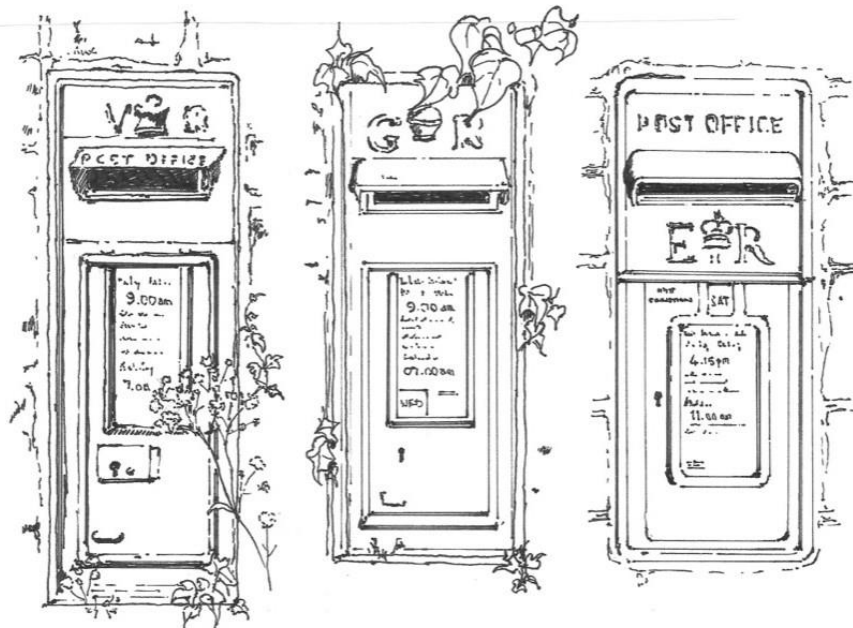


# WHAT'S ON

in

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

## *Local Post Boxes*



*Bournes Green  
(Victoria)*

*Tunley  
(George)*

*Bisley  
(Elizabeth)*

August / September 2020

Edition 246

## **EDITOR'S NOTE**

Welcome back to the printed edition of What's On! We hope you are all safe and well.

Concerns have been raised regarding the recent online-only editions, and the fact that there are those in the village(s) who were unaware of this. Unfortunately, other than putting up posters at the Shop and various notice boards round and about, there is no easy way to let people know without a physical doorstep note – which was not possible due to the lockdown. I'm sorry some people missed out on the last two editions of What's On – if you have no internet access, please do contact me so that if this should have to happen again an alternative solution may be found. Back copies of What's On can also be accessed on the village website – [www.oakridgevillage.org](http://www.oakridgevillage.org).

Thank you to those who responded to the recent survey regarding the online What's On. The majority of respondents wished to continue to receive a paper copy, although a reasonable number have opted to receive it online. If you would prefer to reduce paper and take up the online option, please sign up via the village website.

One of the positives of the online version, was the inclusion of photographs. If anyone wishes to submit photos for inclusion, I can certainly do so, but due to the limitations of the print copier these will not appear in the printed format. Another feature in the last edition which was appreciated by many, were the Lockdown Stories; bringing the village to life through residents' voices. Look out for Memories of Oakridge past; or Spotlight on Well-known Residents....

*Victoria Beard*

**23<sup>rd</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020 CLOSING DATE**  
**for the next WHAT'S ON**

**COVER ILLUSTRATION BY DANNY WILSON**

**Editors:**

Victoria Beard, Tel 01285 760339, email [vbeard51@gmail.com](mailto:vbeard51@gmail.com)

Gill Davis, Tel 01285 760354, email [gilldavis37@gmail.com](mailto:gilldavis37@gmail.com)

*E&OE*

## THE CHURCH IN OAKRIDGE



**meeting at St Bartholomew's**

**VICAR** Rev. S Murray 01452 770897

**CHURCHWARDEN** Mr. Martin Green 01452 770322

These dates assume the Government guidance / requirements regarding coronavirus remain as they are on July 20. Congregations are 30 people maximum and please follow the notices in church.

### **AUGUST 2020**

Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Parish Communion	09.30a.m.
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Parish Communion	11.00a.m.
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Parish Communion	09.30a.m.

### **SEPTEMBER 2020**

Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Parish Communion	11.00a.m.
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Parish Communion	09.30a.m.
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Parish Communion	11.00a.m.

## EMERGENCY ROAD CLOSURE

**Farm Lane, Oakridge Lynch**, from its junction with Bakers Mill to outside the property known as Frampton Place. This road will be closed from **25th June 2020** for a distance of approximately 180 metres. The closure is necessary for emergency works to a dangerous structure blocking the carriageway. This road is now expected to be **closed until March 2021**.

**Oakridge WI, History Group, Choir, and Lunch Club** all look forward to when their meetings can resume, hopefully in the not too distant future.

## OAKRIDGE GARDEN CLUB



No Garden Club meetings and no garden visits, July weather in April and April weather in July, more time than most of us have ever had in the garden, this spring and summer has been a time we won't forget.

I was looking through my Garden Club file and found notes I had taken of a talk on propagation we were given some years ago by Miss Victoria Logue. Her advice was so wise that I thought it would be a good idea to pass it on.

1. The difference between professional and amateur gardeners is, firstly, professionals FEED THEIR PLANTS and secondly, THEY ARE RUTHLESS.
2. In a small garden every plant must earn its keep. Sell it, give it away or compost it if you don't like it or it doesn't like you. A shrub is in the wrong place if you have to prune it every year. Move it.
3. Take photographs. This is so you remember accurately what your garden looked like, not as you hoped it would be.
4. Sowing seeds: pointing out the obvious, don't sow too many. A 7cm pot gives plenty of seedlings. Most seeds can be stored in the fridge long after their use by date. When sowing seeds, think about Irish coffee: 2/3rds multipurpose compost, 1/3rd vermiculite or perlite on top. Sow the seeds on the vermiculite, cover with a sprinkling of vermiculite, label and prick out as soon as you can handle them by the first real leaves. For larger seeds use plug pots.
5. Cuttings: mix half compost with half vermiculite/perlite and don't bother with hormone rooting powder. Take cuttings of deciduous shrubs such as lilac, weigela and philadelphus in August and either cut below a leaf node for nodal cutting or rip off a side shoot with a little bit of the older stem attached for a heel cutting. Take off most of the leaves before putting it in the pot. Take basal cuttings of hollow stemmed plants such as delphiniums, aconites and dahlias in April and root cuttings of oriental poppies and verbascum in November/ December.
6. Division: Split irises every 2 to 3 years. Cut the rhizome so that it is just 2" long from the leaves and compost the remaining rhizome. Do this with bearded irises immediately after flowering. Campanulas

become dead in the centre so in autumn cut out the ring of live plant, compost the remainder, feed the soil and replant. This can and should be done to most herbaceous perennials at least once every five years. Divide grasses and asters in April.

7. Pruning: For those plants that flower before midsummer, prune immediately after they have flowered. For plants that flower after midsummer, prune in March. With later flowering shrubs, prune some stems harder than others so that you will have a continuation of flowers.
8. Planting out: Make sure the compost is covered by soil to prevent it drying out. Dried out compost in which plants are growing is very difficult to re - wet and will be blown away by the wind.

If you have any comments about Miss Logue's advice or have your own hints and tips, please send them to me on [19biz45@gmail.com](mailto:19biz45@gmail.com) or drop them into my porch at Hillside, Oakridge Lynch so they can be published in the next edition of What's On.

In the meantime, good gardening!  
*Bizzie White*

## **NEWS FROM OLLIE'S SHOP**

Wow - What a last few months! A real challenge for everyone and like so many businesses in the UK and around the world, we have had to adapt and change how we serve you in many ways, as well as using much creativity to source and supply all those hard to find items (who would have thought?!) Thankfully, those shortages are now a thing of the past! We have missed seeing many of you who we used to see daily but had to self-isolate, but we are glad we could still serve you safely "from a distance". Needless to say, we can't wait to welcome you back into the shop with a big smile, even if it is behind our masks. To that end, please know that we will continue our efforts to keep the community safe: only one person (or household) can enter at a time so it will never be crowded. We also have hand sanitiser at the door and till points, and can take card payments or bank transfer for cash free transactions.

In more "normal" news, we have continued to add new products and delights to our range. Fat Toni's pizzas have already been a hit and our extensive flour range has seen the addition of a popular organic local brand, of which the seeded variety has been most welcomed by the village bread bakers. Our wine selection is also now including lovely

summer favourites such as different rosés, with Côtes De Provence proving to be a customer favourite.

Speaking of summer, should you need to travel abroad, please note that at the Post Office we are now able to offer travel money in the form of a multi-currency travel card which works as a debit card for the foreign currency or currencies of choice (can hold as many as 23 different currencies). A much more secure (it is not linked to your bank account) and convenient way to handle foreign currency transactions these days, should you need to travel abroad.

We won't be needing one as this year we won't be going to Spain, but we'll be taking a much needed 'staycation', reopening the shop on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> August. Our apologies for the inconvenience.

We hope you all have a great summer. Stay safe and see you soon.  
*Laura and Oscar*

## **NEWS FROM OAKRIDGE SCHOOL: Impact of the Coronavirus on school life**



OAKRIDGE PAROCHIAL SCHOOL

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March was a very strange day. Following the announcement by the Government for all schools to close, we put together folders of work for children to take home and wondered when we

would be able to see them again and resume the normality that we were used to.

Lockdown came the following week. The children responded well to the work staff had provided for them; this was put on the school website with regular updates from teachers to ensure activities were engaging. Parents were also keen to support and had a lot to contend with, some with a number of children to 'home school' as well as having to balance the demands of working from home. With a more flexible approach to learning (and the reassurance by teachers not to worry about using, dare I say, older techniques and strategies) families rose to the challenge.

Throughout the period, teachers maintained contact with families, either through email or phone calls to see how children were getting on, and this was well received. It was a challenge but the home learning produced some very creative responses which was a joy to see.

We were then able to welcome back some of the younger children and those at the top of the school, who would soon be moving onto secondary education. It was important to send these children onto the next phase of their lives with a good transition, enabling them to say farewell to their primary school in a positive way. We were also conscious of those who remained at home for such a long period of time and were very pleased to bring children of other ages back for a few days before the end of the school year.

Staff and Governors all worked hard to ensure the school was safe for everyone to return. The school is looking quite different with social distancing measures along with various restrictions, which will continue into the autumn term. Lots of things are in place to ensure both the children and their families are confident and I am extremely grateful for the dedication of everyone that ensured this happened.

We are all keen to get back to the time when we can welcome each and every child to school every day. We very much hope that a return to something close to normal will arrive soon and look forward to taking up this challenge in September.

*Jonathan Preston*

*Executive Headteacher*

## **GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR STUDENTS**

The John Taylor Foundation is a charity that helps young people that are going to college/university/starting apprenticeships with the cost of books, equipment, tools etc.

If you are interested, under 25, haven't previously applied, and live in the ancient parish of Bisley, please apply in writing to Mrs P Bashford, Eskdale, Vander Breen St, Bisley, GL67BN, before September 5th, stating name, age, college/university/employer/course.

## **THE HISTORY OF THE WHAT'S ON**

What's On was started in about 1979 by Rev Eric Pyecroft who lived in what is now John Bailey's cottage, and Pat Carrick who lived at Hillview, Water Lane. The first edition I have is No 11 and the joint Editor was Gill Young of Water Lane with Pat. Their telephone numbers were only three numbers long on the Bisley Exchange, and Oakridge was on the

Frampton Mansell exchange, which was on the A419 and visible from Oakridge. The February March 1986 edition had the words on the front "What and Who and Where and When Here's the Local News All events we aim to mention Those now past Some yet to come Other items always welcome Notices, recollections, ads".

It was typed on a wide stencil which was two layered and used specially for reproduction of magazines etc. The stencil had to be folded onto a manual typewriter which had a narrow carriage and the long typewriter keys cut the individual letters on to the stencil, which as you can imagine, had to be very accurate. If you made an error you used a pink liquid to paint over the letter and then type over it. The stencil was attached by a perforated edge very carefully so that it was not creased onto an inked roller on the Gestetner duplicator and a large handle was turned to produce a copy on to usually coloured paper. The Editor had to guess what was to be the middle pages and half a page was typed on the left side and the stencil taken out of the typewriter. The front was page 1 with a drawing and that required a special tool to create the picture. Page 2 with text was on the left and page 7 was typed on the right of page 2 in an 8 page edition. The machine was in what is now John Bailey's studio. It took two and a half days to type and then print about 300 copies turning the handle for every page.

I have found looking at past editions rather distracting reading them. My first edition as Editor was December 1986/January 1987. We were given a redundant Gestetner by Florence Greathead who lived at St Michaels Cottage from Chalford Chairs when it closed. We had it here and it served us well for many years until the ink pump gave up in September 1995. We investigated its repair which would have cost £110. For some time I used Pat's typewriter which she brought round, and then I acquired a redundant word processor which was a huge help. From that I progressed to my computer which I bought and it became very easy. After the failure of the Gestetner (which was dismantled and taken to the refuse tip most of it going in the metal bin), we had the fortune to be able to print every issue by courtesy of Wicliffe College and we used this facility for about 3 years. We took our own paper and paid the College £5 every time.

We decided to investigate buying our own copy printer, so we went to Abbey Business Equipment in Cheltenham and managed to buy it for about £600. They would only deal with business so we used the Parish Council and paid them for it. This depleted our funds completely and Alex and I contributed to it to secure its purchase. I put an appeal in What's On and everyone gave us some money towards it. Right from the



beginning it was funded by voluntary donations for many years. Production became very easy and instead of taking two and a half days it could be completed in just over one day. We had to buy another copy printer in 2009 which was a more up to date model, but that also needed a new part a short while ago. Fortunately our funds are much better now because the Parish Council gives every parish ward magazine £150 a year. Bisley and Eastcombe have theirs professionally printed which costs a lot more so we can be proud that ours is the cheapest one to produce.

I decided to retire and Teresa Howes took it over in 2014 and she introduced drawings into the text. She moved to Frampton Mansell and Victoria then took over in 2017.

*Gill Davis*

## OAKRIDGE VILLAGE HALL



Taking advantage of the closure period, the side entrance lobby has been reorganised, and it and the kitchen has been redecorated. New LED strip lights have been fitted in the kitchen and power points in the main hall. So we have a bright new look entrance

and kitchen ready for when we can make proper use of them.

Regarding re-opening we have been taking advice and guidance from GRCC, who oversee all the Gloucestershire Village Halls, and have put in place all the necessary signage and equipment. A huge limiting factor in re-opening is the need to clean thoroughly between hirers, as this will be time consuming for our volunteer committee, particularly with regard to the use of upholstered furniture. At the current time, we are able to see the return of Ballyhoo dance classes, and Thursday morning Yoga.

Obviously we are in a constantly changing situation and the Trustees will keep GRCC guidance and Government instructions under review.

## OAKRIDGE SHOW

Sadly the Village Show committee have decided that there will be no Show this year due to the uncertainties brought by the Covid-19 pandemic. However, we would like to offer you the opportunity to have your best Craft, Flower, Fruit and Vegetable exhibits on display online via

the Oakridge Community website! Entries will not be judged in the usual way, rather act as a way to record the efforts being made on allotments, gardens and craft tables during the year.

**Please send photos, clearly marked with the entry category, to oakridgewatson@gmail.com, to arrive by the original Show date of 5<sup>th</sup> September.** The display will be available on the website [www.oakridgevillage.org](http://www.oakridgevillage.org) shortly afterwards.

Categories:

1. Flowers (individual specimens) and Flower Arrangements
2. Fruit and Vegetables
3. Baking
4. Handicrafts
5. Photography
6. Children's Exhibits age 4 and under
7. Children's Exhibits Infants age 5, 6 and 7
8. Children's Exhibits Juniors age 8-11
9. Children's Exhibits Secondary age 12-16
10. Special category – "Lockdown" – anything that represents this unusual time for you eg a poem or picture

Without a Village Show we are not able to raise funds that are needed for village projects. The What's On kitty is low so any donations will be very welcome (cheques payable to What's On can be delivered to either Gill Davis at Hungerfords in Oakridge Lynch, or Victoria Beard at Applecroft in Far Oakridge.

We are looking forward to next year, the date for your diary is Saturday 4th September 2021. Also look out for a village show meeting in February to get together and chat over ideas for the show.

In the meantime, we'd like to share some history and memories of Shows gone by.....

### **A Short History of the Oakridge Show:**

The first mention I can find of the Show, is a copy of the 1948 Oakridge Flower, Fruit & Vegetable Show Schedule, held on the first Saturday in September, raising funds at the time for the construction of the Village Hall. The date of the Show, and in fact the show categories and rules of entry, appear to have remained little changed ever since! This Show format was very much more allied to that of a Garden Club show, rather than including the varied entertainments we have today.

There are several photos in the Oakridge History Group Archive dating from the 1950s, which see the Oakridge Fete being held on the Village and Church Greens outside the School. At some point the Show moved to the playing field and Village Hall after the original Hall was built in 1954.

In July 1979 a fete was held at Waterlane House, and was organised by Mrs Owen, owner of Waterlane House, Mary Hunt, Pat Carrick and many other helpers. It was a great success and raised £1,000, which was a great deal of money in those days. I suspect that it was after the success of this fete, that the entertainment element became linked with that of the Flower and Vegetable show – perhaps someone with a better memory could confirm this (or otherwise).

The Show has always been a wonderful opportunity to see villagers, young and old, together enjoying the stalls and games, swing boats and other entertainments, ice cream and all the produce, flowers and other entries in the various competitions. Since c.2006, vintage cars have been added to the Show line up, attracting a good number of entries, including in 2019 some 15 from the village itself. There has always been a fundraising/charity-supporting element, as an aside to the main business of getting village folk together. Many charities have benefitted from the generosity of visitors to the Show, including lots of village projects eg the pre-school playground equipment in 2008, and the purchase of the Village Defibrillator in 2014.

In 1997 the Show coincided with the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales, and the decision was taken at the time to go ahead, incorporating a minute silence and a Book of Condolence which was later sent to Kensington Palace. Apparently it was felt at the time that since the beneficiary charity that year was Winston's Wish, it seemed in keeping with her general ethos and so appropriate to keep to the original plans for the day.

By 2001 the opening ceremony, performed in past years by "celebrities" such as Darth Vader or Postman Pat, and occasionally real ones like Rob Rees (the Cotswold Chef) or Bruce Hockin (ITV presenter), had moved to an official opening by the School May Queen, a tradition which continues today.

If anyone has any other memories of the Show that they would like to share, please do get in touch.

*Victoria Beard*

### **From Michael Scott: OAKRIDGE SHOW - ANYONE FOR ICE CREAM?**

Helen and I moved to Oakridge in 1973, with three young children in tow. We loved the community feel of the place and quickly made friends, aided by some hilarious ballroom dance classes held in the Village Hall. Terry Hobson persuaded us to help with the well-established Show by selling ice cream. It happened that, many years previously, three generations of Helen's family ran a successful business in Gloucester making and selling traditional Italian ice cream - the recipe was a closely guarded family secret! So we decided to use that same approach at the Show - one which celebrates village-grown flowers, fruit and vegetables, as well as delicious jams, cakes and preserves. What could be simpler?

We soon found out! Show day minus two - Helen goes to Gloucester to buy spoons, straws, cups and dishes from the Licensed Victuallers Association shop: then motors on to Newent to hand pick raspberries. Once home, and raspberries washed, they'd be simmered briefly ....

Show day minus one - the family tent is taken up to the Field and erected and equipped with tables, chairs (why? no chance to sit down!) rubbish bin, signage, price list, tablecloth, and cashbox.

Show Day! I leave work at 11.30 a.m. and drive to Gloucester. George at Tartaglia's Ice Cream's premises meets me and pops the two full lead lined ice cream churns, along with the chocolate flakes and cornets we've pre-ordered, into the boot. Then it's up Birdlip Hill to Oakridge. Once home, I heave the churns into the garage to keep cool, cursing my own weakness, and nip indoors for a sandwich. By 1.45 p.m. we're on the field, ice cream churns in place, hoping for a customer or two.

The weather's good today! Swing boats and Punch and Judy will be popular. Much-loved Dr. Hubert Crouch opens the Show promptly and suddenly there's a queue at our stall! The queue is maintained for the next two hours! The kids seem to love the cola soda, though some prefer a "99", with a chocolate flake sticking out of a cornet. Helen, wearing plastic gloves, makes up every single order, poor girl, as she reaches ever deeper into the churns with her scoop. The "pieces de resistance" prove to be her chocolate sundae (flake, sauce, "sprinkles") and raspberry sundae, with a dash of real cream on top of Tartaglia's finest.

By about 4.30 p.m. we've sold out. It's time to draw breath, clear the decks and to listen to Bob Gardiner auctioning the produce.

One last race against time. The empty churns go back to Lyda's Cottage, where Helen washes them out. Then I'm back to George at Tartaglia's by 6.30 p.m., returning the empties - I'm the last one in, he says with a smile!

They do say that, once the Field was cleared that evening, there was a "knees-up" at the "Butchers". Helen and I have no idea about that! We were just glad that our "simple" ice cream stall had done okay and made a good contribution towards the chosen charity.

We were really happy to have been involved in this small way for quite a number of years, not least because of all the long lasting friendships we made. The enormous efforts of so many people over the years have ensured the continuing success of our annual Village Show - it's great that the Show goes on!

### **From Sue Hunt: EVENING EVENTS**

We, that is Mary and Trevor Fern, Bob and Jenny Gardiner, Frank and Jean Parsons, Jill Hobson and Barry and myself were better known in the 70s and 80s as The Oakridge Entertainments Committee, and we organised the dances on the evening of The Oakridge Flower Show. We had live bands and bars, themed fancy dress and these were very well attended. The auction after the Flower Show was made infamous by the rivalry of Frankie Finch, David Hunt and Barry who every year bid against each other and produce etc was sold for extortionate prices which gave a boost to the charities and was very amusing.

### **From Bob and Jenny Gardiner (Show Committee members for some 37 years!)**

There was always an evening do after the Show with homemade entertainment and supper, pre-ordered Fish and Chips which Terry (Hobson) used to go and collect; I did ham salads for those not wanting fish and chips. There was always an evening auction as well to add to the fundraising.

For many years the judges and their partners used to come to our house for a buffet lunch after judging and we also invited whoever was opening the Show so that they got a bit of background information to the Show. I remember one year Bruce Hockin, ITV presenter, coming, a charming man and Oakridge often got a mention in his TV bulletins. Bob often didn't make it to lunch, too busy sorting out Show cards etc and the

hardest job for me was getting folk back up again to the Show for the opening at 2pm.

At some point it changed to a Weekend Show and on the Sunday there was a midday open air service organised by Alan Dyer and John and Gill Young. Bob used to bring some of his brass band friends to play the hymns. The collection from the service also went to the fundraising. Afterwards a picnic lunch and then a cricket match or rounders or other games.

## THE BUTCHERS ARMS



It's been lovely to see so many of you in **your** village pub again! Our new menu has been received well and we are now offering food all day from Monday - Saturday and from noon - 4pm on Sundays. Traditional roasts will be back on the menu in September. Monday night is Pizza night,

takeaway or eat in.

Delicious cream teas are available Mon-Sat afternoons - bookings essential on 01285 760390.

Our self-catering cottage is now finished, boasting a new bathroom and kitchen and is available as a holiday let with immediate effect.

Quiz night has been popular with you all, and the next is on Sunday 2nd of August followed by the 5th of September (8pm start). Thanks go to Andy and Kevin (well done Leeds!) for all their hard work in putting it all together for us.

Our first mini beer festival will hopefully be held on the first weekend of September, more details will be available nearer the time.

*Keep well everyone!*

*Greg & Bev*

## NATURE NOTES FROM WATERLANE...



I was having my breakfast recently when an animal started browsing on the bank overlooking my kitchen. I thought at first it was one of the local whippets, but then its head came up and I saw it was a Muntjac deer. I was amazed how tiny it was, barely a match for a

medium size dog. They have a reddish brown coat above but whitish underneath, unbranched antlers that slope backwards and a pair of long canine teeth, the juvenile has white spots on its flank.

The Muntjac is native to China and the Far East and was introduced to this country at Woburn Park at the start of the 20th century. It inevitably escaped from this location and other captive sites and gave rise to the large population we see today. They have a rather varied vegetarian diet, they browse low growing vegetation including brambles and shrubs, strip tree bark and shoots, but will eat grasses and forage for fungi and fallen fruit.

They are also known as the barking deer due to their repeated loud barking and screams, which to the uninitiated sounds like an animal in distress. The woods around Tunley are a good place to see or hear them locally.

*Alan White*

## ... AND FROM OAKRIDGE LYNCH

Many of you wrote in the last edition of your experiences of lockdown. In the latter part of this I have had much pleasure from the large variety of birds on my feeders. The view from my east facing kitchen window shows a dense Montana Clematis covering a pergola and the feeders hang underneath it giving birds protection from Sparrowhawks and the rain. The seed feeder contains sunflower hearts and has six ports so that the birds can fly straight onto it, or 'wait in a queue' in the clematis to take their turn. It has curving branches underneath where they sometimes bash the food to take to the young in the nest. I have seen the Coal Tit; Blue Tit feeding young on site; Great Tit and several Long Tailed Tits; one Greenfinch hanging on the peanuts; Robin of course; a pair of Nuthatches; two or three Goldfinch at one time; and Greater Spotted Woodpecker. I was really thrilled to see both male and female Woodpecker, which I haven't seen for many years. Another wonderful experience was seeing the parent Green Woodpeckers and two young on

a wall by the drive, feeding on insects under the lip of the stone. Lastly, we were sitting outside as the Heron glided over to land on the pond at the bottom of the garden.

*Gill Davis*

## OAKRIDGE RAINWATCH



The rainfall in May and June, as measured by my rain gauge, was as follows:-

May..... 4 mm.....about 0.15 ins.

June..... 96 mm.....about 3.8 ins.

So far the rainfall in July is 48.9 mm.....about 1.9 ins.

*Gill Farrar*

## MEMORIES OF OAKRIDGE PAST

The first in what I hope will become a regular feature, 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, details at the front of the What's On. Next edition – 'Schooldays'.

### **Childhood in Far Oakridge Pre-2<sup>nd</sup> World War: John Fry**

I was born on July 1<sup>st</sup> 1932 in 'The Cott' Far Oakridge (now Pear Tree Cottage) to Edgar and Phyllis Fry; I had an older sister Mary. In today's terms our house was pretty sparse, none of the cottages had mains water, until the Italian prisoners of war laid the pipes in. We had no electricity supply either, that came much later. Our lights were oil lamps, or candles, and cooking was done on a coal range (or logs to help the coal ration).

As children we had very little in the way of toys! We made our own things with whatever came to hand. I had a hoop, an old metal rim from an ancient pushbike – minus the inner tube and tyre and a few spokes! Plus a carefully selected round, straight hazelnut stick with which to propel it noisily along the road. If pram wheels became available – these were greatly prized – with planks of wood, a length of rope and a lot of work, we got our own first "vehicle". In the winter months we concocted



sledges and played for hours quite safely away from home up and down the steeper hills and slopes in the fields, often until almost dark and feeling very cold we would arrive home to sit by the fire to thaw out, hoping Mum wouldn't be too cross, and could satisfy our shouts of "I'm hungry Mum" with some warming hot food. Often evening entertainment was a game of cards, before a cup of cocoa and bed! If we got fed-up with cards, Dad and I played draughts – he was an expert and try as I might I never won! Mum and I played "Shove Half-penny", Mum right-handed and me left – hours of pleasurable fun.

**CHILDHOOD MEMORIES AT WATERLANE (circa 1930s)**  
*by Alison Gardiner*

What happy hours we spent in play  
 Down in that leafy hollow,  
 While planning in our childish way  
 What we'd do on the morrow.

We ventured in the tinkly stream  
 And gathered muddy clay  
 To fashion little cups and plates  
 To decorate with May.

We'd potter through the sunlit lanes  
 Out to the bluebell wood  
 Sometimes to pick a bunch or two,  
 For in those days one could.

We'd cross the banks and meadows  
 To the ruins of the "The Greys"  
 And imagine who had lived there  
 Back in those far off days.

We knew where to find wild snowdrops  
 When they were at their best  
 And primroses at Easter  
 Another childlike quest.

And then we looked for more to do  
 As we were growing older  
 We had all the freedom in the world  
 And we were getting bolder.

There was an overhanging branch  
From that lovely ancient beech  
It grew above the footpath  
At a height that we could reach.

And so we climbed aloft and swayed  
And bounced the hours away  
Until Nature's toy was there no more,  
A victim of decay.

We had various bits and pieces  
And a blue enamel jug  
A tiny china tea-set  
And a Coronation mug.

We played Hopscotch in the roadway  
And shops upon the wall  
The "fox and hounds" by moonlight  
A game much loved by all.

We played Marbles in due season  
And a game of Whipping Top  
Then Yo-Yo was high fashion  
Until Conkers were 'red hot'.

We chose fireworks in November  
Oh what a vast array  
Of Catherine Wheels and Jumping Jacks  
And Rockets on display.

Each year we built a bonfire – a superhuman feat  
For weeks we children gathered fuel  
On Saturdays and after school  
Guy's pyre a hard earned treat.

For this event we were renowned  
Folk gathered here from miles around.  
Memories made of country joy,  
We had no need of a plastic toy.

## A BOOK FOR CHILDREN

### " MIDNIGHT AT LUCAS BAY"

I've spent many hours during lockdown getting a book ready for publication as an ebook. It's an adventure story for children aged between about 9 and 14, set in the Gower Peninsula. It will be available from Amazon in early August. The brilliant illustrations are by Sarah Wimperis.



Michael was dared by his sister Kate to go down to Lucas Bay at midnight. What he saw there changed an ordinary summer into a world of gun runners, secret agents and dangerous adventures for six friends

I will be giving £1.00 for every book sold for at least the next 3 months to The Family Holiday Association, a charity which gives disadvantaged families a break so its work is very necessary at this time. They have an excellent website.

It's a win/win situation: You buy the book and make me happy; you enjoy reading the book which makes you happy and me even happier; and we all help a good cause.

I'm publishing it under the name of Lee Pennell [www.leepennell.co.uk](http://www.leepennell.co.uk).  
*Bizzie White*

## **BISLEY-with-LYPIATT PARISH COUNCIL**

Please see the Parish Council website for Ward information and minutes of Council meetings. [www.bisley-with-lypiatt.gov.uk](http://www.bisley-with-lypiatt.gov.uk). Next PC meetings: Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> August and Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September

**New PC website:** The PC is getting the Parish website redesigned and updated at present which should greatly assist in its usability and hopefully will encourage more people to use it.

**Off-road motorcycling:** Over the C-19 pandemic, there seems to have been an increase in illegal off-road motorcycling. Whilst motorbikes are allowed on some of the un-made roads, it is illegal to use them on footpaths and bridleways. The PC has engaged the Police to deploy officers to stop this with some effect. If you do see motorbikes riding illegally please take their registration numbers (usually only at the rear) and report them to the Police.

**Allotment bonfires:** Again, bonfires seem to have increased despite a temporary ban on bonfires on all PC allotments for the duration of the pandemic. If anyone is affected by any unauthorised bonfires please let one of your parish councillors know and we can take appropriate action.

**Vacancy for Parish Councillor (Oakridge Ward):** We are still a councillor short for our ward – if anyone wants to volunteer please let the Clerk know that you are interested (The Clerk - Bisley-With-Lypiatt Parish Council - [admin@bisley-with-lypiatt.gov.uk](mailto:admin@bisley-with-lypiatt.gov.uk) )

**Verges:** The Parish Council has long been concerned about the mowing of verges that are increasingly recognised as important wildlife corridors and has agreed not to cut grass verges until late July in line with County Council policy and Plantlife Guidelines.

**Dark Skies Campaign:** As you will remember the Parish Council supports this principle together with many other councils and groups. [https://britastro.org/dark-skies/pdfs/CfDS\\_booklet\\_Rev07.pdf](https://britastro.org/dark-skies/pdfs/CfDS_booklet_Rev07.pdf)

*Tony Martin (brx44@ymail.com)*

## DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWS

Hello to you all, I hope you and your families are all safe and well. At the time of writing this, the Govt. are discussing distancing rules and opening non-essential shops. There also seems to have been, sadly, a spike in vehicle pollution and activity on our roads. The positive thing is that gardening seems to have boomed as we look to make more habitats for our pollinators; at home we have planted several areas of wildflower mix and bought some new honey bees.

On a negative note, I was frustrated to witness the frequency in which dog walkers would not pick-up after their dogs– especially on the lane running from Bisley through to Througham past '*Graduate Gardeners*'; there is a bin there for dog waste so there is no excuse. I am still in two minds whether it is arrogance or a lack of respect for the environment and those in it – perhaps both, what do you think?

**Breaking new ground with the police:** Complaints about motorcyclists using fields and footpaths has increased in the last two months. Sunday (31<sup>st</sup> May) resulted in a very abusive interaction between several families and a group of green-laners. We have managed to secure active engagement from senior Police Officers and our local MP. I would stress, no one is trying to stop the enjoyment of riders who comply with all the rules; they have however managed to stop 5 illegal motor bikes (untaxed, insured etc) during the last operation.

Whilst the above is an individual matter, I am using the meetings to continue to build long-lasting relationship with these senior officers who have the power to deploy the necessary resources to meet the unique needs of our rural community and keep us safe. My first meeting this month is with the Police Commissioner to discuss rural crime and how we can ensure active policing in our community. Specific reference is going to be made on farm / stable crimes as well as garden / allotment security. We have further agreed that the police will have a more active presence in this area from now on. The Chief. Supt. Int. has also requested she meet with me whilst undertaking a visit of all of her stations.

If you have any questions or points you want to discuss, get in touch with me.

**Bonfires:** As explained in my previous submission, bonfires have become a real issue since the lockdown and meant that I am working with officers on an increased basis. Two cases involve sites that have

licenses to collect waste, but it is the belief that the waste is being burnt leaving only valuable items which are then sold. With support from one of the Bisley Ward Parish Councillors, I was able to provide enough evidence to get both SDC and Environmental Agency to review these matters and conduct a site visit. The largest advice, in anticipation of anyone else bringing bonfires to my attention, would be to take photos, record number plates, record times/ dates and state who is doing this. This can speed up enforcement action.

**Drones:** I have been working with the police to discuss an increase in drone incidents. It could be harmless fun, but we cannot overlook that some drones have been hovering over buildings rather than fields -why? Cranham have seen drones shortly before experiencing burglaries. Chalford / Bussage have also experienced this. Please do let me know if you have seen any in our community. I had a visit from two officers Wednesday to say that they have caught one culprit and that all drones are supposedly required to register their serial codes to a person and UK address. This matter continues.

**Easement rights:** We were contacted by a resident asking about the risk of any future development plans which could prevent him enforcing an easement right. Whilst not typical, I am happy to support any resident by providing an objective explanation of our local plan and development plans to meet the district housing need.

**Boy Racers:** Continuing the thread of vehicular danger, I have reported a number of cases where boy racers are still using Eastcombe-Bisley and Bisley-Stroud as a drag strip. Police suggested the use of drones and request reg plates. As of yet, the varied times / days make it difficult to monitor. If anyone sees this, please do record a plate or take a photo/video- it would be appreciated.

**St Mary's:** I was approached an Eastcombe Ward Parish Cllr. about St Mary's, the issue being that the building does not presently have a protection listing registered to it. Having followed this up with SDC, we were told that '*Local Listings*' are a desired initiative, but something not yet implemented by SDC. I am pushing officers and the Env. team to see if we could accelerate the adoption of this. The above is an individual matter but could apply to any building in our community with significant value. I was one of several members who scrutinised and approved the Stroud District heritage strategy and the above example goes to the heart of the strategy's objectives.

**Full Council:** SDC have done a fantastic job getting all council members together on zoom calls. We had our first full council meeting on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> which involved agreeing to use zoom to make democratic decisions and the quorate threshold. The key topic for discussion at the Environmental Committee was renewal of our recycling contracts. As you know, we sell our recylates to firms to generate revenue for the local authority and their contracts need to be reviewed regularly. We were also asked to consider approval for reviewing a larger site and how best to manage 'soiled' (wet / dirty) paper etc.

**Council Grants:** Several matters regarding business grants have been brought to my attention since my last submission, prompted by the earlier report – which is great. If you are trying to secure the grant and are having issues, please get in touch.

### **What do you want to hear more about?**

I am open to suggestions- are there any topics or matters for discussion you want to hear more about? Please let me know.

Thank you, *Councillor Tim Williams*

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

- [Timothy.er.williams@outlook.com](mailto:Timothy.er.williams@outlook.com)
- Mob: 07920754700
- Send / deliver a letter to Ebley Mill SDC offices

	<p><b>Citizens Advice Stroud &amp; Cotswold</b> <b>Pension Credit</b></p>
---	---

This is an income-related benefit made up of 2 parts, and is designed to help pensioners on low incomes.

**Guarantee Credit** is intended to top up the weekly income of a single person in receipt of State Retirement Pension, whose income is below £173.75, or a couple who have both reached state pension age, and whose joint income is below £265.20. There are slightly different rules for couples where one is below state retirement age.

**Savings Credit** is an extra payment for people who have additional pensions or savings. To be entitled to Savings Credit the claimant must have reached State Retirement Pension age before 6<sup>th</sup> April 2016.

All Pension Credit claims are means-tested, however income from **Attendance Allowance and Personal Independence Payments** are disregarded and may allow an increase in Pension Credit payment. If

you receive an award of Pension Credit **you may be entitled to Housing Benefit and/or Council Tax Support, and you can still be eligible if you own your own home. You will also not have to pay for your TV Licence if you are aged 75 or over.**

**There are many pensioners missing out on possible awards of Pension Credit:** To find out if you may be entitled contact **The Pension Credit Claim line: freephone 0800 99 1234.**

A friend or relative can also call for you.

Or if you would like any more information and help with this or any other matters, please contact us on **our Confidential Freephone : 0808 800 0510 or 0808 800 0511 Mon to Fri 10 am to 4 pm**

**If you know anyone who might need our help, and particularly those who do not have access to the internet, please pass on our details - we are just a phone call away.**

## 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 22<sup>nd</sup> May to 24<sup>th</sup> July 2020:

S.20/0840/FUL Change of use from residential annexe to holiday let, The Old Vicarage, Oakridge Lynch	Permitted
S.20/0677/LBC Changes to Library, Waterlane House	Permitted
S.20/0644/HHOLD Raise roof to single storey element, Frithwood, Far Oakridge	Permitted
S.20/1382/HHOLD Erect detached building, Bakers Paddock, Oakridge Lynch	Awaiting Decision
S.20/1293/HHOLD Provide 1 <sup>st</sup> floor accommodation, Longridge, Oakridge Lynch	Awaiting Decision
S.20/1086/FUL Demolish and replace existing dwelling, Downe, Oakridge Lynch	Awaiting Decision