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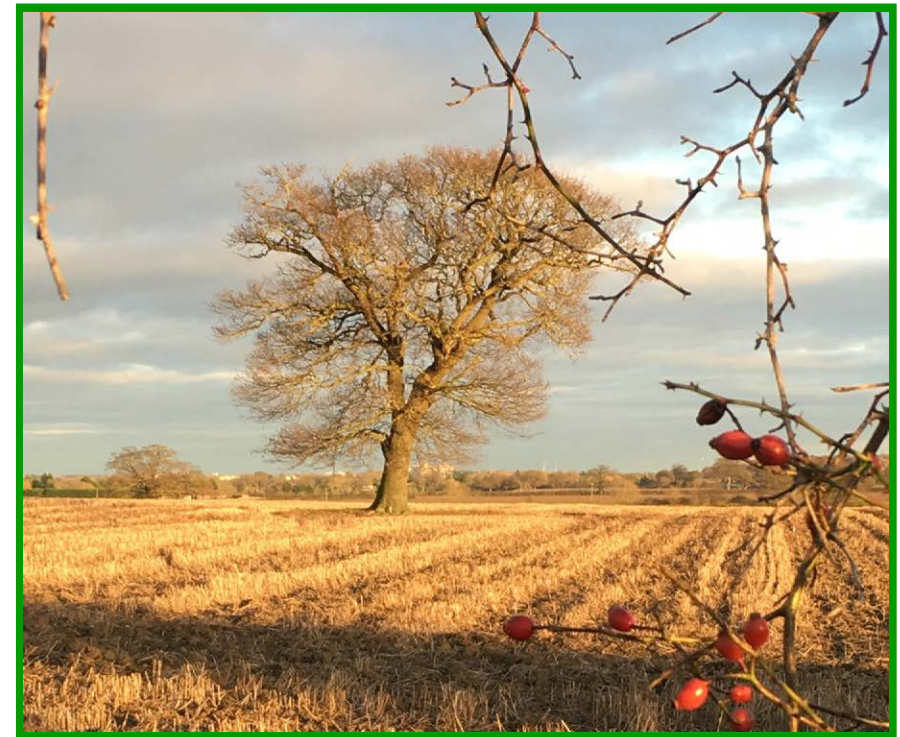
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Oakley Green, Fifield & District Community Association

Winter Newsletter

January 2021



www.ogafcap.co.uk

Welcome to the OGAFCA Winter newsletter...

.... OGAFCA continue to collect evidence for 30mph speed reduction such as the two accidents at Fifield crossroads in December ...



...Christmas Trees and ...



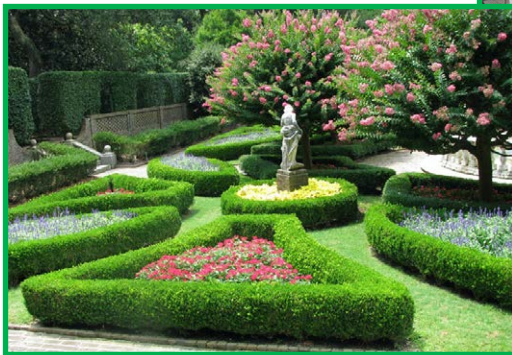
...fun Halloween had by all thanks to Stacy organising our first ever Fifield Halloween Trail...



...nativity scene brings a festive spirit to villages...



...Open Gardens Event planned for Summer 2021...



The OGAFCA newsletter is edited by Alison Brayshaw
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Chairperson's Message

A Happy New Year to you all! Sitting down to compose this message I looked back at last year's February edition. 2019 had been a very busy year. We started with the success of our traffic campaign, the lorry ban and speed reduction on Oakley Green Road. More of that to follow. We held a host of community events, and the Fifield Fun Day, in spite of many obstacles, was a huge success. We looked forward, with great enthusiasm, to an exciting year with a full programme of thrilling events. Little did we know what was to come!

And now, here we are, sinking into another lockdown. At least this time there is a distant light gleaming from the end of a long tunnel. And speaking of light...

I suggested in the last newsletter that we made this Christmas especially bright, and, what a wonderful response. We had more lights than ever gleaming out into the winter skies and I have to commend Fifield Village who put Oxford Street to shame with their magnificent displays, with a particular mention of the Nativity Scene at the corner of Stewart Close. Quite brilliant! Well done, everyone, it certainly lifted my spirits.

With the hope of a vaccine allowing us to move slowly back to a more 'normal' lifestyle we will be tentatively planning our community events for the year and you will see a draft calendar further on in the publication. As we all spent last summer working in our gardens we are definitely intending to go ahead with our Open Gardens Day. We have a list already but if anyone would like to come forward and offer their garden to be part of the scheme, we would be delighted to include you.

During the last year, with the aid of technology we continued to busy ourselves with community projects. We are working very closely with Bray Parish Council to improve the safety of our roads throughout the Parish with a focus on reducing speed limits and improving our footways. When we are able, we will organise speed watches to illustrate to the Police that speeding has increased and we need support to encourage motorists to respect our safety and slow down. As always, OGFRA are our valued partners and advisers in the constant battle against over-development of our green spaces and we are very grateful to them for their tireless work in monitoring the Borough Local Plan and keeping us updated with all aspects of this project and with all other schemes that affect us.

So, we start this year with our heads up, looking out to the future with renewed optimism. It will take some time before the restrictions are fully relaxed so we still need to keep ourselves safe and look out for those in the community who continue to need our help but with slow and steady steps we can move towards a better year and good times to come.

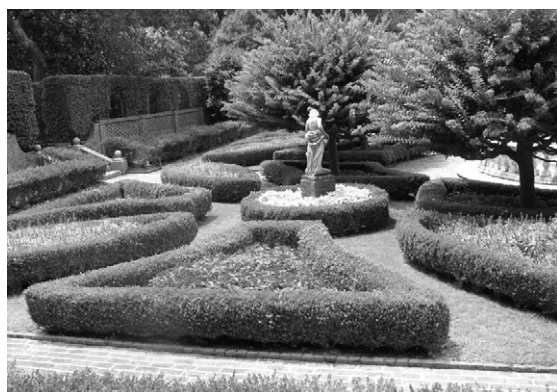
And in the words of Captain Sir Tom Moore

“Tomorrow will be a good day”

OGAFCA Open Gardens Event - Summer 2021

Even if a measure of social distancing is still in place we believe we can safely organise our Open Gardens.

Last year we spent so much time in our gardens and, for the most part, no-one else enjoyed and appreciated the fruits of our labour. Let's take this opportunity to view and celebrate all the wonderful, lush spaces hidden away at the back of our houses.



We are planning to have at least a dozen local gardens to visit, walking from the Greene Oak up to Fifield, where tea and cakes will be available. Although we already have several gardens ear-marked for inclusion there is still room for more so, if you would be willing to open your garden for a few hours, please get in touch with us. Please remember, we are not looking for perfection, this is not an RHS event, just a brilliant way to share the joy of a beautiful garden with our friends and neighbours and appreciate the hard work and imagination of the gardeners amongst us.

This promises to be a really enjoyable event and a great way to meet your neighbours and visit parts of the village you have never seen before. More news in the next newsletter.

Send your comments on any issue relating to our community via OGAFCAP.co.uk or by post to the address on the inside front cover

Roads and Transport Update

It is almost a year since the 7.5 tonne weight restriction was introduced on Oakley Green Road and still there are far too many heavy vehicles using the route. In spite of all the restrictions we did manage to squeeze in a couple of lorry watches and several residents have also collected information but we now discover that Trading Standards claim to be unable to pursue offenders due to lack of resources and (wait for it) too many incidences of lorries breaking the rules! We will be investigating this situation.

We know that many of you are concerned about the increase in speeding on our roads. Breaking the speed limit appears to be the “new normal”. With more of us than ever cycling, horse riding and walking this is a very dangerous situation and one that we hope to improve. As soon as restrictions allow, we will be mounting speed watches to prove to the Police that there is a real problem in our Parish. Having spoken to our



Community Policeman it would appear that the Police are aware of this trend and are becoming more willing to work with communities to crack down on speeding drivers.

In conjunction with Bray Parish Council, we are looking to reduce the speed limits on several roads within our area. Many of you will have seen the petition to reduce the speed limit to 30mph on a stretch of the A308 and we would also like to see the speed limit at the Northern end of Fifield Road reduced to 40mph. The promised reduction on the Oakley Green Road has still not been introduced but we are working hard to pursue this.

Road and Transport Work Group

**Please submit Spring Newsletter contributions
by Monday 22 March
via the web site or email to alison.j.brayshaw@gmail.com**

Local History: Colonel Sir Fitzroy Clayton of Fifield



Colonel Fitzroy Clayton K.C.V.O

Colonel Sir Fitzroy Clayton of Fifield House was born in 1834, the only son of the Rev. Augustus Philip Clayton and Georgina Elizabeth Talbot and great grandson of Henry Somerset, 5th Duke of Beaufort.

He was educated at Eton and in 1848, whilst still at school, owned a 15 foot fully rigged Plymouth Schooner which he sailed on the Upper Thames.

In 1853 he was commissioned into the Grenadier Guards, serving with King Edward V11 (whom Fitzroy later taught in Musketry) in the Crimean War, receiving the Crimea Medal (and clasp) and Turkish Medal. He retired with

the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel in 1871 and was knighted in 1909.

Sir Fitzroy Clayton took up 'Gentleman' yachting seriously after his return from the Crimean War. His yachts included a 12 ton Cutter kept on the Isle of Wight, a 26 ton Cutter and a 19 ton Yawl. He sailed for many years as an amateur hand on board the racing Schooner Egeria and also the 60 ton Cutter Vanguard. He acted as helmsman with marked success in the 30 ton Cutter Xenia. In later life he was a Justice of the Peace for Berkshire and Chairman of the Royal National Lifeboat Institute where he invented the drop keel for lifeboats. A number of lifeboats have been named after him, including the "Sir Fitzroy Clayton" at Newhaven 1912-1930.

Built by Thames Ironworks, she was self-righting, and was launched 66 times, saving 108 lives.



The Sir Fitzroy Clayton 1912-1930



Crew of the Sir Fitzroy Clayton

Sir Fitzroy was appointed Knight Commander, Royal Victorian Order on 25th June 1909 by King Edward V11 for his services to the RNLI as Chairman.

Sir Fitzroy lived in the village at Fifield House (also known as Fyfield House) from the 1870's until he died in 1913. He is buried at Braywood Church (now demolished) Cemetery with his late wife, Lady Isabel Clayton, daughter of the 3rd Marquis of Headfort, who died in 1909.

The funeral service was attended by Windsor Castle's St. George's Chapel choir and the coffin was taken to the cemetery on a gun carriage escorted by a bearer party of the Grenadier Guards and 3 officers of the regiment. King George V sent Mr. Harold Clayton, eldest son of Sir Fitzroy, a letter of condolence mentioning Sir Fitzroy's service to the RNLI and his good relations with the late King.

The estate of Fifield House was later for sale in 1919 and this is when the land was gifted to the local community for the Village Hall and Braywood Cricket Club by the new owner Captain Turnbull.

Sarah Grace

First Fifield Halloween Trail

In October Fifield resident Stacy organised a Halloween Trail around the village with a clue sheet for kids to collect letters making a spooky secret word. They then collected their treats at the Fifield Inn afterwards! It was a huge success and Stacy would like to thank everyone involved....

"I'd like to start by saying a huge thank you to everyone involved in the first ever Fifield Halloween Trail! To everyone who displayed a letter or decorated their houses, thank you for giving us a bit of light in the dark. Lots of people took part and it was great to see so many of you in the pub afterwards - in case you didn't find all of the letters, the secret word was 'Broomstick'. The decorations at The Fifield were fab and thank you to the team there for handing out our sweets.

I'm planning on running the trail again this year so keep an eye out for updates nearer the time."



Fifield Art Group

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Extension work to Cricket Pavilion set to start soon

Happy New Year to you all from Braywood Cricket Club.

Usually at this time of year we are dusting off our cricket equipment and preparing for winter nets. Unfortunately Covid-19 has again put paid to any cricket, and looks like doing so for sometime. Will we have any village cricket this year? Only time will tell, but the news of the vaccine is positive, and we all have to keep our fingers crossed.



We will continue to work on the ground and prepare for the possibility of pulling on our whites in May. The pavilion extension will still go ahead, and we hope to start work in April.

For now, I hope you and your families are all safe, and hopefully I will see you all in the summer.

Brett Carter - Braywood Cricket Club Chairman

Fifield Art Group look forward to meeting up again

The Fifield Art Group has been severely restricted in 2020 and now again in 2021 by the corona virus. We are waiting patiently to get back into the village hall to start up again as soon as we are allowed. We will be operating just two classes to start with:

Monday morning 10am till Noon and Tuesday afternoon 2pm till 4pm

Because of the virus there has been a big drop in the number of people who have stayed on. But no doubt when infection rates are lower and more people are vaccinated our regulars will return.

Last year during the summer some of our students went out to locations at the weekend to draw and paint and it is something that we will do again this year even if we are back in class.

The Fifield Art Group was 10 years old on May 12 last year but of course we couldn't celebrate the occasion so I am hoping that we can get together to celebrate this year.

If anyone would like to join our classes when we start again please get in touch with me and we will give you a very warm welcome.

Bill Collier fifieldartgroup@gmail.com.

OGAFCA Christmas Raffle



Thank you so much to all of you who bought raffle tickets and supported our cause to renovate the Oakley Green Telephone box to house a defibrillator.

The draw took place on Friday 18 December 2020 and the first prize of the Amazon Fire tablet was won by Paula Grevett. Nine other prizes were won and the winners have all been notified. We raised (after costs) the princely sum of £764. A fantastic result given the extraordinary circumstances.

If you missed the Christmas Raffle and would like to support the refurbishment project you can still donate by contacting Barbara Frame on 07831485645 / barbarafame@btinternet.com or contact us via the website www.ogafcap.co.uk

Thank you one and all for your amazing and continued support.

Keeping connected

Everyone in the OGAFCA area is kept up to date and informed on issues that affect the community through our quarterly newsletters but in addition our members receive regular OGAFCA emails throughout the year which keep them connected on many other issues that we are not always able to cover in the Newsletters.

These emails have been invaluable to keep continued communication going especially during the pandemic when it has not been possible to have meetings as usual and to provide help and support in the community to those who need it.

If you are not yet a member and would like to keep connected just go on line to join or fill in the form opposite and send it to us.

Beware of dog thieves!

Only this month a woman walking her dog was attacked opposite the Belgian Arms by a man who leapt out of a van and tried to steal her dog. Luckily two men came to her rescue but it is worrying to think that there are people around trying to steal our pets. So please be vigilant and take care.



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Community Association Ltd

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address

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email

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signature

date

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Lest we forget...



It must have seemed that we had forgotten last year. And 2020 was such an iconic year as it was the 75th anniversary of VE Day and also VJ Day.

Unfortunately, both dates fell within Covid-19 restrictions and we were unable to celebrate as we had planned. In May many people held their own celebrations with picnics and bunting but the November service of Remembrance that we normally observe at the Oakley Green Memorial could not go ahead. Two members of the committee laid wreaths on behalf of BPC, OGAFCA and OGFRA and Mrs Calvert arranged a wreath to be laid on behalf of Braywood School.

A mention in dispatches must go to Phil and Tracy in Coningsby Lane who set up a stall in their front garden to sell poppies and raised £135 for the British Legion. A magnificent effort and congratulations to them both.

**Would you like to help on our OGAFCA Work Groups if so
just contact us on www.ogafcap.co.uk**

Gigaclear Update

In our Autumn Newsletter we outlined how Gigaclear in partnership with Superfast Berkshire are providing ultrafast broadband to homes and businesses in our area split into two projects, Fifield North and Fifield South.

Gigaclear's focus currently is on Fifield South where they now have permits to carry out works in Tithe Barn Drive, Westbrook and Monkey Island Lane. They now have a permit for the Oakley Green Road so they will be able to return to continue work to install ducting where they left off. However this will not be until the end of July at the earliest. Apparently they are not able to carry out works before that time due to M4 closures and the diversionary routes, along with a requirement to work during school holidays.

For those that now have connection boxes installed outside their properties, there is good news as they should be activated over the next few months. To find out more register at gigaclear.com/mycommunity.

Supporting our Local Hostelries

Following the recent Government restrictions brought in to control the spread of Covid-19, pubs and restaurants have yet again had to close their doors which is a real challenge to these businesses that are so valuable to our local community life.

Sadly some local hostelries like the Royal Oak at Paley Street and the Oxford Blue in Windsor have had to close down so we would urge locals to continue to support our local hostelries whilst we get through this difficult time as we would hate to lose them!

To this end we have reviewed websites and social media of the Fifield Inn, Jolly Gardener, White Hart, Belgian Arms, George on the Green, Greene Oak to see if any of them are doing takeaways.

Currently the Greene Oak are offering a takeaway menu on Fridays and Saturdays 5-8pm which includes snacks, handmade British pies (the vegan one is fab.. I can vouch for it!), mains, sides and puddings and Sunday Roasts (which I can recommend too!) available every Sunday 12-3pm.

They're also doing Burns Night "Gourmet Boxes" (4 courses for 2 £65) as well as Valentine's Night (4 courses for 2 £70) so plenty to look forward to.

For menus in full detail see www.thegreeneoak.co.uk /menus.

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Dates for your Dairy 2021

- **Thursday March 18** - Postponed OGAFCFA General Meeting
- **Monday March 22** - Editor's Deadline for Spring Newsletter
- **Thursday May 6** - Proposed OGAFCFA General Meeting 7.30pm
Braywood Memorial Hall **ALL WELCOME** subject to Government Covid Guidelines at the time
- **June (date TBC)** - Open Gardens Event 2021
- **Sunday August 8** - Proposed Fifield Fun Day 2021
- **Saturday August 28 - 30** - OGAFCFA Scarecrow Festival
- **Thursday September 23** - OGAFCFA Meeting and AGM

Would you like to advertise in this Newsletter?

Please contact Bill Collier on 07811 953071 or via email: fifieldartgroup@gmail.com
or adverts can be submitted via the website www.ogafcap.co.uk

OGAFCA Website

The OGAFCA website is currently undergoing a redesign but in the meantime you can of course find much useful information there so it is worth a visit. All the OGAFCA Newsletters since 2010 can be found there, which make interesting reading with articles, news and social events (which we hope we will all be able to get to enjoy again soon) of previous years.

As well as OGAFCA Newsletters visitors to the website can access news, events, online membership and in the recent past our online Christmas raffle tickets. There are also links to local websites you may find useful for issues such as environment, safety, RBWM enquiries and the Parish Website where you can subscribe and download the BPC Newsletter.

Of course if you have any material to add to the website (photos, a road accident report, suggested links to other useful websites or clubs and organisations, etc) this can be done too.

The website also has details and costs and all you need to know to advertise in this newsletter.

So why not have a browse!

Interested in having a painting of your home?

If you are interested in having a painting of your house done to hang on the wall please contact:

Bill Collier Fifieldartgroup@gmail.com 07811953071

As we move into Spring it is a perfect time to capture your home in the best light so if you would like to discuss the idea please get in touch for a chat.

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Exercising locally during lockdown

As we find ourselves at the start of 2021 in another lockdown many of us will be heading out for exercise in the local area. We are fortunate to have many walks on our doorstep but if you are not familiar with them all take a look at the HOME page on the OGAFCA website and just click on [Map of OGAFCA area.](#)



When out in the fields remember always keep to the footpaths, close gates, keep dogs under good control and look out for ice on ponds.

Some of our roads do not have footways (pavements) so when walking or running try to be as visible as possible to other road users by wearing bright or fluorescent coloured clothing and taking a torch if it is getting dark. Many roads locally have blind bends so if you are walking or running on the roads make sure you can be seen by oncoming traffic. Stay on the right hand side when walking or running on the road wherever possible. That way you can see vehicles coming towards you and you are not at risk of being hit by vehicles coming behind you. If you are cycling or horse-riding it is just as important to be visible to vehicles so remember to wear high visibility clothing and use lights if you are out later in the day or when visibility is low. Some cyclists have been using public footpaths, please remember cyclists are not permitted to use public footpaths.

If you are unfortunate on your travels to come across any roadkill that needs clearing do contact the council and report it even if you think someone else may have already done so.

<https://www.rbwm.gov.uk/home/transport-and-streets/report-problem-street-cleaning>

Although there are less cars on the road some drivers have been speeding during lockdown so do take care and stay safe and enjoy getting out to discover your local area.



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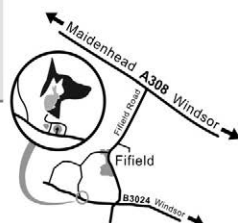
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ANIMAL TALES: *Rob - the Paradog*

Rob, a black and white collie dog, was bought for five shillings by Mr Bayne, a Shropshire farmer, when he was just six weeks old. He soon became an expert working dog, with a natural ability to herd sheep, cattle and even hens. When the Bayne's son, Basil, was born he also added cot guarding to his skills and helped Basil learn to walk by letting him cling to his coat as he walked round the yard. He was a valuable and highly prized farm dog but early in 1942 Mr Bayne answered a call from the War Office who were appealing for animals suitable to aid the war effort, and Rob was enlisted.

At the War Dogs Training School at Northaw, he excelled in his training and was quickly despatched to North Africa as a patrol dog. Meanwhile, the 2nd SAS unit in Sousse was having trouble keeping its supplies safe from the Italian Prisoners of War and the local Arabs. They asked headquarters to send a guard dog and Rob was selected, as he was intelligent, quiet and utterly fearless. Within a few days the pilfering had stopped.

Weeks passed and the men became devoted to Rob. One day they smuggled him on board an aircraft with them and found that he loved the experience. The men had heard that an American base was experimenting with the idea of training dogs to accompany paratroopers into enemy territory, so, they contacted them and asked to borrow a parachute that could be adapted to take Rob.

His first jump was from 800ft. A handler sat with him on the plane and was ready to jump out with him. No one was sure how Rob would react, some dogs barked excitedly, which was no good at all, and some were too terrified to leave the plane. When the time came, Rob leapt out and showed no fear as the cord pulled and he raced to the ground with the wind flying through his fur. On landing, the paratroopers rushed to his side and found him sitting quietly, with his tongue lolling out, waiting to be released from the chute. He had passed the test with "flying" colours.

He accompanied the 2nd SAS on many dangerous missions, including several in Italy. Four teams, led by Lieutenant McGregor, moved to German-held Italy to spy on the Germans and help the Allied prisoners escape to safety. Rob helped by leading prisoners to safety while the troops were cutting electricity and telephone lines and destroying bridges. At night he kept guard and would pace silently and lick the troops faces to

wake them if they were in danger. As the teams divided across country Rob would carry messages between them but would only allow his handlers to take the paper from his collar. After four months the SS caught up with them and only Lieutenant McGregor and Rob escaped to safety.

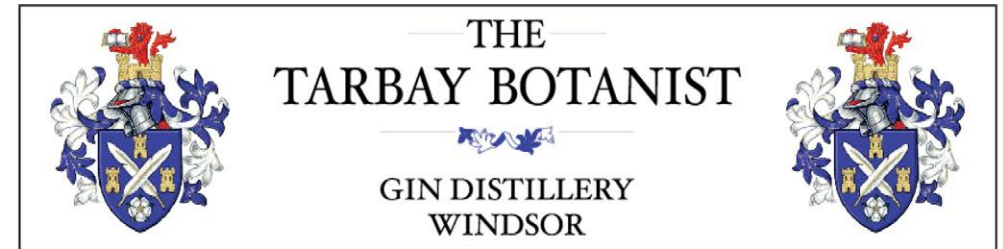
Rob's next destination was Anzio, where he accompanied sabotage teams into the country to prepare for invasion. On each mission he supported the men with skill and courage. Eventually they all returned to their base in North Africa. The 2nd SAS were to return to England but, unfortunately, the Royal Navy would not carry dogs during war, so Rob hitched a ride with a Norwegian freighter and was taken to Edinburgh where he was immediately placed in quarantine for 6 months. Both his handlers were sent to Arnhem and never returned.

In January 1945 a "Very Secret" letter arrived at the Bayne's farm. Fearing the worst, they opened the letter to discover that Rob was to receive the Dickin Medal for bravery. At the end of the war the 2nd SAS was disbanded and Rob, as their mascot, led their final parade wearing the RSPCA red collar and silver medal for valour. As a token of appreciation, the War Office presented him a lifetime supply of dog biscuits.

Rob was demobbed and returned to the farm, where he immediately resumed his old duties with enthusiasm and professionalism. His only difficulty was that he could no longer herd cattle. Instead, he expected them to follow him as the prisoners had done in Italy. Rob had a remarkable life and enriched the lives of all who knew him. He was the most decorated of all war animals. The citation on his medal reads:

'War Dog 471/322 Special Air Service. Took part in landings during North African campaign with an Infantry Unit and later served with a Special Air Unit in Italy as patrol and guard dog on small detachments lying-up in enemy Territory. His presence with these parties saved many of them from discovery and subsequent capture or destruction. Rob made over twenty parachute descents.'

Taken from The Animal Victoria Cross by Peter Hawthorne



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