

BRAY FILM STUDIOS PROUDLY SUPPORTS

Oakley Green, Fifield & District Community Association

BRAY FILM STUDIOS

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Oakley Green, Fifield & District Community Association

Winter Newsletter January 2025



www.ogafcap.co.uk

Welcome to the OGAFCA Winter newsletter...



…It was a full house of horrors at our spooky Halloween Quiz Night!...

…neighbours gathered inside Braywood Memorial Hall for Christmas Carols ...





…this bench is a tribute to Esther Rickards, but who was she?...

…and join us at Braywood Memorial Hall for our St. George's Day Quiz Night on Friday 25 April ...



The OGAFCA newsletter is edited by Alison Brayshaw
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Chairperson's Message

As a New Year begins, we tend to reflect upon the past year. We had many successful events, including the Open Gardens and the Fifield Fun Day and held two quizzes, at Easter and Halloween which are growing in popularity. We rang the changes with the Christmas Fair, moving it to the Sunday, which did not work particularly well but we also moved our Christmas Carol event to inside the Braywood Hall and this proved to be a great improvement; no longer at the mercy of the winter weather and far easier to distribute the mulled wine and mince pies, more of that later. And, finally, after five years fund-raising we saw the arrival of our re-furbished phone box outside the Old Post Office in Oakley Green.

This is also the time to look forward, and we will continue to fight for local causes and hold more events to bring the community together. We will hold our open meeting in May and encourage you all to come along and talk to us, discuss what we have been doing and suggest things that we may focus on in the coming months. We are here to represent your views so please tell us what they are! If you are new to the area, it is a good opportunity to engage with your neighbourhood and, if you have lived here for years, you may have very valuable experience to share with us all.

At the time of publication, we still have the spectre of the Holyport Film Studios application hanging over us. The work done by the Holyport and Fifield Community Action Group, RBWM and Bray Parish Council has been phenomenal, preparing professional and comprehensive objections to this unsuitable scheme and the support from the local community has been overwhelming in gathering together to fight against this. We hope and pray that Ms Angela Rayner recognises the depth and validity of the objections and that by the next newsletter we will have cause for celebration.

Meanwhile, we look forward to the longer days and the emerging Spring flowers to cheer our surroundings. This year we will not hold an Open Gardens as we will be supporting the Maidenhead Open gardens scheme this summer. We will publish details nearer the time and I hope you will go along, it will be well worth a visit.

Our next event will be our St. George's Quiz Night (details in the following pages) and we look forward to seeing you then.

So, let's all look forward to a healthy and happy 2025.

Barbara Frame

Ghostly goings on at the Halloween Quiz Night!



The Halloween Quiz at Braywood Hall in October was lots of fun with Halloween quiz questions, spooky costumes and some ghostly goings on!

The hall was transformed for the night with cobwebs, ghosts and much more. It was a great turnout of witches, wizards and much more. The team names were very inventive! And the winning team name was **IF YOU'VE GOT IT HAUNT IT!**

As the first quiz round started then so did the ghostly goings on! The PA system that had worked perfectly fine earlier in the day was silenced by some paranormal activity we knew not what! Despite efforts to resolve it we were beaten. So the quiz continued rather like Hogwarts School Dining Hall with Professor McGonagall walking up and down calling out the questions!



After breaking for a well-earned Fish and Chip supper the Best Fancy Dress costume winner was announced which was Cllr Suzanne Cross dressed as knife clad surgeon! Thankfully not how she meets residents at her surgeries which she runs across the Ward!

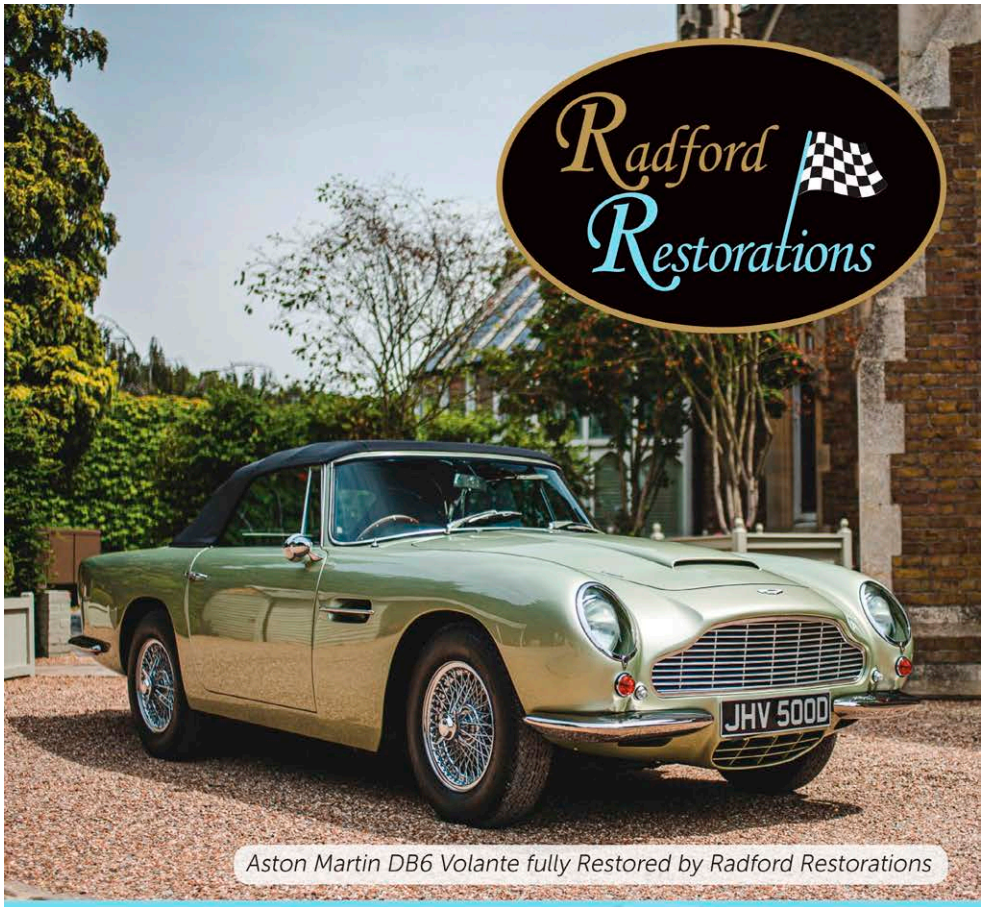
The quiz rounds included topics of: On this day 31st October, It must be Magic, Spooky Places, Eerie Intros, Where the Hell, Halloween Answer Smash as well as the picture round featuring some murderous characters who all had something in common...

9 teams took part and the Fifield Galacticos won by just half a point!

The evening raised over £600 which was shared between OGAFCA and Braywood Memorial Hall.

FIFIELD GALACTICOS	**49.5**
THE WITCHES OF BRAYWICK	**49.0**
READING BETWEEN THE WINES	**48.0**
WHICH WHITE WITCH IS WHICH?	**47.5**
PUMPKIN UP THE VOLUME	**46.0**
IF YOU'VE GOT IT HAUNT IT	**43.5**
THE WEENIES	**41.0**
THE PUMPKIN DELIGHTS	**32.5**
FOR GOODNESS' SAKE	**22.5**

If you missed the Halloween Quiz ,why not come along to our St George's Day Quiz Night on Friday 25 April!



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Christmas Carols at Braywood Memorial Hall



After a disappointing turn-out for our 'Carols around the tree' last year, we decided to ring the changes 'merrily on high' and moved the venue to INSIDE the Braywood Memorial Hall.



And this time, over 30 people turned up. We served mulled wine and warm mince pies from the kitchen and handed out the song sheets.

We then gathered together around the Christmas tree and the atmosphere was warm and intimate. The Hall lights were all off, so the only light came from the twinkling fairy lights on the tree and a few torches aimed at the song sheets. Grenville was our choir-master and led the singing and also arranged the teams for the raucous finale, 'The twelve days of Christmas', which raised the roof of the building.



Everyone thoroughly enjoyed it and this lovely photo and comment on FB said it all... *"It was so lovely attending the Christmas Carols at Braywood Memorial Hall - will 100% be there next year. Lovely to see our neighbours there too."*

St George's Day Quiz Night

After our Halloween Quiz in October, OGAFCA and Braywood Memorial Hall committees will be returning to Braywood Memorial Hall, on Friday 25 April with a new themed quiz for St George's Day with some fun questions for you to conquer! So do get your friends and relatives together (maximum 6 per team) for a great night out and book your tickets now to join us!

You are of course welcome to dress up in anything Red and White or perhaps as a Knight in Shining Armour! There will be a best dressed prize and best team name prize! A licensed bar will be open throughout the evening and a Fish and Chips supper served.

Tickets should be purchased in advance via **www.ogafcap.co.uk** or from:

Alison Brayshaw : alison.j.brayshaw@gmail.com

Barbara Frame: barbaraframe@btinternet.com

OGAFCA & Braywood Hall Committee

St. George's Day Quiz Night





Friday 25 April 7pm

Braywood Memorial Hall

Tickets £15 (incl.supper)

Licensed bar

Maximum 6 /Team

Best St. Georges Dress Prize and Best Team Name Prize!

To book go online/email/call

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alison.j.brayshaw@gmail.com

barbaraframe@btinternet.com

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Braywood Memorial Hall

Braywood Memorial Hall News

During the last year the Hall has been building a reputation as a lovely village hall with great amenities. We now have regular bookings of Indoor Bowls, children's dance classes and Pilates to name but a few.

The committee are looking at ways to raise some funds to make the hall even better and, going forward, to embrace more eco-friendly ways to maintain it. Over the past year, we have managed to recruit new members to the Hall committee and we now have a pretty dynamic team, however, in December Trish Pottinger had to step down from the committee as she moved away from the area so we do now have a vacancy. The committee meets every eight to ten weeks and, for the most part, the hall now looks after itself so if you have just a little time to spare and would like to be part of a small, select team, looking after a local asset please do get in touch.

On 5 April, artist Matthew Palmer, is returning to the hall to deliver another watercolour workshop. All materials are provided and with his excellent tuition everyone goes home with a lovely painting. Last time he was here the event proved so popular that everyone immediately re-booked the next event, but we do still have a couple of places available so if you are interested please contact me (Barbara) as soon as possible.

The committee now works in partnership with OGAFCA to organise fund-raising events and the proceeds are shared by the two organisations. The next joint event is the St. George's Quiz Night on 25 April, so get your teams together.

Braywood Memorial Hall Committee

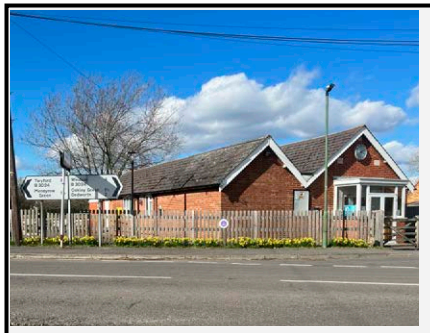
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Fifield Fun Day 2024 - Donations



Last year's Fifield Fun Day was the best yet! We had record crowds and raised over £8,800 which was amazing!

Our two main charities; Chattertots (supporting Downs Syndrome children with Speech and Language Therapy) and SERV OBN (delivering out of hours supplies to hospitals) each received cheques for £3,500.

Many of the Chattertots families helped at the Fifield Fun Day, with our games stalls, raffle tickets and entrance as well as selling raffle tickets before the event. They also invited us to join them at the "Show and Tell" session for parents on the last day of their Summer Camp to see how the money donated is used.

On Friday 15 November we met up again with Clare McIntosh of Chattertots, this time at a Chattertots pre-school session, led by a speech and language therapist. There we were able see how these charity funded sessions helped families. After we presented our cheque from the Fifield Fun Day to Clare McIntosh, which was very gratefully received, in fact they were quite overwhelmed. Clare sent a lovely Thank you Card and message from the group…

Thank you so much for your months of hard work in preparing and running the Fifield Fun Day for Chattertots. We've loved being your charity partner and are blown away with your incredible donation. You are a very inspiring group of people.

Throughout the afternoon at the Fifield Fun Day a volunteer from SERV OBN was present with his service motorcycle to talk about the important work the charity carried out.

The donation sent to SERV OBN from the Fifield Fun Day was also very well received with a lovely letter in response from Chairman, Kamran Irani…

Thank you for your letter of 17th November enclosing a fabulous donation cheque for £3,500.

SERV OBN receives no direct Government or NHS funding, so is entirely dependent on generous donations such as this to be able to continue operating. Our service to the NHS is provided free of charge to save them the cost of having to use taxies or commercial couriers when transport options for them is limited, such as every night and at weekends and public holidays. Our service operates from 7pm to 6am Monday to Friday and full 24 hours during the weekends and public holidays. The service is provided by fleet of liveried motorcycles and four wheeled vehicles, manned entirely by volunteers ranging in age from 25 to 75 years old.

In 2023 we responded to 3,357 calls from the NHS hospitals located in the counties of Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Berkshire, and Northamptonshire. We also collected 1,359 litres of Human Donor Milk from 205 Mums in the donor milk program of the Milk Bank at the John Radcliffe Hospital Oxford. The donor milk is used to feed sick and premature babies at the Neonatal Unit of John Radcliffe Hospital and other Hospitals such as Stoke Mandeville, Milton Keynes , Royal Berkshire, Wexham Park and Northampton General.

In 2020 we were honoured with the Queen's Award for Volunteer Service. This is the highest award given to volunteer service and is equivalent to an MBE.

To put this donation into some context. This amount will be sufficient for us to operate for a full year one of our duty marked motorcycles, covering the costs of fuel, engineering and insurance. In turn this will allow us to transport urgently needed Blood, Blood products, medical supplies, medical equipment, Human Donor Milk, out of hours and when needed by patients within NHS establishments across the counties of Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Berkshire, and Northamptonshire.

As well as donations to our main charities, smaller donations were presented to local charities and organisations who supported the event.

We would like to thank all those who helped make this amazing fundraising event the success it was!

Fifield Fun Day Committee

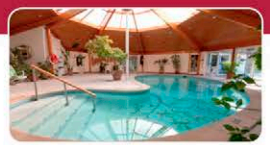
Comments on issues relating to our community can be sent to www.ogafcap.co.uk



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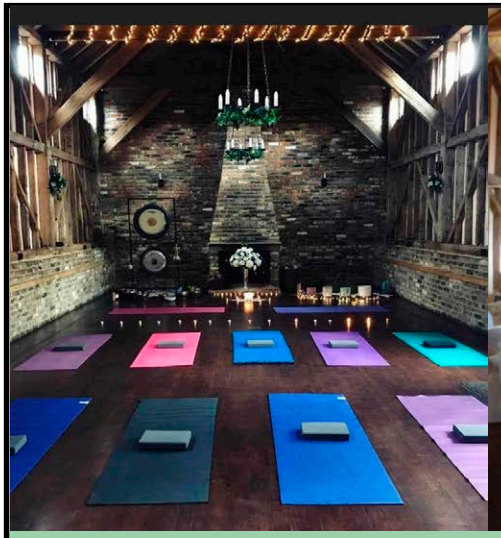
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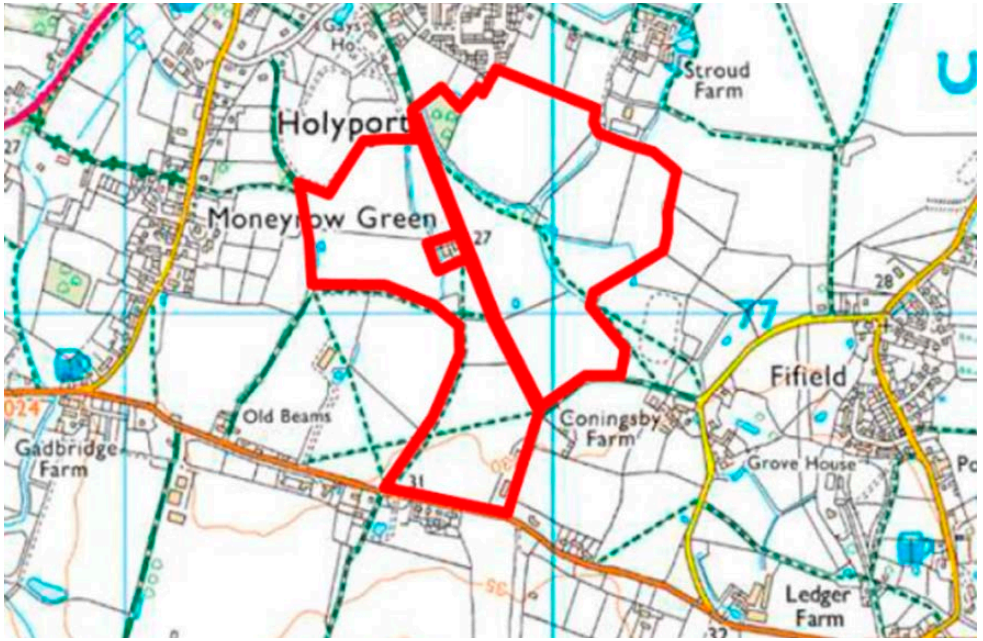
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Residents speak out at Holyport Film Studios Inquiry



The Inquiry for Holyport Studios Planning Application 22/03374 opened on Tuesday 12 November at York House Windsor where 11 local residents spoke passionately against the proposal. Throughout the 10 day inquiry evidence was heard from expert witness representing the Appellant Greystoke, Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead and Holyport and Fifield Community Action Group (HFCAG). It is now up to the Inspector having listened to the case to make his recommendations to Secretary of State, Angela Rayner who will make the final decision.

OGAFCA' s area covers nearly 500 households (and approaching 100 businesses) who have worked so hard over the years to improve their community, all of whom will be profoundly impacted by the Holyport Studios development.

The 106-acre large film complex development with 21m industrial buildings, operating 24/7 with high level lighting is totally inappropriate for the location with access for a significantly high number of workforce vehicles through villages and narrow unclassified roads. Larger in size than a distribution centre but accessed by roads that all have a 7.5 tonne vehicle restriction, for safety reasons, as do all the connecting roads.

In Ms. Ann Gray's Core Document Cd.g16a Paragraph 3.15, "Proof of Evidence of Need" prepared for the Inquiry she states:

" At any studio the accommodation of lorries is crucial so that equipment and supplies can be delivered to the site or to the backlot as well as be trucked to remote locations off-lot such as a castle, the seaside or a unique town that cannot be reproduced on site."

As Ms Gray (an expert in Film Industry Needs) says, there will be many lorries and trucks accessing the film studios 24/7. Such heavy goods vehicle movements will, as is the nature of filming, be day and night, along narrow winding, unlit roads with dangerous blind bends and junctions, not to mention schools with roadside parking and listed buildings and road surfaces not designed to take this weight of vehicle. Access to and from the site is dangerous and inappropriate for 7.5 tonne vehicles, which is clearly crucial to the location of a development needing to accommodate lorries and trucks. The UK's economic needs for investment cannot surely be more important than public safety.

Environmentally the site has many footpaths and bridleways used regularly by locals and a high level of flooding. Aerial photographic and expert evidence has been provided before and during the inquiry and the inspector was able to witness for himself the flooding on his site visit. Access roads to the site also flood regularly which impacts residents and commuters, as happened in Oakley Green and Fifield on Wednesday 27 November, the morning of closing day of the inquiry.



Already much of the countryside around the villages has already been ripped up for the M4 motorway with bridges and the connecting dual carriageways as well as rail links to Paddington. And public access to Windsor Forest and Windsor Great Park has been further restricted by the Crown Estate meaning walkers and horse riders can no longer apply for permits. These restrictions together with the ongoing development of 100's of new homes in this area means the need for local off-road footpaths and bridleways is more important than ever before.

OGAFCA have, following the inquiry, written to the Secretary of State, Angela Rayner, to ask that she gives particular consideration to the environmental unsuitability of this proposal and the inappropriateness of the location for accessibility.

Local History - The Story of Dr. Esther Rickards

If you live in Fifield or Oakley Green you may have walked along the Oakley Green Road footpath and passed Braywood School. You may have even sat or spent a few moments on the bench that is immediately outside the school entrance, the bench is dedicated to Dr Esther Rickards O.B.E.

Esther is considered one of the ten most inspiring women from history who you may not have heard of, but should know about!



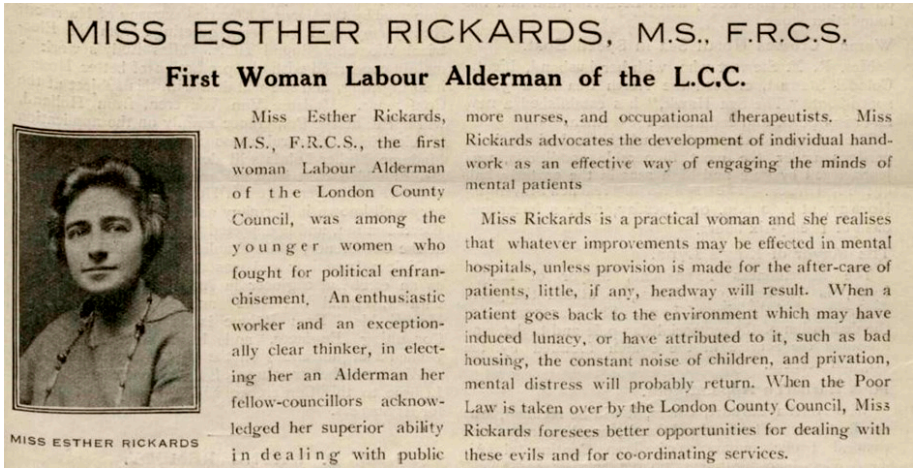
Many of us today would find it hard to believe that Esther; who had wanted to become a vet, was not admitted into the profession at that time, so she qualified to be a Doctor instead!

Esther was born in London in1893 into a Jewish family, her Father was a vet and she was very interested in dogs, an interest that lasted her whole life. She became a surgeon and a politician.

Esther was also a 'violent suffragette' and chained herself to London railings but was never arrested although her sister was jailed twice. She was thrown out of St. Paul's for protesting and out of a synagogue and protested in the House of Commons after 6 bills were to be given a second reading but they were refused time by the Government to become law. She spent time supporting other suffragettes imprisoned at Holloway by singing outside and found that if you sang a hymn after every song you can't be moved on, so that is what she did!

Educated at the London School of Medicine and St. Mary's hospital she qualified in 1920 (MRCS LRCP, followed by MB, BS, MS and finally FRCS in 1924) and worked at St. Mary's before joining the London County Council Service as Assistant Medical Officer at Paddington. In 1924 she was one of the first women accepted as a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons after obtaining her Master of Surgery qualification which was an unusual achievement for a woman at that time and she specialised in gynaecology. She also served as a member of the Mental Hospital Committee and fought hard to allow the admission of women to the staffing of mental institutions.

Esther became the first woman Labour Alderman and Councillor on the LCC in the late 1920's and was then a member of the North West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board and St. Mary's Hospital Board of Governors, 1947-1971 rising to Vice Chairman for 6 years. She was also the Chair of the Socialist Medical Association affiliated to the Labour Party and played a key



MISS ESTHER RICKARDS, M.S., F.R.C.S.

First Woman Labour Alderman of the L.C.C.

MISS ESTHER RICKARDS

Miss Esther Rickards, M.S., F.R.C.S., the first woman Labour Alderman of the London County Council, was among the younger women who fought for political enfranchisement. An enthusiastic worker and an exceptionally clear thinker, in electing her an Alderman her fellow-councillors acknowledged her superior ability in dealing with public

more nurses, and occupational therapeutists. Miss Rickards advocates the development of individual handwork as an effective way of engaging the minds of mental patients

Miss Rickards is a practical woman and she realises that whatever improvements may be effected in mental hospitals, unless provision is made for the after-care of patients, little, if any, headway will result. When a patient goes back to the environment which may have induced lunacy, or have attributed to it, such as bad housing, the constant noise of children, and privation, mental distress will probably return. When the Poor Law is taken over by the London County Council, Miss Rickards foresees better opportunities for dealing with these evils and for co-ordinating services.

role in establishing the party's policy of creating the National Health Service (NHS) focusing personally on the policy relating to maternity, hoping to reduce the rates of mortality around child birth. She was awarded the OBE in 1966 and became Honorary Consulting surgeon to St. Mary's Hospital in 1971.

When Esther received her OBE at Buckingham Palace, the late Queen Elizabeth II asked Esther what outside interests she had, 'Dogs Ma'am!' replied Esther and then the Queen realised that it was Esther who wrote to her each year regarding the Windsor Dog Show and they proceeded to talk about dogs for the next 10 minutes, no mention of the hospital work for which she was receiving the OBE.



In 1971 at retirement, Esther moved to Nightingale Cottage, Tarbay Lane, Oakley Green where she spent much of her time breeding Cocker spaniels(a hobby of some 30 years), was a founder member of the Windsor Gun Dog Society, Chair of the London Cocker Spaniel Society, First President of the European Spaniel Congress, founded /revived the Windsor Dog Show becoming Secretary, judged Dog Shows on an International basis and rescued the breed of Irish Water Spaniels from near extinction.

The other surprising 'hobby' of Esther's was her expertise in embroidery and she offered to make the new Presidential gown for the College of Surgeons which was gratefully accepted by Lord Brock who commented that it was unique to accept the piece of a Fellow 'whose prowess with a needle is usually of rather a different order'.

Dr Esther Rickards died in February 1977 aged 83 and the residents of Oakley Green and Fifield raised money for a memorial bench to be placed locally, the original bench was stolen but the replacement (funded by the Lottery) is still situated outside Braywood School next to the bus stop.

Sarah Grace

Holyport Village Fair - Saturday 7 June 12pm till late!

SAVE THE DATE : It's going to be a huge celebration this year as this will be our 80th Anniversary and what a spectacular event this will be for all of us to enjoy. We are beavering away behind the scenes to make this happen and we need your help to get this up and running so please do register if you would like to take part, even if you have spare time pre and on event day we would love to hear from you.

Volunteer Register Here @https://holyportfair.co.uk/contact or email us at **HolyportVillageFair@gmail.com**

We are pleased to share the return of our wonderful traditional games, funfair rides, yummy selection of food, live music and entertainment, the glorious dog show and not forgetting the great Tug of War, we cannot wait to share more, we hope to see you there. Remember save the date! Oh and did we mention there will be some surprise 'new' items this year, watch this space.

For any donations for our Tombola (adults and children), please contact **Naomi on 07760 261802.** To keep up to date please follow and share our Facebook page **HolyportVillageFair**, you will also notice posters going up around the village anytime soon, stay tuned.

Dates for your Diary 2025

- **Saturday April 5 -** Matthew Palmer Workshop, see advert for details
- **Friday April 25 -** St. George's Day Quiz, Braywood Hall. 7pm
- **Thursday May 8 -** OGAFCA General Meeting, Braywood Memorial Hall 7.30pm
- **Saturday June 7 -** Holyport Village Fair

Please submit Spring Newsletter contributions by Monday 24 March 2025 via the web site or email to alison.j.brayshaw@gmail.com



Paint a Lavender Basket in Watercolours at in person Workshop with Matthew Palmer !

Braywood Memorial Hall - Saturday 5 April 2025

10 - 4pm All materials provided

£35 - Tea & coffee available, bring your own lunch

Places are limited - to book contact Barbara Frame Barbaraframe@btinternet.com ***07831 485645***

Community Christmas Trees light up our villages!



The spectacular Christmas Trees brightened up our villages again this Christmas with twinkling lights and baubles on the village green in Fifield and outside Braywood Memorial Hall funded by Bray Parish Council and supplied by John Train Nurseries of Oakley Green.

The OGAFCA committee would like to thank the team of volunteers, Grenville, Rod, Val, Doug, Barbara, Trish and Alison who helped put up and decorate the trees with ladders, chainsaws, boxes of lights and baubles and after Christmas took down the trees and recycled them.

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



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ANIMAL TALES: Velvet the Guide Dog



I have to confess to being a complete Golden Retriever nut! We are now on our seventh, but we were introduced to the breed by a very special dog. Back in the 1980s I read an article about guide dogs and how, when they retired from their duties, they were offered up for adoption. I had grown up with dogs and was desperate to get one, but we were not in a position to take on a puppy, so an old dog seemed the perfect solution. I decided to apply. I received a pack in the post, and, to be honest, I think it would have been easier to adopt a child, there was so much to fill in. Anyway, I sent it back and then heard nothing, until, out of the blue, some six months later, I got a phone-call.

We turned up at the guide dog training centre at Wokingham (now a housing estate) and we were introduced to Velvet, a beautiful, six year old golden retriever. She was rather young to be retired but, her owner, for undisclosed reasons, did not want a dog any more and they decided it would be unfair to re-train her with someone else, so she came home with us. And what a dog! She instantly made herself at home and knew that her working days were over.

We were not given any information about her blind owner, except that he had lived in a small flat, and we imagined that maybe he was elderly and didn't get out much, because when Velvet saw her new home she raced around it, examining every room, upstairs and downstairs and then spied the garden and surveyed every inch of it before running back in and sitting in front of us, as much to say, "this'll do, thanks". One thing she did insist upon, despite having a lovely new bed downstairs, it was her duty to sleep beside our bed, and so, after several mornings tripping over her by the bedroom door, that concession had to be made.

Velvet loved a stick. When we went for walks, she would find the biggest stick she could lift and bring it to us to be thrown. She would happily retrieve that stick over and over again, finally carrying it home with her. She also loved water and her favourite walks were along the river where she would find a shallow spot to take a swim.

Our home in Bourne End was on a bridleway and she loved to lie in the front garden, watching everyone pass by, and all the local dog walkers and riders got to know her. The cat next door also like to sun herself on the front lawn. They would lie together (at a discreet distance) until they saw us looking, when Velvet felt she should give chase. Five minutes later they both returned to their old positions watching the world go by.

She did, however, retain a few old habits; she would only ever walk on our left and just a little ahead of us; she would not allow us to cross the road between static vehicles; and in a crowded street she would tow me through with the conviction that people would stand aside for me!



We were lucky enough to have her with us for eight years and our only regret is that, having moved to Oakley Green with so much space around us, she was too elderly to appreciate it. She was a truly wonderful dog.

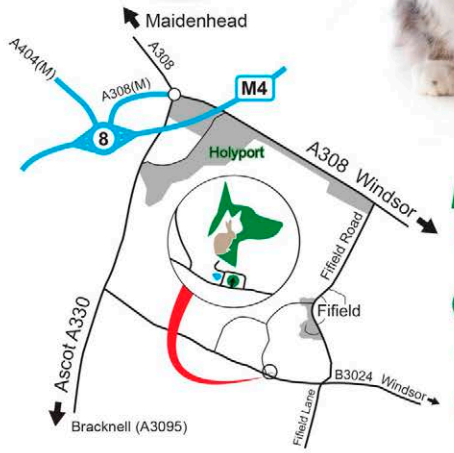
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