

WHAT'S ON

in

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



Spotted Woodpecker

In the woods near Lillyhorn Farm

April / May 2021

Edition 250

www.oakridgevillage.org

EDITOR'S NOTE

As the restrictions of the current lockdown are slowly being lifted, boosted by vaccinations being quickly distributed through the age groups, we are once again able to print and deliver the What's On. Thank you to all who ran copies off for neighbours who were unable to access the last edition online; much appreciated. A number of people have now signed up to receive the What's On via email; if you have also received a paper copy and would prefer to keep to the digital version, please let me know and I can adjust delivery schedules for future issues.

If you would like to save paper, why not sign up to receive the What's On direct to your email inbox, via the village website – www.oakridgevillage.org.

This edition sees the second of Sue Wise's "Spotlight on..." features, on page 11. Please do contact Sue if you would be interested in being interviewed, or have suggestions for future interviewees.

The series of Miss Gardiner's "Memories of Oakridge Past" comes to an end on page 15; please do contact me if you would like to contribute articles relating to your experiences of life in the village(s), whether wartime reminiscences, or more recent.

24th MAY 2021 - CLOSING DATE
for the next WHAT'S ON

COVER ILLUSTRATION BY DANNY WILSON

Editors:

Victoria Beard, Tel 01285 760339, email vbeard51@gmail.com

Gill Davis, Tel 01285 760354, email gilldavis37@gmail.com

E&OE

YOUR PAGE

If you have any comments on the current issue or concerns about any matters that have arisen in the village, just get in touch with the editor, Victoria Beard, vbeard51@gmail.com.

The tree planting project is coming together: as is entirely appropriate for a community venture the Parish Council, with Emma Vickers as our Tree Warden, is taking the lead. An avenue of trees on the Waterlane road is crystallising as the preferred option, with care taken to keep the sight lines at the crossroads clear. What do you think of wild cherry trees?

I hope we see the anemones, bluebells, cowslips and orchids flourish in the Recreation Ground this spring as they make such a lovely wild flower area.

For many years the Church has given "Welcome Packs" to new arrivals in the village. They need updating and the suggestion is to have a card with "Welcome to Oakridge" and photos of the church, school, village hall, Butchers Arms and Ollie's Shop on the front and inside details of the village institutions, clubs, societies etc referring to the village website for more information.

Is anyone prepared to take this on?

Bizzie White

Grumps Corner

Please would repairs be done to our village roads and footpaths?

Dogs in the village

A contribution from a member of the village community in response to the more recent comments about dog ownership.

I'm always sorry when I read negative comments about dog ownership, even when they are justified. I hope that this slightly redresses the balance on dog negativity!

We took our dogs out for a walk Saturday 30 January around 2.30pm, our usual trip round the fields and back. It was a very damp, nasty wind chill -3 kind of day. One of my dogs barked, quite unusual as he wouldn't normally do that, then my daft young spaniel was running up and down the bank leaping in the air. I knew something was up and went to see what they had found, expecting a dead deer or the like. To my horror there was a person lying in the wet undergrowth, with a bin bag over their head and upper body obviously trying to keep warm.

I called my husband over and we went down to see. Then the person sat up, a young girl, and said she was ok. We tried to talk to her but it wasn't easy, she just kept with one answer, I'm ok. Obviously she was not ok, lying on the wet floor and she certainly did not have wet weather clothes on, and was shivering.

We rang the police and told them where we were and gave a description. They later rang back and said she was reported as missing and was a vulnerable young lady. We gave them the precise location using the app **whathreewords**. Nice to have an app that actually is useful.

10 police cars, fire engine and most importantly a police dog descended on Oakridge, (not sure they all had the appropriate footwear). I'm glad to say they found her around 6 pm and told us she would get the help she needs. We only hope she does.

So if it hadn't been for my dogs going slightly "off piste" and alerting me that something was up she would not have been found and it could have ended very differently for that poor kid.

Re-wilding

With Spring budding forth and the snowdrops, daffodils and crocuses appearing, and the birds singing, it makes us all realise how important the wildlife and the colour of the countryside is to our health and wellbeing. I've been struck how much people have already done to brighten up the verges and areas outside their own homes and cottages – well done everyone!

With the current interest and encouragement in re-wilding our own villages, I feel it would be good to see what more we could do together to continue this trend. Talking about it to Roger Budgeon, he encouraged me to pursue it! Are there other areas in the village and neighbouring hamlets which would benefit from planting more bulbs, wild flowers and/or trees. Projects like the school allotment, and the bluebells on the playing field shows what can be done.

I am aware of several people who have said that they would like to do something or to get involved. Perhaps we could have some sort of plan of where we could do more, and how and who would do it? While it might be fine for neighbours to plant something near their own place, there are areas which are more public, eg village green, memorial grounds and roadside verges, which would need to be looked at more professionally before deciding what might be possible. I'd love to hear your thoughts and together we could make this lovely area even better.

*Best wishes to you all,
John Bailey*

THE CHURCH IN OAKRIDGE



meeting at St Bartholomew's

VICAR Rev. S Murray 01452 770897

CHURCHWARDEN Mr. Martin Green 01452 770322

HAPPY EASTER FROM THE CHURCH IN OAKRIDGE

We are delighted to say that the church is now open for communal worship and we would be pleased to welcome you at our face to face services. Please remember your face mask when attending and please maintain socially distancing.

ZOOM worship – every Sunday at 10.30

Please email pewslipsbisley@hotmail.com and ask to be added to the mailing list.

APRIL 2021

4th **Easter Sunday**

9.30 am Holy Communion

18th 9.30 am Holy Communion

MAY 2021

16th 9.30 am Holy Communion

Greetings from the Church In Oakridge

Easter is one of the oldest and most important Christian festivals commemorating the resurrection of Jesus Christ three days after His crucifixion. This moveable festival is celebrated on the first Sunday following a full moon between 22nd March to April 25th.

After Jesus was crucified on the Friday his body was taken down from the cross and buried in a cave tomb. The tomb was guarded by Roman soldiers and an enormous stone was put over the entrance. On Sunday, Mary Magdalene and some of Jesus's disciples visited the tomb. They found the stone had been moved and that Jesus's body had gone. Jesus was seen later that day by Mary and the disciples, and for forty days afterwards by many people. His followers realised that God had raised Jesus from the dead. Christians call this the resurrection.

Wishing you a happy, peaceful, and blessed Easter

OAKRIDGE VILLAGE HALL



With Government restrictions easing, we are hopeful that from mid-May our doors may be open once again for exercise classes and some community bookings subject to social distancing. In the meantime, we are able to support childrens' activities, and Ballyhoo Dance and Oakridge School will be operating from the Hall during the Summer Term.

As in previous years, the Local Elections will be held in the Hall on Thursday 6th May.

Please contact John Loosley to make enquiries about booking the hall – email johnloosley40@gmail.com.

OAKRIDGE HISTORY GROUP



Perhaps during lockdown you've been looking for new places in the village for a short walk. The churchyard is an interesting place for a little exercise and exploration. It is green, peaceful and offers lovely views. It also contains a wealth of local history. There are almost 200 legible gravestones and interment plaques, though, of course, there are also other unmarked burials within the perimeter walls.

The recorded burials give a picture of the village over the 130 years from the building of the church here. (The graveyard became full and was closed for further new burials in 1975, with only interment of ashes permitted since then. Burials since 1975 have taken place in the new graveyard at the top of the village.) Unsurprisingly, gravestones for members of the extensive Gardiner and Hunt families are prolific. There are also a number of members of the Twissell family recorded, including Jacob Twissell who died in 1866, having previously kept the records himself as he was Clerk of the Parish. Among people of all ages, you will find Francesca Ellen Doherty who died at only 6 months and Sarah Alice White who died aged 99.

In the majority of cases we don't know about the occupations of those buried here without tracking them down through the censuses. However, the occupations and residences of a few are recorded on their memorial stones. There are wealthy mill owners – several generations of the Baker family of Frampton Place, Bakers Mill, Watercombe House and Hattons House (John, Elizabeth, Thomas, Matthias and William) are commemorated on the large tabletop tombstone beside the path from the vicarage to the church porch.

Two priests are buried beside the church which they served at different periods – Gordon Thomas Haigh who died 1992 and William Ernest Harley who also died 1992.

There are two easily spotted Commonwealth War Graves, one for S H Morgan a gunner who died in 1946 aged 45. The other A Hunt of the Royal Ordnance Corps who died 1944 aged 31. Another serving soldier commemorated on a tombstone near the lower gate is Lieut Stockwell R N who died in 1832 aged 40 and was interred at Woolwich, but whose wife Sarah lived at Lillyhorn House and survived until 1877, dying aged 79. Roger Short, whose life was taken in 2003 while serving as Her Majesty's Consul General in Istanbul, is commemorated near the foot of the steps.

Several notable members of the Arts and Crafts movement are buried near the SW corner of the church. The sculptor William Simmonds and his wife Eve and Sir William Rothenstein, painter, writer and teacher with his wife Alice Mary.

There is plenty of variety to discover reading your way around the slopes. There are names we recognise from current village residents and names which are no longer recognised as families have dispersed. It all provides material for an interesting walk round while enjoying the green space and the views!

Kay Rhodes

OAKRIDGE GARDEN CLUB



The weather dominated my gardening thoughts in March - storm force winds and driving rain alternating with cold, dry, northerly winds and sunshine and showers. What will April bring?

The Garden Club for many years had its flower show in early August and then a few years ago changed to early April. This had the problem that we either had daffodils or tulips, rarely both in abundance. But the wonderful sight and scent of the exhibits in a daffodil year were always the sign that spring was really with us.

April and May must be the busiest time in the garden: lawn maintenance (unless we go with Monty Don and have meadows rather than lawns), sowing vegetable seeds -hardy outside, tender under cover - taking cuttings of tender perennials such as salvia, verbena and osteospermum and weeding, weeding and yet more weeding. Put plant supports around plants now, before they grow. I'm inclined to cut down salvias and penstemon too early as by mid-March I want to be too tidy in the garden. I should wait until April.

Is the soil warm enough for planting out? In the past apparently gardeners would take their trousers down and sit on the bare earth to see if it felt comfortable. If it did, the plants would likely find it comfortable too!

A sunny day in May is heavenly: enough warmth in the sun to sit out in a garden of fresh green leaves, unfurling flowers and alive with the humming of bees.

This is my last entry for the Garden Club as I'm moving to Cricklade, closer to family. I will have a tiny front garden, facing west, currently covered with slate chippings and nothing else, so I'm thinking lots and lots of pots. The back garden is also tiny and is just a shaggy patch of grass. Beyond the back hedge are open fields which lead down to the Thames. I have the challenge of wanting some privacy but also wanting to incorporate the pleasant view and to avoid feeling too enclosed. Suggestions will be very welcome.

My huge thanks to all members of the Garden Club for your friendship, enthusiasm and knowledge so willingly given in the 25 years I've lived in Oakridge. I'm going to miss you.

Bizzie White

NATURE NOTES FROM WATERLANE



We have a small rookery behind us at Waterlane and one afternoon they seemed quite a commotion going on. There was a gale force wind blowing at the time, all at once the rooks took off together and met in a V formation above my cottage.

They rode the wind and they seemed no other reason than they were having fun and playing. Occasionally one would break off and dive down and the rest would immediately follow only to return to their original position in the sky soon afterwards, it was exhilarating to watch.

In small flocks of rooks every bird has its recognised position in a social hierarchy known as peck order. Birds high in the order eat before those lower down; and in times of food shortage this ensures that at least the highest ranked birds survive. There may be fighting from time to time, especially when the system is being established, but in the long run bickering over food which wastes time and energy is reduced.

Rooks are among the most sociable of birds, with a communal life so well developed that it has given rise to fanciful stories of rook parliaments. Although they nest in colonies and feed in flocks, rooks have a strong sense of territory. Pairs defend a small area around their nests, threatening and driving off intruders. Sometimes they steal sticks from the nests of neighbouring pairs

while the rightful owners are away collecting more nesting material. Misinterpretations of aggressive behaviour in the defence of territory have led some observers to claim that they have seen a circle of rooks sitting in judgment on criminal birds.

Alan White

STRAWBERRY BANKS

Strawberry Banks is owned and managed by the Short family who lived in Oakridge for over 40 years. The site is managed to encourage the wildlife with help from the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust and others. It is a Site of Special Scientific Interest, meaning it has legal protection due to the amazing limestone grassland, associated flora and fauna - especially insects, such as the rare Marsh Fritillary Butterfly. This is why - unlike the rest of the world which seems to be planting trees, you may see groups spend many an hour clearing scrub from the fields. This is in order to keep the grassland open, allowing these amazing creatures to thrive. The woodland and scrubby edges are important too as it the combination that provides the perfect setting for the range of wildlife in the whole valley. The wood piles around the edges are there to rot and encourage mini beasts, as about half of our precious insects need dead wood at some point in their life cycles.

Please enjoy the site by walking, sitting awhile and letting nature take over in this beautiful hidden valley. Please note there is no access for bikes or horses. Do please let us know if you see anything that concerns you or if you are interested in joining our group of keen volunteers please email: fionaandchris92@talktalk.com

OAKRIDGE SHOW

Hello all, well thoughts are turning towards the possibility of having our annual Village Show this year on Saturday September 4th. We are considering a slightly scaled down version with a display to showcase the fruit and veg without judging. It has been suggested that we have a socially distanced picnic, with a display of the local village classic cars.

It might be possible to have the inflatable pub again and the ice cream van if restrictions allow. We would love your feedback so please let us know your ideas.

With many thanks, regards

Mark Barnett

Email: mbarnett104@gmail.com

OAKRIDGE SCHOOL



After many weeks of being in lockdown it has been so lovely for staff and children at Oakridge to be back in school and see each other (rather than on Zoom) and enjoy some normality. Both classes have quickly immersed themselves in learning with lots of outdoors activities wherever possible.

Class 1 have made visits to the allotment and have started growing such delights as tomatoes and sweetcorn. Being outside is good for our emotional well-being. Fridays are forest school afternoons where both classes come together; we are currently in the middle of making dream catchers (on the theme of hope) using available natural materials from the environment. They are looking amazing!

Class 1 have enjoyed learning about and making fantastic volcanoes (in a creative way) as part of their geography and learning about Mary Anning, an English fossil collector, as part of their English and Rocks and Soils topic in science. Class 2 have just started Evolution and Inheritance in science and were palaeontologists for an afternoon collecting and studying fossils which they found locally. We have been reading two fantastic texts in class: *Dragon Rider* by Cornelia Funke and *Darwin's On the origins of Species* by Sabina Radeva.

Dragon Rider by Cornelia Funke is a fabulous book about dragons having to leave their valley and search for the Rim of Heaven in the Himalayas because humans are threatening their existence. We combined art and writing using charcoal and mark making to create large-scale beasts (outdoor art) in two's and three's which we then used as our villain in our writing. They were terribly scary!

We are now preparing for Easter and will be making hot cross buns before breaking up for our holiday.

OAKRIDGE RAINWATCH



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

January..... 147.2 mm.....about 5.8 ins.
February..... 71.3 mm.....about 2.8 ins.

So far the rainfall in March (to 10th) is 13.1 mm.....about 0.5 ins.

Gill Farrar



Spotlight on Kevin Hunt



1. Where were you born?

Stroud Maternity Hospital and moved to Oakridge after 2 days to live opposite the village hall for 22 years!! I did escape to Chalford for 5 years in the 1990's.

2. What are your earliest memories?

Having to get containers of water from the spring down Chapel Hill during the nice hot dry summer of 1976 as not much was coming out the taps, and the opposite of having to help dig my dad's car out of snow so he could get to work in the winters, because back then we used to get REAL snow!! Having my hands

prized off the railings outside the school by the dinner lady to get me inside - a clue that maybe I didn't like it there as below!

3. Did you go to the village school? If so, what did you think of your time there?

I did go to Oakridge school as did my dad, and his dad! Setting was nice, but I never particularly liked it - however, it had been brought rather more into the 20th century by the time my daughter Suzie went there, so I think she liked it.

4. What are the biggest changes in the village since your childhood?

Every bit of available land, or existing small property, being converted into having as big a house that will possibly fit being built on it, along with the amount of traffic (largely white vans) coming in and out of the village - some of whom don't appear to realize that the road is actually not that wide.

5. Which 'characters' do you remember from the past?

A lot of my now gone relatives like my Nan, (who lived at Cobdens until 1999) Sid Smith, Tyroll Hunt etc. I can vaguely remember George and Dorcas Juggins from Ashmeads - but you'd really need to ask someone older about what 'characters' they were!

6. What do you think (if anything) would make living in Oakridge more enjoyable?

Perhaps more of a community spirit by some of the people who move into the village - although generally it is still a fairly pleasant place to reside :) (especially when the pub is allowed to open!!), otherwise I guess I would have moved by now, although not to Swindon - Yuk!

WINE CLUB



**HIP HIP HOORAY.... IT'S OUR 10TH
BIRTHDAY THIS MAY!!!**

CONGRATULATIONS - Oakridge Lynch Wine Club has moved into double figures, we can now wear long trousers! What an achievement! This calls for a celebration - HAPPY BIRTHDAY to all!

What a journey too, from our first meeting on 18 May 2011.

It all started with an article in the 'What's On' from Neil Donnan. He and his wife Olivia were a retired couple living in Oakridge Lynch. They had owned their own vineyard in France for 21 years so you could say they knew a thing or two about wine. Neil wanted to start a local Wine Club and the best way of gauging interest was to put an advertisement in the 'What's On'.

(It is without doubt a fact that trying to find a Wine Club near to where you live that doesn't involve lots of travel is mighty hard. If they exist, they quietly get on with their business without the need to advertise themselves too far afield. That is village life ... quite lovely and low key ... but off radar!)

The 'What's On' was perfect for Neil with just enough scope to cover the few villages and hamlets neighbouring Oakridge Lynch. His article aroused an enthusiastic response from a mix of emails, phone calls and face to face chats with local people. Neil was on to a winner. It prompted him to organise 'Oakridge Wine Enthusiasts First Meeting' in The Butchers Arms pub and from there ...

Oakridge Lynch Wine Club was born!

At our inaugural meeting we all helped establish how to run the Club with a few rules and plan future meeting dates. Of course we drank some wine too! The theme was based on a recent newspaper story that people can't tell the difference between cheap plonk and expensive wine.

That was put to the test. We had tremendous fun! There was no looking back from that point.

For the next 3 years, as our Wine Club flourished, Neil and Olivia continued to spoil us, sharing their knowledge and expertise and ... very often the contents of their cellar. Themes included: wine varieties we had never heard of before / vertical tastings spanning 6 different vintages of the same wine (almost

impossible to achieve buying wine in the public domain) / mature Burgundies dating back to 1976 and sometimes a 'Mystery Theme'. We were truly very lucky and privileged.

In 2014 Neil and Olivia sadly left the village to live abroad but before doing so handed their 'baby' over into the safe and capable hands of Tony Salmon, an original member of the Wine Club.

Since then, the Wine Club has continued to grow and evolve and is now run by a small team of members called 'the committee' (for want of a better word). We don't pretend to be wine experts at all but make every effort to put on a decent event for each meeting. Emphasis is on fun and learning while smiling and laughing, nothing too stuffy, nothing too serious. Each month we explore a new theme and once or twice a year invite a guest speaker to impart their wisdom. Christmas is special with a Food & Wine Tasting Menu in collaboration with the pub and just occasionally a pop-up 'Surprise Summer Soirée' in August when we don't normally meet.

Over the last 10 years, members have come and gone as their commitments change or people leave the area and others move in to take their place. One thing remains constant, our firmly established, successful and ever popular Oakridge Lynch Wine Club! A mixed bunch of different ages and tastes, always open to ideas and where everyone has a voice. We are here to stay!

HAPPY 10th BIRTHDAY and MANY HAPPY RETURNS to OAKRIDGE LYNCH WINE CLUB !!!

So to all 'What's On' readers ... if you enjoy wine and would like to explore a little, are prepared to have a wonderful convivial evening of shared tastings while having a laugh (it's inevitable), we warmly welcome any new interest.

.....
 If you are interested in joining Oakridge Lynch Wine Club please call Jill -
 07816955362 or email: pinky.dink@gransmore.co.uk

Bisley Eastcombe & Oakridge Climate Action Network (CAN)

extreme weather – rising sea levels – air pollution – loss of wildlife –
food shortages

*Together we **CAN** do something about it!*

Help to halt Climate Change in its tracks!
Join the newly formed Bisley-Eastcombe-Oakridge branch of the
Stroud District Climate Action Network !



We are a group of concerned residents of these villages, trying to find ways to create a safer world for ourselves, our children and grandchildren. This might involve planting a wildflower area in your garden, lobbying for safer cycling routes, shopping locally, deciding to drive less or finding ways to insulate your home.



Want to check your carbon footprint? You may be surprised! Follow this link: <https://zero.giki.earth/>

There are three groups working on different issues:

- Energy and Transport
- Food, Biodiversity and Nature Recovery
- Outreach and Education

We hold regular Zoom meetings – next on Thursday April 15th at 6.30pm - and we are planning community events for the Summer.

Everyone welcome - looking forward to hearing your ideas and seeing you soon!

To find out more and get involved: e-mail bisleyeastcombeoakridgecan@gmail.com or
call: Martin Brown 01452 770878 or Roger Budgeon 01452 770272

MEMORIES OF OAKRIDGE PAST

More memories from those living in the village(s) across the decades. If you would like to make a contribution, please get in contact with Victoria Beard.

Schooldays, part 3

The final part of Miss Alison Gardiner's schoolday memories

Moving up to the top class was always an exciting milestone, but there were added adjustments to be made with the influx of evacuees from Clacton and Eastbourne.

We now had a system of "Monitors" who were given certain responsibilities. The one no-one wanted was the 'responsibility' of washing out the inkwells! Eventually I became a "Milk Monitor". Each morning we had to go down to the dairy in Mrs Wear's garden. There we would find the sterilised bottles waiting, and large jugs containing the milk. We had to fill the bottles (1/3rd pint) and then press a cardboard disk into the rim of each to seal it. We then counted the straws (real ones) and put the whole lot into rectangular baskets to carry up to school. On arriving back at school the bottles of milk were put into a bowl of water which was placed on top of the tortoise stove to warm up. This would have been in wintertime.

Each of the classrooms had one of these stoves surrounded by a guard, and at morning break there would be a scramble for a place by the guard. For those pupils who did not like milk, Horlicks was available, which the teacher would make in a receptacle like a cafetiere. Horlicks tablets were also available – four for a penny I think.

We were always treated fairly and given encouragement in our particular fields, but woe betide anyone who 'overstepped the mark', for the cane was always kept in the cupboard. In addition to the core subjects, we were taught book-binding and singing. Mrs Rowles came in to play the piano accompaniment when required. How I loved those songs such as "Linden Lea" and "Early One Morning".

Yes. Happy Days. Thank you Oakridge School.

OAKRIDGE PLAYERS



Oakridge players are looking for a new Front of House Manager. We do two shows a year in normal times! The Front of House Manager looks after everything that goes on to market the show and prepare prior to the opening night. We need a creative person to join the Players, not necessarily to act, but to help us get the show up and running for audiences. From designing the posters to ensuring we have enough tickets printed - the Front of House person keeps an eye on things. You will have lots of help and coaching in this vital role.

Oakridge Players has been producing shows in the Village for over 100 years and we expect to bounce back after Covid19 restrictions are lifted. We do pantomimes, comedies, popular shows lifted from TV and the occasional more adventurous production. The Front of House Manager helps bring them to the stage with the rest of the team. We are an enthusiastic bunch who aim to have fun and enjoy entertaining our audiences. We would love to hear from you if you would like to get involved.

Contact me, Tim Toghill Chair of The Players, at ttoghill@gmail.com or call me at 07904 096882. It's a great way to get involved and be creative.

Visit our website for more information about the Players. Sign up for more information at www.oakridgeplayers.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 April and Wednesday 5th May 2021

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The PC meetings have been conducted online via Zoom, usually at 7.30pm on the first Wednesday of each month. The location and agenda is posted on all notice boards around the Parish. If you would like to join the meeting, firstly you need to contact our Parish Clerk (Debbie Meredith) by email on admin@bisley-with-lypiatt.gov.uk. She will give you a link to join the Zoom meeting. You will have to download the free software from Zoom onto your computer (www.zoom.us/download) or get the app for your mobile. Once you have downloaded and installed the software, you will be able to click on the link at the appropriate time then you will be allowed into the meeting by the person controlling the online meeting. You may need to switch on your microphone and video but your computer should tell you this.

NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN SURVEY (NDP)

You will have recently received a NDP SURVEY questionnaire and have hopefully already completed it! We will be analysing opinions expressed in the NDP Survey to help us formulate planning policy for our Parish NDP so YOUR OPINION IS IMPORTANT - **THE DEADLINE DATE FOR RECEIPT OF NDP SURVEY IS 12th APRIL.**

Please complete the NDP Survey online if possible but feel free to use the form received in the post. If you have not received a Survey questionnaire (and cannot complete one online) please contact - The Clerk - Bisley-With-Lypiatt Parish Council admin@bisley-with-lypiatt.gov.uk and she will send one to you. The online version can be found on <https://tinyurl.com/BisleyLypiattNDP2021> If you have any problems or questions please contact Tony Martin (Oakridge Ward Councillor) who is the Lead on the Steering Group for the NDP tony.martin@bisley-with-lypiatt.gov.uk

CAR PARKING IN AND AROUND OAKRIDGE LYNCH

We are getting an increasing number of complaints about inconsiderate car parking especially in and around Oakridge Lynch. This is mainly in the form of where people (not only residents) are using the verges to park. This is causing damage to the verges and can in some cases cause obstructions on the highway. We can only ask that everyone remains diligent, respectful and considerate to avoid these conflicts. GCC Highways Dept will be erecting some bollards on the "back" road access to the playing fields to stop people parking on the corner of the road leading up to the pavilion.

TREE PLANTING

This is not directly a PC project but there are some residents promoting tree planting in and around Oakridge Ward, If you are interested in joining this group and taking part please contact Emma Vickers (vickersemma@btinternet.com) who is your Oakridge Ward contact for this project in the first instance for more information.

DOG POO

We are also getting more complaints about irresponsible dog owners leaving their dogs "presents" around the playing field, footpaths and verges. Can we appeal to all dog owners to be vigilant and considerate and clean up after their dog please. One area of serious concern is the school playground, the grass area by the school; there have been serious issues with dog mess here causing high risk to children playing. The PC is going to erect a notice prohibiting dogs from this area because of the risk to children.

Cllr Tony Martin – tony.martin@bisley-with-lypiatt.gov.uk

Cllr Roger Budgeon - roger@greenshopgroup.co.uk

Cllr Dennis Robbins - d.robbins1945@btinternet.com

Cllr Emma Vickers - vickersemma@btinternet.com

DISTRICT NEWS

Litter picking

I have seen a large number of other members of the community out litter picking, and wanted to share some of the discussions I have been having with SDC. Several weeks ago, I spoke to them to understand how members of the community can get rid of the litter and whether it was appropriate to put them out with the usual collection or whether special collections could be arranged, to ease the burden on the bi-weekly collections.

SDC indicated at that time that they were limited in resources and to advise members not to collect more than they could put out with their usual waste collection. This seemed quite dismissive of resident's efforts considering the saving the council was making from members who went out unaided, whose only request was to help them dispose of the waste.

After making the above point and clearly outlining my opinion on the matter, there has been some flexibility in this where SDC have agreed to collect some waste but it's not something they will commit to as a full solution just yet.

Carbon Strategy

Reading the *Farmers Guardian* this week, there was an article congratulating our rural communities for our contributions and proactive efforts in delivering 'nature's recovery' after new data suggests the UK is the "most interested" in wildlife conservation compared to some of our EU counterparts. On average we search environmental words 290,000 / month compared to say Switzerland who only search 36,880 / month and Belarus 670/month.

The Senior Carbon Neutral Officer and I have kept an opened dialogue on how our rural community can contribute to the strategy so as to share best practice and allow the 2030 Carbon Strategy to be a success.

As I referenced before, education is such a vital part of the plan and it is surprising even now how many people are not aware of the extensive work landowners and communities do to regenerate the environment and be an active (and an integral) part of the solution to our Climate emergency. Just reducing landfill and putting out recycling being one.

At home, we annually plant trees, hedges to increase wildlife corridors, plant pollinator mixes and leave untouched corners of woodland as habitats, but you are always left thinking what else can I do – do I do enough? This year, we are pledging to plant 500 trees and also look to regenerate a pond we have with an additional adjoining pond to reduce the impact of surface water damage causing soil erosion. As a result of this, the officer hinted at whether case studies were of value to show others that although theories devised by academics can often have little regard for the commercial reality of running a business, there are lots that can be done on land without excessive cost or

reduction in use of that land. The same would be true for allotments, parks and public spaces.

The strategy only went through the council for approval last week, so my initial thoughts were included in that draft as the officer sought to re-draft some of the messaging. Now is the time when the work can really get going because the document is more iterative to ensure it works with residents rather than dictate to people what they should do which historically is not received too well.

Policing rural communities

There has been quite a lot of interaction with our local constabulary on matters of poaching, dog theft, and general rural crime issues over the past 2-3 months. You may have seen, as I have, that there has been a heightened police presence both in unmarked cars and the larger rural police vehicles after we have voiced concerns at the lack of presence in this community- something they were going to be addressing last year but appeared to slip back into the old ways after a few team members and management changes. Most days last week I think I saw a vehicle twice a day floating around.

Further to this, I have also agreed to host them at home to focus their attentions on this community for specific, scheduled, days. This won't be the mounted unit, but the 4X4, Side-side and quads who can access green lanes and small by-ways which other normal police vehicles cannot.

Council Tax increase

Many of you, like me, will have received your letter from SDC in the post that shows the council tax has increased again! I voted against this motion on the basis that we are seeing considerable increases without seeing anywhere near a similar increase in the level of or services. Further, it was understood and noted that the council had sufficient funds and the increase was not critical, but members across the chamber wanted to continue the increase so the motion passed.

Footpaths – Nails

I received an email and introduction for one of our parish councillors to a resident who expressed her dismay and concern for a large pile of rusty nails that had been placed on a footpath in Miserden (presumably to puncture the tyres of the motor bikers you know I am so keen on discussing in my articles). What the nails actually did was provide more of a danger to horses, dogs and children who also use that track.

Be vigilant and please take care when walking the footpaths, by-ways and green lanes for foreign objects and report them to myself or the police should you see this. I have told one of our rural police officers and requested they investigate the matter further and am now waiting to hear back.

Waste Services

We have extended our waste collection service with UBICO to continue to provide our waste services. In 2018 you will recall that we as a district sent the least amount of residual waste to landfill in England and DEFRA requested our waste service model be used as an exemplar for other districts across the country. This is something myself and other members of the Environmental Committee are charged with monitoring and scrutinising.

Bins

A number of residents have got in touch to request new waste bins which are becoming damaged. Some may recall the issues over the past few years with SDC wanting to charge you for the replacements and the battle I've had to get these free. However, we are now in a position to request new bins free of charge.

A parish councillor has also requested I investigate whether we could change the single use residual waste bins that we have around the parish with double bins to accommodate both recycling and residual waste. I have requested this of officers yesterday, so will hopefully keep you posted on this progress very shortly.

Get in touch with your name, address and which bin of yours is damaged / un-useable and we can get a new one ordered. There is a waiting time whilst they are made so please don't be concerned if you do not hear back for a short while. Last week I had the neighbourhood wardens drop one bin to a resident who was totally without, but again, there is limited stock to distribute across all of Stroud's c.115,000 residents.

Parking

With COVID-19 bringing people from wider afield to our area for walking, I have raised concerns of parking habits in particular areas. One of the worst areas I've seen being the Daneway (which made it onto Radio Gloucestershire) as these cars park all over the junction, bridge and bend. It is incredibly dangerous and when combined with walker, cars, bikes and horses -quite a recipe for disaster. One vehicle had a "no to eco-cide" sticker on the back but proceeding to turn the grass bank where they parked into rutted mud- so we assume soil erosion, loss of food for pollinators and compaction, is ok? - The hypocrisy.

I have raised this with the police and the MP, as I know she has also expressed these concerns and it is being investigated on ground of safety for both road users but also emergency services access.

Elections

The local elections are due to place on May 6th (if all goes well) and so this will be my last submission to you. I have my concerns with asking members of the community to leave the safety of their homes when we haven't beat COVID-

19, but I know considerable pressure was being put on the Govt. to let the elections go ahead. If you do feel unsafe, perhaps register yourself for a postal vote (if you have not already).

I take special efforts to never push political agendas nor seek to put down other parties. The one exception is in the last article before election to state my intentions to stand again.

Final Submission

I am re-standing in the upcoming district elections in May and would really love your vote.

Furthermore, my mother Sue Williams is the Conservative County Councillor candidate in the upcoming County Council elections having been a career Mental Health Nurse and been awarded the prestigious title of being a Queen's Nurse for her exemplary care and dedication to the community – please do vote for her too.

Stay safe and keep positive!
Tim

**LAND WANTED
FOR
SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT**

CASH PURCHASE

PLEASE CALL GILL ON

07983 465414

OR EMAIL

INFO@MOUSEABOUTTOWN.CO.UK

I have long wanted to lead a more sustainable lifestyle, where my children can understand how they can help make a difference to current global environmental issues. To achieve that goal, I am looking to build a completely sustainable, zero carbon home. The surrounding land would be dedicated to supporting British wildlife conservation to create new and diverse wildlife rich habitats. The project would also help to grow my business, "From The Ground." This is a fledgling project designed to encourage more environmental learning uptake in schools. Ultimately, I want to teach others about how they can reduce their environmental footprint and in so doing encourage them to live in a more sustainable way.

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 24th January 2021 to 24th March 2021:

S.20/2409/HHOLD Alterations to existing stone barn, Tunley Barn House	Permitted
S.20/2665/HHOLD Construction 2 storey rear extension, 1 The Taut, Oakridge Lynch	Permitted
S.21/0534/HHOLD Erection of extension and other works, Watercombe House, Waterlane	Awaiting Decision
S.21/0491/HHOLD Single storey extension to side of house and conversion of garage Far Oakridge House, Far Oakridge	Awaiting Decision
S.21/0392/HHOLD Removal of conservatory and construction of new extension Bridleway, Oakridge Lynch	Awaiting Decision
S.21/0320/CPE Continued provision of livery and horse training Frithwood House, Far Oakridge	Awaiting Decision
S.21/0300/HHOLD Attach flue for new biomass heating boiler Cotswold Cottage, Oakridge Lynch	Awaiting Decision
S.21/0296/HHOLD Replace existing garage and loose box with new Whitespring, Oakridge Lynch	Awaiting Decision
S.21/0623/HHOLD Installation wheelchair ramps, extension to patio Iles Green, Far Oakridge	Awaiting Decision
S.21/0689/HHOLD Single storey extension Glendale, Far Oakridge	Awaiting Decision



In order to vote in the upcoming Police and Crime Commissioner for Gloucestershire, County, District and Parish Council elections taking place on May 6th 2021 you must be registered on the Electoral Roll.

Planning is already underway and we would like to reassure you that our highest priority is the safety of our staff and our electorate. We will be adhering to Government Guidelines, so your Polling Station may look a bit different, please help us to help you keep safe by following the guidelines.

To register to vote, please go to www.gov.uk/register-to-vote. You will need your date of birth and national insurance number and registering only takes a few minutes.

If you are not able to cast your ballot at a polling station or would prefer not to vote in person you can apply for an "Absent Vote".

Stroud District Council Elections web page has all the information you need:

<https://www.stroud.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/elections/how-do-i-vote>

From here you can find out all about how to vote including:

Check if you are registered by using a quick link.

Register to vote deadline - Midnight, Monday 19 April 2021

Voting by Post –request or download an application form

Postal vote deadline - 5pm, Tuesday 20 April 2021

We must receive your application by post or email by 5pm on Tuesday 20 April to ensure you are able to vote by post. To vote by post, you must complete an application form which can be found below.

Voting by Proxy – request or download an application form

Proxy vote deadline - 5pm, Tuesday 27 April 2021

We must receive your application by post or email by 5pm on Tuesday 27 April to ensure you are able to vote by proxy. To vote by proxy you must complete an application form which can be found on the website below.