



Oakley Green, Fifield & District Community Association

Spring Newsletter

March 2010



www.ogafcap.co.uk

From the Editor

The enthusiasm and dedication by OGAFCA volunteers' to get things done is reflected in the interesting articles submitted by the work groups.

Although adverse winter weather tested both the drainage and the roads within our community, persistence from volunteers paid off and repairs are underway.

In order to progress Community Action Plan, an association has been formed. Every household is invited to become a member of the association - more details appear on page four and an application form can be downloaded from the website. Now that spring is in the air, you are invited to enjoy the walk around Fifield on page 16 and take part in a family ramble during half term.

Requests for contributions encouraged a resident to recall fond memories of village life; read her recollections in the social history corner. A curious resident contacted us via the website hoping that someone could shed more light on an intriguing on a WWII story.

If you have a comment or suggestion please send it to the address below or via the website.

Trudi Knight

www.ogafcap.co.uk



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German bomber plane crashes in Oakley Green

As a local resident I wondered whether anyone could shed any light on the following story that took place in Oakley Green during the Second World War.

I live at Bishops House, Bishops Farm Close which is part of the original Farm Manor. During the war our house was used as a school for Refugees.

Out of the blue I recently received a letter from a postman who had worked here during the war telling me some historical information relevant to our property that he had experienced during that time. As a result I spoke to him on the phone and it was during this conversation that he told me about a German bomber plane that had crashed in Oakley Green during the war and the pilot either escaped or was captured as a POW.

My son and I frequently walk our dog over the fields behind our house and see what looks like the remnants of a plane crash. We never touch it as it looks suspiciously like asbestos parts, and in any case we have no idea if it is plane remnants or a disused car!

I Googled the subject and very little appeared about that night on February 18th 1941, apart from a diary entry published in the Telegraph at that time which refers to it.

We are intrigued to know what actually happened that night, and did the pilots survive? Who were they and are they per chance still alive?

Perhaps someone could let me know how I find out more about this, and give me ideas who I can contact?

Charlotte Evans

If you have any more information on this intriguing event, do contact us via the website or by post. Editor

Another milestone reached

As proposed in the recently published Community Action Plan, an organisation has been formed to formally run and represent the interests of the local residents and businesses and to implement the actions in the plan.

At the last All Volunteers Meeting at the end of January, it was decided to establish an association with a constitution, structure and officers etc. so as to "legitimise" our efforts. After much discussion, we came to the conclusion that the best way forward was to create a Company Limited by Guarantee.

It was officially formed on Wednesday March 3rd and is called *The Oakley Green, Fifield and District Community Association Limited*, a Company Limited by Guarantee.

We will still have public liability and employer liability insurances in place through an annual policy, but this new company would in effect be a "firewall" between any potential future claimants and members with the liability per member being limited to guaranteeing to contribute a nominal amount of just £1 if required. Most clubs and societies these days are now taking this route.

Membership of the association is open to all households and businesses in our area and subscriptions have been set initially at £3 per year per household or business - with a small discounted cost of £5 for the first two years to hopefully help boost our initial cash flow and cover the set up costs. The association will then have running costs for hall hire for meetings, running the website, liability insurances, Data Protection Registration, communication fliers etc. It is hoped that funding will come from subscriptions, donations, grants, newsletter advertising and social events.

In order to form the association, there needed to be four initial directors. These are Louise Shenston, Robin Howard, Helen Howard and Grenville Annetts - with Robin Howard also acting as company secretary. Both Robin and Helen have recent previous experience of setting up a Company Limited by Guarantee which is why they are both involved at this stage. These initial directors will all stand down at

the Annual General Meeting – which is scheduled for September 23rd this year. With the proper notices of nominations and of the meeting etc., potential directors can be proposed and voted on at the AGM.

Copies of the Articles of Association and Rules of the Association are available on the website or on request from Robin Howard.

So between now and September, we will be promoting membership of the association at social events, via the website and in this and the summer edition of our newsletter which is due to be published before the AGM. You will all remember that we achieved a remarkable response rate of 74 percent for our Residents Survey - and it would be great if we were to reach a similar level of association membership.

However, the most important forums for progressing activities and implementing the Community Action Plan will still be the All Volunteer Meetings and Work Groups - just as we have working to date. It is expected that these groups will meet at least five times a year each.

For the moment, the website address will remain the same (www.ogafcap.co.uk) but the logo has been "tweaked" to reflect the fact that we will be a Community Association and we are moving on from our Community Action Plan status.

So please support your community and become a member of the association - a snip at just £5 for two years per household or business!

Grenville Annetts

**Download a membership
form for the
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Burnham Lane, Slough

Treading water in the slow lane

I was recently contacted via the website by a local resident living next door to the Greene Oak who kindly offered to cast a little more light on the drainage situation in that neighbourhood. This area represents the most challenging of all the wet spots in our area and despite the survey drawings, Ordnance Survey maps, Google Earth and a thorough tour of the Cardinal and Hand Clinics' grounds it had proved very difficult to tie down the exact detail of the whole picture and what practical measures might be proposed to improve it.

I am very grateful to Nick who this morning gave a chunk of his time to take me on a tour of the ponds, ditches and culverts around him which has clearly demonstrated that I need to correct and update the drainage report on this wet spot. This I will do as soon as possible and will post it on the website and flag it on the home page when done.

Unfortunately this still remains the most difficult item on our list inevitably requiring capital funding and long term planning. Our immediate efforts have been focussed rather more modestly on much simpler problems at the easier end of the list which one would expect to be able to sort very quickly as the remedies are glaringly obvious and not costly.

Progress on the ditch at the speed hump in Fifield Road near Longlea hit an immediate problem when we requested details of underground services in that stretch so that we could deploy volunteers to clear the ditch. The gas utility requested further consultation before any substantial work is undertaken. Although we did some clearance manually and for a while managed to get the water off the road, the situation has deteriorated during the wetter weather and there is now standing water on the road again.

The matter has been with Streetcare for some months now and we have repeatedly tried to get an update from them on what progress, if any, has been made. We are extremely disappointed that after a very co-operative period towards the end of last year, it has proved impossible to get any response whatever since before Christmas - despite many e mails and a letter which also enclosed a copy of the Community Action Plan and the winter newsletter. Further attempts

will be made via phone and if necessary by visiting the offices in Tinkers Lane. But Streetcare have been informed that if no news is forthcoming in the very near future, volunteers will again be deployed to clear more of the ditch and unblock the culvert under the SEW Pipeline project entrance opposite Longlea. This will be done before the end of March.

I'd like to take this opportunity to remind residents that since the borough council abdicated their responsibility some years ago, ditches and drainage are now considered to be the responsibility of the householder or landowner along whose boundary they run - even if this is alongside a highway. The silly situation in Fifield Road is the result of the failure over many years of the landowner to fulfil this responsibility and of the council, who seem unwilling to exercise their powers, to do the work and charge the landowner for it.

Rod Lord
Environment Work Group

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An integral part of village life

When Helen and Gary first arrived at The Fifield Inn from Hertfordshire on 14th May 2001 they knew they had their work cut out. Although they had both run their own successful businesses it was their first venture into the pub trade. The Fifield certainly played second fiddle to the other pub in the village, in fact, to all the other pubs in the surrounding area. Trade had been allowed to ebb away so the once busy and popular inn had been sadly neglected.

They set about repainting the outside, tidying up the inside and vowed to make one change every day in a bid to slowly turn the business around. The early days were difficult but they were enthusiastic and hard working. It wasn't long before Helen put her green fingers to good use and the now famous flower display began to take shape and gradually bring the customers back. Nowadays photographs are sent all over the world and the pub is full of paintings of the pub and its fantastic flower display which have been painted and donated to the pub by amateur artists.

They concentrated on good pub grub and a warm welcome turning it into a "Good Old English Country Pub". Now nearly nine years on it has been restored to its rightful status and enjoys a very busy trade. There are no televisions, jukeboxes or pool tables, just congenial company and a very warm and friendly welcome. The pub is now the central hub and meeting place for the whole village.

Gary and Helen are very community minded and are involved in many of the local events. The Fifield Fun Day was the brainchild of Helen and was started by them six years ago. It is hard to imagine that on that first day when there were only eight or nine stalls that it would become the huge event that it is today. The couple has raised nearly thirty thousand pounds for their various charities over the years by organising many events.

The Fifield Inn is truly an integral part of village life and is most certainly an asset to this village.

Bill Collier

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A pat on the back

In view of the damage the snow caused to our roads this winter, the Roads & Transport Work Group was about to set up a “Pothole Alert” on the website, when, as if by magic, the RBWM made good many suspect stretches of road.

As luck would have it, last October we were asked to liaise with the Parish Council to advise them of areas where the roads were in poor condition and Forest Green Road and Oakley Green Road were highlighted for “patching”. These already damaged stretches of road were amongst those affected so badly by the snow and were consequently resurfaced first.

So although we cannot claim all the credit (some must go to the snow!) for the improved condition of our roads, we can afford ourselves a little pat on the back.

We were also asked to suggest areas where footways were needed and I am delighted to report that we are currently liaising with Stephen Brown, the Head of Highways and Engineering and we hope to meet with a member of his team to discuss suitable sites. So watch this space!

Louise Shenston

Bill's gardening tips

This is the time of year when we start to get productive. The frosts should have broken down the soil so all that is required is a light forking of the top two or four inches and then a fine raking and we are ready to sow. Check the dates on your seed packets and start putting them into the ground. To get a succession of crops only plant a few seeds in a row and put a marker where the planting ends then in about two or three weeks add about the same length of row and move the marker. If you keep doing this to the end of the row you will get a crop over a much longer period than if you had planted the whole row all at once. Crops that need protection can be started in the greenhouse or cold frame so check to make sure before planting them. Peas and beans can be planted in whole rows because some germinate before others.

If you need any help or advice e-mail me at wcollier54@yahoo.co.uk and I will do all I can to help.

Bill Collier



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Residents Association backs local concerns

The Oakley Green, Fifield and District Residents Association is a constitutionally elected body which has been in existence for over 40 years representing the residents in our area. Below is a brief background to the activities of the association.

We primarily deal with planning applications and monitor their effect on the rural aspect of the area and in particular with existing Green Belt Policy. Road safety incorporating speed monitoring and condition of surfaces and footpaths, local environment problems including aircraft noise, waste pollution and similar also come under our remit. We were successfully involved with the initial speed limit on Oakley Green Road and a large caravan park proposal in the past. More recently the problems at Wayside Stables, which caused great concern especially to residents of Ferndale Park, involved the backing of the association.

At the end of December the association was also involved in initially helping local residents on Oakley Green Road when gypsy caravans suddenly appeared on land adjacent to Marshall Place. More than 60 letters objecting to the subsequent planning application were sent by local residents who regularly pressurised RBWM for action. This was achieved by them eventually issuing a Stop Notice. An overall success primarily because of the action of those in the immediate vicinity who kept up the pressure upon the royal borough. This shows how we can get action when we work together!

The committee meets at least four times a year. We have an AGM in May of each year and in addition an autumn meeting with a guest speaker. These autumn meetings have recently included RBWM Highway Services, Jeff Pick from Neighbourhood Watch and Bob Dulson who was chair of the committee for the rejuvenation of Maidenhead. The speaker last autumn was Alison Knight from RBWM responsible for planning and green belt. This was of particular interest to those of us who cherish maintaining and supporting the current Green Belt Policy especially with the proposed changes and how it may affect us in future years.

This particular area, as you are probably well aware, is constantly under threat from illegal developments and those who wish to flaunt

planning rules and regulations. It is in all our interests to monitor what is going on around us.

The date for the AGM this year is Thursday April 29th at 8pm at the Braywood Memorial Hall. You will be circulated soon by the usual flier. We look forward to seeing you there!

Chairman: Bill Collier: Fifield 01628 676939
wcollier54@yahoo.co.uk

Vice-Chairman: Rod Ball: Oakley Green 01753 865730
roddieball@hotmail.com

Secretary: Pat Morrish: Oakley Green 01753 850782
pat.morrish@virgin.net

Treasurer: Martin Hall: Oakley Green 01753 859225
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Every area has a policing team

A new directive called, 'The Policing Pledge' has come from the police. Every area now has a Neighbourhood Policing Team which is there to provide a responsive and accessible service to the public. The team is dedicated to working and patrolling in your area and is your first point of contact for non emergency matters. In a survey of residents active in their community, nearly 70 percent knew their area had a Neighbourhood Policing Team.

The pledge is a set of promises from the police which reflect what the public have said they most want from their policing services.

The pledge includes commitments to:

- Ensure they are visible in the local area.
- Prioritise local crime and anti social behaviour.
- Inform the public of actions taken with regard to crime.
- Inform the public as to how and where they can contact the police when needed.
- Hold monthly public meetings where members of the public can have their say on matters that affect them.
- Set limits to response times, including within 60 minutes if it is a neighbourhood priority, and bookable appointments for non emergencies.
- Keep in touch monthly with victims of crime.

The public has a right to complain if they feel the police are not meeting these targets. Complaints can be either voiced at public meetings, sent to your Neighbourhood Police Team (which will respond within 24 hours) to your police force, Chief Constable, or directly to your police authority.

The Government wants to increase public awareness about the Policing Pledge. Go to www.direct.gov.uk/policing_pledge and enter your postcode to get a link to the pages for your local policing team. Here you will find contact details for your Neighbourhood Policing Team, information about neighbourhood police meetings, more about

action being taken to address local problems, crime information and maps for the local area, as well as what the public can do to help tackle crime.

As part of a current campaign to help let the public know about their rights, information can also be obtained by text; text the word, 'pledge', and your postcode to 66101 and you will receive a text with contact details for your Neighbourhood Policing Team and/or your police service's non emergency contact details.

Police surgeries, which are attended by local PCSOs, are held once a month at the rear of Holyport Village Hall. The surgeries will run from 18:00 to 20:00 on the following dates:

30th March, 28th April, 25th May, 24th June, 29th July 2010

Paula Grevett and Bill Collier
Community Safety Work Group

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RBWM litter picking

Oakley Green

week beginning 19 April
week beginning 31 May
week beginning 12 July

Fifield

week beginning 22 March
week beginning 3 May
week beginning 7 June

(all dates are approximate)

Take a walk around Fifield

This walk takes approximately 1hr 30mins taking you through footpaths, fields, across stiles and along some busy roads so please take care, you will encounter plenty of muddy paths in the winter so wear the proper footwear

REMEMBER;- Take nothing but photographs—Leave nothing but footprints and keep dogs on a lead

Starting from the Fifield Inn, with your back to the pub carefully cross the road and turn right. At the junction turn left to pass the Fifield Polo Club, Braywood Cricket Club and Braywood C of E 1st School. Thirty yards after a church building turn left over a V shaped stile onto a footpath. Continue forward, keeping the farm on your right hand side crossing three V shape stiles, known as squeezer stiles. On reaching a swinging gate (kissing gate) walk forward through the middle of the field passing a lonely old oak tree. On reaching the hedge turn right. After approximately 60 yards turn left through a gap in the hedge. Keeping the hedge on your right you will find a wooden bridge to cross. Follow the path through a tunnel of trees and walk down the middle of two fields reaching the Windsor Road.

Cross the Windsor Road with extreme care and turn left towards Maidenhead, pass the Queens Head public house, BP Garage, Fifield Road on your left and Auto Technics on your right, look out for Pardoe Shoe Repairs on the left, carefully cross the road again and enter the signed footpath to the right of the shop through a wooden gate. At the end of the fence turn left, follow the footpath round to the right with mobile homes on the left eventually passing through a wooden gate and across a grass bridge. Turn left then immediately right with a fence on your right and a ditch on your left. At the end of the fence you will see a swing gate on your right, go through the gate bearing left you will come to a wooden gate, after passing through the gate keep walking forward to cross two stiles leading you to Coningsby Lane.

On reaching Coningsby Lane turn left to pass Old Lodge Farm on your left and Parkside on you right leading you to Fifield Road, turn right and very carefully make your way back to the Fifield Inn.

Robin Knock

Punters cheer at social evening

On Thursday March 11, we organised a community social evening in Braywood Memorial Hall and it was a great success, partially fuelled by a licensed bar run by volunteers. The event was well supported.

First of all, attendees were given an update on the progress of the implementation of the recently published Community Action Plan and invited to join the newly formed Oakley Green, Fifield and District Community Association (read more information on page four).

Then the entertainment started – in the form of a video horse racing event – back after popular demand after the one we organised in July 2008. At times, you could hardly hear yourself speak as punters cheered on their horses to the winning line!

One lady from Coningsby Lane had the winner in four of the eight races and left very happy. Great fun was had by all and many of us left poorer, hoarse and almost exhausted.

The Social & Recreational Work Group is planning future events for 2010 – and is currently considering a food & wine fair, family rambles and a variety concert. If you want to join the work group or have suggestions for other events which you think may be popular, please contact us via the website or Grenville Annetts on 01628 784441.

Readers will notice that we have also included contact details of local clubs and associations in the newsletter.

Grenville Annetts

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Residents Association

AGM

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Are you an artist?

I would like to know if there is enough support in our community to start an art group. It would require someone willing to take charge and a number of people to take part. I myself would like to gain experience from such a group, the aim of which would be to help each other achieve a higher standard than they have at present. If you are interested, please contact me.

Bill Collier

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Enjoy some fresh air over half term

Following the success of the rambles organised last year, the Children & Youths Work Group has arranged another family ramble during half term.

The ramble starts at the Fifield Inn at 4pm. and once everyone has built up an appetite, we will return to the Fifield Inn for drinks and a meal.

If you would like to join in please contact me for more details on:
07970 020 973

Alison Brayshaw

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Two photographs are shown in a collage style. The top photo shows several people in kayaks on a river, with one person in the foreground using a paddle. The bottom photo shows a white sailboat on a lake, with trees in the background.

Social history corner

I happily accepted an invitation to walk down memory lane with Mrs Jean Heath who has lived in the area all her life and has seen many changes. Here are some snippets of the fun times.

Jean recalls the fêtes held on the green at the corner of Oakley Green Road and Fifield Road where everyone met and enjoyed the events, stalls and the friendly atmosphere. With laughter she remembers the knobbly knees competition, also a tug-of-war competition between the Fifield Ladies Club and a team from the Hare and Hounds.

The Braywood Memorial Hall was the venue for the summer fairs. Tables were set up for exhibits art, handicraft, photography, flower arrangements, cakes and preserves. These items were judged and awarded a certificate or a rosette. Jean very proudly showed me her many certificates and rosettes.

Jean remembers a mini-market held in the Braywood Memorial Hall at intervals throughout the year which generated a great atmosphere. It was well organised with table tops available to allow the sale of produce, plants, books, craft items, bric-a-brac. It was well supported by local W.I. charity groups and villagers.

Although since closed, the two shops in Fifield and one in Oakley Green were where many villagers met and exchanged local news whilst shopping for their daily needs Jean has fond memories of wonderful times and a great community spirit.

Eileen Crotty

*Do you too have fond memories of times gone by? We would like to hear from you, so please send them to us via the website or by post.
Editor*

To advertise in the newsletter visit the website

www.ogafcap.co.uk

or call Bill Collier on 01628 676939

The summer issue will be published in June

Local clubs and activities

The Braywood Memorial Hall is available to hire seven days a week. For more information contact Doreen Embery 01628 631179

Below are details of some of the activities held in the hall:

Braywood Bowls Club Mon 2-5 pm: Ruth Keys 01628 784665

Braywood WI 1st Wed of the month: Benita Moores 01753 868992

Ballet Age 4-16 Thu + Fri 4-7 pm: Gillian Chatt 01628 670696

Judo Age 3+ Fri pm: Alan Scott 07776 442963
www.asjudoacademy.co.uk

Pilates Fri 4-5 pm: Gillian Chatt 01628 670696

Karate Fri pm: Deborah Richards 07719 645678
www.windsorkarate.org.uk

Tap Dancing for adults Tue 7-9 pm: Gillian Chatt 01628 670696

Yoga All ages Tue 5-6 pm: Dot Eaton 01753 850313

Yoga for pregnancy Tue 6-7 pm: Dot Eaton 01753 850313

Other activities in your area:

East Berkshire Ramblers Neil Adamson 01753 776627
neilanddi@blueyonder.co.uk www.eastberskramblers.org

Windsor Community Orchestra Thu 7-9 pm: Oakfield First School
Elaine Foakes 01753 859123
wco@windsororchestra.org.uk www.windsororchestra.org.uk

Gardening Club: Bill Collier 01628 676939
wcollier54@yahoo.co.uk

Residents welcome road repairs

A sustained campaign by residents of Stewart Close in Fifield to get their road re-surfaced by the council has ended in success.

The road, part of which had been in a very poor state for many years, was finally re-tarmaced in February after council officials gave the green light for workmen and their machinery to move in.

Stewart Close, which is a cul-de-sac, had been in the unique situation of being half adopted by the council and half-un-adopted. As a result, the un-adopted part of the road had deteriorated significantly over the years, while the adopted section was still regularly maintained by the council.

“It was a ludicrous state of affairs lasting decades,” says Stewart Close resident Michael Wadley. “Those living in the adopted section of the road had no choice but to drive over the un-adopted section in order to enter and exit the cul-de-sac. The road surface consequently took a hammering but the council declined to repair it despite locals trying to get them to see sense.”

Says Wadley: “The final straw came last summer when contractors came by to resurface just the adopted part again. One or two of us wrote strong letters to the council. We were cautiously delighted when councillor Barry Thompson contacted us expressing a sympathetic view.”

Chief engineer’s visit

“He recommended we organise a petition to be presented to the council – which we did. Councillor Thompson then arranged for the council’s chief engineer to visit the road to see close up just how unfit for purpose the surface had become.”

Residents kept fingers crossed for a few weeks before receiving good news by letter from the council.

Says Michael Wadley, “Not only did the council say it planned to resurface the road – the whole road – but it had agreed to adopt all of Stewart Close. Marvellous news – so the next time I see Barry Thompson I’m going to buy him a big drink. His support made this happen.”

**Campaign ends
in success**





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