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Oakley Green, Fifield & District Community Association

Spring Newsletter

April 2015



www.ogafcap.co.uk

Welcome to the OGAFCA Spring newsletter...



....Spring is here...

....VE Day and VJ Day
70th Anniversaries...



...5th Anniversary
for Art Class...



....Fifield Fun Day
1st August...



...learn about the Red Kite...

...all welcome at local
cricket club....



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

Published by Oakley Green, Fifield and District Community Association Limited by Guarantee
Postal address: **OGAFCA, Fifield Farm Cottage, Oakley Green Road, Oakley Green, Windsor. SL4 4QF**
The views expressed in the OGAFCA newsletter do not necessarily reflect those of the editor.
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From the Chairman

The local area looks a picture at the moment as I write with the Spring Flowers coming out. Thanks go to the intrepid Daffodil Planters who applied for Bulbs from RBWM and were hard at it - planting in the Winter.

Summer approaches and with it comes all the fun of the Fairs and Fetes and Shows we are lucky to have in our area. And as usual, I will plug here our "own" - the 11th Fifield Fun Day - which will take place in Deep Meadows on Saturday August 1st. We are still the only one with a real Steam Train! Helpers are always needed, so please be prepared to respond to requests for Volunteers.

Planning matters are still high on the local Agenda and are very important as we try to protect our local Rural Life and Green Belt. See separate article on page 18 which covers the most important current activities.

Our last General Meeting was held on Thursday February 12 and the notes have been posted as usual on our Website. These meetings are very relaxed and a chance for any and every one to come along and catch up with what is going on in our Community. The next one is scheduled for **Thursday May 14 at 7:30 pm in Braywood Memorial Hall**. And our Annual General Meeting will take place this year on **Thursday September 17**. We will have vacancies for Directors of the Association as well as Spokespeople for various Groups – so please think seriously about "doing your bit" for the local Community.

Enjoy the Spring sunshine and thank you for your continued support.

Grenville Annetts

Dates for your Diary for 2015

British Legion Events at local War Memorials marking 70th Anniversary of VE Day - Saturday May 9

OGAFCA General Meeting - Everyone welcome! - Thursday May 14 at 7:30pm

Holyport Village Fair - Saturday June 6

Editor's Deadline for OGAFCA Summer Newsletter contributions – Friday June 26

Braywood CE First School - Summer Fair – Saturday July 4

Fifield Fun Day - Saturday August 1

Littlewick Show - Monday August 31

Bray Fete - Sunday September 6

Holyport Village Show - Saturday September 12

Local resident and OGAFCA committee member - Bill Collier - celebrated his 80th Birthday this March

Many of us know Bill either from his involvement on the OGAFCA Committee, the Oakley Green and Fifield Art Class which he runs, the OGAFCA Christmas Fair which he organises and his voluntary help generally in the community. So as Bill celebrated his 80th Birthday this year we all have a lot to thank him for as he works tirelessly and has done so all his life! Bill started life as a coal miner (yes - a Collier - as in his name!) in the 1950's and tells us of his memories and experiences.

“At the age of 15 I left school in Northumberland and given that there was only one option open to me regards work, it was go down the pit or don't work. When I went to the Ellington Colliery for a job my first interview was with the trade union secretary to see if I would join the union and if I had said “No”, I would not have got the job. The mines were what we call a “closed shop”, everyone was a union member.

Having got the job I went to the training centre at Ashington Colliery for two weeks training and then I started working on the surface at first picking stones out of the coal on what was called the screens, it was just about the noisiest place ever. Coal was being shaken on metal plate so that you could pick out the stones. After about two months of this I went underground as a boy at the shaft bottom. My job was to stop the small trucks of coal (called tubs) that had been brought out from the coal face by an endless rope system. Once the front clip had been removed, I had to insert wooden pegs into the wheels (called dregs) which stopped the wheels from turning and eventually stopped the tubs before they reached the shaft bottom, there were about 50 tubs joined together. They were then put into the cages two on the bottom deck and two on the top deck and sent to the surface 1000ft above.

At the age of 16 my father took ill with Silicosis which was coal dust on the lungs from the coal cutter he worked with and was off work for two years as the only cure was fresh air. So to keep the house going I had to do peace work where you got paid by the results of your day's work. So working with a pony 3 miles under the sea, I had to pull out the tubs from the board and pillar workings two at a time. I got 37 and sixpence a day plus 4 pence a tub and don't forget it was old money before

decimalisation, my weeks money was about £17 which was good money for 1951.

After about 18 months of this I got a place on the coal face filling coals. The conveyor face was about 120 yards long 4' 6" high and the undercut was also 4' 6" which was blasted down. I had 6 hours to fill off 8 yards of this and all I had to do it with was a pick and a shovel. You had to work on your knees because of the low height and you also had to put up your roof supports as you went. Wages 39 shillings a day plus another 39 shillings if all the coal was filled off the whole length of the coal face, it was back breaking work.

My dad came back to work in July 1953 and guess what I was out of there as fast as I could.”

Certainly an insight into where his surname Collier originated from!

OGAFCA Membership Renewal

Membership of your Association runs from April 1st to March 31st each year. Thank you for those who supported us and been Members this past year. Some of you, whose Membership lapsed at the end March will be sent a reminder letter and a Membership Form to complete. It costs just £3 per Household or Business for one year or £5 for two years. Members are entitled to a small discount on ticket prices for some social events we hold.

The Funds generated go towards helping us to run the Association's Meetings, Events, Website and Newsletter. Having a strong Membership is also critical to us being able to convince local Service Providers (such as RBWM, Bray Parish Council, BT etc.) to spend money/make improvements in our area.

Application Forms are also available on our Website or from any of our Committee Members.

Welcome Pack

If you are new to the area and have not received a “Welcome Pack” please contact us at www.ogafcap.co.uk

The Red Kite



Soaring effortlessly above our heads, the red kite is now a much loved and welcome addition to our village skies. But it was not always so.

In Tudor times the London skies were filled with red kites who lived on the carrion and rotting food left in the city streets. But in the mid 16th century they fell out of favour and were classified as vermin, indeed, in Shakespeare's

King Lear, he describes his daughter, Goneril, as a 'detested kite' which gives an indication of how this poor bird was reviled. A series of acts of parliament required vermin to be destroyed and the act for the 'preservation of grain' saw the red kite as a threat to agriculture and they were hunted to near extinction. By the late 18th century they had died out in England and Scotland.

By the 20th century only a few pairs remained in Wales where a group of local landowners had the foresight to protect them. In 1903 a group of individuals appalled by the decline of this species formed the Kite Committee and they organized the first nest protection scheme. In the 1980s the Red Kite was one of only three threatened species in the United Kingdom, and in recognition of this the RSPB and NCC (now Natural England and Natural Scottish Heritage) got together to discuss the re-introduction of the kite to England and Scotland. Between 1989 and 1993, 90 birds were released in the Chilterns. This project proved so successful that they are now a common sight in our skies.

The kite, Latin name, *milvus milvus*, is a very large bird, between 24 and 28 inches long with a wingspan of 70 inches, and it is part of the hawk family. Despite its size it is neither strong nor aggressive and relies on a diet of carrion, worms and small mammals. Kites mate for life making their nests in tall trees. This nest starts as a collection of twigs lined with hair or wool but a few days before egg-laying they adorn the nest with any rubbish that they can find including; rags, crisp packets, carrier bags and even underwear and toys have been recorded! They continue to decorate the nest throughout the season and, as they often return to the same nest, these can become quite sizeable, perhaps they compete with each other for the best home on the block? They tend to live for an average of 10 years although the oldest kite on record was 26!

The red kite still enjoys the highest level of protection under the Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. It is an offence to take, injure or kill a red kite or to take, damage or destroy its nest, eggs or young. It is also an offence to intentionally or recklessly disturb the birds close to their nest during the breeding season. Violation of the law can result in heavy fines and/or a prison sentence.

Fifield Fun Day Update

We are delighted to announce that the proceeds of the Fifield Fun Day this year will go to Rosie's Rainbow Fund, a local charity for sick and disabled children and MacMillan Cancer Support.

<http://www.rosiesrainbowfund.co.uk>

<http://www.macmillan.org.uk>

As usual, we will also be donating funds to a number of smaller local charities and not-for-profit organisations including:-

Windsor Horse Rangers

1st Slough Scouts

Braywood Memorial Hall

Braywood Cricket Club

Oakley Green. Fifield and District Community Association

Rosie's Rainbow Fund offers bereavement support for families after the loss of a child. In the community they provide music therapy for special needs children in schools and centres around Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire. They also support disabled children in schools and respite centres with essential equipment.

MacMillan is a source of support, helping with all the things that people affected by cancer want and need. It's not only patients who live with cancer, they also help carers, families and communities. They fund nurses and other specialist health care professionals and build cancer care centres. But they give so much more than medical help.

Both charities have promised to come along on the day and would love to see you to tell about their valuable work..

If you would like to help, donate a raffle prize, or sponsor one of the attractions (of which there will be many!) please get in touch.

Alternatively, just come along and have Fun on Saturday August 1!



A long summer ahead at your local cricket club... Will you join us?

Braywood Cricket Club lies at the heart of the OGAFCFA area, on the boundary between Fifield and Oakley Green, at the Turnbull Ground where we have been playing cricket since 1920. We welcome local residents to watch our Saturday league cricket, Sunday friendlies, midweek Twenty20 and the Juniors teams. There is lots of cricket from April to September. If you have not yet visited us why not make the summer of 2015 the time to do so?



Our fun-filled and well-established Junior coaching sessions are running again every Sunday morning this season from 26 April until 30 August and we are looking forward to an enjoyable and successful season. We have Under 11 and Under 15 teams competing in the Berkshire Youth League. Our younger group of players form an Under 9 team in friendly matches against local clubs.

The club always tries to maintain a warm and friendly welcome to all players, their families and friends. Any youngsters age 6 or over can have a taster morning and we encourage this before signing up for the season's membership of £38 (probably the most competitive rate in the area). We also offer tea, coffee and cakes on Sunday mornings so bring along your newspaper, sit in the sun and watch a bit of cricket; the reasonably priced bar is open from noon for a refreshing drink before you head home.

Our Senior teams have net practice at the ground from 6.30pm on Wednesday evenings. If you would like to join us, however recent your cricket experience and whatever standard you may play, please drop in and see us.

If your child would like to come along for a taster session or if you would like more information about joining us to play or as a social member then please contact **Stuart West on 07836 536725**. There is also information on our website at www.braywoodcricketclub.co.uk. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Stuart West

70th Anniversaries of VE and VJ Days

The Government has announced that for VE Day there will be celebrations taking place over 3 days, Friday May 8 to Sunday May 10.

Members of Holyport and District Branch of The Royal British Legion will be laying a wreath at each of the three Parish War Memorials, Bray, Holyport and the new Memorial installed at Braywood Cemetery, in memory of those from Bray Parish who made the ultimate sacrifice during WW2 for the freedom we all enjoy today.

The VE Day wreath-laying will take place on Saturday May 9. The Act of Remembrance will take the form of The Exhortation followed by Last Post, The Silence then Reveille, the Kohima Inscription and concluding with the laying of the Wreath. We shall have the Branch Standard to dip during The Silence. We welcome attendance by relatives and residents. The approximate time of the Act of Remembrance will be published on the OGAFCFA website - (www.ogafcap.co.uk) nearer the time.

VJ Day wreath-laying will take place on Saturday August 15 following the same procedure.



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B.P.N.P - towards to the finishing line!

The Steering Group of the Bray Parish Neighbourhood Plan – B.P.N.P are working hard on preparing the material for the Pre-Submission Consultation in which all residents, businesses and organisations in the Parish will have the opportunity to comment on the policies and the text contained in the Draft Plan. The target is to launch the Consultation after the election around the second half of May 2015, with a printed document delivered to every household and business. This document will contain a postal response form but there will also be an online version and we will accept letters and emails in order to cater for everyone. Copies of the Draft Plan itself will be able to be downloaded from the BPNP and Parish Council websites, whilst printed copies will be available from the Parish Office.

It may be an appropriate time to restate the main purpose of the Bray Parish Neighbourhood Plan. When adopted, it will become a part of the Borough Local Plan and will be used by Planning Officers when determining whether or not an application for development in the Parish conforms with the policies set out in our Plan. In this way we can, within certain limits, manage what is allowed to be built in the Parish and where.

Following the Consultation, there will be a period of time when the Steering Group will consolidate the comments we have received and decide whether it is necessary to make any changes to the Plan itself. Of course the Plan must reflect the views of the people living in the Parish of Bray. The process thereafter involves the Parish Council submitting the Plan to RBWM and RBWM managing the Inspection and the Referendum. I will write more about this when we get through the Consultation.

Chris Graham - Steering Group Chairman - B.P.N.P

Candidates declared for Elections on May 7

The closing date for Candidates to Register for Elections was April 9 and all Candidates have now been declared for the General, Borough and Parish Elections in our area. For more information go to

http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/web/elections_may_2015_notices.htm

Unfortunately, no Candidates have come forward for the Oakley Green and Fifield Ward of Bray Parish and so there are now two Vacancies and we are not represented. It is possible to be co-opted onto The Parish Council within a 35 day period after the Election. So if anyone is having second thoughts and wishes to come forward and represent us at Parish level, please contact the Parish Clerk **Janice Eden-Bagley on 01628 777997** in the first instance.

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69th Anniversary for Holyport Fair this summer!

It's 2015 and Holyport Village Fair is celebrating being 69 years old on Saturday June 6!

Pelhams Fair will arrive to set up during the week running up to the fair. Children from Braywick Court School are opening the fair at 2pm with a country dancing display. Our four legged friends will put on their best bib and tucker to entertain in the centre ring. Food supplied by the BBQ, the Hog Roast and the Pancake stall, will waft their aromas around to tempt taste buds.

Our two chosen charities this year are:

- Rosie's Rainbow Fund and
- Maidenhead First Responders

Rosie's Rainbow Fund help sick and disabled children and their parents in the local community, by providing bereavement support as well as various kinds of therapy. Maidenhead First Responders are a group of volunteers supporting our community by attending medical emergencies within five minutes of receiving a call, usually arriving before the ambulance, often saving a life. They will also be giving CPR demonstrations on fair day.

As always if you would like to help at the fair or want more information, please call me on **01628 639523**

Maz Coppinger - Chair Holyport Fair 2015



Village boundary gates.... Have your say

We have noticed that throughout the Borough of Bracknell Forest (and others) it has become the practice to mark the village boundaries with a set of gates, some of which carry messages about speed restrictions and litter.

It occurred to us that this might be a nice feature to mark our own boundaries and we are therefore investigating the possibility of introducing such a feature. Anything we do has to be approved by the Parish Council and the Borough Highway committee, and also by you, the residents. If anyone has any ideas, comments or advice to offer please get in touch via the web-site or drop a note to the association address.

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5th Anniversary for our local Art Class

It was on Wednesday 12 May 2010 that the art class had its first meeting with 4 students in attendance. We continued to meet on Wednesdays 3pm till 5pm until we decided that Mondays were a better day for everyone, so we changed on Monday 7 June 2010 at which point the numbers had grown to 6!

Since the start of the class the numbers have continued to steadily rise and every year we have held an exhibition of our work. The quality of the paintings has also steadily increased and now we have a very high standard of work being produced.

The art class gained in popularity so much that a second class was started on Tuesday 18 October 2011, 7pm to 9pm, with 7 students, both classes were being held in the Jubilee Room at the rear of the Memorial Hall. The Monday class has now grown to 11 members and the Tuesday class to 18 and we now use the Main Hall on Tuesdays.

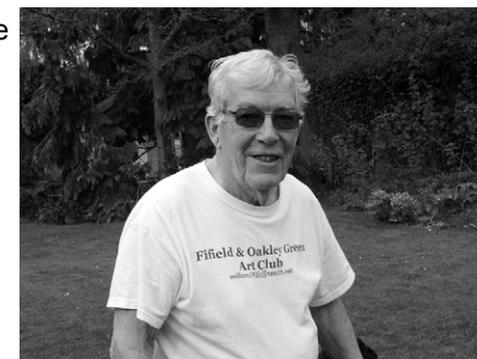
All mediums are taught i.e watercolours, acrylics, oils and pastels. And all materials are supplied in the cost of £5 per 2 hour session. We are always on the lookout for more people to join us, so if you would like to come along and have a go please let me know.

I have always said to people who have never painted before, "You will leave your first class with a painting in your hand and I have yet to fail". All the information you need to contact me is on the website www.ogafcap.co.uk.

Bill Collier

07811 953071

william1935@tesco.net



If you wish to contribute news to our Summer Newsletter

please send your submissions by Friday 26th June 2015

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

Planning Matters

The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Borough (RBWM) **Local Plan** is being drafted, but will not be published for Public Consultation until after the Elections on May 7.

We understand that it will say that house building can only take place on *previously developed* land in the Green Belt. It will also say that 21 of the 23 Sites that were in the previous Consultation have been rejected for development. The exceptions are the two Garden Centre Sites in our area – Squires and Wyevale – if the Owners wish for development to go ahead. In previous Polls conducted in our area, 93% and 89% respectively of local Residents objected to Housing being built there.

The Bray Parish Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group hope to publish the draft **Neighbourhood Plan** for consultation soon. We understand that no specific Sites are being recommended for house building in Bray Parish.

The **Gypsy Site behind the Sun and Stars** has been sold to an adjacent Landowner. This was after the Applicant's Appeal was turned down at the end of October.

The 4 year Temporary Planning Permission to allow the **2 Gypsy Sites at Brayfield Stables** – opposite the BP Garage on the A308 – ran out at the beginning of February. The Owners applied again under Application 15/00522/Full. Bray Parish Council recommended for Refusal at their Planning Meeting on March 30th. RBWM then Refused the Application on April 10. An Appeal may be likely.

Farmglade – the Owners of the **Water Oakley Site** which received Outline Planning Permission to build 44 Houses in April 2014, have started Demolition and Asbestos Removal Works.

Farmglade have now also acquired the immediately adjacent **Bray Studios Site**. The previous Owner was granted Planning Permission in 2011 to build 7 detached dwellings and a detached two storey office building after knocking down everything apart from the Main House which is Listed and was to be renovated. Farmglade have started consulting about their proposals to change the previously Approved Plans.

We will continue to keep you informed about these important Planning matters.

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Want to do Something Good this New Year?

- **Why not register to be an Emergency Good Neighbour?**
- **Could you be a Snow Friend for a neighbour in case of emergency - or maybe a Flood Friend or a Flu Friend for someone?**

WAM Get Involved are working with RBWM to set up an Emergency Good Neighbour Register – where local residents are prepared to be contacted, to see if they're available to help, if someone in their area needs emergency assistance eg collecting prescriptions for an elderly neighbour in snowy weather or maybe helping with sandbagging if floods threaten again.

This is a great way for people to support their local community without having to make a regular or pre-set commitment. Residents simply have to register their details (email address, telephone number and area where they live) and agree that they are happy to be contacted in case of emergency.

Eileen Denny, WAM Get Involved Co-Ordinator, said "We know from previous bad winters, which have seen lots of snow and ice as well as the floods last year, that Royal Borough residents always rise to the occasion when times are hard, and this system will ensure that we can activate help as quickly as possible whenever and wherever it is needed."

To register your interest

- **email info@wamgetinvolved.org.uk**
- **or call 01753 524176.**

Transport help for the elderly or disabled

If you need help with transport you can contact the following organisations:

- Voluntary Car Service for Windsor and Maidenhead -www.wvcs.co.uk
- **Windsor call 01753 831090**
- **Maidenhead call 01628 673937**
- In the Royal Borough: people to places - www.people2places.org.uk
- **Call 01628 587920**

Drainage in Pause Mode

The drainage situation is really in pause mode at the moment while we wait for the results and recommendations of the consultants appointed by Streetcare. I have to admit that I have been guilty of not helping the process along as I should have. At our meeting with the consultants in early February I undertook to provide information on ditches and pipes that were not appearing in the data they had available to them at that time. It is actually a larger task than I thought and a lot of other stuff has been constantly cropping up to get in the way. I have actually started on this and have assembled a single detailed base map of our area from 6 supplied by the consultants - but adding the data as overlays is proving time consuming. I aim to have this completed and delivered by the end of April.

Additional Wet Spot ? - An Oakley Green Road resident has pointed out that in the past there has been a flooding problem along the southern side of the road flowing west and then down the slope opposite the chapel and the school towards the low spot at the Cricket Ground. Until now no residents have come forward to describe this or highlight it. So it is not on our list of 9 "wet spots" and therefore has not formed the basis of any study or report. If any residents living along this stretch of road are aware of this and can describe what happens we would be very grateful if they contact us via the ENVIRONMENT page at www.ogafcap.co.uk or by phoning **01628 784441** to arrange a convenient time for a site visit.

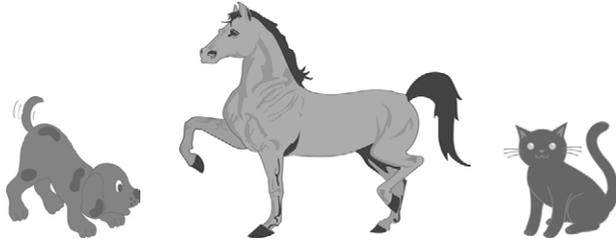
A drainage summary and status of all 9 current wet spots is available via the ENVIRONMENT page at www.ogafcap.co.uk and is regularly updated.

Finally, I would like to emphasize yet again that we urgently need someone to step forward to take on this drainage role. There is still much useful work to be done but I think that 6 years is really quite enough and 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

To advertise in this Newsletter please contact **Bill Collier** on **01628 676939** or via email: william1935@tesco.net

BEWARE OF A MOUSE IN THE HOUSE!



Milo is a very sweet cat. She loves people and comes running to greet you, purring happily as she winds around your legs. She loves nothing more than to curl up on a sunny sofa or a warm bed, preferably with one of her family to stroke her.

But, there is another side to Milo. Outside the house she becomes a ruthless and efficient killer! Lean and lithe, her tortoiseshell coat a perfect camouflage in the shadows of the garden, she stalks her prey. And, of course, once she has made her kill she likes to impress her family by bringing them the evidence. Head high and tail tall and swaying she struts into the house, and proudly presents her trophy.

On one such occasion, Mrs B was in the kitchen when she heard the clatter of the cat-flap. Glancing over her shoulder she saw Milo swaggering towards her with a smile on her face and a mouse between her teeth!

“Oh, no! You wicked cat!” exclaimed Mrs B, lunging towards her with a view to chasing her back out into the garden. Deeply offended, Milo dropped the mouse and swept upstairs. With that, the mouse got up and raced for cover! So relieved to see it still alive Mrs B went to the rescue,

“Come on, little mouse, “ she said quietly, “let’s get you back outside.” Slowly and gingerly she crept after it. Finding it cowering behind a chair she gently picked it up and, cupping it in her hands, made her way to the door.

Just as she got there, the mouse saw his chance to escape and sank his teeth into her finger! Mrs B let out a yelp of pain and released her grip as the mouse leapt to the floor and made his bid for freedom. Mrs B cleared her own blood from the floor and set off to get a tetanus jab!

Don’t you just hate it when your motives are misunderstood?

Barbara Frame

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