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Oakley Green, Fifield & District Community Association

Winter Newsletter

January 2015



www.ogafcap.co.uk

In this Winter issue we have news on...



... our Christmas Gathering around the Tree ...



... the new War Memorial ...



... our Christmas Walk ...



... Drainage work in Fifield Road ...



The OGAFCA newsletter is edited by Alison Brayshaw - Printed by DRAYTON: www.drayton.co.uk

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From the Chairman

The work of the Community Association continues. We will be celebrating the 5 year anniversary of the formation of the Association as a Fully Constituted Body in early March 2015.

As usual you will see reports elsewhere in this Edition on progress by the Work Groups. Highlights this year have been :-

- Improvements to Ditches at various points on Fifield Road - thanks to help and support from RBWM Council and Councillors
- The installation of 6 magnificent Hanging Baskets in the Bus Shelters in Fifield and Oakley Green - and two lovely Christmas Trees - one on Fifield Green and one at Braywood Memorial Hall Crossroads - thanks to generous support from John Train Plants and The Fifield and Oakley Green Art Class.
- The Fifield Fun Day in August and 4 successful Social Events organised in the last quarter.

For the 3rd year running now, Development Planning in our area will be an important issue in 2015. The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Borough Local Plan should be out for consultation at last. 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. Underneath/alongside the Local Plan sits the Bray Parish Neighbourhood Plan (BPNP). This will describe in more detail the local direction for development Planning and will hopefully incorporate all the feedback we gave at the various Public Events at the end of 2013 and the Fifield Survey in September 2014. We will continue to keep you informed about these important Planning matters.

As well as the AGM in September, we hold several General Meetings in the year where anyone can come along and hear about what we are doing and provide input. The next one is scheduled for **Thursday February 12th in Braywood Memorial Hall at 7.30pm**. Everyone is welcome.

The Annual General Meeting will take place this year on **Thursday September 17th at 7:30 pm in Braywood Memorial Hall**.

Thank you for your continued support and a Happy New Year.

Grenville Annetts

Social Events held since the last Newsletter

Since the Autumn edition of the Newsletter, we have held 4 successful Social Events.

We held our **5th Race Night** on Friday October 31st at 7:30 pm in Braywood Memorial Hall. There was a licensed Bar and the ticket price included a free drink, sandwiches and nibbles. This Event is always popular. Robin Howard came out of retirement from the Social and Recreational Work Group and organised the Event. This year we added a twist. We invited local Organisations to Sponsor 7 of the 8 Races and name the 8 Runners in each Race. The names were very funny and the 7 Races were :-

Race 1: County Care Chase

Race 2: Bray Lake Challenge Cup

Race 3: Horlers Estate Agents Handicap Chase

Race 4: Maidenhead Dental Clinic Championship

Race 5: Auto Technics Derby

Race 6: Fifield & Oakley Green Art Class Fillies Handicap

Race 7: G & M Skip Hire Handicap

A Big Thank You to these 7 sponsoring local Organisations. In Race 8, there were no Sponsors, but the 8 individual Horses were available for Auction and people could be "Owners" for one Race. There is no skill involved as the Horses have no form to study – but it was a great night out, enjoyed by all. And a few came away with a little more cash than they arrived with!

On Saturday November 22nd we organised our **4th Annual Christmas Fair**. Bill Collier was the Organiser again this year – and we had a wide range of Stalls selling lots of unusual gift ideas for Christmas - including hand made Jewellery, Sweets and Cakes, Candles, Toys, Wellbeing Products and Cards. There was also an Exhibition of the fantastic work of Local Artists who go along to the very popular Art Classes on Mondays and Tuesdays in Braywood Memorial Hall.

The third Social Event was the 3rd Annual Gathering around the Christmas Tree on Fifield Village Green on Saturday December 20th.

This Event is becoming increasingly popular and we estimate that over 80 people turned up this year - despite competition from the Final of Strictly Come Dancing. The Weather was perfect and we laid on free Mulled Wine, soft drinks and Mince Pies before singing a few Carols. All finished off with a top up of Mulled Wine. Marvellous fun!

The fourth Social Event was the **16th Annual Christmas Walk** which took place on Saturday December 27th. The walk was initially started by Jenny & Charles Wigginton and Rod & Val Lord back in 1999 but it has grown in popularity and last year OGAFCA took over the organisation. It was a perfect Day for a Walk with blue skies and sunshine. We mustered from 11:30am in the Car Park of The Fifield Inn. The Pub kindly gave us free Mince Pies and a few succumbed to buying a Glass of Mulled Wine for sustenance before setting off at 12 noon through Fields and along Footpaths to Holyport and back. The Walk took between 80 and 90 minutes - depending on how agile (or thirsty) you were! The 10+ dogs that came along were well behaved and had a great time running around. After the Walk, some of us then went in to The Fifield Inn for a well deserved drink and some lunch. All in all, an enjoyable Event and a Tradition we must keep going! See picture on inside cover.

We have already started to plan some Events for 2015. Look out for more information in future Newsletters and on our Website nearer the time. If you wish to help out with organising these, please contact us via the Social & Recreational Work Group on the Website or telephone 01628 784441.

Social & Recreational Work Group

Send your comments on any issue relating to our community to the
OGAFCA website, or by post to
OGAFCA, Fifield Farm Cottage, Oakley Green Road,
Oakley Green, Berkshire, SL4 4QF

Welcome Pack

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

Improving The Future for Oakley Green, Fifield and District

needs

YOU



TO DO YOUR BIT

Q) What does The Future hold for Oakley Green and Fifield ?

The future of our Community can lie in the hands of local people who live and/or work in the area and who want to make the Future great - and we need your help.

Q) How can I help - I have very little time ?

We're all busy, but what we have in common is that we care about our Community.

Can you deliver Newsletters in your road ? Can you help out at an Event, maintain a website, participate in one of the 7 Work Groups and help campaign for improvements in Drainage or a reduction in Speed Limits for example ?

If you become a member it lends the Association more credibility when trying to improve things

Q) When can I find out what we are up to and contribute more ?

General Meetings are held a couple of times a year and we have our AGM in September. Everyone is welcome.

The next General Meeting is on Thursday February 12th at 7:30 pm in Braywood Memorial Hall. Come along, meet local Residents and get more involved. The more effort we put in, the more likely we are to see improvements in our local area.

The Website is updated regularly.

Progress slow but sure

In the summer of 2014 we were assured by Streetcare that the long awaited consultant was finally in the process of carrying out a catchment study of our area. They have confirmed that stage one was completed in mid September 2014 at the time of the OGAFCFA AGM.

Stage 2 was to involve inspection of areas considered to be significant in terms of flood risk and liaison with flood wardens, Parish Council and community representatives. We were told that our "9 Wet Spots" report had been passed to the consultant for consideration with a request to contact OGAFCFA's Environment Work Group as part of this Stage. We are due to meet with the consultant during the first week of February.

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

The useless ditch along the Fifield Road in the vicinity of Pond House has now been replaced with a pipe. Upgraded road side gullies now feed properly into this pipe rather than going nowhere as they used to. Water is now taken southwards and under the road to a manhole chamber under the pavement at the corner of Garden Cottage's fence. From here it is taken eastwards along the fence and onwards along the southern edge of the polo pitch. Streetcare have reported that the outflow from the chamber into and along the ditch needs to be improved as the height of the ditch bed is likely to cause some backing up. The Landowner has very kindly agreed to carry out the necessary work as soon as possible. We are very grateful to Streetcare for their determination and hard work in trying to improve matters to avoid a repetition of the problems residents have experienced recently.

A drainage summary of all wet spots is available via the ENVIRONMENT page at www.ogafcap.co.uk and is regularly updated.

Once again I need to emphasize that we urgently need someone to step forward to take on this drainage role. There is clearly still much useful work needing to be done. At the 2015 AGM I will step down whether anyone else has come forward or not. Obviously I very much hope that someone with more youthful vigour picks up the baton long before then !

Environment Work Group - Drainage

Bat to the Future

Seeing bats in our gardens on a warm summer evening is a magical experience as they flit rapidly above our heads. It is worth encouraging these delightful little creatures as they feed on all the flies and insects that we hate. A tiny pipistrelle bat can eat around 3,000 midges, mosquitoes and other small flies in a single night.

There are four different types of bat in this country; the most common, and the smallest, is the pipistrelle. They have an erratic flight, twisting and turning around buildings, streetlights, trees and hedges. The brown Long-eared bat comes out after dark and flies very close to trees, making them difficult to see. Their flight is slow and hovering like a large butterfly.

The noctule is one of our biggest bats. They tend to fly in a straight line, very high overhead. About the size of a starling their narrow wings are quite distinctive.

If you see a bat flying very low over water, like a mini hovercraft, it is a Daubenton's bat.

The keen gardeners amongst us will know that a successful garden will not only look and smell delightful but will also attract a variety of insects that will pollinate the plants and provide food for birds. To encourage bats, as well as a wide variety of birds, the best plan is to create a wildlife garden with a mixture of flowering plants, vegetables, trees and shrubs, particularly native species as they attract more species of insect than exotics. Try to include some of the following :

- Flowers that vary in colour, fragrance and shape
- Pale flowers that are more easily seen in poor light so attract insects at dusk
- Single flowers which produce more nectar than doubles
- Flowers with insect-friendly landing platforms e.g. in daisy & carrot families

Install a water feature, pond or a bog garden. Make a compost heap or log pile and avoid the use of pesticides. All these things will attract insects to your garden and the bats will follow.

Natural habitats for bats can be hard to find but you can supply bat boxes for them to roost in. These can be bought or home made. Wooden boxes are usually cubic or wedge-shaped with a grooved 'bat-ladder' and narrow slit entrance at the bottom. Bats don't like draughts and are very sensitive to chemicals so wood should be rough and un-treated. Removable lids should never be used as bats are a protected species and, once up, a bat box can-not be opened without an official licence.

More information via the Bat Conservation Trust at www.bats.org.uk

Booking Secretary required

The Braywood War Memorial Hall is looking for someone from Oakley Green and Fifield to fill the role of Booking Secretary.

The role involves receiving calls from the general public who would like to hire the hall for functions, meetings etc.

If anyone is interested in finding out more about this role please contact the chairman Mr David Embury on 01628 631179 evenings only.



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War Memorial update

As residents and passers by will have seen the new War Memorial has now arrived however there is still more work to be done to finish off the project. This is mainly final landscaping with wrought iron railings, additional stonework at the base and inscription. Minor adjustment to the Planning permission is needed.



It is hoped to have this completed as soon as is possible.

The Residents Association has now, as planned, recently “gifted” the Memorial to the Bray Parish Council, who have agreed to take over the responsibility for the site.

We have been very pleased to assist in this important project.

Roderick Ball

Chairman Oakley Green and Fifield Residents Association (OGFRA)

Voluntary Car Service

For those of us who are disabled living in the village, there is a voluntary car service in Windsor and Maidenhead who charge a small amount of money to take you to where ever you want to go. Be it the doctors or the dentist or even shopping.

They will stay with you if the appointment is not too long and help you with your shopping even if you are in a wheelchair.

They will need at least 2 days warning to see if they can provide a driver who is free to help you but usually there is someone available. They will tell you what the total cost is when you book, so there are no hidden charges. Both are non profit-making organisations.

Phone numbers

Windsor - 01753 831090

M'head - 01628 673937



Sing Song Merrily

Once again we had two beautiful Christmas trees to decorate our villages this Festive season, thanks to the kind generosity of John Train Plants and the Fifield and Oakley Green Art Class who each donated a tree.

Our third Christmas gathering to sing carols around the tree was the best yet. At last the weather was kind to us; cold but dry and no wind to blow the lanterns out. The mulled wine flowed, the mince pies melted in the mouth and the crowds gathered. Even the ‘Strictly’ final couldn’t deter the multitude !

Men in Christmas hats, women and children in woolly scarves and dogs with tinsel collars. Everyone prepared to join in and sing with gusto.



A moving rendition of “Good King Wenceslas” brought a tear to the eye whilst the (now infamous) version of “The twelve days of Christmas” got louder and louder with every verse, culminating with a last line that echoed round the village !

The atmosphere was warm and happy and it made a wonderful start to the Christmas week. Don’t forget to join us again, next year, the week-end before Christmas, to join hands with your neighbours and sing your hearts out.

Barbara Frame

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The weather during the last year created havoc with our local footpaths. At the beginning of the year most of them were under water! The rain and the gales caused trees to fall down and ditches to overflow. Then the warm wet spring meant that everything burst back into life at such a rate that the brambles and undergrowth spread rapidly and rendered many rights of way impassable.

We can all do our bit to keep footpaths clear by swiftly reporting any problems that we come across. The best way to do this is by completing an online report on the Borough website at www.rbwm.gov.uk

At the top of the page you will see a tab labelled **REPORT ONLINE**. Under that heading are links to all the different departments and you can select public rights of way and follow the on screen instructions.

If you know the number of the footpath that is a bonus but, if you don't, that needn't stop you from submitting the report. A description of where you are will generally suffice, as the rights of way department know the area very well and should be able to identify your location. Taking a picture of the problem and submitting that can also be very helpful.

If you do not have access to the internet, you can report problems on the out of hours number **01753 853517**.

Please do help with this and don't assume that someone else will do it. If several reports are received, it will highlight the problem, prove that the right of way is well-used, and give more weight to the need to repair any damage and allow uninterrupted use of our local paths.

Path numbers can be found on our area map via the button at the foot of the **HOME** page at www.ogafcap.co.uk and if you prefer you can let us know via the Environment page and we will follow up.

Environment Work Group

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All abilities welcome at Art classes

The art classes resume again in the Braywood Memorial Hall on Monday 5th January at 3pm and on Tuesday 6th at 7pm. Both classes are doing well and are almost full so I am considering starting a new class on either Wednesday, Thursday or Friday each week.

I would welcome anyone who is either proficient in any medium or never sat down seriously to paint a picture. I have had many students who in their later years have never painted before and have left their first class with a picture in their hand.

I concentrate on teaching the techniques used in painting and once these have been mastered the choice of subject you paint is yours. I provide all the materials you need so no need to spend any money before you come, I also provide tea and coffee in an all inclusive fee of just £5 per session. I do ask that you pay for 5 lessons at the start of each 5 weeks and I am afraid if you miss a session you will forfeit the £5 for that lesson unless you inform me in advance that you will not be there on any one session.

It would be nice to see more people taking part in art so if you feel inclined why don't you let me know and I will invite you to come along one Tuesday evening at no cost to you just to see how things go. I look forward to hearing from you.

Contact **Bill Collier** on **07811 953071** or email william1935@tesco.net

Update on the Fifield Survey

The Results from the Bray Parish Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Fifield Survey were circulated to everyone in our area in December.

The Steering Group are now drafting the Neighbourhood Plan for Bray Parish and we understand it will include reference to the Survey and their interpretation of the results.

For more up to date information see their website at www.brayplan.com

Safety in the Community

Christmas has been and gone and I hope none of you have suffered any losses through burglaries. The police tell us that crime is on the decrease but I think that the burglars are being deterred by the vigilance of the public.

We in this area have an excellent record of safety and each time I get a crime update from the police for Oldfield & Bray (which includes Fifield & Oakley Green) it says many times "No crime to report". I am sure that much of this is because you, the residents in our area are being vigilant and careful and not to give the burglar easy pickings, by locking items of value up in a safe place, leaving lights on when you go out and of course having an alarm fitted to your house.

Be on the lookout at all times for suspicious characters walking past houses, they maybe looking at the property while they do so and people driving past slowly in cars or vans perhaps looking sideways.

Report anything you think suspicious to the police on the 101 number giving as much detail as you can. As I have said many times they would much rather investigate a suspicious siting than a burglary.
Stay safe.

Community Safety Work Group

Dates for your Diary for 2015

Thur Feb 12 ~ 7.30pm

OGAFCA General Public Meeting ~ Braywood Memorial Hall

Fri Mar 27 ~ Editor's Deadline for Spring Newsletter contributions

Sat Aug 1 ~ Fifield Fun Day

Thur Sept 17 ~ 7.30pm ~ OGAFCA AGM ~ Braywood Memorial Hall

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Bray Parish Neighbourhood Plan - the next steps

We are now approaching 4 years since we started this project and we are close to having a First Draft which we can share with you, the residents, in early 2015. The Steering Group(SG) are focussing on the proposed Policies to ensure that they properly reflect your views. The Fifield Survey has been completed and many of you will have seen the detailed results. The SG decided that we did not have a mandate to include the site in the Draft Plan but we will include a reference paragraph in the document and the Survey data will be in the Appendices which will contain all our collected survey data and will be published as a separate document.

So what will happen next? The SG will consult the residents of Bray Parish on the finalised Draft Plan document, probably in early 2015, and incorporate any feedback from that process. However if we are unable to get the Consultation ready early enough, the National, Local and Parish Elections in May will put a hold on things until later in the year. After the Consultation the SG will hand the Plan to the Parish Council who are the body responsible for submitting the Plan to RBWM for Inspection and, ultimately for the Referendum. As you can appreciate, the timescales for these activities are not yet firm, so keep an eye on www.brayplan.com for up to date information.

Chris Graham

Steering Group Chairman, Bray Parish Neighbourhood Plan

Bray Parish Boundary Review

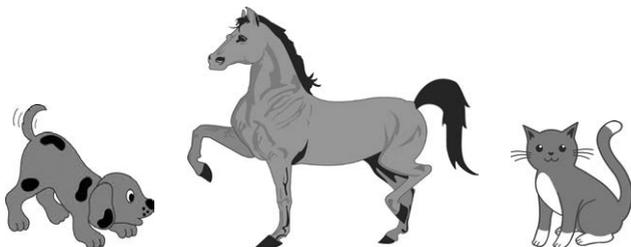
The Parish Council is conducting an e-petition on potential changes to the Parish Boundary. The proposal is to remove the Alexander Ward from Bray Parish (placing it in Windsor) and include The Fisheries in Bray Parish (removing it from the Oldfield Ward in Maidenhead).

A Flyer about the proposal was delivered to every household in late November and the closing date is 25th February 2015. Please make your views known by going online at :

<http://petitions.rbwm.gov.uk/Alexanderward/>

<http://petitions.rbwm.gov.uk/TheFisheries/>

Animal Tales - Do you have a story to tell ?



A DIVERSIONARY TACTIC

One day, while staying with my parents, my mother and I decided to go shopping, leaving my father at home with the dogs. No doubt glad to see the back of us, he made himself a sandwich and settled down in the lounge with his newspaper. As he was about to take his first bite he spotted Heather, my golden retriever, out of the corner of his eye, stealing towards the garden with one of his new brogues held gently between her teeth. Heather had a shoe fetish and liked nothing better than gathering as many shoes as she could find and arranging them in the garden. Head high and tail wagging she slipped out of the patio doors.

With a resigned sigh, my father got up and followed her into the garden to retrieve his shoe. But, as he returned to the lounge he saw, to his horror, that, as he went out through the patio doors, Heather had nipped back in through the kitchen door and eaten his sandwich !

By **Barbara Frame**

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

If you wish to contribute news or features to our Spring Newsletter please submit via the NEWS or COMMUNICATIONS pages at www.ogafcap.co.uk

or via email to alison.j.brayshaw@gmail.com
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