WHAT'S ON

in

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

October / November 2026

Edition 284

www.oakridgevillage.org

USEFUL INFORMATION

The village has 3 Defibrillators, situated at:

- The Village Hall (maintained by the OVHT)
- Ollie's Shop (maintained by the Village Show)
- Oakridge Parochial School (only available during term time)

Why not check out our online village communities…..

The village website – http://www.oakridgevillage.org - for up-to-date village information, including Village Hall availability and Village Events Calendar, news of films and events – sign up to receive this direct to your inbox via www.oakridgevillage.org/mailinglist

facebook.com/Oakridge Village Network
facebook.com/Oakridge Village Hall, Oakridge Lynch

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

Village network

Other useful contact details

- Village Hall bookings – johnloosley40@gmail.com
- Butcher's Arms 07958 627111 or butchersarmsoakridge@outlook.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/mailinglist* or scan the QR code here

GILL FARRAR'S OAKRIDGE RAINWATCH

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

July …. No rain
August …. 45 mm …. about 1.7 ins
September (to 17th) …. 36.7 mm …. About 1.4 ins

.THE CHURCH IN OAKRIDGE

VICAR: Rev. Kim Trinder, t: 01452 770675
PCC SECRETARY: Kim Barber, t: 07775 332929
e: silverbirches.waterlane@gmail.com

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

Greetings from the Church in Oakridge. If you are seeking calm, Saint Bartholomew's is open daily from 9am – 5 pm for prayer and reflection. Everyone is welcome at any of our events. Your gifts for harvest festival may be left in the back of the Church or brought to the service. Fresh produce will be given to either Longfield or the Long Table. Donations of canned and longer shelf life goods to Stroud Food Bank.

Volunteers will be much appreciated on 17th October to help clear brambles and tidy up the Churchyard. If you are able to join this working party, please come along with gardening tools.

After the service on 8th November, there will be an act of remembrance at the Memorial Trough on Farm Lane. We are very grateful to Music in Oakridge and the world-class musicians kindly presenting a Candlelit Recital in the Church on 20th November. Tickets will be available from http://www.musicinoakridge.co.uk

Our popular Café in the Church is on the first Thursday morning of the month, do come along for a delicious selection of home-made cakes and a friendly chat.

An evening house group is meeting in the village. Should you be interested in sharing a meal and bible study, please contact Willem 07857 535122 willem.de.jager@hotmail.com

October

Thursday 1st October	10 am – noon	Café in the Church
Saturday 3rd October	6.30 pm	Harvest Supper in Village Hall
Sunday 4th October	9.30 am	Family Service – Harvest Festival
Saturday 17th October	From 9.30 am	Churchyard working party
Sunday 18th October	9.30 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 25th October	**10.00 am**	Holy Communion Benefice Service **at Chalford**

November

Sunday 1st November	9.30 am	Morning Worship
Thursday 5th November	10 am – noon	Café in the Church
Sunday 8th November	9.30 am	Remembrance Service
Sunday 15th November	9.30 am	Holy Communion
Friday 20th November	5.30pm - 6.30pm	Music in Oakridge Candlelit Recital
Sunday 29th November	**10.00 am**	Benefice Service – Holy Communion

CAFÉ CHURCH

We will be open on the first Thursday in the month, and hope that you will find time in your busy schedules to visit us and enjoy a coffee/tea and some delicious cake.

Best wishes to all.
Café Church Team

VILLAGE HARVEST SUPPER

Saturday 3rd October
6.30 pm
Village Hall

Everyone Welcome
2-course meal, tea/coffee
Bar available

£10 adults, children under 12 free

Further information/tickets available from
Alison Hewitt 07553 242299
Alisonhewitt13@icloud.com

PLAYING FIELD BINS

A visitor to the village commented on the large number of dog poo bags that had been left by the Pavilion bin, despite it clearly saying 'No Dog Mess'. This bin is not emptied by Stroud District Council, so please do make every effort to use the correct red bin by the noticeboard, only a one-minute walk away.

LADIES NIGHT

Every second Wednesday of the month we meet up at The Butchers Arms or a house nearby and have a good old natter with old and new friends and neighbours. All ladies are welcome to join us from 7 pm. There is no agenda, and you can stay for as long as you like. 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!!
For information, contact Lorna Fallace (lorna.fallace@gmail.com) or Tamzin Hutton (tamzin@tamzinhutton.com). We are looking forward to seeing you.

OAKRIDGE WALKING GROUP

As a group of chatty, friendly, local people, we get together every other Wednesday. Walks start at 10am and are typically around 5 miles which takes about 2.5 hours. You would be very welcome to join us. If you'd like more information please contact Helen and Keith Dewhirst 01452 770560 or khdewhirst@gmail.com

14th and 28th October
11th and 25th November
9th December

LUNCH CLUB

Join us for a 2-course lunch and friendly conversation, every 3rd Wednesday of the month – amazing value at £10 per person.

To book your place, contact Ali Mills on 07795 116878 (please call by the Friday before the lunch)

Upcoming dates:

21st October
18th November
2nd December – Christmas Party

OAKRIDGE GARDEN CLUB

A wholehearted thank you to all who helped on the stall at the Village show, and for donations of plants.

Just a reminder of the date for our last meeting of the year:
Joff Elfick will be presenting his talk entitled "Crayfish on the Lawn and Other Gardening Stories". A lighthearted take on the world of gardening. Tuesday, October 6th at 7.30pm. Tea and coffee from 7.15pm.
Look forward to seeing you there.
Regards
Cheryl Perrett

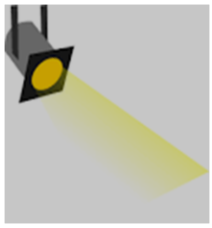
STRAWBERRY BANKS

Strawberry Banks survived the hot weather with no disasters - we will wait to see what the heat does to the grassland and flowers as the green returns. Thank you to all who keep an eye on the Banks on their walks and to those who let us know about the broken gate by the bridge. We have met the new owners of Bidcombes and the gate will be repaired when some planned re-fencing is done in September.

Autumn/Winter brings scrub clearance to the banks. This has to be done to keep the important grassland clear of brambles & blackthorn. This is a long term battle - aided by the cattle - but always needs manpower. If you feel like some winter exercise and getting to know more about how we look after Strawberry Banks, do come and join us on a day or two over the winter. For further information and working dates please get in touch - Celia Morrison-Smith 07971348817

OAKRIDGE COMMUNITY CHOIR

OAKRIDGE COMMUNITY CHOIR rehearse every Monday morning 11-12.30pm in the village hall. We sing acapella (without backing instruments) - many different styles of music but all designed to be uplifting and life-affirming! There are no auditions - just come along any Monday to try it out for free. You won't need to read music or ever sing on your own! We currently have around 25 singers - all very friendly and welcoming. For more information, have a look at our website www.thecommonvoices.com



Spotlight on.....

Zara Balfour

A life driven by curiosity

At four years old, Zara Balfour looked at the fish on her plate and made a connection that would influence much of the rest of her life.
“I realised that the fish I was eating was the same as the fish swimming in the sea,” she remembers. So she began asking her mother about everything else on her plate. Bacon? A pig. Meat? Another animal. One by one, they went, and Zara became vegetarian at the age of four.

It was an early sign of a curiosity about animals, people and the way we live that has followed her ever since, and ultimately shaped a career that has taken her around the world.

Born and brought up in London, Zara trained as an actress, although even then she had an ulterior motive. Her youthful plan, she admits, was to become rich and famous as an actress and use the money to fund documentaries about society and the world. It seemed like a perfectly sensible plan at the time. The movie star fortune didn’t quite materialise, but the documentaries did.

Zara began making films herself, eventually moving behind the camera and founding Picture on the Wall Productions in 2002. What started as a determination to tell stories she cared about developed into a career spanning documentary, drama and more than two decades of international commercial filmmaking.

Alongside her own films, she has produced and directed work for the UK Government, as well as some of the world’s biggest brands, including Mastercard, Google, Barclays and Nurofen, with productions taking her to more than 20 countries. Other projects have included filming education initiatives across Africa and working on *Band Aid 30 Years On* with Bob Geldof.

One memorable Mastercard project used football to bring people from very different cultures together. Two teams whose players spoke 22 languages between them discovered what they had in common through football. The film featured Pelé and was shown at Champions League stadiums. It also left behind an unexpected connection to Gloucestershire. Zara was told that Pelé rarely signed club shirts other than those of teams he had played for. She nevertheless managed to persuade him to sign a Forest Green Rovers shirt. The signed shirt is now kept at the local club.

But it is the stories about people and the different ways we live that have particularly stayed with her.

Travel, for Zara, has never simply been about seeing places. She has spent much of her life fascinated by how people live and think, what they value, what they believe, how they organise their families and communities and, increasingly, what makes people happy.

“I’ve always been fascinated by the fact that there isn’t just one way to live,” she says. “You travel somewhere and realise that something you thought was completely normal is really just one culture’s way of doing things.”

One of the defining projects of her career grew from that curiosity and took her to some of the most remote communities in the Himalayas. *Children of the Snow Land*, which Zara directed and produced, followed children from remote villages in Nepal who had been sent away to school at the age of four, and had spent twelve years separated from their families. Zara and her team followed several of the young people as, at the end of their education, they made the extraordinary trek home across the Himalayas to parents they had not seen for more than a decade.

The film took years to make, and the young people became far more than documentary subjects to Zara. When the film was released in UK cinemas, they came to stay with her family in a village near Stroud.

Children of the Snow Land went on to win the BIFA Raindance Discovery Award and was nominated for a Grierson Award, reaching TV and cinema audiences around the world. For Zara, the story didn’t end when the film did.

She had seen first-hand how difficult it was for young people to return home after so many years away, not only because reaching some villages can require days of trekking at high altitude, but because reintegrating into family and village life after growing up elsewhere can itself be complicated.

In 2019 she founded Snowland Journeys CIC, a not-for-profit organisation helping young Himalayan people reconnect and reintegrate with their families and communities. More than 70 young people have now been reunited with their families through its reintegration programme. The organisation, which has Dame Joanna Lumley as Patron, prepares the young people to go home, provides them with high-altitude clothing and equipment, and organises and leads expeditions into remote Himalayan villages to reunite them with their families. Each year, a new cohort of 16-year-olds is supported to return home and reconnect with their parents, communities and culture.

Like many small not-for-profit organisations, Snowland Journeys relies on fundraising to continue its work. Following Nepal’s recent floods, it is also helping to rebuild a school that was washed away, while raising further funds for the response.

Nature has been another constant in Zara’s life. For eight years she lived on houseboats, developing a particular love of rivers and a way of life partly governed by tides, weather and the changing seasons. She still loves being on the water and says she feels happiest when she is close to nature.

Zara’s connection with nature deepened after meeting her husband, Phil, whose background in the military and professional outdoor work introduced her to new ways of understanding the natural world. She went on to gain a certificate in advanced wilderness therapeutic approaches.

That relationship with the natural world, combined with a lifetime spent observing different cultures, increasingly feeds into the stories she wants to tell. These different threads come together in Zara's current work. *The Recipe for Happiness*, a television series she is developing, explores a deceptively simple question: what actually makes a good life? The idea grew from years of travelling and meeting people whose lives could look very different from her own, and questioning some of the assumptions we make about happiness, success and what we need in order to live well.

It is part of a wider shift in Zara's work towards authored films and television that bring together many of the subjects that have interested her throughout her life: people, animals, nature, adventure and the choices we make about how to live.

The past two years have also brought a story much closer to home. Zara's husband Phil was diagnosed with HPV-related throat cancer in 2025. Zara became his carer during months of chemotherapy and radiotherapy while also beginning to document what they were experiencing. Zara's current feature documentary, *Sexy Cancer*, follows Phil's journey and looks at cancer from a perspective that is rarely discussed openly, exploring relationships, intimacy, stigma, HPV, prevention and what happens to a couple when serious illness suddenly enters their lives. Phil is now in remission and the experience has led him towards his own work supporting people affected by cancer through his organisation Wild Roots Renewal CIC.

After years of travelling and a life largely based in London, Zara's own journey has also brought her back to Gloucestershire. She began dividing her time between London and the Cotswolds in 2017, before making the Stroud area her permanent home during Covid. It was already an area she knew well through her mother, Susan, and godparents, the Trotter-Landrys. This summer Zara and Phil married at nearby Owlpen Manor, bringing together different strands of the life she had built along the way. Phil's 20-year-old son Jonathan, now Zara's stepson, was best man, while two of the young people featured in *Children of the Snow Land* travelled to celebrate with them, with one joining Zara as a bridesmaid. Gloucestershire seems an appropriate place to have landed for someone increasingly interested in our connection to the natural world.

But Zara has no intention of losing the curiosity that took her out into it. Whether she is travelling somewhere unfamiliar, making a film, following a story into the Himalayas or simply observing the rhythms of the river and the changing seasons, the question beneath much of her work remains remarkably consistent:
How do we live well?

Find out more: Zara's films and the work of Snowland Journeys can be found at www.pictureonthewall.co.uk and www.snowlandjourneys.com

Article written by Zara.

Sue Wise
1 September 2026
07766 705357

OAKRIDGE PAROCHIAL SCHOOL

Autumn is upon us with some much needed rain and cooler days. With it brings the start of the school year. Our school welcomes our many new families and children, who are settling in well, and Mr. Poad our new executive head. Staff have already spent a day with Chalford Hill School getting to know staff during some joint training and a nice lunch! In our office we welcome Susie Jackson (an Oakridge resident) and Sarah Chubb, both from Chalford Hill School. Both classes have already enjoyed their Forest School activities in Strawberry Banks, which they do every week throughout the year. Mrs. Modaley has discovered a keen interest in food in her class, so they are now having regular cookery lessons, where they use their mathematical skills.

This term we will be attending the Cheltenham Literature Festival. Class 1 are learning about performance poetry, inspired by Michael Rosen and Joseph Coelho, who they will meet at the festival. Class 2 will be seeing Jenny McLachlan, author of 'The Lost Dragon of Roar', which is Class 2's text for English this term. Class 2 are also excited for their annual camping trip to Copsegrove Farm in Bisley.

Last term we were busy working on the artwork for the bus shelter at the top of the village. It is almost complete and should soon be in place for you all to enjoy. With the help from John Bailey and the Parish Council, the children have designed and painted the mural, which represents the village of Oakridge through their eyes. We hope you like it!

Jo Hayes (Head of School)

Coach House Tutors

Specialist 11+ Tuition for the **NEW** Grammar School Exam

Ros and Claire are ready to teach the **new FSCE 11+ exam** for Marling, Stroud High School and the other Gloucestershire grammar schools.

One-to-one tuition in person in Nailsworth or Oakridge.

www.facebook.com/coachhousetutors
learn@coachhousetutors.co.uk

Claire 01453 834153

Classical Music by Candlelight

Fri 20th November, 5-7pm

As the nights are drawing in, our thoughts turn to winter evening and one of those special community gatherings is Music In Oakridge's candle lit recital at St Bartholomew Church

Friday, November 20th is the date for our fourth concert. MiO is looking forward to welcoming back our patron Gabriella Swallow playing the cello, Lizzie Ball on violin and vocals along with another artist, yet to be announced. This will repeat the opportunity to hear world class music locally as well as raising funds for the church.

The timings and arrangement will remain as before. Doors open at 5.00pm and there will be a complementary glass of wine or a soft drink on arrival. The hour long concert will begin at 5.30 and the bar will stay open for half an hour afterwards. The tickets are still just £20 (plus booking fee) and go on sale on 18th October through musicinoakridge.co.uk.

We are excited to be promoting this event and trust with the support of the village, it will be another fabulous occasion.

The Music in Oakridge team
Jane Curzon, Tony Salmon, Penny Newton

OAKRIDGE VILLAGE HALL

Committed to providing quality social space for our community

Contact John Loosley on 07530 186886 or johnloosley40@gmail.com to book the Hall for your meetings/parties/classes and events – there is often daytime availability.

OAKRIDGE VILLAGE HALL TRUST
Registered Charity Number 301590

Events in the Hall
In addition to Ballyhoo dance lessons several days a week, and private bookings, the Hall will host the following:

October
Monday mornings – Choir
Saturday 3rd – Harvest Supper
Tuesday 6th – Garden Club
Wednesday 7th – Film Night
Thursday 8th - WI
Wednesday 21st Lunch Club & Wine Club
Friday 23rd – People's Emergency Briefing
Wednesday 27th – History Group

November
Monday mornings – Choir
Wednesday 4th - Film Night
Wednesday 11th – Hall AGM
Thursday 12th – WI
Saturday 14th – Twinning Curry & Quiz
Wednesday 18th - Lunch & Wine Club
Saturday 21st – Tru Grit
Tuesday 24th – GWT talk
Wednesday 25th - History Group

VACANT TRUSTEE ROLES

Our Treasurer is in his 10th year and is retiring at the end of December. This is a key role on the Village Hall Executive Management Committee (EMC) with significant influence over the direction of the Hall and its facilities. The role involves generating the invoices for hirers once a month. The accounting is provided by a simple software app (Microsoft or Apple) which also produces all reports. Monitoring the bank account to ensure payments are made and paying any bills – all online and very similar to a personal account. This takes 3-4 hours a month. Also attending 6 committee meetings per year (EMC and Trustee).

The current Treasurer has offered to support a 3 month transition.

We will also be looking for a **Secretary** in the coming months.

YOUR HALL NEEDS YOU!
Paul Timms Chair OVHT 07949785374

Committed to providing quality social space for our community

OAKRIDGE VILLAGE HALL TRUST

Registered Charity Number 301590

Advance notice of the

Oakridge Village Hall Trust

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING to be held in the Village Hall on WEDNESDAY 11th NOVEMBER 2026 at 7.00p.m.

The meeting is open to all villagers, why not come along and find out more about the Village Hall?

OAKRIDGE FILM NIGHT

Film Night Dining at The Butchers Arms! - Special movie menu available before the film screening. 2 courses £14, 3 courses £18 - Please book direct with the pub.

Our film in August saw a bumper audience coming along to watch "H is for Hawk", the true story of Helen, who turned to the ancient art of falconry to begin to rediscover life following the death of her father. We had 10 'walk-ins' over and above the 54 who had booked in – we can almost always squeeze in a few more, although it does help us with seating plans when we know numbers in advance. Something a little more light-hearted for September, "The Boat that Rocked", a dramatisation of the birth of pirate radio in the 1960s. Visitors to the Oakridge Show had the opportunity to give their opinions on quite a wide-ranging number of suggested films for the coming months, so look out for your choice(s) over the autumn and winter.

Films are always the first Wednesday of the month, so the next films will be on 7th October and 4th November. Come along and join us - please reserve tickets via www.oakridgevillage.org/boxoffice to give us an idea of numbers, and make your **CARD PAYMENT ONLY** on the door. Doors open at 6.45pm, film starts at 7.30pm. At only £6, plus the popular bar and Winstones Ice Cream, a great evening out.

CareHomeGuide, an independent directory of CQC-rated care homes across England. We've put together a free guide on NHS Continuing Healthcare specifically for Stroud families, a genuinely useful resource for anyone navigating care funding.

The comprehensive guide explains:

- How to determine if your relative qualifies for NHS funding
- The complete CHC assessment process, step by step
- How to appeal a declined CHC application successfully
- Your rights and entitlements under the CHC framework
- Real case studies and practical examples from successful claims

Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust

OAKRIDGE VILLAGE HALL TRUST
Registered Charity Number 301590

DISCOVER THE WILD PLACES ON OUR DOORSTEP

A FREE evening with Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust

- Oakridge Village Hall
- Tuesday 24 November
- 7.00pm for 7.30pm start
- Bar available

Ever wondered what's happening at Trillis? Or what the future might hold for Siccaridge Woods and other local nature reserves?

Come and hear directly from Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust's land manager, Grove Sykes, about the exciting work already underway, their ambitions for the Golden Valley Nature Recovery Zone, and Mission Wild — the Trust's vision for a wilder, healthier Gloucestershire where nature and people thrive together.

- Find out what's happening locally.
- Discover how nature is being restored.
- Hear about plans for the future of our Golden Valley.
- Be inspired about the difference you can make.

Everyone is welcome.

Come along and discover more about the wonderful wild places right on our doorstep.

Please reserve your free place at
oakridgevillage.org/boxoffice

NATURE NOTES FROM WATERLANE

Wood pigeons do not seem the most intelligent of birds when building a nest. I have a late nest built in my garden wisteria by the front door which causes the bird to take flight every time I go in or out and giving me a minor heart attack into the bargain. It has an unusual neighbour in a lesser horseshoe bat that has been roosting in my porch in the summer months. This is the same bat judging by the position it takes, that has been with me for 9 years. I am not sure the bat is enjoying the commotion, but it will soon be off to its winter quarters.

In the eyes of the farmer the wood pigeon is public enemy number one doing immense damage to crops. It is particularly fond of cereals, potatoes, beans, peas and greens. In winter huge flocks feast upon root crops such as turnips and clover which cereal crops are undersown with. When food is scarce they will fall back on their more traditional foods of ivy berries, acorns and weed seeds.

The wood pigeon's nest is a platform of fine twigs through which the clutch of two white eggs can sometimes be seen from below. The adult birds voice is a delightful soft cooing with the emphasis on the second of the unusual five notes.
Alan White

OAKRIDGE HISTORY GROUP

The programme of events for 2025/26 ended with an opportunity to examine some of the archives held by the group and to discuss future plans. Further sorting and cataloguing of photos, records and archive materials is on-going and anyone interested in helping would be most welcome (contact John Loosley or Kay Rhodes). It is a chance to learn more about the history of the village we live in.

One step has already been taken to make some of the documents more readily accessible by purchasing a desk/storage cupboard which is in the conference area of the Village Hall, where anyone can look at some of the many files and albums previously only accessible at meetings or by special arrangement. Some of the documents now available for viewing in the Village Hall are:

Copies of the School Logbook 1873-1899
Oakridge Players photos, programmes etc
100 Years of Oakridge history in 100 Objects
Record of the construction of the Village Hall
Golden Jubilee album
Oakridge War Memorial history
Information on William & Eve Simmonds

There are lots more to see and this collection forms a small fraction of the archive. The intention is to change the selection of documents out for open viewing every few months.

This year an advance programme is not available, but specific talks and meetings will be advertised individually, so keep an eye open for posters and website notifications.
John Loosley & Kay Rhodes

OAKRIDGE WI

Our planned August outing to the Cotswold Sculpture Park at South Cerney was Thursday 13th August. My thermometer read 38° by early morning, therefore not a sensible option to visit. We look forward to arranging another cooler date.

Oakridge Village Show welcomed a beautiful sunny day, and our stall sold out of our preserves, pickles and the famous lemon curd. An added extra was the sale of handbags, which also proved a winner. Thanks to all members for your efforts and all the lovely people who made purchases. The proceeds help our little WI have really good speakers, and we were able to make a nice contribution to the Show's charities.

10th September 7 visitors were welcomed for a talk by Alexia Clark from the MoD War Detectives (the Joint Casualty and Compassionate Centre Commemorations Team). This covers all 3 services, and most cases are still being found from WWI sites in France and Belgium. Remains being unearthed by farmers and building projects.
Identification the process begins with site of battle plans and movements; Regiment involvement; artifacts found eg cap and sleeve markers, maybe photographs; recorded dates of death (not always accurate). DNA is now more easily available. Tracing relatives can be tricky. After a long process when confirmation is sure, arrangements for burial or re-dedications can be made.

The dedication of this service is above and beyond to give these fallen troops a peaceful resting place, and where possible involvement of their families. A very moving procedure.

Coming up

8th October	Katie Price will inform us about the Pied Piper Appeal and there will be a bring and buy
12th November	AGM formal matters to undertake. The topic after the business: crochet

Mary Fern

OAKRIDGE SHOW – 5th SEPTEMBER 2026

Our 80th Anniversary! On the 5th September we held our most successful Oakridge village show since the pandemic, raising a magnificent £3,908 profit for the local villages and hamlets. The weather was fantastic and despite the very dry summer, residents provided 376 entries from 107 individuals for the Produce Show.

We were lucky to have great entertainment, food and drink, as well as hosting the perennial favourites of the vintage cars, dog show, bric-a-brac, raffle tickets, the bottle tombola and skittles, dog agility and the children's tent. Village groups such as the Gardening Club, WI, BisCAN and the Village Hall were also well represented, showing the range of clubs in the village and showcasing the best the village has to offer. The following link will take you to the open letter on the village website, thanking all those who made significant contributions to the smooth running of the day www.oakridgevillage.org.

Spending the profits: You may remember that we needed to replace damaged tents after the winds of the 2025 Show – 3 new grey gazebos have now been purchased from last year's funds to replace those that had previously been kindly donated by Lyndsey Barnett in memory of her late father. In addition, we funded a new bench adjacent to the play equipment in the Playing Field; provided a grant to the 2025 Music in Oakridge event; a grant to the What's On; and purchased a spare community flag. We will continue to support the running costs of the defibrillator based at Ollie's Shop.

In terms of donations from this year's profits, we would love to hear ideas from the community where the Show's excess over expenditure could be directed. Please get in touch at oakridgevillageshow@gmail.com.

This year's trophy winners were:

Flowers, *The Bizzie White Cup*: Ali Mills
Vegetables, *The Bob Gardiner Cup*: Mike Dolman
Garden, *The Committee Cup*: A multi-way tie between Pauline Lindeque; Jane Gregg; Ali Mills; Helen Newman; Cheryl Perrett; Ivan Vnučec; and Bren Spedding
Flower Arrangements, *The Eileen Herbert Vase*: Rhiannon Jones
Baking & Preserves, *The Fry Family Memorial Plate*: Sue Cotterell
Handicrafts, *The John Bailey Prize*: Teresa Montague and Pauline Lindeque
Photography, *The Finlay Photography Plate*: Teresa Montague
Children aged 5,6 & 7, *The Wickens Cup*: Lawrence Jackson
Children aged 8-11, *The Wickens Cup*: Autumn Jackson
Children 12 yrs upwards, *The Wickens Cup*: Tilly Lidstone and Nadia Ahmed
Best in Show, *The Westfall Memorial Cup*: Pauline Lindeque
Male Cake Class, *The John Carter Challenge Trophy*: Paul Timms

And finally - we would also like a special mention to the chap from the brass band in Aldershot who turned up to 'Oakridge Hall' for the 'concert', a distance of about 80 miles. Sadly, he was supposed to be in 'Oakridge Hall for All' in Basingstoke – a distance of only 20 miles. In fact, he almost passed it on his way here. We offered him tea and cake but he said he had to head off to the concert (though we suspect he was probably too late!).

So whilst we might not have had the tug of war, and you might not have won first prize in the produce show, just be grateful you didn't have to travel over 140 unnecessary miles to get to where you needed to be!

Thanks again to all the friends and family who pitched in and helped to make it a fantastic show.

See you in 2027

Vicky and Heather, Village Show Committee

Credit all photos: Simon Pizzey

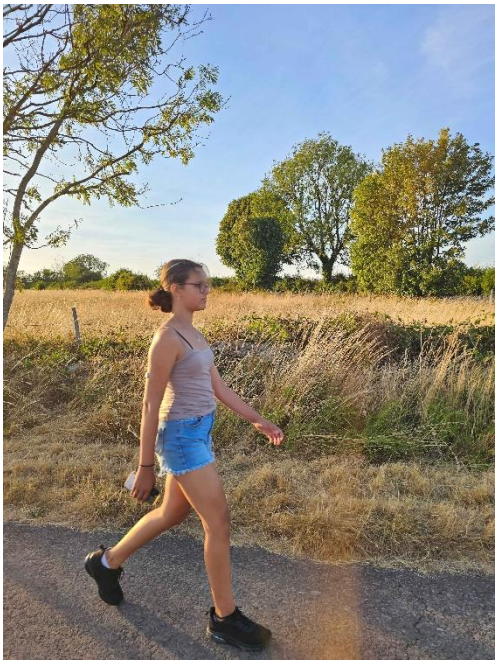
TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Twinning Association - our village twinned with Plessala in Brittany
We are so lucky to live in an outward looking village in a lovely part of the Cotswolds, twinned for over 30 years with a rural town in a similar area in Brittany. New members of the Association are always welcome and if you fancy joining us on a weekend in France next year or would like to know a bit more about what we are about please get in touch.

Our next major social event is the annual **Curry + Quiz,** which will be held as usual at Oakridge Village Hall on **Saturday evening 14th November, starting at 7:00pm**. Entry is by ticket only, with tickets at £15.00 per person which includes a 3 course Indian meal. When booking, please let us know if you want a veggie curry, so we know how many to prepare, and it is also very important you tell us in advance of any food allergies. Please see our attached poster for full details. There will be a pay bar (cash or card). In previous years we have sold out some time prior to the event, so please diary it now, and let us know how many tickets you will require and we will reserve these for you. Tickets will be available from early October. Teams are of up to 8 people, but don't worry if you haven't got a team you will be able to join any available table on the night, and make up a team.

Leading up to Curry + Quiz, our next event to which everyone is warmly invited, will be a social gathering at The Butcher's Arms on **Thursday 8th October.** We will be meeting there very informally in the bar from 7:30pm and should you wish to have a meal there, it's the steak night, you will need to come earlier and have booked a table. Please contact John Hughes (mail@jmhughes.plus.com 07810 123511) or Paul Hunt (paulhunt284@gmail.com 07814 621700)

DIABETES UK ONE MILLION STEP CHALLENGE



Daisy is 13 years old and has lived in Oakridge since she was two.

Just before the first lockdown, Daisy was hospitalised and diagnosed with the autoimmune disease Type 1 diabetes. She was 6 years old. It was a complete shock, she was a strong, fit and healthy little girl before this and her whole life changed in an instant. There is currently no cure.

Daisy is incredibly resilient, brave and cheerful. She takes all this in her stride and this setback hasn't stopped her doing anything that she loves.

This summer, she decided to do the Diabetes UK One Million Step Challenge and has been slogging away during the hottest temperatures we have seen for years.

It would mean the world to her to receive some more sponsorship and encouragement. Even one pound and a nice message would be a lovely gesture - she has clocked up over 830k steps and the challenge ends on 30th September - these final few weeks are tough.

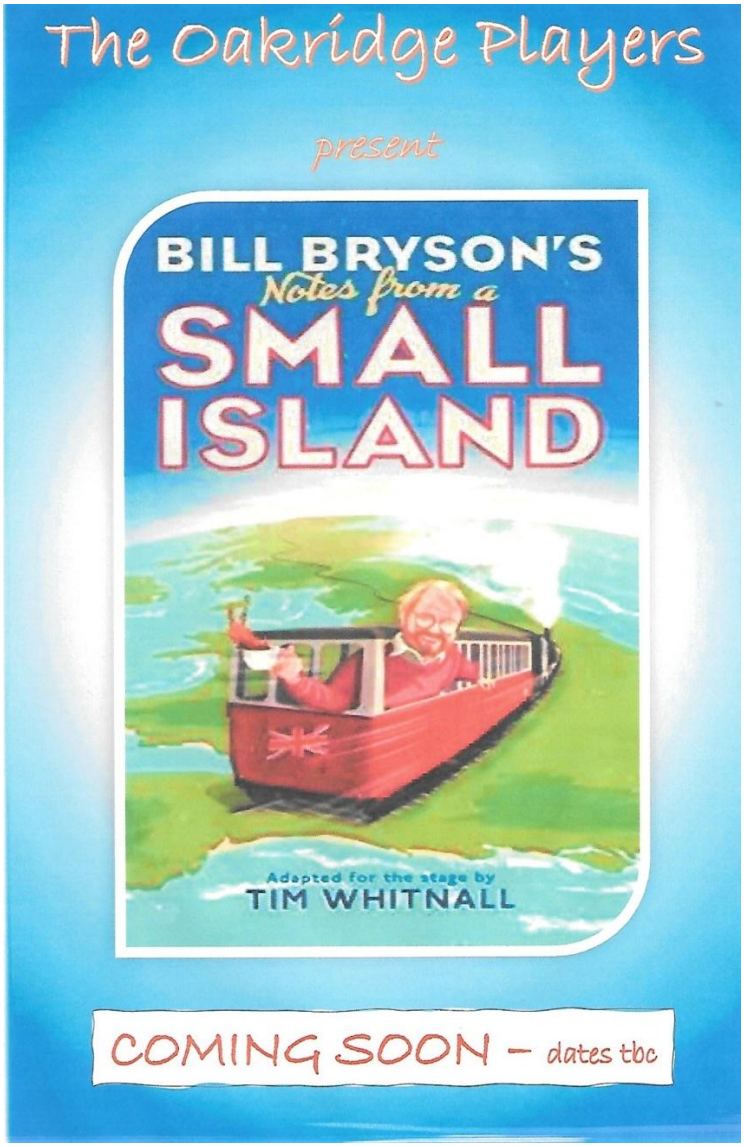
Thank you very much if you made it this far, and Daisy and her family would be so grateful if you feel you can donate.

https://step.diabetes.org.uk/fundraising/daisys-fundraising-page1175?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=dssb-WA&utm_content=MPC

THE OAKRIDGE PLAYERS

OAKRIDGE PLAYERS

We are always keen to welcome new members: if you are interested, please visit our website http://www.oakridgeplayers.com/, our Facebook page ('The Oakridge Players') or talk to one of the Players. There are many ways to be involved - from acting, directing and prompting to front of house & bar, set-building, props and costumes. We look forward to meeting you!



OAKRIDGE CRICKET CLUB

Oakridge Cricket Club
Est 1871

Oakridge Cricket Club have been playing in the Village for over 150 years! Every recorded club result can now be found on the club website https://oakridge.play-cricket.com

With the season now finished, we look forward to next year. The club were relegated from division 7B to 8B. It has been a very difficult season for the club having really struggled for players for Saturday league cricket. Behind the scenes the club are working hard to improve the situation to ensure that cricket continues to be played at Oakridge for many years to come, watch this space.

Winter nets

Oakridge CC will be netting in the spring, details will be published as soon as these are booked.

The club are always looking for new playing members, so do get in touch if you would like to join the club. We run as a non-profit making club who rely on our members and volunteers to keep the club running. If you would like to join, support, donate to the club, or help out in any way, for more information please contact: Mark Robbins mlrobbins@btinternet.com

The club will be running youth cricket again next year and are hoping to expand the offering to older children too with the plan to have youth teams playing in a few years.

If you have children who are keen to play cricket please get in touch.

Depending on interest the club may run some indoor winter coaching based on the summer offering, see below, this would be club run and you wouldn't receive the goodies or shirts.

What Is All Stars Cricket?

All Stars Cricket provides a fantastic first experience for all children aged 5 - 8 years old where they're guaranteed 8 weeks of jam-packed fun, activity and skills development. The programme is designed to introduce children to the sport, teaching them new skills, helping them make new friends and have a great time doing so.

Every child that registers will receive a backpack full of goodies. Your child's pack will include:

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

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

What is Dynamos Cricket?

Dynamos Cricket provides a fantastic next step for all those graduating from All Stars Cricket and the perfect introduction for all 8 - 11 year-olds new to the sport!

Dynamos is all about fun and provides children with a more social offer, focusing on developing the fundamental skills required to play cricket.

We know how important it is to look like the heroes of the game, so every child who registers will receive their very own Dynamos Cricket New Balance t-shirt, personalised with their name and number.

FRITHWOOD PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP (PPG) NEWS

The results of the national NHS GP Patient Survey have recently been published and the PPG was delighted to learn that Frithwood Surgery is at the top of the list for overall performance in Gloucestershire. An amazing 96% of Frithwood patients contacted by the NHS GP-Patient Survey said their overall experience of the surgery was 'good' compared with the Gloucestershire average of 81% and 77% nationally. Dr Will Nattrass told the PPG "We are over the moon with the results of this survey and believe it reflects on the dedication of the entire team, including those who work upstairs whom patients don't see."

You can read the entire survey by visiting:
Gp-Patient.co.uk/Patientexperience/Results?Code=L8016

Our PPG Health Walks have been very enjoyable over the summer, with different routes explored and new friends made. The gentle walks take place every Wednesday morning, starting at 10am from Frithwood Surgery. The current plan is for the walks to continue until at least the end of November, weather conditions permitting, and everyone is welcome to come along. There is no need to book, just turn up appropriately dressed for the weather conditions.

The PPG will be hosting a Christmas party for Frithwood patients aged over 75 on Saturday 12th December. It would be a perfect event for patients who find it difficult to get out and about so please think whether you have a friend, family member or neighbour who would really enjoy this opportunity. Numbers will be limited, due to space and budget, so patients will need to reserve a place which will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Booking forms will be available at the surgery from early October.

Frithwood Surgery PPG is a registered charity, number 1054582, and we raise the majority of our funds for activities by running a 100 Club. Membership costs £24 a year and there is a quarterly fundraising draw giving members the opportunity to win a cash prize. Membership forms can be collected from the surgery or you can find out further details by contacting the PPG at frithwoodppg@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 October and 4th November 2026

Parish Clerk:
E: 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 Ian Greves – ian.greves@bisley-with-lypiatt.gov.uk
Cllr Tina Salmon – christina.salmon@bisley-with-lypiatt.gov.uk

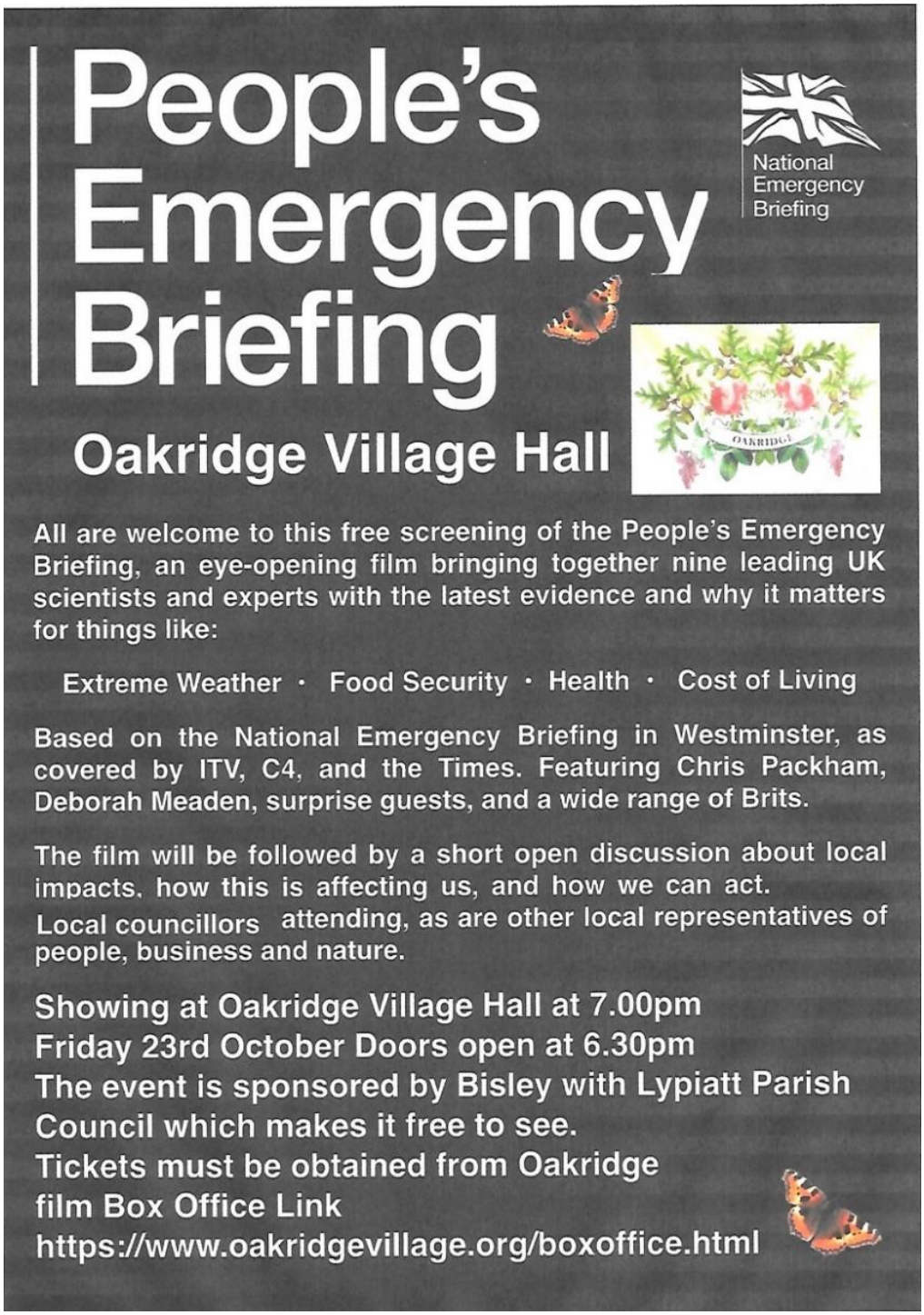
Oakridge News
We had two interesting presentations at the September Parish Council meeting.

Lewis Whitter of the Gloucestershire Fire Service spoke to us on behalf of the Gloucestershire Bleed Kit Partnership. The Partnership is working to increase the availability of public access Bleed Kits and provide training to communities. Bleed kits contain specialist equipment designed to help control severe bleeding in an emergency before ambulance crews arrive. They can be used in a range of situations, including road traffic collisions, workplace accidents, serious falls and other traumatic incidents The PC is considering purchasing these. If purchased they will be kept alongside community defibrillators.

We also heard from John Parker, the CEO of the Arboricultural Association, who provided details about the effects of climate change on trees, particularly how traditional native species such as beech and oak are adversely affected by drought and prolonged periods of intense heat such as we have experienced this summer. John also spoke about other trees to consider planting that are more able to survive and thrive in our changing climate. We have incorporated some of his advice into a draft Tree Management Strategy. John brought a Ginkgo tree with him – grown from a seed from a tree that survived the bombing of Hiroshima. This is part of a project to raise second-generation hibaku (survivor) trees around the world as symbols peace. Other such Ginkgos that John has grown have been planted at the Stonehouse Community Arboretum.

Neighbourhood Plan Update
The Inspector wrote in mid-August that they were nearing the end of their review of our NP, however, with the publication of the new National Planning Policy Framework, they would like to make some revisions, an action with which the NP Steering Group concurred. The Council will need to wait for the Inspector's response and meet as a Steering Group to discuss what changes are required to our NP. This makes a referendum this year unlikely. The draft Housing Needs Survey was received from GRCC and a response from the NP Steering Group sent in return; we await the final report.

Far Oakridge Allotments
Some plots have become available at the Far Oakridge allotment site, situated in the centre of the hamlet. The site has good water access and costs £20 per year, payable to the Parish. It's a small friendly, peaceful allotment and is an opportunity not to be missed for enthusiasts of growing vegetables, flowers, fruit, etc.
Contact : admin@bisley-with-lypiatt.gov.uk

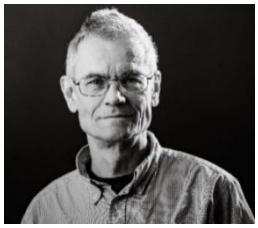


LOCAL PLANNING NEWS

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 July – 18th September 2026:

S.26/1140/FUL Change of use from dog exercise area to equine therapy unit The Dog House, Oakridge Lynch	Permitted
S.26/1520/FUL Change of use of land from agricultural to keeping of horses Far Oakridge	Awaiting Decision
S.26/1324/CPE Certificate of Lawfulness re siting & erection of detached timber cabin Far Oakridge	Awaiting Decision

DISTRICT COUNCIL



Council Positions:
Please don't hesitate to contact me about anything district council-related:

Martin Brown, cllr.martin.brown@stroud.gov.uk 01452 770878

Local Government Reorganisation: We thought we knew the future of local government in Gloucestershire: The Government told us in July that a single unitary council would replace the current county, district and borough councils, including Stroud District Council. Elections to the new council would take place in May 2027 and, after a year of 'shadowing', in April 2028 the new authority would take over and replace all existing councils. Millions of pounds and countless officer hours have been spent preparing for this transition. Then on September 7th, the Government (now under new management), told us to halt all this work while they reconsider. So now, we don't know what will become of SDC and the rest, and what authority will provide all the services that we and GCC have provided to residents – and will continue to provide, at least until 2028. By the time you read this, a decision may have been made (again) and we will know. To learn more please see the website futuregloucestershire.org.uk

Youth Action Plan: Community Services and Licensing Committee in September adopted a plan to work with Stroud Community Youth Action Network, The Door, Family Action, and other local organisations to *'support children and young people aged 11-25 to be happy, healthy, safe, included and empowered to enable them to develop and strive to be the best they can be'*. Details can be seen in the committee papers on stroud.gov.uk

Public Drinking: The Committee also approved renewal of Public Spaces Protection Orders prohibiting drinking alcohol in the centres of Stroud and Dursley. These are used by council officers and police, as much to offer help to people drinking in the street as to 'enforce', and were widely supported in a public consultation over the summer.

COUNTY COUNCIL NEWS

Gloucestershire County Council Parishes Report September 2026

Do contact me any time on: Gary.Luff@Gloucestershire.gov.uk

Local Government Reorganisation Update

The Government has announced that it is pausing and reviewing previous decisions relating to local government reorganisation in a number of areas, including Gloucestershire. This follows the withdrawal of earlier LGR decisions in Essex, Hampshire, Norfolk and Suffolk. As a result, the future structure of local government in Gloucestershire remains uncertain while the review is undertaken. Following this week's announcement, implementation work associated with the creation of the unitary authority in Gloucestershire has been paused. However, some work, which is not exclusively about the implementation of LGR will continue, including some collaborative working across the 7 Gloucestershire councils.

Green view

Cllr Chloe Turner, leader of Stroud District Council, summed up the feelings of the Green Group at GCC, saying: "What an absolute shambles. It was clear from the start that Labour's local government reorganisation plans were just about cost-saving, while removing power and representation from the communities they claimed to devolve to, and making those communities pay for the privilege.

"And what a distraction, when we need to be focused on reviving local services, restoring public trust, and to have the finance and headspace to address the climate and nature emergency.

"As Greens, we have said this from the start, but successive ministers weren't in the mood for listening."

"So we have got on with it, to make sure we delivered the best possible version of this unwelcome imposition for our residents. Councils around the country have committed immense resources to this work, put other crucial plans on hold, created new parishes, devolved assets, reorganised teams and service lines in anticipation…officer colleagues have made life and career plans based on it. And now it is all up in the air again. If this whole scheme is now shelved (and we wait to hear more for Gloucestershire), I will be relieved that sense has finally, finally prevailed, and local government will remain local. But from all this chaos the Government has created, our communities will need restitution:

- reimbursement for all the wasted spend in getting to this point;
- a new funding settlement, having had our budget slashed by the Business Rate Reset and the "Fair Funding Review";
- assurance that areas like ours without a mayor will not be disadvantaged when it comes to devolved powers and funding, in particular on transport, economic development and climate action, and
- clarity about what this latest announcement means for the mayoral area and spatial planning questions (eg where housing and economic growth is sited) for Gloucestershire.

Grassroots Neighbourhood Fund
The Grassroots Neighbourhood Fund scheme is continuing to seek applications from eligible groups. The scheme delivers funding to community initiatives seeking to make a positive impact on health and wellbeing, access to nature, digital inclusion, community cohesion, and reducing inequalities. More information about the new scheme is available on the dedicated webpage. Guidance for how to apply is available here.

Roads
Please continue to use and promote the use of FixMyStreet to report issues on the roads.

CITIZENS ADVICE

Problems with home improvements carried out by traders

Q: ***I hired a company to install fencing and a gate, but the work is poor quality. What can I do?***

If a trader hasn't carried out work with 'reasonable care and skill', the **Consumer Rights Act 2015** gives you the right to ask them to fix the problem or provide a refund.

Gather **evidence** by taking photographs, keeping receipts and making notes about what happened. Then **contact the trader** and explain the problem. They should put things right within a reasonable time. There's specific advice available on our **website** depending on what the issue is.

If they refuse, you may be able to complain to your card provider (if you paid by card), to a trade association or quality scheme (if the trader is a member), or use an alternative dispute resolution scheme (ADR). If all fails, you may be able to complain to the Financial Ombudsman Service.

For advice, call the **Citizens Advice Consumer Service** on **0808 223 1133**.

citizens advice Stroud & Cotswold Districts

Citizens Advice helps with a range of issues. For information and self-help guidance, visit **citizensadvice.org.uk**.

To speak to a local adviser in the Stroud and Cotswold Districts, visit **citizensadvice-stroudandcotswold.org.uk** to complete our **webform** or call us on **0808 800 0510**.

Back by Popular Demand

Curry + Quiz Night

Saturday 14th November 2026

Oakridge Village Hall

Start 7.00pm Licensed Bar

Tickets £15

Tickets available from

Paul Hunt paulhunt284@gmail.com 07814 621700

John Hughes mail@jmhughes.plus.com 07810 123511

Organised by Bisley-with-Lypiatt Twinning Association

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AUTUMN 11TH OCTOBER

RAFFLE IN AID OF BREAST CANCER RESEARCH

WINTER 15TH NOVEMBER

RAFFLE IN AID OF SCOO B DOO NEONATAL UNIT GLOUCESTER

CHRISTMAS 13TH DECEMBER

SHOP WITH TIPPLE -MEET FATHER CHRISTMAS

CHRISTMAS CAROLS WITH BISLEY BLUECOATS

RAFFLE IN AID OF

WI HALL & BISLEY BLUECOATS PTA

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PLEASE ASK FOR A MENU

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(Please don't type butchers arms into map search)

LIVE AT OAKRIDGE LYNCH VILLAGE HALL

TRU GRIT

Americana & Roots Rock

Saturday 21st November

Tickets £12.00

Doors 7:30, Show 8pm

Tickets available online at:

https://www.trybooking.com/uk/GWOO

www.facebook.com/trugritrootsband

OPEN WEEKEND

28TH / 29TH NOVEMBER 2026

11.00 AM – 4.00 PM

AT WINSLEY COTTAGE, OAKRIDGE LYNCH, STROUD, GL6 7NZ

An Open Weekend of Christmas treats ....

Paintings, Pots, Prints, Cards, Bric-a-Brac, Collectables, ideas for Xmas presents

All in aid of Cancer Research

See you there!

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COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING RATES per edition:

¼ page £10
½ page £20
Full page £30

Contact the Editor at editoroakridgewhatson@gmail.com for more information

Saturday 21st November 2026, 5pm - CLOSING DATE for the December 2026 / January 2027 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*

Closing dates for future editions:

December/January	Saturday 21st November 2026
February/March	Saturday 16th January 2027
April/May	Saturday 20th March 2027
June/July	Saturday 22nd May 2027
August/September	Saturday 17th July 2027
October/November	Saturday 18th September 2027
December/January	Saturday 20th November 2027

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

OCTOBER 2026

Thurs 1st	• Café Church, St Bartholomew	10.00 am - noon
Sat 3rd	• Harvest Supper, Village Hall	6.30 pm
Tues 6th	• Garden Club	7.00 pm
Weds 7th	• Film Night, Village Hall	6.45 pm
	• Parish Council, Bisley	7.30 pm
Thurs 8th	• WI, Village Hall	7.30 pm
Weds 14th	• Oakridge Walking Group	10.00 am
	• Ladies Night	7.30 pm
Weds 21st	• Lunch Club, Village Hall	Noon – 2.00 pm
Fri 23rd	• People's Emergency Briefing Film, Village Hall	6.30 pm
Weds 27th	• History Group, Village Hall	7.30 pm
Weds 28th	• Oakridge Walking Group	10.00 am

NOVEMBER 2026

Weds 4th	• Film Night, Village Hall	6.45 pm
	• Parish Council, Bisley	7.30 pm
Thurs 5th	• Café Church, St Bartholomew	10.00 am - noon
Weds 11th	• Oakridge Walking Group	10.00 am
	• Village Hall AGM	7.00 pm
	• Ladies Night	7.30 pm
Thurs 12th	• WI, Village Hall	7.30 pm
Sat 14th	• Twinning Curry & Quiz, Village Hall	7.30 pm
Weds 18th	• Lunch Club, Village Hall	Noon – 2.00 pm
Fri 20th	• Music in Oakridge, St Bartholomew	5.00 pm
Sat 21st	• What's On Closing Date	5.00 pm
	• TruGrit Americana & Roots Rock, Village Hall	7.30 pm
Tues 24th	• Glos Wildlife Trust talk, Village Hall	7.00 pm
Weds 25th	• Oakridge Walking Group	10.00 am
	• History Group, Village Hall	7.30 pm
Sat 28th & Sun 29th	• John Bailey's Open Weekend, Winsley Cottage	11.00 am – 4.00 pm

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

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