



# THE GOSSIP TREE

News & Views from the Parish of FONTMELL MAGNA

MAY  
2020  
Issue 315

## From The Gossip Tree Committee

Welcome to a slightly different style Gossip Tree this month. There are a few regular contributions, but as most clubs and societies are unable to meet at the moment, this issue contains a fabulous VE Day quiz, an update from the VE Day committee and how we can still celebrate, things to do with your children during lockdown and a few bits and pieces that will hopefully make you smile.

We all hope that the current restrictions will start to ease soon, but in the meantime please all stay safe. The Gossip Tree Committee

## Corona Virus Emergency Help

As a positive move, in place of the distressing Corona Virus news in the media, it is proposed that Fontmell Magna should set up a support group to help those who need to self-isolate. Although we are aware that an informal system already exists via neighbours and friends, there may well be occasions when they are not in a position to help. The idea is that anyone who self-isolates should telephone one of the co-ordinators below, who would then arrange for such help and support to be provided as is needed. This might be getting shopping (for which the shop has placed an article in the Gossip Tree - Page 2), prescriptions, arranging an internet food drop or such other care and assistance as is needed, but of course excluding medical advice!

At present there is no strategy in place should carers become infected and while we would like to provide such help, it does require training and checking which are beyond our present capabilities.

Also, if you are self-isolating, please do not go to the shop – it is taking stringent measures to prevent contamination.

Should you need, or know of someone who needs, help or assistance please contact :

### **Co-ordinators**

1. David Fangen Tel 811176 or email [dfangen@aol.com](mailto:dfangen@aol.com)
2. John Sutherland Tel 07976 206316 or email [jrsutherland81@googlemail.com](mailto:jrsutherland81@googlemail.com)

In addition, if you are willing to join Fontmell's group of volunteers (and especially if you happen to be suitably qualified as a carer), please also contact one of the co-ordinators.

We look forward to assisting when needed and receiving offers of help.

Letter sent on behalf of:

St Andrew's Church, Fontmell Village Shop, Fontmell Magna PC



## Notices – May 2020

### St. Andrew's Church - Services for May

All services cancelled until further notice and the church itself is also closed until further notice.

Best wishes Barry

### Parish Council Meeting

Next meeting June, date TBC in St. Andrew's School. Please check notices.

Parish Clerk: Marianne Wheatley

[clerk@fontmellmagnapc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@fontmellmagnapc.co.uk)

### Local Councillor—Jane Somper

Email: [cllrjane.somper@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:cllrjane.somper@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)

Tel: 07710 395359

### The Surgery

Tue 8.00am to 12 noon.

Enquiries: 856700

### Village Shop & Post Office

Please see note regarding arrangements.

Normal opening hours:

Mon - Fri 8.00am - 6.00pm

Sat 9.00am - 1.00pm

Sun 9.00am - 11.00am

Enquiries: 811201

### The Tea Room Crafters

Meetings cancelled until further notice.

Enquiries: Barbara Humphreys

[blueletterbox@btinternet.com](mailto:blueletterbox@btinternet.com)

### The Fontmell

Closed until further notice.

Enquiries: 811441 or [john@thefontmell.com](mailto: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

All walks cancelled until further notice

Enquiries: Helen English: 853472 or 07789 845498

### Bell-ringing

Meetings cancelled until further notice.

Enquiries: Caroline Rhodes 812002

### Bin Collection Dates – May

W/C 11th & 25th - Recycling & Food

W/C 4th & 18th - Rubbish & Food

W/C 11th & 25th—Garden waste

**Events in the Village Hall**

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

Sunday Breakfast  
Meetings cancelled until further notice.  
Enquiries: Janet Smith 811904

Fontmell Films  
Meetings cancelled until further notice.  
Enquires: Libby Gendall 811551

North Dorset Wildlife Trust  
Meetings cancelled until further notice.  
[www.dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk](http://www.dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk)

Archive Society  
Meetings cancelled until further notice.  
Enquiries: Roger Hillman 811878

Garden Club  
Meetings cancelled until further notice.  
Enquiries: Sue East 812349

Fontmell Magna Art Club  
Meetings cancelled until further notice.  
Enquiries: Sandra Jelbart 812468

Carpet Bowls Club  
Meetings cancelled until further notice.  
Enquiries: Gerry Bone 811814

Dru Yoga  
Meetings cancelled until further notice.  
Enquiries: Kirsty Elliot 829281

Pilates  
Enquiries: Carol Pirie  
07885 798 032 [mail@pirieuk.com](mailto:mail@pirieuk.com)

Enquiries: Vicci Gillett 07940 961221

Taekwon-do  
Enquiries:  
Sam Donohoo 07584 039351

Zumba  
Enquiries Abby Down 850867  
[zumbawithabbyd@gmail.com](mailto:zumbawithabbyd@gmail.com)

**To book the Hall, please contact :**  
**Sian Highnam on 811028 or email**  
**[bookings.fmvh@gmail.com](mailto:bookings.fmvh@gmail.com)**

**From the local Village shop & post Office**

We would like to thank the Friends of the Village Shop for their extremely generous donations. As a result, we have increased our stock extensively from shelf goods through to new lines in meats and dairy and we have purchased another fridge to cope with the increase. We are also in the process of acquiring another freezer to extend our frozen goods range.

The response we have received has been very positive, but as always we look to you to tell us what you want us to stock on a regular basis. If it's not here then we can always order it!

The shop is being used more than ever with quotes from customers such as 'Your fruit and veg is excellent. I'm only going to use yours from now on', 'wow, that's so cheap (an 800g box of Dairy Milk for £3.99) and 'Your Bacardi is a good price for a corner shop.'

With regard to COVID-19 we continue to deliver with the amazing help of all you wonderful volunteers. Thank you. We have also installed screens on the shop counters and sanitiser gel for your use.

We sanitise down the counters, door handles (fridges etc) regularly and chip & pin pads after every transaction together with an extensive 1 hour sanitisation after closing.

We thank you so very much for your continued support and especially with respect to observing the social distancing guidance in the shop at all times.

**What will happen about newspapers?**

Newspapers can be delivered with your order. If you don't have an order, they will be left outside the shop either on or in the large grey box WITH YOUR NAME ON IT for collection. A small box will be provided for vouchers if you use them. If you pay cash for your papers, you will have to send it with a friend or neighbour to collect inside the shop.

**Prescriptions?**

Lloyds (Abbey View Surgery) have agreed that volunteers can collect prescriptions on your behalf, but we will need your name and address to do this.

**Our opening hours and Bank Holidays?**

We have decided that in the current climate we will remain open (normal hours will apply). However, things may change or alter depending on future events.

Stay safe and follow government advice.

Very best wishes. Jan and Rick Enquiries: 01747 811201

**Obituary: Leo & Priscilla Williams**

Many in the parish have been greatly saddened by the sudden death of Leo Williams after a short illness. It became doubly sad as his wife Priscilla passed away only a few weeks after him. Leo served on the Parish Council for over 8 years and used his deep knowledge of building and engineering to advise on planning, flood prevention and other matters. Leo was also highly instrumental in the construction of the new Village Hall, completed in 1997, and subsequently served as president of the Village Hall committee and on Shaftesbury Town Council. The Parish Council and Village Hall Committee wish to extend their sincere condolences to their family and friends, he will be sadly missed. A full obituary will appear in the June issue.

Michael Humphreys

Rosie-Anne Yates

Chair, Fontmell Magna Parish Council

Chair, Village Hall Committee

**SPONSORSHIP OF THE GT**

We are always grateful to the many people who sponsor the Gossip Tree. As we are currently only producing an electronic version, we have suspended the sponsorship until things return to normal, if anyone has any queries about their planned sponsorship then please contact Barbara Humphreys [blueletterbox@btinternet.com](mailto:blueletterbox@btinternet.com).

**BUDDLEIA PRUNING**

A huge thank you to those who used pruning as their daily exercise and completed the task before the intended time limit. Bravo—only wish so many had not given up in the wet winter. Judy Westgate

## VE Day 75 – How to Celebrate on the 8<sup>th</sup> of May in Lockdown

As you are probably all aware, our original plans for a VE Day 75 Street Fair Celebration were cancelled for this year due to the Coronavirus Lockdown and we plan to run a similar event in May 2021 instead.

**However** ..... There is still the opportunity for you and your household to celebrate the **75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May**. To comply with the Government rules, the Last Post will be played by Colin at **2.55pm** from his garden.

Anyone else who has a bugle, trumpet, cornet (or dare we say a kazoo) and who might like to consider playing the Last Post from their own garden is welcome to join in, all we ask is that you do not play in an area that could attract a group of people.

We are suggesting that in order to mark this important anniversary that we all join together in the Nation's Toast at **3.00pm** from the safety of our own homes or front gardens (and especially where you can wave to your neighbours).

To join in the **Nation's Toast to the Heroes of WW2** – you just need to stand and raise a glass of refreshment (of your choice) and say the Toast as follows: **“To those who gave so much, we thank you.”**

This is a unique opportunity to pay tribute to the many millions at home and abroad that gave so much to ensure we all enjoy and share the freedom we have today and it is the first time that such a tribute has ever taken place, so please encourage your neighbours and friends to join in from their own homes.

We have also been searching the websites and have some other ideas for you to hold your own version of a Street Party Picnic in your front garden, starting with the traditional bunting – but if you don't happen to have any stuffed away in your attic, the BBC has come up with some templates to make your own bunting from paper – which can then be strung from your gate or hung in your windows:

[www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/4TrqYDyf4PMdLypxzyTwGDg/great-british-bunting](http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/4TrqYDyf4PMdLypxzyTwGDg/great-british-bunting)

And English Heritage have some ideas for a celebratory picnic, including food, songs and dancing:

[www.veday75.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/English-Heritage-Party-Pack.pdf](http://www.veday75.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/English-Heritage-Party-Pack.pdf)

You can find a lot of inspiring ideas and stories on the Imperial War Museum Website: [www.iwm.org.uk/history/victory](http://www.iwm.org.uk/history/victory)

Share your picnic and bunting photos with your friends or on Social Media #VEDay75 #GreatBritishBunting

### Stay Safe and Enjoy VE Day 75

**The VE Day 75 Team:** Barry Roberts: 811 906, Lisa Le Druillenec: 812 500  
Sian Highnam, Susannah De Ferry Foster, Alix Austen, Eddie Parker.

FRIDAY 8<sup>th</sup> MAY



VE DAY

LET'S CELEBRATE FROM THE  
SAFETY OF OUR OWN HOMES

Decorate our homes with bunting.

*Listen for the Last Post at 2.55pm.*

Wave to our neighbours and raise a  
glass to WW2 heroes 3.00pm



Below is a quiz compiled by the Archive Society for the VE Day celebrations. Answers will be emailed on VE Day

Use the clues to complete the sum. Example clue.

Trio of quills? = Three pens = Three pence = 3d

Now complete the sum in "Old Money"

	£	s	d	£sd
A Stone				
A Bicycle				
A Man's Name				
A Singer				
A Kind of 'Pig'				
A Leather Worker				
Part of a Gorilla's Leg				
The distant Sun, Moon and Pluto				
Half of Panty				
Hit Repeatedly				
An Unwell Sea Creature				
A Royal Head Dress				
<b>Total</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>s</b>	<b>d</b>	

**GCSE history howlers.**

Ancient Egypt was inhabited by mummies and they all wrote in hydraulics.

Moses led the Hebrew slaves to the Red Sea where they made unleavened bread, which is bread made without any ingredients.

The Greeks were a highly sculptured people and had a lot of myths about them. A myth is a female moth.

Socrates was a famous Greek teacher and died from an overdose of wedlock.

Eventually the Romans conquered the Greeks. History calls people Romans because they were so busy conquering that they never stayed in one place for long.

Nero was a cruel tyranny who would torture his subjects by playing the fiddle to them.

Joan of Arc was burnt to a steak and was cannonized by Bernard Shaw.

Magna Carta provided that no man should be hanged twice for the same offence.

The greatest writer of the Mid-Evil ages was Chaucer, who wrote many poems and verses nobody could understand.

Queen Elizabeth was the "Virgin Queen" As a queen she was a success, especially when she exposed herself to her sailors before the Armada.

It was an age of great inventions. Gutenberg invented movable type so people could at last read the Bible. And Sir Francis Drake circumcised the world on a clipper.

Shakespeare wrote tragedies, comedies and hysterectomies. Writing at the same time was John Milton who wrote Paradise Lost. Then his wife died and he wrote Paradise Regained.

Later the Pilgrim Fathers crossed the ocean. Many died and babies were born. Ship`s captain John Smith was responsible for this.

Abraham Lincoln became America`s greatest precedent. He was shot by John Wilkes Booth, an insane actor. This ruined Booth`s career.

Thanks to John Gadd for these

**Compost Corner**



'Gardening gives me fun and health and knowledge. It gives me laughter and colour. It gives me pictures of almost incredible beauty' John F. Kenyon

It seems a world away since I wrote my last article in early March about Erigeron. No more can we pop out to a garden centre and be spoilt with thousands of plants from which to choose. But we are surrounded in this wonderful season of Spring by the gradual appearance of the most beautiful flowers:- primroses, bluebells and cow parsley to name but a few. The native Bluebell makes a stunning carpet of flowers on our woodland floors and was first mentioned in a herbal book by William Turner in the 16C. But beware, despite their sweet fragrance and delicate drooping flowers, all parts are poisonous -so don't be tempted to scatter some on your salad or use them to decorate a cake. They do have useful properties however: it was said that the small white bulbs were used to make glue and also used to stiffen the elaborate ruffs worn in Elizabethan times.

Alison Main

**Village weather for March 2020**

The wet spring continued until mid month, then mostly sunny and dry with some cold winds.

13 rain days, 2 hail, 1 thunder, 4 air frost and 14 ground frost.

Comp. Figures	2020	2019
Rain (Most 14.8 mm on 4th)	62.5 mm	78.5 mm
Sunshine	149.0 hrs (ave 4.8 hrs)	102.9 hrs
Max mean temp. (highest 15.0°C on 26th)	11.1 °C	15.4 °C
Min mean temp. (lowest -1.6 °C on 6th)	3.2 °C	3.9 °C

**THINGS TO DO WITH YOUR KIDS DURING LOCKDOWN**

Thanks to Kim Masters for these excellent suggestions.

1. Den building, inside and out!
2. Make paper planes, measure how far they travel and keep a record (use centimetres, inches etc) see who's goes the furthest/highest etc. Making targets for them to reach is fun too.
3. Add highlighter ink to bubble mixture for glow in the dark bubbles!
4. Make toilet roll tubes monsters/ owls/ minions etc. Use glue to decorate the tubes with paper, card, feathers, googly eyes whatever you wish!
5. Decorate a twig (or twigs) with wool, embroidery thread, bells, beads, and sequins. Hang this in the garden to see if the fairies or birds come to jingle the bells.
6. Make and sail an origami paper boat, or build a raft using sticks and twine to sail in a puddle, a pond, stream or bath!
7. Plant a seed and watch it grow. Perhaps measure it and see how much it grows in a week. If you're growing veg get involved in cooking it too.
8. Have a bug hunt in your garden. Get out the magnifying glass and perhaps a little tub for your findings, ID your finds and write down or draw your discoveries.
9. Recreating famous paintings and photographing the results is rather popular right now. Choose a painting then recreate it with toys, food, items around your house, or raid the dressing up box and put yourself in the picture!
10. Hold a family disco, get the children to choose all their favourite songs to play, get some snacks and drinks in, and have a good old boogie one evening!

11. Write a story or a poem. If you don't know where to start draw random words out of a hat that you have to base your writing around. (I did this with my children just this week when I asked them to write me a story and they were low on ideas, each drew out a place, the weather, an animal, a person, and an item that has to be in the story, with these few ideas they were off!)

12. Now that trees are green and flowers are flowering children can use leaves and petals to create wonderful pictures or colourful mandalas either by glueing them onto paper or card (give these a layer of PVA glue to help them last a little longer) or let them create art straight onto the ground (a la Andy Goldsworthy!).

A question from Mr/Ms Payne of Norfolk to the Times:

Sir, can the word "unprecedented" be made to self-isolate?

This May issue of The Gossip Tree comes from the editors, who this month is: **Graham Eames**. 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 June issue contact us via email:

**fmgossiptree@gmail.com** or phone **01747 812195206 (Ann & Mike Ashford)**

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

**Submissions for the June issue by Wednesday 20th May 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 like to receive The Gossip Tree by email, please let us know at **fmgossiptree@gmail.com**