



# Bray Parish Council

## Newsletter Autumn/Winter 2016

### Do you know where this is?



Answer on Page 5

### A Message from our Chairman

In the six months since our last newsletter there have been a number of local and national developments that will soon have an effect on Maidenhead and Bray. Our congratulations go to our local MP Rt. Hon. Theresa May, now our Prime Minister.

The government's decision on expansion at Heathrow that has been giving the Maidenhead Advertiser plenty of column inches for their letters column has now been made. Crossrail, we are told, is nearly finished and we are about to witness the further redevelopment of the centre of Maidenhead.

The recent government decision to go ahead with the Smart M4 between Heathrow and West Reading will impact the Parish as our two motorway bridges (the A330 Ascot Road and Monkey Island Lane) will need to be replaced. In addition it seems that the old

Braywick Showground will be used as the project construction depot for at least 10 years. RBWM is also looking to remove this triangle of land from the Green Belt so that it can be zoned for warehousing.

With the acquisition of the Maidenhead Golf Club land, RBWM is planning a large expansion of house building in the area. In our Parish, the land south of Harvest Hill is also being looked at as a possible site for more houses and we understand that RBWM will be consulting on this plan shortly. These plans, if approved, coupled with the smart motorway depot, will remove large tracts of land from the Green Belt in this Parish. Construction traffic associated with this house building and motorway improvement will, without doubt, add traffic to our already overstretched road network. The effect of Crossrail passengers on traffic and parking in the area is, as yet, unknown but unlikely to result in a reduction. Your Parish Council will continue to endeavour to work with RBWM to mitigate the potential adverse effects of these major projects.

As I recall our three local RBWM Councillors stood for Election with a stated policy of "protecting the Green Belt".

More locally, congratulations are due to the Bray Enhancement Committee for their success in the recent Britain in Bloom Competition.

Cllr. Ken Elvin - Chairman

### Land at Manor Grove, Fifield

As you may be aware the Parish Council is responsible for the two parcels of land at either side of the entrance to Manor Grove. The residents responded to a questionnaire regarding what they would like to see happen to the land and we have been exploring various options.



In September we held a meeting with Daniel Akam who is the Land Management Officer (Communities) for the Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust. Although at present it is not possible to gain full access to the sites he was able to tell us that there are some very interesting plants and native trees, including wild hops, maple trees, fruit trees and even a small elm, and they seem to be doing well. There are even some relatively rare water plants in the channel.

The land will be tidied up, with the nettle and brambles cleared, to enable us to see what comes through in the early Spring (there were certainly many snowdrops visible early this year) and then we will decide what should be kept and what could be added.

Daniel was also able to tell us that he is in contact with some local volunteers who would be able to advise us about the wildlife that inhabits the site. Residents have reported seeing kingfishers and bats and have heard owls. There is also a possibility we will find slow worms.

The Wildlife Trust will be able to advise us on how to maintain the site in the future and will provide a watching brief, but we will need the help of local volunteers to pitch in on a more regular basis, so we would be grateful for your help. We would love to make this land a real asset and a beautiful entrance to the Village of Fifield.

Cllr. Nikki Marsh

### Ward Councillor Contact Details

#### Bray Ward

David Burbage - 07855 346 750

Ken Elvin - 01628 624823

Chris Graham - 01628 778054

Sandra Kiely - 01628 637098

Margaret Pierce - 01628 622289

#### Holyport

Barbara Bou-Sreih - 01628 670906

Simon Dudley - 01628 770442

Peter Janikoun - 01628 636891

Louvaine Kneen - 01628 675996

Leo Walters - 01628 627967

Derek Wilson - 07789 755 995

#### Oakley Green & Fifield

Nicola Marsh - 07973 112 873

Chris Yates - 01344 882374

#### Alexander

Julie-Ann Glover 07767 403 063

#### Dedworth

Michael Airey - 07809 243448

## Building in the Conservation Area

It is easy to see when strolling around the village of Bray why the area is designated as a Conservation Area; the rich mixture of buildings from medieval to present day set on a complex network of roads and footpaths reveals some great examples of vernacular and more polite architecture. Each building has a unique and interesting history and collectively they tell the story of Bray.

Look a little closer at these buildings and you will see they are constructed of a variety of materials, some of which you do not find on modern properties. Materials such as timber frames, haired lime render (with barbed goat hair), limewash (paint), soft red brick from local clays, lime mortar and possibly some remaining wattle/straw and daub in between timber frames. Most of these materials are alien to us now, but they were the mainstay of the construction industry over the past 500 years. Unfortunately, the knowledge of how best to look after these materials has also disappeared and it is only recently that we have looked back to try and better understand how these materials work, so they can be better looked after in the future. There is lots of detail on how to maintain old buildings on websites such as the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB) <http://www.spab.org.uk/homeowners/>. The section on Technical Q&As under 'Advice' is very helpful.

Bray Conservation Area was designated to protect the special historic character and appearance that exists. This is achieved in part by restrictions put on properties within the Conservation Area such as cladding buildings, putting up satellite dishes, demolishing buildings and any works to trees (amongst other things – see the RBWM Planning Portal for more info). In order to further manage any change to the area, an Article 4 Direction was put in place, which requires Planning Permission to be gained for a variety of alterations which would otherwise be Permitted Development. For example, changes such as replacement windows, putting up, taking down or altering front fences, railings or walls requires permission for many properties in the Bray Conservation Area. For a full list please contact [planning.maidenhead@rbwm.gov.uk](mailto:planning.maidenhead@rbwm.gov.uk) or the Parish Clerk.

Rachel Fletcher, Senior Conservation Officer, RBWM

## Battle of the Somme, Centenary Ceremony at the Thiepval Memorial in France

It was 6am on a cloudy 1st July morning and clutching the Bray Parish Wreath, I was already at Thiepval in the queue for security clearance.

The night before, I'd attended Remembrance Ceremonies in Albert, the British HQ in 1916 and had been very much thinking of our own 23 year old Lance Corporal Arthur Pharo of Moneyrow Green, Holyport. 100 years ago he would have been in the trenches with his regiment, the Royal Berkshires, preparing for battle. No doubt he was nervous but excited too and mercifully unaware that he was one of the 19,240 British men who were to die on the Somme the next day.



Although the Thiepval ceremony wasn't due to start until 10.45, with seven Members of the Royal Family, the Presidents of France, Germany and Ireland, David Cameron, Justin Welby and many religious and diplomatic representatives attending, security was extremely tight. At 07.30 am, the time when the battle had started, we paused for silent commemoration. Later, when through security, we were given a breakfast of croissants, fruit and coffee and by 10.00 am had taken our places at the Memorial.

The ceremony was beautifully narrated by Charles Dance, Joely Richardson and Jason Isaacs and the prayers were lead by Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury. Music was performed by the BBC Symphony Orchestra, Welsh and French Bands and Choirs and by Gaelic singers.

Readings were in English, French and Gaelic by Members of the Royal Family, the British, Irish and South African Armed Forces, Sol Campbell, Francois Holland and David Cameron. Most poignant were readings of their last letters by some of the descendants of those who died.

The finale was a performance of George Butterworth's "The Banks of Green Willow". George fought that first day but survived, only to be killed in action a month later.

As the ceremony came to a close, David Cameron laid his hand written wreath. I followed him and read "Yours was the most horrific slaughter of a generation. We stand in awe of your sacrifice; determined that your legacy of liberty will live on forever". David was to stand down as Prime Minister 12 days later.

I laid the Bray Parish wreath at the Thiepval Memorial. There was a bit of a tussle as everyone tried to ensure that their wreath wasn't hidden but I can confirm that ours was prominently displayed.

Then I looked up from the wreath, at the Memorial Wall panels where is recorded the names of more than 72,000 British Somme casualties with no known grave. And I saw Arthur Pharo's name. I gave a tiny wave and said a silent prayer to reassure him and the others who had died that they and the sacrifice that they had made, had not been forgotten by the people of Bray Parish.

Cllr. Sandra Kiely

### Christmas Opening Hours

Please note that the Parish Office will be closed from 12:30 Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> December and will re-open on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2017.



## St Michael's Church



For several years the Church Council has been concerned at the standard of toilets provided for the congregation and visitors, especially those attending the many weddings, baptisms and funerals at St Michael's. In particular, it was felt that we should now make proper arrangements for anyone who is disabled, which is not the case at present.

It was decided some time ago that this could only be achieved by demolishing the existing toilet block, and erecting a purpose-built replacement which meets all the required standards.

This has meant a lengthy period of planning and accumulation of funds including a grant from the Parish Council, for which we are most grateful. We are now ready to go ahead, and we hope to see building work start early in 2017.

Jim Tucker, Church Warden

## Braywood War Memorial Hall



The Braywood War Memorial Hall has recently received a grant from the Bray Parish Council of £3,000 towards the cost of new facilities.

The grant has enabled the hall to convert a large walk-in cupboard in the Jubilee Room into a toilet with wash basin and separate small kitchenette. These new facilities, along with a board room table seating up to 10 people, plus seating for another 20 people, provides an ideal meeting room. The meeting room has its own external entrance and can be used as a self-contained unit, separately let from the main hall. The new toilet and kitchenette will be, potentially, to the financial benefit of the Braywood War Memorial Hall.

Barbara Goodhew

## Allotment Plots

The Parish Council currently has some vacant plots at the Gays Lane site.

If you are interested in growing your own fruit and vegetables, please contact Jennifer Bailey at the Parish Office on 01628 777997 for further details.



## M4 Smart Motorway

As you will be aware from the National Press, the Development Consent Order for the M4 Smart Motorway was signed on 3<sup>rd</sup> September permitting Highways England to implement the M4 Smart Motorway.

Apart from the disruption caused to traffic on the M4, the main causes of concern to the Parish Council and local residents are; the Works Compound, the generated traffic, primarily through Holyport but also along the A308 and the environmental effects.

Planning Permission for the Works Compound 16/02080 was due to be decided by RBWM on 4<sup>th</sup> October, meaning that the Green Triangle between M4, A308 and A330 will be a quasi-industrial estate for at least 6 years.

Although The Highways Agency advised Councillor Walters that no lorry movements are planned for the A330 through Holyport, it is likely that there will be exacerbated congestion on the Braywick roundabout, Ascot Road and Holyport Road.

In response to a letter from the Parish Clerk, the Highways Agency has advised that the whole M4 will be surfaced in porous asphalt, which will provide significant tyre noise reduction but will not affect engine or wind noise. The barriers on the South of the M4 from north of Aysgarth Park to North of Court Close will increase in height from 2 metres high to 3.5 metres, although the barrier on the M4/A308 overbridge will remain at 2 metres but the barriers on the North side of the M4 will not change.

The compound is due to open in April 2017, with works west of J10 starting in January 2017. Works on the Ascot Road bridge will take place from April 2018 to November 2019. Verge works from J8/9 to J10 start in March/April 2017, central reservation works will commence October 2017 and commissioning finishes in September 2018. The verge works from J7 to J8/9 start in February 2020, central reservation works follow from November 2020 and commissioning is due to finish in September 2021.

If you have any queries regarding the M4 Smart Motorway, Councillor Peter Janikoun is the lead Member for this project.

## Keeping Bray Tidy

Following what has been a wet and very warm year, shrubs and hedges have grown at a rate not normally seen. Hopefully we will have a dry Autumn that will allow time for our gardens to be tidied for the winter. Can we please ask that you ensure that hedges and shrubs are cut back so they do not overhang public pathways or your neighbour's property?



## Appeal for Volunteers

We are incredibly grateful to our army of volunteers who deliver our Newsletters for us, enabling every home in the Parish to receive a copy without incurring huge costs for delivery. If you are able to give a few hours of your time each year to help with the deliveries, we would be most grateful. If you are able to help out, please contact the Clerk, Susan Cook who will be delighted to hear from you.



## Looking After our Assets

The Parish Council is pleased to see that the bus stop lay-by installed on the A308 at the junction with Holyport Road is working well. In the same area we are waiting for RBWM to commence work on the project to widen the carriageway under the A308 motorway bridge. We understand that work on this project cannot proceed until Virgin Media make modifications to their cables and equipment. An order has been placed by RBWM and we are waiting for this work to be carried out.

The mystery surrounding the strange wet patch on Holyport Green has been solved and remedial work carried out. The water company was convinced that they did not have any pipes in the area and therefore could not be responsible for the damp patch. The persistence of our clerk Susan Cook was eventually rewarded and a leaking water supply pipe found and subsequently repaired.

On the topic of water, work has been carried out on Holyport Pond to clear out the bulrushes and silt from the silt traps. This work had to be timed carefully as we needed good weather, low water and a lack of breeding wildlife. As we move into winter, the Land Management Working Group will be monitoring the condition of the pond with a view to preventing or at least limiting the flooding experienced in previous years.

New projects have included new seats and U shaped netting on equipment at the Springfield Park Play Area. All play areas, administered by Bray Parish Council, are inspected for safety at least once a month, but if you see anything that you think needs attention please contact the Parish Office.

In Bray, the fencing beside the Cut at Jubilee Field has been repaired and the trees and bushes cut back.

The Horse Bridge in Holyport is in need of remedial work and quotations are currently being obtained for its replacement.

If residents have any thoughts or suggestions on the maintenance of the various Parish assets, the Land Management Working Group can be contacted via the Parish Clerk at the Parish Office.

Cllr. Ken Elvin

## Holyport Green Conservation Area Maintenance Plan

Early in 2016 I proposed at the Bray Parish Council (BPC) Land Management Working Group that a detailed documented maintenance program should be created for Holyport Green, which was agreed. This would include the benches and the trees, all of which are owned by the Parish Council.



**Benches:** The benches had not been maintained for many years so quotes were obtained for them to be cleaned/jet washed, repaired if required and oiled thereby ensuring that they are in a maintainable condition and last for many more years. The quote for this work from [Guy@thetreehouse.co.uk](mailto:Guy@thetreehouse.co.uk), who also lives in the Parish, was taken to Main Council and approved in July 2016. Guy has, to date, completed 4 benches of which we have received many positive comments. The latest bench being worked on, at the time of writing this article, is the bench by Holyport pond. Some of the benches had been stained previously so it was agreed this should be removed so that the true beauty of the wood would be on show. The bench by the War Memorial was one of those where the stain previously applied was removed. It is anticipated that work will be completed on the remaining 2 benches by end of November 2016. Holyport Residents who wish to place a brass plaque in memoriam on any of the benches should contact the Clerk for further information.

**Trees:** Paul Cross, an Arboriculturist with RBWM's Tree Department, provided me with expert advice on how best to set up the maintenance programme for all the trees on Holyport Green. With this in place, quotations were sought and in July 2016 the R.Watts & Sons quotation was approved by BPC Main Council. Work commenced in September 2016 with the removal of dead branches and trees following approval from RBWM. The additional work i.e. crown lifting, limb reduction, etc, for the trees on the Green from Holyport pond up to the Horse bridge (on The George side of the road) requires planning permission and this is in the process of being applied for. The reason that planning permission is required is because Holyport Green is in the Holyport Village Conservation Area and therefore BPC requires planning permission to do further work on the trees. We anticipate this work, once approved, will commence in November 2016. In 2017 additional work will be spec'd and quoted for the trees from the Horse bridge up to Bartletts Lane/Ascot Road bridge and in 2018 quotes will be obtained for trees on the opposite side of Ascot Road.

If you have any queries on what you can and cannot do to trees in Conservation Areas please contact: [Trees@rbwm.gov.uk](mailto:Trees@rbwm.gov.uk). There is no cost for tree work planning applications in Conservation Areas as this process is in place to protect the trees. At this point it should also be noted that if you cut down a tree without planning permission RBWM can and will fine the owner. To find out if you live in a Conservation Area please visit our website at [www.brayparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.brayparishcouncil.gov.uk) click on the 'Parish Council' tab and you will see the link to the Holyport Conservation Areas Plan recently adopted in July 2016 and the Bray Conservation Areas Plan. If you have any problems or do not have access to a computer please do not hesitate to contact the Clerk.

Cllr. Louvaine Kneen

## Report from the Flood Warden

The Parish of Bray is situated on the flood plain of the River Thames. It has been occupied for thousands of years. Over time residents have benefited from among other things the defensive advantage of river islands, fishing, agriculture and transport. Along with these advantages there has always been the possibility of flooding. Local Place names reflect some of these things, for example Ferry Road and The Causeway.

Today our lives are not as directly connected to nature as they once were, but we forget at our peril that we do still live on a flood plain, and that now and again it will flood. In modern times the risk of river flooding has been reduced. Measures such as weirs to control the river itself, and extra water channels like The Cut and Jubilee River, help to move water through the area.

Perhaps more of a problem is flooding from surface water; this is not confined to areas adjacent to the Thames and is widespread within the Parish. Unfortunately many of the ditches and channels that were created in the past to help water run away have been neglected, or even vandalised, and no longer work as they once did. A walk through some of the lower lying areas of the Parish will soon bring this home to you.

Today we are likely to go for many years without a major flood, but one can still happen and we need to be aware of this fact. If you would like to know if your house or business is likely to be affected, a visit to the Environment Agency flood alert area maps is a first stop.

In the event of a flood, the emergency services will be stretched, so if you are in a position to help yourself, and have given some thought and planning as to what you would do, you will be much better prepared to mitigate any consequences. What would your escape route to higher ground be? Where would you go? Do you have supplies of food and water you could take with you? Is it possible to protect your home? If you are physically unable to move, is there someone who could help you? Do you know who you could ring for help?

Products are available to make homes more resistant to flooding. Airbrick covers and door protection strips can be purchased to help waterproof buildings. The Environment Agency has a Floodline number (0345 988 1188).

For most of the time living near water is pleasant and enjoyable, but remember that just occasionally it can turn into a nightmare. Best be prepared. Further advice can be obtained from your local Flood Warden via the Parish Council (01628 777997).

**John Harvey, Flood Warden**

### Answer to picture quiz—Page 1

Fifield House Farm, Oakley Green Rd



### New Assistant Clerk—Jennifer Bailey

When the vacancy for an Assistant Clerk became available I thought this would be a great opportunity to work for the community and was thrilled when I was offered the position.



The last eight months have been both exciting and challenging with so many different aspects of Parish work, from the planning meetings which I attend each month to looking after the allotments, tennis courts, cemetery and helping with the day to day running of the Parish Office.

I have met some wonderful people in the time I have been here including our Ward Councillors, the people who help maintain the areas and the residents who use our services.

I am looking forward to meeting more of you in the future.

### Bray Blooms 2016

On Monday 18th July two judges of the Regional Britain in Bloom Competition came to Bray Village Conservation Area - and liked what they saw there: the results of a community effort that presented an immaculately clean and tidy village full of flowers.

At the prize giving in Amersham on 15th September we received the good news of three awards for Bray's performance: A Gold Award (The RHS award for excellence), The Regional Horticultural Award for "choice and range of plants' their condition and display together with a strong colour theme" and an award as winner of the Small Village Category.

Strong community participation was perceived by the judges as underpinning the whole campaign. The village entry in the competition received financial support from Bray Parish Council, RBWM and some local businesses. Guides, Scouts, Brownies, the Pre-School, Jesus Hospital Almshouses and Braywick Nurseries joined with residents to achieve a remarkable success which was crowned by an invitation to represent the three counties region of Berks, Bucks and Oxon in the National Competition in 2017.



Now Bray is looking forward to launching another year of horticultural endeavour in our Regional and National bids for success in 2017.

**Margaret Pierce—Bray Enhancement Committee**

## Events Diary

Sun 13 <sup>th</sup> Nov 10:45am	Remembrance Sunday service	St Michael's Church
Sun 13 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Acts of Remembrance	
	Bray War Memorial 10:50am, Holyport War Memorial 12:00pm, Braywood War Memorial 3:00pm	
Sun 13 <sup>th</sup> Nov 3:00pm	Music at Bray - Recital to mark Remembrance Day	St Michael's Church
Sat 19 <sup>th</sup> Nov Evening	Charity Quiz for the Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation	Holyport Memorial Hall
Sun 27 <sup>th</sup> Nov All Day	Cats Rescue Xmas Sale	Holyport Memorial Hall
Sun 27 <sup>th</sup> Nov 6:30pm	Music & Readings for Advent	St Michael's Church
Sat 3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec 7:30pm	British Legion Christmas Concert	Holyport Memorial Hall
Sun 11 <sup>th</sup> Dec 3:00pm	Community Carol Concert	St Michael's Church
Fri 16 <sup>th</sup> Dec 6:30pm	Carols on the Green	Holyport Green
Sat 17 <sup>th</sup> Dec 4:00pm	Christingle Service	St Michael's Church
Sat 17 <sup>th</sup> Dec 6:00pm	Christmas Gathering Around the Christmas Tree	Fifield Village
Sun 18 <sup>th</sup> Dec 4:00pm	The Carol Service	St Michael's Church
Sat 24 <sup>th</sup> Dec 11:30pm	Christmas Eve, Midnight Mass	St Michael's Church
Sun 25 <sup>th</sup> Dec 10:00am	Christmas Day, All-age Eucharist	St Michael's Church
Tue 27 <sup>th</sup> Dec 12:00pm	Annual Christmas Village Walk around footpaths	Meeting at Fifield Inn
Tue 10 <sup>th</sup> & 24 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2:00pm	Darby & Joan Club	Holyport Memorial Hall

## "Carols on Holyport Green"

We will be having a Christmas tree with lights on the village green with choirs from the local church and schools on Friday 16th December.

Carols start at 6.30 - song sheets will be supplied

Please bring your own candle in a jar or other safe container and a wrapped Christmas gift for one of the following local charities, labelled with gender and age - which will then be placed under the Christmas tree on the Village Green

**Alzheimer & Dementia Support Maidenhead  
Sue Brett Foundation  
Family Friends**

Mulled wine, soft drinks, mince pies, warm sausage rolls or sausages will be available and you are invited to come along afterwards to the Jolly Gardener PH

*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,*

*The Parish Office, Moneyrow Green (to rear of Holyport Memorial Hall) Holyport, Berkshire SL6 2NA.*

*The Parish Office is open to the Public from 9:30am to 12:30pm Monday to Friday.*

**Telephone: 01628 777997, email:  
clerk@brayparishcouncil.gov.uk**

**Website: www.brayparishcouncil.gov.uk**

## Parish Council Meeting Dates 2017

Planning Meetings	Main Council Meetings
9 <sup>th</sup> January	16 <sup>th</sup> January
6 <sup>th</sup> February	27 <sup>th</sup> February
6 <sup>th</sup> March	
3 <sup>rd</sup> April	10 <sup>th</sup> April AEM *
8 <sup>th</sup> May	15 <sup>th</sup> May AGM
5 <sup>th</sup> June	19 <sup>th</sup> June

NB: All Parish Council meetings are held at Braywood War Memorial Hall and commence at 7:30pm. Agendas may be found on the Parish website at [www.brayparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.brayparishcouncil.gov.uk) or on the Parish noticeboards. \* Annual Electors Meeting

## Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead

### Councillors

#### Bray Ward

David Burbage - 01628 796322

David Coppinger - 07866 493272

Leo Walters - 01628 627927

#### Clewer North Ward

Hashim Bhatti - 07496 760370

John Collins - 07583 032674

Nicola Pryer - 01753 840307

#### Clewer South Ward

Michael Airey - 07809 243448

Edward Wilson - 07747 007913