



THE GOSSIP TREE

News & Views from the Parish of FONTMELL MAGNA

September
2019
Issue 307

This month's newsletter is kindly sponsored by the Howcroft family to celebrate their first twenty years of pre-Brexit living at West Lea in Fontmell. In that time life has trundled on tranquilly. For that state of affairs, we must pay tribute to all those who have made unstinting contributions to making life better in Fontmell. There have been a few notable milestones: the village winning a trio of 'Best Kept Village' awards, the transformation of the pub, the disappearance of the Old Coach House garage-cum-café and the end of village cricket. The bypass, however, remains as much a forlorn hope as ever...now for the next twenty years.

Another successful Archive Exhibition: 18th-21st July

Around 200 people attended over the four days of the Archive Society's 12th Exhibition in the Village Hall. While many were residents in the parish, a good proportion were from elsewhere in Dorset and further afield – including Chepstow, Cambridge, Portsmouth, Totnes, Reigate, Taunton and even a couple from Brisbane, Australia.

There were displays on: Roads; The Cross Tree – a History; Fontmell Magna and the Workhouse; The Big Chill of February 1978; Brookland Wood; Emigration in the 1800's; Bridges in Fontmell; Pipers Mill; 17th & 18th Century Wills of Fontmell Folk; Fontmell's very own rock band – The Ramblers (Courtesy of John Ryall); The 1939 Register; Rolf Gardiner – A Celebration; and 70 Years of Diary Writing. There were also a number of group photographs inviting people to identify those pictured, and information on 'The Fontmell Houses though Time' Project for which every householder is being asked to collect material and be interviewed about the known history of their dwelling.

On the Saturday, a display by four members of the Weymouth & Portland Metal Detecting Club, exhibiting finds in Fontmell, attracted much attention. One of the displays was a beautifully polished flint hand-axe, 6,000 years old found in Longcombe valley several years ago. On the same day, five supporters of the White Hart Link called in before completing the new section of the Link from Fontmell to Stourpaine.

As Chairman Roger Hillman says: "After 28 years now, our Society is very much alive and kicking - but we do need more members to help with this interesting work".

Fontmell Magna Community Land Trust (FMCLT) - An Update

Since the meeting in the Village Hall in May, we have had an encouraging response. Over seventy members have now signed up as shareholders, and the bank account holds over £1,100 (after payment of fees to Wessex Community Assets, who advised us on the formation of the Trust).

At that meeting, it was clear that residents were concerned over the prospects for the Village Shop. The Trust has directed its efforts to examining the options for a shop to serve the community in and around Fontmell Magna, and has set up a Village Shop Working Group to do this. The Group is led by Jim Highnam, who has become a Director of FMCLT.

The Group's first task was to research the community shops in the area around Fontmell Magna: its next task is to carry out the survey, which you will find in this Gossip Tree, into the possible scope, and demand, for a shop/post office in Fontmell Magna. Please take time to read the survey and to let us have your views.

Most importantly – we still need more support, and more members. Please let your friends know what we are doing and invite them to become members of FMCLT - £25 per person with no commitment to further investment. It is important that we can demonstrate community engagement if we are to attract funding from the various outside sources. There are application forms in the Village Shop, or just ask any of the Directors.

We shall be at the Village Hall Tea Party on Saturday 31st August if you have any questions. Otherwise, please feel free to ask any of the Directors for further information. Directors: Dick Stainer, Chairman (811153), Robert McCurrach, Secretary (812077), Robin East, Jim Highnam, Roger Thomas.

Farewell to Roy William Christopher of The Hatchery, who died on 30th June, aged 86. His funeral was held at St Andrew's Church on Wednesday 24th July. Also to David Robin Raw of Woodbridge House who died on 20th July, aged 84. His funeral was held at St Andrew's Church on Friday 9th August.

Notices – September 2019

St. Andrew's Church

Sun 1st 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
9.00am Sunday Breakfast (Village Hall - see page 2)
Sun 8th 9.30am Morning Worship (CW)
3.00pm Tea & Teddies (see page 4)
Sun 15th 9.30am Harvest Festival (CW)
Sun 22nd 9.30am Holy Communion (CW)
Sun 29th 10.00am Benefice Service - Sutton Waldron

Prayers each Monday at 9.00am

Ride + Stride

Sat 14th - Dorset Historic Churches sponsored rides and walks. Details Gerry Bone 811814

Parish Council Meeting

Mon 2nd at 7.00pm in St. Andrew's School. The meeting is open to all members of the public and starts with Public Questions. Parish Clerk: Marianne Wheatley clerk@fontmellmagnapc.co.uk

The Surgery

Tue 8.00am to 12 noon. Enquiries 856700

Village Shop & Post Office

Mon - Fri 8.00am to 6.00pm; Sat 9.00am to 1.00pm; Sun 9.00am to 12.00 noon. Enquiries 811201

Coffee in the Café

Tue at 10.00am

The Tea Room Crafters

Wed 11th and 25th at 2.30pm. Details Barbara Humphreys blueletterbox@btinternet.com

The Fontmell

Enquiries 811441

St. Andrew's School

Mon 2nd - Autumn Term starts

Fontmell Magna Toddler Group

Details Kelly Oakley 07792 425609

Fontmell Magna Under 5's Breakfast Club

Every morning for St. Andrew's pupils from 7.45am at the Under 5's. Details 812773

Friday Coffee

Every Friday in St. Andrew's Church social area from 10.30 until 12 noon. All welcome.

Iwerne Valley Walking Group

Sat 21st - meet at 10.00am at The Fighting Cocks pub at Godshill near Fordingbridge SP6 2LL. Leaders: Jim & Cathy Bird (01258 861526)

Bell-ringing

Tue at Shroton - practice 7.30 to 8.45pm. Details Chris Bellers 811734

Bin Collection Dates

W/C 2nd, 16th & 30th - Recycling & Food
W/C 9th & 23rd - Rubbish & Food

Village Hall events - see over

Welcome

Welcome to Chris and Ken Vaughan, who have moved to 7 Orchard Close from Marnhull.



Events in the Village Hall

Sunday Breakfast

Sun 1st at 9.00am. Run by St. Andrew's Church. All welcome. Details Janet Smith 811904

Garden Club

Sat 7th at 12.30pm - Members' Lunch. Details Sue East 812349

Fontmell Films

Wed 11th 'Fisherman's Friends' Doors open 7.00pm Details Libby Gendall 811551

Archive Society

Thur 19th 4.00.to 5.30pm. All welcome. Details Roger Hillman 811878

Fontmell Magna Art Club

Tue 2.00 to 4.00pm. Details Sandra Jelbart 812468

Carpet Bowls Club

Thu 7.30pm. Details Gerry Bone 811814

Dru Yoga

Fri 9.30 to 11.00am. Details Kirsty Elliot 829281

Pilates

Mon 5.30-6.30pm, 6.30-7.30pm. STOTT Pilates Matwork & props. Details Vicci Gillett 07940 961221 www.stable-bodies.co.uk Tue 9.15-10.15am, 10.30-11.30am. Details Lyn O'Neill 07989 192424

Taekwon-do

Tue 8.00-9.00pm, Fri 6.00-7.00pm. Details Sam Donohoo 07584 039351

Zumba

Thu - Zumba Fitness 9.00-10.00am. Community Fitness 10.15-11.00. Details Abby Down 850867 zumbawithabby@gmail.com

To book the Hall, please email bookings.fmvh@gmail.com

Village Hall Bookings

For all Village Hall booking enquiries, email bookings.fmvh@mail.com. This is a shared email address and someone will get back to you within 24 hours or you can call Lisa on: 07962 138039. If anyone is interested in taking on the role of bookings manager and would like further information please contact our Chair of Trustees, Rosie-Anne Yates 07710 326339 or ra@yatesmail.org or the Secretary - Lisa Le Druillenc 07962 138039 - lisa.ledruillenc@gmail.com

From the Editor of The Gossip Tree

We are intending to move back to Devon and our house is on the market. The Gossip Tree will therefore be needing a new Editor. I have had the privilege of being the Editor of The Gossip Tree for four years, a role which I have found rewarding and interesting. I would like to thank all those who have contributed over that time and, in particular the others on The Gossip Tree Committee, our regular contributors to the Village Weather and Compost Corner as well as those from the various clubs and societies and our trusted band of distributors. Without your contributions there would be no Gossip Tree. The Gossip Tree Committee is now looking for someone with a real interest in the parish to take on the role of Editor so that The Gossip Tree can continue and remain the prime source of truly local information. If you have at least some basic computer skills (and mine are very basic) and are interested in becoming the new Editor, please contact the Committee Chair, Barbara Humphreys by email on blueletterbox@btinternet.com or contact me on 811734 (or by email chris.bellers@hotmail.co.uk) and I will be happy to explain exactly what is involved.

Fontmell Films

Our first film of the 2019 Autumn/Winter season is 'Fisherman's Friends' (12) showing on Wednesday 11th September. Starring Daniel Mays, Noel Clarke, James Purefoy and Tuppence Middleton, the film is based on a true story. It follows the journey of ten fishermen from Port Isaac, Cornwall who are signed by Universal Records and achieve a top ten hit with their debut album of sea shanties. This is a great film, highlighting the things that matter most in life, friends, family, love and loyalty.

Tickets are £6 in advance from Fontmell Village Shop or £6.50 on the door. Doors and the bar open at 7.00pm and the film starts at 7.30pm. We look forward to seeing you and don't forget your cushions!

For more information please call Libby on 01747 811551.

Future dates for your diary:

- Wednesday 9th October 'Red Joan'
- Wednesday 13th November 'All is True'
- Wednesday 11th December 'Yesterday'

NDWT Programme 2019-2020

The North Dorset Group of the Dorset Wildlife Trust organise a series of talks each autumn and winter at the Village Hall. The talks take place on the third Wednesday of the month, start at 7.30pm and usually last 45 minutes. Our talks are open to everyone, admission is £2.50 (including refreshments & Honeybuns cakes) and children under 16 may attend for free. The proceeds from these talks go to provide tools and equipment for the DWT ranger in North Dorset and in the past few years the group has raised (and spent) almost £4,000.

Talks Programme 2019/20

Wednesday 16th October 2019: Wildlife of Kingston Lacy through the Ages – an illustrated talk by David Smith, an expert on this historic estate.

Wednesday 20th November 2019: The Ecology of Seahorses – an illustrated talk by Julie Hatcher, Marine Awareness Officer for the DWT Living Seas Team.

There is no event in December.

Wednesday 15th January 2020: Wildflower Wonders – an illustrated talk by Dr. Bob Gibbons, author and wildflower tour leader.

Wednesday 19th February 2020: Marine Conservation, MCZs and Plastics – an illustrated talk by Imogen Davenport, DWT Director of Conservation.

Wednesday 18th March 2020: Reptiles of Dorset – an illustrated talk by Steve Davis, Head of DWT HR & Volunteering.

Wednesday 15th April 2020: Bees and Wildlife Gardening – an illustrated talk by Brigit Strawbridge, DWT's Make Wildlife Welcome Hero and bee friendly gardener (as seen on TV). This talk will be preceded by a rapid AGM (max. 10 mins.). Anna Davies 01258 880 699



Dorset Historic Churches Trust Ride + Stride – Saturday 14th September

Join in this sponsored event, and walk, cycle or horse-ride to as many churches as you can, whilst exploring our wonderful Dorset countryside and enjoying the hospitality of our church communities. Half of the money raised is returned directly to St. Andrew's Church. The other half is used to fund the Dorset Historic Churches Trust's grant program which helps conserve Dorset's churches, chapels and meeting houses to keep them active and at the heart of their communities for the use of future generations.

Please contact the Parish Organiser, Gerry Bone, on 811814 for sponsorship forms if you can **take part, or help as a steward** at St. Andrew's Church to offer refreshments to Riders and Striders from other parishes.

Make A Will Month

It's estimated that just over half of all adults in the UK do not have a Will, which would ensure their money and property goes to the right people, and saves additional stress for the family at a difficult time. Weldmar Hospicecare has launched their first 'Make A Will Month', taking place this October, where local people can take advantage of a free Will writing service with a number of local solicitors. Selected local branches of Kitson & Trotman, Blanchards Bailey, Porter Dodson, Humphries Kirk, and Battens will be offering the free service at appointments during October, with a suggested donation to Weldmar Hospicecare from anyone taking up the offer in return. Make A Will Month coincides with the launch of a campaign by the charity to get more people to consider leaving a gift in their Will to Weldmar Hospicecare. Gifts left in Wills directly contribute to the care of one in three patients in the last year of life. With demand on services increasing by a predicted 25% over the next five years, leaving a gift in your Will now will ensure we are there for anyone who needs end of life care in the future.

To find out which solicitor is offering the service in your area, and to make an appointment, please visit the Weldmar Hospicecare website www.weld-hospice.org.uk.



The Ideal Health Exhibition

Live Life to the Full

The Ideal Health Exhibition – Live Life to the Full, will be held at the Exchange in Sturminster Newton on Saturday 7th September from 10.00am to 2.30pm. Organised by the Patient Participation Group (PPG) of the Blackmore Vale Partnership, this will be a fantastic opportunity to have many of your queries regarding various medical, social and well-being issues answered. This event follows on from the highly successful Exhibition held in 2016 with over 600 visitors and almost 40 exhibitors.

The Blackmore Vale Partnership, with surgeries in Shaftesbury, Sturminster Newton, Marnhull and Fontmell Magna looks after around 26,000 patients. With the unprecedented pressures on the NHS, it's clear that patients and the public need to be better informed about any conditions they have and take as much responsibility as possible for managing their own health. The days of 'see the GP for everything' have gone. We have a wide range of health professionals across the surgeries and pharmacies and online advice available, therefore it's essential that we make better and more appropriate use of these services, leaving GP appointments for those who really need them.

This is a key area where patients can make a difference in the current climate and The Ideal Health Exhibition is a response to that and is reflected in the groups and organisations taking part. As well as covering common health and social topics like Bereavement, Carers, Diabetes, Dementia, Hearing Loss, Home Safety, Mental Health, Scams & Fraud, Social Isolation, etc. there will be around forty stalls from Age Concern, Citizen's Advice, Healthwatch, Help & Care, LiveWell Dorset, Read Easy, RVS, Sturminster Library, Walking for Health, U3A and many, many more, including diet, obesity, exercise, and of course, our Practice Nurses offering mini health MOTs. Everyone attending will be given a booklet, containing all the contact details of the exhibitors, for future reference.

An up-to-date list of those who have agreed to take part can be found on the Surgery website -www.blackmorevalesurgery.co.uk. For more information please contact: Mali Gudgion – Ideal Health Exhibition Project Lead - bvpppg@gmail.com; or Ian Gall – Chair, Sturminster Newton & Marnhull PPG – bvpppg@gmail.com 01258 820484

Organised by the Patient Participation Group of the Sturminster Newton & Marnhull Surgeries, part of the Blackmore Vale Partnership.

Springhead

a rural centre for creative and sustainable living

Thursday 3rd October - SERO Charity Lunch to raise funds for local children.

Welcome drinks and canapes from 12.00 noon. Lunch served at 1.00pm, after which Trust Director and well-known photographer Edward Parker will talk on Springhead's history. Guests can explore the gardens, and there will also be a licensed bar, raffle, and a chance to buy from SERO's stall. Email info@serocharity.org.uk for further details and bookings. Tickets £25 each available from www.serocharity.org.uk or www.springheadtrust.org.uk

Sunday 13th October - Time & Tide Theatre in **To Win the Day**.

At 6.00pm, a powerful folk-drama about the women left behind when the Tolpuddle men were convicted and transported told through traditional tunes and folk song. Tickets £10 for adults, and £8 for Friends of Springhead and under 18s.

Springhead Trust, Mill Lane, Fontmell Magna, SP7 0NU, 01747 811853
www.springheadtrust.org.uk/events

Iwerne Valley Walking Group – July Walk

Fifteen walkers and three enthusiastic dogs met on Saturday 20th July in the small Challow Hill carpark up Sandy Lane in Corfe Castle. A summer drizzle drifted down around us when we started but, up on the downs, as we walked towards the sea, the sky cleared and the sun shone. To the north, as we walked on Nine Barrow Down, we had views over Poole Bay with Bournemouth in the hazy distance; to the south, we could see the hills above Swanage and the valley below filled with campers and cows and the occasional puff from the steam train.

Our route took us down into Ulwell, past the campsite and up onto Studland Hill. After this quite stiff climb and the walk along the narrow path contouring around the hill, we turned sharply south past Whitecliff Farm and came gently down into Swanage. At the northern end of the beach, which was much less crowded, some of us sat on a bench overlooking the sea and enjoyed a well-earned picnic - others took advantage of a nearby café for lunch. Some walkers swam, others paddled and everyone finally wandered through the crowded town and caught the train back to Corfe Castle.

It was a good walk on a blessedly sunny but breezy day. Sadly, it didn't end well for everyone as one of the walkers had their back car window smashed and one of the door locks damaged. It comes as another warning not to leave anything at all valuable in our vehicles wherever we park.

Monique Goodliffe

Village weather for July 2019



Dry weather continued from June for another two weeks, then a little rain followed by a heat wave, thunder and spectacular lightning. Some proper rain and back to a dry sunny end to the month.

7 rain days. 1 day thunder. No gales, frost or hail.

Comp. Figures	2019	2018
Rain (most 11.4 mm on 29th)	35.2 mm	22.1 mm
Sunshine	213.7 hr (av. 6.9)	249.1 hr
Max mean temp. (highest 31.9 °C on 23rd)	23.6 °C	25.6 °C
Min mean temp. (lowest 6.4 °C on 4th)	11.35 °C	11.7 °C

According to the Met Office, for most of the first half of the month, high pressure brought mostly dry weather with plentiful sunshine. The second half was generally more unsettled with frequent westerly and south-westerly winds, but with an exceptionally hot spell from the 22nd to 26th which saw record-breaking temperatures in many parts of the country including, on 25th July, for the UK as a whole (38.7 °C).

National record high temperatures were also set in Germany (with 42.6°C, 2°C higher than the previous record), Belgium (41.8°C), Luxembourg (40.8°C) and the Netherlands (40.7°C). On 28th July, Helsinki set a station record of 33.2°C while, on 14th July, the world's most northerly settlement (Alert in northern Canada, 500 miles from the North Pole) recorded 21°C, compared with its average July high of 7°C. Greenland suffered dramatic ice melting – 12.5 billion tonnes of ice melted into the sea on 1st August, more than any other day on record and reaching parts of Greenland that typically stay frozen all year round.

Globally, July was the hottest of any month. Alarmingly, there is no natural explanation for this heat – there was no El Niño warming of the Pacific that could have injected extra heat into the atmosphere, and the sun is at very low activity in its roughly 11-year solar cycle.

Full Moon – Saturday 14th September

This Full Moon is the Harvest or Full Corn Moon and is the Full Moon that occurs closest to the September equinox each year. This year, the September Equinox is on Monday 23rd September. As well as signifying nearly equal amounts of day and night, the Equinox is also the first day of autumn.

On Monday 9th September, Neptune will be at its closest approach to Earth and its face will be fully illuminated by the Sun. Although it will be brighter than any other time of the year, because of its extreme distance from Earth, it will only appear as a tiny blue dot in all but the most powerful telescopes.

Compost Corner

2019 is a year in which to reflect on two momentous historic events: in June, the 75th anniversary of D Day but, in September, the 80th anniversary of the beginning of WW2. My mother was a teenager in the Second World War and often reminisces on what everyday life was like, including food rationing and how her family coped. She was lucky because both her parents were keen gardeners and they grew all the vegetables they needed. There was one dish she fondly recalls with the unpromising description, 'stew with nothing in it'. Apparently, it was delicious and was entirely composed of vegetables - a vegan dream. Any surplus produce was made into chutneys, relishes, jams and jellies or bottled for use over the winter months. Carrots were kept in sand, onions dried and tied to ropes, and sacks of potatoes were stored in their dark shed. Early autumn sowings were also made of winter salads, perpetual spinach and broad beans. It all involved a lot of work but the family was kept fed and healthy for the long war years they endured.

Alison Main

Tea and Teddies Parachute Jump

On **Sunday 8th September, between 3.00 and 4.30pm, come along to the church** and have a cup of tea or soft drink and a home-made cake. You will be able to watch the



brave teddies as they take to the skies from the top of the church tower. If you have a teddy bear (or children/grandchildren with teddies) then bring them along to join in the fun. No need to register before the day. Parachutes will be available for hire and the fast teddy-ride to the top is £1 a go. Our experienced team will do their best to ensure all teddies have a happy landing but in case of minor accidents there will be a teddy trauma unit together with our magnificent paramedic team. This is an afternoon for everyone so bring your families or just come as you are and enjoy the fun. Janet Smith

Concert at Shroton

There is a concert by the Blackmore Vale Brass Quintet on Saturday 21st September at 6.30pm in St. Mary's Church, Shroton. Free admission. Pimms and light refreshments available. Donations to the Church Organ Fund. Judith Hewitt 861565

William George Tuffin (1840-1925)

The Archive Society recently received an email from Phil Tovey in Australia. He wanted to know whether he might still have some ancestors in Fontmell. He is related to the Tuffin family, of which there were several branches in the 19th century and early 20th. His great, great grandfather, William George Tuffin, emigrated to Australia with his wife Lydia Winifred (née Read) and two daughters, Ethel and May Tuffin, aged 2 and 1. The family sailed from London in July 1878 and arrived in Rockhampton in Queensland, Australia. Unfortunately, the two daughters died on board, apparently from measles.

Some time after, although it is not clear why, William changed the family name from Tuffin to Tovey. He and Lydia went on to have another two daughters, Ethel May Lydia and Alice Maud Victoria and a son, William Arthur Victor.

William's parents were Philip George Tuffin (1817-1878) and Hannah, née Dennis (1820-1855). In all, they had six daughters and three sons, although one daughter died aged six months and one aged four. Their last daughter, Mary Ellen, also died after a few months, shortly after her mother Hannah, both of them in the Shaftesbury workhouse. They were both buried in St Andrew's Churchyard. Philip later married Martha Toomer (1817-1903) but had no further children.

Philip was the son of Henrietta Lawrence Tuffin (1792-1871), the daughter of Hannah Lawrence (1761-1826) and James Tuffin (1762-1822). Some time after Philip's birth, Henrietta married Abel Hunt (1792-1841) and they had a son, John Alford Hunt (1831-1873).

In the 1841 census, Henrietta and John Hunt were listed as living at 'Sands'. Sands was the name given to two farm labourers' cottages at the northern end of the parish (now 1 and 2 North Street). They are close to the farm that they served, Manor Farm. Henrietta and John were still there in 1851 and 1861. In 1851, Philip and Hannah Tuffin with seven children (including William) were somewhere in Lurmer Street but, in 1861, they were living next door to Henrietta and John, next to Edwin Miles (who was the farmer at Manor Farm at the time) - William was a lodger elsewhere, but it is unclear where in the parish he was. By 1871, Philip and Martha had moved somewhere in Bedchester and William was in Wales where he married Lydia and had two daughters.

Chris Bellers, Fontmell Magna Village Archive Society

Understanding your food dates

In general, food law requires pre-packed food to have a date mark. Depending on the food type this is either a 'use by' date or a 'best before' date.

The 'use by' date is about safety and is the most important date to remember. Food with a use by date goes off quickly even if it is stored correctly and looks and smells fine. You find it on food such as meat products or ready-prepared salads. Food can be eaten up until the use by date but should not be eaten after the date has passed. Most food, including meat and milk, can be frozen up until the use by date too. The food can then be defrosted and eaten at a later date. In these circumstances the use by date will no longer apply, but the food will still be a type of food that goes off quickly so should be eaten quickly once defrosted. For the use by to be a valid guide you must carefully follow storage instructions.

The 'best before' date is about quality and not safety. The food will be safe to eat after this date but the food may no longer be at its best. Its flavour and texture for example might not be as good. The best before date appears on a wide range of frozen, dried, tinned and other foods. The best before date will only be accurate if the food is stored according to the instructions on the label.

Shops can sell food once the 'best before' date has passed. However, selling food past its 'use by' date is a criminal offence and can lead to prosecution. Dorset Council Trading Standards would like to know if you find someone selling food past its use by date. To report something to Trading Standards or for advice about goods or services you have bought then please contact the Citizens Advice consumer helpline on 03454 040506.

Report from Garden Club Show

Well, despite all the weather reports, I'm pleased to say we had a reasonable day for our show on Saturday 10th August. Although numbers were down on both exhibitors and exhibits this year, we had a fine display. Dahlias being the highlight of the flower exhibits with their wonderful bright blousy blooms! Also on display this year was some wonderful art work from the school which also included a collage of pictures from their 'Gardeners World' project which we helped with.

The judges and stewards did a sterling job and enjoyed a lunch after. Unfortunately, there were not a lot of visitors in the afternoon which was very disappointing but those who did come enjoyed the spectacle and treated themselves to tea and cake. Many thanks to all who helped set up/take down, serve, wash up etc - a little help goes a long way when there is plenty of it!

Do you want a Garden Show next year?

We need an organiser with support for next year's show. If no one comes forward I'm afraid we will not be able to do it. Your committee has been running this year on a reduced number - we need more help. Our AGM is on Thursday 17th October - we will be needing a Secretary, and additional members for the committee. Please give it some thought - if this club is to prosper it needs help. Our next event is the Members' Lunch on Saturday 7th September at 12.30pm in the Village Hall.

Sue East

The views expressed in this publication by contributors are not necessarily those of the Editor or of the Committee of The Gossip Tree. Last copy date for the next issue is **Sunday 22nd September 2019**. Contributions for consideration should be submitted as early as possible to the Editor, Chris Bellers, via e-mail to chris.bellers@hotmail.co.uk or phone 811734. Please also contact the Editor if, rather than have your Gossip Tree delivered to you, you would like to be emailed a copy and benefit from seeing the pictures in colour (while also saving us printing costs), or if you would like to sponsor an issue (cost £30).