods before most people had started applying these technologies. The house, with two bedrooms, has solar panels, solar thermal heating, rainwater harvesting and full insulation. One of Jane's mantras was the William Morris quote: "have nothing in your house that you do not know to be useful or believe to be beautiful." In a wildflower meadow beside the house, Roger and Jane set up harvesting seed and distributing it to other meadows with the aim of reviving ancient wildflower meadows. Her gardening was always organic and she loved reading. The house always had the latest copies of environmental magazines and she kept up-to-date with nature book publishing.

In Jane's early career, she had been a model in London and then worked for BBC Magazines and BBC Wildlife magazine until 1991. She moved to work in retail for the co-operative Bishopston Trading Company and then on to building up the Greenshop. For the last 40 years, Jane worked to develop the market for environmental products in the UK, and she will be much missed.

A spokesperson for the Greenshop said: "She was a true shining light and marked a path for so many people working in this field today".

This tribute, written by Jo Mold and published in the Stroud News & Journal in December, has been slightly abridged

OAKRIDGE VILLAGE HALL

Committed to providing quality social space for our community

The Village Hall continues to be well used, both within the community and by Ballyhoo, who find the space to be ideal for their various dance classes. There is daytime and often weekend availability for new users, so please do spread the word to those who may need a meeting space, or room to host an event.



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. 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.

The club is in need of volunteers, particularly 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. It could easily be on a rota basis, or as a small team to speed the set up. Please contact Caroline Priestley 07587264629.

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.

PANCAKE LUNCH

**SHROVE TUESDAY 13th FEBRUARY
FROM 12 NOON AT THE VILLAGE HALL**

**CHOICE OF SOUP WITH CRUSTY BREAD
PLOUGHMANS SALAD
PANCAKES**

£8.00 IN AID OF HALL FUNDS

OAKRIDGE GARDEN CLUB



As I write it is one of those clear blue days with the sun out and not a breath of wind, but the ground is rock hard with a hoary frost. Let's hope it will begin to dry out our sodden gardens. There is very little we can do as yet except rake up twigs and leaves, and plan ahead for planting and seed sowing.

Those who walk through the churchyard will notice work is going ahead for the new site for the garden of remembrance. Marking stones have been laid and holes dug for four roses that will mark each corner. They are all shrub roses that are repeat flowering and are disease free. I was pleased to find one called "Lest We Forget" and one called "Remembrance". It will be great to see them in flower.

The Club enjoyed a sit down hot meal and their winter get together. The Hall looking festive with a new tree and lovely table centres done by Caroline Cook. John gave us a splendid quiz, with many local questions that had us all guessing.

Last year I felt we had a very high standard of excellent and memorable talks, and also some super gardens to visit. We have already had a January meeting of the committee to put together an even better year. We start our new season with a very short and snappy AGM, followed by a talk by Carl Sadler. He will demonstrate the making of the famous Sussex Trugs so loved by gardeners, their history and also have some for sale.

6th February is also the evening we pay our £10 subs.

I hope to see you all there.
Gill Wimperis (Chairman!)

OAKRIDGE FILM NIGHT

Following a break from films in January, why not join us for our next Film Night on 7th February? As usual, £5 on the door (please reserve tickets via www.oakridgevillage.org/boxoffice to give us an idea of numbers), and a well-stocked bar will be available. Doors open at 6.45pm, film starts at 7.30pm. Please note, **CARD PAYMENTS ONLY.**

As always, to find out more about upcoming films (and other village events), sign up to the What's On Mailing List at www.oakridgevillage.org/maillinglist. - this will give you a sneak preview of this film, and the next on 6th March!

Spotlight on

Gill Wimperis



I imagine that most people in the villages will know of Gill from her WI talks about her working life in London and also from her tireless contribution to village life. Our chat therefore concentrated on her life outside of this, and what an interesting and joyous life it has been!

Born in Guildford in 1935, Gill moved to Kent and shortly afterwards when World War 2 made life near to London too dangerous, she was sent with her sister as an evacuee to stay in a huge vicarage in Castle Cary in Somerset.

The next two years were happy times with fond memories of the charming people hosting them. The vicar expected them to attend church three times on Sundays, but life there was fun in many ways. Army officers were billeted on the vicar's wife and Gill remembers soldiers galloping around with the children on their shoulders and going shopping in a pony and trap. Their Czech nanny went with them, but their education was rather limited by the nanny's poor grasp of the English language.



Back to Sevenoaks until the doodlebug raids escalated and the sound of the doodlebugs' engines cutting out meant that they all scurried under the stairs for safety. This was the last straw which decided Gill's parents that the children should again be evacuees, this time to Shropshire with four cousins. A lasting memory of the war was looking out of the windows in Sevenoaks to see a glow in the night sky which Gill was told was London on fire from the blitz 25 miles away.

After the war, family life settled back into its normal happy state. The era of rationing was eased for the family as her father had an allotment and kept chickens. A lovely memory of going down to the allotment in a wheelbarrow and then walking back home after it had been filled with fresh vegetables has stayed with Gill.

In 1949 there was a surprise for Gill - a baby sister called Scilla. As Gill's older sister Jen went off to work on a farm, it fell to Gill to look after Scilla much of the time. Apparently, the quality of Gill's boyfriends was gauged by how well they got on with her baby sister! Sadly, Scilla suffered from diabetes, a familial illness, and died from kidney failure at the age of 69.

As an adult, Gill began modelling at Fortnum and Mason where she met royalty and celebrities and even went to Buckingham Palace. Her training at ballet school had prepared her well for being particularly suited to modelling. Those of you who have heard her fascinating talks will know that they usually focus on this exciting part of her life, with photos, clothes and other memorabilia being displayed.

Gill tells me that she went out with lots of boyfriends (all very innocent of course) until she met her beloved husband, Peter. They married in 1957 and her wedding dress was designed by Mademoiselle, who ran the fashion house at Fortnum's. As Peter worked for Esso, they moved with the job many times during their marriage.

The first home was a cottage in Kent which is where Rob and the twins all made their appearance.

A town house in Nottingham came next (where Peter learned campanology).

Then a move to Yorkshire to a three-story terraced house with a long garden and lots of stairs, became home.

Next was a move back to Kent to a big Edwardian house with a gorgeous garden and a greenhouse. This is where her love of growing herbs began although the seeds for this passion were sown by her mother who had a great interest in them.

A move to Macclesfield resulted in the best house of all - a large property which had belonged to a silk mill owner. Rather dilapidated, it had six bedrooms and a billiard room and plenty of space for a large family.

Eventually, they came to the Cotswolds, settling into a farmhouse in Selsley where they filled the farm with goats, geese, chickens, two pigs and a cow. When Esso wanted Peter to work in London, none of the family wanted to go there so Peter decided to leave the rat-race and with a good pension and a golden handshake, he and Gill decided to set up the herb farm. They also ran a goat boarding kennels (at one time they looked after 21 visiting goats as well as their own five goats). The herb farm took off as a visitor centre and Gill served cream teas for the many visitors in a converted barn, helped by her good friend Marion. On Sundays they could have up to 300 visitors to the farm. She also gave talks to visiting WI groups and the family spent the next 30 years at the farm.

Being one of the busiest people I have ever met, Gill for many years was running the farm and visitor centre, a herb and preserves shop at two sites in Nailsworth and one in Cirencester and the preserves factory in Stroud while simultaneously bringing up a family, looking after the five goats and subsequent kids and hosting the two grannies in the converted barn and hayloft of the farmhouse. Many parties and weddings were held in the adjoining barn.

Gill has been in her current home, the charming Hope Cottage for the last 21 years and she has created a beautiful garden there.

Gill and Peter both had creative parents and the artistic talent has carried on through the family with daughter Sarah and son Jack being particularly successful.

Gill's wonderful energy and positivity has carried on during her time in Oakridge. Some of the jobs she has undertaken include:

- Starting the Lunch Club in 2004 with the help of Pat Carrick and Rosemary Bailey
- Being Garden Club chairman
- Being on the Village Hall committee

Being a member of the local walking group and book club
 Running the Christmas market
 Running the pancake lunch and the harvest supper
 Organising the various street party celebrations.
 Singing in the church choir and the carol singing round the village
 Flower arranging in the church.

Now supposedly 'retired' from most of these activities, she seems to be as busy as ever and is a wonderful asset to our village. From a personal point of view she is a great role model for me and Charlie - we are a bit younger and negotiating our way into the next phase of our lives. We hope we can be as active and cheerful as Gill is.

Thank you Gill for being you - unfailingly smiling and optimistic and a joy to be with.

Sue Wise
 07766 705357
 18 January 2024

OAKRIDGE HISTORY GROUP



On the first entry of 2024, we wish everyone a peaceful New Year. The last talk of 2023 was by Larry Banda who gave an insight into the extensive work of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC). The size of the numbers of graves involved was staggering. Pictures of rows of headstones in the enormous cemeteries in France and Belgium are often shown and visited by many, but less often brought to our attention are the graves in smaller cemeteries across the world in 150 different countries, and the many individual graves scattered in churchyards all over Britain. Together, in 23,000 locations, they commemorate the 1.7 million men and women who died during WW1 and WW2 whose memorials are cared for by the CWGC.

The Commission was set up by Royal Charter (initially under the title of the Imperial War Graves Commission) in May 1917 to provide a permanent memorial for the fallen of the First World War. Then the fallen of WW2 were added.

The task of managing and caring for the graves and memorials, amending records, searching for missing names and, when necessary, interring bodies discovered in unmarked sites, is undertaken by a multinational, multilingual workforce numbering approximately 1,300. The majority are gardeners and stonemasons tasked with the maintenance and upkeep. These people, along now with an army of volunteers, manage the cycle of inspections, undertaking necessary remedial work to ensure that the gravestones and memorials are kept in good condition for the future. Despite the staggering numbers, the formality of the headstones and the passing of years, the message which came over clearly was that the individuality of each and every person is honoured and respected.

Since that talk we have had a winter break but will be back on **28th February** when Stuart Butler will be speaking on **"The Radical History of Stroud and the Five Valleys in the 18th and 19th centuries."** Anyone who has read Alice Jolly's novel

"Mary Ann Sate, Imbecile" will know that Stroud was not infrequently a ferment of discontent as changes impacted on workers both in the mills and on farms.

On **27th March** Ray Wilson will talk about "**Gloucester Docks, past, present and future**"

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

New members and visitors are always welcome.

Kay Rhodes

OAKRIDGE SHOW

We will be kick-starting the planning process at 6.30pm on Thursday 8th February, meeting in the Butchers Arms – if you'd like to get involved with the Show this year, please come along and join us, and/or look out for info on the village social media groups or contact Heather/Gaza/Vicky for more information. Help to organise and run the Show is much appreciated!

Heather - hkf07@yahoo.com

Gaza – gaza.westfall@btinternet.com

Vicky - vbeard51@gmail.com

NATURE NOTES FROM WATERLANE



Watching a rook hammering the frozen ground outside my window one morning I realized how important beaks are for feeding. In the case of rooks or crows they have a beak of average length and evenness which can do a bit of everything, even getting into my feeders if needed.

A bird's beak provides a window into its lifestyle, few parts of a bird's body show such variation and shape. Among the many common shapes are the sharp hooked beak, an instant clue to a predator and with these beaks come keen eyes and sharp claws. A long thin beak on a small bird is a sign of an insectivorous diet. A curved beak such as those on curlews or treecreepers suggest the owner probes into cracks using the turning circle of the tip to investigate things unseen. A finch has internal grooves just inside the cutting edge of its beak into which a seed can lodge firmly. It then cuts into the husk and the tongue rotates it like a tin opener.

Although beaks are adapted to a bird's diet, they are not only used for feeding. They are also used for feather maintenance such as preening and courtship displays when the beaks of some birds change colour to attract a mate. All birds have some sensitivity in their beaks although in the case of the woodpecker this is limited. Their strengthened beaks have a chiselled tip that wears down with constant use and is renewed.

Alan White

OAKRIDGE WI



The December run up to Christmas is always punctuated by little treats, one of them being our party evening. We welcomed fellow members from France Lynch and Eastcombe to join in a light-hearted enjoyable time, with lovely food and a tricky quiz. Sue lit a candle in remembrance for those who are no longer with us.

2024....11th January we were delighted to extend a warm welcome to Robert Bryant once more. His photographic topic this year "Villa Gardens in the Italian Lakes" – what a cheer-up after our weeks of grey days. The colours were magnificent and he is an excellent speaker. Lake Maggiore, Lake Garda, and Lake Como were featured, with gardens from eight villas. His garden in Eastcombe will be open in May.

Next... 2nd February Panto at Cotswold Playhouse
8th February Embroidery of my Life, Alison Hewitt
14th March Workshop making a craft wreath
11th April Subscription time, this year £48

Wishing you all a happy and healthy 2024.
 Mary Fern

STRAWBERRY BANKS

Strawberry Banks below the village is a Site of Special Scientific Interest because of its undisturbed Limestone Grassland and its wild creatures - a lot of which are insect life. In order for this to continue a small band of us regularly clear scrub from the main grass areas and battle to keep back the boundary hedges. If you would be interested in helping to do this, our next Working morning would be **Saturday 17th February** - and if you would be interested in joining us then - or in the future, please get in touch Celia Morrison-Smith at celtoncrafts@hotmail.co.uk - it would be much appreciated.

LADIES NIGHT

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

UPDATE

As our Feb date falls on 14th Feb, we will get together on Thursday 15th instead.

Looking forward to seeing you!

Tamzin (tamzin.hutton@outlook.com)

OAKRIDGE SCHOOL NEWS



Christmas seems like a long time away! Oakridge Parochial are now full swing into the first part of the Spring term.

Class 1:

Pole to Pole is our exciting new topic! We have been learning about polar bears and comparing the lifecycles of penguins and humans. In geography, we have learned a song about the continents and performed it to Mr Roberts and Class 2. They were very impressed! After learning about compass points in geography, we followed a trail using our maps to discover what we will be learning about later in our topic. I wonder what we will be learning next?

Class 2:

Dreams and Inventions is Class 2's topic this term, which is one of the themes in our fantastic text Brightstorm by Vashti Hardy. We love the main characters – the twins Maudie and Arthur - because Maudie is an inspirational young female engineer and has also designed her brother's prosthetic arm. We created our own sky-ships, based on the ones in Brightstorm and which are dangling from our ceiling, using balloons and origami. In history, we are learning about the Victorians and their inventions; we are hoping to visit the Stroud museum so we can embrace local inventions from the past. Finally, we cannot wait to be designers ourselves and will soon be using our fabulous brand new 3D printer to create our own designs! Watch this space!

TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Our first event of the new year will be afternoon tea at Eastcombe Village Hall, GL6 7EB on **Saturday 10th February** when well-known local auctioneer/valuer Lindsey Braune BA, MRICS, from Cotswold Auction Co of Cheltenham and Cirencester has kindly agreed to talk about antiques generally and you are invited to "**bring your old relics**"(!) for valuing. We will start at 2:30pm and the cost is £10 per person (children under 16 free) this will include a substantial afternoon tea. Please pay on the door, but we request you to telephone Muriel Brooks on 01452-770346 to book a space.

We are planning further events into the new year, leading up to a weekend trip to Brittany on a date to be fixed this summer. 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

BUTCHER'S ARMS



Banish the January (and February) blues with a range of great offers at our friendly, warm and lively local. Ben, Ant and the Butcher's Arms team have devised a number of special nights to suit all ages, appetites and schedules:

Mondays - Burger Mondays, buy one get one 25% off your second delicious burger

Wednesdays - Pie Day, buy one get one 25% off in February

Thursday - Senior Citizens Day, two-course meal and a coffee for £16.50 in February

Fridays - Fish Fridays and Fizz Fridays, bottle of prosecco £22 in February

Saturdays - Curry Night

Sunday evenings - Sharers buy one, get 25% off in February

Beat the Blues: Mondays-Thursdays, January and February, book a table and receive 20% off the food bill



Mother's Day is also coming up... Treat your Mum to a delicious Sunday roast - if you book before 5th March, Mum gets 25% off her meal and a free glass of prosecco.

Don't delay, book your table at the pub now - remember, if we don't use it, we lose it!

Tel: 07597 426083

Email: thebutchersarms.oakridgelynych@gmail.com

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 7th February 2024 and Wednesday 6th March 2024

Waterlane Allotments

The Parish Council has approved plans to renovate the upper part of the Waterlane allotments and improve access to bring them back into use for the community. Work will start on site at the beginning of February and should be complete by early March in time for the growing season. A part of the site will set aside for wildlife and to encourage an increase in biodiversity.

Parish Precept

At its January meeting, the Parish Council agreed the budget for the 2024-25 financial year commencing in April. The Council has undertaken to support several important community projects planned for this year across the Parish as well as continuing to support the usual ongoing initiatives and events. Our wonderful and inspiring environment also brings with it the considerable responsibility associated with managing our many trees, verges, green spaces and playing fields and keeping them safe. The parish precept, which together with the much larger District and County Councils' levies, makes up the Council Tax residents pay, provides the majority of the Parish budget to cover all these costs. The precept has not increased for the last 2 years but this year it will go up by 8% - less than inflation over this period - to help ensure the Parish Council continues to meet its obligations to the community.

Community Land Trust for affordable housing

Would you like to be involved in creating a community-led, affordable, sustainable housing project? This might be a small development of half a dozen or so houses, on the edge of one of our villages, built to the best environmental standards, and genuinely affordable for local people.

Join other local residents to explore the possibility of setting up a Community Land Trust. *'Community land trusts are democratic, non-profit organisations that own and develop land for the benefit of the community. They typically provide affordable homes, community gardens, civic buildings, pubs, shops, shared workspace, energy schemes and conservation landscapes.'* Community Land Trust Network.
<https://www.communitylandtrusts.org.uk/>

If you'd like to know more, please contact either the Parish Clerk admin@bisley-with-lypiatt.gov.uk, 01452 771089; or District Councillor Martin Brown, 01452 770878 cllr.martin.brown@stroud.gov.uk

Dark Skies Policy

Bisley-with-Lypiatt Parish is a dark parish, that is, it has no street lighting. It encourages residents to consider lighting options, both existing and new. Implications of policy are considered and can be seen below.

- Energy: Dark skies reduce energy consumption which the Parish Council supports alongside the use of energy efficient outdoor lighting when installed by residents and businesses.

- Ecology: In our rural settings, wildlife is all around us and outdoor lighting impacts all species so careful choices should be made near sensitive wildlife habitats. Bad lighting can have a detrimental effect on wildlife.
- Public Safety: Poorly installed lighting can be a hazard to motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians at night. Keeping night skies dark reduce glare but placing the right amount of light in the right place helps everyone's safety.
- Crime: Good policy to protect dark skies can enhance security.

Bisley-with-Lypiatt Parish Council supports the 'Cotswolds Conservation Board Position Statement Dark Skies & Artificial Light' which can be found on their website. Cotswolds Dark Skies & Artificial Light Position Statement - Cotswolds National Landscape (cotswoldsaonb.org.uk) Approved at the April 13th 2022 Parish Council meeting

All residents can help the policy, eg by paying particular attention to automatic lights, that stay on and are not set up correctly. These should only be going on and off if people enter premises, which would also aid security, especially in the light of thefts in the village recently. (To minimise the impact upon bats, lighting levels should not be excessive for the task and lamps with a "warm" spectrum should be used, i.e. less than 2700K. The lights should be directed downwards only, with no upward spill above the horizontal plane. Motion sensors or timers should be used with short durations. The emitted light should fall within the boundary of the area being lit and not beyond – soft landscaping can be used to shield the lights from view beyond the boundary.)

** Note: an article title 'Night Skies' was in the June/July 2023 edition, which expands further on the impact on nature

Local Nature Action Plan: Volunteers needed for working group.

The Parish Council intends to create a Local Nature Action Plan (LNAP) to help nature's recovery and meet our obligation under the Environment Act (2021) to protect and improve biodiversity in our area. LNAPs will form part of the wider District and County nature recovery plans. Bisley's LNAP will be **our** plan to declare what **we** will do to help nature's recovery. If you would like to join a small group of Parish Councillors and other residents to work on this, please contact the Clerk: admin@bisley-with-lypiatt.gov.uk

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

Get in touch

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

LOCAL PLANNING NEWS

Information relating to local planning issues, as outlined on the Stroud District Council website: <https://publicaccess.stroud.gov.uk/online-applications>. See the Parish Council website for local input. Here is a summary of local planning news in the period 18th November 2023 – 20th January 2024

2023/0005/ASSETC Inclusion of Butchers Arms on register of assets of community value	Awaiting Decision
S.24/0075/HHOLD Extension and upgrade to property Woodspring Cottage, The Broadway, Oakridge Lynch	Awaiting Decision
S.24/0042/LBC Clean stonework Orchard Cottage, Bournes Green	Awaiting Decision

DISTRICT NEWS



2024 Elections: District and Parish Council elections will take place on May 2nd this year, and a General Election by January 2025. Voting rules changed last year and now require all voters (apart from postal voters) to bring photo ID, from an approved list, in order to vote at a polling station. See [SDC website for details](#). For the General Election, Bisley Parish (my District Council ward) – Eastcombe, but not Bussage or Chalford - is now in the [new North Cotswold constituency](#). This

does not change our parish or district council position – we are still in Stroud District and SDC will continue to provide local services.

At the December Council Meeting we agreed on the need for a **fairer and more consistent voting system** for local elections in England. Along with many other authorities, we would like to see a residency-based voting system in England, to match the approach taken in Wales and Scotland (and many other countries). This would mean that all legal residents, who live in the area and pay their council tax, could vote in local (not national) elections, regardless of their citizenship. Across the UK, it's estimated that over a million people are missing out on the right to vote in local elections due to the lack of residency-based voting rights. There's more information available from the [Migrant Democracy Project](#).

Pet Crematorium in Lypiatt Fined for Emissions: The operator of an animal incinerator site has been fined for non-compliance with the terms of its Environmental Permit. Time Right, a.k.a. Pet Cremation Services, operates a pet crematorium at Limekiln Farm, Lypiatt, just outside this parish. Time Right entered a guilty plea to three charges by Stroud District Council. On occasions, thick plumes of dark and black smoke were emitted from the site in contravention of permit conditions. At a sentencing hearing at Cheltenham Magistrates' Court on 14 December 2023, Time Right was fined £50,000 – full costs and a victim surcharge raised the total penalty to £64,489. There is a current application with GCC for retrospective approval of an office extension and

the operation of a dual chamber incinerator at the site. This is being strongly contested by neighbours.

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



BisCAN

Bisley, Eastcombe & Oakridge Climate Action Network

Bums on Buses

Give your car a break – take the bus to Stroud! Many of us say we need better bus service, so let's show there's a demand for it. How about Saturday morning to the farmers market for an hour and a half?

Dep. Oakridge Lynch	07:46	10:31
Arr. Stroud, Merrywalks	08:11	11.01
Dep. Stroud, Merrywalks	10:10	12:40
Arr. Oakridge Lynch	10:31	13.01

Reading Group: BisCAN's book group welcomes new members. This month we are reading *Who Owns England?* By Guy Shrubsole. Next book t.b.d. If you're interested, please e-mail us: bisleyeastcombeoakridgecan@gmail.com.

Bisley Community Composting Scheme's Wonderful Willow

is about to be pruned!!

Celebrating recycling and biodiversity the willow stems will be woven to create bird feeders, nests and tables in **two separate workshops led by Stroud's Norah Kennedy on**

- **Sunday 4 February 2pm-4pm in the Village Hall**
- **Saturday 17th February 2pm-4pm in the Church Meeting Room.**

£10 per person each workshop. All materials, tools, cake and tea provided. Young nimble fingered people welcome.

Note: Places are limited

Unused BCCS willow prunings will be shredded and used to mulch our community orchard apple trees. Willow contains salicin (viz aspirin) and has some benefits against apple scab. Come and help mulch the Community Orchard Apple trees with willow (date tba). **Contact Lesley to book a willow weaving workshop place (07760258160; lesleygreene2@gmail.com)**

Scots Pine

(*Pinus sylvestris*)



Dark and mysterious, roamed by bears, wolves, lynx and wild boar, the Caledonian Forest once covered much of the Scottish Highlands. Scots pines dominated and were the first pines to arrive on our shores after the Late Glacial period (c8000 BC). There are still some remnants of that ancient forest left north of the border although sadly they are less red in tooth and claw.

A quick identifier for Scots pine is that its needles grow in pairs and up to 8cm long. These spiral around in bunches to give a "bottle-brush" appearance. True pines have their needles grouped in twos (red pines), threes (yellow pines) or fives (white pines). All other conifers whose needles are individually attached to their twigs are likely to be spruce or fir. This is the UK's only native pine, evergreen like all conifers except larch, and grows up to 35m. They

are strong and hardy, and with a long tap root are well suited to exposed locations.

Young bark is a scaly copper-red but darkens and fissures further with age. Also, as it grows, lower branches fall away - they don't get much light anyway - and the tree concentrates its energies to branching and flowering higher up in the canopy of the forest.

In Scotland it is a unique habitat that supports the capercaillie, crested tit and crossbill - the latter's adapted beak is able to extract the seeds from the cones. Red squirrel and pine marten are also dependant on the Caledonian Forest.

Our southern pine forests are mainly planted for timber and are home to long-eared and tawny owls, woodpeckers, treecreepers and goldcrests.

At ground level pine forests can appear barren and lifeless. There is little green growth due to the smothering layers of pine needles. But mosses, fungi and ferns do thrive, especially on stumps and fallen trees, and these also provide a home for bugs and beetles. Ants make their home under the needle-floor especially if the soil is sandy. You will also find the occasional holly and yew which don't mind the dull conditions.

Scots pine is monoecious - both male and female flowers grow on the same tree. Male flowers are yellow and upright, while the female flower is small, red and bud-like, growing at the tips of new shoots. After pollination, the females turn green and develop into cones. These don't mature until the following season, so those familiar cones are two years old when they open.

The tree produces a durable softwood, popular for furniture, and is one of the woods chosen for utility poles and once used for pit props. It is called deal when sawn, to make gates and doors, and in the production of chipboard and paper pulp.



Trunks destined to be telephone or electricity poles are de-barked and seasoned in the open air for up to 18 months. Poles tend to be about 9 m long (including 2 m in the ground) and 150 to 200 mm in diameter. Once seasoned they are pressure-treated with creosote or the more benign copper biocide depending on the final usage. Treated poles can be placed directly in the ground and can last for more than 30 years.

The Celts saw pine as a tree of protection and strength and burnt the needles to disperse negative energy or sickness. As an infusion it has an antiseptic action or hot and steaming is a decongestant for respiratory disorders. Some burn the resin for incense. Although it makes good charcoal, don't put pine wood on the fire as it spits and over time resinous deposits from the smoke can choke up chimneys.

With plans afoot to reintroduce wolves to Scottish forests, maybe we should follow suit down here. It would certainly make picnics more exciting.

Photo Credit: Pauline Lindeque

Peter Collings-Wells
whitespringbooks.co.uk

CITIZENS ADVICE



I've built up a bit of debt and I am panicking. Even though I cut back, Christmas was expensive, my spending has gone up and what I have coming in just doesn't stretch as far as it used to. What can I do?

First of all it's important to know you're not alone in finding things difficult, and crucially there is support available. The first step is to **collect all the information you have about your debts**, this might include contracts, bills and statements.

Next, **make a list of your debts and write down the details of each**. This could include who you owe the money to (this person or company is your 'creditor'); when you first missed a payment; and how much you now owe. You'll also need to make a note of your account or reference number and what steps the creditor has taken to get the money back, eg. sending you letters.

It might feel overwhelming when you see all of your debts written down - but try not to worry, the important thing is that you are sorting them out. If you are behind on

household bills, prioritise paying your rent or mortgage, plus energy bills and Council Tax first. Not paying these bills has the most serious consequences. You should speak to the person or company you owe money to, to see if there are any manageable steps you can take to start reducing your debt.

Once you've got these debts under control, you should look at any other debts like credit card or store card debts, payday loans or missed Buy Now Pay Later payments.

While you are looking at money going out, do remember to consider money that could be coming in. It's always worth checking if there are any benefits that you are entitled to, including support with your energy and living costs. There's a benefits calculator, advice on how to reduce living costs and information on other ways to increase your income, plus further advice on dealing with debts, on the Citizens Advice website – www.citizensadvice.org.uk

There is also emergency support that you may be able to access, such as a food bank or fuel vouchers. You could also contact your local council to see if they can offer support.

We know that times are incredibly tough but please remember, you don't have to face this alone. 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

Oakridge Village Hall

Sat 17th Feb

Oakridge Lynch

7.30 pm

Stroud

£10 Entry at Door

GL6 7NZ

Bring Your Own Drinks

MEERKATS



7 Multi-instrumentalists

Music from Medieval to Mark Knopfler
and more in between



Live Music . Live Music . Live Music

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

FEBRUARY 2024

Sun 4 th	• Willow workshop, Bisley	2.00 – 4.00 pm
Tues 6 th	• Garden Club, Village Hall	7.30 pm
Weds 7 th	• Film Night, Village Hall	6.45 pm
	• Parish Council, Bisley	7.30 pm
Thurs 8 th	• Village Show planning, Butchers Arms	6.30 pm
	• WI, Village Hall	7.30 pm
Sat 10 th	• Twinning event, Eastcombe	2.30 pm
Tues 13 th	• Pancake Lunch, Village Hall	Noon – 2.00 pm
Thurs 15 th	• Ladies Night, Butchers Arms	7.00 pm
Sat 17 th	• Scrub clearing, Strawberry Banks	
	• Willow workshop, Bisley	2.00 – 4.00 pm
	• Live music from Meerkats, Village Hall	7.30 pm
Weds 21 st	• Lunch Club, Village Hall	Noon – 2.00 pm
Weds 28 th	• History Group, Village Hall	7.30 pm

MARCH 2024

Weds 6 th	• Film Night, Village Hall	6.45 pm
	• Parish Council, Bisley	7.30 pm
Sat 9 th	• Mothering Sunday Posy making, Hillcroft	10.30 am
Sun 10 th	• Mothering Sunday Family Service	9.30 am
Weds 13 th	• Ladies Night, Butchers Arms	7.00 pm
Thurs 14 th	• WI, Village Hall	7.30 pm
Weds 20 th	• Lunch Club, Village Hall	Noon – 2.00 pm
Sat 23 rd	• Closing date for Apr/May What's On	5.00 pm
Weds 27 th	• History Group, Village Hall	7.30 pm

Saturday 23rd March, 5pm - CLOSING DATE **for the April/May 2024 WHAT'S ON**

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

Editor: Victoria Beard

Email: editoroakridgewhatson@gmail.com

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

E&OE