



Oakley Green, Fifield & District Community Association

Autumn Newsletter

October 2011



www.ogafcap.co.uk

In this issue read about...



...another successful fun day



...a sporting achievement



...an adventurous family ramble



...how to get help with digital switchover

...as well as community news and forthcoming OGAFCA social events.

OGAFCA AGM 2011

The second Annual General Meeting of the Oakley Green, Fifield and District Community Association Limited took place on Thursday 22 September at 7:30 pm in Braywood Memorial Hall and there was a good turnout of local residents.

The Agenda covered the **Directors' Report** and **Financial Accounts**, a **Report on the Activities of the Association**, and the **Election of one Director**. It was also an opportunity for residents to ask questions and to meet other residents, members of the Association and the Committee.

The Directors Report and Financial Accounts had been circulated to members before the Meeting. The Treasurer (Helen Howard) described the finances for the period from the formation of the Association on 3 March 2010 to the end of the Financial Year on 31 March 2011. Details are included immediately after this article.

At the end of the financial year, the Association had a small surplus of £1987.96.

Income for the Association is derived from advertising in the quarterly newsletter, social events, memberships, grants and donations. Expenditure is on newsletter printing, annual insurances, social events, hall hire fees, fliers, website domain and hosting costs and the AGM.

Report on the Activities of The Association

The Chairman (Grenville Annetts) gave a brief history of major events leading up to the start of the year before discussing the activities of the past 12 months since the last AGM in September 2010. The major milestones for 2011 have been:

Publication of four free newsletters	Oct/Feb/April/July
First Local Business Forum Meeting	21 March
Big Society Open Day - Windsor Girl's School	26 March
Royal Wedding Street Party	29 April
Third Annual Food, Wine & Ales Fair	10 July
Support for the Fifield Fun Day	13 August
Meeting with representatives of Residents Association	13 September
Second Annual General Meeting	22 September

The OGAFCA newsletter is edited by Trudi Knight
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The views expressed in the OGAFCA newsletter do not necessarily reflect those of the editor.
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The main work of the Association is centred around implementing the 23 Actions identified in the Community and Local Businesses Action Plans. There are seven work groups made up of volunteers who meet as and when required. Then, once every three months or so, there is a meeting of all members and volunteers, with everyone welcome to come along.

In addition, the committee of the Association has met seven times in the year and is made up of the four Directors of the Association (Grenville Annetts, Helen Howard, Robin Howard and Louise Shenston) and the work group spokespersons - Robin Howard (Children & Youths), Trudi Knight (Communications), Bill Collier (Community Safety), Barbara Frame and Rod Lord (Environment), Paula Grevett (Local Business), Louise Shenston (Roads and Transport) and Grenville Annetts (Social and Recreational). These have been supported by almost another 53 volunteers spread across the work groups and helping with activities and events over the year.

Activities of the Association - The Chairman then gave a brief description of the activities of the Association by work group. (Fuller updates are given regularly in the quarterly newsletters):
Children & Youths - family rambles (2) and looking for an open area for public use.

Communications – four quarterly newsletters, website running and expanding since Feb 2009 and efforts to bring broadband to the area.

Community Safety – representation on our two local NAGs, establishment of “Have your Say” meetings with PCSOs at the Fifield Inn and raising safety awareness in newsletters.

Environment - solving local drainage/flooding issues, improving footpaths and bridle paths with programme of kissing gates replacing old styles and litter picking.

Local Business – over 100 companies have now been identified as operating in our area. One Business Forum Meeting held. Important source of income from advertising.

Roads & Transport - traffic speed reduction across our area – consultation about reduction on Forest Green Road. Participation in SpeedWatch Scheme and extension of footways.

Social & Recreational - Promotion of clubs, venues and activities, organisation of three social events (Race Night, Street Party and Food, Wine and Ales Fair) and support for Fifield Fun Day

Other activities have been participation in the RBWM Big Society Day in Windsor in March and preliminary discussions about working closer with the Residents Association in September.

What can you do to help/be involved? The Chairman said there are many opportunities: including but not limited to, becoming a member of the Association, joining a work group, delivering newsletters, writing an article for the newsletter and helping out at events.

Election of Directors - The Chairman advised the AGM that under the Rules of The Association, one of the four existing Directors is required to stand down at the AGM on a rotation basis. On this occasion, after drawing lots, it was the turn of himself (Grenville Annetts) to stand down. Nomination forms had been circulated to all members of the Association in advance of the meeting and just one person came forward. The Vice Chairman took on the role of Chairman whilst voting took place and Grenville Annetts was duly elected to be a Director.

Any Other Business - The Chairman then invited questions from the floor and responses were given by members of the Committee. The Chairman thanked residents for attending and the committee and volunteers for their enormous contributions and commitment over past months. The formal meeting then closed at 8:20 pm.

The Chairman then introduced Sarah Ward from The Community Council for Berkshire and invited her to give a very interesting talk about the Digital TV Switchover planned in our area for early 2012. (See another reference to this event later in this Newsletter.)

Refreshments were served at 8:40pm

Grenville Annetts

The OGAFCA Financial Report is printed over the page

Dates for your diary

OGAFCA Family Bingo - Saturday 29 October

Art Club Exhibition - Saturday 12 November

Residents Association meeting - Friday 25 November

OGAFCA Christmas Fair - Saturday 26 November

OGAFCA winter newsletter deadline - 3 January 2012

Oakley Green, Fifield and District Community Association Limited
Income and expenditure account for the period
3 March 2010 to 31 March 2011

2011

Income	£	£
Membership subscriptions	408.00	
Members' social event	1540.44	
Newsletter advertising	920.02	
Donations received	2350.00	
		5218.46
Expenditure		
Social events	1149.91	
Venue hire	128.00	
Website costs	82.46	
Insurance	506.41	
Administration	308.72	
Newsletter	1055.00	
		<u>3230.50</u>
Excess of income over expenditure for the period		1987.96

Balance sheet at 31 March 2011

	£	£
Fixed assets		
Current assets		
Cash at Bank	3096.97	
Cash	124.79	
		<u>3221.76</u>
Debtors	0.00	
		<u>3221.76</u>
Current Liabilities		
Creditors	1050.00	
Accruals	183.80	
		<u>1233.80</u>
		<u>1987.96</u>
Represented by		
Income and expenditure account		<u>1987.96</u>
		<u>1987.96</u>

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statement

Another 'fun day' in Fifield and Oakley Green

The village Fun Day this year was yet again, a great day out for all the family.

We must first convey a BIG "Thank you" to all those volunteers who made the day possible and to everyone who came along and made the day a roaring success.

The Fun Day organisers would also like to thank the many local businesses who offered sponsorship and donations.

This year the event took place in a new venue in the centre of Fifield village. Not only did this make access to the Steam Train rides much easier, but as everything was in one place the whole event had a cosy, country fair atmosphere.

The steam train, as always, proved to be very popular, as were the Birds of Prey demonstrations (apparently Hedwig made an appearance) the Dog Show, the Punch & Judy, the Working Gun Dogs demonstration, the Ferret Racing, the Small Animal Farm and all the other usual attractions.

BUT....

For the event to be a success next year we need more people to help – particularly setting up and taking down - we also need volunteers to run the stalls.

If you can spare some time next year – please step forward NOW.

The final figures have yet to be calculated but will be announced as soon as we know. The proceeds will be divided between Rosie's Rainbow, Thames Hospicecare and Alexander Devine Children's Trust.

Louise Shenston

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Neighbourhood planning initiative needs you

Bray is one of 17 Parish and Town Councils to have won grants of £20,000 from the Government as a front runner, to create a new generation of Neighbourhood Plans. This is traditional development planning turned on its head: rather than top down, a Neighbourhood Plan is bottom up. You, the residents of Oakley Green, Fifield and District, will help decide how we want our Parish to look in five to ten year's time. We expect the Plan to take two years to create and we now have a Steering Group in place, made up of members of our community to lead on the plan.

We are lucky to have Sarah Ball and Philip Hylton from RBWM's Planning & Development Unit working with us and, as professional planners, offering us guidance on the process and helping out in many other ways. In addition we have Andrew Close from the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) keeping an eye on our progress.

For our Neighbourhood Plan to be a success, your support and involvement is vital! Your opinions and ideas will help influence and create new planning policies that will be central to how planning applications are decided.

A website is being developed and the details of the address will be published soon. In addition, a number of public consultation events are being organised across the Parish – in Bray Village, in Holyport and for Oakley Green, Fifield and District, it will take place on Friday 25 November in Braywood Memorial Hall. So please make a note of the date and do your best to come along and take part in this important exercise.

In the meantime, if you need any additional information, please contact me.

Cllr Chris Graham,
Chairman,
Bray Parish Neighbourhood Plan
01628 778054
chris.graham@brayclose.com



Bingo

Family Bingo Evening
Saturday 29 October
at 6 pm
Braywood Memorial Hall

tickets cost
£10 per adult
£5 per child
and include hot food

there will also be a cash bar

call Alison on 07970 020 973

please apply for tickets by 22 September

organised by the OGAFCFA Children and Youths Work Group

Ramblers brave wet weather and snorting bullocks

During the summer holidays the Children and Youths Work Group held a family ramble and quiz. Despite the rainy start, spirits were high and children armed with directions led the way searching for answers to the quiz. The ramblers followed footpaths, climbed stiles, avoided cow pats and tramped through woods towards Holyport, where they stopped at the playground for a break. On the way back they had quite an adventure crossing a field with a herd of snorting bullocks hot on their heels!

Back at the Fifield Inn it was time to rest and recover and announce the winners of the quiz. Olivia Collins won the girls trophy and Joshua Eatough won the boys trophy.

Alison Brayshaw

An accident waiting to happen...

The following letter was sent to OGAFCA in response to an article in the summer newsletter.

In light of your most recent OGAFCA publication, I have felt compelled to write a letter in response to reading the comments made by another resident. The subject is regarding the proposed speed reduction on Forest Green Road. As one of a number of residents actually living on Forest Green Road, I have been asked to draft a letter voicing the concerns of my neighbours. The question of reducing the national speed limit on Forest Green Road has well passed its due date.

Forest Green Road still has a 60 mph limit compared with all of the link roads around it – Oakley Green Road: 40 mph, Moneyrow Green: 30 mph and the A330 Ascot Road: 50 mph. As a local home owner, living on the road it is all too obvious that when some motorists see the national speed limit sign it's like showing a red rag to a bull. Most accelerate past the regulation limit of 60 mph not to mention the weekend racing circuit that we have to put up with, where motorists do the Drift Road – Forest Green Road loop. It seems to be acceptable to a minority, that come the weekend, they can do whatever speeds they like along Forest Green Road because of the national signs. The local council have painted 'SLOW' on the roads most dangerous areas, but this is largely ignored.

Many of us face the daily experience of trying to safely pull out of our own drives onto the main road. I'd challenge the writer of the previously published letter to come and see for themselves just how dangerous it can be in the mornings and evenings trying to pull out onto a road where approaching traffic is doing up to and over 60 mph. Couple this with bends in the road, or overgrowing bushes reducing your view in either direction and you can clearly see the picture. It is an accident waiting to happen.

I noted that the previous resident also commented on the 'low' number of accidents that have occurred on Forest Green Road. I'm of a different opinion: that one accident is one too many. Does it really need someone to be killed or seriously injured in a road traffic collision for the question of speed reduction to be raised? I can say without hesitation that there have been accidents on Forest Green Road directly attributed to excess speed. What the statistics also fail to

show are the huge number of near miss accidents that we as local residents witness. These don't get recorded but they do occur on a weekly, if not daily, basis.

It is also worth remembering that the majority of Forest Green Road has no pedestrian footways. For local residents, if you want to go anywhere and you can't drive, the only option is to walk against the traffic at the edge of the road. Again this can be a nerve racking experience with us having to put up with cars passing too close, at speed and even abusive insults from motorists. There are also all the other users of the road to consider. Forest Green Road is popular with cyclists, joggers, dog walkers and horse riders. The Horse Rangers are based on the road and regularly lead out groups of kids at the weekends. In order to do this they have to put out marshals at the front and rear of the group to ensure the safety of the children. Other horse riders don't have this luxury and with vehicles travelling at 60 mph you can quite often see the resulting tyre marks left on the road as an example of sudden and excessive braking.

We are not an 'influential, vocal or well organised minority'. We are a mixture of ordinary people, home owners and housing association tenants. But unlike the other resident who wrote in, we live on Forest Green Road, not on the other side of Holyport. We'd like to voice our opinions and challenge other comments made. We live on a daily basis with speeding traffic – cars, motorbikes and lorries, all using Forest Green Road as a cut through from Maidenhead to Windsor. It is only a matter of time before one of us, as a local resident is involved in some form of accident. This is the right time to raise the speed limit issue on Forest Green Road. The M4 motorway is on the doorstep for motorists who wish to drive above 60 mph. Let Forest Green Road be restricted to 40 mph for the safety of everyone who wants to use it.

From the residents of Forest View Cottages on Forest Green Road

If you would like to comment on this or any other issue relating to our community, send your letter to the website

www.ogafcap.co.uk

or by post to Broadacre House Coningsby Lane Fifield SL6 2PF

The Fifield and Oakley Green Art Club

is holding an exhibition and sale
of original work by local artists



**Saturday 12 November
1 pm until 4 pm**

Braywood Memorial Hall

Tea, Coffee & soft drinks
will be provided

Admission is free

A new beginners watercolour course begins on Tuesday 15 October
from 7 pm to 9 pm at Braywood Memorial Hall.

The course runs 10 weeks and costs £50: just £5 for each lesson.
If you have never painted before and would like to try, then this is for
you, but hurry as places are limited.

For more information contact Bill Collier on 01628 676939

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Please help keep our community litter free

This year the Environment Work Group has had a mixture of highs and lows. The low point came when the Crown Estate advised us that they were unable to grant access to the Windsor Forest via the Legoland bridleway and generally it has been difficult to find ways to improve the lot of the local horse-rider.

However, on the footpath front, we now have several more kissing gates around the Parish, making access much easier for the majority of people. Although this initiative is driven by the Royal Borough they have a limited budget, so have been keen to seek our views on the sites that should be prioritised. For example, we asked that the stile behind the Braywood Memorial Hall could be replaced in time for the Fifield Fun Day, and this was done for us. With the winter approaching please remember that if a footpath becomes blocked (by fallen trees for example) you should report this to RBWM on their website and they will come and clear the obstruction.

Rita's vigilance with the litter-picking campaign has continued to promote awareness of the problem and more and more people are picking up litter. Sadly, we cannot stop the ignorant few who drop litter but there is no doubt that people are less likely to leave litter in a place that is clean and tidy.

And finally, this year's big success has been Phil's metal collection. Not only did we all get the opportunity to tidy up our sheds and gardens but we also raised over £500 for the Community Association fund.

A 'win win' situation!

Barbara Frame

RBWM Litter picking dates

Oakley Green Road: 17 Oct, 7 Nov, 28 Nov, 19 Dec

Forest Green Road: 10 Oct, 31 Oct

Fifield Rd, Meadow Way, Stewart Close, Manor Grove:
31 Oct, 12 Dec

Coningsby Lane: 3 Oct, 21 Nov

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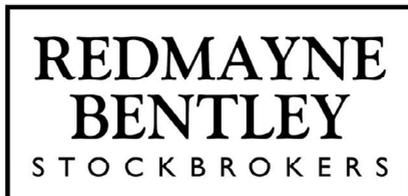
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Report suspicious behaviour to police

Oakley Green and Fifield are covered by both Windsor and Maidenhead police forces and the Community Safety Work Group is in discussion with both police departments.

At the local Oakley Green, Clewer and Dedworth NAG meeting held on 19 September we heard from Neighbourhood Police Sergeant Rob Dalton that discussions to change policing of some wards and boroughs in 2012 continue at high level. These changes include the possible transfer of Oakley Green to the Maidenhead NAG and would mean our area is at last policed logically. In addition, a designated PCSO will be made responsible for each school within the area, providing a nominated point of contact, which will help with the parking problems at Braywood School.

Sergeant Dalton asked community groups to continue to exhort residents to help fight against 'acquisitive crime' and report suspicious behaviour to the police non emergency number

0845 8505 505

This suspicious behaviour includes flat bed lorries spotted driving slowly around the area. The police are building a database of these vehicles so – take photographs!

A farm watch initiative is being introduced by RBWM for local farmers and police to work together to create solutions to the problems of theft and poaching.

It is very gratifying to read on emails sent out by the Thames Valley Police Community Messaging Service that the Oldfield and Bray area, which covers Fifield and Forest Green, often has no crime to report. This messaging service provides daily emails giving street by street information on local crime. It also reports initiatives by the local police and residents, and provides an opportunity to discuss scams, safety tips and news. It is invaluable and highly recommended.

sign up at www.tvpmessaging.org

Be safe

Paula Grevett and Bill Collier

www.ogafcap.co.uk

Local boy earns his senior cricket cap

Braywood Cricket Club capped another successful season for its Junior and Adult cricket sections when former All-Blacks rugby star Zinzan Brooke brought his "Friends of the Emerald Isle" team to play in a Twenty20 game on the August Bank Holiday. Club members laid on entertainment for all the family including a bouncy castle, face painting, home-made ice cream and a curry supper. The local club won the cricket match against their old rivals and were pleased that Junior player Anthony Brayshaw won his first senior cap. Anthony enhanced the fielding, bowled a promising spell of left arm spin and enjoyed the game which was, as usual, competitively fought but played in great spirit. The club is encouraged that its well-established Junior section is proving popular for local children to learn their cricket.

Any local children, aged six or older, who would like to give the sessions a try next season should contact:
Juniors Manager, Stuart West on 07836 536725
or go to the links on the OGAFCA website under Clubs & Activities

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Help is at hand to switch to digital TV

TV is switching to digital and in early 2012, the traditional TV signal will be switched off in the Meridian and London Regions. If you don't have digital TV by the time of switchover, you will lose your TV channels. The BBC-run Switchover Help Scheme is working to ensure that no-one is left with a blank screen after the switchover and offers practical help for older and disabled people to convert one TV set to digital. This includes installation of the easy-to-use equipment, a demonstration of how to use it and 12 months of aftercare service including a free helpline.

Eligible people will be receiving a Help Scheme information pack through the post explaining the help available. Most people will be asked to pay £40 towards the standard option of help. You are eligible for the Help Scheme if you are: aged 75 or over, or live in a care home (for six months or more), or receive (or could get): Disability Living Allowance (DLA), Attendance or Constant Attendance Allowance, Mobility Supplement, or registered blind or partially sighted. There will be extensive TV coverage about the Help Scheme and eligible people will receive an information pack, but to get the help they are entitled to, they must respond to the letter.

The Switchover Help Scheme has so far helped hundreds of thousands of people to switch to digital.

For more information call 0800 4085900 or go to www.helpscheme.co.uk

If you know someone who needs help at Switchover time, please contact Bill on 01628 676939 or Grenville 01628 784441

The Twilight Ball

In aid of Age Concern Windsor at the Spencer Denney Centre

Saturday 22 October 2011

Mercure Castle Hotel, Windsor

Champagne Reception and 3 course meal

£45 per person Black Tie

For tickets email info@ageconcernwindsor.org.uk

or call 01753 840840

Last year the event raised £6000



COUNTRY PUB & DINING

If you haven't visited the Red Lion for a while, we think you will be pleasantly surprised by the recent transformation. Re-opened by the team from The Bell in Waltham St Lawrence, Ye Olde Red Lion is again a friendly local pub serving excellent food.

We are open for Sunday lunch & all day Monday to Saturday for drinks, lunch and dinner.

Whether a 3 course meal or a slice of pork pie, all our food is made on the premises using the freshest seasonal produce.

Everyone is welcome, including well behaved dogs, and we look forward to meeting you soon.

Lindsay & Iain Ganson

www.theredlionoakleygreen.co.uk

Cricket Club hosts Parish Activity Tour

The 2011 Parish Activity Tour, organised by RBWM and kindly sponsored by Bray Parish Council, took place on 16 and 18 August from noon to 4 pm. Braywood Cricket Club hosted it for the second year running.

The first day was sunny and children between the ages of eight and sixteen came along and took part in a whole range of activities: football, cricket, sumo wrestling, table tennis, pool and a bouncy castle to name but a few. On the second day the weather was not quite so good, so most of the activities took place inside the clubhouse and the Nintendo Wii was very popular. The Cricket Club laid on refreshments on both days, so parents could come along, relax over a cup of tea and indulge themselves with some delicious home made cakes whilst their children were entertained for a few hours by some very professional and energetic Youth Workers.

Our thanks to RBWM, Bray Parish Council and Braywood Cricket Club for supporting this now (hopefully) annual event in our area.

Grenville Annetts

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Work to begin on footway extension

Things have to date been a little quiet for the Roads and Transport Work Group.

The proposed reduction in the speed limit on Forest Green Road to 40 mph has not yet gone to public consultation, however, I am told that our Ward Councilors are supporting our proposals, so things should start moving again soon.

However, we do have some good news - We have recently met with representatives of the RBWM and local residents to discuss the first stage of the proposed new footway on the west side of the Fifield Road.

Work is expected to commence at the end of October/beginning of November and will take two to three weeks to complete (weather permitting). This will involve relaying the edging, resurfacing the existing footway, repositioning the gully pots, grates and frames, constructing a new footway, relocating the existing sign post and removing a redundant telegraph pole.

The first part of the new footway will follow the existing path from outside Fairview Cottage, past Avon Brook to the boundary with Willow Creek.

White lines are to be painted on the road outside Willow Creek indicating the proposed path. Plans are available on request

We are hoping that the second stage – Willow Creek to Coningsby Lane will be included in next year's budget, but this has not yet gone to Cabinet, so we cannot rest on our laurels just yet!

Louise Shenston

E. Pardoe & Son

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Braywood Carpet Bowls Club
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email: info@cardinalclinic.co.uk

www.cardinalclinic.co.uk

Come and do your Christmas shopping at the
OGAFCA Christmas Fair!

Saturday 26 November

Braywood Memorial Hall

12 noon until 3 pm

Refreshments available



Join the local business forum

Following the first successful local business forum earlier this year plans are being made to re-launch this initiative in the autumn with various speakers to advise on legal, financial, marketing and other topical matters.

We are always interested to talk to anyone who would like to join the Local Business Work Group.

Please call Bill Collier on 01628 67939 or email paula@grevett.co.uk

Horticulture in Fifield and beyond

This is a plea to all gardeners in our community. Bray Parish Council has offered £300 to plant additional shrubs in the open space in Fifield. Some of the original plants have died and the area also needs additional colour, both in the summer and winter. However, before planting can begin, the area needs weeding and the soil improved. The funds will also cover the flower bed outside 17 and 18 Meadow Way, fronting Fifield Road, which is looking very tired.

If volunteers do the job, it means the funding will go further!

I have also applied to RBWM for daffodil bulbs under their bulb planting scheme. The variety is February Gold and the bulbs will be available from 29 October. They must be planted along verges or beside hedges, walls or fences so that they are on public display.

If you have time to volunteer or would like to plant bulbs, please contact me on 01628 782003 or at howardhj@btinternet.com

Helen Howard

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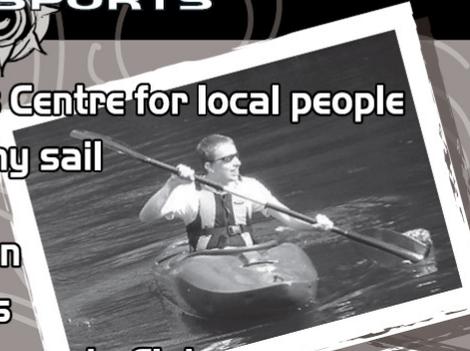
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