

# WHAT'S ON



in

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

November / December 2023

Edition 265

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

## USEFUL INFORMATION

- The village website – [www.oakridgevillage.org](http://www.oakridgevillage.org) - for up-to-date information, including Village Hall availability and Village Events Calendar
-  pages – Oakridge Village Network and Oakridge Village Hall, Oakridge Lynch
- Village network WhatsApp group
- Village Hall bookings – [johnloosley40@gmail.com](mailto:johnloosley40@gmail.com)
- Butcher's Arms 07597 426083 or [thebutchersarms.oakridgelynch@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.oakridgevillage.org/maillinglist)
- If you prefer the online version and no longer want a paper copy of the What's On, please email [editoroakridgewhatson@gmail.com](mailto:editoroakridgewhatson@gmail.com) with your name and address



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

## A PERSONAL THANK YOU

Please, dear Friends and Readers, will you bear with this ancient gal?

I was in (hospital/various) for my John's birthday and our 65<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary! We had a beautiful belated wedding anniversary card from King Charles & Queen Camilla, and an oak beam full of 90<sup>th</sup> birthday cards for me – how lucky were we to be reunited just in time for my special day. This is to thank you all my dear WI friends, for remembering me with a bag of "goodies" (how very thoughtful). Thank you all, and for the cards and messages, but mainly the support you gave my beloved John while I was away - you know who you are! All very special people who live in Oakridge. A mention too, for Laura and Oscar at our local shop.

This has been a sad time, with too many of my special aged, and not so aged friends, "passing away". May they be safely in heaven and angels singing them to eternal rest.  
*Ann Fry*

## THE CHURCH IN OAKRIDGE



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

**Service details at [www.bisleybenefice.org.uk](http://www.bisleybenefice.org.uk)**

Greetings from the Church in Oakridge, we hope that you enjoyed our sunny Indian Summer, and are now looking forward to seeing the wonderful Autumn colours along our Golden Valley. Soon the leaves will be falling fast, any offers of help to clear the steps and footpath and tidy the Churchyard on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October, 10 – 12 noon, would be gratefully received. There will be a Working Party to tidy the Churchyard – followed by BBQ and drinks – do come along and join in – preferably with some garden implements.

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.

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October - Harvest Festival 9.30 am Saint Bartholomew's Church. All non-perishable produce and donations received will go to the Stroud Food Bank, fresh produce to Longfield Hospice.

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.

Enquiries have been made as to how to financially support Saint Bartholomew's. The easiest way is the Parish Giving Scheme via the website: [www.parishgiving.org.uk](http://www.parishgiving.org.uk) quoting Parish Code OAKR or by phoning 0333 002 1271 to set up regular giving. For anyone who prefers the traditional way of doing things, paper forms are available from John Rhodes, Middlefield.

### **SERVICES OCTOBER 2023**

1 <sup>st</sup>	Family Harvest Festival	9.30 am
5 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday Cafe Church	10 -12 noon
9 <sup>th</sup>	Monday Open the Book with the school children	10.10 am
15 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Communion	9.30 am
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Monday Open the Book with the school children	10.10 am
29 <sup>th</sup>	Bussage Church – Churches Together	10 am

### **SERVICES NOVEMBER 2023**

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Thursday Cafe Church	10 -12 noon
5 <sup>th</sup>	Family Worship	9.30 am
12 <sup>th</sup>	Remembrance Service	9.30 am
13 <sup>th</sup>	Monday Open the Book with the school children	10.10 am

19 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Communion	9.30 am
27 <sup>th</sup>	Monday Open the Book with the school children	10.10 am

### **SERVICES DECEMBER 2023**

3 <sup>rd</sup>	Family Christingle	9.30 am
-----------------	--------------------	---------

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

### **Café Church**

Hi Everyone,  
Thank you to everyone who came and supported us on 7<sup>th</sup> September at our Café Church.

The weather was wonderful, especially after all the rain in July and August, so we were able to hold our café outside in the church grounds for the first time this year. It was lovely to see everyone meeting up and chatting and generally enjoying themselves. It was also great to see so many new faces joining us. The cakes as usual looked splendid and very appetizing.

We would like to thank Hilary for coming along and showing us her collection of stained-glass work that she has made and how her work is inspired by her faith. Hilary also shared with us the design that she is working on for the nurses' rest room in one of the London Hospitals. We wish her every success in her work.

We look forward to meeting you all at Café Church.

From the Café Church Team

### **CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS**

Oakridge Church is in need of some love and attention and we are hoping to do some Spring Cleaning and would welcome volunteers to help, even if it's just for an hour.

We are hoping to undertake this task on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2023 from 10am. So, come and join us and roll up your sleeves, as they say, many hands make light work.

So put it in your diary and we look forward to seeing you.

Coffee/tea will be provided.

Thank you.

## OAKRIDGE VILLAGE HALL



The Annual General Meeting of Oakridge Village Hall Trust will be held at the Village Hall at 7pm on Wednesday 11th October 2023. All residents of Oakridge community (Oakridge Lynch, Far Oakridge, Waterlane, Bournes Geen and Tunley) are welcome to attend. The Village Hall is actually owned by our community and is run by an Executive Committee reporting to a dozen or so resident Trustees three times a year. This is your chance to hear Annual Reports on the Village Hall activities and finances from the Chair (Paul Timms) and Treasurer (Chris Stoker) and ask questions.

I'm happy to answer any enquiries by email before the event:  
Chris Gregg (OVHT Secretary - [chrisgregg173@gmail.com](mailto:chrisgregg173@gmail.com))

## LUNCH CLUB

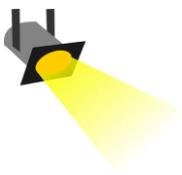


Lunch Club is held at the Village Hall on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month, at a price of £8 per head. All welcome, arrive from 12 noon, to sit for 12.30. A wonderful chance to catch up with friends, or meet new.

If you would like to come but haven't already put your name on the list the previous month, or need to cancel your place, please leave a message for Ali Mills on 01285 760568. This must be done by the Friday before the Lunch Club at the latest, to allow for food ordering and preparation.

## VILLAGE SHOP QUESTIONNAIRE

Following John Bailey's plea in the last What's On, Laura has produced a questionnaire to gain feedback to better understand the needs and preferences of the community. This is available online through the village Facebook group, on the village website, or at <https://forms.gle/pwD8r7XteJDC4QvD6> and paper copies will be available from Ollie's Shop.



Spotlight on....will be back next time

## OAKRIDGE HISTORY GROUP



The July visit to the Corinium Museum was well supported and very interesting. We had an introduction from the museum director to a new extended display of finds and objects from local excavations of pre-Roman sites around Cirencester, then we took our own time going round the display.

The first meeting of the new season will have taken place by the time you read this. If you were not able to join us then, we do hope that you will come to one of the next meetings. On **25 October, Tony Conder** will be talking about "**Gloucester and the Atlantic Slave Trade**" – a topic which is sure to instigate discussion. On **29 November, Larry Banda** will tell us about "**The Commonwealth War Graves Commission and their graves in our area**"

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

New members and visitors are always welcome.  
*Kay Rhodes*

## OAKRIDGE FILM NIGHT

After a break in August, village film nights returned on 6<sup>th</sup> September, with the award-winning Korean film Parasite - our first foreign language (subtitled!) film. Why not join us for our next film on 4<sup>th</sup> October, or 1<sup>st</sup> November/6<sup>th</sup> December. £5 on the door, bar available as usual – cash or card payments accepted. Doors open at 6.45pm, film starts at 7.30pm.

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](http://www.oakridgevillage.org/maillinglist). To help us plan for numbers, please do reserve your seat (pay on arrival) via [www.oakridgevillage.org/boxoffice](http://www.oakridgevillage.org/boxoffice).

## GILL FARRAR'S OAKRIDGE RAINWATCH



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

July.... 115.5 mm.....about 4.5 ins.

August .... 101.4 mm.....about 3.9 ins.

September (to 14<sup>th</sup>)... 8.8 mm.....about 0.3 ins.

## DAISY'S 1,000,000 STEPS

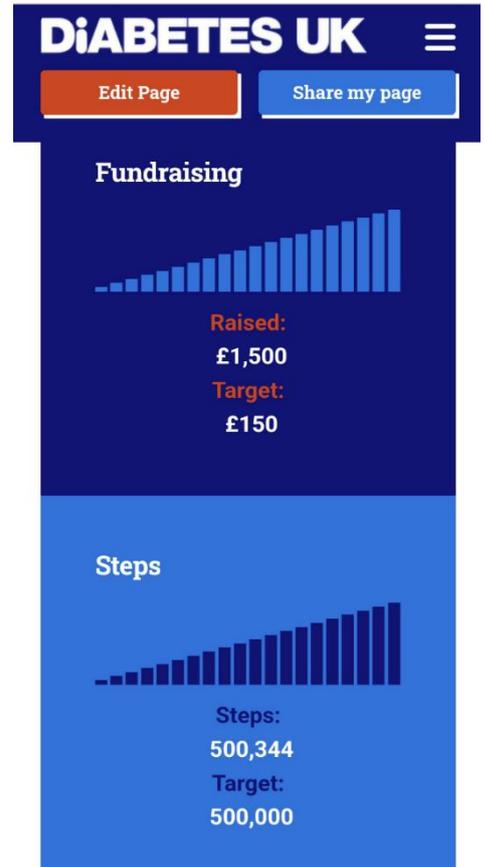
Last issue we featured Oakridge School pupil Daisy Robinson, who had just started a sponsored step challenge on behalf of Diabetes UK. We are delighted to report that Daisy has just hit her step target - a staggering 500,000 steps in just 10 weeks.

The support from the village has been overwhelming and our family is incredibly touched by the generosity shown by friends, neighbours and, most surprisingly, the amount of sponsorship given by villagers who we have never met. Daisy had aimed to raise £150. To date, she has actually raised £1,500.42 and is the 11th highest fundraiser in the whole of the UK.

A huge thank you to each and every one of you who took time out of your day to sponsor Daisy and offer her some words of encouragement. What a lovely community we live in.

The challenge runs for two more weeks and Daisy is determined to walk even further. If you would like to sponsor her, please visit the link below or feel free to contact Claire Robinson on 07903 974577. Thank you again.

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



## OAKRIDGE GARDEN CLUB



How quickly the seasons race by. Autumn is well and truly with us, with the mornings all dew and dahlias and apples swelling on the tree. I love the smell of Autumn, and the colour, but don't look forward to the long winter ahead.

This year the garden club has had three very lovely outings, all thanks to Suzanne Hopes for organising them. Our final one at the lovely home of the Howards at Daglingworth House. A stunning garden, with an amusing collection of fun items. Mirrors used in a clever way behind trellis; a six foot iron teapot with handle and spout filled with fallen leaves. An enormous spiders web spun between two oak trees high on a bank, complete with spider and a fly. There was a lovely formal canal reflecting the Georgian house, and vistas across the garden with charming round holes cut into both hedges and walls to peep through to get the view. We had been told we could bring wine and nibbles, they would provide the venue and glasses. Being Oakridge, we had a feast of tasty bites, and a jolly party we made of it. The perfect way to spend a warm evening.

We look forward to our next meeting, a talk on Plants of the Season. I wonder if he'll bring any. The menu has been chosen for the Christmas Social, so keep that evening free.

Finally I must thank everyone who gave plants and their time to the sales table at the Show. It looked very pretty, and we took more than we ever have, so well done all concerned.

*Gill Wimperis*

## NATURE NOTES FROM WATERLANE



As I walk through our local wood, the crunch of hazelnuts underfoot and the raucous, scolding call of the jay overhead, is telling me what time of the year it is. Jays are not commonly seen due to their elusive behaviour of remaining covered under vegetation. However, when acorns fall from oak trees in the autumn, they come out of their cover to take advantage of the plentiful food supply.

Swifts have already left our shores by mid-August, and the swallows start gathering twitchingly on telephone wires before streaming away. Autumn brings nature's bounty to our hedgerows, blackberry, crab apple, elderberry, rowan and rosehips all feature, giving us glowing ruby and amber colours. The rowan tree erupts in a burst of vermillion berries in August; traditionally red was regarded as an effective colour to ward against evil, and in Wales rowan trees were often planted in churchyards alongside yews. The berries are edible to humans when cooked and preserved in syrup and jellies. The rowan tree is also very beneficial to wildlife, some caterpillars and moths feast upon its leaves, while the berries provide autumn sustenance for the likes of blackbirds and thrushes as well as the winter migrants such as redstarts and waxwings.

Goldfinches are also prominent this time of the year, balancing on the heads of plants delicately picking out the seeds and periodically moving with a dancing flight from plant to plant.

*Alan White*

## OAKRIDGE WI



August proved a profitable preserve making month. Our stall at the Village Flower Show was very well stocked, and sold out. This is our annual fundraiser, and we are able to give generously to the event's causes. Congratulations and thanks to all that made the afternoon a very joyful one – although my hearing took 24 hours to recover!

12<sup>th</sup> October: Joyce Grenville Entertainment with Lyndsey Barnett, also a bring and buy stall

9<sup>th</sup> November: The 100<sup>th</sup> AGM  
Farm Finds and Farm Shop with Ashley Dickenson, with Roman heritage and WWII aircraft around, I look forward to seeing his collection

Footnote:

14<sup>th</sup> September: Silvertime Legal 'Tax, Care and the New Guy'  
We had the speaker first, with a comprehensive talk on wills and trusts etc. Audience participation was excellent. A welcome cuppa and biscuits break before the business meeting, always short and productive.

PLEASE return any empty jam jars, ready for re-filling.

*Mary Fern*

## OAKRIDGE SHOW

A huge amount of thanks go to everyone who came along to the Show on 2<sup>nd</sup> September, as a visitor or as a helper, whether setting up/taking down, running a stall, entering exhibits – it was a great day bringing the community together – and the sunshine definitely helped! Thanks go also to all who kindly donated prizes or items for stalls, and not forgetting Mike Scott, who single-handedly organises the wonderful display of classic and vintage cars that come along each year to join us.

Excess raised from the Show, after expenses, will be used to boost the Show, and for the benefit of the 5 villages. The committee has decided to fund the production costs of What's On for the forthcoming year.



Once again the day was compered by Charlie Wise, in between the packed entertainment schedule of music, dance, and dog show. The Wine Club were back by popular demand to run another fabulous bar, burgers were cooked up by the team from the newly reopened Butchers Arms, and not forgetting the delicious cakes served up by the Oakridge Players on the refreshment stand. This, together with the ever popular Garden Club, WI, book and bric a brac stalls, a coconut shy and skittles, children's entertainment and more, all

added to the atmosphere.

Entries to the Flower and Vegetable Show were almost double those of 2022, and the exhibits in the hall looked amazing! The quality of entries throughout was of an excellent standard – very well done to all trophy winners below, and huge thanks to the judges.

*Flowers: Ali Mills*

*Vegetables: Mike Dolman*

*Longest Runner Bean: Victoria Beard*

*Miscellaneous Garden: Peter Morris*

*Flower Arrangements: Sandra Coles*

*Baking & Preserves: Susan Hemming*

*Handicrafts: Jane Bevins & John Bailey*

*Photography: Sue Korda*

*Children aged 5,6 & 7: Autumn Jackson*

*Children aged 8-11: Oli Starr*

*Children 12 yrs upwards: Alex Calver*

*Best in Show: Anne Brain*



As a final note, the Village Show

would not be possible without the enormous work of the committee. This small team would very much appreciate new faces to continue to take the Show forward to 2024 and beyond - if you are interested in getting involved, please contact:

Heather - [hkf07@yahoo.com](mailto:hkf07@yahoo.com)

Gaza - [gaza.westfall@btinternet.com](mailto:gaza.westfall@btinternet.com)

Vicky - [vbeard51@gmail.com](mailto:vbeard51@gmail.com)

More photos are available on the village website.

*Photo credits: copyright Claire Robinson, Gaza Westfall & Andrew Davison*

## LADIES NIGHT

For our lovely locals, we have re-established our girls' get-together at The Butchers Arms! Hurray!! Ben and Ant have truly welcomed us, Thank you!

Ladies Night is every second Wednesday of the month. We have no agenda, just a couple of hours for a drink, chat, and usually plenty of laughter. If you are new to the village, or not quite sure if it's for you, just pop along from 7.15 pm and see for yourself. You are guaranteed a warm welcome 😊.

Hope to see you there soon.

*Tamzin Hutton*

## OAKRIDGE CRICKET CLUB

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

Mark – mlrobbins@btinternet.com

or

Steve - Steverobbins97@hotmail.com

## TWINNING ASSOCIATION



Our 24 visitors from Plessala spent August Bank Holiday Weekend with host families in Oakridge, Bisley and Eastcombe. A riotous time was enjoyed by all, including trips to Stroud, Gloucester Cathedral and Docks, and Bisley Flower Show. We had a large dinner on the Saturday night at Chalford Sports Club complete with Steel Band and shanty singers, and Sunday evening dinner parties in Oakridge and Bismore. There are photos and more info about the Association on the website <http://www.bisleytwinning.org.uk/>

We are already planning next year's reciprocal visit to Plessala in 2024, probably over the August Bank Holiday. If you would be interested in coming along to any of our social events, please get in touch. First up will be our annual **Curry + Quiz Evening** at Oakridge Village Hall on Saturday night, **11<sup>th</sup> November**. Please diary the date: further details will follow shortly.

Contact details: John Hughes: 07810-123511 or e-mail: mail@jmhughes.plus.com

## BUTCHER'S ARMS



On 15th August our much-loved pub, the Butcher's Arms, finally re-opened its doors after almost a year.

New landlords Ben and Ant are brimming with enthusiasm and already have a number of exciting plans lined up. A regular Monday ale club offers discounts on a great selection of local ales - a gin club is also in the pipeline. The team are planning Open Mic nights, quizzes, a special menu for our

four-legged friends (including dog prosecco and dog roasts), as well as coffee and cake during the day. The pub is also available for private functions and there are some very interesting developments planned for the new year... watch this space.

The pub is the heart of our community and Ben and Ant are very receptive to any suggestions or feedback from villagers.

Opening hours:

Wednesday - Monday - 11.00 until late

Tuesday - 5.00pm until late (drinks only)

Food is served Wednesday to Monday 11.00-15.00 and 17.00 to 21.00, 12.00-17.00 on Sundays. Takeaway available (collection only) and a very reasonably priced 2-course meal for children at £10.

Tel: 07597 426083

Email: [thebutchersarms.oakridgelynch@gmail.com](mailto:thebutchersarms.oakridgelynch@gmail.com)

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

## BISLEY-WITH-LYPIATT PARISH COUNCIL

Please see the Parish Council website for Ward information and minutes of Council meetings [www.bisley-with-lypiatt.gov.uk](http://www.bisley-with-lypiatt.gov.uk).

Next PC meetings: Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October and 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023.

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

Any issues in the Oakridge Ward of our Parish please contact

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

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

Cllr Beth Hughes

**Parish Clerk:** Arlene Deane

E: [admin@bisley-with-lypiatt.gov.uk](mailto:admin@bisley-with-lypiatt.gov.uk) T: 01452 771089

Office Address: The Old Bell House, High Street, Bisley.

## COUNTY COUNCIL NEWS

### Get in touch

Do please contact me if you have any comments / questions or concerns

Cllr Susan Williams [Susan.williams@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:Susan.williams@gloucestershire.gov.uk) Mobile 07766318854

## DISTRICT NEWS



**Meet Your Councillor:** Drop-in 'Surgery' at the village hall in Oakridge, date t.b.d. – please see the website calendar and posted notices for date and time.

**Council Jobs:** SDC is advertising for a **Climate Change and Sustainability Manager**; a Recreation Officer/Swimming Teacher; and other jobs. See the website for details: [www.stroud.gov.uk](http://www.stroud.gov.uk)

**The Local Plan Review** has been paused because of the Inspector's concerns about M5 junction capacity for new developments – building houses to meet government-set targets.

**Asian Hornets** have been reported in the area. They are an invasive species harmful to bees. For help to identify and report them see the Council website.

Martin Brown, [cllr.martin.brown@stroud.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.martin.brown@stroud.gov.uk), 01452 770878

## LOCAL PLANNING NEWS

Information relating to local planning issues, as outlined on the Stroud District Council website: <https://publicaccess.stroud.gov.uk/online-applications>. See the Parish Council website for local input. Here is a summary of local planning news in the period 19<sup>th</sup> July – 17<sup>th</sup> September 2023:

S.23/1285/HHOLD Porch to existing dwelling (resubmission) The Round, Bournes Green	Awaiting Decision
S.23/0603/LBC and S.23/0602/HHOLD Resubmissions of previous applications Waterlane House	Permitted
S.23/1241/AGR Erection of Store Kimberley, Bournes Green	Decided
2023/0005/ASSETC Inclusion of Butchers Arms on register of assets of community value	Awaiting Decision
S.23/1657/LBC Repair to roof of main house Waterlane House, Waterlane	Awaiting Decision
S.23/1649/OHL Installation of new H Pole transformer Waterlane Play Ground	Awaiting Decision
S.23/1597/HHOLD Erection of single-storey rear orangery Field House, Waterlane	Awaiting Decision



*Horse Chestnut in Far Oakridge, Pauline Lindeque*

## *Horse Chestnut* (*Aesculus hippocastanum*)

Soak them overnight in vinegar? Bake them in the oven when mum was out, but remember to turn the oven off afterwards? Highlight of the autumn term, the horse chestnut trees outside my school would drop their spiky packages and there inside, gleaming burnished-brown would be the conker - and a potential winner. Perhaps a 'tenner' or even a 'twentyer', but hopefully not the ignominy of a 'noner'!

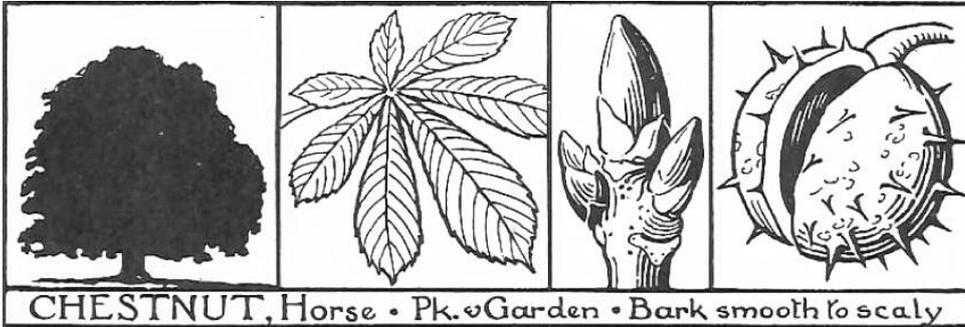
A few years ago it seemed that Councils wanted to ban the game, but it's not good to wrap our children in cotton wool and fortunately I believe that youngsters are once again allowed to bash the heck out of each other's prize specimens before the bell goes.

This is another easily recognised species with its palmate leaf structure of up to seven elongated serrated leaflets. In late spring, and depending on the variant, they will be decked in white or red flower 'candlesticks' or more properly panticles. In common with maples, sycamore, ash, dogwood and elder, horse chestnut buds are arranged in opposite pairs on the twig.

As winter hits, the tree now bare of leaves, reveals how its branches dip down and sweep up at the end, terminating in large sticky buds. This stickiness helps keep the 'scales' of the bud together as it grows, and may deter predators. In spring, this sizeable package bursts open, allowing the leaves and flower bud within to unfurl. Later, once pollinated, the flower will produce the seed, the conker. When the leaves fall from the twig, the scar left behind has a characteristic pattern of marks that resemble a horse shoe. This could be how the tree got its English name or perhaps because the conkers used to be made into horse-feed, but we now believe they are mildly poisonous. Misnomers abound where this tree is concerned as the conker is not related to the chestnut of sweet chestnut fame, which is edible.

*Blights and bugs.* Various agencies seem to conspire to have a go at the poor horse chestnut: *Leaf Blight* - appears as brown blotches and curling leaves, and often affects whole trees and their neighbours. This is a fungal infection probably exacerbated by a wet spring. Unfortunately many of our trees have succumbed to leaf blight as seems more and more common these days.

*Leaf Miner* is a moth whose caterpillars eat tiny tunnels thorough the leaves, eventually killing them. *Bleeding Canker* is visible on the trunk as a brown secretion and is caused by a bacterial infection which if severe enough can kill the tree. Although unsightly, the leaf blight and miner moth don't seem to do lasting damage to the tree.



Native to Balkan forests, it was introduced to the UK in the late 16<sup>th</sup> century and has become popular on our streets, parks and estates. It needs a well-drained soil and good sun, but is fairly tolerant of soil type. The heart-wood is fine-grained and creamy-white and used for veneers and for turning.

Without wishing the year away, I can't help noticing that autumn is upon us. So, young and old maybe it's time to try out your favourite all-conquering conker recipe.

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



**BisCAN**

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

**Nature Friendly Open Gardens:** BisCAN held its first open gardens on September 17<sup>th</sup> – in the heaviest rain for months! We still had visitors at the allotments and several gardens in Bisley and Eastcombe. If you'd like to be involved next year, please e-mail [bisleyeastcombeoakridgecan@gmail.com](mailto:bisleyeastcombeoakridgecan@gmail.com)

**Reading Group:** BisCAN's new book group held its first meeting in August, discussing Jason Hickel's *Less is More*, about the climate and ecological limits to growth. The next book will be George Monbiot's *Regenesiis*. If you're interested, please e-mail us.

**The Cotswold National Landscape (the AONB)** is committed to **net zero** by 2050 or sooner. It commissioned a report by Small World Consulting on the carbon emissions of the area and a proposed pathway to net zero. Among much else, it found that Cotswold residents' emissions are c. 26% higher than the UK average, primarily from food and drink (22% of total emissions), flying (16%), and vehicle fuel and household energy (both 13%). Compared to UK averages, our food and drink footprint is c.10% higher; electricity and driving are c. 35% and 30% higher, and emissions from flying around 150% higher – i.e. two and a half times the average.



*BisCAN at Oakridge Show*

## CITIZENS ADVICE



### **Are you struggling with damp and mould in your home?**

At Citizens Advice Stroud and Cotswold Districts we saw a very significant rise in the number of people struggling with damp and mould during the winter. Our Research and Campaigns team have been gathering evidence about the problem and the number of clients with the problem has remained high - the number of people with a damp and mould problem was four times higher in April to June this year than the same period last year.

#### *What can you do about damp and mould?*

Unfortunately, there are many causes of damp that properties can get and it isn't always easy to work out the cause. The most common types are rising, penetrating, construction and condensation damp. On our website ([citizensadvice.org.uk](http://citizensadvice.org.uk)) there is information that may help you work out what type of damp you have, who is responsible and what you can do.

It is important to keep homes well-heated and well-ventilated to prevent damp and mould. You may be eligible for help to insulate and heat your home and should visit our website to find out more. If you are on a low income you may be able to get help with heating and wider essentials from the Household Support Fund.

Drying wet clothes on radiators and blocking air vents may make condensation damp worse. It's best to dry clothes outside if you can or in the bathroom with the door closed and the window open or fan on.

### *What should your landlord do if you are a tenant?*

It can be difficult to work out if your landlord is responsible - check your tenancy agreement for mentions of repairs and damp. One of the most common causes of damp is condensation. Our website has advice on things that can make the problem worse that may also impact the landlord taking responsibility for repairs.

A landlord will have to act in relation to damp if it makes the property unsafe for someone to live in. This could be for example, if it is making the tenant or a member of their family ill. The landlord will also be responsible if the damp is related to repairs they should have carried out, like if heaters are broken. If the damp has damaged items that the landlord is responsible for, such as carpets and window frames, they'll likely have to cover the cost of repairs.

If your landlord is responsible for the damp in your property but doesn't act, there are steps you can take, such as reporting them to the local authority. If you're in social housing you might also be able to use the landlord's formal complaints procedure. If you are thinking of leaving a fixed term tenancy agreement early, do speak to us first, as there might be better ways to approach the issue.

If you cannot access the website or need further help after reading the information on it, you can contact Citizens Advice Stroud and Cotswold Districts on 0808 800 0510 or email using the form on our website ([www.citizensadvice-stroudandcotswold.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice-stroudandcotswold.org.uk)).

### **Would you like to help people in your local community who are struggling?**

Citizens Advice Stroud and Cotswold Districts needs volunteers now more than ever to help make a difference to local people. In the last year we have faced an unprecedented demand due to the cost-of-living crisis.

We are appealing for new volunteers from all backgrounds who are looking for a volunteering role that is both challenging and rewarding. We are looking for people who can give 8-10 hours per week, and are currently recruiting for the following roles:

**Administration/Triage Assistants.** You will provide a professional welcome to callers at the door of our Stroud or Cirencester offices. You will triage callers without an appointment - identifying emergencies and providing information and signposting to other agencies when needed (no advice giving involved). You will also undertake a wide range of administrative tasks, including contacting clients by telephone and text, and handling inward and outbound post.

You must be computer literate but full training in triage and our IT systems will be given.

**Volunteer Advisers.** You will give advice and information (face to face, by telephone and email) to clients on a wide range of problems. No prior advice experience is necessary as full training will be given. Information sessions for volunteer advisers will take place on 18 October 2023 (2-3.30pm) in Stroud and on 8 November 2023 (1-2.30 pm) in Cirencester. Our next training programme will start on 24 January 2024.

Elizabeth Hall, our Chief Executive Officer said:

“Now more than ever, you can really make a difference by volunteering with us. We’re seeing more and more people needing support as living costs spiral. As well as helping the local community, we know people who volunteer their time get a lot back. We’ll give you all the training you need and would love to hear from you.”

To find out more about these roles or register your interest for a volunteer adviser information session please contact our Learning and Development Officer at [training@ca-scd.org.uk](mailto:training@ca-scd.org.uk). You can also find further information on our website [www.citizensadvice-stroudandcotswold.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice-stroudandcotswold.org.uk).

*Dear Neighbours and friends.*

Thank you for the wonderful support you have given our “as organic” lamb enterprise during the last few years, especially last year when so many of you told us how different our lamb tastes to ordinarily farmed lamb and came back to us over the year for more. It’s partly due to the natural herbs growing in our meadows, but also a lot due to our love and gentleness as we handle our livestock.

If you wish to enjoy our lamb again during this year we have put our prices up slightly (because of the massive increases charged by the abattoir and some butchers), but nothing compared to the increases made by the supermarkets.

Whole lamb £150	Half lamb £80
Whole shoulder £24	Half shoulder £13
Whole leg £28	Half leg £15
Mince £6 per lb	Breast of lamb £7
Lamb chops £4 per pair	Whole neck £6
Burgers £5.50 for four	Bag of bones for dogs or broth etc £3
Liver £4	Kidney £2
Heart £1	
Diced lamb upon request.	

We look forward to supplying you again.

*With love,  
Louisa and Geoff*

## Sing 2 Remember

Singing | Friendship | Support



Please join us for a

### **dementia friendly, community singing group**

about singing songs together from across the years, sharing memories, making friendships and accessing support if needed.

For people with dementia still living at home and those that care for them; people experiencing isolation or loneliness; and people who love to sing, but no longer feel comfortable singing in a choir

**The Pavilion in the Park, Victory Park,**

**Cainscross GL5 4JE**

**1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month: 10:30am**

**19th Sept; 3rd & 17th October; 7th & 21st November; 5th & 19th December**

**Contact: [kate.hicksbeach@mindsong.org.uk](mailto:kate.hicksbeach@mindsong.org.uk) 07786 065 192**

**[www.mindsong.org.uk](http://www.mindsong.org.uk)**

## **OPEN STUDIO of Paintings & Pottery**

**by JOHN BAILEY**

**[www.johnbaileyart.co.uk](http://www.johnbaileyart.co.uk)**

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

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> Nov –  
Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec 2023**

**11.00 am – 5.00 pm**

**Please call John first if you are planning to come during the week**

**IN AID OF CANCER RESEARCH**

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### **OCTOBER 2023**

Sun 1 <sup>st</sup>	• Harvest Festival, St Bartholomew's	9.30 am
Tues 3 <sup>rd</sup>	• Garden Club, Village Hall	7.30 pm
Weds 4 <sup>th</sup>	• Film Night, Village Hall	6.45 pm
	• Parish Council, Bisley	7.30 pm
Thurs 5 <sup>th</sup>	• Café Church, St Bartholomew's	10 am – 12 noon
Sat 7 <sup>th</sup>	• Churchyard Tidy session	10 am – 12 noon
Weds 11 <sup>th</sup>	• Ladies Night, Butchers Arms	7.15 pm
	• Village Hall AGM	7.00 pm
Thurs 12 <sup>th</sup>	• WI, Village Hall	7.30 pm
Weds 18 <sup>th</sup>	• Lunch Club, Village Hall	Noon – 2.00 pm
Sat 21 <sup>st</sup>	• Church cleaning session	10 am
Weds 25 <sup>th</sup>	• History Group, Village Hall	7.30 pm

### **NOVEMBER 2023**

Weds 1 <sup>st</sup>	• Film Night, Village Hall	6.45 pm
	• Parish Council, Bisley	7.30 pm
Thurs 2 <sup>nd</sup>	• Café Church, St Bartholomew's	10 am – 12 noon
Weds 8 <sup>th</sup>	• Ladies Night, Butchers Arms	7.15 pm
Thurs 9 <sup>th</sup>	• WI, Village Hall	7.30 pm
Sat 11 <sup>th</sup>	• Twinning Curry & Quiz, Village Hall	7.00 pm
Weds 15 <sup>th</sup>	• Lunch Club, Village Hall	Noon – 2.00 pm
Sat 18 <sup>th</sup>	• Closing date for Dec/Jan What's On	5.00 pm
Sat 25 <sup>th</sup> –	• John Bailey's Open Studio, Winsley	11.00 am –
Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec	Cottage	5.00 pm
Weds 29 <sup>th</sup>	• History Group, Village Hall	7.30 pm

### **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November, 5pm - CLOSING DATE** **for the December 2023/January 2024 WHAT'S ON**

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

Editor: Victoria Beard

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

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

*E&OE*