



THE GOSSIP TREE

News & Views from the Parish of FONTMELL MAGNA

AUGUST

2020

Issue 318

From the Gossip Tree Committee

Welcome to the August edition of The Gossip Tree. Many residents are now emerging from our long 'lockdown' and forming 'bubbles' with friends and family.

Although face masks are now required when shopping, many clubs and groups are still on hold and we will try to keep you informed of any changes. Please let us know if your club is resuming any meetings.

Ann Ashford on behalf of The Gossip Tree Committee

Village Shop

Please note the cafe is open, with reduced tables inside and one table out front. We have opened our garden to the public to accommodate more tables and chairs and we hope you will visit soon. The garden will be open from 9am to 4pm. Sanitiser stations are set up both inside and outside our building.

We will continue to supply take away breakfast as well as cake, sandwiches, jackets etc.: a simple menu to start back with.

The shop and post office hours are 9am to 5.30pm, as before, but we will no longer be closing for lunch.



We also wanted to state that we are continuing to strongly adhere to guidance regarding hygiene and social distancing, both in the kitchen and all areas of the shop and cafe. As you will be aware, it became mandatory to wear masks in shops from the 24th July and some of our customers have been doing so for a while. If you feel at all uncomfortable wearing a mask just phone us on 01747 811201 and we will deliver to your door free of charge.



While exploring the new layout of the tea room, take a minute to look at the new Happy Shopper Brand Display shelves, next to the shop counter, where every item we stock can be viewed. We are keen to raise awareness of this good quality value brand, in the hope it will reduce your shopping bill.

Many thanks to regular and new customers for your continued support.
Best wishes
Jan and Rick Atfield.

St Andrew's Church, Fontmell Magna

2nd	08.00	Holy Communion (BCP)
9th	09.30	Morning Worship
16th	09.30	Holy Communion (CW)
23rd	09.30	Holy Communion (CW)
30th		No service, but one online at iwernevalleybenefice.org.uk

Notices – August 2020

St. Andrew's Church - Services for August
Services now resumed—see more details below

Parish Council Meeting

Next meeting Mon 28th Sept at 7.00pm via Zoom—please contact Clerk on how to join
Parish Clerk: Marianne Wheatley
clerk@fontmellmagnapc.co.uk

Local Councillor—Jane Somper

Email: cllrjane.somper@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk
Tel: 07710 395359

The Surgery

Tue 8.00am to 12 noon.
Enquiries: 856700

Village Shop & Post Office

Normal opening hours:
Mon - Fri 9.00am - 5.30pm
Sat 9.00am - 1.00pm
Sun 9.00am - 11.00am
Enquiries: 811201

The Tea Room Crafters

Meetings cancelled till further notice.
Enquiries: Jenny White 812042

The Fontmell

Enquiries: 811441 or john@thefontmell.com

St. Andrew's School

Enquiries: 811500

Fontmell Magna Toddler Group

Enquiries: Kelly Oakley 07792 425609

Fontmell Magna Under 5's

Enquiries: 812773

Iwerne Valley Walking Group

For details contact Claire on: 07708473568.
Enquiries: Helen English: 853472 or 07789 845498

Bell-ringing

Meetings cancelled till further notice.
Enquiries: Caroline Rhodes 812002

Bin Collection Dates – August

W/C 3rd & 17th & - Recycling & Food
W/C 10th & 24th & - Rubbish & Food
W/C 3rd & 17th—Garden Waste



Events in the Village Hall

Fontmell Magna & District Society
Meetings cancelled till further notice.
Enquiries: Dick Stainer 811153

Sunday Breakfast

Meetings cancelled till further notice.
Enquiries: Janet Smith 811904

Fontmell Films

Meetings cancelled till further notice.
Enquires: Libby Gendall 811551

North Dorset Wildlife Trust

Meetings cancelled till further notice.
www.dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk

Archive Society

Meetings cancelled till further notice.
Enquiries: Roger Hillman 811878

Garden Club

Meetings cancelled till further notice.
Enquiries: Sue East 812349

Fontmell Magna Art Club

Meetings cancelled till further notice.
Enquiries: Sandra Jelbart 812468

Carpet Bowls Club

Meetings cancelled till further notice.
Enquiries: Gerry Bone 811814

Dru Yoga

Meetings cancelled till further notice.
Enquiries: Kirsty Elliot 829281

Pilates

STOTT Pilates Matwork & props.
Enquiries: Vicci Gillett 07940 961221

www.stable-bodies.co.uk

Pilates

Enquiries: Carol Pirie
07885 798032 mail@pirieuk.com

Taekwon-do

Enquiries:
Sam Donohoo 07584 039351

Zumba

Enquiries: Abby Down 850867
zumbawithabbyd@gmail.com

To book the Hall, please contact:
Sian Highnam on 811028 or email
bookings.fmvh@mail.com

SPRINGHEAD to tentatively re-open in mid August

I thought that I would write to let the village know how we are doing at Springhead in these strange times.

Since lock down in March we have effectively been closed for business. Normally the summer months are our busiest time of the year. It is usually the time of the year when we host more than 600 children from more than a dozen primary schools. It has certainly been strange experience not having the happy noise of children filling air for the past couple of months. In addition it is also our main wedding season too. And again it is strange not having the happy family gatherings that have typified the past 6 summers since I took up the post of Director.

While it has been a strange and quiet time at Springhead it has also been a time that has allowed us to plan and carry out some of the work that is not usually possible in the summer months. With the help of several emergency grants we have been able to carry out a structural survey on the Grade 2 listed Mill building, some general repair work and more than double the size of our organic kitchen garden, the produce of which has been made available as box scheme and also to the local food bank.

Over the past four months while I have been at work almost every day most of our staff have been furloughed. However, we are planning to tentatively re-open in mid-August with the hope that we can gradually open up again for our usual Autumn clientele. With this in mind there are planned to be two outdoor events and one small wedding ceremony all operating within the "Covid 19 secure" restrictions. The outdoor events are possible because of the size of the gardens and the ability for people to social distance from each other. One issue with outside events is always the British weather. In order to guarantee a perfect summer day we will be erecting a marquee with open sides that can offer socially distanced shelter should the heavens open.

Thank you to all of you who took the opportunity to spend time in our gardens on VE day and for our "Elderflower Sunday". And thank you to all those who have made donations and/or become part of our "24 Carrot Gold Box Scheme".

We are hoping to have a proper Open Day in late August/early September. We'll keep you posted.

Keep well and Safe.

Edward Parker
Trust Director, Springhead Trust



Village weather for June 2020

Rather variable with some damp grey days. 1 really wet day on 18th—some unbroken sunshine at the end of the month. 19 days rain, 1 ground frost, no air frost, 1 gale, no hail or thunder.

Comp. Figures	2020	2019
Rain (Most 32.1 mm on 18th)	81.5 mm	79.7 mm
Sunshine	189.7 hrs (ave 6.3 hrs)	146.6 hrs
Max mean temp. (highest 30.5 °C on 25th)	19.87 °C	20.1 °C
Min mean temp. (lowest – 4.2 °C on 6th)	10.14 °C	9.7 °C

One of the people, who until the lockdown, has kindly been delivering the GT was involved in a road accident recently. I am sure we all send him our very best wishes for a smooth and complete recovery. Ann Ashford

Fontmell Magna Public Amenity Site Trust

New bench now in situ at Middle Dam, Collyer's Brook.
(Photo by Mike Ashford)





Compost Corner

Whether you're holidaying at home or going further afield never fear, you have the world at your feet - literally, just from the many plants and trees that are now so common in our gardens but originally came from countries near and far.

Let's go south to South Africa home of that summer stunner, the agapanthus with its flowers the colour of a deep blue summer's sky. Then head due west to the mountains of Mexico from where dahlias were introduced back in the 1800s. Now the dahlia is one of the most popular hobby plants with 57,000 registered cultivars. Travel up to North America and all those glorious prairie-style plants, echinacea, rudbeckia and helenium which you can enjoy nearer home at the exquisite Piet Odulf garden at Hauser and Wirth in Bruton, Somerset. Now to a plant from China - Buddleia davidii which has become so successful over here that it has almost become a bit of a nuisance growing profusely along our railway lines. And finally back to Europe and a tree which is now often considered a native of these shores, the horse chestnut. A young Henry VIII never played with conkers because it was introduced from Turkey in the late 16C.

Alison Main

Sunbathing at 6.30 am on a sunny day in June. Was he/she responsible for the sad disappearance of the intrepid Lego climbers?



A Common Lizard (*Zootoca Vivipara*)

Conservation status:

Protected in the UK under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Priority Species under the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework.

When to see: - March to October

Seasonal Recipe – Beetroot From Graham Eames

I love beetroot, such a delicious earthy taste. Particular favourite is just cooked and eaten cold with salad or served hot covered in parsley sauce with a roast.... but I also love this recipe for beetroot burgers, great for vegetarians

Ingredients

1 tbsp olive oil
1 red onion, finely chopped
2 garlic cloves, crushed
2 raw beetroots, peeled and grated
1 courgette, grated
2 large carrots, peeled and grated
100g/3½oz porridge oats
400g tin chickpeas, drained
3 tbsp tahini
1 large free-range egg yolk
4 spring onions, thinly sliced
3 tbsp finely chopped fresh coriander

Method

1. Heat 1 tablespoon of oil in a large frying pan over a medium heat. Fry the onion and garlic for 4–5 minutes, or until soft. Add the grated vegetables and cook, stirring often, for 5 minutes, or until soft. Drain away any excess liquid released by the vegetables.
2. Place the oats, chickpeas, tahini and egg yolk in a food processor and pulse to combine. Tip the mixture into a bowl and stir in the grated vegetables, spring onions and coriander. Season generously with salt and pepper.
3. Divide the mixture into six and shape into burgers. Cover and refrigerate for at least 30 minutes (or up to 24 hours).

To serve, simply load a bun with anything you want, hummus, mayo and lettuce work for me and serve with chips. 😊



This August issue of The Gossip Tree comes from the editors, who this month are: **Ann & Mike Ashford**. We apologise in advance if we have made any errors or omissions—particularly as the current situation changes on a daily basis.

Please would regular contributors for the September issue contact us via email:

fmgossiptree@gmail.com or phone **01747 811206 (Graham Eames)**

Alternatively, contact the **Chairman, Barbara Humphreys**, email: **blueletterbox@btinternet.com** if you would like further information.

Submissions for the September issue Thursday 13th August please.

The views expressed in this publication by contributors are not necessarily those of the Editors or of the Committee of The Gossip Tree.

If you would always like to receive The Gossip Tree by email, please let us know at **fmgossiptree@gmail.com**