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For your free of charge Accident Management Pack, please contact **Noel Matrayes** on **01628 777720**.





Oakley Green, Fifield & District Community Association

Spring Newsletter

April 2017



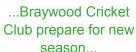
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Welcome to the OGAFCA Spring newsletter...



... "We are Family" - farmer Phil Mortimer is joined by his daughters ...

...Steam train rides and lots more fun planned for the Fifield Fun Day in August ...





...Volunteers help with Speedwatch in Oakley Green...

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

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From the Chairman

Spring is here and we have had a great show of daffodils this year, thanks to the efforts of local Volunteers requesting and planting bulbs from RBWM over the past few years. And it is great to see local landowners have been cutting their hedges - making our area neat and tidy. But we do have some way to go though on maintaining all our ditches and watercourses. So if you have one you are responsible for, now is a good time to do it please before they get overgrown.

There is a lot going on locally – the Bray Parish Neighbourhood Plan (BPNP), the RBWM Local Plan, Heathrow Expansion, Crossrail and the M4 being upgraded to a "Smart Motorway". All of these will have potentially big impacts on our daily Lives. The first 3 of these have Public Consultations taking place in the next 6 months and everyone should try and respond to make their views known.

Local fairs and fetes will be upon us soon. We may not have the biggest (yet), but we do have the best with our very own and unique steam train running on Saturday August 5 this year. Volunteers are always needed to help out before - on the day - and after. To find out how, look out for the article in this Newsletter.

OGAFCA memberships run from April 1 to March 31 and some are up for renewal now. Reminder letters will be delivered with this newsletter to those whose membership has just run out.

To remind you all again, as well as the AGM in September, we hold several General Meetings in the year where anyone can come along and hear about what we are doing and provide input and also VOLUNTEER!

The next General Meeting is scheduled for Thursday May 18 in Braywood Memorial Hall at 7.30pm.

Our Annual General Meeting will take place this year on **Thursday** September 21 at 7.30 pm in Braywood Memorial Hall.

Everyone is welcome at the General Meeting and the AGM

Thank you for your continued support and enjoy the sunshine!

Grenville Annetts

Update on Roads and Transport matters in the area

In November 2016 RBWM conducted a traffic survey on Oakley Green Road, monitoring both speed and HGVs. The survey was conducted over a three week period - Friday October 28 to Thursday November 17 - a time 'sadly' when there were serious road works at the Oakley Green / Dedworth Road junction due to problems with the gas main. This could have led to a reduced number of vehicles using the road and diminished traffic speeds at least in one direction.

Traffic volume and speed

Over the 3 week period the number of vehicles using Oakley Green Road was between 38,800 and 41,200 an average of 40,130 per week.

The traffic flows Monday to Friday accounted for 80% of the traffic movements and the flow east to west was slightly higher than the reverse.

RBWM reported that the mean speed was 38mph not dissimilar to the mean speed recorded in a previous survey in 2012.

However it is clear from the data provided by RBWM that 20% of the traffic travelled in excess of 43mph and indeed one vehicle was recorded travelling in excess of 80mph. Whilst the traffic flows at weekends were slightly lower than Monday to Friday the speeds recorded showed that approximately 18-19% of the traffic exceeded the speed limit.

The volume of traffic was also higher than 2012 by around 18%, with a marked increase in the flow west bound.

The Roads and Transport Work Group have conducted a Speed Watch with the assistance of the Police and Community Warden which is summarised separately in this newsletter.

HGVs on Oakley Green Road

Due to a successful campaign by the residents of Holyport a ban on vehicles in excess of 7.5t is now in place on the A330 through Holyport. There is an existing ban in Fifield so the only route available to vehicles in excess of 7.5t not delivering within the restricted zone is to use the A308 and Oakley Green Road in either direction. The survey in November showed that the number of vehicles using Oakley Green Road over 7.5t was 350 per week though there is no data from previous years. However data concerning the usage of the A330 by large vehicles (in excess of 6.2m) in 2012 recorded flows of 251. You can draw your own conclusions.

The promotion of Oakley Green Road as a HGV route was imposed without prior consultation of the residents or even the Parish Council. This is a road with a school with parking problems, limited and narrow footways and it is used by cyclists, horses and pedestrians, it would appear their needs are of no importance.

The use of Oakley Green Road by HGVs is permitted but Road and Transport Work Group would be interested to hear of problems - damage to property, vehicles etc, near misses with cyclists, horse riders and pedestrians.

Please contact them through the web site www.ogafcap.co.uk or write to Helen Howard, Broadacre House, Coningsby Lane, Fifield SL6 2PF

Improvements to the junction at Braywood Memorial Hall

Following a meeting in July 2016 RBWM came up with a couple of suggestions to improve the junction outside Braywood Memorial Hall. These involved the installation of a roundabout or two. The problems at the crossroads are many - poor sight lines, establishing who has priority and excessive speed through the junction and now the increased use of the junction by large vehicles.

The Roads and Transport Work Group has looked at the options and favours the construction of a single roundabout but sited a little further north than the present suggestion which they felt would address the issue of speed through the junction.

The Community Association will be communicating their views to RBWM via the Parish Council. However it may be some time before any improvement is made but the Community Association will continue to press for progress.

Please consult the website to see details of the two options.

New rules at Stafferton Way Recycling Centre

Effective from Monday April 24, 2017 you must be a resident of the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead to use Stafferton Way Recycling Centre and be recycling or disposing of your own household waste.

To prove residency, take along your yellow Advantage Card. If you do not have one, you will need to show photo proof of your ID (eg Driving Licence) plus an item which shows your current address e.g. Council Tax or Utility Bill. To enter with a van, you will need a Free Entry Permit obtainable online from RBWM.

RBWM Local Plan Consultation

The Borough Local Plan will define development policy for housing, retail, employment and leisure across the whole of the Royal Borough from 2013 until 2033. It includes the identification of proposed sites to accommodate a target of building 14,240 homes over the 20 year period - about 712 a year on average.

Six of the sites are in the Parish of Bray and may provide about 1375 or nearly 10% of the new homes target - about 70 a year on average. This would represent about a 32% increase in the number of homes in our parish over the plan period.

The Public Consultation (Regulation 18) ran from December 2, 2016 to January 13, 2017 - a period of just six weeks and most unfortunately - over Christmas and New Year. OGAFCA along with many other associations, organisations and residents tried to persuade RBWM to extend the time for us all to respond, but this was denied.

RBWM Planning Department are currently reviewing all the comments made by residents and organisations and they may make adjustments to the Draft Plan based on the feedback - and could even remove some potential development sites!

The next Stage is a further Public Consultation (called Regulation 19) on what RBWM describe as "the legal and technical soundness" of the latest version of the Local Plan. At this time, RBWM will also publish a Draft Plan for the infrastructure needed to support the additional developments of homes and business premises. This was to have taken place between April 26 to June 7 - but we understand it is running late.

At the Bray Parish Annual Electors Meeting on Monday April 10, a representative from the well respected Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) encouraged residents to continue to make their thoughts known - for the first time or if they wish, reiterate their responses to the Regulation 18 Consultation - because for the Regulation 19 Consultation, the Planning Inspector will actually see all the comments made.

The Regulation 19 Consultation will be the final Public Consultation before the Local Plan is submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for examination in the Summer. After that:-

• October (ish) – Examination in Public by way of Hearings

 December (ish) – If Approved by the Planning Inspectorate, the Plan will be adopted by RBWM.

We will continue to keep you informed. You can see more online at

https://www3.rbwm.gov.uk/blp

Heathrow Expansion

The Department for Transport is currently consulting on a third runway at London Heathrow. Last date for responses is May 25, 2017.

The current airport capacity is 480,000 flights per annum and it is proposed that this will increase to 740,000 flights per annum, i.e. a 54% increase.

RBWM are Joint Authors of a flier which says "The Government is trying to consult on and approve a third runway without telling people the location of the airport's new flight paths. ... We believe this is wrong and prevents people from providing informed and meaningful feedback". Indicative routes suggest that the new flight path will be between Fifield Village and the A308 to the north!

Find out more here:- https://www3.rbwm.gov.uk/aviation

Respond to the Consultation at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/heathrow-airport-expansion or post your response to the following address: FREEPOST, RUNWAY CONSULTATION

Art classes open to all

On May 12, 2017 the art class will celebrate it's 7th anniversary. We started with just 4 students and we now have 4 classes with 38 students.

Since the beginning we have been to several workshops in Southam which is a small village 13 miles north of Banbury and this is now a regular item on our calendar. We have also had several exhibitions the main one being at the Fifield Fun Day which we have supported every year since we started.

We cover all mediums mostly watercolours, also oils and acrylics. The 4 classes in operation are listed in the advert in this newsletter so if you feel you would like to try your hand then just let me know and I will fit you in.

Bill Collier

Braywood School events

Parking for Braywood School could be busy on the following dates due to events at the school:

- April 19 School re-opens
- April 24 ,25, 26, 27, 28 Class meetings with parents 8.45 9.30 am
- May 4 Family Assembly 9am
- May 26 Sponsored run at Braywood Cricket Club from 2pm
- May 29 Half Term
- June 5 School re-opens
- June 24 School Summer Ball (evening event)
- July 1 School Summer Fair
- July 20 End of Term and likely Sports Day (TBC)

Further details can be found on the School website

Dates for your Dairy 2017

- OGAFCA General Public Meeting Thursday May 18 at 7.30 pm
- Editor's input deadline for OGAFCA Summer Newsletter Friday June 30
- Holyport Fair Saturday June 3
- Holyport Village Show Open Gardens Event Sunday July 16
- Fifield Fun Day Saturday August 5
- OGAFCA AGM Thursday September 21 at 7.30pm

(Please note all OGAFCA meetings are held at Braywood Memorial Hall)

If you wish to contribute news to our Newsletter please send your submissions by Friday June 30 2017 via email to alison.j.brayshaw@gmail.com

Update on important local planning matters

Application 15/02107 Relocation of the Phoenix Gym

It is now over 21 months since this application was first registered on July 10, 2015. By January 2016, many details of the application changed and against the recommendation of Planning Officers, it was approved by the Maidenhead Development Control Panel on March 16, 2016 – subject to 31 Conditions and 2 Informatives – one of which was to do with flood risk.

Under Application 16/02637/CONDIT submitted on August 11, 2016 the applicant applied to discharge Condition 6 (sustainable drainage solution). A number of different solutions were presented and subsequently rejected by the RBWM and their Drainage Consultant WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff between August and September 2016. Most worryingly, the later proposals involved the collection of rain water run off from the roof of the gym and potentially contaminated hard surface car park water run off, storage of all this in underground tankage onsite and in a man made swale (pond) – and then discharge from the site into the already overflowing Fifield Road ditch. Something Phoenix Gym Trustees said they would never do - pre application approval in March 2016. On November 15, this application was formally withdrawn and we are still waiting to see what happens next.

We still urge the Phoenix Gym to move to the RBWM owned Braywick Park site which is much more suitable.

Application 15/02885/FULL Fifield Road, behind 4 Stratton Cottages Appeal Result

This application submitted on September 4, 2015 was for the change of use of land at the rear of 4 Stratton Cottages, Fifield Road, Fifield - for the stationing of 2 gypsy caravan pitches for residential purposes with the formation of hard-standing, construction of 2 utility/dayrooms. The application was refused by RBWM on April 14, 2016.

The application went to Appeal and a Public Hearing took place at 10.00am on February 2, 2017 at Maidenhead Town Hall.

Then on March 3, 2017 the appeal was allowed subject to conditions including Temporary Permission for 3 years and made personal to the applicant.

We will continue to keep you informed about important planning matters.

Local Planning Work Group

Sisters and Ivy the dog join Dad at Fairacres Farm

Fairacres Farm is the largest agricultural development within the boundaries of our association. The land was gathered together, after the war, by George Mortimer, buying up pieces of land as they became available, and covering areas of Oakley Green, Drift Road and even Wargrave. All in all, almost 1,000 acres of land. These days, his son, Philip, is running the farm, and, since last Spring, he has been joined by his daughters. Jenny and Helena.

Helena is working as a mental health support worker but, manages to work part-time for the farm by taking over a lot of the Farm's admin. Jenny, on the other hand is very happy to get her hands dirty. After working at a special school for some time, Jenny decided



that this was not really the career for her. Having given up her job she started to help out on the farm and realised that this was where she wanted to be. Now working full time she can often be seen out on her tractor with her dog, lvy, in the cab beside her.

Jenny first learnt to drive a tractor at the age of 13 and is now developing her skills towing grain trailers and reversing them through narrow gates into storage barns. Whilst practice makes perfect, it is always important not to get complacent, as she learnt one day when she missed her turning and had to drive all the way back to the farm before she had enough space to turn round! She has recently passed an exam to drive a boom sprayer, learning, not only how to manage such a large piece of equipment, but also the legal and environmental complexities of spraying pesticides. Working the land is varied and challenging and even on the worst days there is always something to do, from clearing ditches to fixing the barn roof.

As Jenny is keen to point out, farming these days is less about physical strength, and more about driving machinery and embracing new technology.

In spite of that she reckons she has lost 3stone and gained muscles she never knew she had! But she loves her way of life and the opportunity it gives her to be out in the open air and spending more time with her family.

With Brexit threatening to remove the farming subsidies causing uncertainty for the future, and the possible need to diversify, there is always a fresh challenge on the horizon, but one thing is certain, life on the farm is never dull.

Barbara Frame



Tel: 01628 624935 www.berkshire-vet.co.uk kelperland@yahoo.co.uk

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Welcome Pack

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

Fifield Fun Day 2017: Saturday August 5



Last year the Fun Day was a roaring success, due in part to the fantastic weather, but mainly to the residents of Fifield and Oakley Green who rallied to support the event.

We raised an immense £7,500 for our chosen charities, the main beneficiaries being Taplow Traffic Charity Trust and Hearing Dogs for Deaf People.

We had all the old favourites, plus a number of new attractions, which proved to be very popular. Mr Muddle

caused magical mayhem throughout the day and Anna Nightingale serenaded us in between Mr Chris' Punch & Judy Shows. We are expecting them all to be with us again this year.

We very much hope that we will always have the Fair Ground, the Dog Show, Punch & Judy, Tombola, Raffle. Auction, Beer Tent and BBQ, but we are always on the look out for new and unusual things for all the family to do, so please do let us know if you have any ideas.

Similarly, if you feel you can contribute please contact us. We need donations (raffle and auction prizes) sponsorship and, more importantly, volunteers. If you can spare a few hours before, after, or on the day, we would be very grateful as the Fun Day would not be possible without the generosity of the locals.

We really hope the Fun Day can continue, so please do let me know as soon as you can if you are able to help again next year, for another <u>Fun Day</u> in Fifield.

Please call Louise Shenston on 01628 783448, or email louise.challis@btinternet.com

We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you on Saturday August 5 for more FUN!



Saturday 5th August 2017

GATES OPEN AT 1.30 PM

Entry Free

Steam Train Rides

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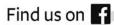




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Cllr David Burbage 01628 796322 Cllr David Coppinger 07866 493272 Cllr Leo Walters 01628 627927

Bray Parish Council – Oakley Green and Fifield Ward

Cllr Nicola Marsh 07973 112873 Cllr Chris Yates 01344 882374

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To advertise in this Newsletter please contact Bill Collier on 01628 676939 or via email: fifieldartgroup@gmail.com

All out for a busy season of Village Cricket

As soon as we see a bit of sunshine then members of Braywood Cricket Club start to think about the new cricket season due to start in April. Not that we have had an idle 6 months as a number of our Senior and Junior players have been attending the winter nets (indoor nets practice) at the Windsor Boys' School to 'get their eye in' ready for the season.



Also a number of things have been happening at the Clubhouse on the Oakley Green Road in readiness for the start of the new season including plastering, carpentry, decorating and preparation of the outfield and square.

The Junior season starts on Sunday April 23, every Sunday morning 10 am-12pm up until the end of August. This year it is hoped that we will run 3-4 Junior League teams to include Under 9s, Under 11s, Under 13s and possibly Under 17s. Membership of the Juniors is £40 per year and is the most competitive locally. Our coaches are ECB qualified coaches and hold a DBS. We have a warm and friendly team of volunteers who run teas/coffees and cakes on a Sunday morning and the bar is open from 12 pm.

Our Senior team start their season on Sunday April 23, with a friendly away game in the afternoon, and most Saturday and Sundays either the 1st X1 or 2nd X1 will have a game at home. All our Sunday afternoon home games are friendly and we include a number of our Juniors.

We are also hosting a sponsored walk for 150 children from Braywood School on Friday May 26. They will all be walking the perimeter of the outfield at the Cricket Club.

All our local neighbours are very welcome to pop in to watch a few overs, buy a drink at the bar or even offer their services to play during the 2017 season!!

Here's to a successful Cricket Season.

You can contact us through our Chairman Stuart West on 07464 955112 or email stuart.west3@btopenworld.com

Giovanni and Giosafina welcome locals to La Spiga



Hi, we are Giovanni and Giosafina, we got married in 2014 and had our beautiful daughter Chiara last year. We decided to open La Spiga on the Windsor Road as we love good quality food and wanted to bring a taste of our Sicilian background to you.

We offer breakfast, lunch and dinner, including freshly prepared sandwiches, homemade pastas/melanzane parmigiana, pizza and desserts.

We are passionate about selecting the right ingredients and take time to visit the origins of our products to see how they are

produced. Our flour is particularly special, it is organic, stone milled, washed with mineral water and is made with 100% Italian grain. It is nicknamed 'grano nobile' or 'noble grain' as it contains the vital germ of the wheat, the most nutritious part and makes our pizza light, easy to digest and tasty.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

OGAFCA Membership

Membership of OGAFCA runs from April 1 to March 31 and costs just £3 per household or business for 1 year or a discounted £5 for 2 years.

Some memberships ran out at the end of March and letters inviting renewal will accompany this newsletter. If you wish to join for the first time Membership Forms are available online here:-

http://www.ogafcap.co.uk/PDF/Application_form.pdf or call 01628 784441

Send your comments on any issue relating to our community to the OGAFCA website, or by post to the address on the inside front cover

Bray Parish Neighbourhood Plan (BPNP)

After more than 5 years of work, Bray Parish Council approved the Bray Parish Neighbourhood Plan on July 11, 2016. And on Wednesday November 16, 2016 Ken Elvin, Chairman of Bray Parish Council, along with Steve Adams, Chairman of the BPNP Steering Group, formally submitted the plan and supporting documentation to RBWM.

Everything then went frustratingly quiet until mid-February when the Parish Clerk received a request from a member of the RBWM Planning Department for a meeting between representatives of Bray Parish Council, BPNP and RBWM.

At an Extraordinary Meeting of the Parish Council on Monday March 27, 2017 the Chairman Ken Elvin reported back on a meeting which had just taken place between BPNP representatives (Cllrs Elvin, Graham and Kneen and the Parish Clerk) and RBWM representatives (Cllrs. Wilson and Bateson and RBWM Planning staff Jennifer Jackson and Robert Patterson).

RBWM have now agreed to set in motion a Public Consultation which will take 2 weeks to advertise, then 6 weeks for the actual consultation, before it goes to an Examiner to be agreed between BPC and RBWM. They will publish a timeline "soon", but some 2 weeks later, we are still waiting...

The Examiner will make points for consideration by RBWM, changes may be made and then finally there will be a local referendum in the parish.

BPC are keen to involve the public and get them to respond to the latest consultation and the referendum.

All the documents mentioned above and more can be seen at:-

http://www.brayplan.com/

SMART Motorway Project on the M4

Most of you will hopefully be aware that the M4 is to be converted into a "Smart Motorway" between Junctions 3 and 12. This is being organised by Highways England.

For us locally, this will involve the use of The Triangle site off Ascot Road as a Works Compound for just over 6 years and two local Bridges over the M4 will be replaced. Work is due to begin in November 2017.

Fifield Art Group

Braywood Memorial Hall , Fifield Village

Monday: 10am - Noon or 3 - 5pm

Also Tuesday: 3 - 5pm or 7 - 9pm

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Contact Bill Collier
fifieldartgroup@gmail.com
Or by phone 07811 953071

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Drainage issues have not gone away

The last time the Drainage Summary was updated on ogafcap.co.uk was more than a year ago in the first week of March 2016. So it's time to have a look at what the current situation is with our "wet spots". We have enjoyed a remarkably dry winter so the traditional problems have not been as dire as usual. For most of our 9 "wet spots" there has been no progress at all to report but here is a brief summary of each.

- 1 -. The Cricket Club on Oakley Green Road we are awaiting Streetcare proposals to attempt to delay water arriving at this point as well as to expedite it's onward flow under the road, round the pitch, and away.
- 2 Fifield Road speed bump near Longlea Nursing Home we had some success and Streetcare cooperated by clearing this ditch in February 2014 but we have returned this to RED status as nobody is maintaining the ditch in working order so problems will very soon return.
- 3 Braywood Lodge on Oakley Green Road we carried out some work here in 2011. This site has AMBER status while we wait to observe what happens during the next really wet season.
- 4 The Coningsby Lane Shambles we have been trying to put in place a simple scheme to provide an escape route for water since 2001 ... in vain. But in early summer 2016 a meeting was held with Streetcare, Cllrs Dudley and Coppinger, and OGAFCA, at which it was agreed that the project would proceed and budget was available. A date for the work was set for late October 2016. Nearly a year after that meeting and 6 months after the work was due to be done nothing has happened. Streetcare have passed the task over to consultants and have called on the aid of Greater Crested Newts to justify more delay while environmental assessments evaluate if measures need to be taken or not! We are still waiting, and the budget that was available has probably been lost now we are entering a new financial year.
- 5 Field entrance on Oakley Green Road near Forest Farm an apparent success as a result of work carried out by Streetcare at our recommendation. This location has a GREEN status.
- 6 Ledger Farm and the Junction of Coningsby Lane south and

Forest Green Road - no progress here. This will flood again ... repeatedly.

- 7 The Fifield Inn and Fifield Road northwards past Pond House and south of Stewart Close an apparent success here. This location has a GREEN status thanks to much cooperation from Streetcare and a lot of useful work to install a new pipe and clear the escape route eastwards.
- 8 Fifield Road culvert, just south of Coningsby Lane no progress here. This will flood again and it's difficult to see what can be done short of installing a major storm drain heading north under the road to relieve the "Fifield tube" generally.
- 9 Greene Oak pub and Cardinal Clinic no progress here. It would need a major investment project to achieve some sort of alleviation. OGAFCA has suggested that the Cardinal Clinic might achieve some benefit from diverting the water flowing onto their site and delay inundation by holding as much as possible on some unused land area.

In addition to our "wet spots" we were struggling for much of last year to encourage some common sense over the proposed location of the Phoenix Gym. In September 2016 document 667769-REP-SBU-DS was submitted by Phoenix Gym as another attempt to clear Planning Application condition 6. This document was woefully lacking in any kind of data describing the holding capacity of the new SUDS (Sustainable Urban Drainage System) scheme so OGAFCA was obliged to create a 3D digital model of the scheme to understand the implications. This 3D SUDS Analysis can be found on the ENVIRONMENT page at **ogafcap.co.uk**. When we submitted this 3 page document and covering letter as our response in October 2016 the Phoenix Gym submission was withdrawn.

In recent weeks there has been local press coverage of fund raising activity by Phoenix Gym presented in a way that suggests Planning has been approved and all that is necessary is for large amounts of money to be donated for the project to proceed. As far as we know there have been no further submissions to satisfy condition 6 so in fact Planning has NOT been approved. Does this constitute raising money under false pretences?

Environment Work Group

If you are concerned about Drainage issues please do get in touch. Your help would be much appreciated!

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OGAFCA Volunteers conduct Speedwatch

On April 5, with the help and support of our local Community Warden, Rob Noble, a small group of us conducted a "Speedwatch" on the Oakley Green Road where the speed limit is 40mph, to record the number of vehicles and type of vehicles using the road and most importantly the speed at which they were travelling.

We positioned ourselves in a driveway adjacent to the Polo Club from where we could get a good view in either direction. Due to the Easter holidays the road was not terribly busy but the results were still very interesting.

Between 4.40 pm and 5.40 pm we recorded exactly 100 cars exceeding the 40mph speed limit. All the information will be passed on to the police and RBWM who will write to vehicle owners advising them that they were over the speed limit and that although, on this occasion, there will be no further action, should they be caught again they will be prosecuted.

As we had to hand over all the paperwork we did not have time to do an accurate analysis but we can give an overview as follows.

- Obviously, not all the cars that passed were over the limit, but a good proportion were, and it is also fair to say that some of them had spotted us and slowed down! Whilst a reasonable number were in the low forties, a significant number were doing 45 upwards.
- Only four lorries passed us and two of them were travelling over 40mph, they will be getting letters! You will be relieved to hear that our local bus was doing 37!
- Worryingly, we recorded 14 vehicles travelling over 50mph and one of those was doing a *very excessive* 60mph!
- One might expect to see vehicles from the Forest Green Road speeding as they fail to slow on reaching the Fifield Crossroads, however, this was not necessarily the case and the worst offenders were from both directions.

Overall, the results make sober reading and substantiate our fears that many motorists are travelling far too fast on what is, fundamentally a rural road.

Roads and Transport Work Group

"YOU CAN LEAD A HORSE TO WATER, BUT..."

One warm summer's day we were walking our dogs towards Odney Weir in Cookham. It is a lovely walk along a tributary that leads into the Thames. There is a lovely shallow area with a beach by the bridge where we often let our dogs have a paddle. As we approached this spot we could see that a bit of a crowd had gathered. And there, in the river, up to his knees in water, was William the horse.

Presumably, as it was such a hot day, his owner had decided to let him cool off, but now he was enjoying it so much that he wasn't coming out again. She cajoled, she threatened, she held out Polo mints, but all to no avail. William wasn't budging. The poor girl decided her only option was to go in and get him. Luckily she was wearing long boots and gingerly stepped into the river. William watched her approach but did not move away. He stood quite still until she was almost in front of him. As she stretched out her arm to grab his reins he lifted his head – just high enough to put him beyond her reach. As she stepped forward, he just took one step back and did it again. A third time she lunged at him and nearly toppled forward as, once again, he lifted his head and her fingers just missed him.

The poor girl was getting hotter and more flustered, but, William, cool as a cucumber, was now playing to the crowd. He took another step back into the water, knowing that she would follow. And then, calmly, he took another step back until she had nearly reached the top of her boots. She was begging him to come to her. He stopped and stayed still. She inched another step forward. She was now as deep as she dared to go. William slightly bowed his head, insinuating that he may be ready to give in. His rider was now right in front of him. Suddenly, with a quick nod to his audience, he lifted his foreleg and then began stamping it down into the water! His poor rider was completely soaked!

She turned and stumbled out of the river, angry and humiliated, with water dripping down her face and swilling round in her boots. She was at the end of her tether. Turning her back on the river, she strode back up the bank - and William quietly followed her.

Barbara Frame

Animal Tales

Do you have a story to tell? Please send them in via our website **www.ogafcap.co.uk** so we can share them in our next publication.

