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Oakley Green, Fifield & District Community Association

Spring Newsletter

April 2014



www.ogafcap.co.uk

Features in this Spring issue include...



... a new look for the Fifield Inn ...

... HOORAY ! - work finally done ...



... hanging baskets and Spring bulbs brighten up our villages ...



... fun and colour at our Chinese New Year Quiz Night



The OGAFCA newsletter is edited by Alison Brayshaw - Printed by DRAYTON: www.drayton.co.uk
Published by Oakley Green, Fifield and District Community Association Limited by Guarantee
Postal address: OGAFCA, Broadacre House, Coningsby Lane, Fifield, SL6 2PF
Views expressed in the OGAFCA newsletter do not necessarily reflect those of the editor.
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From the Chairman

As mentioned in the last newsletter, we have had a busy time on planning matters of late.

The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (RBWM) Local Plan Public Consultation started in January and ended on March 21. This is an extremely important process as it will set the direction for development planning and housebuilding in particular for the next 15+ years to 2030. We helped to organise two public events to explain the process and gauge the feelings of local residents. We then wrote a detailed response against the RBWM proposals for the six sites in our area. See the article later in this newsletter for more information.

The Public Enquiry about the Gypsy Site off Forest Green Road was conducted by The Planning Inspectorate in Windsor between April 1 and April 3. We had previously made objections to the planning application and supported the local campaign against the proposals. The application was turned down by RBWM planners, but was appealed by the applicants and hence the Public Enquiry. There was a good turnout of local residents throughout the 3 days and we hope to hear the result of the Inspector's deliberations in the next few months.

Our last General Meeting was held on Thursday February 20. It focused on the Local Plan Consultation in part one and was well attended. After some refreshment, in part two we talked about more general activities we are engaged in and these are covered elsewhere in this newsletter. Notes from the meeting as usual are on our Website. The next General Meeting is on **Thursday May 15 at 7:30 pm in Braywood Memorial Hall - all welcome.** And our Annual General Meeting will take place this year on **Thursday September 18.**

The summer approaches and with it comes all the fun of the fairs and fetes and shows we are lucky to have in our area. Of course I will plug here our "own" - the Fifield Fun Day - which will take place at Deep Meadows on Saturday August 9. We are the only one with a real Steam Train ! Helpers are always needed, so please be prepared to respond to requests for volunteers.

Thank you for your continued support.

Grenville Annetts

OGAFCA Membership Renewal

Membership of our Association runs from April 1st to March 31st each year. It costs just £3 per household or business for one year or £5 for two years. Members are entitled to a small discount on ticket prices for some social events we hold.

The funds generated go towards helping us to run the Association's meetings, events, website and newsletter. Having a strong Membership is also critical to us being able to convince local Service Providers (such as RBWM, Bray Parish Council, BT, Openreach, etc.) to spend money/make improvements in our area.

We will remind those of you whose memberships lapsed at the end of this March in the next few weeks. Membership forms are available on our website or from any of our Committee members. So come on - do your bit for the Community and support us please ! It costs about the same as a cappuccino, a pint of ale or bus ride into Windsor. Marvellous value for money !

Grenville Annetts Tel 01628 784441

OGAFCA need volunteers for 4 important roles

Communications - Work Group spokesperson

Communications - Webmaster. Requires knowledge of CSS, HTML, file structure management and FTP transfers.

Environment - Drainage

Children and Youth - Work Group spokesperson

If you can help please contact us immediately via www.ogafcap.co.uk or **01628 784441**

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RBWM Local Plan Consultation

The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Borough (RBWM) Local Plan has been drafted and the "Preferred Options Consultation" started in January and ended on March 21. This is an extremely important process as it will set the direction for development planning and house building in particular for the next 15+ years to 2030. It was a very complex process, but in simple terms and for us :

In the Green Belt Edge of Settlement analysis, of the 23 Sites identified for potential development, six are located in Bray Parish, namely :

- Area 5C Maidenhead - Triangle M4, A308(M) and Ascot Road
- Area 5E Maidenhead - Area south of Harvest Hill Road and east of Kimbers Lane
- Area 7A Land west of Holyport - Area between Ascot Road and Holyport Road
- Area 8A Windsor - Area north of A308, south of Maidenhead Road
- Area 8B Windsor - Area south of A308, east of Oakley Green Road and north of Dedworth Road
- Area 8C Windsor - Area south of Dedworth Road and west of Broom Farm Estate

In the Housing Site Assessment analysis, of the 39 Sites identified for potential development, three are located in Bray Parish, namely :

- Area GB5 - Wyevale Garden Centre, Dedworth Road, Windsor
- Area GB6 - Squires Garden Centre, Maidenhead Road, Windsor
- Area GB14 - Land at Water Oakley Farm, Windsor Road

In order to inform our local residents and promote their participation in the Consultation we collaborated with ...

The Down Place Residents Association (DPRA)

The Oakley Green and Fifield Residents Association (OGFRA)

The Tarbay Lane Residents Association (TLRA)

The West Windsor Residents Association (WWRA)

... and organised two Public Events which were attended by a total of over 150 local residents on

- Saturday February 15, 2014 at 11:00 am at Saxons Barn, Dedworth Road
- Thursday February 20, 2014 at 7:30 pm at Braywood Memorial Hall, Fifield

Cllr M J Saunders (RBWM Cabinet Member for Planning and Property Services) and Miles Thompson (RBWM Planning Policy Manager) were invited to attend and gave detailed presentations and allowed plenty of time for questions from attendees.

At the end of the two events, we conducted a simple straw poll of what local residents thought about the potential development of the 9 sites above. But in summary, of those residents who participated :

- 55% to 89% were not in favour of development on the 6 Green Belt Edge of Settlement Sites
- 79% to 93 % were not in favour of development on the 3 Brownfield Sites in the Green Belt

This second result confirmed the views we gathered by holding two similar events which again were attended by about 150 residents during the previous Sites Consultation in December 2012.

Based on these results we wrote to RBWM on behalf of local residents. We objected to Housing development on these Sites. But we decided to limit our comments to the 6 sites which are closest to us and about which we know most. So we left our near neighbours in Holyport to comment on Areas 5C, 5E and 7A.

Our letter and attachments amounted to 20 pages !

The letter, attachment 1 (Results of straw polls), and attachments 2 to 7 are all available on www.ogafcap.co.uk via the LOCAL PLANNING page.

RBWM will now consider all the representations made in the consultation exercise and hopefully come up with a revised list of sites for potential development. Further consultations are due later this year and we will continue to keep you informed.

Grenville Annetts

Support our Farmers !

It goes without saying that in parks and urban areas we always clear up after our pets, but, in farmland and rural areas it is considered less important. However, in a recent episode of BBC Countryfile they highlighted an upsurge in new cases of a disease called neospora which affects cattle and sheep and causes them to miscarry. It is caused by a parasite which can be spread through dog faeces.

This parasite can survive for several months and contaminates pasture and water supplies. Once infected, the cattle and sheep have the disease for life. Another parasite, sarcocystosis, which causes illness and death in livestock, can be spread in the same way.

As a result, farmers are urging all dog walkers who use farmland footpaths to pick up after their pets in an effort to stem the alarming rise in these diseases. At this time of year with the lambs gambolling in the fields, it is worth remembering that by 'pooper-scooping' we can do our bit to help our farmers to keep their herds healthy.

Environment Work Group

Fifield Fun Day - a fun event for good causes !

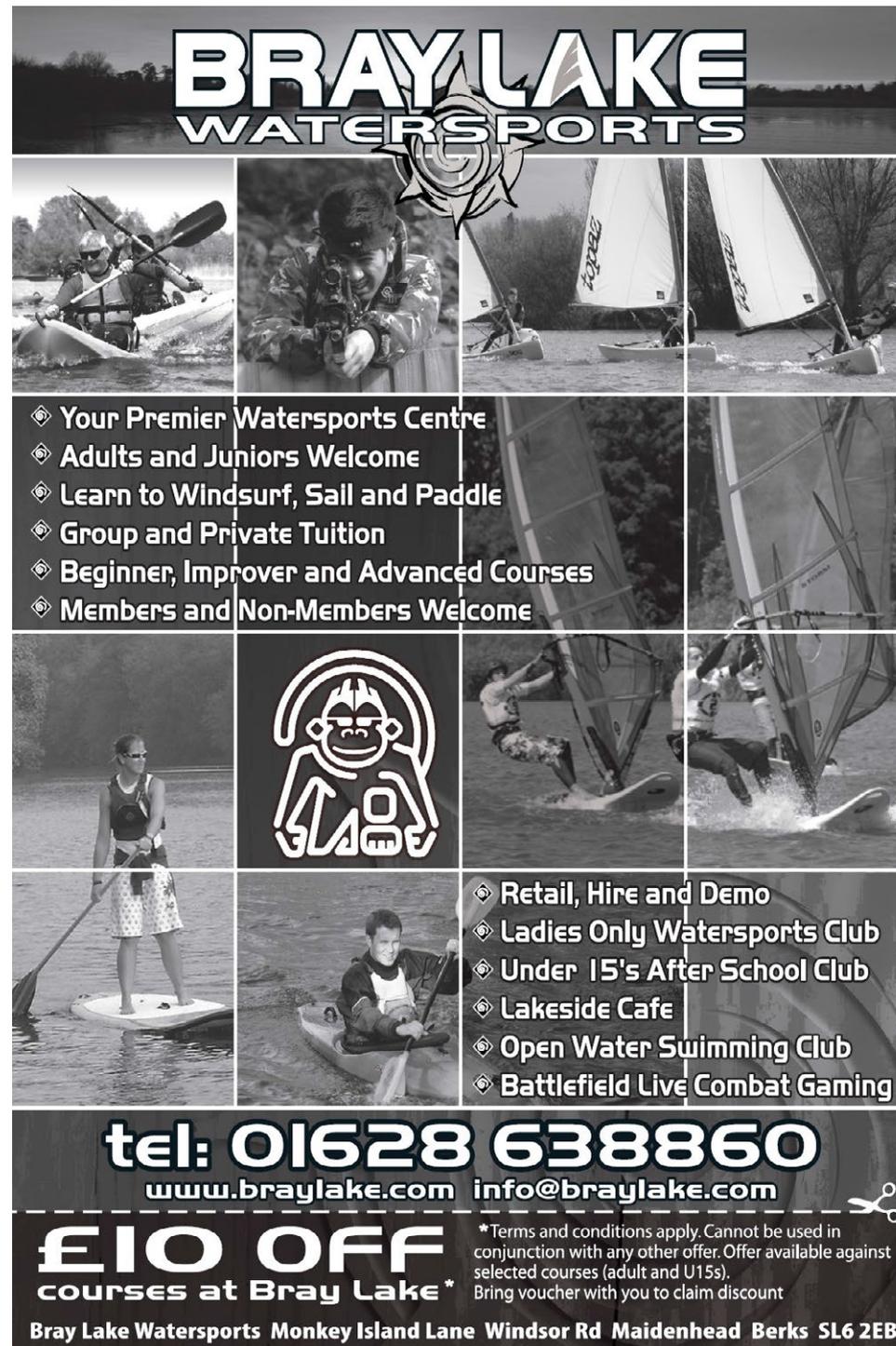
Preparations are well under way for the 2014 Fifield Fun Day, which is being held on Saturday 9 August at Deep Meadows in Fifield.

This year we will be supporting :

- **Helen & Douglas House**
Hospice care for children and young adults - Charity No 1085951
- **Thames Hospice**
Hospice care for adults in E Berks and S Bucks - Charity No 1108298

If you have any fund raising ideas, want to donate a raffle or auction prize, would like to help organising the event, or would like to help out on the day itself, please contact :

Louise Shenston - 01628 783448 or Helen Howard - 01628 782003



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New Look for the Fifield Inn

After months of uncertainty the Fifield Inn re-opened this year under new management. The new owners, Keith and Michelle Lawson, are determined to give the village a pub we can all be proud of.

The couple moved into Fifield village in October 2012 and love the area. They have two children; Jamie, who is 7 years old and goes to school in Holyport, is very keen on sports and plays rugby and cricket in the local teams; his sister, Evie is 4 years old in June and currently attends the Montessori school at Braywood Memorial Hall. She, too, is into sports and is a regular visitor to the Phoenix Gym Club. A springer spaniel completes the family. They will be continuing to live in their family home leaving the flat above the pub available for the chef .

This is a very new and exciting venture for Keith and Michelle as they have never run a pub before, although they both have a background in the catering industry and, in fact, met when they both worked for RHMS Food Services in Reading. They share a passion for the business and a vision of a cosy and friendly family pub serving good food at fair prices.

The pub itself has been completely renovated with a cool, neutral interior, stone floor and solid wooden furniture. Glass doors open onto the covered veranda giving a light and airy feel to the seating area. Food is served all day every day and the menu consists of all the family favourites plus a selection of specials and home made pies. The Lawsons are determined to source their ingredients locally wherever possible and use a family butcher and a local wine supplier.

Justin, the head chef, comes with a very impressive pedigree and has won many awards, including 'pub chef of the year' two years running. He also appeared on the second series of ' Masterchef the professionals.'



Keith admits that in the last few weeks they have both probably worked harder than they have ever worked in their lives but their enthusiasm is just as strong. It is his dream to create the sort of local pub that he would want to use himself. He wants to see his guests enjoy a great experience and leave with full bellies and smiles on their faces.

Keith and Michelle have already made their home here and are keen to participate in local events. They want to ensure that the Fifield Inn continues to serve as the heart of the community and I am sure we all wish them well with their new venture.

For more details please visit www.fifieldinn.com

Water Oakley Outline Planning Application approved

The RBWM Maidenhead Development Control Panel met on Wednesday April 9 2014. The Outline Planning Application (13/02719/OUT) to build 44 houses on land at Water Oakley was on the agenda and was discussed. The RBWM Planning Officer briefly introduced the application and said they were recommending approval to the Panel.

Grenville Annetts (Chairman of OGAFCFA) spoke for 3 minutes **AGAINST** the Application.

Cllr Helen Howard (on behalf of Bray Parish Council) spoke for 2 minutes **AGAINST** the Application.

Rod Ball (Chairman of Oakley Green and Fifield Residents Association) spoke for 2 Minutes **FOR** the Application.

The Agent for Farmglade (The Applicant) spoke for 1 Minute **FOR** the Application.

The Panel then discussed the Application for about 30 minutes and voted unanimously to APPROVE it. Two of the three RBWM Bray Ward Councillors were present - Cllr Leo Walters and Cllr David Coppinger - and they both supported the Application.

This is only an Outline Planning Application. A detailed Application will undoubtedly follow and we will continue to keep you informed.

Braywood Cricket Club - Past, present and future

Geoffrey Shurley, President of Braywood Cricket Club for the last 10 years, tells of his time with the club and its history in the village.



Captain OGN Turnbull

“Cricket has been played in Braywood for over 90 years now and has involved many local families over that time. The club was founded in 1920 with the help of the Turnbull family, who lived in the village at Fifield Farm. Captain OGN Turnbull was very keen on cricket, and purchased land which became our cricket ground and was named “The Turnbull Cricket Ground”. The club were allowed to use the ground as long as the land was used for cricket.

The Clubhouse was originally at the top corner of the cricket ground and built on stilts. It did not have showers or a changing room. The current Clubhouse was built in the late 1960’s by John Rolls and was opened in 1968 providing a changing room and somewhere for the cricketers to have tea.

In 1920 when Braywood Cricket Club was founded the team, made up of many local families, played weekend fixtures only. Photographs of our teams and their names, from those days and more recent years, are on display in the Clubhouse. Captain OGN Turnbull himself was very involved with Braywood Cricket Club and was our President from 1955 to 1970. The Headmaster of Braywood School, Mr CF Snow, was also a well-loved member and celebrated 50 years with our club from 1932 to 1982. During that time he was Chairman for many years.

I joined Braywood Cricket Club in 1972, having previously played cricket for The Royal Household, where I scored the first ever 1000 runs at the home grounds at Frogmore. At Braywood I have played with some memorable cricketers from local families, in particular one excellent cricketer, Stewart Langley, who played for Braywood as well as Maidenhead and Bray and Berkshire. I have also had many memorable games which were quite unusual. Once play was stopped for a family of ducklings crossing the pitch and another time we had a horse spooked by some fireworks break through onto the ground during tea, which was quite a surprise ! Also we have had some memorable social events; our Club Day at the end of summer is always a great event and on the Club’s 90th Anniversary we enjoyed watching our club play a friendly game against rugby player Zinzan Brooke and his friends.

The club has gone from strength to strength and now has two league sides playing on a Saturday throughout the season as well as Sunday cricket which is played on a friendly basis. We also have a T20 side who won the T20 evening league for the first time in 2013. Our biggest achievement was winning the Julian Cup in 1975, which is a competition between local clubs and is keenly fought.

One of our success stories has been our Juniors which were formed a few years ago, following a suggestion by Stuart West, our Chairman. The Juniors have breathed new life into the club and have now reached a high standard. Last season they were runners up in their league and they are looking forward to more success this year.”

Outside of the cricket season all club members, families and friends have met up at the club house once a month for a social evening which started last Autumn for the first time and has been a great success. Pre-season the club organises cricket nets which this year the Colts took part in too.

The club is always looking for new members, be they playing or non-playing and they can be sure of a warm welcome. If you enjoy watching cricket do come along and support our weekend matches.

Braywood Cricket Club - Juniors

Braywood Cricket Club Juniors Sunday sessions, 10 to 12 am, for children and teenagers from 6 years, start on 27th April. For further details contact Stuart West (Juniors Manager) 07836 536725

Roads and Transport - 90 second Update

1. Reduction in Bus Service

Helen Howard is working with our Ward Councillors in an endeavour to encourage Courtney Coaches to change the timetable back to something more acceptable to residents. If you are experiencing problems because of the cut in service please do let Helen know (contact details below).

2. Lack of Footways

While we have had some success with the new footway in the Fifield Road, there are still several dangerous stretches of road in the area, where footways would be appropriate. We are prioritising the areas and would appreciate your feedback (see contact details below) as to where you feel footways are most needed.

3. Legoland Traffic Trials

RBWM have announced (quietly) that there are to be traffic trials on three dates over coming bank holiday weekends to divert Legoland traffic away from M4 junction 6 and the Royal Windsor Way/Imperial Road approach. The proposed route is from M4 junction 8/9 towards Windsor along the A308 up to West Windsor, turning right along Oakley Green Road, left up Fifield Lane, left into Drift Road and on to Legoland. Discussions are continuing.

4. Smart Motorway

The Highways Agency is proposing to improve the M4 by making it a “smart motorway” between junctions 3 and 12. Smart motorways help relieve congestion by using technology to vary speed limits. They also allow the hard shoulder to be used as a running lane at peak times to create additional capacity. This is more cost effective than conventional motorway widening and with less impact on the environment during construction. The intention is for work to commence in 2015.

The Highways Agency Letter to RBWM can be found on ogafcap.co.uk via the ROADS & TRANSPORT page as well as a link to the relevant page on the Highways Agency web site for more information.

We welcome your ideas and feedback either via ogafcap.co.uk or by post to the registered address at OGAFC, Roads & Transport, Broadacre House, Coningsby Lane, Fifield, SL6 2PF.



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B P N P - a pause for Consultation !

The work of the Bray Parish Neighbourhood Plan - BPNP has been interrupted since 7th January whilst the Steering Group, working with Bray Parish Council, prepared, printed and distributed two leaflets to every household and business in the Parish. We aimed to encourage as many people as possible to submit a Response to the RBWM Proposals to develop housing on the six Green Belt sites in Bray Parish. The combined and detailed responses from ourselves, yourselves (OGAFCA), the Parish Council, Down Place, HRA and other Residents Associations should cause RBWM to rethink their Housing Strategy. Let's hope that we are all listened to - that should be what Localism is about !

Looking forward, the BPNP Steering Group have agreed a series of five more meeting dates, which will be published on our website www.brayplan.com, taking us up to July 2014, during which time I hope that we will complete the first real draft of our Neighbourhood Plan. However we do not have a clear answer to the question of when to submit our Neighbourhood Plan.

The options are :

- do it as soon as possible or
- wait until the Borough Local Plan is adopted, probably in early 2015.

That is a key question the Steering Group will now need to address.

Chris Graham

Steering Group Chairman

Bray Parish Neighbourhood Plan

Lorry Watch volunteers needed

Despite the fact there are signs at each end of the Fifield Road advising drivers that HGVs are not permitted, lorries still thunder through our village throughout the day. We have reported the culprits to their companies in the past and had some success in reducing the number of lorries using the road, but have now decided to make a concerted effort to put a stop to this.

Please contact **Bill Collier on 01628 676939** if you can spare some time during the day over the coming weeks to join our "Lorry Watch" team.

HOORAY ! - work finally gets done

Wet Spot 2 - The speed bump on Fifield Road. We are very pleased to report that 5 years of effort to improve what we originally thought was the simplest task has at last borne fruit. The work has finally been done - Hooray ! We have thanked Streetcare and we do realise the last few months have presented them with problems much greater than ours but even our comparatively simple “nuisance puddles” are nevertheless of considerable concern to residents.

At the open meeting in February residents raised the issue that spoil from the excavation along the southern stretch had not been removed and remained piled high on the verge. We asked that the excess spoil be removed and Streetcare agreed. This has now been done.

While work was in progress it was noticeable that a culvert just north of Longlea has been delivering water from the large eastern ditch into the smaller western stretch. Streetcare said it had been assumed to flow in the opposite direction. The subsequent large volume of water in the smaller capacity western ditch causes a problem when it tries to pass into a pipe just north of Wayside Stables. This can surely be improved by not allowing the large flow of water from the much more capacious eastern ditch. We have requested that the culvert be disabled as the large ditch seems well able to handle whatever flow arrives at that point. Streetcare have confirmed that a temporary blockage will be installed so that the effects can be assessed.

Wet Spot 3 - Braywood Lodge on Oakley Green Road. In 2011 volunteers cleared the ditches and Streetcare jetted pipes under the roadside verge. This appeared to improve the situation and we thought we were safe to give a tick to this “wet spot”. At the open meeting in February the resident informed us that there had again been a lot of surface water accumulating so we have had to return this “wet spot” to Amber status and will be watching carefully next time there is heavy rainfall to see if there is anything else that can be done.

Wet Spot 4 - Coningsby Lane continues to be problematic. In an attempt to quantify one proposal a formal request for a cost estimate was sent on March 6 to three local contractors. As yet no response has been received. It seems that we now need to look for non-local contractors to provide estimates of cost in a continued attempt to arrive at some sort of progress plan.

Wet Spot 7 extends from just south of the Fifield Inn to just south of Stewart Close. This is a low point in the route northward through the village and excess water has forced residents to barricade their properties and de-ploy pumps. The roadside ditch has not been maintained for a long time and is now barely visible, not at all helped by the occasional dumping of garden waste into it. However, even if this were improved it is not clear where excess water can be taken away to. It may be necessary to consider creating some sort of sump area on the field side of the hedge as this already becomes covered in a large amount of water. We requested a site meeting and on March 27 this was attended by Streetcare, the owner of the land opposite the houses, a local resident whose pumps have been deployed in the past, Borough Councillor David Coppinger, OGAFCA’s chairman, and OGAFCA Environment’s drainage volunteer. Drainage in this area is extremely confusing and Streetcare have undertaken to investigate further to clarify what is in place before we discuss what improvements can be made. Indeed, barely an hour after the meeting ended a Streetcare team were clearing and jetting the drains and gullies along this stretch. Streetcare reported that contrary to expectations the roadside gullies on the west side lead only into the now virtually non-existent ditch

Wet Spot 9 - In early January we were asked to observe the situation at the Hand Clinic where water was rushing from under the Dedworth Road. This area suffers dreadfully and buildings had water in their ground floors. We realise that this is the most difficult of the problem sites for which to find a route to improvement but it needs to be taken very seriously if this area continues to be proposed for development by RBWM.

Photos of all these wet spots are available on ogafcap.co.uk via the Photo Gallery or Environment pages and a regularly updated Drainage Summary is also available via the Environment page.

Finally, we are looking with some urgency for a volunteer to take on the Drainage task within the Environment Work Group. There is still much useful work to be done but after 5 years of effort new energy is needed to carry it forward. Please contact us as soon as possible.

Environment Work Group

Please send us your comments on any issue relating to our community either via ogafcap.co.uk or by post to the registered address at OGAFCA, Broadacre House, Coningsby Lane, Fifield, SL6 2PF

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Stiles to Kissing Gates

We were under the impression that all stiles in our area were in the process of being changed to kissing gates. Furthermore we thought that it was possible to flag up some locations as being more urgent and promote them to the top of the list. With this in mind and after enquiries from residents we asked about three stiles on footpath 41 running north from Coningsby Lane, one on footpath 46 where it leaves Green Lane to head north west towards Gay's Lane, and one on footpath 49 where it leaves Coningsby Lane heading east towards Ledger Lane.

In February 2014 we received a reply from The RBWM Public Rights of Way Officer :

"The Council is not able to change authorised stiles to kissing gates without the landowner's agreement, unfortunately this has not been possible in some areas, but we do look to change them where we can. Where a stile is out of repair we can ask the landowner to put it into a fit standard for use. Most recently the stiles along Footpath 45 have been repaired, the stile along Bray Footpath 46 does require repair or replacement and I will contact the landowners about this. I am not sure whether the landowner of Bray FP 41 has been approached regarding removal of stiles but I will check and if not we will contact them."

We will follow up on this from time to time to try and get these stiles changed.

Environment Work Group

Art classes for all at Braywood Memorial Hall

The Tuesday evening class continues to grow and the students are doing very well. We have moved from the Jubilee room at the rear of the village hall to the main hall because of the new influx of people. We still have places available on Monday afternoons where the class is further advanced and at the Tuesday evening class which is for beginners. Both classes charge just £5 per session and if you do not have all the materials we can help you out. Come along and have a go, you never know you could be a budding Picasso or Monet !

Bill Collier

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Chinese New Year Quiz Night - fun for all the family

This year for the first time the OGAFCA Children and Youth Work Group organised a Chinese New Year Quiz Night. The Theme was Red and/or Gold and the hall looked very colourful and Oriental. Each table had to decide on a team name and whilst getting warmed up with a few drinks, prawn crackers and oriental nibbles all were invited to participate in a picture caption quiz on Chinese food. Budding artists also had the opportunity to try their hand at drawing a horse as it was the Year of the Horse !

Following the theme of Chinese New Year our quiz master, Ian Falconer, had prepared some Chinese quiz questions. This was followed by a game where each team was represented by a team member who had to compete to pick up as many prawn crackers as possible in 1 minute with chopsticks !

After a break , there was a general knowledge quiz and the evening finished with a final prize for the best team name - well done to team Dim Sum !!!!

Over the years the Children and Youth Work Group have organised/promoted various activities such as family rambles, Bingo evenings, the recent Chinese New Year Quiz night and Fun in the Sun. However as our children get older we now need new volunteers to continue the group. So please, if you have young children, give some thought to getting involved with the Children and Youth Work Group. If you are interested please contact us either through ogafcap.co.uk or by post to the address on the inside front cover.

Children and Youth Work Group

Fly Tipping - on the increase ?

There seems to have been an increase in fly tipping in our area of late. It is especially frustrating when we have a great RBWM recycling facility just down the road in Stafferton Way, Maidenhead. From April to September it is open from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm.

If you see any fly tipping or tippers please use RBWM's free 24 hour **0500 885055** phone number or go to the LINKS page on ogafcap.co.uk and scroll down to the Environment list where there are links to RBWM's fly tipping page and their online report form.

Communications chaos in Conningsby Lane

The communications (lack of) saga began on Saturday February 15 when a car collided with a telephone pole near the junction of Coningsby Lane and Fifield Road. Police arrived while the top half of the pole swayed - held up only by the web of cables spreading out from it. After taping off the road a Police car remained at the scene for some hours.

Openreach vans arrived to investigate, even one with a new pole. But the pole couldn't be replaced because a survey hadn't been done. All the lines were cut and the top half of the pole removed. Now something like 16 households were without telephone or broadband.

For every fault report another Openreach van was despatched. After 7 vans somebody must have worked out that all these faults from the same distribution point might be caused by the same thing !

Mobile phones had to be used to report faults and the 0800 number offered by BT is only free on a landline. While waiting in the queue and visualising the cost ticking up there are occasional bits of advice ... you might prefer to use the web site. Very good advice except that the internet service had just failed and my old brick of a mobile phone was just that ... a phone.

More automated advice offers an alternative phone number charged at the same rate as a landline. Giving up on the 0800 number, I made 2 separate calls to a robot to report 2 faulty land lines and divert incoming calls to the mobile. Openreach would be responsible for replacing the pole but of course this is also an 0800 number. Trying this number twice along with the frustrating attempts to get through to BT used up nearly £18 worth of pay as you go credit. On finally getting through it was the same old story - Openreach doesn't deal with the public and can't provide information on specific infrastructure or engineering tasks. The very pleasant young woman advised me that BT should be hassling Openreach ... not me.

No information coming from BT - at least not to me. One neighbour was told the pole would be replaced on Thursday, another Friday, and yet another Tuesday in the second week. I'm still puzzled about why these

neighbours managed to get information, even though it was incorrect, while I failed miserably to get anything at all.

From here it's a personal tale. I bought a mobile dongle to keep earning a living and, now able to access my online BT account, eventually found an obscure area displaying the status of my 2 lines as being out of order. Not particularly useful info.

Only option was to use online "Chat". The operator found my account details, confirmed 2 landlines out of order and that I had unlimited Infinity Broadband and BT TV. She typed that it must be very frustrating to have no service. I was typing that it was more than frustrating and could I please have progress info ... only to find on glancing up at the screen that I had been re-queued at number 61 and might possibly be answered in 20 minutes. I submitted an online message to customer services. Never received a reply.

The pole was replaced after two weeks on Sunday 2 March. Next day I got a call from Mumbai informing me my services had been restored. I asked to sort out amounts to be credited to my next Direct Debit bill and was offered £9.66 "compensation" for 2 weeks line rental. I asked about the second line rental. After a long wait I was told "it is not eligible". "Why not ?" ... it just isn't. Then I asked about the monthly fee taken for unlimited Infinity Broadband when the service was missing for half the month, the BT TV, the dongle I had been obliged to purchase, and the data top-up for it.

Would I like to speak to someone in billing ? Yes please. The lady in billing I eventually spoke to seemed at a loss ..."you are wanting money off your bill ? Why is this ? You have already £9.66."

For lack of services plus other costs £9.66 was derisory, verging on insulting. If I expected clients to pay for 15 days work even though I hadn't been available for work I'm sure they would be outraged. So I wrote to BT explaining my reasoning and requesting a further adjustment of £76.64, which didn't even account for the additional mobile phone costs forced by the lack of service.

For so-called Communications Organizations both BT and Openreach are feeble at communications, which has been demonstrated over and over again in the last 5 years of trying to deal with both of them.

HOWEVER ... within a week of posting my letter I received a call agreeing with all my reasoning and offering half of the dongle and top-up.

Finally, OGAFCAs are in need of volunteers for two Communications roles - Work Group spokesperson and Webmaster. The latter requires knowledge of CSS, HTML, file structure management and FTP transfers. Please contact us as soon as possible via ogafcap.co.uk.

Communications Work Group

Dates for your Diary for 2014

Quarter 2

Sunday April 27th ~ Braywood Juniors Cricket starts 10-12am

Thursday May 1st ~ Bray Parish Council: Focus on your Parish at Holyport Memorial Hall 7.30pm

Thursday May 15th ~ OGAFCAs General Public Meeting at Braywood Memorial Hall 7.30pm - All welcome

Saturday June 7th ~ Holyport Village Fair

Quarter 3

Saturday July 5th ~ Braywood CE First School Summer Fair

Saturday August 9th ~ Fifield Fun Day

Monday August 25th ~ Littlewick Show

Sunday September 7th ~ Bray Fete

Saturday September 13th ~ Holyport Village Show

Thursday September 18th ~ OGAFCAs Annual General Meeting at Braywood Memorial Hall 7.30pm - All welcome

Welcome Pack

If you are new to the area and have not received a "Welcome Pack" please contact us either via ogafcap.co.uk or **01628 784441**

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Community Safety Update

It seems we are having a nice quiet time in the village with regard to crime, but I suspect that this is down to the vigilance of the residents in our community by not giving the burglar or thief a chance to steal our property. Please keep up the good work and don't let your guard down because opportunists will pounce at every chance they can get to steal your valuables. Don't leave them on view in your car and take them indoors with you even during the day and definitely at night.

To find out who your local police officers are, just key in Maidenhead police on your computer and go to Windsor and Maidenhead. You can also go to ogafcap.co.uk, click on LINKS at bottom left, and scroll down to the Community Safety list. For those of you who don't have electronic equipment, if you see anything suspicious please dial 101. As I have said before the police would rather investigate something suspicious than have to attend the scene of a crime.

Keep safe.

Community Safety Work Group

Hanging Baskets brighten up our Villages

The Community Association provide and maintain the hanging baskets on the bus shelters in Oakley Green Road and Fifield village. By the time you receive this newsletter the baskets will all have been revamped with summer flowers to brighten up our villages and will add colour for all to see. The baskets are watered on a regular basis by local residents and the Community Association is very grateful to these volunteers.

Also last Autumn volunteers planted out Spring bulbs along the verges and hedgerows in the villages bringing more colour to our community.

If you wish to contribute to our Summer Newsletter please submit by

Monday 23rd June 2014

either via ogafcap.co.uk or email alison.j.braysaw@gmail.com
or by post to Broadacre House, Coningsby Lane, Fifield, SL6 2PF



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