A Message from Our Chairman

Since our last publication there have been a number of changes at the Parish Council. The elections in May last year changed the composition of the Council. Nick Pellew, Derek Mellor, Kenny Gallagher and Helen Howard did not seek re-election: Steve Adams was not elected in the Bray Ward and Andrew Monks not elected in the Holyport Ward. We thank all these Councillors for their service. Steve Adams has moved on to be Chairman of the Bray Parish Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. The plan itself is nearing completion and we at the Parish Council look forward to seeing the finished document.

As we lose Councillors new ones come in to take their place and we welcome Sandra Kiely and David Burbage representing Bray Ward, Barbara Bou-Sreih and Simon Dudley in Holyport, Julie-Anne Glover in Alexander and Nikki Marsh in Oakley Green and Fifield. We wish these new members every success in their time as Parish Councillors. Contact details for all Councillors appear in this newsletter.

Last autumn our Parish Clerk, Janice Eden-Bagley, relocated with her husband back to Northumberland where they intend to open a coffee shop, so if on your travels you find yourself in Whitley Bay, do pop in to Eden’s Café (203 Park View NE26 3DR) for a tea and a cake. Janice served this Parish well for six years and we wish her and Rob every success with their new venture.

Susan Cook, Janice’s replacement, started towards the end of last year and by the time this newsletter is distributed another new recruit, Jennifer Bailey, will have taken up the position of part time Assistant Clerk. If you are in the vicinity of the Parish Office, do drop by and say hello. The office is open to the public from 9-30 am to 12-30 pm Monday to Friday.

Clive Dent our Community Warden is transferring to Maidenhead and being replaced by Rob Noble. Clive and his bicycle were a familiar sight around the Parish and we thank him for the good work he did during his time with us. We welcome back Rob, as you will remember he did the job for us before Clive.

Well that is just about the end of the list of changes at Bray Parish Council. Details of our other activities can be found in the body of this newsletter which I hope makes an entertaining and informative read.

Ken Elvin - Chairman

All change at Holyport Post Office

As you may all know Shashi and Kiran Vij recently retired after 35 years running the Holyport Post Office.

Shashi has lived in Maidenhead since 1965, while Kiran arrived in 1974. They were married at the Registry Office in the town that year. They both then worked at Vandervells in Slough, Shashi in the accounts department and Kiran as an industrial chemist.

An advert appeared in the local paper for people to take over the Holyport Post Office and they decided that this was what they wanted to do. They duly took over and moved into the flat above.

They have been a huge part of the community ever since. All three of their children went to Holyport School and their granddaughter, Kyra, now goes there too (she was crowned Mini Miss Holyport in 2012). They gave out prizes at the Holyport Village Show in 2010 and in 2004 won an award for the best Post Office in the South East Region.

We will all miss them and wish them every happiness in their retirement.

Nikki Marsh
Bray Parish Men who died in 1916 in WW1 Battles

The Bray Parish War Memorials commemorate 19 men who died in 1916. Of these, 12 were Bray Parish men who died in WW1 battles and the 100th Anniversaries of their deaths are commemorated this year.

- 6 men of the Parish died in the Battles of the Somme.
  - Arthur Pharo of Moneyrow Green, Holyport died on 1st July 1916, one of the 20,000 British Troops who died on the first day of the battle.
  - Cecil Gold of Hazlebank and Bray Lawn in Bray died on 3rd July 1916.
  - Harry Austin of Oakley Green died on 14th July 1916.
  - Thomas Knight of Fifield died on 15th July 1916.
  - Frederick Bird of Sturt Green, Holyport died on 14th August 1916.
  - William Tagg of Long Lane, Holyport died on 16th September 1916.
- John Fry of Holyport Green and Victor Wooster of 2, Sunflower Cottages, Bray Village were serving in the Royal Navy on H.M.S Queen Mary. Both died on 31st May 1916 in the Battle of Jutland.
- Bernard Stannett of Moneyrow Green was injured in France in early 1916 and brought home to a British military hospital where he later died on 2nd July 1916.
- Arthur Clifford of Long lane, Holyport died on 7th July 1916 in Mesopotamia.
- Cecil Halfacre of Touchen End died in Greece on 19th October 1916.
- William Galloway of the White Hart Inn, Fifield died in Le Havre, France on 28th October 1916.

If anyone would like to know more about the listed men or others, please email me on sandra.kiely@orange.net

Sandra Kiely

Looking after our Assets

There have been a number of projects associated with the A308 completed since our last publication. The Parish Council in co-operation with RBWM have installed a bus lay-by at the end of Holyport Road next to the mini roundabout. This will allow the bus to pull in and so not restrict the flow of traffic. The bus stop itself and the new shelter have been repositioned so that it is much easier for the approaching bus driver to see potential passengers. The old shelter has been erected in Stroud Farm Road at the site of the Reeve Road bus stop.

Staying with the A308, a traffic light controlled pedestrian crossing has been installed by the shops at the end of Tithe Barn Drive. The traffic lights are a requirement for crossings installed on roads subject to a speed limit greater than 30 mph.

You will have seen in recent reports by the Maidenhead Advertiser that the Parish Council is working with RBWM Highways Department to make improvements to the carriageway under the M4 Bridge. The aim is to improve the flow of traffic at the A308/Holyport Road/Upper Bray Road junction and so reduce congestion and pollution.

Work is under way to replace the lamppost on Holyport Green demolished in a road accident.

The Parish Council is keeping a close eye on Holyport Pond with a view to preventing or at least limiting the flooding experienced last year in the area. RBWM have cleared the road drains and an order has been placed by Bray Parish Council to clean out the silt traps. This work was planned for January but has been delayed due to the inclement weather.

In Bray, significant improvements have been made to the Jubilee Field fencing and the Jesus Hospital bus stop.

The bus shelter on the Oakley Green Road near the junction with Fifield Road is in need of improvement and quotes are being obtained for the replacement of the Perspex siding.

Two Fifield Councillors are working on the landscaping scheme for the land at the end of Manor Grove and it is anticipated that this work will be started this summer.

Things move slowly on the project to make improvements to the trees surrounding Holyport Green. As previously indicated, it is quite a task and the more we look into it the bigger it gets. This type of work in a Conservation Area must be approved by RBWM and a detailed specification will be prepared this spring so that consent can be obtained.

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

Fifield Fun Day

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

The Fifield Fun Day is a very popular annual charity event and it would be very sad if we were unable to hold it again, but we need more help. There is a certain amount of moving tables, chairs, gazebos and straw bales, but it’s not all heavy work; Loo signs, banners, road signs, parking cones and bunting all take time to put up and, whilst we do have a merry band of willing volunteers (for whom we are truly grateful), we really need some more!

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

Anything you can do would be appreciated. Many thanks in advance.
**Newsletter Deliverers - needed please!**

Thank you once again to our fantastic Team of volunteer deliverers who bring this Newsletter to you a couple of times a year. This helps us to keep our costs (and therefore your Council Tax) down. But we are struggling to recruit replacements for those who have given their time over the years and "retired" or moved on in the past year.

We are currently looking for Deliverers for:- Ascot Rd, Bartletts Lane, Beaufort Place, Dairy Court, Forest Green Road, Gays Lane, Hayes Close, Holyport Road, Huxtable Gardens, Ivy Close, Lindores Rd, Long Lane, Lyngfield Park, New Road, Oakley Gardens, Paley Street, Philbers Lodge, Reeve Road, The Fieldings, Willow Drive, Winbury Place and Windsor Road.

If you feel you would like to “do your bit”, providing a Service to the local Community and join the Team, please contact the Clerk at the Parish Office to volunteer.

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**Holyport Village Fair**

“Saturday 7th June 1947. The very first Holyport Village Fair raised £100 and was a success in spite of rain.” .. so read the headline in the Maidenhead Advertiser on 13th June 1947. The report went onto say:

“The fair held on Holyport Green last Saturday in aid of the Holyport War Memorial Fund was a great success in spite of the rain which fell during the afternoon. A total of about £100 was realized, and included a gift of £20 donated by the “Cricketer’s” Benevolent Fund”.

It seems the White Waltham Working Men’s Club won the Tug-o-War and of the 51 entries for the darts competition the “Thatched Cottage” Embrook “A” team won and our own “Bricklayers Arms Stud Green “B” team were runners up. I do believe the Thatched Cottage in Wokingham is still a public house, whereas our Bricklayers Arms is now a private home.

The 1947 fair must have been a very different affair to the 70th one we are about to celebrate on Saturday 4th June 2016. I hope we can re-create some atmosphere and events from that time. We are gearing up for a bumper celebration – Are we unique? - There surely cannot be very many village fairs who are able to boast a 70 year past?

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**New Clerk - Susan Cook**

It has been an interesting three months since I started working for Bray Parish Council as the Clerk and the time has flown by. I am gradually getting to know the different areas of the Parish and am very much enjoying meeting other people involved with the Parish, not just the Councillors, but also the people who cut the grass, maintain the graveyard, deliver the newsletters as well as those who have lived in the Parish for a long time and who have the interests of all who live here at heart. I look forward to meeting more of you over the coming months.

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**2016/2017 Budget**

The main source of Income for Bray Parish Council is the Parish Precept which is collected by RBWM as part of the Council Tax.

Small additional amounts of income are received from the Allotments in Bray and Holyport, the Tennis Court in Jubilee Field, Bray and from Burials at the Cemetery on the Windsor Road. We also receive interest on the reserves held by the Parish Council and money from grants that are available to the Parish Council.

Our budget for 2016/17 is £182,185 and the Pie Chart shows the planned expenditure for the year. To meet these costs an increase in the Precept of £4,089 to £140,402 has been agreed by the Council. The difference between the Precept and the Budget will be made up from the additional income and a reduction in the reserves held by the Council.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenditure</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>£7,950.00</td>
<td>Grass Cutting</td>
<td>£29,017.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Salaries</td>
<td>£53,713.00</td>
<td>Street Lighting</td>
<td>£5,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office Costs</td>
<td>£31,791.00</td>
<td>Amenities</td>
<td>£16,200.00</td>
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<td>Land Management</td>
<td>£31,554.00</td>
<td>Transport</td>
<td>£6,959.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>£182,185.00</strong></td>
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NB: Transport includes; Bus Shelters, Car Parks and traffic management.
Amenities include; Allotments; Play Areas, Tennis Courts and the Cemetery and Churchyard.
Administration includes; office rent, utility costs, insurance, telephone, consumables and audit fees.

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Maz Coppinger  
New Clerk - Susan Cook  
It has been an interesting three months since I started working for Bray Parish Council as the Clerk and the time has flown by. I am gradually getting to know the different areas of the Parish and am very much enjoying meeting other people involved with the Parish, not just the Councillors, but also the people who cut the grass, maintain the graveyard, deliver the newsletters as well as those who have lived in the Parish for a long time and who have the interests of all who live here at heart. I look forward to meeting more of you over the coming months.
Boys and Girls Cricket in Bray Parish

We are lucky in Bray Parish in having 2 Cricket Clubs with very successful Junior Sections offering cricket coaching to boys and girls from the age of 6. Children learn cricket skills in a fun and safe environment, play friendly and league matches and enter competitions. Coaches are all professionally qualified, CRB checked and very experienced in coaching children. The new season starts in April and both clubs will be registering new members, (who don’t have to be resident in the Parish). Children need to attend wearing comfortable clothes and trainers. No other equipment is required as this is provided by the clubs.

If your child isn’t sure whether they would like cricket, both clubs are happy for children to attend a few tester sessions before making any commitment. Braywood Cricket Club (www.braywoodcricketclub.hitscricket.com) in Oakley Green offers coaching for boys and girls on Sunday mornings and prides itself on its friendly family atmosphere. Maidenhead and Bray Cricket Club in Bray Village www.mandbcc.co.uk offers coaching after school. One evening is dedicated to girl’s cricket. The other weekday evenings are dedicated to boys cricket and organized by age group and experience. So, if you know any children who would like to join, look at the websites which will tell you much more about their Junior Sections and the registration details for the new season.

Community Warden

I cycle as much as I can around the Parish. This allows me to fulfil a number of functions of putting in a visible presence and meeting as many residents as I can. I patrol around the anti social hot spots and will report anything suspicious to the police. I have reported abandoned vehicles to our parking team who have notified the vehicle owner to move the illegal vehicle off the highway. I have visited a number of elderly residents and with my removal kit, I was able to remove the graffiti within 24 hours. When I have a warden vehicle, if I come across litter or small amount of fly tipping, I will stop and remove the rubbish.

Clive Dent, Community Warden, Maidenhead Town Centre
Tel: 01628 685636, Mob: 07855 517295

Bray Parish Neighbourhood Plan

Work first started on the Bray Parish Neighbourhood Plan some five years ago and it is now nearing completion. It has been a juggling act to ensure that the policies contained within the plan reflect the views and wishes of those living in the Parish, but these need to be legally enforceable, so an independent examiner has worked with the Steering Group to ensure that the plan meets the relevant legislation and regulations.

Following a final workshop in March, the Plan will be submitted to an Independent Inspector for approval; there will then follow two consultation periods after which the plan will be subject to a local referendum. We expect the referendum to take place during the late summer, early autumn period and we encourage all those eligible to vote.

Once the Neighbourhood Plan is brought into legal force, decisions made by RBWM on any planning application will need to take this plan into account and it will have precedence over existing non-strategic policies. This plan gives our community a real and lasting tool to influence the future of our neighbourhood.

Steve Adams, Steering Group Chairman, Bray Parish Neighbourhood Plan

The Smart Motorway is Coming

Some time ago it was announced by the Highways Agency that the M4 from Heathrow (Junction 3) to Reading (Junction 12) will be converted into a Smart Motorway and this £862 million project would take five years. Smart motorway conversion work has already been carried out on parts of the M3, M6 and M1. On a smart motorway there is improved lane signalling, variable speed limits and the hard shoulder is available as a running lane. In this Parish, the requirement for the hard shoulder running lane will mean that two motorway bridges will need to be demolished and rebuilt. The stated intention is to build a new A330 bridge adjacent to the existing one over the M4 and divert the Ascot Road on to the new bridge when it is completed. The Monkey Island Lane Bridge will also be replaced under the scheme.

The construction work on this project will almost certainly affect traffic flows in the area and Bray Parish Council will continue liaise with the Royal Borough to ensure traffic disruption is kept to a minimum.

Cllr. Ken Elvin

Fisheries Boundary Review update

In April 2015, the Council received a valid petition from the required number of local government electors in Bray Parish calling for the area known as The Fisheries to be incorporated into the existing Parish of Bray. The Council is therefore required to conduct a Community Governance Review in accordance with the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

At the 15th December RBWM full Council Meeting, Councillors approved the decision to publish the Terms of Reference, so that the review can officially commence and follow the timetable set out. As part of the review, the Council will need to consider whether these changes should or should not come into effect for the next Parish Elections in May 2019. The review must be concluded within twelve months of publishing the Terms of Reference.

Cllr. Michael Airey

Sandra Kiely

Community Warden

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Tel: 01628 685636, Mob: 07855 517295
Grants and Awards

The following Grants and Awards were made during 2015.

* Bray Enhancement Committee £2,200.00
* Maidenhead Sports Club £1,713.80
* Holyport Derby & Joan Club £750.00
* Braywood Memorial Hall £1,000.00
* Berkshire Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre £240.00
* Berkshire County Blind Society £200.00
* Fifield Fun Day Application £500.00
* Braywood Cricket Club up to £3,000.00
* Berkshire Vision £60.00

If you would like to make an application for a Grant, please contact Susan Cook, the Parish Clerk for an application form.

July 2015 saw Bray Village Conservation Area present to the Judges of the Regional Britain in Bloom competition, an entry which they found “a feast for the eyes” through the “abundance and vibrancy” of its floral displays. The Village Victory campaign leading to an R.H.S Gold Award was headed up by the Bray Village Enhancement Committee, but included Brownies, Guides, Scouts, school and pre-school children and enthusiastic residents who weeded, planted bulbs, picked up litter and patronised the Plant Sale in May. This helps to fund the entry. Businesses in the Village all did their bit. Bray Parish Council and RBWM Council backed the Village financially as did some generous local Sponsors. “Community Spirit” was evident to the Judges and the Village was praised for being clean and litter free.

Bray will enter the Competition again this year with high hopes and a determination to foster the loyalty and friendship which mutual endeavour generates.

The chosen colour scheme for 2016 is lavender, burgundy, pink and white.

Music at Bray

Music at Bray staged its first Community Christmas Concert in the Parish Church on 6 December, when a large audience was entertained to a selection of seasonal pieces. The afternoon featured a reprise of St Michael’s Community Choir, with over 30 people of varying musical experience. There were also soloists, a Community Orchestra and favourite carols which had everyone joining in.

After very successful productions including Noye’s Fludde and The Little Sweep, we are staging another children’s opera on Sunday 13 March, Malcolm Williamson’s The Happy Prince. This musical adaptation of the short story by Oscar Wilde will be performed in church at 4.30pm and 7.00pm, lasting around 45 minutes and is being sponsored by Windsor Festival. Tickets are £10, £5 for juniors and can be ordered by ringing 01628 633113.

Then we return to our regular recitals on 10 April, when we welcome Fabricio Mattos and his solo guitar, with a selection from his new recording of Brazilian and Italian music.

Local Wildlife Trust

The Wildlife Trust education centre is located in Cherry Garden Lane, Maidenhead and runs a number of talks throughout the year. Recent examples were:

Thursday 17 March at 7.30pm - What’s New in Tree Protection? A talk by Dr Glynn Percival, international tree management expert. Practical options to address and control pests and diseases, such as horse chestnut leaf miner and ash die back and the ongoing work on this at Kew Gardens and Buckingham Palace.

Saturday 19 March at 10.00am. Nature under the microscope - For adults and children 11+. Small is Beautiful, and very, very interesting! The microscopes were out and the whole site was available to gather materials from ponds, woodland and farmland. There were a range of interesting exhibits to examine and experts on hand to help with identification.

Pre-booking for Events is essential. For more info on future events and online bookings, visit our website www.bbowt.org.uk or contact us on Telephone 01635 874381, or Email daniellakam@bbowt.org.uk

Barbara Halstead
Wildlife Trust Publicity Committee Volunteer

The 7.5 tonne Restriction on the A330

In response to a number of accidents and near misses on the narrow part of the Ascot Road through Holyport, Bray Parish Council and the Royal Borough have worked to reinstate the lapsed weight restriction on the A330 between the Braywick Roundabout and the Drift Road junction. This restriction was implemented just before Christmas last year and it seems to be having the desired effect. Lorries over 7.5 tonnes are not allowed to pass through the area but deliveries using such vehicles inside the restricted zone are permitted.

Bray Parish Council will continue to monitor the effect of this change on traffic and the associated diversion in the Parish.

Cllr. Ken Elvin

Britain in Bloom 2015

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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, Susan Cook at 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