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# Oakley Green, Fifield & District Community Association

Winter Newsletter

January 2016



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## Welcome to the OGAFCA Winter newsletter...



...Jack Elliott will be remembered...



...new 7.5t weight restriction in Holyport...



...flooding concerns for proposed Phoenix Gym site...



...record turnout for OGAFCA Christmas Gathering...



...commemorating Private Arthur George Harvey...



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## From the Chairman

Happy New Year to all our Readers!

What a strange end to the year. Daffodils are out, the central heating is hardly coming on, the third best dancer wins Strictly Comes Dancing and England are (currently as I write) beating the number one cricket team in the world – playing in their back yard! The Annual Christmas Gathering on the Green was mobbed – but the Annual Village Walk had much less support this year.

Nothing so strange with OGAFCA though. The volunteers on whom we rely totally to get anything done are still beavering away on behalf of all local residents and businesses. We are reduced in numbers due to a few key folks stepping down at the AGM in October. So - if you are looking to make a great New Year's Resolution, why not come forward and help out - if only for a few hours a year. Not much to ask for a "Good Cause".

The Planning Application to relocate the Phoenix Gym in Fifield has exercised many local residents and can you believe it has now been over 6 months since it was first registered. Other things creep up on us – like the new scheme to divert lorries over 7.5 tonnes away from Holyport. And now we are having another go at getting Broadband Service to our landlines improved. Can you believe we are in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, 25 miles from Piccadilly Circus and still have some Broadband "Not Spots".

March 10, 2016 sees the 6<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the formation of the Association as a Fully Constituted Body and PLC. And there is still lots to do - as you will see from the reports in this Newsletter - on a broad range of topics.

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 one is scheduled for **Thursday February 11 in Braywood Memorial Hall at 7.30pm**. Everyone is welcome.

The Annual General Meeting will take place this year on **Thursday September 15 at 7:30 pm in Braywood Memorial Hall**.

Thank you for your continued support and a Happy New Year again.

**Grenville Annetts**

**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**

## Phoenix Gym Re-location to Fifield Road

First of all, thank you to all local residents who have made their views known about this important Planning Application. There has been an excellent response from you both in terms of quality and quantity. Well done! This compares markedly with the majority of responses in favour of the application, which whilst there are many from far and wide, very few refer to proper planning considerations. We have provided status updates to those of you for whom we have email addresses, here is a recap on where we are.

The application was originally registered on July 10, 2015. Residents will remember a lively meeting of the Bray Parish Council Planning Committee on Monday August 3, 2015 at which the application was discussed and the Committee voted strongly (one short of unanimous) in favour of recommending to the Royal Borough Planning Department that it was refused. Wearing his other Borough Councillor hat - Cllr Dudley - Cabinet Member whose portfolio includes Property – committed to work with the Phoenix Gym to find another more appropriate location.

Since the August 3 meeting, many significant changes have been made to the application – building size, boundary line, rainwater storage to name a few. OGAFCA has been highlighting since day one the local drainage and flooding issues. Then as recently as December 11, a very interesting document appeared on the RBWM website. It is a report from the RBWM appointed Drainage Consultants – and this report (dated October 26) recommends refusal of the application in its current form. Go to this link to see the report and all the other new material:-

<http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/pam/view.jsp?ID=15%2F02107%2FFULL>

OGAFCA has already written a response to this report. Thanks go to Rod Lord our long serving but recently retired “Drainage Consultant” who has been on top of this subject for a number of years. On another area of real concern to residents - the impact of additional traffic (on Fifield Road especially) - we are still pushing RBWM to conduct proper and independent traffic surveys on Fifield Road and at the current Phoenix Gym site.

On January 4, some new correspondence appeared on the RBWM Website - between the RBWM Planning Officer and the agents for Phoenix Gym. The Officer has informed them that all their outstanding information needs to be submitted by January 25, 2016. The outstanding information consists of an amended plan showing reduced scheme, visual impact assessment, flood

risk assessment, sustainable drainage system information and any additional Very Special Circumstances.

The Officer will then formally re-consult all residents that responded to the initial consultation, the Parish Council and relevant consultees. In order to give everyone sufficient time to comment, the application will then go to the Maidenhead Development Control Panel (MDCP) on Wednesday March 16. If the outstanding information is not received by January 25, then the application will still go to panel in March based on the information RBWM has to date. The Planning Officer believes that the applicant has had more than sufficient time to get the necessary information in and to keep the application running any longer would be unfair to residents who have objected.

This is good and bad news. We were pushing for another Consultation because of all the new information which is good - but it would seem that the Planning Department are still minded to recommend approval, because they are targeting the March MDCP.

The Panel is made up of 11 Councillors and 11 Substitute Councillors. At the meeting, the applicant along with objectors, Local Associations and the Parish Council will be given the opportunity to have their say before a decision is made.

We will continue to keep you informed on this very important application.

### Local Planning and Environment Work Groups

## Braywood Cricket Club invite you to get involved

In preparation for the summer cricket season, Braywood Cricket Club would like to invite you to get in contact if you want to know more about umpiring or scoring with the club or to find out how you could help out at the club occasionally.

The club are happy to talk to anyone who might want to get involved with the Seniors or help out in anyway with the Juniors cricket sessions on Sunday mornings.

If you are interested or would like to volunteer please contact in the first instance **Stuart West on 07464 995112**.



## A busy term ahead for our local Art Club

The art class had their Christmas dinner in the Fifield Inn on Friday 18 December and twenty members sat down to an excellent meal and enjoyed a sociable evening.

The Monday afternoon class started back on January 4 and the Tuesday afternoon and evening class started on January 5. All classes are currently full, so if anyone wants to join, I will put them on a standby list in case someone drops out.

Some of the students are travelling to Southam (which is 15 miles north of Banbury) on February 13 to an all day workshop conducted by professional artist Mathew Palmer. They will be painting a scene from the Lake District.

There are quite a few new members starting in January who have never painted before, so I will be using a six lesson programme which covers all aspects of watercolour painting before letting them choose their own subjects to paint and I will assist them along the way.

**Bill Collier**

## Fifield Fun Day will not take place this year unless we have more help!

There is a certain amount of moving tables, chairs, gazebos and straw bales, but it's not all heavy work; too signs, banners, road signs, parking cones and bunting all take time to put up and, whilst we do have a merry band of willing volunteers (for whom we are truly grateful), we need some more!

**If you can spare an hour, or so, to help set up and/or take down on August 6 please call Louise on 01628 783 448, or email her on [louise.challis@btinternet.com](mailto:louise.challis@btinternet.com)**



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## Follow the Star - to Fifield Village!

Word is spreading! On the Saturday before Christmas around 100 local people (and some not so local) gathered around the Christmas Tree on Fifield Green to sing carols.

Now in it's fourth year, the OGAFCA Christmas Gathering is getting bigger and better. The weather this year was kind to us, dry and mild but just cool enough to justify a warming glass of mulled wine accompanied by a hot mince pie. Once everyone had enjoyed their refreshments and had a chat to their neighbours, the song sheets were handed out and throats were cleared in readiness.

We began with "O come all ye faithful" and then all the children gathered in front of the tree to sing "Away in a manger". A moving rendition of "Good King Wenceslas" brought tears to the eyes and our grand finale "The 12 days of Christmas" brought a loud and proud end to the evening.

We need to thank lots of people for making the evening such a success;

- Bray Parish Council for allowing us to use the village green
- John Train and Bill and his art classes for supplying our 2 lovely trees
- OGAFCA members for arranging the refreshments and song sheets
- Grenville for leading the singing
- Residents of Fifield Road for (once again) creating a spectacular display of Christmas lights and decorations

And finally, A HUGE THANK YOU to all of you who turned up and sang – it would have been nothing without you. Please join us again next Christmas for a heart-warming event that will get your festivities off to a great start. Happy New Year!!

## Lock up and light up on winter nights

Winter is here with its dark nights so it is time for all of us to be on our guard against the opportunist burglar. So to deter them, put at least one light at the front of the house on a timer to come on at dusk before you get home. Also put a timer on the radio to come on at the same time. Make sure your shed or garage is secure and also the side gate. Thieves usually come past during the day and then come back later to check if you are in. If you see something out of the ordinary report it on the 101 number.

## Recent Social Events

First of all, we would like to thank John Train Plants and The Fifield Art Club for sponsoring our two Christmas Trees this year. And our thanks go to Bray Parish Council for allowing us to use Fifield Village Green.

The **4th Annual Gathering around the Christmas Tree** was held on Fifield Village Green on Saturday December 19. This event is becoming increasingly popular and we estimate that over 100 people turned up this year - despite competition from the final of Strictly Come Dancing! The weather was perfect and we laid on free mulled wine, soft drinks and mince pies before singing a few carols. All finished off with a top up of mulled wine. marvellous fun!

The **17th Annual Christmas Walk** took place on Sunday December 27. The walk was initially started by Jenny & Charles Wigginton and Rod & Val Lord back in 1999, but it grew in popularity and two years ago OGAFCA took over the organisation. The damp and gloomy day, muddy walking conditions and the very close proximity to Christmas might have put some of the regulars off this year – as only about 16 turned up together with a few 4 legged friends. We walked to Holyport and back along public footpaths (which have had a number of stiles replaced this year with more user friendly kissing gates). The walk took between 80 and 90 minutes - depending on how agile (or thirsty) you were! After the walk, some walkers then went in to The Fifield Inn for a well deserved drink and some lunch. All in all, an enjoyable event and a tradition we must keep going!

We have already started to plan some events for 2016 – including a possible Street Party on Sunday June 12 to celebrate the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Look out for more information in future newsletters and on our website nearer the time. If you wish to help out with organising these, please contact us via the Social & Recreational Work Group on the Website or phone 01628 784441.

### Social & Recreational Work Group

**If you wish to contribute news to our Spring Newsletter  
please send your submissions by Friday 25 March 2016  
via email to [alison.j.brayshaw@gmail.com](mailto:alison.j.brayshaw@gmail.com)**

## John (known to many as Jack) Elliott



Many of you will have seen one of our oldest residents walking up and down Oakley Green Road, at Braywood Cricket matches or on the bus to Windsor or Maidenhead, but may have missed him of late.

Sadly Jack passed away at Wexham Park Hospital on December 27 aged nearly 83.

Jack was a real character. He attended Braywood First School as a very young boy before spending some of his life in Cornwall, initially as an evacuee during WWII and then moving back to Oakley Green. He played for Braywood Cricket Club for many years and still keenly supported them up until last Summer. Full details of his time at the club can be found on the news page of the Braywood Cricket Club website. Cricket club members past and present will sorely miss Jack as he was ever-present at matches and a great friend to everyone. Jack was also a keen rugby supporter and used to often go along and watch Maidenhead play.

Sincere thanks go to Gary and Helen who gave Jack a lot of support over the past 14 years or so, right from when they were Landlords at the Fifield Inn up until most recently when Jack became more frail and was admitted to hospital the weekend before Christmas. Like some of us, they will miss him dearly.

Jack's Funeral will take place on Thursday 28 January at 11am at Slough Crematorium. Refreshments after the Service will be at Braywood Cricket Club. No flowers please. Donations to Dementia Awareness.

## Please keep our Forest gates locked!

Just a plea to all of us who have keys for access to Windsor Forest... Can you please ensure that you keep the gates locked at all times. I recently arrived to walk my dog only to see a lad at the entrance on a motor bike. He was trying the gate - which, thankfully was locked - and so he gave up and left. It is no secret that the Crown Estate would love to close the Forest and an invasion by motor cyclists would be just the excuse they needed. So, again, please use your keys to keep the Forest safe so that we locals can enjoy it.

**Environmental Work Group**

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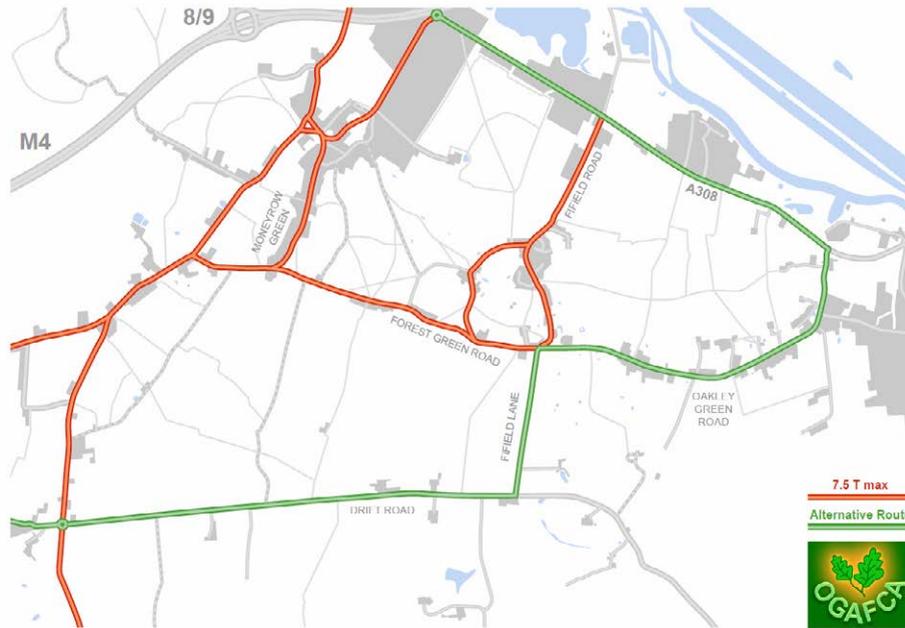
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## A new 7.5 Tonne Weight Restriction in Holyport



A new 7.5 tonne weight limit (supported by Bray Parish Council) came into force on December 21. We have had a 7.5 tonne weight limit on the Fife Road for many years but now vehicles weighing more than the 7.5 tonne limit are no longer permitted to drive on the A330 through Holyport, Touchen End and Moneyrow Green either, unless they have business in the area.

This has been brought in following concerns raised by residents in the Holyport area about the negative impact of heavy goods vehicles (HGVs). It is intended to reduce danger for road users and damage to the road and roadside structures, on a narrow section of road near Holyport Green.

The road traffic order will be enforced by Trading Standards and by a lorry watch scheme, organised by volunteers in the community and number plate recognition software.

Cllr David Burbage, leader of the council and a ward member for Holyport, said "This weight limit will make the (Holyport) road safer for cars, cyclists, equestrians and pedestrians and also allows HGVs with legitimate business in the area to continue to use the route."

Whilst this sentiment must be applauded, there are two serious potential implications for residents, which do not seem to have been taken into consideration:-

1. This new order will take **all lorries weighing in excess of 7.5 tonnes** along the Oakley Green Road, in both directions past Braywood School!
2. **All lorries weighing in excess of 7.5 tonnes** will be forced to circumnavigate Fife and Holyport, which will inevitably cost our local businesses more in both time and money.

The alternative route for lorries weighing in excess of 7.5 tonnes is illustrated opposite so what does this mean and how will these new additional restrictions affect our local area?

**7.5 tonne plus lorries coming out of Maidenhead or coming down the dual carriageway from M4 J8/9 (from M4 and M40) will not be allowed access to:**

- ⇒ the A330 Ascot Road off the Braywick roundabout – new scheme
- ⇒ the Holyport Road off the mini roundabout on the A308 – new scheme
- ⇒ the Fife Road off the A308 – existing scheme

**Instead - to get to Winkfield / Bracknell / Ascot - they will have to:**

- ⇒ travel along the A308 to the junction with the Oakley Green Road - eastern end (resulting in more traffic on the busy A308)
- ⇒ turn right onto the B3024 Oakley Green Road (very tight right turn and traffic backs up now)
- ⇒ pass Braywood First School (dangerous and impassable especially at school drop off and pick up times)
- ⇒ turn left and south up Fife Lane opposite Braywood Memorial Hall (very tight turn and very busy at peak times)
- ⇒ turn right and west onto the Drift Road at the top of Fife Road (very tight turn and crossing traffic at very busy at peak times)
- ⇒ travel along Drift Road to the Bird Hills Golf Club roundabout
- ⇒ turn left and onto the A330 Ascot Road

In the other direction, 7.5 tonne plus lorries coming from Winkfield, Bracknell and Ascot wishing to get to Maidenhead and M4 J8/9 will have to:

- ⇒ turn right off the A330 Ascot Road at the Birdhills roundabout
- ⇒ travel east along Drift Road to the Fifield Lane turn
- ⇒ turn left and north down Fifield Lane (very tight turn and very busy at peak times)
- ⇒ turn right at the junction with Oakley Green Road opposite Memorial Hall (very tight turn and crossing traffic at very busy at peak times)
- ⇒ go past Braywood First School (dangerous and impassable especially at school drop off and pick up times)
- ⇒ turn left and West onto the A308 (very tight turn and very busy at peak times)
- ⇒ travel along the busy A308 up to the Braywick roundabout

#### Alternative

Widen the stretch of road on A330 Ascot Road between Holyport Green and Moor Farm, opposite the newly re-built wall of the Real Tennis Club .

#### Consultation/Questions?

- given the significant impact on the area and the Oakley Green and Fifield Ward of the Borough/Parish in particular, we are surprised/ disappointed/annoyed that we have not been consulted.
- it appears that Holyport Residents Association has been consulted (Ref: Bray Parish Council Meeting Minutes of July 20)
- does it really make sense to take heavy lorries off an “A” road and put them onto “B” roads and country lanes and have them making right turns across traffic in both directions of travel through the parish?
- does it make sense to have heavy lorries squeezing past Braywood First School on a narrow “B” road with traffic parked all along one side of the road and thus avoid heavy lorries passing another school (Holyport College) which is on an “A” road with no parked cars in the public vicinity?

Please tell us what you think!

**Roads and Transport Work Group**

## **Broadband Service Survey**

When we undertook our wide ranging and detailed Residents Survey in 2008/09, poor provision of Broadband was one of the biggest concerns in our area – both for Windsor 01753 and Maidenhead 01628 subscribers.

At that time, we also identified there were over 100 local businesses operating in our area and many of them were particularly challenged and significantly disadvantaged by having poor Broadband service.

So our Communications Work Group got to work, identifying the particular local issues and started lobbying BT Openreach for improvements. Progress was made, first for 01753 subscribers in 2012 and more recently in February 2013 for 01628 subscribers, when the box at the end of the Fifield Road on the A308 was Fibre enabled. To speed up BT Openreach’s Fibre Upgrade Programme, we successfully enlisted the support of our local MP Theresa May and it made a difference.

But unfortunately we still have some Broadband problems and “Not Spots” in our area and we want to have another go at pushing for improvements.

To this end, we have set up a meeting with Senior BT Openreach Executives on January 20. But before we meet, we would like to better understand the current situation on local Broadband Service levels so we can present them with facts and data rather than just waffle on about how unhappy we might be.

Many of you may not use BT for your Broadband Service, but despite what your Service Provider may tell/promise you, it is actually BT Openreach who own and control the wires and network, that is why we need to talk to them.

To help us with this exercise we have developed a Survey which was sent out on January 1, to all Residents and Businesses we have email addresses for, **with a response deadline of Wednesday January 13**, giving us time to analyse the data ahead of the meeting.

If you have not received the email and would still like to take part in the Survey, please send a request to [grenville.annetts@btinternet.com](mailto:grenville.annetts@btinternet.com)

We will of course let you all know the outcome of our discussions and efforts.

**Communications Work Group**

## Oh Deer!



Many years ago, having just moved to the area, I was showing my Scottish friend around my new house.

“And guess what?” I said, excitedly, “Yesterday, I saw a deer in the paddock.”

She was not impressed,

“You want to shoot the beggar!” she sneered, “They trample my garden and eat all my vegetables.”

Deer are Britain’s largest mammals with six species living wild throughout the UK. Where my friend lives in North West Scotland the majestic Red Deer roam the hills and moors and consider the neighbouring gardens a veritable smorgasbord to be relished at will. In our area we do not have Red Deer but we do see both Roe Deer and Fallow Deer and also the very strange Muntjac.

Only the Red Deer and Roe Deer are indigenous to the British Isles. Roe Deer are small and elegant with a summer coat of reddish brown turning greyish in the winter. They have a black nose and white chin and the females display the famous white tush. The male has shortish antlers with three points on each.

The Fallow Deer have been with us for over a thousand years, almost certainly coming with the Normans. They are the characteristic tan/fawn colour with white spots on their flanks. They have a longer tail than the Roe and it is distinguished by a white patch outlined by a black horseshoe. The male has large and majestic antlers and generally lives between eight and ten years.

Muntjac Deer are small and stocky and russet brown in summer fading to grey in winter. Their haunches are higher than their withers giving them a strange hunched appearance and they carry their wide tails upright as they

run away. They were introduced from China in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, originally to Woburn Park in Bedfordshire, but release and escape have supported their spread across south and central England and Wales. They are known as ‘Barking Deer’ due to the short sharp bark they use for a number of reasons, however, when frightened they squeal like pigs.

Windsor Park and Forest has been used for deer hunting since Norman times and was, for many centuries, the private hunting ground for Windsor Castle. Indeed New Lodge on the Drift Road was built on the site of a royal hunting lodge. Nowadays they keep their deer in a managed deer park but we enjoy the wild creatures that inhabit the forest and surrounding areas.

All deer graze although they also enjoy saplings, crops, roses and pansies, which brings them into conflict with farmers and gardeners. They are most active at dusk and dawn when they come out to feed and this can also make them a hazard on the roads, especially in winter, so you do need to be careful on our rural roads.

In spite of their destructive qualities they are beautiful creatures which should be valued as part of our British heritage. I, for one, still get excited when I see one in my paddock.



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**Julie Glover - Councillor for Alexander Ward - 07767 403063**

Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Council - Bray Ward

**Cllr David Burbage - 01628 796322**

**Cllr David Coppinger - 07866 493272**

**Cllr Leo Walters - 01628 627967**

Bray Parish Council - Oakley Green and Fifield Ward

**Cllr Nicola Marsh - 07973 112873**

**Cllr Chris Yates - 01344 882374**

## Private Arthur George Harvey

Holyport & District Branch of The Royal British Legion commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversaries of War Casualties Buried in Cemeteries within the Parish of Bray – with an Act of Remembrance and the laying of a wreath at their grave.

Private Arthur George Harvey was in the 9th Battalion, Royal Berkshire Regiment. He was born in Wallingford and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission record gives no details of where he lived or his next of kin. But he seems to have lived in the Braywood area, and joined up in Windsor. Sadly he died at home on January 4 in 1916 while the Battalion was still in training. His is the only War Grave in the Cemetery beside Braywood School and his name is on the Memorial now located in Braywood Memorial Hall.

An Act of Remembrance took place for Private Arthur George Harvey next to his Grave on Monday January 4 at 3:00 pm.

**Geoff Hayes: Chairman Holyport & District Branch  
The Royal British Legion**

## Dates for your Dairy 2016

- OGAFCA next General Public Meeting - Thursday February 11 at 7.30pm
- Editor's input deadline for OGAFCA Spring Newsletter - Friday March 25
- OGAFCA General Public Meeting - Thursday May 12 at 7.30pm
- Possible Street Party to celebrate the Queen's 90th Birthday - Sunday June 12
- Fifield Fun Day - Saturday August 6
- OGAFCA AGM - Thursday September 15 at 7:30 pm

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

**To advertise in this Newsletter please contact Bill Collier on  
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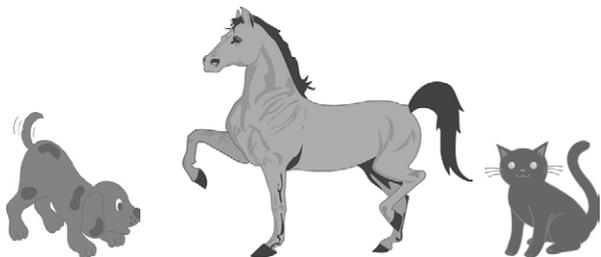
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## BATS IN THE BEDROOM!



Last summer, my husband and I were about to retire for the night when I heard him exclaim, "Look! There's a bat in here!" And so there was. Flashing round and round the room like a sock in a spin cycle. There was no way we could catch this rapid intruder so our plan was to lure him outside. My husband opened the front door while I waved my arms in the air imitating a hippie at a rock concert. The bat flew out to the hallway - and shot straight up the stairs!

This was not what we had planned and both raced upstairs to find him whizzing around the bedroom. We opened the windows, we ran round the room flapping our arms and shouting words of encouragement, but all in vain. The bat continued to spin around the room, occasionally pausing on the curtains to get his breath back but as soon as we got near he was off again.

"I've got a good idea," said my husband, "why don't we put the lights out? If it's all dark in here he might head for the window." Well, anything was worth a try so I put the light out and seconds later I felt something whistle past me.

"I think he's gone!" I exclaimed and switched the light back on. And as the light filled the room we saw to our horror that there were now two bats in the room!

We sank onto the bed in despair and watched as the pair of them raced each other from corner to corner. After several circuits they suddenly turned and disappeared through the window and into the night.

We leapt up and closed the windows and then made sure, in spite of the balmy evening, that every window in the house was tight shut. We then retired to bed - and I took the precaution of hanging a garlic bulb at the end of the bed.

### Animal Tales

Do you have a story to tell? Please send them in via our website [www.ogafcap.co.uk](http://www.ogafcap.co.uk) so we can share them in our next publication.



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