



Autumn / Winter 2022/2023 Newsletter

Message from the Chairman

As we approach the end of another year, we find that a very dry summer has given way to an extremely wet autumn. The recent bad weather has taken its toll on some of the trees in the Parish. Most notably a large Cedar tree in the grounds of St Michaels in Bray. As much of the tree as possible has been removed by the parish council and a replacement Blue Cedar will soon be planted which will be funded jointly by the church and Bray Village Platinum Jubilee Volunteers.

This autumn saw the final appearance of Carters Steam Fair on Holyport Green. This annual event will be missed by our residents and brings an end to a tradition that has been a part of the Parish for many years.

On 22nd November this year the RBWM Council voted to adopt the East Berkshire Minerals and Waste plan that has been compiled by Hampshire County Council officers on behalf of the unitary authorities in our area. The adopted plan is available to view on the web and can be accessed using the title Minerals & Waste Plan via the RBWM website.

Currently the Parish council is undertaking improvement work to the allotments in Gays Lane. A second vehicle gate is being erected to give better access. This will facilitate the removal of accumulated waste from the area and will allow for the provision of a further two, or perhaps three allotment plots that can be made available to our residents.

The Remembrance Sunday services at our three outdoor memorials were well attended and Parish Councillors laid wreaths. Our thanks go to Simone Surveys who managed the relevant road closures free of charge. Wreaths were laid at the indoor memorial at Braywood on Remembrance Day at 11 am after the observation of the traditional two minutes silence.

The regular monthly inspection of Parish play areas has identified a few issues that are being rectified. A basket swing in Aysgarth Park has been replaced and uneven surfaces, caused by the summer dry weather, at the Jubilee Play Area will be dealt with.

The Borough Local Plan (BLP) seeks to considerably increase the number of dwellings in and adjacent to the Parish but is less than certain about how the infrastructure supports the increase in population. I would like to thank Cllr Suzanne Cross for accepting the leadership of the Parish Traffic and Highways Committee. Suzanne replaces Cllr Brian Millan who held this post prior to him resigning from the Parish Council this summer. I would like to thank Brian for his service to Bray Parish Council and wish him every success in the future. Initiatives started by Brian will, no doubt, be carried on by Suzanne.

Air quality has become a “hot topic” recently. Before the start of the Covid 19 pandemic your Parish Council started monitoring air quality at several junctions on our road network. The results for the last year now that traffic has got back to pre-pandemic levels has highlighted several areas of concern and the figures have been provided to RBWM to make the case for infrastructure improvement including reduced speed limits on a number of Parish roads. It is difficult to understand why a speed limit reduction on the A308 Windsor Road between Monkey Island Lane and Braywick is being resisted by RBWM when a similar road in Old Windsor A308 (Straight Road) is limited to 30 mph.

With the festive season soon to be upon us Bray Parish Council is once again providing Christmas trees at three locations in the parish – Braywood – Holyport Green – Fifield Open Space.

I wish all our residents a Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year.

Soon after the start of the New Year will be into the run up to the local elections for Parish and Borough Councillors to be held in May. I would like to encourage everybody to consider participating in the democratic process.

CLlr Ken Elvin – Chairman

Allotment Competition 2022

Despite the horticultural challenges 2022 has posed, Bray Parish Council pressed ahead with the annual allotment inspection which took place on Wednesday 20th of July. The Councillors spent time perusing the plots at the allotment sites at Bray and Gays Lane, judging each plot on overall usage of the land, whether they displayed a good variety of plants and ensuring they were free of weeds. After careful consideration the judges agreed unanimously and Bray Parish Council would like to extend our sincerest congratulations to Anne White & Zone Holmes of 12b Bray Allotments, and Denise Hancock of Plot 11, Gays Lane Allotments who were judged the winners of the 2022 Bray Parish Allotment Competition. Congratulations also to Alison Guilloud of plot 4 Gay's Lane who received the runner up prize for that site. All winners were presented with personalised, framed certificates, and the winners both received a £25 gift voucher for a local Garden Centre.



Miss Dawn Hampshire – Assistant Clerk

Goodgym

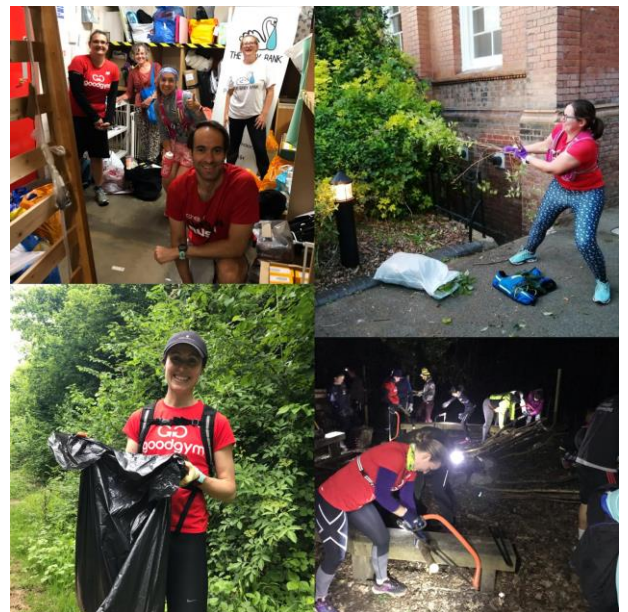
Bray Parish Council are delighted to announce that we have recently formed an affiliation with Goodgym, who have very generously offered their time to assist with various tasks and maintenance around the Parish.

GoodGym Windsor and Maidenhead are a friendly community, who combine volunteering with getting fit and being sociable. They help other charities and community projects with practical tasks, including everything from painting school fences, to planting trees in parks, sorting donations for refugees and distributing leaflets. They also help isolated older people by doing social visits and helping with jobs around the home like changing light bulbs or tidying gardens.

The 'getting fit' part of GoodGym is not only that tasks like digging or shifting things can provide a great workout, but also that members are encouraged to use the power of their legs to get to the task location, by walking, running, or cycling.

Members also benefit mentally, not only from the sense of achievement and satisfaction associated with volunteering, but also through connecting socially with a diverse and welcoming group, and through getting to know their local area.

To join GoodGym, there is no minimum time commitment, fitness level or payment required. Everyone is welcome. GoodGym have a meet up, walk or run and task every Wednesday evening, plus other ad hoc sessions at other times during the week and at weekends. You can find out more and register by visiting GoodGym.org.



Miss Dawn Hampshire – Assistant Clerk



Autumn / Winter 2022/2023 Newsletter

Proposed Film Studios – Holyport/Fifield

Further information following on from the communication sent in October 2022 by the Developer to residents regarding the proposed Film Studios on Stroud Farm farmland.

At going to press with this newsletter we are still awaiting the release of the planning application, which the Developer advised that they expected to be at end of November 2022.

Once the application has been validated by RBWM and released onto RBWM's public website, Bray Parish Council will then be able to confirm the date of a public meeting where all residents will be welcome to attend. At the Bray Parish Council meeting the Developer will also be invited to present their application.

As soon as we have more information, Bray Parish Council will share the date of the public meeting via Twitter and Facebook, and we also will inform Bray Parish Residents Associations.

If you have any queries in the interim, please contact Bray Parish Council Office or your Bray Parish Council Ward Councillor.

Cllr Louvaine Kneen - Holyport Ward

Basic Life Support Training Session



BASIC LIFE SUPPORT FIRST AID

On Sunday 5th February 2023 at 10:30am, John Poynter has very kindly offered to deliver a Basic Life Support Training Course to any Residents of Bray and members of the public who would like to attend.

It will be held at Braywood Memorial Hall from 10:30 am and run for approximately two hours. There is limited availability so if you would like to attend may we please ask for you to contact the office at your earliest convenience to register your interest and secure a place on the course.

Bray Parish Council

01628 777997

clerk@brayparishcouncil.gov.uk

assistantclerk@brayparishcouncil.gov.uk

A new book on Bray Village

“A Brief Guide to Historic Bray – A Stroll around the Village” has just been published to raise funds for The Friends of St Michael’s. Its 60 pages are packed with information about and Photos of the listed buildings and includes detailed directions for those wishing to take the stroll. Encompassing the Bray Conservation Area, it also extends down Old Mill Lane to Monkey Island. With anecdotes from long-time residents and material on Natural Bray and Early History, it is a different take on our beautiful village.

Copies priced at £10 may be purchased from Bray Hair Studio, St Michael’s Church or by emailing julie.graham@brayclose.com or by calling 01628 778054.

A Brief Guide to
Historic Bray - A Stroll
Around the Village
Julie Graham



Traffic & Highways

With the adoption of the Borough Local Plan in February, the RBWM has given approval for the building of a forecasted 3,150 residential dwellings in, or adjacent to, Bray Parish. These additional buildings will naturally result in increasing traffic volumes. More traffic equates to additional air pollution, a potential for heavier, larger vehicles, an increase in the volume of speeding vehicles and the knock-on impact to safety of residents and visitors to our road network.

As a Parish Council, the Traffic and Highways Committee already monitor traffic hot spots for air quality and given the concerning results, we are committed to continuing to do so. We will be extending this monitoring to 3 additional areas: the junction of Holyport Road / Stroud Farm Road by Londis, adjacent to Thames Valley Hospice and adjacent to the ‘Bray Throat’ (where the traffic goes into a single file in the centre of Bray Village.). The output from these air quality monitoring tubes is sent to specialists in Kent University who provide reports back to the council on the short- and long-term implications to both human health and the environment. We are also encouraged that RBWM will now be extending their single AQMA (Air Quality Management Area) in the Borough to additional sites so more air quality data points can be produced. Also, Bray Parish Council are delighted to continue to engage the expert help from Thomas Wrigley, to help further analyse the data and provide unbiased feedback.

Where can you help? If like me you want to help preserve the Green belt, mitigate urban sprawl and the additional traffic on our already congested highways, keep our residents safe on our roads from speeding vehicles and additional HGV’s, especially where there is already a 7.5tonne limit, minimise additional air pollution and maintain our quiet enjoyment and peaceful living environment where possible, here are 4 things you could do:

Get involved! I am delighted to be working with several residents’ associations and community groups who care passionately about the volume and speed of traffic across the highways in our Parish and the environmental impact this is having. Groups such as the Bray Traffic Action Group (BTAG), Oakley Green and Fifield Residents Association (OGAFRA) and Oakley Green and Fifield Community Association (OGFCA) provide a strong voice for all residents that are impacted across the villages and hamlets that they represent. In addition, we encourage your involvement



Autumn / Winter 2022/2023 Newsletter

in forming Community Speed watch groups if you have areas on your roads where you perceive speeding to be an issue and where you want to help improve road safety. Thames Valley Police can provide local groups with equipment and training to monitor speeding in your area. We know that the RBWM want to make data driven decisions when it comes to traffic improvements, so the more data we as residents can collate for them, the better.

Slow down! By slowing down, and driving more economically, you can not only potentially avoid accidents and keep the roads safer, but you can also save money and reduce your impact on the environment! This is underpinned by many studies, and, in these times of austerity, who does not want to save money and the planet! Simple measures such as reading the road and avoiding accelerating fast and then breaking hard, not only avoids wearing out tyres and brake pads it will also avoid adding additional particle pollution to our air – empirical data shows that this has relevance with electric vehicles too.

Walk, cycle, and use public transport where you can and are able to! We live in such a beautiful part of England and many of us relish our green open spaces, countryside, wildlife, hedgerows, architecture – all on our doorstep.

Ensure your voice is heard! Talk to us, your Parish Councillors, and your RBWM Borough Councillors. Help us to continue to understand how our RBWM Borough Councillors intend to support us, understand their efforts to date, and how will they propose to improve matters in the future, given the proposed developments across the Parish which can only negatively impact our already congested roads. After all, all planning applications will be decided by RBWM.

If you would like any more details on the above, or to discuss any traffic issues in general, please contact me initially via email Suzanne.Cross@BrayParishCouncil.Gov.UK

Cllr Suzanne Cross – Chair BPC Traffic & Highways Committee

Bray Garden Club

Sharing a love of gardens and growing, Bray Garden Club meets every last Thursday of the month in Bray Village Hall Bar for drinks and discussion. We're a very friendly and relaxed group, and there's no fees or commitment to attend regularly, just the pleasure of spending time with likeminded neighbours. Mainly we chat about our own gardens, tips, and experience, which varies from beginners planting up a patio pot for the first time, to fantastically productive allotmenters, and everything in between. We've only been going since the spring of this year, but we've already provided some gardening support for Bray village by planting containers in community spaces, clearing paths of weeds and stinging nettles and cutting back over hanging shrubs to make wandering footpaths safe and enjoyable to navigate.

Some of our members have opened their gardens during the Maidenhead Open Gardens event this year, and others aspire to taking part in future years. Bray has an incredible legacy of Britain in Bloom wins behind us, and it would be nice to think that at some point in the future we can muster enough of our community to enter again. In the meantime, we will continue to undertake small gardening projects through-out the village, to make our shared spaces both beautiful and environmentally friendly.

If you have an idea for a community project or know of someone in Bray who is struggling with their own garden, let us know and we discuss how we might lend a hand.

We would love to see anyone interested in gardening and horticulture at our next gathering - please contact Clare Stuart-Adams on 07894 146028 or email at csap@me.com.

Facebook Group: Bray Garden Club

St Michaels Church

“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it” John 1.5

Dear Friends,

Amid all the difficulty and distress of our current times, there is something about Christmas that still brings comfort and joy; we may not be able to see it clearly but if we pause, take a deep breath, and remember “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it” then we get in touch with the deeper sense of what Christmas is about.

When other things are taken away, it does make space to become aware afresh of the deeper truths that underpin Christmas. Peace and good will to all, the message of salvation; forgiveness, and healing, “light shining in the darkness, and the darkness not overcoming it.”

Perhaps the well-known Christmas Carols sums it up...

“Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.” *Charles Wesley*

So, I wish you a very happy Christmas, may it hold even more meaning this year.

Ainsley - The Revd. Ainsley Swift, Vicar of Bray

St Michael's Church Bray Advent & Christmas Services 2022



27 November 6.30pm	Advent Carol Service	In church and on Zoom
10 December 4.00pm	Christingle	In church only
11 December 3.00pm	Community Christmas Concert	In church only
18 December 4.00pm	Carol Service	In church and on Zoom
24 December 11.30pm	Midnight Mass	In church and on Zoom
25 December 8.00am	Christmas Communion Service	In church only
25 December 10.00am	Christmas Communion Service	In church and on Zoom

Website - www.braystmichaels.co.uk

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/913700205404382/>

In Touch-Online/Newsletter

<https://padlet.com/richarddb7/sgapkcnbuxrc>

Church Office - [01628 633113](tel:01628633113)

Bray Tennis Court Hire & Allotment Availability



Allotment Plots Available

Bray Parish Council have Allotment plots available for rental by new tenants at both Bray & Gays Lane Allotment Sites at a cost of £8.00 per 25m square (pricing for 2022-2023 and subject to annual review).

Please contact the Parish Office to discuss further.

Braywood Memorial Hall
Fifield Road
SL6 2NX
Tel: 01628 777997
Email: clerk@brayparishcouncil.gov.uk
Website: www.brayparishcouncil.gov.uk
Twitter: @parishbray



Tennis Court Hire

Bray Parish Council Tennis Court is available for hire at Jubilee Field for £6 per hour.

Please contact the Parish Office to make a booking.

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Twitter: @parishbray

Report It

RBWM as the Local Authority are responsible amongst other services for Roads and Pavements, Waste, Environmental Services, and Leisure.

If you have any problems with potholes, flooding, fly tipping, litter, graffiti, missed bins, problems with smoke or noise, then it can be reported online at <https://www.rbwm.gov.uk/report-it>.

Reports made to RBWM this way are consolidated to show where there are particular problems within the area and help to provide data on further works that may be required. We have been asked to encourage residents to use this method of reporting problems to RBWM.

Ms Esther Cope - Clerk

Meeting Dates

Dates for meetings may be found on the website at <https://brayparishcouncil.gov.uk/calendar/>

Ward Councillor Contact Details

S Cross	suzanne.cross@brayparishcouncil.gov.uk
K Elvin	ken.elvin@brayparishcouncil.gov.uk
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M Pierce	01628 622289
L Walters	01628 627967
D Wilson	derek.wilson@brayparishcouncil.gov.uk

Where is this?



This Memorial can be found in the Parish – do you know where?