



Oakley Green, Fifield & District Community Association

Autumn Newsletter

October 2010



www.ogafcap.co.uk

On behalf of local residents and the Community Association, I would like to formally thank the organisers of the Fifield Fun Day this year.

It takes a huge amount of effort and commitment to deliver such a large and successful event. Work begins many months before the big day and this year we had even more new attractions and facilities to enjoy. Despite the unkind weather and challenging economic climate, there was a great level of loyal support from residents and folk from outside our area. A large team of helpers are involved and in all sorts of ways - but special recognition needs to go to the core team of Andy James, Tina and Paul Berry, Julie and Steve Glover, Jan and Ian Blackburn and Louise Shenston. Great job. We are looking forward to next year's event already! Thank you.

Grenville Annetts

Read more about this successful event on page four



Photographs by permission of Barbara Frame, Eileen Crotty, Andy James and Rod Lord

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Letter to the Editor

Louise and I moved to Fifield Village in 1993. The main attraction for us was that it was between Windsor and Maidenhead but, more importantly, it had the look and feel of a rural village with its own identity and character.

As the years have gone by we have become aware that, as residents, we have all been guilty of letting standards drop, but recently the formation of the Oakley Green, Fifield and District Community Association has injected some much needed enthusiasm into us all again.

Grenville Annetts and his team do a fantastic job and I think we should all follow their lead and do a little bit more to help to enhance the village we are lucky enough to live in.

Of the areas of concern highlighted in the Residents Survey, I have two major bugbears:

- the state of our ditches
- the telephone box.

I have checked the definition of “ditch” and find that it is “a narrow channel dug in the earth, usually used for drainage, irrigation or as a boundary marker”.

Furthermore: “If a ditch borders your property in any way then you have riparian (shared) ownership of the half that borders your property. If the land on the other side of the ditch is Council owned then you share the responsibility 50/50 with that Council.”

I know that Rod Lord (Environment Work Group) and a band of volunteers recently spent an afternoon trying to clear the ditch opposite Longlea Nursing Home, but we can't ask them to do all the donkey work!

Similarly, we can't demand that ditch owners (or 50% owners) clear their ditches every year.

But I do think we, as a community, should create our own “Task Force” to meet at weekends, or whenever convenient, to clear various obstructions and return the ditches to their former glory, or at least ensure they are “fit for purpose”. The local farmers/landowners should of course enter into the spirit and do the same.

Moving on to my second Bete Noir – the telephone box. It is a hideous, run down, non functioning, eye sore, positioned next to a run down post box!

Bray Parish Council, (Councillor Helen Howard) has planted shrubs and grassed the land opposite, which is now a pleasant recreational area, marred only by the state of the bus shelter, the telephone box and the post box.

I would like to suggest that we make a feature of these English Village icons and renovate and maintain them – if necessary move them. This will inevitably involve fund raising and/or sponsorship and/or donations.

I really would appreciate you all taking time to respond to the above. Please email your comments, good or bad, to the Community Association (www.ogafcap.co.uk)

Andrew Shenston

Read more about OGAFCAs efforts to clear ditches on page 15.



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Another tremendous success

Despite a considerable number of challenges, not least with our Treasurer Julie Glover being rushed into hospital two days beforehand, we are very pleased to say that the Fun Day was once again a tremendous success. We were even helped by the weather which was fine until late in the afternoon.

New attractions this year included Punch & Judy and a children's farm as well as a dressage display and a stall where people enjoyed smashing crockery.

The auction was a success again and raised £1,477. Thanks to a sterling effort to sell tickets in advance of the show the raffle was more successful than usual and this alone raised nearly £600.

David Bucks' steam train was as busy as ever and contributed a whopping £680.

Perhaps not surprisingly sponsorship and donations were slightly down on last year but still raised a wonderful £2,708.

This year in addition to the usual costs for insurance, first aid, marquees, PA system etc. we also hired toilets. Total costs came in at £3,233.

The final total raised will not be known for a few more weeks when we have collected and paid for everything but at this stage we estimate a net amount of approximately £5,500. In the current economic climate we hope you will agree this is a wonderful achievement.

The organising team would like to thank everyone who helped make the show possible and who contributed financially towards it. We would of course also like to thank everyone who came along and supported on the day.

Finally, we should say a very special thanks to Jan and Ian Blackburn who have been an instrumental part of the Fun Day for the past two years and have now moved from the Village – they will be greatly missed.

Andy James – on behalf of The Fifield Fun Day Team

A newcomer's view of Fifield

Being a relatively new member of the Oakley Green Fifield and District Community Association, I was singing the praises of Fifield village at the last meeting. As I am also a newcomer to the village, I was asked to write some words on the village from my view point.

A little bit of background first: I lived in the area back in the early 70's but then after marrying in Windsor, my wife and I emigrated to Cheshire. My only memories of Fifield are playing the drums in a blues group in Fifield hall, circa 1969. My girlfriend of the time turned up in a baco foil mini dress which I recall created a stir, although she didn't get turned away. I also remember a massive landfill site which thankfully has gone. My wife and I returned to Fifield just over 12 months ago.

On to my views: I get the impression that some of you don't know how lucky you are, or maybe you do? Having lived in a number of villages I can tell you that Fifield has all the ingredients to make it outshine its neighbours. It just needs some hard work, just what the Oakley Green, Fifield and District Community Association have embarked on and are quietly succeeding at. I joined the committee shortly after I arrived, mainly because I believe getting involved is a good way to settle in as an immigrant to a community. Having met a lot of really nice people I am surprised that more villagers have not joined the Community Association.

Time for a sales pitch! Membership fees are needed to help pay for regulatory/obligatory fees involved in running a committee and yes it involves such items as health and safety insurance just in case there is a claim. Just to remind you, when you join the Community Association you don't have to do anything, just pay £5 for two years membership; or maybe you would like to help. Don't forget that all the efforts of the committee are entirely voluntary.

Back to my views of your community as a newcomer: it is beautifully rural, yet close at hand to commuting routes to anywhere in the UK. You only have to go a short distance to realise that the suburban sprawls just do not compare with your environment. Your community has a great cross section of residents with a polite youth culture and no apparent street crime, as well as a stable housing market, even in a recession.

You have a brilliant local Pub with a landlord and landlady (Gary & Helen) who really do drive the community spirit. It's a great place to tell

my wife I am walking the dog to (although my wife tells me since I came to Fifield, my watch is running slow, with the half hour promised running in to two hours plus).

You have great walks and cycle routes to go on, and the Community Association is working hard to get these, and the local bridleways improved and extended.

You have a great annual event in the Fifield Fun Day and I know the Association is planning more regular social events in the future. We all benefit from these and all they need is your support. There is also of course your local village hall which I personally think could be used more, particularly for community events. I attended a race night earlier this year which offered great value, and it seemed the near full house enjoyed themselves.

Both my wife and I think we have found a gem in Fifield and we are grateful to all the residents who have welcomed us. Please support your Community Association because they are working hard for us all.

Philip Harrington

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OGAFCA held its first AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Oakley Green, Fifield and District Community Association Limited took place on Thursday September 23, 2010 at 7:30 pm in Braywood Memorial Hall. Despite the awful weather, there was a good turn out of local residents.

The Agenda covered the **Directors Report** and **Financial Accounts**, the **Activities of the Association** and the **Election of Directors of The Association**. It was also an opportunity for residents to ask questions and to meet active members of the Association and Committee.

Directors Report - The Chairman (Grenville Annetts) gave a brief history of major events leading up to the formation of the Association on March 3, 2010 and then up to the AGM.

Launch of the Community Action Plan Project	Mar 2008
Residents Survey development and distribution	Oct 2008
Analysis of Residents Survey data	Jan 2009
Website launch (www.ogafcap.co.uk)	Feb 2009
Draft Community Action Plan completed	Aug 2009
Final public consultation with hogroast	Oct 2009
Publication and delivery of Community Action Plan	Dec 2009
Publication of first quarterly newsletter	Dec 2009

The major Milestones for 2010 have been:

Formation Community Association Limited	March 3
Launch of the Association	March 11
Food, Wine & Ales Fair	June 27
Publication of Local Business Action Plan	Sept 23
First Annual General Meeting	Sept 23

The main work of the Association is centred around implementing the 23 Actions identified in the Community Action Plan. There are seven work groups made up of volunteers who meet as and when required. Then, once every two months or so, there is a meeting of all volunteers, with everyone welcome to come along.

In addition, the Committee of the Association meets as and when required and is made up of the four Directors of the Association (Grenville Annetts, Helen Howard, Robin Howard and Louise Shenston) and the work group spokespersons - Robin Howard

(Children & Youths), Trudi Knight (Communications), Bill Collier (Community Safety), Barbara Frame & Rod Lord (Environment), Paula Grevett (Local Business), Louise Shenston (Roads & Transport) and Grenville Annetts (Social & Recreational). These have been supported by almost another 30 Volunteers spread across the work groups and helping with activities and events.

Financial Accounts - The Treasurer (Helen Howard) gave a Financial Report for the short period from the formation of the Association on March 3, 2010 to the end of the Financial Year on March 31, 2010.

At the end of the Financial Year, the Association had a small surplus of £106.80.

In a full year, income for the Association is derived from advertising in the quarterly newsletter, social events, memberships, grants and donations. Expenditure is on newsletter printing, annual insurances, social events, hall hire fees, fliers, website domain and hosting, and the AGM.

Activities of the Association - The Chairman then gave a brief description of the activities of the Association by work group. (Fuller updates are given regularly in the quarterly newsletters):-

Children & Youths - family rambles (two) and looking for an open area for public use.

Communications - quarterly newsletters and fliers, website since Feb 2009 and efforts to bring Broadband to the area.

Community Safety - working with our two local NAGs and relocation of Police Surgeries.

Environment - solving local drainage/flooding issues, improving footpaths and bridle paths and litter picking.

Local Business – seventy companies have been identified as operating in our area. Just published the Local Business Action Plan and hoping to start up a local business network.

Roads & Transport - traffic speed reduction across our area, participation in SpeedWatch Scheme and extension of footways.

Social & Recreational - promotion of clubs, venues and activities, organisation of social events (two) and support for Fifield Fun Day

What can you do to help/be involved? The Chairman said there are many opportunities – including but not limited to, becoming a member of the Association (before the meeting there were 68 households, 89 members and three businesses – more signed up on the night) - join a work group - deliver newsletters - write an article for newsletter - help

out at events etc.

Election of Directors - The Chairman advised the AGM that the four existing Directors, appointed initially on formation of the Association in March were now required to stand down at this the first AGM. Nomination forms had been circulated to all members of the Association in advance of the meeting and just four people had been nominated to be Directors for the coming year. Voting took place and the following four Directors were elected, namely:
Grenville Annetts - Helen Howard - Robin Howard - Louise Shenston.

The Chairman then invited questions from the floor and responses were given by members of the Committee. The Chairman thanked residents for attending and the Committee and volunteers for their enormous contributions and commitment over past months. Attendees were invited to stay for refreshments and the meeting closed at 8:30 pm.

Grenville Annetts

Read more details of a possible social event on page 13.



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Police beat surgery comes to Fifield

The police van you may have seen parked at the Fifield Inn is the police beat surgery which has replaced the one in Holyport Village Hall. Please go along to discuss any problems or concerns you may have about safety within our community.

Some time ago the Community Safety Work Group met with the Chief Constable, Mr Tim De Meyer, to discuss the policing of both Fifield and Oakley Green by one station. Unfortunately this is not going to happen, however we plan to unite the community with a meeting between police from Maidenhead and Windsor, and representatives from both the Maidenhead Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG) and the Dedworth and Clewer NAG to discuss any problems within the two areas. Not the most ideal solution but a step in the right direction.

An update on policing personnel:

The Neighbourhood Specialist Officer for Oldfield/Bray covering Fifield and Forest Green is PC Dan Brown and the two PCSOs are John Connor and Matt Wingrove.

The Neighbourhood Specialist Officer for Clewer/Oakley Green is PC Mike Jones, assisted by PC Luke Donockley. The two PCSOs are Ollie Woodland and Ricky Shopon.

They can all be contacted on the non-emergency police number
08458 505505

We are pleased to tell you that at Jeff Pick, the Watch Administrator for Windsor & Maidenhead Neighbourhood Watch Scheme will be talking at the Residents Association autumn meeting on 11th November at 8 pm. in the Memorial Hall. Please come along and get involved.

If anyone has any questions or problems regarding community safety, please contact the community safety work group via the website or call Bill Collier on 01628 676939

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**The Oakley Green, Fifield &
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will hold their
Autumn meeting
on November 11th 2010
in Braywood Memorial Hall
at 8 pm

The guest speaker will be
Jeff Pick
Watch Administrator
for Windsor & Maidenhead
Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

Please come along and
enjoy a glass of wine afterwards

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OGAFCA would like to thank
Braywood Cricket Club
for hosting the
Annual Children's Parish Tour
for two days in August

Experimental surface planned for bridleway

So far there has not been much visible progress with footpaths and bridleways although the Environment Work Group is working with the Royal Borough to steadily make improvements.

You will have noticed that many stiles have been replaced this year with kissing gates and the Borough has a programme to continue with this to improve access for small children and anyone with mobility problems. Sadly, budgetary restraints have slowed the progress of this project but it is ongoing and we have already suggested to the Borough a couple of sites that might be prioritised. If there is a particular stile that you feel is in urgent need of replacement please let us know via the usual channels.

Those of you who use the footpath from Tarbay Lane to the Oakley Green Road (opposite Willow Farm) will be delighted to learn that the narrow path which is normally impassable during the winter months is due to be re-surfaced very shortly! I, for one, am looking forward to that happening.

And speaking of re-surfacing.....a new experimental surface is about to be put down on the Cruch Lane bridleway (off the Drift Road). This looks like wood chips but has had a substance added to it that makes it weld together during wet weather so that it forms a firm surface. Apparently this has been trialled in the West Country to great effect so if it is a success here we hope it may be used on the other bridleways in our Parish.

Progress on the improvement in the bridleway network is slow but we are looking to find ways that we may access the Great Park via Windsor Forest. Watch this space!

Barbara Frame

On the drainage front ... you may have been aware that the first "wet spot" on our list, though the simplest of all to solve, seems to have seen no progress whatsoever. Except of course several OGAFCA volunteers did put in considerable effort to do some manual work to alleviate the problem temporarily. The long delay has been caused by the Gas Authority requiring further consultation before any more work could be undertaken.

Streetcare has had to issue three separate notices before finally being able to achieve this consultation.

It turns out that the reason the Gas Board has been so elusive is because the gas main was laid in the ditch itself. This is something of course that should never happen. Consequently Streetcare will have to carry out some exploratory excavations to ascertain the exact depth of this pipe before anything else can be done.

With autumn here and winter approaching we have been trying to get an update on the status of this work but "out of office" email responses mean that any information we finally manage to get will not be in time for this newsletter. We have also been trying without success to investigate the possibility of arranging for necessary work to be done at Braywood Lodge on the Oakley Green Road. But we are on the case and will hopefully have more details on both these items soon, when they will be reported on the website and updated in the next newsletter.

Rod Lord



OGAFCA volunteers help clear ditch at "wet spot" in Fifield Road

Social History Corner

In the summer newsletter a resident recalled her memories of the German bomber crash in Oakley Green during the Second World War. As a result of the article I have obtained the following extract from research on local wartime crashes done by Mr Leslie Ritson-Smith for an exhibition at the Heritage Centre in Maidenhead.

17 February 1941: Dornier Do17 Z-3 W.Nr.3472 7T+JL 3 Staffel 1/ KGr.606 (Kampfgruppe) based at Lanveoc-Poulmic was shot down and finally crashed at 20.30 hours at Water Oakley Farm (Emmetts Farm), opposite Oakley Court at Grid Reference Q3697 following a bombing sortie against London.

Crew: Pilot: Leutnant zur See Gunter Hubner, Navigator: Leutnant zur See Rolf Dieskau, W/Op: Ernst Tietjen Gunner: Gefr.Walter Arnold.

It was intercepted by Bristol Beaufighter 1f R2154 FK-? of No 219 Sq.based at Tangmere and flown by Sq/Ldr.J.H.Little and his Navigator SWgt. S.Austin.

The following are witness reports given in the late 1990s:

Mr D.A.Mott of Maidenhead had been with the Windsor police force at the time, and was off duty. However whenever there was any activity he and three Specials attended the police box on the Windsor Road, just by the racecourse. An aircraft was heard circling overhead, he phoned Control, situated in a basement of an old brewery in the centre of Windsor, thinking that the crew had baled out near Windsor Great Park. Two of the crew had indeed baled out over Windsor Great Park and he later heard they had been captured and taken to Slough Police Station.

The Dornier was now circling at a height of about 600-1000 ft and when it came down, he "beetled -off " in the direction of Bray to see what had happened, as they did not have radios. It had exploded and he remembers the ammunition going off. On closer inspection he saw that it was outside the jurisdiction of Windsor and in the area covered by Bray.

Mr Mott said the wreck of the aircraft was eventually taken away but there were many small pools of bright yellow/green fluid remaining in the field for some time afterwards.

Mrs Shilton said that her brother, herself and several children arrived

at the site quite early on, and her brother took away one of the machine guns (MG15) as a souvenir. However this was quickly recovered by the police. Her most vivid memory was "the most awful smell"

Mr K.F.Wheal now residing in Hurley, had been evacuated from London at about the age of eight or nine with his mother and brother to No 4 Oakley cottages, Bray. The five cottages are behind the current Nursery and on the North side of the Windsor Road opposite the crash site. He had seen the Dornier circling overhead about five times, getting lower and lower, when it passed over the cottages, and finally crashing about 300 yards away in the field. They all hid under the table at the time of the crash, but looking out of the window they could see it burning with the ammunition exploding.

The Dornier had crashed at Emmetts Farm, Oakley Court near Bray, just to the east of what was known as Bluebell Lane in those days. Today there is still a track running across the field which was known as Bluebell Lane and currently there is a big rubbish pile more or less on the spot. (In fact this 'rubbish' heap is also clearly visible in the contemporary 1941 photograph of the crash site and wreckage).

Farmer Emmett's son, Jack who lived at Southgate, armed himself with a shotgun and with assistance arrested a crew member who had bailed out nearby. This was in fact the pilot Gunter Hubner, who had broken his leg landing in a ditch alongside the Windsor Road, opposite the cottages, just by a little bridge which went into Bluebell Lane. According to Mr Mott, the pilot's first words were that it was his birthday. At that time, close to the cottages there had been a small copse and the police came with a searchlight just in case as it had been rumoured that two crew members had baled but several days later it was heard that Lt.zur See Rolf Dieskau and Uffz. Ernst Tietjen had been arrested in Slough, whilst the crew member arrested in Egham must have been Gefr. Walter Arnold.

The Windsor and Royal Borough Museum Collection, which is located nearby in Tinker's Lane Dedworth, has a small piece of wreckage, originally described as coming from the V-1 which came down in Dedworth in July 1944. However on closer examination it has proved to be the pilot's master oxygen valve from the Dornier, and the details of the component are quite clearly readable on the manufacturer's identification plate.

Eileen Crotty

Work continues on Action Plan Vision

The Roads and Transport Work Group's "Vision" in the Community Action Plan is to provide a safer environment for all roads users while maintaining our rural surroundings. To this end we are hoping to reduce the speed limits on our roads and reduce the number of HGVs, provide additional footways where required and establish a more frequent and wide spread bus service. This is where we are to date:

Speed Limits and HGVs

Our recommendations for a reduction in the speed limits were adopted by the RBWM last year, but we have yet to be advised when these changes are likely to take place. We are continuing to make enquiries and will let you know as soon as we can.

As reported in the last issue, in association with the Oldfield & Bray NAG, we are going to be using the **Speedwatch** equipment in the local area as soon as it is available.

Unfortunately the equipment is in great demand and having been returned from a stint in Ascot, it is now being repaired again!

We are therefore still on standby, but I am assured we are next on the list!

Footways

Things are progressing (albeit slowly) with regard to the proposed footway on the bend in the Fifield Road by Coningsby Lane.

Our most recent communication from Highways and Engineering advised that they are working on a number of projects at the moment and that there is one other footway scheme to clear which should mean they will be working on our proposals imminently!

On the buses

Most residents will know the only bus route that goes through Oakley Green and Fifield is the number 6 operating on an hourly basis from about 7.00am to 7.00pm Monday to Saturday and travels from Windsor to Maidenhead and vice versa. We would be interested to know if passengers feel there is a need to expand the service, perhaps later in the evenings enabling a night out in Windsor or Maidenhead. The OGAFCAP Residents Survey conducted in Autumn 2008 showed only 12.5% of respondents thought late night services Friday/Saturday very important to them. Perhaps this view has since changed.

Currently there is no service at all on a Sunday so would your leisure activities be enhanced if there was a service? You might consider that a walk from the bus stop to your home late at night in the dark presents some risk and therefore outweighs any extra convenience.

The way bus services are structured, the route, the frequency and where the bus stops is decided by Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead and is then put out to tender to bus operating companies. Our number 6 route together with many other routes in the Borough is currently operated by Courtney Coaches of Bracknell.

We are to meet with the Royal Borough concerning a bus stop on Oakley Green Road opposite the house Braywood Linn which is in a very poor state. The bus stop sign was knocked down in a vehicle accident many years ago and has never been replaced and the waiting area has become overgrown with foliage. In addition users consider the site is too close to a bend in the road and with the volume of traffic has become quite dangerous to cross the road and wait there. (The fact the bus stop sign was removed in an accident is proof enough). We will be attempting to get the bus stop re sited to a safer location. If any residents have comments or suggestions to make regarding the bus service please email them to Michael Seagrief at michaelsea@ymail.com. or write to OGAFCA Broadacre House Coningsby Lane, Fifield SL6 2PF

Louise Shenston

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Professional artists to teach at art club

We have had a short break during August where we had a think about how well we had done in the first 12 week session and how we could improve things in the future.

I only have limited knowledge so in order to give the best tuition to our budding artists we have decided to change the way we operate. We are going to run seven and eight week sessions, and although the cost per week will be the same at £3.00, the total amount for the seven or eight week session will be paid at the start of each period. This will give us the finances to bring in professional artists to give their expertise to our group. We already have a lady from Marlow who is going to visit us on the 4th October when we start back.

Because of the size of the room I have to restrict the numbers to 15 and we already have 11 members on the books, so if you want to join us please contact me as soon as possible to ensure you get a place.

The club runs from 3pm to 5pm on Monday afternoons in the Jubilee room at the rear of the Memorial Hall.
We look forward to meeting you.

Bill Collier

Call 01628 676939 or e mail collierwilliam73@gmail.com

Members of the Art Club had an enjoyable afternoon, albeit windy with a light sprinkle of rain, at Bray Lake. Everyone was delighted with their artwork, depicting the views chosen, and they are looking forward to testing their skills again.

Photo by Eileen Crotty



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It's your insurance policy not the insurers, which means that in the event of an accident, whether or not it's your fault, you are entitled to have your vehicle repaired by a manufacturers' approved repairer to their high standards.

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