



Oakley Green, Fifield & District Community Association

Summer Newsletter

July 2011



www.ogafcap.co.uk

OGAFCA has recently organised...



A Right Royal Knees Up



Any Old Iron scrap metal collection



Children's holiday activities

Charitable donations



Family Ramble

Find out more in the newsletter and on our website.

From the Chairman

"Summer Time – and the living is easy" someone once wrote. But not so in Oakley Green, Fifiel and District! The Association and the seven work groups made up of volunteers are all working hard to help deliver improvements and enhance community spirit.

You will read about the work of these groups in the various articles in this newsletter and once again, I would like to thank our volunteers and spokespersons for their time and efforts.

A lot of what we want to achieve has to be done in partnership with The Parish and RBWM Councils and the Police. Since we developed our two Action Plans and then became formally constituted in March 2010, they all know we are here to stay and are serious about helping to improve the daily lives of our residents and over 100 companies located in our area. Relationships are building and successes are there for all to see. The Big Society is alive here already! I would like to record here our thanks for their support, especially in the current challenging economic climate.

On the social front and since the last newsletter, we have had the Royal Wedding Street Party (April), an Any Old Iron Campaign (May), a Family Ramble (June) and the Food Wine and Ales Fair (July). Looking forward, in August we have another Family Ramble planned and we will be supporting the annual Fifiel Fun Day and more is planned for the autumn. We are already thinking about organising another Street Party to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee in June 2012!

The all important Annual General Meeting will take place on Thursday 22 September at 7:30 pm in Braywood Memorial Hall. The dates for Director Nominations and Resolution Proposals are outlined in the agenda over the page.

If you have not joined the Association yet, please download a form from the website or contact me.

Grenville Annetts

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Oakley Green, Fifield & District Community Association Ltd

Want to find out what has been done by your
Association to make improvements to your local area?
Are you interested in what activities and projects are
being planned in the near future in the areas of
Communications, Community Safety,
Children & Youths, Environment, Local Business,
Roads & Transport and Social & Recreational ?

Then come along to the Annual General Meeting on
Thursday 22 September 2011

Everybody welcome!
Refreshments will be provided

Oakley Green, Fifield and District Community Association Limited
hereinafter referred to as "the Association"

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Members of
the Association will be held at
Braywood Memorial Hall, Fifield Road, Fifield
on Thursday 22 September 2011 at 7.30 pm

AGENDA

To receive the Directors' Report and a full statement of accounts
showing the receipts and expenditure for the period ending 31 March
2011 and a balance sheet as at that date.

To receive from the Committee a report of the activities of the
Association.

To elect the required number of Directors which have been duly
nominated in accordance with the Rules of the Association.

To decide on any resolution that has been duly submitted to the
meeting in accordance with the Rules of the Association.

Forms for the nomination of a candidate as a Director are available
from the Secretary at the address below or from the Association's
website www.ogafcap.co.uk. Completed forms must be received by the
Secretary not less than 28 days before the Annual General Meeting.
Only Members of the Association are entitled to vote at this Meeting.
Any such Member may appoint a proxy or proxies and a form is
available from the Secretary at the address below or from the
Association's website www.ogafcap.co.uk for Members unable to
attend the Meeting. The completion of a proxy form will not prevent a
Member from attending and voting at the Meeting in person should he
subsequently find that he is able to do so.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

Robin Howard – Secretary,
Broadacre House, Coningsby Lane, Fifield, SL6 2PF
Tel: 01628 773005

21 July 2011

www.ogafcap.co.uk

A Right Royal Knees Up!

The Royal Wedding Street Party was a great success. The Fifield Road was closed and we were ready to party from 2 pm. BBQs were provided for people to cook their own food and we estimate that about 250 people came along! We re-opened the road at 6 pm and transferred the party into the Fifield Inn car park and it was still going at 8:30pm! See the 200 pictures on the website.

We had a Prince and Princess Fancy Dress Competition for under 8 year olds. There were lots of great costumes and it was a very difficult decision, but the judges had to pick just one Prince and one Princess. They chose Tristan Meller aged 4 and Bethany Bennett aged 7. Prizes were very kindly donated by Bill Collier.

For the adults, we had a Quiz of 15 questions based on local places and history. The winning team of Mel, Helen, Barry and Jayne won with a fantastic score of 13 out of 15 points. They won a bottle of pink bubbles – which they very kindly donated for us to auction.

A lot of people helped make the occasion a great success. Special thanks go to Mark Howard (brother of Robin) for his music and PA System, Norm Sandford for setting up, André for the photos and to Helen and Gary of the Fifield Inn for the BBQs and allowing us to close the road and use their car park.

Grenville Annetts

ELIZABETH JAMES

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Community Association raises money for charity

On Sunday 10 July, we held our 3rd Annual Food, Wine and Ales Fair in Braywood Memorial Hall. Thankfully the weather was kind and it was a chance to taste and buy some quality products from local suppliers - have a glass or two of refreshment - and maybe stay for lunch. See pictures on our website.

Participants included Ascot Ales, Crafty B's Chocolates, Eton Vintners, Homefield Dairy Goats, Italian Continental Stores, Josh Indian Food, Ye Olde Red Lion and a Tea Shop provided by Community Association volunteers. Entertainment was provided by Windsor Community Orchestra and face painting by Gemma (sponsored by The Fifield Inn). For added interest we had other stalls selling greeting cards (Barbara Frame), jewellery (Ajmal Randhawa) and plants (Kathy Porter).

This year, our nominated charity was the Thames Valley and Chiltern Air Ambulance Trust who had their own stall. We supported them through voluntary donations and a raffle of gifts and hampers made up of products kindly donated by our suppliers, raising over £300.

A very civilised way to pass a few hours! Thanks to our volunteers, suppliers and everyone who came along, supporting us and our nominated charity.

Social & Recreational Work Group

There are 199 photographs of the Street Party and a further 86 images taken at the Food Fair on the community website.

They can be found on the HOME page at

www.ogafcap.co.uk

Dates for your diary

Fifield Fun Day - Saturday 13 August
Family Ramble - Wednesday 17 August
Holyport Village Show - Saturday 10 September
Bray Fete - Sunday 11 September
OGAFCA AGM - Thursday 22 September
OGAFCA Christmas Fair - Saturday 26 November

Clearout raises funds for our community

Well, they do say 'where there's muck, there's brass'!

Thanks to so many members of our community donating their unwanted scrap metal, the Environment Work Group has raised a very healthy £543 for the Community Association funds.

The master-mind behind the scheme was Phil Harrington and he was responsible for arranging the skips, obtaining the vehicles and finding suitable hiding places for the metal until he could take it to the merchants and exchange it for hard cash!

The collection was initially set up for the 21 and 22 May but none of us anticipated the fantastic response and so it took a second week-end and then a few subsequent evenings to finally collect all the contributions. Phil did an amazing job and deserves full credit for organising such a successful fund-raiser. He is, however, anxious to point out that he could not have achieved this without a great deal of help and so thanks also go to:

David Tilley from ON TIME Rescue & Delivery for the loan of vehicles and diesel, for providing storage facilities and for helping to collect the metal.

Mr J Thomas of W.N. Thomas & Sons Ltd metal recyclers for donating a skip and for giving top prices for the collected metal.

Shorts of Ascot who also donated a skip and provided transport facilities.

Rod Lord for his help with the metal collection and for his sartorial elegance.

And finally, a huge thank you to everyone who took the time and trouble to sort through their sheds and garages to provide us with the raw materials to make this initiative such a great success.

Barbara Frame

RBWM Litter picking dates

Oakley Green Road: 25 July, 15 Aug, 5 Sept, 26 Sept, 17 Oct

Forest Green Road: 18 July, 8 Aug, 29 Aug, 19 Sept, 10 Oct

Fifield Rd, Meadow Way, Stewart Cl, Manor Grove: 8 Aug, 19 Sept, 31 Oct

Coningsby Lane: 22 Aug, 3 Oct

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Local artists sell their work

The Fifield and Oakley Green Art Club has just finished a 12 week course in acrylics and we are now moving on to oils for the next 10 weeks. We are currently 13 members strong and all are enjoying learning new skills with the different medium. Members took part in the "Art in the street" exhibition on the 7 May in Maidenhead town centre and sold four paintings.

It has been proposed that we hold an exhibition of our work later in the year in the Memorial Hall, so watch out for the next newsletter for details.

I have had some enquiries about starting an evening art class in the autumn, so if anyone is interested please contact me to register your interest. Don't forget that most of the people in the art club today had not put brush to canvas before they came to the art club and now they are exhibiting. We charge a minimal amount just to cover the costs of the hall and the tutor, so please enquire.

Also remember age is not a barrier to learning new skills.

Bill Collier
01628 676939

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Community Association

This event cannot be undertaken without volunteers both before, during and after the event so, if you can give some time to help, please contact Louise.Challis@btinternet.com or Helen Howard 01628 782003
If you have helped in previous years your assistance is very valuable, so if you have not already been contacted, please confirm you can help again this year.

Two down - seven to go!

Streetcare have confirmed that the planned jetting of various pipes, as requested by the Environment Work Group, has now been completed.

The roadside pipe running east under the verge from a manhole at the new bus stop in front of Braywood Lodge has been jetted and is now clear. So until the next extreme wet weather when we can properly evaluate the success of our efforts at this location, we are very pleased to be able to put a tick alongside number 3 on our "wet spot" list.

A little further east along Oakley Green Road is our "wet spot" 5 at a field entrance next to "Woodlands". The pipe running east from here under the footway has also been jetted and is clear. A defect or break was detected near the boundary of "Woodlands" with "Forest Green Farm". An order to excavate and rectify this defect is to be raised and at the same time two new gullies will be installed at the field entrance to feed into this pipe. In our report this is the minimum recommendation. But because the diameter of the underground pipe is only approximately 300mm this measure can only be expected to delay the point at which water floods the road. Unfortunately our proposal to properly deal with this "wet spot" would involve large scale works and investment and a budget for this will need to be sought outside the normal channels.

At our request the culvert under the entrance to Manor Grove has also been jetted and is clean.

Not such positive news on our long running effort to resolve item 2 on our list. This is the ditch at the speed hump in Fifield Road near Longlea Nursing Home. After issuing a second notice to the landowners involved, Streetcare have received a co-operative response from one landowner. Unfortunately, no response has been forthcoming from the landowner responsible for the particular stretch of ditch which is the direct cause of the problem at the speed hump itself. We have been informed that although this matter should have been passed to the Council's Legal Section it has not yet been taken up by them as they have apparently been undergoing a major re-organisation. It therefore seems unlikely that this most simple of all our "wet spots" will see any kind of proper resolution before the wet weather comes again. So it seems inevitable that we will again have to call on the efforts of OGAFCA volunteers in the autumn.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that it is the responsibility of the householder, or landowner to maintain culverts under their driveways and ditches along their boundaries, including those alongside roads.

Rod Lord

Sign up to messaging service

Whenever we go to the local Neighbourhood Action Group meetings ("NAGS"!) we are exhorted by the police attending there to encourage as many members of the community as possible to sign up to the Thames Valley Police community messaging service. This was set up to improve the flow of information between the community and the police and can be sent either by email, text or phone, providing residents with daily messages concerning matters such as crime alerts, witness appeals, community events and meetings. Residents are also encouraged to report to the Ringmaster, Jeff Pick, any incidents which may prove to be useful intelligence to the police, such as flat-bed truck sightings and conmen targeting vulnerable people.

For example, the message sent out on 4 July warned us about an elderly man visited by a firm called "Scambusters" who had asked for £1,000 cash up front to investigate a building company which had done some unnecessary roofing work to the man's house two years previously. We were also told about a bike marking security initiative, crime alerts in the local area, dog fouling (report this on 01628 683800 or streetcare@rbwm.gov.uk), and an update on "Operation Lawless" set up to tackle anti social behaviour in the Windsor area.

This is an extremely useful service and comes highly recommended! To sign up visit www.tvpcommunitymessaging.org or phone the police non-emergency number 08458 505 505

Paula Grevett

The Royal East Berkshire Ploughing Match & Show
At Water Oakley Farm on Sunday 25 September
Entry is Free
In support of Alexander Devine Children's Hospice Service
and Thames Valley Air Ambulance.

Ward Councillors support our efforts

Since the results of the Residents Survey were published in 2009 the Roads and Transport Work Group has been concentrating on three key areas:

1. The need for traffic speed reduction/weight restriction enforcement
2. The lack of footways
3. The bus service

I am now delighted to report that after a number of setbacks, some of the changes you wanted are being implemented:

Traffic Speed

Our Ward Councillors are now supporting our efforts to reduce the speed limits in the area and a reduction to 40 mph on Forest Green Road is going to Public Consultation shortly.

There has also been some success with the Speedwatch Campaign: on Monday 11 July our local PCSO – Matt Wingrove, ably assisted by Bill Collier, conducted another successful Speedwatch on the Oakley Green Road. Interesting to note that all cars and lorries slowed down to 35 mph on average!

Footways

A new footway is being considered on the west side of the Fifield Road, running from Coningsby Lane to the existing path. Draft plans have been drawn up and the work will be done in two stages, after consultation with residents on that stretch of road.

Bus Service

In conjunction with Bray Parish Council and The Royal Borough we have succeeded in replacing the old bus stop in the Oakley Green Road and moving it to a safer site opposite Kimbers Farm.

In addition, three new bus shelters have been approved and are now in situ outside Braywood School and opposite Ferndale Park.

There is still a great deal to accomplish, but we are getting somewhere at last!

Louise Shenston

The following letter was originally sent to the Bray Parish Council and then forwarded to OGAFCA. It is printed with the author's approval.

I would like to make my views known on the announcement in today's Advertiser that the Parish Council is proposing supporting a reduction in the speed limit of Forest Green Road from 60 to 40 mph.

I have lived on the Aysgarth Park/Springfield Park estates for approximately 30 years and regularly use this road. I have to say that I consider it to be entirely safe at its present 60 mph and usually travel, subject to weather and traffic conditions, at or close to this legal limit. I own a variety of cars from new to a classic car approaching 50 years old and have never found this road to be any less safe than any other 'non-restricted' roads in the area.

I must confess to have never heard of OGAFCA before reading this article and must question whether the survey has really reached far enough to harvest the opinions of all users of this road rather than those people who live on or near it.

I read with interest that the Borough road safety manager has reported that there have been some 12 crashes, with injuries, since 2006 on this road – I am clearly no expert but over a five year period this seems a very low figure when compared to the high volume of traffic being seen and I would be interested to learn whether speed was an issue or poor driving and judgement on behalf of those involved.

Over the years there has been a large number of speed reductions on roads in my local area and really the time has come to stop the obsession with speed being the cause of many accidents. As an experienced driver including competing on international rallies I am well aware that it is not usually speed that is the problem but lack of attention, poor judgement, slow reactions and a lack of skill in forward planning and anticipation that is the main root of all these issues.

I think it is important that councillors do not allow themselves to perhaps be persuaded by an apparently influential, vocal and perhaps well organised minority when there are other equally important and valid views.

Send your comments on this and any other issue to the OGAFCA website www.ogafcap.co.uk

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Experts invited to speak to local businesses

Did you know there are more than 100 businesses operating in our OGAFCA area, from one-man bands to organisations employing over 100 people? We want to benefit the business community by forming working partnerships for mutual economic improvement and representation of their views.

As reported in the spring newsletter, we had a successful initial meeting of the Local Business Forum in March, and now plans are being made for a re-launch in the late summer/autumn following the holiday period with a meeting at New Lodge on the Drift Road.

We are looking to invite experts from the local area to advice on subjects such as marketing, employment law, websites, business planning and raising finance.

The meetings will provide the opportunity to network with other local businesses, and our aim is to help each other to grow and prosper by sharing ideas and information on a regular basis.

The Local Business Work Group is actively looking for more members, and invites companies to register their interest on the OGAFCA website or contact:

Paula Grevett at paula@grevett.co.uk

Bill Collier at william35@in.com or call 01628 676939

Great turn out on Family Ramble

Local residents and four legged friends met up at the Fifield Inn on Thursday 2 June for an afternoon ramble across the fields on a beautiful sunny day. Children were given a list of wild flowers to look for on the way and after a photo call from the Maidenhead Advertiser we were on our way.

From the Fifield Inn we headed into the polo fields where we passed polo ponies grazing, then across the bridge into the crop fields where the walk continued along footpaths and through woods with lovely views of the countryside and eventually back at the Fifield Inn for a sit down and refreshments.

It was a great turn out, thank you to everyone for supporting the event!

The next Family Ramble takes place on Wednesday 17 August.

We hope to see you there. For more information call 07970 020 973

Alison Brayshaw



COUNTRY PUB & DINING

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

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

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

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

Lindsay & Iain Ganson

www.theredlionoakleygreen.co.uk

Are you interested in a coach trip?

As a result of the encouraging response to the article in the spring newsletter asking whether residents would be interested in going on trips to visit interesting places and attractions, plans are under way to make our first trip to Kew Gardens some time in late August/September.

If you would like to join us, we will pick you up by coach or minibus from your house, or a central location, take you to Kew Gardens and return you home!

If you are interested, or have any ideas for future trips, please email me on paula@grevett.co.uk, or call me on 01628 783312

Looking forward to hearing from you!

Paula Grevett

If you would like to find out more, or have an opinion on anything raised in the newsletter, send your comments to us via the website, or by post to the address on the first page. The deadline for the autumn issue is 1 October.

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Activities for Kids and Teens

Tuesday 16th and Thursday 18th August 1011

Braywood Cricket Club

12 - 4 pm

The Parish Tour will visit Braywood Cricket Club in August again this year to provide free summer holiday activities for children and teenagers

Activities for 13 – 19 years include

Human table football/ sumo wrestling

Inflatable arena

Speed machines for throwing and kicking power

Sports

Activities for 8 – 12 years include

Sumo suits, inflatable assault course

Sports

Arts and crafts

Speed machines

Go karts (for under 9's)

(under 8's should be accompanied by an adult)

Refreshments can be purchased at Braywood Cricket Club

The tour is sponsored by Bray Parish Council

For more information, call 01628 683964

We look forward to seeing you there!

Remember, prevention is better than cure

The Community Safety Work Group is working hard to try and maintain the services of our police force at the monthly, "you have your say" surgery in the car park of the Fifield Inn. It is difficult however to relay the dates to the public because I only get them month by month, so if anyone wants to talk to the police at these meetings please contact me and I will let you know when the surgery takes place. It is very important that we use this facility, because I cannot emphasise enough that if we don't use it we will lose it.

The burglary figures for the whole of the Borough are very encouraging as they have dropped significantly over the past month. One can only assume that it is because residents have been vigilant in protecting their property. In the winter 2011 issue I gave a list of things to do to protect yourselves and your property. It is very important that you do not drop your guard, because that is when the burglar will strike.

Remember, prevention is better than cure.

If anyone has any concerns with regard to safety please let me know and if I can't help, then I know a man who can. My details are on the OGAFCA website, so please call.

Be Safe.

Bill Collier



organised by OGAFCA
Wednesday 17 August
4.30pm from The Fifield Inn
For more information
Call Alison on 07970 020 973

Family Ramble

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Bray Lake— Berkshire's Premier Watersports Centre, is located on the banks of a picturesque lake between Windsor and Maidenhead. Bray Lake Watersports Centre has been introducing both young and old to the thrills and excitement of water sports for over 32 years.

Their humble beginnings started from the back of a lorry in the late 70s when windsurfing became the latest water sports craze.

During the 80s windsurfing enthusiasts would regularly meet at Bray Lake to go sailing, despite the fact that part of the lake was still undergoing excavation by Summerleaze Gravel. As the numbers increased, so did the need for a more permanent type of club house and with that came the addition of second hand shipping containers, portakabins and home made picnic tables.

Bray Lake was one of the first training centres to gain RYA recognition as a windsurfing school. Then in the early 90s as the Centre began to diversify; dinghy sailing, kayaking and powerboat instruction were added to the repertoire. About this time a log cabin was added to the site providing improvements in all facilities. Since that time the cabin and site generally have been modified and developed into what it is today; providing a local, family friendly amenity catering for over 30 local schools and youth groups plus numerous individuals aged from 8 to 80.

The Centre has its roots deeply embedded in water sports, but today you will also see other activities going on, including bungee jumping, Segway, Dragon Boating and, new for 2011, outdoor laser quest and open water swimming.

As to the future? Bray Lake Watersports is considered a market leader within the water sports industry and continues to strive towards ensuring that they retain this position in order that they can continue to provide the best water sports experience they possibly can. Their aim always; to provide customers with the best experience possible and introduce them to a lifestyle that provides a sense of escape from every day stress and hassle. Discover Bray Lake Watersports for yourself and then discover the difference! Go along to:

Bray Lake Monkey Island Lane Windsor Road Maidenhead SL6 2HE

Telephone 01628 638860

email info@braylake.com

website www.braylake.com

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Bray is one of 17 Parish and Town Councils to have won grants of £20,000 from the Government as a front runner, to create a new generation of Neighbourhood Plans. This is traditional development planning turned on its head: rather than top down, a Neighbourhood Plan is bottom up. You, the residents of Oakley Green, Fifield and District, will help decide how we want our Parish to look in 5 to 10 year's time. We expect the Plan to take two years to create and we now have a Steering Group in place, made up of members of our community to lead on the plan.

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

For our Neighbourhood Plan to be a success your support and involvement is vital! Your opinions and ideas will help influence and create new planning policies that will be central to how planning applications are decided. As soon as the website is up and running we will publish details of the address. It will provide all the details and explain how you can get involved. In the meantime, please contact me for further details.

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