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Oakley Green, Fifield & District Community Association

Autumn Newsletter

October 2014



www.ogafcap.co.uk

Features in this Autumn issue include...



... fun for all at the
Fifield Fun Day ...



... and more social events to
look forward to ...

... Race Night 31st October ...



... Christmas Fair ...



... Christmas
Carols ...



... Christmas Walk ...



The OGAFCA newsletter is edited by Alison Brayshaw - Printed by DRAYTON: www.drayton.co.uk
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The Oakley Green, Fifield and District Community Association Limited by Guarantee does not accept
responsibility for products or services advertised in this publication.

From the Chairman - Help Needed!

The Association relies heavily on Volunteers who give up their time and make great contributions to our Community in a whole host of ways. Just look at the list of activities in the Chairman's Report to see how much and how varied our activities are - from delivering Newsletters - to litter picking - to helping with the Fifield Fun Day - to working in any of the 7 Work Groups.

We currently have a number of Roles and Positions with Vacancies and are looking for local Residents to step forward and help make a real difference in the areas of:

- Drainage
- Communications and running the Website
- Children & Youth activities
- Newsletter Advertising
- We also have two Director Vacancies.

If you would like to come forward and help out and make a difference in our Community, please contact any of the Committee.

Thank you in anticipation ...

Grenville Annetts

Keeping crime in the community at bay

Every issue of the newsletter carries a warning to villagers about the dangers of the opportunist thief and a reminder not to drop your guard because that is what they are looking for.

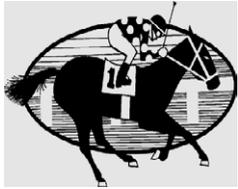
Crime in our community has been minimal of late and I would like to see it stay that way. So please don't leave doors and windows open at the front of the house if you are in the garden at the back, leave lights on when you go out, get an alarm system if you haven't already got one and take everything of value out of your car when you put it in the garage at night.

The burglar does not like people who lock things up properly, so be on your guard and also report anyone who looks suspicious to the police on 101, they would rather investigate a suspicious sitting than a burglary.

Keep safe.

Community Safety Work Group

More social events.... Get involved !



31st October 2014

7.30pm

OGAFCA Race Night

See flier enclosed for details



22nd November 2014

OGAFCA Christmas Fair

See full details in this newsletter



20th December 2014

6pm

**OGAFCA Christmas Gathering in
Fifield Village**

Don't forget to loosen up your vocal chords, put on your warmest clothing and your widest smiles and join us by the Christmas Tree in Fifield Village for some Christmas carols and festive cheer!



Sat 27th December 2014

16th Annual Christmas Walk

**Meet up in the Fifield Inn Car Park
from 11.30am**

Setting off at about Noon - for a Walk of about 75 to 90 minutes along local Footpaths. Wellies advisable!

All welcome including children and 4 legged friends!

Fifield Survey

About half of our Residents – those living and working in the 235 or so Properties in and very close to Fifield Village – were recently asked to take part in a Survey.

It was not an OGAFCA initiative, but one being carried out by the Bray Parish Neighbourhood Plan (BPNP) Steering Group.

OGAFCA's role was to use our network of deliverers and expertise in carrying out surveys (from our own work in 2008/09) to help the BPNP Steering Group establish the views of our local Residents.

The Survey was asking if the Community would be supportive of the principle of having a Village Green and/or Open Space on an area to the West of Fifield Road and immediately to the South of Stewart Close. Some of you may know it as the field used for parking on the day of the Fifield Fun Day.

The owner of the land has proposed gifting part of the area (1.9 acres or 42%) for use by the Community. As part of the development the Landowner is looking to build some houses on the rest of the land in question (2.5 acres or 57%). An Indicative Plan prepared by the Landowner was included as part of the Survey and showed a number of detached houses and semi-detached houses. (See OGAFCA Website for more information).

If the response is favourable, the Green Belt site may be included in the local Bray Parish Neighbourhood Plan. But any development would still need a Planning Application in the normal way before it could proceed - at which time Residents would be able to express their views.

OGAFCA did not have a view on the proposal before the Survey was completed, but will support the view of the majority of Responses from Residents once the exercise is completed.

Many thanks to the Deliverers who knocked on doors – in many cases more than once – to achieve what has turned out to be a fantastic Response Rate of over 70%. And many thanks for everyone who took part and completed the Survey.

Daffodil Bulbs



We are requesting some Daffodil Bulbs from RBWM for planting in areas adjacent to/visible from the Public Highway.

If you would like some to plant, please contact us via the **Website** or on **01628 784441**.



AGM

The 5th Annual General Meeting of the Oakley Green, Fifield and District Community Association Limited took place on Thursday September 18, 2014 at 7:30 pm in Braywood Memorial Hall.

The Chairman (Grenville Annetts) welcomed about 30 attendees, opened the Meeting and introduced the Committee.

Grenville Annetts (*), Alison Brayshaw, Bill Collier, Barbara Frame, Paula Grevett, Helen Howard (*), Rod Lord and Louise Shenston (*)

The Directors / Officers (*) of The Association are Chair - Grenville Annetts, Vice Chair - Louise Shenston and Secretary and Treasurer - Helen Howard

The Directors Report and Financial Accounts - It was noted that these had been circulated to all Members before the Meeting and are available on our Website.

Report on the Activities of The Association - The report was given by the Chairman. The main Events in the last 12 months since the last AGM in September 2013 were :-

Publication of 4 Free Newsletters	Oct / Jan / April / July
OGAFCA General Public Meetings	Feb 20 & May 15
3rd Christmas Fair	November 23
2nd Christmas Gathering round the Christmas Tree	December 21
15th Annual Christmas Walk	December 29
1st Chinese New Year Quiz Night	January 31
RBWM Local Plan Consultation Events	February 15 & 20
Gypsy Site Planning Application - Public Enquiry	April 1 to 3

Water Oakley Development - Maidenhead DCP	April 9
Support for the Fifield Fun Day	August 9
The Fifield Survey Launch Support	September 18
Fifth Annual General Meeting (tonight)	September 18

As usual, the main work of the Association is centred around implementing the 23 Actions identified in the Community and Local Businesses Action Plans published in 2009 and 2010 respectively. The work of the Association is organised through :-

General Public Meetings (32 held to date) 3 held in past year - including this AGM - on February 20, May 15 and September 18

Everyone welcome to come along for Updates and Feedback

Work Group Meetings 7 Work Groups - made up of Volunteers and each with Spokespersons. They meet as and when required

Committee Meetings (25 held to date) 5 held in past year - made up of Directors and Work Group Spokespersons - who meet as and when required

The Chairman then gave a brief description of the activities of the Association. Fuller updates are given regularly in the quarterly Newsletters :-

- Website running since Feb 2009 and updated regularly
- Communications by Flier, in Local Press, on Website and by email
- Contact list of Local Service Providers in January Newsletter
- Raising local awareness about Crime Prevention in Newsletter Articles
- Deterring HGVs from coming through Fifield Village
- Monitoring No Parking areas outside Braywood School
- Litter Picking continues and staying on top of Fly Tipping
- Monitoring of Footpath accessibility and upgrades to Kissing Gates
- Christmas Tree in Fifield (thanks to John Train)
- 6 Hanging Baskets in Fifield and Oakley Green (thanks to John Train)
- War Memorial Feasibility Work Group participation

- Monitoring Earthworks on Forest Green Road (Landowner says will be Completed this Autumn)
- Exceptionally wet Winter put huge strain on our local Drainage system of the 9 “Wet Spots” identified - we have been working on :-
 - Cricket Ground (#1) with RBWM and Cricket Club.
 - Fifield Road by Longlea Nursing Home (#2) - ditch cleared and increased (?) the flow Northward and additional issues further on by Wayside Stables which have been worked on by RBWM.
 - Coningsby Lane (#4) - RBWM are reluctant to support proposal to re-instate ditch. Working on alternative proposal.
 - Fifield Road (#7) - Bad this past year. Met with RBWM and local Landowners and culvert jetting has taken place.
 - RBWM have employed a Consultant who will be working on a Catchment Study which includes our area.
- Many Local Planning issues - including :-
 - Gypsy Site Public Enquiry
 - RBWM Local Plan Consultation - 2 Workshops held with other Associations
 - Gypsy Sites Provision in RBWM - letter sent
 - Water Oakley Development
 - Sun and Stars conversion to Private House
- Continued to Monitor significant Applications and Enforcement Issues e.g. Logs Business in Fifield Road
- Lobbying for replacement of reduced Bus Service
- Monitoring of Legoland Traffic Trials
- Speed Limit reduced to 40 mph on start of Forest Green Road
- Still trying to extend Footway on Fifield Road and Oakley Green Road
- Investigating feasibility of new Roundabout by Braywood Memorial Hall
- Participation in Consultation on Braywood School Expansion in October

Upcoming Events are :-

- Race Night - late October
- Christmas Fair - Saturday November 22
- Christmas Gathering - Saturday December 20

The Treasurer (Helen Howard) then described the Finances for The Association from April 1, 2013 to the end of the Financial Year on March 31, 2014. During the Year, the Association made a small Surplus of £330. *(Details of the Accounts are included immediately after this Report.)*

Income for the Association is derived from Membership Subscriptions, Social Events, Newsletter Advertising and Donations. Expenditure is on Social Events, Venue Hire, Website, Annual Insurance, Administration and Newsletter Printing.

The Chairman thanked Helen for all her efforts as Treasurer of The Association and for preparing the Accounts again this year.

For completeness for 2013/14 activity, Helen then presented for the public record, the results of the Fifield Fun Day 2013. The Accounts for the Fun Day are separate from those of The Association and Donations are held in a Trust Account until such time as they are distributed to Beneficiaries decided upon by the Organising Committee.

Election of Directors - The Chairman advised the AGM that under the Rules of The Association, 1 of the 4 existing Directors is required to stand down at the AGM on a rotation basis after every 4 years. On this occasion, it was Louise Shenston’s turn to stand down. All Members of the Association were advised in advance of the Meeting that there were then two Director Vacancies.

There was just one Nomination for Director – Louise Shenston - nominated by Paula Grevett. By a show of Hands – Louise Shenston was unanimously appointed to serve for another period of 4 years.

The Chairman announced that Helen Howard had tendered her resignation as a Director and will be standing down after the AGM. The Chairman thanked Helen for all her hard work and support for the Association – particularly as Treasurer and Secretary.

The Association now has two vacancies for Directors and nominated volunteers can be Co-opted at anytime between AGMs. Anyone wishing to come forward and serve should contact the Chairman in the first instance.

Resolutions - No Resolutions had been notified to the Association in advance of the AGM, so no Vote/Decision required.

Any Other Business

The Chairman then invited questions from the floor and responses were given by Members of the Committee and in some instances by Cllr David Coppinger who was in attendance.

Helen Howard said the Association had been asked by Bray Parish Council if local Residents would prefer the Rose Beds in Fifield Village to be replanted or grassed over. By a simple show of hands, the meeting voted in favour of replanting.

Louise Shenston announced that The Fifield Fun Day was a great success again in August this year - raising £5,400 for local Charities and good Causes - and thanked everyone for their support. A Representative of Thames Hospice was present at the Meeting and was presented with a Cheque for £2000. Presentations to other Beneficiaries will be made at a later date.

What can local Residents do to help/be involved ?

The Chairman said there are many opportunities – including

- Becoming a Member – just £3 per year or £5 for two years
- Joining a Workgroup to share the Workload. There are vacancies in Communications / Drainage / Children and Youths as well as 2 Director positions
- Delivering Newsletters – we are short of Deliverers in Dedworth Road and Fifield Road and Oakley Green Road
- Writing an Article/Feedback for Newsletter or Website
- Helping out at and attending Events
- Telling us about and helping to solve local problems
- Give us your Email Address and more ...

The Chairman thanked our Newsletter Deliverers, the Members of our Work Groups and gave Special Thanks to the Committee and Officers.

He then thanked everyone for attending the AGM and invited everyone to stay for the External Presentation and Refreshments afterwards.

The Formal Annual General Meeting closed at 8:15 pm

The Chairman then introduced Cllr. Nick Pellew from the Bray Parish Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group who then talked about “The Fifield Survey” which has just been launched.

The Chairman explained that OGAFCFA has agreed to help with the Survey Process to try and make sure as many Residents as possible participate in the Survey. But OGAFCFA as yet does not have a view on the Proposal and will be guided by the Results of the Survey.

The Presentation and Questions concluded at 9:25 pm and Refreshments were taken

Oakley Green, Fifield and District Community Association Limited			
Income and Expenditure Account for the period			
1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014			
		£	£
Income	Membership Subscriptions	153.00	
	Members' Social Events	904.30	
	Newsletter Advertising	1,786.25	
	Donations received	450.00	3,293.55
Expenditure	Social Events	468.12	
	Venue Hire	126.25	
	Website Costs	63.43	
	Insurance	412.60	
	Administration	72.71	
	Newsletter	1,726.00	
	Displays	94.25	2,963.36
Excess of Income over Expenditure for the Period			330.19

Oakley Green, Fifield and District Community Association Limited			
Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2014			
		2014	2013
		£	£
Current Assets			
	Cash at Bank or in Hand	5,808	5,393
	Debtors	55	55
		5,863	5,448
Current Liabilities			
	Creditors and Accruals	1,424	1,339
Net Assets less Current Liabilities		4,439	4,109
Reserves			
	Profit and Loss Account – Reserves	4,439	4,109

The Fifield Fun Day was run under the umbrella of OGAFCA for the first time in 2013.

The Work Group operates independently from the day to day running of The Association and Funds are held in a Trust Account until distributed to the various Charities and good Causes.

The results for 2013 are detailed below.

FIFIELD FUN DAY - August 2013

		£	£
Donations	Sponsorship	1,425.00	
	Attractions	730.50	
	Refreshments	1,832.69	
	Stalls	2,089.85	
	Other	1,902.00	7,980.04
Outgoings	Attractions	500.00	
	Refreshments	785.58	
	Equipment Hire	1,303.51	
	Admin	76.95	2,666.04
Funds Raised			5,314.00
Distributions	Hearing Dogs for Deaf People	1,750.00	
	Family Friends, Windsor and Maidenhead	1,750.00	
	Braywood Junior Cricketers	350.00	
	Braywood Memorial Hall	350.00	
	1st Slough Scouts	350.00	
	OGAFCA	350.00	
	Windsor Horse Rangers	250.00	
	Elite Academy of Dance	50.00	5,200.00
Funds carried forward as Seed Money for 2014			114.00

Send your comments on any issue relating to our community to the OGAFCA website, or by post to the address on the inside front cover

Another Fun Day in Fifield !

The Fifield Fun Day this year was a great success – despite the weather, several gazebos which tried to escape and last minute lack of parking !

So much so that, after expenses (loos, marquees, licences, catering supplies, generators, straw bales, Ferrets, Punch & Judy, Reading Reptiles, advertising, printing etc) we raised a net **£5,400** for our chosen charities. Up on last year.

This year we have donated :-

£2,000 to Thames Hospice
£2,000 to Helen & Douglas House

£400 to Braywood Cricket Club
£400 to Braywood Memorial Hall

£300 to The Horse Rangers
£300 to The Community Association

Next Year the Fun Day will be on Saturday 1st August, so please put the date in your diary !

As always, we really need help setting up before and dismantling after the event, so if you can spare a few hours that weekend, have any ideas for new attractions, would like to donate a gift for the raffle, or auction, or sponsor an attraction do, PLEASE, get in touch.

The Fun Day cannot continue without the generosity of the locals !

Louise Shenston
01628 783448

Thames Hospice were presented with their cheque for £2000 at AGM



Decision soon on Gypsy Site - Forest Green Road

After the Public Enquiry held from April 1st to 3rd, The Secretary of State was due to issue his decision on or before September 24th, 2014. Then on August 14th, his Office advised this would be delayed until on or before October 17th, 2014. (After we go to Press unfortunately).

This was because there had been a High Court Judgement on July 18th, 2014 in relation to another site at Redhill Aerodrome which may have had a bearing on the case.

All the documents relating to the Appeal are held on the RBWM Website with the documents from the original Application 13/00702 at http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/pam/planning_application_search.jsp?appnum=13%2F00702%2FFULL

We will post the Decision Notice on our Website as soon as we receive access.

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OGAFCA



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A busy cricket season for juniors and seniors

Local cricket club Braywood has enjoyed a full season of adults and juniors cricket.

The Under 15s team had to step up an age group this year but pulled together as a team, as usual, to finish third in their division of the Berkshire Youth League, a very pleasing performance which augurs well for next season. The club is pleased too that several of the team are now playing some adult cricket and growing in confidence as a result.

At the younger end of our age range, we sent an Under 9s 6-a-side team to a competition at Windsor CC where they won all their matches and the tournament, and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

The Juniors continue to thrive and it has been great to see so many local children joining up to learn the skills of the summer game and the teamwork that brings so much fun to the sport.

The Seniors have enjoyed a mixed season, the league teams winning too few matches to threaten the promotion spots in the Chilterns Cricket League. The Twenty20 team the "Braywood Knights" again reached the final of the local league competition but didn't quite succeed in retaining their trophy.

This year the annual Club Day at Braywood was held in July and as usual families, friends and locals enjoyed a relaxing day of cricket in the sun. The bar was open all afternoon and evening and BBQ food was served throughout the day. It was a memorable day for all and a great success !

Looking ahead to the 2015 season, we always welcome new players whether of elite or social standard. Our indoor nets will start in February and we will undoubtedly begin next season as optimistic as ever about the successes ahead. If you would like to join us please make contact with Secretary Gavin Dawes on 07921 191976 or Club Captain Duane Carter on 07736 051096.

The club is also keen to build a stronger team of volunteers essential to maintaining a healthy local sports club. If you would like to help us, why not join as a Social member initially and get to know the Club, its members and how you might be able to contribute. If you wish to know more about your local sports club please make contact with Chairman Stuart West on 07836 536725.

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War Memorial update

Those of you passing along the Oakley Green Road may have noticed an area that has been cleared in the cemetery next to the lych gate by Braywood School.

This is to be the site of the new War Memorial the arrival of which is imminent.

Thanks to the hard work of Cllr Chris Yates of Bray Parish Council and his Committee this superb commemoration sculpture to those who have served and those who have fallen since WW1, is finally coming to fruition. Financed from a grant from BPC and generous donations from our three Borough Councillors, Cllr Walters, Cllr Burbage and Cllr Coppinger and others, this will stand out as a reminder to us all as we regularly drive past.

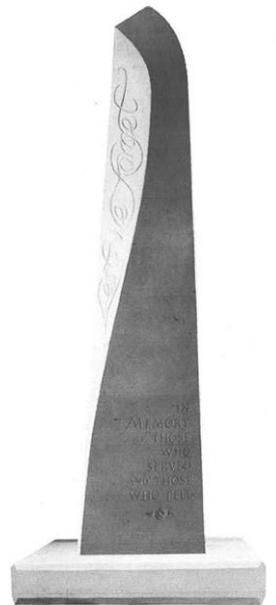
This funding has been processed through the Residents Association who will "gift" the Memorial back to the Parish Council who have very kindly agreed to look after this special site.

Apart from the process of securing Planning Permission, there was also the need for the Oxford Diocese to agree for it to be placed in this graveyard. Thankfully those obstacles have been overcome and the site has been cleared and prepared for the Memorial to be erected.

We do not have such a monument in this part of the Parish, so this truly outstanding Memorial sculpture, having a very simple but powerful inscription, will be a fitting monument.

A formal opening ceremony is to be arranged in the near future.

Rod Ball
Chairman OGFRA



*Commemoration
Sculpture*

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FREE PARKING

Artist's work on display

Both art classes at the Memorial Hall are now full and doing very well.

We will be displaying artwork at the Christmas Fair on 22nd November so please come along as some items will be on sale and don't forget if you buy one it will be an original never to be repeated.

Bill Collier

Help for Hedgehogs

The British hedgehog is fast becoming an endangered species. Part of the reason for their decline is their reluctance to cross major roads (for very valid reasons!) and this has resulted in populations becoming isolated from one another leaving them vulnerable to other factors.

The University of Reading is currently conducting a project studying the impact of road networks on the hedgehog population. They are looking for genetic samples from animals within an approximate 10mile radius of the M4. Sadly, dead hedgehogs are a major source of tissue samples, but they are also keen to collect poo samples from any live hedgehogs sighted in the area.

What we can do to help them is to report any dead hedgehogs that you see, or, if you are lucky enough to have hedgehogs in your garden, please also contact the team so that they can collect their samples.

They would be most grateful for any assistance that we can give them in their quest to halt the decline of these delightful native creatures.

To report sightings or for any more information please contact Ben Williams via b.williams@pgr.reading.ac.uk



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Drainage Study in our area has started

We have been assured by Streetcare that the long awaited consultant has finally been appointed and is engaged in a study of the drainage problems in our area. Our "9 Wet Spots" report has been passed on to the consultant and Stage 1 of the catchment study was scheduled for completion by Friday Sept 19 2014.

Stage 2 of the catchment study will involve inspection of areas considered to be significant in terms of flood risk and liaison with flood wardens, Parish Council representatives and community representatives. The consultant has been asked to contact the Oakley Green, Fifield and District Community Association Environment Work Group as part of this Stage.

Stage 3 will involve the development of an action plan to address flooding issues in the catchment.

Wet Spot 1 - On Tuesday July 15 2014 a site meeting at the Cricket Club. Their pitch and nets get flooded in the winter and the Oakley Green Road frequently floods along their stretch. We believe the root cause of the road flooding is an inadequate capacity in culvert and chamber at their south west corner and the underground pipe heading north from there along their western boundary. Until such time as the capacity of this route is increased we will see no improvement. Some time ago we suggested alternative approaches might be considered such as delaying the arrival of water flowing off the drift road ridge towards this point and increasing the holding capacity of the ditch and ground on the southern side of the road. We understand Streetcare has now been considering those possibilities and we await their proposals with interest.

Wet Spot 2 - Now that the ditch past the Speed bump near Longlea Nursing Home has been re-instated the increased flow northward on the west side of Fifield Road has highlighted some other problems. The first of these has been addressed by the placement of "plugs" to prevent water from the larger capacity eastern ditch flowing under the road and overloading the flow in the western ditch. North of Wayside Stables underground pipes were found to be damaged and blocked and work was scheduled to remedy this. We have just been informed by Streetcare that this work has now been carried out. The two culverts crossing the road in the vicinity of Deeds House have been jetted and have been found to be clear. We have therefore tentatively returned this wet spot to green status.

Wet Spot 4 - After 12 years of trying to achieve an improvement for Coningsby Lane north east we will now have to look at other options. Streetcare are reluctant to support our proposal to re-instate a ditch that functioned until 1989 unless there is unanimous agreement among the local residents. As we cannot achieve the work without the support of Streetcare we are working on an

alternative and less obvious proposal which we hope will prove acceptable to all.

Wet Spot 7 - Streetcare have carried out extensive investigations in the region of Pond House on Fifield Road, freeing a covered chamber access, jetting pipes, etc. The conclusion was that drainage from this area should be via a chamber in the footway at the north east corner of Garden Cottage into a ditch heading east towards the Polo pitch and then north behind the houses. We wrote to the Landowner and are pleased to report that there was a prompt reply and a meeting took place in the afternoon of Thursday July 17. The landowner, Mr Bennett, met with us and Streetcare on site. We are grateful to him for pointing out how the local system flows. Contrary to intuition drainage from this low spot actually should flow SOUTH under the road to the chamber under the footway near the corner of Garden Cottage and then EAST alongside the Polo pitch. Streetcare say work should start in the week beginning 27 October to pipe the ditch on the west side of the road. Temporary traffic signals will be used and in addition it is intended to clear the mouth of the culvert by Garden Cottage that should assist the drainage of the road generally.

A drainage summary of all 9 wet spots is available on the web site and regularly updated.

Finally, I would like to emphasize yet again that we urgently need someone to step forward to take on this drainage role. There is still much useful work to be done but in a year from now, at the 2015 AGM, I will step down whether anyone else has come forward or not. Obviously I very much hope that someone with more youthful vigour picks up the baton long before then !

Environment Work Group - Drainage

Dates for your Diary for 2014

Quarter 4

Saturday October 31st ~ OGAFCFA Race Night
Braywood Memorial Hall - 7.30pm

Saturday November 22nd ~ OGAFCFA Christmas Fair - 1-4pm

Saturday December 20th ~ OGAFCFA Christmas Gathering - 6pm

Saturday December 27th ~ Christmas Walk - 11.30am at Fifield Inn

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The Right Track

Many of you have recently commented on the white notices from the Borough attached to gates around the patch and have been wondering what they mean.

The official explanation is that this is a statutory declaration. It has been submitted by Philip Mortimer of Fairacres Farm to establish ownership of the land, and to confirm that the official public rights of way across this farmland are the only routes accessible by the public and that no other routes are recognised as being available for public use.

According to section 31 of the Highways Act 1980 in order to establish a public right of way "*it is necessary to show firstly that there has been uninterrupted use by the public (not necessarily the same people all the time) over a period of 20 years in the belief that the use was as of right.*"

This presumption can be contradicted by evidence showing that there was no intention on behalf of the landowner to dedicate a public path. By publishing the notices, and displaying them for public observation, Mr Mortimer is protecting his land against future claims. This does not, however, affect the current footpaths and the public right to use them.

In Philip's own words "*I state now, and please quote me, that I consider the existing Rights of Way to be sacrosanct and I categorically do not wish to alter this situation. I have, over that past 8 to 10 years, with the encouragement of DEFRA, created Conservation buffer strips around most fields and several new ponds. I wish to leave these in place for many more years and enhance larger areas by reseeded with nectar wildflower mixture. Some of these wildflower areas allow short cuts between paths and so I need to be sure that I will not be at risk of eventually creating a future new path.*"

The existing Public Footpaths on this farm are numerous and well used and I know are considered an asset to the local community. I take my responsibility to maintain and support their use as very important.



This declaration does not prevent any future mutual agreements to a path diversion or improvements to the routes."

So, there is absolutely no cause for alarm, and no reason not to get out there and enjoy a walk !

Environment Work Group

Bray Parish Neighbourhood Plan update

The Steering Group are currently working on two key aspects of the plan.

The first relates to Fifield and has resulted in the creation of a Survey which is being distributed and promoted now. This exercise will enable the Steering Group to gather local residents views on the possibility of gaining a sizeable public open space in the middle of the village in return for the development of a small number of new houses. The results of this survey will be written in to the final Plan.

The second aspect is to create a readable and consistent Plan document which will be readily accessible for all residents in Bray Parish. To help us in this endeavour we have an independent Editor who has been working on this for some time and the results of her work will be discussed by the Steering Group at the next meeting.

We are aware that timescales have slipped, as have those for the RBWM Local Plan, but we are hoping that we can get to the final draft before December 2014. Keep an eye on www.brayplan.com for more information.

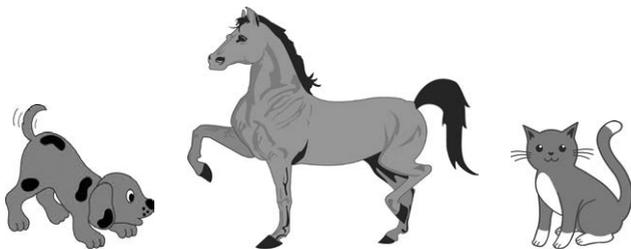
Chris Graham

Steering Group Chairman
Bray Neighbourhood Parish Plan

If you wish to contribute to our Winter Newsletter please submit by
Friday 19 December 2014

either via ogafcap.co.uk or email alison.j.brayshaw@gmail.com
or to Fifield Farm Cottage, Oakley Green Road, Oakley Green, SL4 4QF

Animal Tales - Do you have a story to tell ?



HORSE SENSE

A lifetime of playing polo had left poor old Medina very stiff and arthritic. Every time she went down to roll it was getting harder and harder for her to stand up afterwards, and we would watch her struggle with saddened hearts.

One day we noticed she was lying down in the field and showing no signs of getting up. We went to investigate. In spite of our approach she didn't attempt to stand and all our efforts to encourage her only resulted in a few struggled failures.

With regret we called the vet.

"How old is she ?" He asked, as he put on his stethoscope.

"About 30" came the reply.

"Oh dear, dear," He muttered as he gently examined her thin and tired old body. She made no movement but just rolled an eye to watch him as he walked around her.

"I think the time has come," he said, "to say goodbye".

We all stood round him, fighting the tears, as he gathered his equipment. 'It won't take long,' he tried to reassure us, 'one dose should do it.' And he knelt down and raised an enormous syringe.

All this time Medina had been lying quietly, but at the sight of this syringe she suddenly sprang to her feet, causing us all to leap back out of her way ! She looked the vet straight in the eye, and galloped off up the field !

We said 'goodbye' to the vet !

By Barbara Frame

If you have any amusing stories about animals please send them in to us so that we can share them in our next publication.



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