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Oakley Green, Fifield & District Community Association

Spring Newsletter

April 2020



www.ogafcap.co.uk

Welcome to the OGAFCA Spring newsletter...



...quieter skies but at what cost...

...garden fairies help to keep village green tidy ...



...explore your local walks...

...local bus service is under threat...



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

These are strange times. Not since the second World war has there been such a restriction on our liberty. We are confined to our homes, separated from our friends, our family, our loved ones. We cannot work, we cannot play. Our lives have been turned upside down.

But, on the upside we now have the time to do all those jobs that we have been putting off for some time. Our sheds and garages are being cleaned out, the house is getting a Spring clean and the garden is turning into a replica of Wisley! Our homes and gardens will be like palaces by the end of this!

And we are so lucky to live where we do. We are surrounded by the most beautiful countryside and it is riddled with footpaths so that we can safely walk without having to meet anyone else and fresh air and exercise is so important to our well-being. So, take the opportunity to get out and explore. I spoke to a lady the other day (from a safe distance) who has discovered paths she never knew existed and is trying a different walk every day. Most of us have gardens so if we cannot walk we can at least sit and drink in the Spring sunshine.

However, it is important to remember, that we may be isolating but we are not alone. If there is a silver lining to all of this, it is the amazing way that the community has come together offering help and support to those in need. We have seen great generosity and kindness and a genuine will to pull together to overcome these dark days. OGAFCA has gathered a team of volunteers who are all waiting, like coiled springs, to leap into action to help anyone that needs it, with shopping, collecting prescriptions, running errands or even a friendly phone call. Sometimes just the opportunity to talk to someone is invaluable. If you are in need of help in any way, please do not hesitate to get in touch. We are all out there ready and more than willing to do whatever is needed.

We have, obviously, cancelled our scheduled OGAFCA general meeting at the end of April and we have made the decision to delay the Open Gardens event (date to be confirmed) but we are keeping our social diary open. We will review the situation as we go along as none of us know how long the

**Please submit Summer Newsletter contributions
by Monday 22 June
via the web site or email to alison.j.brayshaw@gmail.com**

current restrictions will remain in force. There is no doubt that we will need something to look forward to when all this is over and we will find some way to celebrate.

Most importantly, take care of yourselves. Follow all the NHS guidelines. Only go out if you have to and keep a safe distance. We will come through this and be all the stronger for it.

Those of you who remember the old American series "Hill Street Blues" will recognise this quote;

"Let's be careful out there!"

Barbara Frame

OGAFCA Facebook page and Website

OGAFCA have now launched a Facebook page and we aim to keep this page up to date with all upcoming local events and news. During these troubled times information can be found to make life a little easier if you are self isolating. Please click the "**Like**" and "**Follow**" buttons on this page to keep up to date about what is happening in the community. This will not replace the newsletter of course but will let more people know what the Oakley Green, Fifield and District Community Association are up to and will provide regular updates.

We are also working on updating the website where users can search for much information concerning the work and activities of the Oakley Green and Fifield Community Association. We will eventually have a whole new look to the website but in the meantime we are regularly updating the website and have just added an online membership form so new members can join or current members can renew more easily. Subscriptions can also be paid online so do join online and be part of the community association.

Classes and bookings at Braywood Village Hall

Anyone interested in future bookings and ongoing classes at Braywood Village Hall can contact Nicola Marsh on **01628 782764** as she has the schedule at her fingertips!

At present the charges for the main hall per hour are £9.00 for local residents and £10.00 for anyone from outside our local area.

Fifield Fun Day 2020 - Sunday 9 August

Last year it was the unforeseen weather conditions which nearly ruined our Fifield Fun Day, but it still went ahead so we are keeping our fingers crossed that it will still go ahead this year despite another challenge. We will all be more ready to get out and have a fun day by August, so there are no plans at this stage to cancel and we will keep everyone informed by Facebook, WhatsApp, email and the Newsletter.



Fifield Fun Day Committee

OGAFCA Open Gardens Event - Postponed



This summer all being well, we will still be able to hold our planned "Open Gardens" event but at this stage we cannot obviously say when. .

As mentioned in our previous newsletter it is a joint fundraiser for OGAFCA and the Memorial Hall and we are planning to have at least a dozen local gardens to visit.

One up side of the current "stay at home" guidelines during the Covid-19 outbreak is that we will all have more time to spend gardening so if you can, make the most of the lovely weather and in the next issue we will update you on our plans. In the meantime, if you would like to open your garden for this fundraiser event please get in touch with us.

More news in the next newsletter.

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07811 953071 or via email: fifieldartgroup@gmail.com or adverts can
be submitted via the website www.ogafcap.co.uk

Local History: Braywood School

Braywood School was built in 1857 and funded by Elizabeth Van de Weyer, the wife of the Belgian Ambassador to the United Kingdom, who lived with her husband at nearby New Lodge.

The school was built for 140 pupils aged 5-14 years old. William Henry Malcolm was the Master and Mrs Elizabeth Malcolm was Mistress.

There were only 2 classrooms (with a curtain to divide them) where the current Year 3 and 4 classes are now. In the corner of the current year 4 classroom; just under the spiral staircase, was a door to the Master's house. This house is now a private residence and its driveway is next to Braywood school.

The local working community was made up mainly of farmers, farm bailiffs, jobbing gardeners, beer retailers (5 pubs in Fifield/Oakley Green at this time), blacksmith, wheelwright and cattle dealers.

By the 1940's Braywood School had 4 teachers. Mrs. Rendall who taught the 1st class in the current Year 1 classroom, Mrs. Darvill who taught the 2nd class in the current Year 4 classroom and the curtain divided this room where Mrs. Snow taught the 3rd class and Mr. Snow (Headmaster) taught the 4th class in the current Year 3 classroom. There was only an open fireplace which heated the whole school.

The classrooms had wooden desks with lids and ink wells. There were class monitors for ink, milk, stamps and cigarettes! Pupils would walk each lunchtime to the village hall in Fifield to get their lunch. The playground was at the front of the school, which is now used for staff parking.

School trips included visits to White Ladyes Poultry Farm on the Fifield Road or a visit to the Smithy opposite the school where pupils were allowed to pump the bellows.

Comments from past Braywood pupils:

David Embery remembers being a cigarette monitor for Mrs. Darvill, he had to walk across the road 3 times a week to the Prince of Wales pub (now



a private house called Finnegans) to collect her cigarettes. David remembers receiving a packet of candy cigarettes each month he was a monitor.

The pupil who got Mrs. Snow's cigarettes one month wasn't so lucky. He was a Barnados boy at New Lodge, which was a Barnados home for a few years from 1942. At the end of the month Mrs. Snow found her bill much higher than expected as the pupil had got himself a packet of cigarettes each visit!

Frank Turner commented that the stamp monitor would cycle from the school to the Post Office on the Oakley Green Road (which was next to the Red Lion Pub) to collect the school stamps. This was not a dangerous trip as there were only 3 buses and 2 cars an hour in those days! Punishments for naughty children included digging in Mr. Snow's garden. He remembers walking up Sparboro to play football with the Barnados boys at New Lodge. He clearly remembers how Mr. Snow was interested in sport as he played cricket for Braywood C.C. and encouraged pupils to participate in cricket and the running team. In fact the running team qualified for the 200 metres for the county sports at Bisham Abbey in the 1950's.

Dianne Walton wrote that she remembers walking to school each morning with the bell ringing to tell everyone that school was starting. They would meet in the front playground by the door in groups according to classroom and teachers. The toilets were wooden seats outside in the block behind the school, next to where the coke was stored for the fire to keep the school warm. Every child was given a small bottle of milk each day that was delivered to school. During the nice weather they would practise country dancing in the front playground and dressed up in costumes with big hats and then sit under the 3 big oak trees where they did crafts. On every May day they would dance around the maypole plaiting the ribbons.

Sue Wharton(Bowditch) wrote that teaching was very strict, and you had to stand in the corner facing away from the class if you were naughty. School was open in all weathers and if the road outside the school was flooded you had to take off your shoes and socks and wade through the flood. In the Summer they were treated to the outdoor swimming



baths in Maidenhead by coach, and in Spring and Autumn there were walks across the fields to the woods on the hill. If the headmaster ,Mr. Snow, passed you in his car you would have to stand still and salute him.

The current headmistress at Braywood School, Susan Calvert, is also inviting pupils to write about life as a more recently Braywood pupil and I hope to include some of their stories in the next magazine. If you have any additional memories of Braywood School not mentioned here please do get in touch so I can include them in my notes and future talks at the school.

Sarah Grace

Covid-19 has had a monumental effect on our lives - and on your village cricket club

As you are all aware all sport in the UK has been suspended, which includes grass roots cricket.

The clubhouse doors at Braywood Cricket Club are firmly closed, all training has been cancelled, and the grass is getting longer. Like many clubs and organisations, our cricket club needs membership subscriptions to cover costs to keep the grass and wicket maintained and pay for the rent and the upkeep of the pavilion so it doesn't become rundown during the shut down. However, without cricket we have no membership payments "Catch-22". Very testing times. We are asking members for their support.



As mentioned in previous newsletters, Braywood Cricket Club is celebrating Centenary this year, and we are hoping to hold a celebration on Saturday 5 September. At present, we are still preparing for the party (which we may all need by the end of Covid-19) however we will have to see where we all are in a few months. If it has to be postponed till the following season we will have to celebrate 101 years, which will give the younger members of the club and village a great story to tell future generations.

Hopefully a vaccination will be available for Covid-19 as soon as possible, and we can all get back to doing the things we love.

Stay safe.

Brett Carter - Braywood Cricket Club Chairman

Roads and Transport Update



We still wait with bated breath to see the official signs displayed to enforce the weight restriction on Oakley Green Road. Let us hope that the Coronavirus is not now an excuse not to do this.

Unfortunately, our Roads and Transport Group meeting had to be postponed due to the current situation and so our plans for another speed watch are also on hold.

16A Bus – this service is once again under threat.

We intend to fight this but we cannot do it without help. We achieved the lorry ban by collecting a body of evidence gathered from the community. Accident reports, damage to listed buildings, fears for safety etc. etc.

We need this evidence with respect to the bus service. We are told that nobody uses it. We need to know if you do use this bus, how often and why you need it? Also, if you would like to use it but cannot due to the vagaries of the timetable. It is vital that we have solid evidence in order to fight our corner. So, please, if you would like to save this bus service get in touch with us via the website, or stick a note through my letter-box, OGAFCA address details are inside the front cover of this newsletter. We look forward to hearing from you.

Roads and Transport Work Group

Covid-19: Stay safe and beware of fraud and scams

As we all start to live our everyday lives differently during this Covid-19 pandemic there is a great deal of uncertainty with closures of offices, clubs, community services and more people staying at home, working from home and self-isolating.

All this makes us all more vulnerable to scams and online fraud. So if you are asked for bank details, money or personal information, think before you act. Could it be fake? Contact your bank and report it to Action Fraud. Your bank or the police will **NEVER** ask you to transfer money or move it to a safe account.

It is easy to keep up to date with the latest scams and fraud advice in our area - just register with:

alert@neighbourhoodalert.co.uk

and receive regular emails sent out by Jeffrey Pick, Police, Community Engagement & Resilience Officer, Windsor & Maidenhead LPA.

Also for community information on community facilities and closures there is a Covid-19 advice page on the RBWM website:

https://www3.rbwm.gov.uk/info/200384/news_and_information_releases/1521/covid19_resident_and_business_update_page/2

We must all now stay at home to help our NHS and not forget the work our police, fire, military, carers, teachers, pharmacies, super markets and community services and many more key workers are doing to support us all.

OGAFCA have a team of volunteers able to help with your shopping or errands if you are self-isolating so if you need help please let us know via:

- **Website:** www.ogafca.co.uk
- **Email:** barbaraframe@btinternet.com
- **Phone:** 07831 485645

Volunteers are needed to help on OGAFCFA Work Groups. If you would like to get involved please do contact us through www.ogafcap.co.uk



CORONAVIRUS

Are you self-isolating and need help with shopping etc ?

During this worrying time it is very important for communities to stand together and support each other. As a Community Association we in **OGAFCA** would like to offer our help and support to anyone who may need it.

If you, or anyone you know, is having to self-isolate we would be happy to offer help with -

- shopping
- collecting prescriptions
- posting or collecting items
- any other necessary errands

Let us know if you think you need help -

website www.ogafcap.co.uk

email barbaraframe@btinternet.com

phone **07831 485645**

On the website there's a useful poster for you to print off and stick to your front door if you choose to.

Please also get in touch if you can volunteer to help us to do this.

Please look out for anyone you know to be elderly or vulnerable and alert us if you think they need our help.

Info on dealing with the virus can be found at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-51506729>

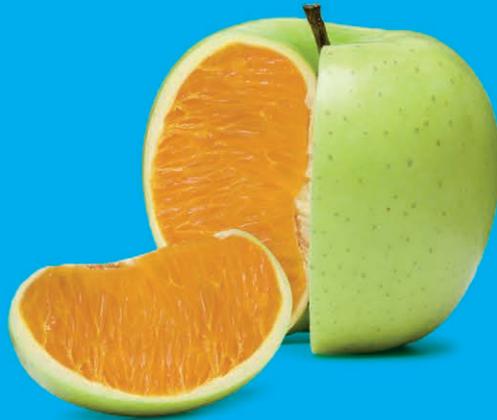
Keep safe and best wishes to you all,

OGAFCA Committee



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		YES <input type="checkbox"/> That's OK

I apply to become a Member of Oakley Green, Fifield and District Community Association Limited by Guarantee, subject to the provisions of the Articles of Association of the Company and to the Company's Rules. I agree to pay to the Company an amount of up to £1 if the Company is wound up while I am a Member or for up to 12 months after I have left the Company. I also agree to pay a subscription of £3 for one year, £5 for two years, or £10 for five years in accordance with the Company's Rules. Subscriptions are for the period 1 April to 31 March each year.

YES As a sign of my support and commitment my surname only may be included on a membership list available to the public

NO I do not want my surname to appear on a membership list

signature date

please tick the appropriate box after reading the notes below

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Notes

Only one subscription is payable per property

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When completed please return to
"Woodlands", Oakley Green Rd, Oakley Green, Windsor, SL4 4PZ

Membership - What's in it for me?

Back in our Autumn 2012 Newsletter, Rod Lord wrote ...

Just the other day someone asked "What do you get for being a member of the Community Association ?"

I considered this for a while as I didn't have an instant answer. There are after all no obvious immediate benefits to me as an individual. No free offers ... no special discounts ... no insider information ... no ... well, no anything really. The one thought that did surface was a now well-worn cliché that decades ago flowed from the pen of one of President Kennedy's speech writers ... "ask not what your country can do for you ... ask what you can do for your country."

Oh Please ! Not that old chestnut again. How pretentious and pompous is that in the context of Oakley Green, Fifield and District for goodness sake?

But then I thought ... actually that's not so far from making sense in our local community. The sentiment itself taken at its face value certainly has validity that should be applauded, but beyond that there's also a fair amount of self interest buried in the concept.

There are things that need doing, as revealed by The Survey in 2009, and most of these things don't get done by lone individuals. What makes suppliers of services, politicians and officials take notice is when groups ask questions and are not easily satisfied with platitudes. What gives these groups credibility is the size of their membership.

So membership is not about the size of an annual or bi-annual subscription, and it's not about any obvious benefit that isn't available to non-members. By paying a tiny subscription and adding my name to a list I am providing credibility to a pressure group that strives to achieve improvements to my community ... on my behalf.

So there's actually quite a lot in it for me.

And today, 8 years on, we continue to strive to achieve improvements such as the recent HGV ban and successful drainage projects. We can only fight these battles if we have a credible membership behind us. Any local Government department will gauge our level of influence on the number of residents that we represent and so a substantial membership is vital in order to get our voices heard. During these worrying times it is all the more important for us all to stick together. As a result of our Coronavirus leaflet drop which we printed and delivered by hand, we identified several people needing our help and also gathered a team of volunteers to deliver that help. But our members received that message directly from us a week sooner! That has to be a benefit! To join or renew its easy! Either

- *join or renew online by going to www.ogafcap.co.uk or*
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Bin collections will be fortnightly due to Covid-19

From Monday 6 April the council will be moving to fortnightly waste and recycling collections for residential properties following staff reductions due to the Covid-19 outbreak.

This means from Monday 6 April 2020 general waste (black bin) will be collected one week and recycling (blue bin) will be collected the following week but food waste collections will continue to be collected weekly. Your collection date will remain the same.

Those in properties where the bins are communal will continue to have all their waste and recycling collected weekly.

The RBWM will share more details on this, including which bin will be collected when in the coming days so residents should all be told. However if you are not sure go online to www3.rbwm.gov.uk for updates.



Views from the Flight Deck

One of the many consequences of the Coronavirus pandemic is that the aviation industry and airlines worldwide are going to take a massive hit and the amount of aircraft using all airports will be considerably reduced. This includes Heathrow of course. It is projected that even in two years from now the aircraft movements could still be down drastically from that of January 2020 by as much as 30%. If this is the case it seems unlikely now that the proposed third runway at Heathrow will be going ahead.

After much campaigning against aircraft noise and the proposed third runway, this may be a relief for many people in this area, fearful of the potential construction chaos and increase in aircraft noise the third runway would create.

However, many people working in the aviation business including the manufacturers and ancillary suppliers will sadly be affected. Boeing may not survive without US government intervention. Airbus could be in better shape to weather the storm. We in the UK supply components for aircraft construction (including Rolls Royce, who supply many of the engines in modern aircraft) therefore likely to be affected .

So although our skies maybe somewhat quieter, the impact on the airline industry globally is likely to be devastating. Certainly food for thought at this very difficult and disruptive time.

Rod Ball - Ex BA 747 Captain



The Village Green Garden Fairies



Even though our Village Green in Fifield is very small, it is a lovely focal point for our Christmas gathering and last year for our Afternoon Tea fundraiser. However it is not maintained by the council and was starting to look in need of attention. So we are very thankful to our garden fairies who tidied it up! They certainly did a

wonderful job, so do take time to admire as you pass by next time.

Wet Spots - Coningsby Lane Flood Relief a success!

We are very grateful to RBWM for the successful completion of the Coningsby Lane flood relief project last summer. Just in time ! Through the winter the new system has been doing a fantastic job allowing large volumes of water to flow northwards away from the Lane and also away from the north of *The Mullberrys*.

Hoping to continue our run of success we had a meeting with RBWM scheduled for Friday March 20 to discuss the remaining problem spots with red status - see updated "9 Wet Spots" report at ogafcap.co.uk via the Environment page.

When the government's Social Distancing policy was introduced we were offered the option of a multi-user Skype conference but after careful thought decided to postpone the meeting instead. It would not be reasonable to expect our mundane problems to receive the attention they need at this time of National Crisis. It was decided that it was more sensible to wait until better times when local government might be more able to concentrate on other things.

Best wishes to you all. Take care - keep well - stay safe.

OGAFCA Environment

Royal Mail update

Royal Mail have warned that service maybe reduced due to Coronavirus and related absences at local mail centres and delivery offices. Some residents have been told that their service will be reduced but we are told Royal Mail will try and get parcels out on time. We are all very thankful in the circumstances, our post men and women are doing a great job!

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Welcome Pack

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ADVICE FROM YOUR DOG



My dogs have been kind enough to give me some tips on how to cope with self-isolation and social distancing. I promised I would pass them on.

Get up early. It's the best part of the day. Then once you've had your breakfast you can go back to bed.

Make the most of your one outing. Have a good walk, preferably through woods and fields. Take lots of good deep breaths, there are some great smells out there. Watch the birds, particularly pheasants, you can sneak up on them and get them running and squawking. It's very satisfying and will raise your spirits. But don't be tempted to sniff anyone's bottom. It could get you into trouble with all this social distancing stuff. Just wag your tails and keep your distance.

When you get back you can have a nice snooze, perhaps in the garden, in a sunny spot. Then, while you're out there find a stick (we find lots in the flower beds) and have a good chew. It is very relaxing and will keep your teeth nice and clean. If it's exercise you need, why not try some digging? Really works those shoulders and then, when you have a selection of holes, you will have somewhere to bury your stick.

Take a light lunch. It's very important not to skip meals, you need to keep your strength up.

After lunch have a short siesta.

The afternoon is good for games. You can roll a ball around, hang up a coat

so you can play tug-o'-war with the belt, or, a particular favourite, you can empty the bin and see how long it takes to get it cleaned up. Best of all there is the treasure hunt. You never know what delicious morsels you might find if you have a good sniff around. Leave no rug unturned. Then it's time for a nap before dinner.

Make a special effort with your dinner. Prepare a new delicacy every day. It will keep you busy having something to plan and the outcome will be most gratifying. Always keep plenty of treats to hand as an important supplement.

Finally, remember to be good to yourself. A nice stretch and a good scratch will keep you fit and plenty of treats will keep you happy. And get to bed early. You need your beauty sleep. Look forward to a new day, there is always fun to be had and joy in the smallest things.

Life is good!

Love and licks, Tillie and Flora

Animal Tales

Do you have a story to tell? Please send it in to OGAFCAP.co.uk



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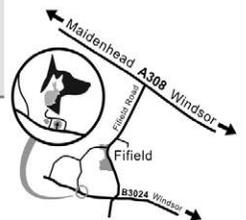
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Greene Oak offer Community Produce Box Service

The Greene Oak is continuing to support its community by offering a produce box service. There are 3 options to choose from, meat, fish and vegetable. Pickups are available by pre order only, twice a week.

- Payments will need to be made via contactless payment on collection.
- If you wish to place an order or find out more please email Paula on info@thegreeneoak.co.uk

La Spiga closed following “Stay at Home” advice

Following the government announcement last week Giosi and Giovanni of La Spiga felt that it was best to close their shop for the time being for the safety of customers and staff following the stay home advice.

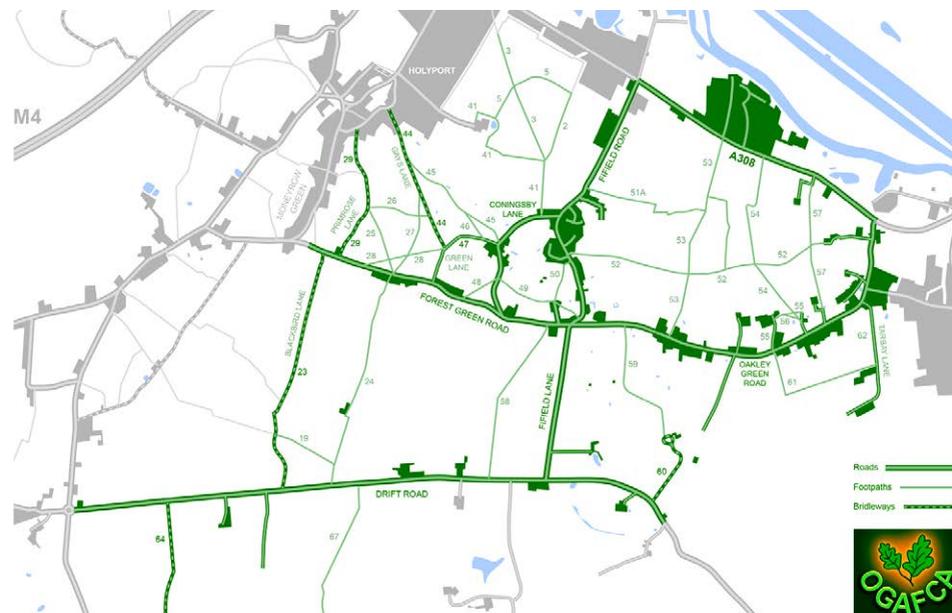
They hope to be back up and running as soon as it is safe to do so . They thank you for your support and hope to see you when everything is back to normal. They will be posting on Facebook when they will reopen.

Dates for your Dairy 2020

- **Thursday April 30** - OGAFCFA General Meeting **CANCELLED**
- **Friday May 8** - VE Day Tea Party on the Green **POSTPONED**
- **Sunday May 24** - Open Gardens Event **POSTPONED**
- **Monday June 22** - Editor's Deadline
- **Sunday August 9** - Fifield Fun Day
- **Thursday September 17** - OGAFCFA Annual General Meeting ALL WELCOME at Braywood Memorial Hall 7.30pm

Send your comments on any issue relating to our community via OGAFCAP.co.uk or by post to the address on the inside front cover

Walks across the fields in Oakley Green and Fifield



Covid-19 has put a stop to many things in our lives however we are permitted one form of exercise a day alone or with members of your household such as taking a walk in our local area. We are extremely fortunate to have a tapestry of footpaths and brideways on our doorstep linking the villages across the fields giving us much open space to walk away from the crowds and it is the perfect time of year to explore as the fields are dry and the grass not too long. The hedgerows are now coming into leaf and the blossom has been out for some time. Just getting out for a walk in the fresh air is a real tonic.

But for those who haven't taken many walks locally it can be a bit confusing as the fields can look the same and you may not be sure how long the walk is or where it ends up. However, there is good signposting and clear footpaths, even through the middle of crops and well maintained bridges, stiles and kissing gates. The map above is very useful and can be printed A3 size from our website. You could also get an OS map or go to the RBWM website. Please do of course remember to keep to the footpaths, close gates and keep dogs under control at all times around livestock and horses. Also please observe social distancing, avoid touching surfaces such as gates and wash your hands as soon as you are back indoors.