



Oakley Green, Fifield & District Community Association

Summer Newsletter

July 2012



www.ogafcap.co.uk

Photo Gallery from the Jubilee Street Party



From the Chairman

Summer is here, but in name only it would seem, however, life in and around your Community Association carries on and a lot has happened since the last edition of the newsletter was published at the end of April.

We report progress on our website as well as in articles in this, our free quarterly newsletter. But if you want to hear first hand, why not come along to one of our three or four open meetings we hold each year. Our last one was held on Thursday 17 May. All residents and representatives from our 100+ local businesses are very welcome to attend and hear what the eight Work Groups of the Community Association are up to. It is also an opportunity to provide feedback and offer to help out.

Our next meeting is the all important AGM which this year will be held on Thursday 20 September in Braywood Memorial Hall. A formal Notice of the Meeting is printed in the centre of this edition.

Highlights from the last quarter include our campaign to lower the speed limit on Forest Green Road, some improvement in drainage despite the recent torrential rain, the re-launch of our Local Business Forum, the continuation of the Police "Have your Say" meetings and two Social Events – the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Street Party and Family Ramble.

Organising all this does require funding – of which Association memberships are an important source. So please make an effort to support the Association and keep your membership up to date.

Finally, our Editor Trudi Knight is stepping down as Editor after this edition and on behalf of our community I would like to express our sincere appreciation for all her efforts since 2008. So if you fancy the job, please let me know.

Grenville Annetts

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Dates for your diary

Fifield Fun Day - Saturday 11 August

Parish Tour - Tuesday 14 and Thursday 16 August

Holyport Village Show - Saturday 8 September

Bray Fete - Sunday 9 September

OGAFCA Food, Wine and Ale Fair - Sunday 16 September

OGAFCA AGM - Thursday 20 September

OGAFCA Family Bingo - Saturday 13 October

OGAFCA Christmas Fair - Saturday 24 November

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

RBWM Litter picking dates

dates are approximate and for the week beginning

Fifield: 20 August, 1 October, 12 November

Oakley Green: 6 August, 27 August, 17 September, 8 October
29 October, 19 November

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Sat 9.00am - 5.00pm

Sun 11.00am - 4.00pm

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Right Royal Knees up - part two

After the success of the Royal Wedding Street Party in April 2012, we decided to organise another Street Party – this time to celebrate the Queens Diamond Jubilee – on Monday 4 June.

We obtained permission from RBWM Council to close the Fifield Road by The Fifield Inn from 11:30 am to 6:30 pm. Set up was from noon, but people arrived as early as 9:30 am to reserve their spots. We kicked off at 2:00 pm and the Community Association provided six BBQs for people to cook their own food. We estimate that over 300 people came along and enjoyed a real community event! As last year, after the road was re-opened, we continued the party in the Fifield Inn car park.

We had a “Young Royals” Fancy Dress competition for girls and boys under 8 years old and “Best Royal Hat” competitions for 8 to 18 year olds and adults. There were lots of great costumes and hats. Prizes for the juniors were commemorative piggy banks and mugs. The “Best Royal Adult Hat” competition was won by David Embery for which he won a chilled bottle of Fizz. We also organised a Family Quiz of 15 questions based on local and Royal knowledge. The winner was Jean Heath (aged 89!) with a fantastic score of 13 out of 15 points. The prize was also a chilled bottle of Fizz. And later on, we had an “Open Mic” for those bold enough to take part. The Highlight was a guest appearance by Dick Jagger (aka Gary Smith).

See the photographs on the front and inside cover of this issue as well as 220 + more fantastic pictures in the Photo Gallery on our website.

A lot of people helped make the occasion a great success. Special thanks go to Mark Howard (brother of Robin) for his music and PA system, Rod Lord for the photos and to Helen and Gary of the Fifield Inn for allowing us to close the road and use their car park.

Given the success, we are already thinking about an excuse to hold another Street Party in the future!

Grenville Annetts



**Saturday
11 August
Deep Meadows
in Fifield**

The organising is in full swing to prepare for this year's Fifield Fun Day. In addition to the Novelty Dog Show, there will be a visit from "Feathers and Fur" which will allow you to get close to, and possibly hold, a bird of prey. They also have a selection of small furry animals. We have the usual very popular fairground swings and a bouncy castle has also been booked (subject to the weather conditions). Other attractions include Ferret Racing, a Coconut Shy, Aunt Sally, the Tombola and various other stalls.

Refreshments will be provided in the form of a hog roast, BBQ and a tea tent together with a beer tent.

This year the funds raised will go to the Chiltern and Thames Air Ambulance, Alexander Devine Children's Hospice Service and local organisations such as Braywood Cricket Club, Windsor Horse Rangers, 1st Slough Scouts and Braywood Memorial Hall, plus others.

For the first time there will be some competitions for you to enter:

- A **Bake Off** – test your expertise by baking a Victoria sponge, or sausage rolls, or both!
- A **Children's Art Competition** - for children between the ages of 5 and 15 years.
- A **DIY Scarecrow** competition - open to all.

Details and entry forms are accompanying this newsletter, or are obtainable from Helen Howard, Broadacre House, Coningsby Lane, 01628 782003

As usual, the Fun Day organisers require a lot of help before, during and afterwards, so please, if you have some time to spare, volunteer to help on Friday, Saturday, or Sunday.

Items for the Bric-a-Brac stall should go to John Hill, 2 Memorial Cottages
Tombola donations, to Teresa Jerzewski, 6 Stewart Close (on the corner of Stewart Close and Fifield Rd), or they can be handed to any committee member – Helen Howard, Louise Shenston, Julie Glover, Bill Collier, Paula Grevett, or Marilyn Coppinger.

For more information, or to volunteer, please contact Helen Howard on 01628 782003 or email howardhj@btinternet.com

Helen Howard

Future Social and Recreational Events

4th Annual Food, Wine and Ales Fair – the date has now been fixed for Sunday 16 September. Planning has started and we are contacting local high quality suppliers of great food, quaffable wines and super beers. There will also be some entertainment.

Autumn Family Social Evening – Following the success of last year, our Family Bingo evening will be on Saturday 13 October at 6pm. Tickets will be available from Alison Brayshaw at £10 per adult and £5 per child, which includes hot food.

Christmas Fair – again after the success of last year, we are planning to hold another Fair at Braywood Memorial Hall on Saturday 24 November from noon until 3pm. (stallholder set up from 11 am). Bill Collier will again be the "Point Man" on this one – so contact him if you wish to have a stall.

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

Grenville Annetts

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Please take your litter with you

With the advent of summer (allegedly) the Environment Work Group's focus has been on monitoring the footpaths and keeping up with litter picking. Those of you who use the footpath 52 between Fifield and Oakley Green will have noticed the disgraceful condition it is in due to the use of vehicles on the area used for polo. During the wet weather this rendered the footpath almost impassable. We have made representations to the Borough and they have been in contact with the land-owners. So far there has been no noticeable improvement but we are monitoring the situation and will keep the pressure on to see this repaired. If any of you notice similar problems with a footpath please bring it to our attention and we will do our best to see any problems rectified. Our footpaths are important to us and if we do have any good weather this year we want to be able to get out and enjoy it.

On a similar vein, with the better weather we seem to see an increase in the amount of litter dumped on the paths and in the hedgerows. On a couple of occasions recently the plastic bags that I always carry for dog waste have come back filled with other people's rubbish! I am sure I am preaching to the converted when I say PLEASE take your litter with you.

Barbara Frame

**Holyport Village Show
Saturday 8 September**

Have you popped in and picked up a show schedule?

There are lots of classes from which to choose and for the children, plenty to keep them occupied during the long summer break.

Schedules still available from the following outlets:
Fifield Inn (please ask at the Bar), J & S Rook Butchers,
Holyport Post Office, Elizabeth James Hairdressers,
St. Michael's Church, Bray Hair Studio and
John's Barber Shop on Windsor Road.

Where do we go next?

I think our Business and Community Partnership team should de-camp to Greece, we might have more success in Athens than we did at our meeting in Fifield in April.

Yes, we did have a good debate with the few stalwarts that turned up and James Brayshaw's presentation was very informative - thank you James.

Where do we go next? That is the question. Maybe our local businesses think that we are interfering and that we do not have the knowledge or experience to be of any help to them, or perhaps they are just too busy and hard pressed to want to get involved in a dialogue with us. Whatever the reason or reasons, we will try our best to keep building a rapport with them.

We will start with you. Yes, you! You may have some original ideas, contacts or thoughts, no matter how 'left field' they may be, we would like you to share them with us.

For further information please call Robin Howard on 01628 773005 or email Robin.Howard@dawsonhoward.com

One initiative the Business Work Group will try, which has been test-marketed by our friends in Twyford with some success, is to form a Home Services Group, made up of architects, builders, decorators, plumbers etc. We would promote them to the local community as the first choice for anything from extensions, to garden landscaping.

If we can just get one initiative up and running and use it as concrete evidence of how we could work together for our mutual benefit then we will have achieved one of our key objectives.

Onwards and upwards

Charles Wigginton
Paula Grevett
Robin Howard
Bill Collier

Work Group monitors planning applications

The main work of the Local Planning Work Group over the last few months has been its involvement in the development of the Bray Parish Neighbourhood Plan and the RBWM Local Plan.

In addition the work group has been monitoring all planning applications presented to Bray Parish Council and other local planning issues and making representations when appropriate to Bray Parish Council and RBWM.

The work group welcomes any information about planning issues from local residents.

Contact Helen Howard at hhoward1628@yahoo.co.uk or 01628 782003

Punishment in the 1940s

At the age of 12 I lived in a mining village in Northumberland that was half a mile from the north sea. In between my village and the sea was a field of turnips which was owned by the farmer Mr Brody who lived at the other end of the village. Needless to say that as food was in short supply my friends and I used to pull a turnip, peel it and eat it raw.

One day coming home from the beach, my friends and I did as always and took a turnip, only to find the local bobby waiting for us at the gate. He took us to Mr Brody and said "you deal with it and I will go and tell their parents where they are". My punishment was to clean out a 15 foot square pig sty that was about a foot deep in pig manure. It took me four hours to do it because I had to wheel the manure in a barrow about 50 yards to dump it.

I never ever took another turnip, or anything else that wasn't mine for the rest of my life.

Lesson learnt

Bill Collier



Oakley Green, Fifield and District Community Association Ltd

Want to find out what has been done by your Association to make improvements to your local area?

Are you interested in what activities and projects are being planned in the near future in the areas of Communications, Community Safety, Children & Youths, Environment, Local Business, Roads & Transport, Social & Recreational and Local Planning?

Then come along to the Annual General Meeting on

Thursday 20 September 2012

Everybody welcome!

Refreshments will be provided

Oakley Green, Fifield and District Community Association Limited hereinafter referred to as "the Association"

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Members of the Association will be held at Braywood Memorial Hall, Fifield Road, Fifield on Thursday 20 September 2012 at 7.30 pm

AGENDA

To receive the Directors' Report and a full statement of accounts showing the receipts and expenditure for the period ending 31 March 2012 and a balance sheet as at that date.

To receive from the Committee a report of the activities of the Association.

To elect the required number of Directors which have been duly nominated in accordance with the Rules of the Association.

To decide on any resolution that has been duly submitted to the meeting in accordance with the Rules of the Association.

Forms for the nomination of a candidate as a Director are available from the Secretary at the address below or from the Association's website www.ogafcap.co.uk. Completed forms must be received by the Secretary not less than 28 days before the Annual General Meeting. Only Members of the Association are entitled to vote at this Meeting. Any such Member may appoint a proxy or proxies and a form is available from the Secretary at the address below or from the Association's website www.ogafcap.co.uk for Members unable to attend the Meeting. The completion of a proxy form will not prevent a Member from attending and voting at the Meeting in person should he subsequently find that he is able to do so.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

Robin Howard – Secretary,
Broadacre House, Coningsby Lane, Fifield, SL6 2PF
Tel: 01628 773005

19 July 2012

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Further improvements needed at wet spots

Heavy rainfall at the end of April made a few things clear ...

1 - We must put Braywood Lodge back on our list. We had great hopes, but the garden was starting to flood again even though it didn't threaten the house.

2 - The situation at the speed bump in Fifield Road near Longlea Nursing Home is as unnecessarily ridiculous as ever. The legal department seems no nearer to moving this forward, so we will be investigating the possibility of arranging for the necessary work ourselves.

3 - It was suggested that work for the SEW pipeline had removed the Coningsby Lane problem. It's now clear that isn't so. Both ends of the Lane were again inundated. We have had further discussions with local residents and will again be working towards improvements.

Photos of these very "wet spots" can be found on the web site via the Photo Gallery.

Rod Lord

Art club displays their work

The Oakley Green and Fifield Art Club displayed their paintings, inspired by the Queens Golden Jubilee, at Braywood First School and at the Jubilee Street party.

There are classes on Monday afternoons from 3pm until 5pm and Tuesday evenings from 7pm. until 9pm.

Both classes will be taking a summer break from mid July and will resume again at the beginning of September. If you are interested in joining us, please contact me and if you would like to learn to paint but find Monday or Tuesday unsuitable, please call me on 01628 676939 or email william35@in.com as I may be able to help.

Bill Collier

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Results of BPNP survey published

The Steering Group of the Bray Parish Neighbourhood Plan has just published the results of the parish-wide consultation carried out earlier this year. The response achieved was 4.23% of 6755 registered electors from both the hard copy booklet delivered to every address and the online version accessed via the website. Whilst this may not seem to encompass a large number of residents, in the context of this type of survey, then the result is a good one. However this does not mean that the Steering Group is complacent and they are now looking at ways of accessing other groups with our future consultations. A summary, and the full report itself, can be found on our website at www.brayplan.com/consultation-engagement

Taking these results the Steering Group, with input from the four Topic Groups, is starting to put down ideas for the plan itself. There will be a further consultation, around the September timeframe to get your views on these options. To help us with this work we are engaging with The Princes Foundation who, funded by the Department of Communities and Local Government, is helping Neighbourhood Plan groups with advice and guidance. It is interesting to discover that we are quite well ahead in the development of our plan and that this is not just new territory for us but also for The Princes Trust, RBWM and DCLG.

Keep an eye on the "Chairman's Chat" section of www.brayplan.com where I post regular updates on the current activities of the Steering Group. If you have any questions or want to get involved then you can also contact the Steering Group via the website or directly on brayplan@gmail.com

Chris Graham
Steering Group Chairman
Bray Parish Neighbourhood Plan

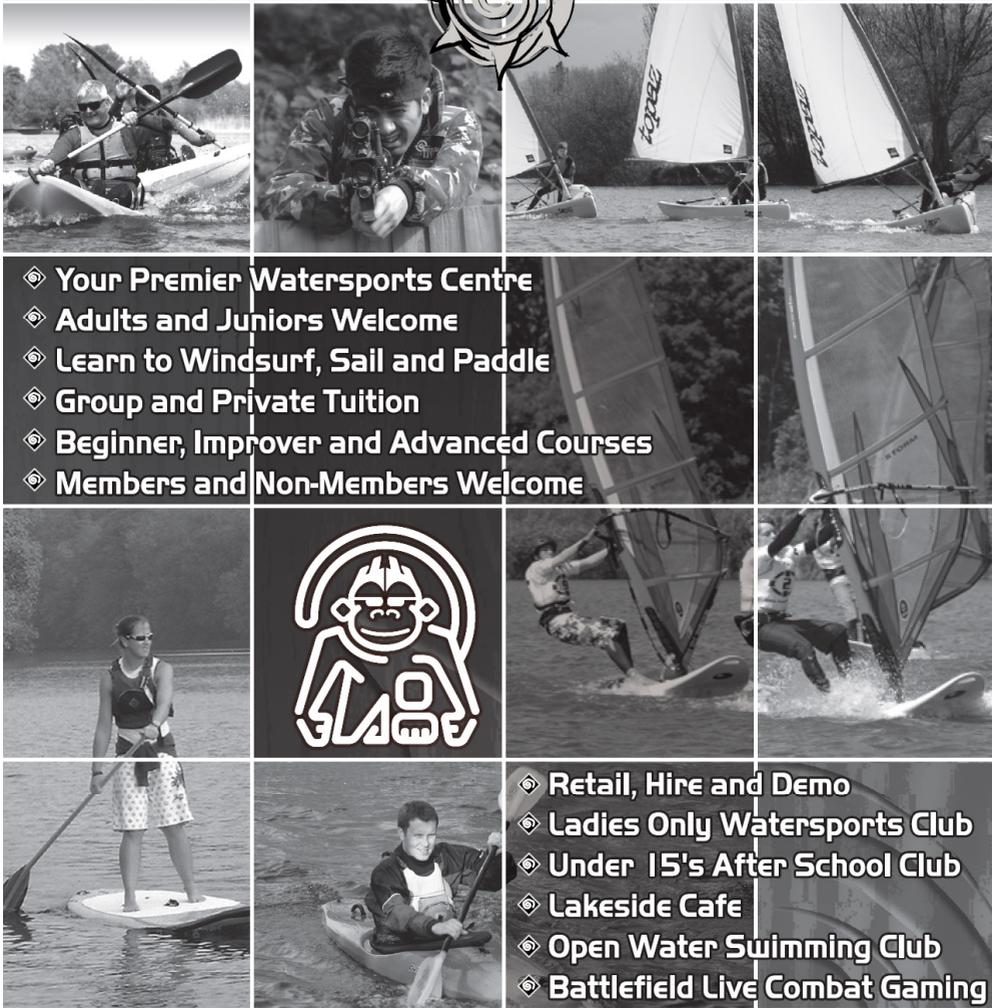
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Adopt a street sign

Whilst driving and walking through the area it came to my attention that a number of street signs – traffic signs, road names, bollards and street lights etc. are looking in a very sorry state. Ideally the RBWM should look after these, but as this was an area that they were looking to offload to the Parishes under Big Society without much funding attached, I think that indicates where the maintenance of street signs comes in their list of priorities.

What I am suggesting is, in order to spruce the area up and hopefully increase the effectiveness of traffic signs in particular, that you adopt a street sign near you. All that may be required is a little time with a bucket and a mop to clean the sign, or in some cases the secateurs need to be got out to remove overhanging vegetation. Please do not use a hosepipe until after the ban is lifted, or put yourselves in any danger, but a little effort could make a dramatic improvement.

Some of the signs are defiantly 'wonky', bent or not aligned correctly and these need to be sorted out. In some cases the poles are rusty and require at least a repaint. All these signs need reporting to RBWM Streetcare. It now seems that poles for traffic signs in rural areas are being painted green, if you agree that your sign pole should now be painted green please state that when you report the sign.

With the sunshine (a little) and plenty of rain hedges and trees have grown, these may now be overhanging not only street signs, but footways and roads, please take some time to cut them back. This could save someone's eyesight, or prevent them from having to step into the road to avoid your bit of hedge and being run over.

The contact details are RBWM Streetcare Customer Services 01628 683804 or via the internet www.rbwm.gov.uk (follow the links to streetcare) or email streetcare@rbwm.gov.uk. Some street lights belong to Bray Parish Council so report those to the Parish Clerk on 01628 777997 or clerk@brayparishcouncil.gov.uk. For those of you with access to email please let me know if you have reported a sign so the response of RBWM or Bray PC can be monitored. My email address is howardhj@btinternet.com Please put **street sign** in the subject box.

Helen Howard

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Ramblers treated to warm sunshine

Despite the awful weather for the Fifield Family Ramble in June, walkers were not deterred and although it was raining when we set off, it was not long before we were treated to lovely blue skies and warm sunshine and all enjoyed a pleasant walk across fields and footpaths with dogs and families and friends.

On Tuesday 14 and Thursday 16 August the ever popular Parish Tour will be visiting Braywood Cricket Club from 12 – 4pm. The Parish Tour provides free holiday activities for local children and friends.

If you are interested in helping and have some good ideas for this event please contact Alison Brayshaw alison.j.brayshaw@gmail.com

Finally, we would like to remind you that the Children and Youth Work Group is holding another Family Bingo evening on Saturday 13 October at 6pm. The evening offers lots of fun and money to be won! Tickets will be available from Alison Brayshaw at a cost of £10 per adult and £5 per child, which includes hot food. All ages welcome!

Alison Brayshaw

Fibre service on the way?

In mid May a Berkshire Radio researcher picked up on a piece in the Advertiser and we were offered an opportunity to explain our situation on the same morning show as Theresa May was to be interviewed. She was due at a meeting with BT later that day.

We asked Theresa May's office to keep us informed of the outcome of the meeting, which they kindly did. BT's contribution amounted to the usual collection of marketing waffle. While thanking the case worker we emphasized that what we had specifically been trying to find out for a long time was why the Fifield Road cabinet on the A308 was the only one not to have been upgraded to fibre optic.

On our behalf the case worker asked this question of the Director of Public Affairs at BT, Mr Tim O'Sullivan ... and kindly passed his answer on to us. We are assured that the cabinet serving the Fifield area will

be providing a fibre service from July this year.

We will have to wait and see if BT live up to this, but it does appear that there is now a new cabinet on the site.

Berkshire Radio audio and the thread of email exchanges with Theresa May's office are available on the web site via the Communications page.

Rod Lord

Volunteers needed to help those with dementia

I am gratified to see on the police link that Oldfield & Bray (which includes Fifield) and also Oakley Green have a lower than average crime rate. Please continue to be vigilant and lock your doors, gates and windows at night and when you are away. Do watch out for suspicious characters lurking around your neighbourhood (especially in flat-bed lorries!) and report them to the Police on their new **101** contact number. Better to do that, than for the police to attend a crime scene!

The Police, via the Thames Valley Alert (www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk to sign up for these alerts) have asked for volunteers to search when a local person with dementia is reported missing. If you are interested in this initiative, more information can be found at www.ourturn.org.uk.

A Police "Have Your Say" meeting was held on 14 June at the Fifield Inn car park attended by PCSO Cosmin Radu from Oldfield and Bray. He was appraised of our perennial issues regarding traffic speed in Forest Green Road and Oakley Green Road, parking outside Braywood School and illegal HGV movement in the area. He appears keen to help and offered to attend a future OGAFCA meeting. Please encourage him by going to the next "Have Your say" meeting – details to follow. Meanwhile, he can be contacted on the usual **101** number.

I hope you all have read the Travel Plan from Braywood School, delivered with the last newsletter. Any comments for or against would be much appreciated – please contact the school on 01628 623660 or email braywood@rbwm.org

Keep safe

Paula Grevett and Bill Collier

The history of Braywood

The following is the third of four extracts from an article written in 1950 by a member of the Women's Institute. The article will be serialized over four issues of the OGAFCA newsletter. The entire article can be found in the Features section on the OGAFCA website.

Folly John of Foliejohn Park, as it is now called was the resident during the war of King of Norway. The tall king, sitting so uprightly in the back of his big black car became a familiar sight as he drove by on his way to London almost every day. With our own Royal Family frequently at Windsor and the Dutch Queen living not far from Maidenhead, this was a Royal neighbourhood indeed during the war years

And so to New Lodge, for so many years the ruling house in village affairs. New Lodge was built by Sylvain Van De Weyer a great friend of Queen Victoria. Sylvain de Weyer was the first ambassador of the newly created land of Belgium formed of the southern half of the Netherlands which in 1832 rebelled against the Dutch. The new king was Leopold, Uncle of Queen Victoria. New Lodge was built on the site of a house known as Hounds Lodge, which was once the home of Lord Raleigh. This first house was the place where a tinker met King James 1 in the forest and not recognising him offered him a drink of beer and said he was hoping to see the king, who was that day hunting in the forest, the king took a liking to the tinker and after a long talk created him a knight with £500 a year.

The present house is a beautiful model of an English mansion of the sixteenth century, and looks out over a fine park. It passed out of the ownership of the Van de Weyer family during the 1914-18 war and after becoming in turn a privately owned clinic, and then the home of the Czech Trust authorities it became a boys home belonging to Dr Barnardo. The records of the beginning of Belgium as a new country were kept at New Lodge. After Sylvain Van de Weyer's death they were placed in a fireproof, waterproof strong room and were not to be touched for fifty years. Queen Victoria wanted to put them in the Round Tower at Windsor but Madam Van de Weyer wished them to remain at New Lodge.

When the strong room was opened, no papers remained. The strong room was a converted still room, with a sink and a tap and throughout the long years the papers had been sealed up with a slowly dripping

tap. Nothing remained of the records of Belgium's birth as a separate country.

After the death of Sylvain Van de Weyer, his wife built the present church dedicated to the memory of her father Joshua Bates. The church was erected in 1867 not far from New Lodge on the hill known as Sparbury or Sparboro'. The new church largely took the place of the school chapel which had been used previously. The school and chapel which adjoins it were built in 1857 and services in the chapel were conducted by the vicar of Bray or his curate.

After the new church was built it was decided to make Braywood a separate parish and in August 1871 while the court was at Balmoral, Queen Victoria gave her royal assent to this. The church and vicarage stand in a fine position overlooking the village, but the church is not easily reached on dark evenings or wet days. A footpath across the fields makes a pleasant walk in good weather, but the journey round the road is a long one.

Update: Rev. Daniels, the Vicar of Braywood, died in the late 1950s and Braywood church was deconsecrated, used as a film set in 1960 by Hammer Films and subsequently blown up. The aisle of the church is still in the garden at Braywood House, as are 23 graves, including a sarcophagus which holds the remains of Jean Van de Weyer.

Braywood Cricket Club Family Fun Day

Monday 27 August

Come along and watch former All-Blacks rugby star Zinzan Brooke and his "Friends of the Emerald Isle" team play a Twenty20 cricket match against Braywood Cricket Club

As well as an entertaining afternoon of cricket, there will also be activities for children, cakes and hot food.

The cricket ground will open at 1pm and the game will start at 2pm.

For other fixtures and events at Braywood Cricket Club this season go to the links on OGAFCA website under Clubs and Activities

Don't forget the **Bray Parish Tour**, which provides **FREE summer holiday fun** for local children, comes to Braywood Cricket Club on **Tuesday 14 and Thursday 16 August**

Work Group to address Cabinet over speed

As you know, we have been campaigning to have the speed limit on the Forest Green Road (amongst others) reduced since the results of our survey were published in 2009.

The Oakley Green Road already has a 40mph speed limit. This we feel needs to be extended along Forest Green Road to the A330. The make up of the road is very similar to Oakley Green Road - narrow undulating with many bends and blind spots - similar types and density of development with many entrances on to the road, public houses, farms and stables. Vehicles drive too fast, often over 60mph.

As our efforts were proving fruitless, we decided to "up the anti" and in the space of two weeks at the beginning of April, we collected over 400 signatures from residents concerned about the speed limit.

Ward Councillor David Coppinger presented the petition at the April Council Meeting and it was agreed that the matter should be referred to the Cabinet meeting on 26 July 2012.

We have consequently been given the opportunity to attend and address the Cabinet meeting about the issues raised in the petition and have the right to speak for five minutes at the beginning of the meeting.

After that, the Cabinet is at liberty to discuss the petition and make a decision.

To encourage the Cabinet to make the right decision we need as much support as possible on the night, so if you can attend the meeting, it would be much appreciated. It is being held at the Town Hall in Maidenhead and is due to start at 7.30 pm. See you there!

A number of mothers with children at Braywood School have joined forces to work out a way of easing the congestion outside the school at drop off and pick up times and to try to make the Oakley Green Road safer for walking their children to school.

They are a determined and formidable team and have now decided to set up their own petition to get the speed limit reduced immediately outside the school and in both directions further out along the Oakley Green Road. We have agreed to work with them to help them achieve their aims.

So if anyone would like to help, please contact me in the first instance and I will put you in touch with them.

Louise Shenston



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