

WHAT'S ON

in

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



February / March 2020

Edition 243

THE CHURCH IN OAKRIDGE



meeting at St Bartholomew's

VICAR Rev. S Murray 01452 770897

CHURCHWARDEN Mr. Martin Green 01452 770322

FEBRUARY 2020

2 nd	Parish Communion	9.30a.m.
9 th	Parish Communion	9.30a.m.
16 th	Family Communion Followed by Breakfast at Bart's	9.30a.m.
23 rd	Benefice Service France Lynch	10.00a.m.

MARCH 2020

1 st	Parish Communion	9.30a.m.
8 th	Parish Communion	9.30a.m.
15 th	Family Communion Followed by Breakfast at Bart's	9.30a.m.
22 nd	Mothering Sunday Service	9.30a.m.
29 th	Benefice Service Chalford	10.00a.m.

BIBLE STUDY

Is on 2nd and 4th Thursdays 3pm at 2 The Birches - for details please contact Brian (01285 760452).

Bible study will not take place during the Lent Course.

NEWS FROM ST BARTHOLOMEW'S

What is the connection between Candlemas and Groundhog Day?

We think of the 6th January, the 12th day of Christmas, as the end of the Christmas season. This is not so in the Christian calendar, where it is Epiphany, the celebration of the coming of the Magi. You will see in the church the crib is still in place and will be so until the 2nd February, which is Candlemas and is 40 days after Christmas.

Candlemas celebrates the Presentation of the baby Jesus to God in the Temple in Jerusalem. It also became the day when churches' candles for the year to come were blessed and distributed as would be needed for the rest of the winter. The candles came to represent how long and cold the winter would be. The tradition grew up in Germany and Holland that the hedgehog came out of hibernation on the 2nd February to check whether spring had arrived and if it could see its shadow, winter was coming to an end. The immigrants carried this tradition to America where they substituted the groundhog for the hedgehog, hence Groundhog Day, a good excuse for a party!

Coming back to more practical matters:

On 1st February there will be Messy Church in Bisley Village Hall, 3.00 - 4.30pm. Fun, crafts and tea around the theme of candles. All welcome, children must be accompanied.

25th February is Shrove Tuesday - Pancake Day - and 26th is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. There will be services in France Lynch at 10.00am and Bisley at 7.30pm.

The February Benefice service will be on the 23rd, 10.00am at France Lynch and the March Benefice service will be on the 29th, 10.00am at Christ church, Chalford.

The 6th March is the World Day of Prayer, this year to take place in Chalford Baptist Church at 2.00pm. The service is compiled by the women of Zimbabwe and as always will be a very moving and uplifting experience.

Remember, Breakfast at Barts is always on the 3rd Sunday of the month, after the Family Communion Service.

For some years Sue Korda has stayed at Ffald y Brenin, a retreat house in beautiful surroundings, about 4 miles inland from Fishguard in Pembrokeshire. If you feel in need of tranquility, a few days without pressure, talk to Sue.

Bizzie White

OAKRIDGE WI

December 2019 with a difference. The 12th, can we ever forget, was the General Election and a takeover of the Village Hall. The WI (we improvise) decamped to the Church in the dark and pouring rain for our workshop on Christmas Wreath Making. The Church was warm, the Christmas tree lit, and windows decorated. Our evening was a success. Ably demonstrated and guided by Emma from "The Flower Girls", our efforts were all beautiful. Sue, our one woman catering committee, sorted supper of rolls, cake and mulled wine, assisted by Holly, Emma's daughter. The Secret Santa baskets were distributed. Our charity box this year was for the Star Centre, and was held over until January.

Happy New Year to all. January is subscription night for our members. £43 sounds like a jolly good income stream, however, we are a small cog in a big wheel. The WI is a movement with a National HQ and a County Office; both take a share leaving us £21.10 per member to cover their entitlement to eleven meetings per year.

Our funds were well used for the January meeting. Chris Short, Meryl's son who lived in Oakridge from the age of 5, gave us an illustrated talk on "World Commons". He works for Gloucester University CCRI, managing common land since 1998. The land base of the UK is 8% in Wales, 3% in England and 7% in Scotland. They have a variety of customs defined at their inception, eg Out London for washing – the city was very dirty, the New Forest pigs, Forest of Dean timber and so on. Chris has been able to travel extensively abroad with his work. A most interesting evening.

13th February ... Defib training with Sophie McCracken. If like some of us, you have missed out on previous instructions, come and join us.

12th March ... The History of Song.

Hope to see some new faces soon.

Mary Fern

OAKRIDGE HISTORY GROUP



With no meetings of the group in December or January, there are no reports to give. Our first meeting of 2020 is on **26 February** when local historian Roger Carnt will speak about researching WW2 in Oakridge and around this area.

On **25 March** Steve Hill will talk about the history of Stratford Park and Mansion.

Both talks should be of interest to anyone curious about local history. Visitors and new members will be welcome. Meetings start at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Kay Rhodes

OAKRIDGE GARDEN CLUB



Our Christmas Social on the 2nd December was a resounding success. Many thanks to Karen for her wonderfully tasty curry, to Sue (Brain) for her scrumptious roulades with forest fruits, to the committee for setting up and making the tables look so decorative, to Jane (Gregg) for her hard work behind the scenes in the kitchen and last but certainly not least, Helen, who was in overall charge of organising it all: she was brilliant.

The only negative comments were about my ice - breaker quiz. It was too difficult, was the complaint. Could try harder, thought I, but I promised to make it easier this year. (NB for some years of my life my surname was Johnson.....)

Our next meeting on the 4th February is our AGM and will be the last one Martin will be chairing. He has been an outstanding chairman, keeping his wayward committee in order at our meetings and giving us a masterclass on how to prepare for meetings and to follow up after them. Thank you, Martin.

Will Martin beat his own record of 12 minutes for the AGM? The bets are on, the excitement is intense.

Our speaker at the meeting will be Martin Fry, whose talk is entitled "Cotswold and Cornish Cream".

Do come and join us.

Bizzie White

FROM THE GROUND



It's the start of a new year and although things have been a bit quiet on the allotment for the last few months, there has been plenty going on behind the scenes to get excited about.

Oakridge School is leading a new community initiative called The Shared School Woodland Project. The children will be collaborating with other children from schools including Bisley, Christchurch Chalford, Thrupp, Brimscombe, Rodborough, Minchinhampton and Thomas Keble, and together they are to plant a new woodland. It's a really exciting opportunity for all involved.

After a lengthy search to find a suitable piece of land, we got the nod that there was a site in Chalford. We approached the landowner and they were extremely enthusiastic about the idea. They very kindly agreed to donate one of their fields. We are currently in the process of clearing the site, organising a tree survey and setting up a joint fundraising campaign on behalf of all the schools involved.

The project will be using trees that Oakridge School acquired from the Woodland Trust's Free Trees for Schools. Planting is due to take place at the end of March, when children from all the different schools will be invited to take part.

The scheme will help establish relationships between different schools in the area and promote a cross over in learning opportunities. By creating an umbrella under which schools can share the work they are currently doing within the environmental curriculum, a larger community can evolve. Everyone who is a part of that community will feel the full support and mutual benefits of it.

The woodland will provide a physical space where groups of children from different schools can meet, talk, share ideas, values and express their opinions within a safe environment. It will represent one mind, one

purpose and one common thought between different teachers, parents and children. It will act as a nucleus where individual schools can act as a collective whole and do something for the better good of the environment, as well as making a valid contribution to the local community.

After school gardening sessions at Oakridge start again after February half term. With Spring approaching, there's a great deal to look forward to. A big thank you to everybody who has continued to support our venture. Everyone is always welcome at the allotment to see all the good things the children are doing.

Best wishes,
 OAT (Oakridge Allotment Team)
 07983 465414
info@fromtheground.co.uk

BISLEY-with-LYPIATT TWINNING ASSOCIATION



The Association is preparing for the visit of our French guests on 8 to 11 May. As well as celebrating VE Day we hope to take them to local places of interest as well as enjoying plenty of social time together.

Before then we have our AGM on Wednesday 11 March at Bisley Village hall commencing at 7pm, all are welcome and the business part is usually quickly disposed of to give everyone chance to chat and enjoy a simple supper. We also have a Spring Madness event on 4 April, further details will be published on our Facebook page shortly.

The Club gives members and supporters of various ages the chance to make new friends, attend social events here throughout the year and if they wish get involved with the annual exchange with Plessala. You do not need to speak French but there is plenty of chance to practice that rusty school French with our French friends if you want to give it a go. The May visit is a good time to join in with one of the social events as you will get a feel for what it is all about.

If you would be interested in taking part please contact Muriel Brooks on mbrooks@nicework.co.uk or 01452 770346.

**Join us at the Village Hall on SHROVE TUESDAY
for a Pancake Lunch!**

TUESDAY 25TH FEBRUARY 2020

All Welcome!

**Homemade Soups – Cheese Ploughmans
Pancakes – Pancakes – Pancakes**



Serving starts 12 noon until 2pm

Please help us to maintain your Village Hall

OPEN STUDIO

John Bailey's Open Studio in December raised another £300 for Cancer Research. Thanks to all who visited, and contributed to this important fund.

OAKRIDGE RAINWATCH



The rainfall in November and December, as measured by my rain gauge, was as follows:-

November..... 141.3 mm.....about 5.6 ins.

December..... 113.4 mm.....about 4.5 ins.

So far the rainfall in January is 96.2 mm.....about 3.8 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.

New Chair of Parish Council - due to Mike Bell (our former PC Chair) moving away to Hay on Wye, Mike Eccott has taken over as Chair of the PC. We wish him well and give him our full support.

Vacancy for Parish Councillor – a vacancy for a new Parish Councillor has arisen in the Oakridge Ward. If anyone is interested in standing as a Parish Councillor to represent this ward please get in touch with the PC Clerk admin@bisley-with-lypiatt.gov.uk .

Parish Council Elections – these will be happening in May (alongside the District Council elections) where all seats on the PC will be up for election.

Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) – the Parish NDP continues to be prepared. A new website to keep everyone informed as to progress has been set up (www.bisleyeastcombeoakridge-ndp2030.org.uk). Climate Change is high on the agenda (in line with Stroud District Council's declaration to be carbon neutral by 2030 and its revised Draft Local Plan). Initial work and consultation has been undertaken and further consultation prior to development of policies to get YOUR views on what the parish should look like in 2030 (and up to 2040) will be taking place over the next few months. We hope to set up an email database of all residents of our Parish so that we can better communicate progress and inform of consultations and information when appropriate.

Mike Eccott has stood down from the chair of the NDP Steering Committee and Tony Martin has taken his place.

Tree Planting and management – Trees are an important part of the Parish identity and the PC is working on getting more trees planted throughout the Parish. The effect of Ash Die-back disease will be considerable (with the necessary felling of badly infected trees) but it is hoped that we can more than mitigate this with improved management and planting.

PC Finance – despite more demands upon the Parish budget, your PC has managed to keep the increase in the precept (budget) to a below inflation rate level (2%).

Highways – your parish councillors continue to hold Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) Highways dept to account over the state of our roads. Work of repair is ongoing but if you see any badly maintained roads, please report it directly to GCC Highways <https://www.goucestershire.gov.uk/highways/roads/your-highways-report-it> or via the PC website (www.bisley-with-lypiatt.gov.uk) and to the PC Clerk .

Bisley Ward is consulting and considering further possible traffic calming measures in and around Bisley. We would urge all PC residents to be considerate drivers and keep to speed limits please.

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

COFFEE CORNER

The next Coffee Corner is on 6th February at St Augustine's Church, Dr Crouch's Road, Eastcombe. These take place on the first Thursday each month (except January). From 10.00 am to 12 noon, we serve filter coffee; a variety of teas with biscuits.

We hope we may welcome visitors from Oakridge to join us?

WHAT'S ON FINANCES

	£	£
Opening balance 1 st January 2019		711.11
Donations		50.00
Interest (net)		0.66
Paper purchase	(191.88)	
Ink purchase	(62.39)	
Copier service & repair	(271.06)	
Treasurers Account		
Cash in Hand		17.96
<u>Closing balance 31st December 2019</u>		<u>236.44</u>

WATERCOLOUR WORKSHOPS

Beginners / Improvers

*Weekly Wednesday morning workshops with John Bailey
Starting February
5 weeks, £40*

For details contact John on 01285 760659

DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWS

Please see the Parish Council website for more detailed information on the items included below within Councillor Williams' report - www.bisley-with-lypiatt.gov.uk.

Hello and Happy New Year to you all; I look forward to working with more neighbours in the coming year.

Garden Waste

For those that have a garden waste bin, the charges will be increasing from March 2020 to £50 (incl.Vat) from £45

Bulk Waste

Collection prices (per item) will remain the same at £25 Incl. Vat.

Air quality

The in-depth report can be obtained online on the SDC website, a brief summary highlights the following:

- The current level of air quality is good in the district. As a rural ward we are always going to have a higher rate of emissions because of the need to travel for services.
- Emissions produced from the waste facility at Javelin Park are presently measured by means of conditions laid down within an environmental permit regulated by the Environmental Agency. Back in 2016, measurement tubes were placed in the surrounding area to provide a base line for further monitoring now the facility is in operation. It has not been running long enough to get tangible data from the tubes yet.

Motorcycling in the District

I have been working with a number of residents who have raised concerns about Green Lane motorcyclists – an issue that seems to have grown in frequency over the past 2-3 years. This is certainly not to say we are looking to stop the enjoyment these people have, but rather my focus is the individuals who ride early Sunday morning, revving outside people's homes and racing dangerously around small roads and tracks, which others may be using but out of view until the last minute. There has also been an occasion where they were riding through a sheep field. I spoke to some members of a club on this point back in November – The ACU (Autocycle Union). They were very frustrated themselves as, like any sport, there are always those who practice outside the guidelines and are considered to bring the sport into disrepute by not acting as ambassadors for the activity. I have engaged a local police officer and directed their attentions to 3 sites after I have had 5 different complaints.

The club member said he could use the power of the club to also support our remediation efforts.

Other items within Councillor Williams' report as below can be found in more detail on the Parish Council website.

- **Ubico contract**
- **Performance Monitoring Report**
- **Dog Fouling**
- **Planning Committee**

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.

Councillor Tim Williams

OAKRIDGE PLAYERS



Oakridge Players plan for the next two years!

Oakridge Players held their AGM in the back room of The Butchers Arms in late January and thrashed out a plan for the next two years.

In June they will present "Cider with Rosie" one of the most beautiful autobiographical novels by Laurie Lee and set in the Slad Valley. In September they will present a Variety Show along the lines of "Oakridge has Talent" which will involve the whole Village in a memorable one night extravaganza. In late November that huge favourite "Fawlty Towers" will fill the stage of the Oakridge Village Hall with all your favourite characters!

In 2021 Oakridge Players will present a classic comedy such as Coward's "Hayfever" or Wilde's "The Importance of being Earnest" and in November, following the success of Cinderella which played to packed houses in 2019, the Pantomime will round off the year in style!

If you would like to be involved with Oakridge Players as an actor or backstage do contact me, the Players Chair.

Tim Toghill. M 07904 096882

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.19/2401/HHOLD Garage conversion, The Pigeon House, Oakridge Lynch	Permitted
S.19/2310/CPE Change of annexe use, Valley Cottage, Waterlane	Permitted
S.19/2214/FUL Replacement dwelling, Trillis, Far Oakridge	Application Withdrawn
S.19/2224/TCA Tree works, Siccaridge Woods	Approved
S.19/2423/HHOLD New rooftop terrace & amendments to previous application, Seaview, Oakridge Lynch	Refused
S.19/2485/HHOLD 2-storey rear extension, Lydas Cottage, Oakridge Lynch	Awaiting Decision
S.19/2522/HHOLD Additional first floor rooms and connection to existing, Frithwood, Far Oakridge	Awaiting Decision
S.19/2667/FUL Replace asbestos barn roof with clay tiles, Oakridge Farm, Far Oakridge	Awaiting Decision
S.19/2635/FUL Erection single dwelling, Far Oakridge House, Far Oakridge	Awaiting Decision
S20/0057/FUL Demolish existing bungalow and construct replacement dwelling, Downe, Oakridge Lynch	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.

DO YOU NEED A HALL OR MEETING SPACE? THEN TRY OAKRIDGE VILLAGE HALL

- 12 x 7.5 m. open space; curtained stage; seats up to 100
- Well equipped kitchen opens onto the main hall
- Separate 5 x 3 metre Meeting/Changing Room
- Licensed for Live & Recorded Music/Dance/Theatre/ Film
- Trestle tables and card tables
- Parking and access to adjacent recreation field
- Toilets and disabled access
- Piano

Consider our hall for your:

**Children's/Adult Parties; Business Events/Meetings;
Pet shows/dog training sessions**

Charges: £9 per hour including heating and electricity; full kitchen use extra

(Discount for Oakridge community residents)

The Hall is on the eastern edge of Oakridge Lynch village approximately 6-7 miles from Stroud and Cirencester. GL6 7NZ

Full specifications at:

<http://www.grcc.org.uk/village-hall-finder/village-hall/oakridge-village-hall>

Further information and charges can be obtained from:

John Loosley, Tel: 01285 760460 or email johnloosley40@gmail.com

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

February 2020

1 st	Messy Church, Bisley Village Hall	3.00-4.30 pm
4 th	Garden Club AGM	7.30 pm
5 th	Parish Council Meeting, Bisley WI Hall	7.30 pm
6 th	Coffee Corner, Eastcombe	10.00am-12 noon
12 th	Lunch Club, Village Hall	11.00 am-2.00 pm
13 th	WI, St Bartholomew's	7.30 pm
16 th	Family Communion with Breakfast at Bart's	9.30 am
23 rd	Benefice Service, France Lynch	10.00 am
25 th	Pancake Lunch, Village Hall	12 noon-2.00 pm
26 th	Lunch Club, Village Hall	11.00 am-2.00 pm
26 th	History Group, Village Hall	7.30 pm

March 2020

4 th	Parish Council Meeting, Bisley WI Hall	7.30 pm
6 th	World Day of Prayer, Chalford Baptist Church	2.00 pm
11 th	Lunch Club, Village Hall	11.00 am-2.00 pm
11 th	Twinning Assn AGM, Bisley Village Hall	7.00 pm
12 th	WI, Village Hall	7.30 pm
15 th	Family Communion with Breakfast at Bart's	9.30 am
25 th	Lunch Club, Village Hall	11.00 am-2.00 pm
25 th	History Group, Village Hall	7.30 pm
29 th	Benefice Service, Christchurch Chalford	10.00 am

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

COVER ILLUSTRATION BY DANNY WILSON

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E&OE