



Oakley Green, Fifield & District Community Association

Spring Newsletter

April 2011



www.ogafcap.co.uk



Residents help clear the ditch at "wet spot" 3
Read more over the page.



Join in the
half term
Family Ramble on
Thursday 2 June

From the Chairman

We have just passed two important anniversaries. At the end of March, it was three years since the Community Action Plan project first kicked off in 2008, with 20 or so volunteers attending the first meeting, and on 3 March 2011 we had the first anniversary of the formation of the properly Constituted Association.

As you will see in this newsletter, the seven Work Groups are month-by-month getting more "traction" and are delivering real benefits to our community. Improvements in drainage, footways, community activities, communications, police presence and bus services to name just a few. The Local Business Work Group has now identified in excess of 100 companies in our area and they have held their first network event.

On 26 March we had a very impressive stand at the RBWM Big Society Day at Windsor Girls School. We had the opportunity to showcase our achievements and best practices to visitors as well as promote our Action Plan and cause to senior Borough Politicians and Officers.

To do all this, we need support and help from volunteers and income from events and membership. Our annual membership runs from 1 April each year and is a "snip" at £3 per household or organisation and just £5 for two years. Forms are available on the website or from any Work Group Spokesperson.

The next meeting of All Members and Volunteers is scheduled to take place on Thursday 2 June at 8:00 pm in Braywood Memorial Hall. Please come along and support the Association and help us deliver these important improvements in our community.

Grenville Annetts

Dates for your diary

OGAFCA Street Party - Friday 29 April
Residents Association AGM - Thursday 26 May
OGAFCA Volunteers Meeting - Thursday 2 June
OGAFCA Family Ramble - Thursday 2 June
Holyport Fair - Saturday 4 June
Fifield Fun Day - Saturday 13 August
Holyport Village Show - Saturday 10 September
Bray Fete - Sunday 11 September
OGAFCA AGM - Thursday 22 September
OGAFCA Christmas Fair - Saturday 26 November

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Once more unto the ditch

We have been unable to discover anything more from Streetcare about progress on "wet spot" 2 - the Fifield Road speed bump, but we assume that as promised the matter is now in the hands of the RBWM Legal Department.

Streetcare notified us that their intention was to carry out the jetting of the underground pipe we had requested at "wet spot" 3 - Braywood Lodge on the Oakley Green Road, during the last week of February or the first week of March. The ditch at the outflow of this pipe was silted up such that the majority of the pipe opening was covered. So we had to get our skates on (well ... our wellies anyway !) to clear the inflow and outflow of the pipe so that the jetting could take place.

At 2pm on Sunday 20 February 2011 five OGAFCA volunteers turned out with spades to get the work done.

A ditch flows north off the higher ground of the Drift Road along the boundary of Braywood Lodge where it then enters the manhole chamber at the new bus stop. Over many years in times of heavy rainfall this has backed up to the point where it floods the garden and driveway and threatens the Lodge House itself.

Debris and silt had backed up at the inflow to the manhole chamber so that only the top quarter of the pipe was allowing water to pass. OGAFCA volunteers Nick Pellew and Gren Annetts tackled the clearance of this and the stretch of ditch leading to it.

At the outflow of the underground pipe heading east from the manhole along the southern verge of Oakley Green Road the ditch was effectively dammed by rubble and debris (including a hub cap!) from a small bridge that was demolished in a road accident some years ago. Silt in the bottom of the ditch had built up against this, effectively raising the level of the water about 10 inches above the top of the pipe and drastically reducing the effective capacity of the pipe.

To clear all this and increase the depth of the ditch bed OGAFCA volunteers Phil Mortimer, Michael Seagrief and Rod Lord were joined by the resident of the eastern Lodge House along whose frontage the roadside ditch runs. This resident kindly offered to clear all the rubble and spoil that was excavated and this was duly done as promised on Monday 21 February.

After sufficient work was done to allow the pipe jetting to take place some very delicious and welcome tea and biscuits was supplied to all by Valerie, the resident of Braywood Lodge.

On checking the flow a week later the outflow of the pipe was completely clear and the water level in the ditch had dropped to expose the pipe completely, even after fairly consistent rain. As a result the capacity of the pipe to deal with extreme water flow has been increased significantly and we have great hopes that this will at least delay considerably the point at which the property becomes threatened. Once the jetting has been carried out this should ensure that it will be some time before the build up of silt again causes a problem for these properties. We can then sign off item three in our "wet spot" list - leaving seven to go!

The Environment Work Group is very grateful to the willing workers - Gren Annetts, Phil Mortimer, Nick Pellew and Michael Seagrief - and also of course to the resident of the eastern Lodge House who not only laboured in the flow of water but also removed the spoil.

Streetcare tell us that jetting works were delayed due to budgetary constraints but that they are now scheduled for Monday 11 April when the following work will be carried out :

- 1 - Jet the pipeline running parallel with the roadside verge outside Braywood Lodge on Oakley Green Road.
- 2 - Jet the pipeline running parallel with the road and crossing the road in the vicinity of Forest Farm on Oakley Green Road. The feasibility of installing additional gullies at this location will be looked at during the course of these works.
- 3 - Jet the culverts crossing the entrance to Manor Grove.

Rod Lord

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Local residents join the Adopt-a-Street Campaign

As in post-war days when our parents and grandparents took pride in their surroundings by making sure the area outside their property was tidy and free of litter, we too would like to see this repeated in our community.

To report excess littering go to www.rbwm.gov.uk and navigate through the options *environment and planning* and *street care and cleaning* to find an online report form. You will be given a reference number. Alternatively call 0500 885055

The Oakley Green and Fifield Community Association has a group of people who, when out on a leisurely walk, assist with the collecting and reporting of litter and fly-tipping. As a little reminder, the council do litter picking every six weeks in Fifield and every three weeks along the Oakley Green and Forest Green Roads.

I, and a friend (someone who has taken an active interest in Fifield's environment for many years), belong to the Royal Borough's Adopt-a-Street Campaign. Further information is available on the council's website.

I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Environment Work Group, to thank those of you who have helped keep our community reasonably litter-free so far. I say 'reasonably' because as we all know it is an ongoing problem.

Rita Haynes

Paper, fast food, bottles and cans
Flying missiles from out of vans
Cars too add to this dismay
Light-a-bonfire; create a display

Ditches full of 'who-knows-what!'
Spewing out and flooding the lot

Come on citizens of OGAF fair
Let's show the others that we care!

Rita Haynes

RBWM Litter picking dates

Oakley Green Road: 2 May,
23 May, 13 June, 4 July

Forest Green Road: 25 April,
16 May, 6 June, 27 June,
18 July

**Fifield Rd, Meadow Way,
Stewart Close, Manor
Grove:** 16 May, 27 June

Coningsby Lane: 30 May,
11 July

Free collection of scrap metal

Members of the Environment Work Group have arranged a scrap metal collection to raise money for OGAFCA and, at the same time, give us all an opportunity to have a bit of a spring 'clear up'.

I know lots of us have a spot at the back of the garden or behind the shed where things get dumped that we don't quite know what to do with – or, if you're my husband, you think you might eventually find a use for. Take this opportunity to start having a clear out; remember we can take old washing machines, garden machinery, pipes, cylinders, water tanks, metal window frames etc.

The collections will take place on 21 and 22 May, so if you are interested call 01628 676053 to book your appointment for the free collection. Nearer the time we will send out a flier as a reminder. In the meantime, get out and sort all your waste metal, as your pile of rubbish can help to raise some money for the community.

Barbara Frame

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It's party time!

Street Party Friday 29 April - April is here and everyone is getting excited about the Royal Wedding. Based on the level of interest registered by residents on our website and by phone – we have decided to go ahead and organise our own “Reception” in the form of a Street Party. Details are still being finalised, as we need to obtain certain permissions from the RBWM Highways Authority. More details about the event and the entertainment we are laying on will be communicated to everyone in a special Street Party flier. In the meantime, dust off your picnic tables and chairs, make you party hats and start planning your menus. Above all, pray for good weather!

We are planning a number of other social events this year:

Family Ramble – the next ramble takes place in half term on the afternoon of Thursday 2 June. This involves a gentle stroll through our local countryside ending up with refreshments at The Fifield Inn. Dogs and children especially welcome! For more information contact Alison Brayshaw on i.brayshaw@btopenworld.com or 07970 020 973

3rd Annual Food, Wine and Ales Fair – Planning has started and we are checking out weekend dates in July with local high quality suppliers of great food, quaffable wines and super beers. More information to follow.

Autumn Community Evening – sometime in October. Something like our successful Race Nights – but with a difference!

Christmas Fair – our Residents Survey told us that locals were interested in Christmas Fairs – so we are planning on putting on our first on Saturday 26 November. Bill Collier is the point man on this one – so contact him on 01628 676939 if you want to have a stall.

If you wish to help out with organising any (or all) of these, please contact us via the Social and Recreational Work Group on the website or telephone 01628 784441

Grenville Annetts

The Art Club hopes to start running evening classes for adults and children. If you are interested contact Bill Collier on 01628 676939

Day trip planned

Inspired by an article in the local paper about a club for the elderly in Slough which started last September and, amongst many others, has since visited such diverse places as the Imperial War Museum, the Winchester Christmas Market, Windsor Theatre, Bournemouth and the Sandbay Holiday Village, I began to wonder whether anyone in our local area would be interested in going on similar trips. The idea would be that we would pick you up in a coach or a minibus (dependent on numbers), either from your house or a central point in the village, spend the day or evening at our chosen destination where you would enjoy the company of like minded locals and then return home safe and sound!

Some ideas of places to visit are:

A day trip to France
Theatre in Windsor
Kew Gardens
Duxford Aviation Museum
Bourton on the Water
Afternoon tea at Claridges

What do you think? Are you interested?

If yes, please contact us as soon as possible via the website or call me on 01628 783312 or email paula@grevett.co.uk. Otherwise, speak to any of the OGAFCA committee.

I look forward to meeting you!

Paula Grevett

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Additional attractions planned for Fifield Fun Day

The 7th Fifield Fun Day will take place on Saturday 13 August 2011 starting at 1.30pm – different venue, still in Fifield, but still the same fun.

The Fun Day has raised in excess of £25,000 for charity and we wish to continue the good work. The nominated charities for 2011 are Rosie's Rainbow Trust and Alexander Devine Children's Hospice Service. A donation will also be made to the Community Association.

It is hoped to repeat the popular attractions from last year – Birds of Prey, Novelty Dog Show and the Punch and Judy. Other ideas for 2011 include a Tug of War, Gun Dog and Karate demonstrations but if you have a suggestion please let us know.

There will be a repeat of the stalls and fund raising activities from previous years but again all suggestions for different stalls or fund raising ideas will be gratefully received.

Volunteers required. A number of people have volunteered their services before during and after the Fun Day either selling raffle tickets, setting out the event or taking it down again, manning stalls etc. If you have done it before you are on the hit list! However all volunteers are warmly welcomed it is a great way to meet members of the community.

If you wish to make a donation, can provide sponsorship or give a raffle prize we want to hear from you.

If you would like to have a stall, or have a fund raising idea we want to hear from you.

If you can volunteer to help in some way we want to hear from you.

Contact Helen Howard on 01628 782003
email howardhj@btinternet.com
or speak to any of the Fun Day Organising Committee: Bill Collier, Julie Glover, Paula Grevett and Louise Shenston

**PUT THE DATE IN YOUR DIARY
AND JOIN US FOR
ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR**



Parked cars cause congestion

It is always nice to see that crime figures in our area are low, but that does not mean that you should relax. They are probably low because you have been so vigilant making sure your property is safe. Prevention rather than cure is always the best option to take, so please continue to be vigilant. Don't forget to reread the tips in the winter newsletter: imprint them in your mind and help us keep our community as free from crime as we can.

The last police surgery was well attended and the officers said that the public had a positive approach to the questions asked, so thank you to those who took the time to go and give the officers feedback.

We still have a major problem in Oakley Green Road at Braywood School. This is being addressed by the Community Safety Work Group, the Roads and Transport Work Group as well as the Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG). The problem is so great that we are talking to the police and the Royal Borough to try and resolve it. Parked cars outside the school in the morning and afternoon cause real congestion on the road.

On Monday 4 April, Parish Councillor Helen Howard, PCSO Mathew Wingrove and I met with Mrs. Calvert the head teacher at Braywood School to discuss ways to minimise the congestion on the road at drop off and pick up times.

The school has already implemented some new ideas in the form of a travel plan. There are at present 120 children at the school. The school has already put in place a breakfast club from 8am and 20 percent of children attend. An afternoon club runs from 3pm until 6:30pm and 30 percent of children attend. A scheme where parents can kiss and drop by the church hall has also made a big difference to waiting times. In addition, a section of road from the school to the church hall will be designated as a no waiting area giving cars space to pull in to let traffic flow past more easily. This problem affects a number of residents in our community so if you have any additional thoughts on how to solve this problem, please let me know.
Be safe

Bill Collier

Windsor Theatre Guild present an adaptation of Canterbury Tales at New Lodge from 21 to 25 June. Find out more at www.wtg.org.uk

New bus stops and shelters

Residents will have noticed that the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead is upgrading the bus stops with new green bus stop poles and the new design of flag containing relevant bus information, including the SMS text number which give in real time the number of minutes to the next bus. A timetable will be fixed to each bus stop.

RBWM asked Bray Parish Council for a report on the bus shelters within the Parish. OGAFCA, through the Roads and Transport Work Group was able to take on the task for Oakley Green and Fifield. Subsequently there have been site meetings involving representatives from Bray Parish, OGAFCA, the council, local people and a bus shelter manufacturer.

The first bus shelter to be considered was the old dilapidated wooden shelter in Oakley Green Road which has been of some concern to Bray Parish as to whether it was worth maintaining. Refurbishment was considered, but it has now been decided that a new wooden shelter similar in size and containing a seat would be the best solution to tidy up the area and make waiting for the bus a better experience. The next bus stop for investigation was across the road near Braywood First School where the pole leans backwards into a hedge and is hardly visible. Deliberations on what was best for local people involved the head teacher of Braywood First School, where use of public transport by parents and pupils is to be encouraged. The school is soon to have a new pedestrian entrance to separate pedestrians from vehicles entering or leaving the school. The proposal here is that a brand new bus stop with a shelter is created backing onto the school boundary and within close reach of the new pedestrian entrance. It would be of wood construction with a seat to match the new wooden shelter planned across the road making the area aesthetically pleasing. The words "Bus Stop" inside a frame (called a cage) would be painted onto the road surface and join up with the yellow zig zag lines already on the road thereby extending the "no parking" zone outside the school.

Ferndale Park in Fifield Road has an elderly population who use the buses regularly but the bus stop in the Windsor direction is currently very narrow, with a ditch behind. The bus stop is very exposed to the weather, so much so residents wait at the stop across the road where there is a shelter and when the bus approaches make a dash for it across, more often than not, speeding traffic. The proposal is to build a

new bus stop with a shelter near to the existing site where the bank is wider to provide a larger waiting area. The new shelter would be fully enclosed with a seat inside, made of metal and glass and have a wheelchair ramp. The existing metal shelter on the Maidenhead side of the road would be refurbished and repainted.

We are pleased to announce RBWM has approved the proposals, and placed orders with Queensbury Ltd to build all three shelters. Work should be completed by end of June.

Michael Seagrief

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A call to arms to tackle speed in our area

As you know, the results of the survey we carried out at the end of 2008 indicated a number of areas of significant concern to residents.

The need for new lower speed limits on all our roads and better traffic speed regulation was of particular concern and we were delighted when we heard that our proposals for reduced limits were included in the speed limit review carried out by the Thames Valley Safer Roads Partnership (TVSRP).

The minutes of the cabinet meeting held on 22 October 2009, clearly state that it was resolved unanimously that the outcome of the speed limit review was to be endorsed and form the basis of a works programme until March 2013 – subject to budget availability.

The priority for responding to the speed limit consultation was to be focused around schools and authority was to be delegated to the Strategic Director of Environment (in conjunction with the Lead Member for Highways and Streetcare supported by local ward members) to prioritise and implement the remaining schedule of requests.

Sadly, we now believe that our local ward members did not support our proposals!

So, it seems that we now need to make a concerted effort to convince these gentlemen that a reduction of the speed limits is VITAL.

We are therefore asking each of you, as concerned residents, to make your feelings known to our local ward councilors.

Their full contact details can be found at: www.rbwm.gov.uk

It would greatly help our cause if you would copy all correspondence to the Roads and Transport Work Group at the OGAFCA registered office (you will find the postal address at the front of the newsletter), or by email via www.ogafcap.co.uk

Thank you

Louise Shenston

Broadband campaign receives help

We have received very helpful responses on the subject of Broadband service in our area from both Cllr Burbage and Cllr Bateson of RBWM. Cllr Burbage immediately undertook to follow up and see if further information could be obtained. Cllr Bateson has a special interest in "The Big Society" and was pleased to learn of the efforts and progress of OGAFCA in general as we have already moved quite a long way towards being very much in tune with this concept. We hope to be invited to attend both a meeting at RBWM and also a presentation with a speaker from BT.

Cllr Bateson has also passed on to us responses received by Cllr Burbage's office from both Openreach and BT which we were completely unable to achieve ourselves.

The first communication from Openreach High Level Complaints refers to our questions concerning the junction box on the A308 at the corner with Fifield Road and why it is the only one not upgraded to fibre optic.

"It is true that the BT junction box you mention was initially excluded from our fibre optic roll out programme for this area. There were certain issues that did not meet our commercial criteria at the time. I am pleased to say that this initial decision was reviewed some time ago and we are now including this junction box in the roll out. However, substantial technical problems have been encountered which means I am unable to give you a meaningful timescale. Completion is not imminent. We will complete as soon as we practically can but this could be as much as 18 to 24 months from now. Obviously we will look to complete sooner but I do not wish to set expectations too high."

The second response from the BT Partnership Director South East reads rather like a standard PR text for the commitment of BT to the roll out of fibre optic broadband. A small part of it contains the following text :

"I have been requesting for some three months to come and present the full picture and plans for Berkshire to the CEO's meeting, as we feel that Berkshire may well not be getting their share of any possible BDUK support going forward - funding directly supporting the rural roll-out of SuperFast Broadband. Within BT, our commitment to the NGA (Next Generation Access) roll-out is both comprehensive and

unswerving, as our increased investment to £2.5bn demonstrates and our additional recent offer to also match the government proposed investment of £830m to specifically support the delivery of rural Broadband services."

At least it does lead us to hope that there may be further information forthcoming from either Cllr Burbage or Cllr Bateson in due course.

We have learned that the Windsor exchange was scheduled to be upgraded to Infinity in March 2011 but this has been delayed and might now be in June or July. It remains to be seen to what extent this improves the service to users in Oakley Green.

Rod Lord

Free show schedules for the Holyport Village Show on 10 September will be available from 1 May at the following outlets: Fifield Inn, J & S Rook Butchers, Holyport Post Office, Elizabeth James Hairdressers, St. Michael's Church, Bray Hair Studio and John's Barber Shop

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01753 850782 or 07850 412192

Visit our website on www.theoldfarmhousewindsor.com

Parked cars and dog mess cause offence

I had reason to walk around the village of Fifield the other day and two things came to my attention.

The number of cars parked on the pavement/footway. I thought that the 'problem' was only restricted to Fifield Road but visiting other roads I see that it is a more wide spread practise. Most dwellings in Fifield have a drive and a garage or off road parking facilities. So why do you not park in them? By parking on the pavement anyone who wishes to, and is entitled to use the pavement/footway has to walk into the road as you have usually not left enough room to walk past, let alone get a pram/pushchair/wheelchair past. As I understand it, this is an offence for which you could be fined if reported to the police. This is not just a night time activity, I was out in the village in the afternoon! Please consider others how you park your car – do you want someone's injury on your conscious just to protect your wing mirror or paintwork. It could be your neighbour or even a member of your family!

The other is more down to earth... the amount of, to put no finer point on it, dog mess in the area. In a 30mph area it is an offence not to clear up after your dog. But let's be practical, when was the last time you saw a dog warden in the area? So the chances of you being caught are small. But wouldn't it make Fifield a better place if you didn't have to dodge the piles? Picking up after your dog isn't a pleasant job, but it's not pleasant to have to avoid dog mess when walking in the area, especially if you fail to spot it! But it comes with the territory of owning a dog.

**Please pick up after your dog
and make Fifield better for everyone**

a resident

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Local Business Forum holds first meeting

A most successful inaugural meeting of the Oakley Green, Fifield and District Community Association Local Business Forum, chaired by Bill Collier, was held on Monday 21 March at the Fifield Inn. It was set up to encourage local businesses to network to their mutual benefit.

There were 12 participants representing a diverse cross-section of the local business community. Each gave a short introduction to their organisations, amongst which were a social enterprise nursery providing employment for disabled people, a dog behaviour therapist, a vehicle accident repair specialist, a water sports company, an office suite provider for small businesses, a weight loss consultancy and an animated graphics and design company.

Issues under discussion included the woeful reception of broadband in the area and what could be done to improve it, and the lack of bus and public transport facilities.

As we have discovered there are around 100 businesses located in our area, it is hoped that this meeting will be the first of many. We have made contact with a local business networking expert from the Community Council for Berkshire, whom we have invited to one of our meetings to advise us on our strategy and recommend ideas for future events. He has been instrumental in the success of the Twyford Village Partnership, a business networking organisation, now with 55 paying members.

If you are interested in joining this network or have your own ideas for future events, please contact the Local Business Work Group via the website or call Bill Collier on 01628 676939 or Paula Grevett on 01628 783312.

We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting in May, details to be advised.

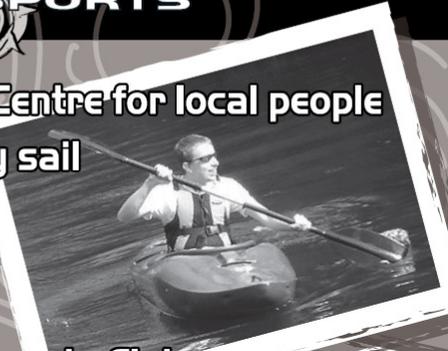
Paula Grevett and Bill Collier

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 inside front cover. The deadline for the summer issue is 1 July.



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Fifield businessman 'a true local'

Having lived in Slough all his life and driven lorries for other companies for over 10 years, Stephen (Steve) George's goal in life was to have his own company and drive for himself.

In 1998 his dream came true, when with an old D registration skip lorry and "Skip" his Jack Russell puppy, he formed his own company known as G&M Skips. He worked on his own, seven days a week for the next three years to get a good customer base at which point he bought a 7.5 tonne skip lorry and took on his friend, who worked with him for the next four years.

In 2004 he moved from Slough with his partner Julie to Fifield and they have not looked back since; finding great friends and neighbours they continued to build their business.

Steve's son Mark, newly qualified with his license, decided to join his father and they work side by side along with Andy (The Fireman) White, a fellow Fifield resident.

G&M Skips take huge pride in being a trustworthy small family run business that provides a reliable and professional service to both their residential and commercial customers.

Steve also does work in the community being the Group Scout Leader for the First Slough Scout Group - a group set up by his father over 40 years ago. In November 2010 Steve received his 30 year service medal from the scouts and continues to organise the day to day activities of the group, along with field trips and adventures.

Steve you certainly are "A TRUE LOCAL".

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