



# Bray Parish Council

## NEWSLETTER SPRING 2008

### A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

#### To contact your Ward Councillor

##### **BRAY VILLAGE**

Christine Aspey - 01628 638244  
Ken Elvin - 01628 624823  
Chris Graham - 01628 778054  
Margaret Pierce - 01628 622289  
- Vacancy -

##### **HOLYPORT**

David Coppinger - 01628 639523  
Neil Basterfield - 07825 110814  
Peter Janikoun - 01628 636891  
Andrew Monks - 01628 628597  
Leo Walters - 01628 627967  
- Vacancy -

##### **OAKLEY GREEN & FIFIELD**

Grenville Annetts - 01628 784441  
John Foulger - 01628 631208

##### **ALEXANDER**

Helen Howard - 01628 782003

##### **DEDWORTH**

David Moores - 01753 868992

The number of Councillors per ward is representative of head of population on the electoral role for each area.

#### **Police Surgery Dates**

Below is the next schedule of dates for the surgeries held in the shared area outside the Parish Office at Holyport Memorial Hall between the times of 6.30pm to 8.30pm as follows:

13th March 2008  
29th April 2008  
20th May 2008  
24th June 2008  
29th July 2008

If you have a problem or local issue to discuss with the police, please pop along. Alternatively you can contact the non-emergency number 08458 505 505.

Visit our Website at:  
[www.brayparishvillages.com](http://www.brayparishvillages.com)

Spring will shortly be with us and its time for another Parish Newsletter. As you will see from the content there is a lot happening. One of the most exciting is the launch of the Neighbourhood Action Group which I hope you will support. We are very concerned about communication both to you and from you and at the end of last year we carried out a limited survey to understand what you wanted. This survey gave us some ideas and one of the immediate actions was to carry out a review of our website to improve both the design and updating. We have now decided to carry out a Parish-wide survey to ensure that we meet your needs. A questionnaire is therefore being delivered with this newsletter and we would be grateful if you could complete and return it Freepost.

*David Coppinger - Chairman*

### **NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING - WHAT HAPPENS NOW?**

Now the initial process has been completed and the Neighbourhood has been launched, a Neighbourhood Action Group will be formed to deal with the key issues identified by residents at the Launch.

Neighbourhood Action Groups, are the key to the success of Neighbourhood Policing and central to the concept. It is this group, which will initiate plans to solve issues on behalf of the community and ensure tasks are completed.

The Neighbourhood Action Groups are referred to as NAG's for obvious reasons. A NAG should represent the Community it serves. In the first instance, the Neighbourhood Inspector invites people to sit on the group that he feels can add value. This can be in the form of expertise, experience, access to funding or local contacts and knowledge. They will include the Police Neighbourhood Team and representatives from partner organisations such as RBWM, the Fire Service, Housing Associations, Faith groups, Residents Groups, Residents Associations, Neighbourhood Watch

as well as local residents. A broad range of skills and experience in administration, organisational and practical matters as well as communications ability will be highly valued. The thing it is not - is a talking shop.

As a member of the NAG, you will be able to influence decisions about your Neighbourhood. Do you want to have the ability to change things for the better in your local community and gain a sense of satisfaction from doing so?

If so, please write to Inspector John McDonald, Maidenhead Police Station, Bridge Road, Maidenhead, who is looking forward to hearing from you.

#### **Not willing to talk to the Police?**

CRIMESTOPPERS are completely independent. Call anonymously with information about crime and you could receive a reward.

**CRIMESTOPPERS**  
0800 555 111

#### *The Holyport Show 2008*

Entry to the Holyport Show, to be held on the 13th September, is open to all residents of, or workers within, the Parish. Currently we have one entrant from Bray, one from Windsor and over fifty from Holyport. Come on, let's have some more entrants from around the Parish! Free schedules are available at St. Michael's Church and from local shops in Bray and Holyport.



#### *Badminton at Holyport Hall*

Holyport Memorial Hall is being re-furbished and this includes a new badminton court. Are there any potential players out there who would be interested in having a few games, perhaps on a regular basis? We would also like to know if anybody would be interested joining or helping with a badminton club for young people? Contact Peter Janikoun on 01628 636891 for more details.





## ST MICHAELS CHURCH IN BRAY

Situated at the very heart of Bray village, St Michaels Church has stood for over 700 years. An Emergency Appeal was launched on the 2nd December 2007 to raise the estimated £330,000 required to carry out urgent restoration work. This money needs to be raised in just 12 months.

Time and frost damage of many winters have taken their toll on the exterior stonework of the church. Areas of great concern are the northwest walls, and the distinctive church tower. Further problems have been found due to materials used in past repairs and this

has led to the walls holding excess moisture. Expert repair using traditional lime based mixes will be required to restore the walls appropriately.

Vital work is needed on three of the larger stained glass windows. The window under greatest threat is the Salvator Mundi, the centre west window with Saints Peter and Paul to either side. As with the majority of the windows in the church, this window is an example of Victorian stained glass and is dated 1863. If these windows are to survive at least another winter of frosts and low temperatures then it is imperative that they are removed in January and sent to an appropriate studio where work can begin.

The church organ finally failed last Christmas and although a temporary solution is in place various parts of the organ, including the electromechanical switching, have already, or are about to fail. The importance and quality of music at St. Michael's suggests that a new organ is both well over due and well deserved. This too will require substantial fund-raising.

### **How can you help?**

- Become a member of the Friends of St Michael's Bray, and demonstrate your commitment to the task that faces us.
- Pledge a monthly contribution as part of your membership **OR** Give a one-off donation by cheque or online as Gift-Aid.
- Give your time to help one of the project groups.
- Help in any other way you would like by registering your interest online [www.friendsofstmichaelsbray.org.uk/11.html](http://www.friendsofstmichaelsbray.org.uk/11.html) or by calling Jim Tucker on 01628 673685.

### **HISSING SID?**



The Parish Council have agreed to fund the purchase of a Speed Indicator Device (SID). This will be attached for short periods (a week or so) to various posts around the Parish to remind passing traffic of its speed. The SID doesn't keep a record or report any transgressors but it alerts drivers to their actual speed. It has been found that drivers observe the speed limits better when a SID reminds them. The effect is only short term, however, so the BPC SID will be moved around the Parish. It will be found at several speeding hot-spots: the Ascot Road in Holyport, outside Braywood School in Oakley Green, on Bray High Street and on the Dedworth Road.



### **Free insulation for over 70's!**

100% grant funded loft and cavity wall insulation is now available to all residents aged 70 years and above. This offer, which became available earlier this year, is made irrespective of your income and savings and whether or not you are in receipt of benefits. In fact, the only requirement is proof of age and name and address.

For most households, insulating has never made better financial sense. Following autumn's record oil prices and surging wholesale gas and electricity prices, insulation could be our last best defence against rising energy bills in 2008.

All homeowners and private tenants qualify for discounted loft and cavity wall insulation. Fully insulating your home could easily reduce your fuel bills by £100 a year. The payback time is typically short and the long term financial and environmental benefits are high.

For more information, contact the Energy Efficiency Advice Centre on 0800 512 012.

### **BPC BUS SHELTER REFURBISHMENT**

Many of you may have already noticed that Bray Parish Council has begun to refurbish all nine bus shelters throughout the Parish. The refurbishment is being done in phases: initially all wooden frames are being specially treated and those with Galvanised metal frames painted in a natural dark green coloured specialist finish. New seating will be fitted where required or existing seating treated.

The RBWM has agreed to provide a litter bin at each shelter and empty these on their existing time schedule.

Removal of graffiti and private notices on the bus shelters will continue to be addressed by the BPC. Both of these problems are avoidable and undesirable and we ask all parishioners to help discourage these activities. The Parish Council very much hope that with completion of this project, the shelters will be more pleasant to use, smarter to look at and fit better into their mostly semi-rural locations.

### **MORE MEETING POINTS**

Following on from the success of the "Meeting Point" in Gays Lane Field, we have installed another in Aysgarth Park. Although available for all users it is primarily intended for young people. Our survey of local opinion, two years ago, identified anti-social behaviour, graffiti and young people 'hanging about on street corners' as being the most serious concerns of Holyport residents. These problems are linked by the young people themselves and so we are providing facilities for them to socialise. The meeting points are designed to be vandal proof and are designed to be open. So far the only complaints are that it is coloured blue and that the young people use it!! We would welcome recommendations on other locations that might benefit from such a facility.



# COMMUNITY PLAN FOR OAKLEY GREEN AND FIFIELD



Bray Parish Council is moving ahead with the sponsorship of the development of a Community Plan for Oakley Green and Fifield. The effort is initially being led by Grenville Annetts - Bray Parish Councillor for Oakley Green & Fifield Wards.



## What are Community Plans you may ask?

Well - they are Plans which are developed by Local Communities. They describe a shared vision of the local area over the next 10+ years. They are an opportunity for everyone in the Community to make themselves heard and are based upon information gathered by participation in Open Days, Surveys and Research. This enables Communities to have more control of their own lives - to say what they want doing and to work with other organisations to get it done.

They are comprehensive and consider all aspects of local life including social, economic and environmental issues of concern to the Community. Once developed and adopted, they can help prioritise resources and provide important information to help influence the policies, decisions and actions of others, including the Borough and Parish Councils. They also enhance the ability of our area to attract Funds in support of Community projects we have identified. Typically they take 12 to 18 months to complete and the effort enhances Community Spirit.

## Who should be involved?

Everyone in the Community should and can have input. Usually the Parish Council sponsors and supports the early work. Then a Steering Committee is formed, consisting of a cross section of 8 to 12 Members of the Community and they lead the process - assisted by action teams focusing in specific areas.

Additional support is available from a number of other Organisations who have experience and expertise in developing and managing Plans. Recently our neighbours in Ascot, Cookham and Waltham St Lawrence & Shurlock Row have developed and published their Plans.

## What are the first steps and how can I become involved?

At the time of writing - two Open Events are planned to take place in Braywood Memorial Hall (25th February and 1st March), to kick off the process and start to engage the Local Residents and Stakeholders.



By the time this Newsletter is published and delivered, we will have held these two events. If you missed them, please don't worry as there will be further opportunities for you to have your say and contribute to the effort. If you have any questions and/or wish to volunteer to help, please contact Cllr. Grenville Annetts on 01628 784441.



## Repair With Care



The Repair with Care service is funded by the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead and operated on our behalf by Maidenhead and District Housing Association. This service helps elderly and disabled people to carry out repairs and improvements to their homes. The service also offers help to secure funding for essential work, advice on what improvements are available as well as helping to manage the installation of any equipment. The service is available to anyone with a disability or if you are aged 60 or over. In order to take advantage of the service you must also be the home owner or private tenant living within the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead.

### Repair with Care can arrange:

- General building works and minor repairs
- Adaptations to bathrooms and showers
- Installation of stair lifts
- House insulation

### How Can You Use the Service?

- Contact a Member of the Repair with Care Team (see opposite for contact details)
- A member of the team will visit your home to discuss and identify your needs
- If you decide you would like to go ahead with any proposed ideas but cannot afford to pay for them, the team may apply for funding for the work to be carried out.
- If you do not take advantage of any proposals then you will NOT be charged for the advice provided by the team. If, however, the team does organise any work on your behalf, there will be a small fee to contribute towards the team's running costs. This can usually be included as part of any grant that covers the cost of work.

There is also a Handyman Service available for small DIY jobs around the house.

Repair with Care,  
Crown House  
Crown Square,  
Waldeck Road  
Maidenhead,  
Berkshire SL6 8BY

Tel - 01628 45000  
Fax - 01628 543131

E-mail - [repairwithcare@mdha.co.uk](mailto:repairwithcare@mdha.co.uk)

## YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR ANNUAL ELECTORS' MEETING.

Come and hear what your Parish Council has done for you this year, to include a presentation from Borough Councillor, David Burbage, and awards for Planning Excellence in the Parish. Come to Bray Village Hall on Thursday 17th April 2008 at 7.30pm where wine and refreshments will be served after the meeting.

### FLOOD ACTION

With so much of our Parish lying within the flood plain, prolonged heavy rain brings with it the threat of potential flooding in the area. The good news is that should this be anticipated, the Environment Agency (EA) will activate the flood alleviation scheme and allow water from the River Thames to overflow into the new Jubilee River. This means that flooding in the area between Boulters Lock (Maidenhead) and Victoria Lock (Windsor) is unlikely to occur.



However, the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead advise vigilance and acting on WARNING and INFORMING! Contacts for flood alert information are:

Environmental Agency Floodline (24hrs)	0845 988 1188	<a href="http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk">www.environment-agency.gov.uk</a>
Quick Dial for Maidenhead area (24hrs)	0845 988 1188 + 011126	
24hr Control Centre (local)	01753 853517	

Bray Parish Council has a Flood Warning Code Board outside Bray village hall, which will display flood codes as issued by the EA.

The RBWM will only issue sandbags to vulnerable properties in immediate danger, and as the river peak flow changes three times in 24 hours, the situation continually alters. They advise that whereas sandbags are useful for closing gaps in a river bank or for re directing water flow, they will not prevent water entering properties in a flooded area. They remind us that individuals can self-help and make use of the materials available at builders yards, should they so wish. The Parish Council has a very small stock of sandbags for immediate emergency use, stored in Bray.

The Parish Council is currently looking for a volunteer Flood Warden who could be contacted by the EA and be responsible for changing the codes on the warning board at the village hall, location of sandbags and attending just one meeting a year with the RBWM team. If you would like to serve your community in this way, please contact the Parish Clerk who would be pleased to hear from you. Remember there are also other areas of the parish which suffer local flooding of ditches, roads and gardens, such as Bray Lake.

We have leaflets from the EA available in the Parish Office – Preparing For A Flood, During A Flood and After A Flood, which offer practical advice and guidance, please collect if interested.

### Calling all Volunteers!

Bray Parish Council would be delighted to hear from you if you could spare time helping us in the delivery of our Newsletters. Volunteers for all areas are always welcome but we currently require help for the following areas:

- Bray Village
- The Ascot Road
- Touchen End
- The Willows Caravan Park
- Springfield Park



If you feel you could give us an hour of your time two, possibly three times a year, then please contact the Parish Clerk **WHO WILL BE ETERNALLY GRATEFUL!!!!!!**

### Support our Local Shops

Are you aware that we are served with our own Post Office, Chemist, Delicatessen/Butchers and General Store in Stomps Road, Holyport? You can find them off the Holyport Road by the Newsagents and then first left.

***This Newsletter is published by Bray Parish Council and distributed voluntarily by our local residents.***

***All queries and suggestions should be passed to:  
The Clerk, Cherry Woodley at The Parish Office,  
Moneyrow Green (to rear of Holyport Memorial Hall)  
Holyport, Berkshire SL6 2NA.***

***Telephone: 01628 777997.***

***email: [clerk@brayparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@brayparishcouncil.gov.uk)***