

WHAT'S OFF

(The Coronavirus Edition)

in

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



Bakers Mill

Farm Lane

April / May 2020

Edition 244

EDITOR'S NOTE

Due to the current Covid-19 pandemic, this edition of the What's On is promoted online only, to safeguard the delivery team without which the publication would not be delivered through the villages. When life returns to normal, we will resume the printed version. If, however, you would like to receive this online in future, please visit the village website at *oakridgevillage.org*, and sign up to receive a copy direct to your inbox.

Information on the village response to the pandemic follows; this is being constantly reviewed and updated as Government advice changes, and more options are made available for villagers in self-isolation.

If you are self-isolating, have not already made contact with a neighbour, or someone on the Community Network list, and require help with shopping/prescriptions/or just a chat, please do so – there are many people out there willing to help out.

COMMUNITY CORONAVIRUS SUPPORT

If you are self-isolating or have been advised to remain at home, there is a growing network of people in the community willing and able to help out as needed.

Please contact one of the co-ordinators below, who can in turn find someone to help with your shopping / prescription collection / chat etc etc.

Oakridge Lynch	Caroline Priestley – 01285 760969 Sophie McCracken – 07782 262336 or 01285 706317 Claire Robinson – 07903 974577 or 01285 762867 Lyndsey Barnett – 07773 891947 or 01285 762818
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Bournes Green	Beth Taplin –	07989 743068 or 01452 770872
Tunley	Louisa Crisp –	01285 760684
Waterlane	Katy Craine –	01452 770111
Far Oakridge	Vicky Beard –	07763 124285 or 01285 760339

Local delivery services:

Ollie's Shop Oakridge Lynch – deliveries 01285 760239

The Butchers Arms – cooked food and drinks deliveries 01285 760390

Stancombe Farmshop - veg box delivery (starting 23/03/20) 01452 771077

Jolly Nice Farmshop & Kitchen, Frampton Mansell, Stroud GL6 8HZ 01285 760868

PRESCRIPTION COLLECTION

Frithwood Surgery are trying to minimise public visits, so if you know you have a prescription to collect, please contact Sophie McCracken as she will be able to arrange someone to collect several at once. If you usually pay for a prescription, this will need to be done on collection, ideally electronically. The Surgery would prefer emailed prescription requests, or there is a box situated outside for paper copies.

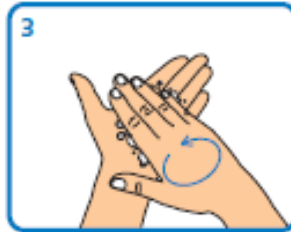
Hand-washing technique with soap and water



1
Wet hands with water



2
Apply enough soap to cover all hand surfaces



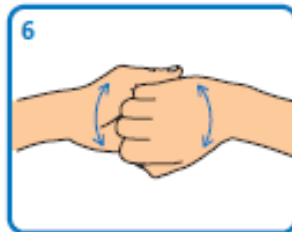
3
Rub hands palm to palm



4
Rub back of each hand with palm of other hand with fingers interlaced



5
Rub palm to palm with fingers interlaced



6
Rub with back of fingers to opposing palms with fingers interlocked



7
Rub each thumb clasped in opposite hand using a rotational movement



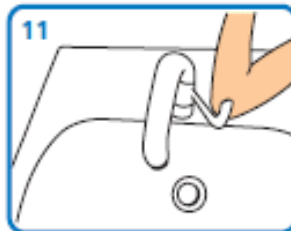
8
Rub tips of fingers in opposite palm in a circular motion



9
Rub each wrist with opposite hand



10
Rinse hands with water



11
Use elbow to turn off tap



12
Dry thoroughly with a single-use towel



13
Hand washing should take 15–30 seconds



We are doing
our best to provide the community
with what you all need in these difficult times.

Please **call, email or drop off**
your shopping list for **pick up or delivery.**

01285760239
olliesoakridge@gmail.com

Payments by **card, check or bank transfer**
(preferred):

Oscar Skelton
NatWest
Sort code: 55-61-08
Account number: 67524982
(Kindly add you surname as the reference)

Please bear with us while we work
our hardest to help you.

Thank you. Stay safe.



*Ollie's
Shop ^{at} Oakridge
Lynch*

VEG BOX DELIVERIES – STANCOMBE FARM SHOP

The Community Coronavirus Support Group have arranged with the Stancombe Farm Shop for the delivery of veg boxes to **those who are vulnerable or self isolating.**

If you would like to place an order for **food items only**, would please you drop a note in The Folly's post box which is situated just inside the gate into the drive, by **midday on Mondays** giving the following details:

Your name, Your address, Your telephone number, Your email address,
Your order

If you use BACS, the shop will give their bank details.

The shop is drawing up a list of their produce and prices, but for now please just put in your order. They will do their best to fulfil orders.

If you have any queries, or are unable to deliver an order to The Folly, please contact Edwina on 07904 586807.

Please return empty delivery boxes to the garage outside Weir Farm and these can be returned for re-use.

BUTCHERS ARMS TAKE AWAY MENU

We are absolutely overwhelmed with the support and comments regarding potential closures. This truly means so much to us knowing we have fantastic locals that are willing to support us in these uncertain times. Tel. 01285 760390

Sausage, creamy mash with seasonal veg & onion gravy... £ 11.00

Fish of the day with chips, peas, tartar sauce... £ 12.00

Scampi with fries, peas, tartar sauce... £ 10.00

Pie of the week with creamy mash and seasonal veg... £ 11.00

Pizzas

Classic Margarita: Tomato, mozzarella... £ 9.25

Mighty meaty: Chicken, ham, pepperoni, chorizo... £ 12.00

Hawaiian: Ham, pineapple... £ 11.00

Butchers Arms: Goats cheese, caramelised onion marmalade... £ 12.00

Smokey Texan: Glazed chicken, bacon, BBQ sauce... £ 12.00

STROUD AND COTSWOLD COUNSELLING

Based in Far Oakridge, I am a qualified psychodynamic counsellor and an accredited member of the British Association of Counsellors and Psychotherapists (BACP). I work with a wide range of issues including bereavement, depression, anxiety, interpersonal relationships and eating disorders. I have many years of experience working with adults, young people and children from eleven years of age.

I can offer short-term focused work or long-term therapy and am currently offering telephone and video counselling to all my clients.

Please contact me, Franceska Campion, on 07411324808 or

franceska@stroudandcotswoldcounselling.co.uk

www.stroudandcotswoldcounselling.co.uk

NHS VOLUNTEER RESPONDERS

Your NHS needs you! Join our team today.

NHS Volunteer Responders has been set up to support the NHS during the COVID-19 outbreak. To do this we need an 'army' of volunteers who can support the 1.5m people in England who are at most risk from the virus to stay well. Our doctors, nurses and other professionals will be able to refer people in to NHS Volunteer Responders and be confident that they have been matched with a reliable, named volunteer.

You can help by signing up for one or more of the tasks listed below. Once you have registered and checks are complete you will be provided a log-in to the GoodSAM Responder app. Switch the app to 'on duty', and you'll see live and local volunteer tasks to pick from nearby.

<https://www.goodsamapp.org/NHS>

ONLINE COFFEE CHAT

Hi to all our lovely fellow villagers

A couple of offers to help out over this difficult period of isolation...

Online Coffee Chat

If you're isolating and missing the company of others, but have a phone or computer and can access the internet, there's a way you can still meet up with your friends in safety! There is an application called Skype that many people use – you simply download the application online (www.skype.com) and you can connect with your friends. You may also have heard people talking about Zoom – it's what businesses tend to use and in my opinion is more robust and offers more features than Skype. You simply click on a URL link and it opens a 'zoom room' where you can see and hear others. Right now people are using it for work and home life, meeting virtually with friends for a coffee or glass of wine – it's not quite the real thing but it's a very good alternative in these circumstances. You can get up to 100 people on it, so It would be great for bigger gatherings too such as any of the many village clubs, especially now that regular meetings have had to be cancelled. Some churches are even using it to broadcast the service to people in their homes.

All you need is a smart phone or computer. Anyone can invite you to a meeting, and if you sign up for an account at www.zoom.us you can also host your own meetings. An account is free for 40 mins or you can pay £15 a month to get unlimited time.

If you find it difficult to set up then I'd be happy to talk you through it by phone whilst you set it up on your computer. Or if you don't fancy the thought of setting it up yourself, I have an unlimited account and would be happy to host a meeting for you with friends, or for a village club, or just have an online coffee one to one! If you don't have a computer then we have a couple of old ones that we could set up for you and deliver to your wall so that you can join in.

Do get in touch! Penny Newton, 01285 760331, 07887 956523 or penny@commpassion.co.uk

Online Mediation

If being cooped up at home is causing family stresses, or even managing long distance relationships is taking its toll, then I'd be happy to offer free short mediations online. Mediation is where there are two (or more) people who are having trouble getting on with each other, and we bring them together in the presence of a neutral and confidential third party. Through compassionate listening, focusing on needs that haven't been met (rather than what each person has 'done/said' or 'not done/said', and working towards positive resolution, mediation can work wonders for relationships and has a success rate of over 80%.

I'm a qualified workplace mediator so am usually mediating for work colleagues who are in disagreement, or in some cases about to resign or shut the business down. In these current times I'm guessing there may be some slight tensions going on that could benefit from some ironing out and am very willing to offer free online (via Zoom) mediation sessions for anyone who needs it.

Happy to help, please do get in touch – Penny Newton, 01285 760331, 07887 956523 or penny@commpassion.co.uk

Wash your hands of coronavirus scams!

Friends Against Scams aims to protect and prevent people from becoming victims of scams.

Be aware of people offering or selling:

- Virus testing kits - these are only offered by NHS.
- Vaccines or miracle cures - there is currently no vaccine or cure.
- Overpriced or fake goods to protect yourself from coronavirus such as anti-bacterial products.
- Shopping or medication collection services.
- Home cleaning services.

Protect yourself and others:

- Don't be rushed into making a decision. If it sounds too good to be true it probably is.
- Only purchase goods from legitimate retailers and take a moment to think before parting with money or personal information.
- Don't assume everyone is genuine. It's okay to reject, refuse or ignore any requests. Only criminals will try to rush or panic you.
- If someone claims to represent a charity, ask them for ID. Be suspicious of requests for money up front. If someone attempts to pressurise you into accepting a service they are unlikely to be genuine. Check with family and friends before accepting offers of help if you are unsure.

Be a good friend, help to protect your family, friends and neighbours from scams.

**Read it.
Share it.
Prevent it.**

#Coronavirus
#ScamAware



Contact

For advice on scams call the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline on **0808 223 11 33**
To report a scam call Action Fraud on **0300 123 2040**
Contact your bank if you think you have been scammed.

**NATIONAL
TRADING
STANDARDS**

Scams Team

To learn more about the different types of scams visit www.FriendsAgainstScams.org.uk

Scams advice during coronavirus outbreak

Things such as Facebook Community Groups, WhatsApp Groups and the Nextdoor social network that send neighborhood alerts can be great ways of staying in touch with those around you, however it can be difficult to know who to trust. These are all online and not everyone has access to the internet, so please see the telephone numbers below for your County if you require assistance.

Please be aware that not everyone out there is trustworthy and some people will take advantage of this unusual situation our society is facing.

Here are just some of the scams we are aware of, but please note that criminals come in all shapes and sizes and can contact you at the door, by phone, post or online:

- Be aware of people offering miracle cures or vaccines for coronavirus – there is no specific treatment for coronavirus (COVID-19). Treatment aims to relieve the symptoms until you recover.
- Home cleaning services
- People impersonating healthcare workers, claiming to be offering ‘home-testing’ for coronavirus – this is a scam and these kits are not currently available to buy.
- Emails saying that you can get a refund on taxes, utilities or similar are usually bogus and they are just after your personal and bank details.
- There are lots of fake products available to buy online that say they can protect you or cure coronavirus. These will not help and are designed to take your money.
- There are new mobile phone applications that claim to give you updates on the virus but instead, they lock your phone and demand a ransom.
- Your bank or the police will never ask for your bank details over the phone.
- People offering to do your shopping or collecting medication and asking for money upfront and then disappearing.

Tips to avoid being scammed:

- Be cautious and listen to your instincts. Don't be afraid to hang up, bin it, delete it or shut the door.
- Take your time; don't be rushed.
- If someone claims to represent a charity, ask them for ID. Be suspicious of requests for money up front. If someone attempts you into accepting a service they are unlikely to be genuine. Check with family and friends before accepting offers of helps if you are unsure.
- If you are online, be aware of fake news and use trusted sources such as .gov.uk or NHS.uk websites. Make sure you type the addresses in and don't click on links in emails.
- Only purchase goods from legitimate retailers and take a moment to think before parting with money or personal information.
- Know who you're dealing with - if you need help, talk to someone you know or get in touch with your local Council on the numbers below.
- Protect your financial information, especially from people you don't know. Never give your bank card or PIN to a stranger.

Contact information:

- If you think you've been scammed, report it to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 and if you need advice, call the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline on 0808 223 1133. If you are in immediate danger, contact the police on 999.
- Contact your bank if you think you have been scammed.

To learn more about different types of scams and how to protect yourself and others, visit www.FriendsAgainstScams.org.uk and complete the free online training.

Why not become a Scam Marshal? A Scam Marshal is any resident in the UK who has been targeted by a scam and now wants to fight back and take a stand against scams. Scam Marshals do this by sharing their own experiences, helping others to report and recognise scams and sending any scam mail that they receive to the National Trading Standards Scams Team so that it can be utilised as evidence in future investigative and enforcement work. Visit www.FriendsAgainstScams.org.uk/ScamMarshals for more information and to sign up.

STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL – RUBBISH COLLECTION

Recycling centres (Tips)

Recycling centres at Horsley and Hempsted are now closed for an indefinite period.

Waste guidance for people with confirmed or possible coronavirus (COVID-19) infection

Personal waste (such as used tissues) and disposable cleaning cloths can be stored securely within disposable rubbish bags. These bags should be placed into a second bag, tied securely and kept separate from other waste in the house in which you are self-isolating. Keep aside for at least 72 hours before putting into your usual grey wheelie bin.

We recommend that people without wheelie bins who use authorised beige bags for their rubbish should place personal waste in a securely tied disposable rubbish bag (like a black bin bag) before placing in your beige sack.

Recycling, food and garden waste can be presented as normal.

Waste and recycling – general update

- Normal collection service is operating currently for residual, food, recycling and garden waste collections.
- Bulky waste collections can no longer be booked, but prior bookings are being serviced.
- No further requests for receptacles are being taken, apart from grey residual wheelie bin requests, in some circumstances. There is no facility for receptacle collection.

No further subscriptions are being taken on the garden waste scheme.

In line with Government hand hygiene advice, please ensure you wash your hands after touching waste containers

Lockdown,
by Brother Richard, of the Capuchin Franciscans

Yes there is fear.

Yes there is isolation.

Yes there is panic buying.

Yes there is sickness.

Yes there is even death.

But,

They say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise

You can hear the birds again.

They say that after just a few weeks of quiet

The sky is no longer thick with fumes

But blue and grey and clear.

They say that in the streets of Assisi

People are singing to each other

across the empty squares,

keeping their windows open

so that those who are alone

may hear the sounds of family around them.

They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland

Is offering free meals and delivery to the housebound.

Today a young woman I know

is busy spreading fliers with her number

through the neighbourhood

So that the elders may have someone to call on.

Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and Temples

are preparing to welcome

and shelter the homeless, the sick, the weary

All over the world people are slowing down and reflecting

All over the world people are looking at their neighbours in a new way

All over the world people are waking up to a new reality

To how big we really are.

To how little control we really have.

To what really matters.

To Love.

So we pray and we remember that
Yes there is fear.
But there does not have to be hate.
Yes there is isolation.
But there does not have to be loneliness.
Yes there is panic buying.
But there does not have to be meanness.
Yes there is sickness.
But there does not have to be disease of the soul
Yes there is even death.
But there can always be a rebirth of love.
Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now.
Today, breathe.
Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic
The birds are singing again
The sky is clearing,
Spring is coming,
And we are always encompassed by Love.
Open the windows of your soul
And though you may not be able
to touch across the empty square,
Sing.

THE CHURCH IN OAKRIDGE



meeting at St Bartholomew's

VICAR Rev. S Murray 01452 770897

CHURCHWARDEN Mr. Martin Green 01452 770322

We live in strange times. Never would we have expected to be told to stay at home by our Government. Never would we have expected our Supermarket shelves to be stripped, our cafes and pubs closed. Never would we have expected a simple handshake or hug to be deemed risky behaviour. Never did we think that our Churches would be closed for public services.

But we do live in strange times.

So what can we do? We can phone a friend, or neighbour. We can offer help to those who cannot get out due to age or underlying health conditions. We can learn that new skill using our computers, if we have them, or prepare our gardens. We can relearn the skill of letter writing or drawing to stay in touch.

We can pray. Christians over the centuries have learned in times of persecution and imprisonment that they are never alone, that Christ travels with them. May I suggest that if you have a Bible you take it out and read it, with purpose. Start with one of the Gospels – Mark perhaps or John. Many many people have found this book a source of strength in times of trouble. Maybe now you can find out why.

The great classic book "Pilgrims Progress" was written by the Quaker John Bunyan while in prison. Who knows what creativity will come to you. Meanwhile although there are no public acts of worship the church building is still open. St Bartholomew's is unlocked between 9am and 5pm every day for private prayer. Please come, pray, keeping your distance if others are there at the same time.

In the book of Joshua, the Lord says "Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

That is my prayer for you.

This time will end.

Sue Murray, Vicar

OAKRIDGE WI

We met in February for Defib Training. Sincere thanks to Sophie McCracken, aided by Big Teddy, for giving us a serious update on this training and informing us how to access the machine sited at the village Post Office. The Q&A session threw up a really good selection of important points which Sophie cleared up expertly.

In March our advertised Speaker was a ruse to gain the attendance of Grace Cooke. After the usual business, well as usual as diary dates can be pencilled in with the virus hanging in the air. It would seem the WI is in great demand for cake supplies; flattering, but that is not the only thing we do. So to the party, accompanied by Andre Rieu CD music, a surprise spread was revealed and bubbly to be enjoyed. Grace's forthcoming 90th birthday is very special, as is the fact that she has been an Oakridge WI member for 75 years – applause – Some of our scrapbooks were on view and chat about the changes seen over time. A super evening was had by all.

Being small is beautiful, and we want to stay that way, so our meetings are on HOLD until further notice.

Mary Fern

OAKRIDGE HISTORY GROUP



We were lucky to hear the team of speakers from Chalford History Group in February, which proved to be the last event before so many activities have had to be suspended.

Roger Carnt and three colleagues presented a fascinating set of vignettes of people in the area during the period of WW2. A substantial amount of work has already been recorded about men who fought and about local events such as the crash of the German plane on Strawberry Banks. As well as talking about this, we learned personal stories of some refugees from the Kinder Transport who came to live in the area and attended local schools, learning English and continuing their education here. We also heard about evacuees from other parts of this country, foreign soldiers and prisoners of war who were based here temporarily and, in some cases, returned later and stayed permanently.

We hope to re-schedule talks which have now had to be cancelled in a future programme. In the mean time we hope everyone will keep safe and well.

Kay Rhodes

OAKRIDGE GARDEN CLUB



Gill Wimperis, who is now our Chairman, conducted our AGM on the 4th February with, as always, cheerful efficiency. We bade farewell to Martin as he and Janet leave us for Fairford with warm appreciation and thanks for his guidance of the Club for the past three years.

Our speaker Martin Fry's talk was called "Cotswolds and Cornish Cream". It was a beautifully illustrated evocation of his two favourite places with a wonderful musical accompaniment. We left the hall on a dark night, uplifted.

What a different world just a few weeks later! Then, Coronavirus was a nasty illness in far away China. Now, sadly, we have had to cancel our meeting on the 7th April and our visit to Charlton Down House on the 26th April. We are in wait and see mode for the visit to Biddestone Manor on the 17th June.

I am self isolating and intend to concentrate on the garden. I'm sure I'm not alone and I think this summer Oakridge gardens will be more beautiful than ever!

Bizzie White

NATURE NOTES FROM WATERLANE



I set off at the crack of dawn one morning walking through the woods at the bottom of Waterlane. It wasn't long before I was rewarded for my early start when two roe deer appeared on the path below. I didn't move, not wanting to spook them, and they proceeded across the path followed by a large herd of youngsters.

I counted fifteen in all, and they proceeded up a bank and onto the field above which gave me a beautiful view in the early morning mist.

They had their winter coat on which was thick and greyish-brown, this reverts to a reddish brown in summer. They generally blend very well with their surroundings, often the whitish rump being the easiest thing to spot. I stumbled on a fawn roe deer once, hidden in the undergrowth, this is reddish brown in colour, with white spots on the back and flanks and is very pretty to observe. It is best to retreat immediately and let the mother, who won't be far away, return.

Roe deer seem to do best where a mosaic of woodland copses, grassland and arable farmland co-exist. They are primarily browsers and their diet includes leaves and twigs of deciduous trees and shrubs, grassland vegetation and arable crops. They can utter a barking call in alarm and the females in the rutting season utter high pitched cries to attract the males.

Alan White

THE BUTCHERS ARMS

Butchers Arms

Thanks to everyone in the village and further afield, for their continued support the result of which has enabled us to sign a five year lease and commit us to run **your village pub** until 2025.

We had great fun at our first Sunday quiz night and are pleased to announce that this will be a regular event on the first Sunday of every month, the next being held on Sunday the 5th of April. Start is 8.00 pm; entrance is £1 per player with a maximum of four to a team. A prize will be donated by us to the winning team and all proceeds will go to a local charity.

We are pleased to announce that our restaurant opening hours will be extending to six days a week with the introduction of **Tuesday 'Pie Night'**. A range of pies will be available served with mash and a selection of seasonal vegetables.

Thursday night will be **'Curry Night'** offering a choice of curries, rice, papadum & chutney at £14 per person this will include a drink of your choice (including, beer, lager, a spirit & mixer, a standard glass of wine or soft drink).

Due to the current situation with the coronavirus we will be offering those most needy and in self isolation a '**Meals on Wheels**' service during the afternoons. Please visit our Facebook page (**The Butchers Arms, Oakridge**) or call us on **01285 760 390** for details of our menu. A take-away collection service will also be available throughout lunch-time and evenings.

Once again thank you for your support and we wish you all the very best during these difficult times!

Bev & Greg

BISLEY-with-LYPIATT TWINNING ASSOCIATION



We were planning to welcome 28 visitors from France to our villages over the weekend of 8th May. That had already been cancelled, Plessala having been in lockdown for about two weeks longer than us.

We hope "normal service" can be resumed soon with the postponed visit to us taking place in 2021. In the meantime we are in touch with our opposite numbers in Plessala sending messages of solidarity and support by FaceTime and other media.

John Hughes

mail@jmhughes.plus.com

(If you would like more info about the Twinning Association, or would like to take part in our social events once the current crisis is ended please go to www.bisley-with-lypiatt.gov.uk/twinning or follow us on Facebook).

OAKRIDGE PLAYERS



There has been drama in Oakridge for more than 100 years and the Players have decided that it is time we should celebrate this long tradition of treading the boards. We thought a weekend of mirth and merriment would be enjoyed by our faithful supporters.

We are keeping our fingers crossed that we will be able to put on "A Bit of a Do" on the 26th June and have a garden party on the 27th at The Old Vicarage, by kind invitation of Alison Hewitt.

In November we hope to put on "Fawlty Towers" to cheer us all up and next spring/summer "Larkrise to Candleford". We had hoped to put on "Cider with Rosie" but on analysing it, we realised it was not suitable for production by a small society but we think Larkrise will be an excellent substitute.

Our Chairman, Tim, is stuck in Peru. When will we see him again? We live in interesting times.

Bizzie White

OAKRIDGE VILLAGE HALL



OAKRIDGE
VILLAGE
HALL
TRUST

Registered charity no. 301590

FUTURE PROOFING THE VILLAGE HALL

The Oakridge Village Hall Trust (OVHT) works hard to maintain your Village Hall, carrying out essential repairs and preparing a rolling programme of works to update the facilities. Recent major works have included sanding and re-varnishing the floor, which has been a huge asset to the Hall. Most recently, a new cooker has been installed, complete with double oven and induction hob, which will make cooking lunches for the twice-monthly Lunch Club easier, and is a bonus for other users of the Hall.

Current works planned include updating all of the lighting in the Hall to LED, which will go towards meeting our environmental goals, and ultimately incur cheaper running costs. Also planned is the fitting of additional sockets in the main hall, no more trailing extension leads.....

Discussions have been held regarding the impact of climate change on the running of the Hall, particularly in relation to the ageing boiler and heating system, and the possibilities of changing to a renewable source of heating in the future. The heating system is expected only to last another 3 to 5 years in the present form and current Government rules will force a change to renewable technology by 2030 in any case. The management committee has been consulting experts and looking into possible grants but are also trying to plan how money can be set aside to replace it while still undertaking essential repairs and upgrades.

Events at the Hall

In an average year the income from hiring and donations roughly matches the funding needed to keep the Hall running. Any improvements and major repairs have to come from savings and fund raising events. So please support your Village Hall by hiring some space and coming to events as often as you can, and invite your friends too.

The Pancake Lunch held in February raised a profit of £454, which was a magnificent effort and valuable funds for the Hall.

A Holistic Health Evening, planned for May, has been postponed to such times as we can once again gather together, and enjoy reflexology, massage, reiki and other such treats for the mind and body. Watch out for information later in the year.

The Hall is currently closed to groups; once the threat of Coronavirus has passed, please do contact John Loosley on 01285 760460 or johnloosley40@gmail.com to make a booking for any parties and events.

Please remember, **the Village Hall belongs to the Oakridge community – it is YOUR Hall.** No-one is paid to manage the Hall, it all depends on voluntary effort. If you would like to know more about the running of the facility, or about how you as an individual could help, please do contact :

For general enquiries and bookings – John Loosley
johnloosley40@gmail.com

For information on becoming a Trustee – Chris Gregg, OVHT Secretary
chrisgregg173@gmail.com

Any other way you can help - Paul Timms, OVHT Chairman
paulsamtimms@aol.com

OAKRIDGE COMMUNITY CHOIR

Something to look forward to, once life returns to 'normal'..... A new day choir will be starting in Oakridge Village Hall every Monday morning.

- We will be singing uplifting songs in every genre from folk, jazz, pop and world music
- No previous experience is required, no auditions or note reading skills needed – open to all
- The emphasis is on fun and feeling good!
- First session is free and £6 per week after that

Contact: Biddy 07814 652735 or oakridgecommunitychoir@gmail.com

PERSONAL

MOTHER'S DAY

On Mother's Day on going out to my post box on Sunday morning I found that a "Flower Fairy" had left a beautiful posy of Spring flowers with a spiritual message.

I wish to thank the congregation of St. Bartholomew's for being so thoughtful at this difficult time for all of us. Long may our village values and community continue.

Diane Stoker

THANK YOU so much for all the many kindnesses both John and I have received since my operation for breast cancer. So many phone calls, cards, flowers, cakes, sponges and home-made meals; we have been overwhelmed with the love and care showered on us, it has reduced us to tears of happiness many a time. We are so very fortunate to live in such a special place as Oakridge for well over 80 years!

With our love and thanks,
Ann & John Fry

PS, John was born here, but I've *only* clocked up 63 years, being a Devonshire "Dumpling"! God Bless all of you and Thank You, yet again,
Ann

OAKRIDGE RAINWATCH



The rainfall in January and February, as measured by my rain gauge, was as follows:-

January..... 116.2 mm.....about 4.6 ins.

February..... 194.4 mm.....about 7.6 ins.

So far the rainfall in March is 50 mm.....about 2 ins.

Gill Farrar

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.

With the world seemingly dominated by the Coronavirus, most of the news from your PC is relating to that.

PC elections, which were due this May, have been postponed until May2021.

The PC Annual Parish Meeting (the AGM for the PC) has been postponed indefinitely as have all PC meetings. The business of the PC will continue where possible and mostly online from home.

The Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) Survey, which was to be sent to all parish residents in early April, has had to be postponed as it would have involved door to door delivery of mail. The PC thank all residents who took part in the village hall meetings which helped inform the questions which will be asked in the NDP Survey. We hope to be able to conduct this Survey of YOUR opinions later in the year.

Your parish councillors are continuing to review planning applications throughout this period so if anyone has comments on any Planning Applications they wish to bring to the attention of their parish councillor, please get in touch with them by email.

Stroud District Council has issued guidance on the increase of bonfires. It is asking everyone to try not to burn rubbish and garden waste and have consideration for others who may have breathing difficulties. Also

please don't transfer this problem by taking your rubbish to burn at allotments.

We still have a vacancy for anyone wishing to become a Bisley-with-Lypiatt Parish Councillor for the Oakridge Ward so please let us know if you want to step forward.

If you have any matters in Oakridge Ward please contact

Roger Budgeon Roger@greenshop.co.uk

Tony Martin brx44@ymail.com

Dennis Robbins d.robbins1945@btinternet.com

[More information at www.bisley-with-lypiatt.gov.uk](http://www.bisley-with-lypiatt.gov.uk)

Tony Martin

Clerk - Debbie Meredith 01452 771089 admin@bisley-with-lypiatt.gov.uk

DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWS

Hello to you all,

I believed this to be my last submission ahead of this year's district elections. Instead, it appears the district elections have been postponed and I have had to recall my submission and adjust accordingly.

Inadequate drainage

I have been working with our Chief Executive to see if there is any additional support we can offer to a particular area in the ward that is susceptible to flooding. To date, road sweeping debris (which is only preventing the situation from worsening) is one of the few areas of support the district has jurisdiction to manage.

Between the parish, county and district, we have been pushing the highways manager to ensure enough budget is allocated (come April) to allow a long-term solution to be implemented.

Road debris

The topic of road debris (plastic bumpers, mirrors, glass etc) has been brought up several times.

For background, the County Council have told us that it is a district responsibility to clean up after the scene of an accident. I share the common opinion that the collection agency and insurers should manage the clean-up and pay for it.

I have had a conversation with the community services manager and left him the task of investigating the present end-end process to effectively manage the collections. These objects become hidden in long grass and end up being broken down come hedge cutting season by the verge cutting gangs.

Burning rubbish

You may recall that I attended a presentation from our public spaces team on how they are managing / controlling people burning contaminates (plastic, tyres and waste etc.).

Further to that, below is a local story you may have seen in the SN&J.

Ash Trees

At a recent meeting we were told that SDC, as a landowner of several woodland areas, is undertaking a series of inspections of their trees to ensure they remain safe for the public. I used this as an opportunity to continue the discussion we had at a parish council meeting. I enquired whether they were supporting the Forestry Commission in providing any ash tree DNA, which I'm told they will be. The DNA sought is from trees who have naturally become resistant to ash die back. We were also ensured that some of the fallen timber was left to provide habitats.

Road safety, trespassing and illegal activities.

Two officers from the local constabulary came over to my house on Saturday to discuss a number of concerns we have in the ward. You may have seen that a pro-active approach from the local police force(s), resulted in 2 bikes being confiscated last month.

The officer also talked me through their approach to the environment (allowing for their heavy reliance on cars); tools / machinery at their disposal in the pursuit of criminals; and present plans for to manage rural crime.

We have come up with some proactive ways to police our ward utilising local knowledge and new gadgets.

Signage for deliveries

The lack of adequate house signage has become a growing problem as we have more reliance on deliveries. I was out in the community meeting

with some residents who are not only failing to receive normal deliveries, but important health related packages as well.

An ex parish councillor and I successfully managed to install some additional signage over in Eastcombe several years ago, my hope is that I can receive some support from our county councillor to do this again.

VE celebrations

At the time of writing, I have just got off the phone with the Strategic Director of Resources discussing potential funding that would be available for VE day celebrations after being told the Parish are not able to offer any support.

Whilst there are district authorities doing this, SDC are not currently looking to sponsor any VE day events across the district and I was surprised to hear I was the only district councillor to ask the question.

Perseverance may win in the end; the officer is going to come back to me to advise whether funds can be sourced from a projected underspend in another budget.

Walking of our furry companions

A short while ago a resident brought to my attention that they saw two white terriers chasing sheep around and that I should ask people keep an eye out- especially as we are in Lambing season. Having spoken to the dog warden and police, any sign of this activity can be reported as a criminal offence. If anyone sees this activity, please report it. There does not have to be evisceration for harm to be caused.

Defibrillator Theft

I was alerted to the disgusting news that there is a rise in the theft of defibrillators. Mrs Sue Williams, my mother, has been helping ensure that the defibrillators are fully operational by testing them regularly. Whilst we both are keeping an eye on them, I would kindly ask everyone to check that the equipment is still in place as you go about your business.

Thank you, *Councillor Tim Williams*

As always, please feel free to get in touch with me on the below:

- Timothy.er.williams@outlook.com
- Mob: 07920754700
- Send / deliver a letter to Ebley Mill SDC offices
- Write me a letter – Stancombe Ash Farm, Bisley. GL6 7NQ

This fire cost a construction firm thousands of pounds in court

When Stroud District Council Environmental Protection Officers saw an illegal bonfire polluting the air they warned the building firm responsible – but it was lit again the next day.

JF Building Services (UK) Limited, based in Cheltenham, pleaded guilty to two environmental offences in relation to the illegal burning of waste at Tunley.

Officers from Stroud District Council's Environmental Protection team witnessed the burning of construction waste, including wood, plastics, cables and hosing, on a bonfire at Tunley on 7th October 2019, resulting in black smoke affecting the surrounding area.

Despite officers immediately advising the company of the commission of the offences, another bonfire of similar materials at the site was witnessed on the following day.

Magistrates sitting in Cheltenham sentenced the company to a fine of £5000, a victim surcharge of £181 and costs of £2453, a total penalty of £7,634.

JF Building Services (UK) Limited was represented in court by director Mr Janis Fugalis.

"This should serve as a salutary lesson to companies tempted to cut corners by burning waste," said Stroud District Council's Environmental Protection Manager, Dave Jackson, after the hearing on Monday 3rd February.

"This company wilfully ignored warnings to cease this practice and, as a consequence, has paid the penalty. Companies tempted to irresponsibly dispose of waste should understand that Stroud District Council will act to robustly enforce waste legislation."

The burning of commercial waste is strictly controlled and can be an offence unless carried out under an Environmental Permit or through a formal exemption.

The emission of dark smoke from bonfires on industrial or trade premises also constitutes an offence under the Clean Air Act 1993. Waste bonfires often contain materials which, when burnt, give off particularly unpleasant smoke and fumes which can be both distressing and potentially harmful to people nearby, particularly those with respiratory problems.

Stroud District Council's Environment Committee Chair, Cllr Simon Pickering added: "One of the council's key priorities is to protect the environment around us and Stroud District Council has committed to make the whole district carbon neutral by 2030".

LOCAL PLANNING NEWS

Information relating to local planning issues, as outlined on the Stroud District Council website. Here is a summary of local planning news in the period 23rd November – 24th January:

S.19/2485/HHOLD 2-storey rear extension, Lydas Cottage, Oakridge Lynch	Permitted
S.19/2522/HHOLD Additional first floor rooms and connection to existing, Frithwood, Far Oakridge	Withdrawn
S.19/2667/FUL Replace asbestos barn roof with clay tiles, Oakridge Farm, Far Oakridge	Permitted
S.19/2635/FUL Erection single dwelling, Far Oakridge House, Far Oakridge	Refused
S.20/0057/FUL Demolish existing bungalow and construct replacement dwelling, Downe, Oakridge Lynch	Withdrawn
S.18/2027/HHOLD Alterations to windows, Clair Cottage, Oakridge Lynch	Awaiting Decision
S.20/0164/CPE Separate dwelling, Frithwood, Far Oakridge	Awaiting Decision

Further details can be found on the Stroud Council website <https://publicaccess.stroud.gov.uk/online-applications>. For Parish Council planning input, check the website www.bisley-with-lypiatt.gov.uk.

 The logo for Citizens Advice, featuring a blue speech bubble with the words "citizens advice" in white lowercase text.	Citizens Advice Stroud & Cotswold – Attendance Allowance
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This is a benefit that helps with extra costs if you have an illness or disability, either physical or mental or both, and severe enough to require someone else to help you with your personal care needs. You can make a claim for Attendance Allowance if you have reached State Pension age or are older, and it is normally payable after six months of needing the care. It is paid at one of two rates, £58.70 or £87.65 per week, depending on your care needs. Attendance Allowance is tax-free and not means-tested, which means your income and savings will not affect the level you may be entitled to.

You do not need to have someone actually caring for you in order to make a claim. The claim form can be obtained from the **Attendance Allowance helpline on 0800 731 0122** by providing your contact details. Please note that the form is complicated and lengthy and you may wish to get advice and help before completing it. If you would like more advice on this or other matters please contact **Stroud Citizens Advice** weekdays 10 am to 4 pm on Freephone: **0808 800 0510**. Further information can also be found at **www.citizensadvice.org.uk** and then search for attendance allowance.

Please note that following national guidance on Covid-19 Citizens Advice Stroud has closed its face to face services at all offices and outreaches, but will continue to operate a phone and email service. If you need advice please do contact by phone **0808 800 0510**, or email by using the email advice page on our website **<https://www.citizensadvice-stroudandcotswold.org.uk/stroud-cab-email-advice.php>**

25th MAY 2020 CLOSING DATE
for the next WHAT'S ON

COVER ILLUSTRATION BY DANNY WILSON

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E&OE