



THE GOSSIP TREE

News & Views from the Parish of FONTMELL MAGNA

SEPTEMBER

2020

Issue 319

IMPORTANT DISTRIBUTION ANNOUNCEMENT

From the Gossip Tree Committee

One of the challenges of lockdown has been how we get the monthly edition of the Gossip Tree to the people of the parish. Through the NextDoor app and word of mouth we have significantly increased our mailing list but realise that we need to offer everyone the option of how they receive their Gossip Tree now that lockdown restrictions have eased.

We are distributing a paper edition of the September Gossip Tree to all households to ask how people would like to receive their copy. We have thought for a while that we should offer a choice on how to receive the GT, printing lots of copies when some people are happy to receive it electronically is neither cost effective nor good for the planet!! We will need you to let us know your preferred option from the 3 listed below.

1) By Email— if you already receive the GT by email and are happy for that to continue, you don't need to do anything. If you haven't received the GT by email before, but would like to do so in future, please let us know at fmgosiptree@gmail.com

2) Paper edition collected from the Village Shop— Rick and Jan have very kindly said that they will take copies of the GT for people to collect, we placed a limited number of the August edition there, so if you are happy to go and collect your copy at the start of each month, please let us know either by email (fmgosiptree@gmail.com), by mail to me at 59 West Street, Fontmell Magna SP7 0PF or call me on 07767 810674.

3) If you are not able or don't feel confident collecting from the shop in the current circumstances, then we are happy to deliver your copy each month if you live in the Fontmell Magna area. Please let us know your name and address details either by email (fmgosiptree@gmail.com), by mail to me at 59 West Street, Fontmell Magna SP7 0PF or call me on 07767 810674 to advise if you would prefer to have your copy delivered.

The deadline for letting us know your preferred option is Friday 18th September so that we can get the correct number of paper copies printed in time for the October edition.

Graham Eames on behalf of The Gossip Tree Committee

Notices –September 2020

St. Andrew's Church - Services for September

Services have resumed, please see announcement below for details of times and protocol.

Parish Council Meeting

Next meeting Mon 28th September at 7.00pm by Zoom. Please contact Parish Clerk for details of how to join the meeting

Parish Clerk: Marianne Wheatley
clerk@fontmellmagnapc.co.uk

Local Councillor—Jane Somper

Email: cllrjane.somper@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Tel: 07710 395359

The Surgery

Currently closed until further notice.

Enquiries: 856700

Village Shop & Post Office

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 till further notice.

Enquiries: Jenny White [01747 812042](tel:01747812042)

The Fontmell

Enquiries: 811441 or john@thefontmell.com

See announcement on page 3 for details of current and forthcoming services.

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 – September

W/C 14th & 28th - Recycling & Food

W/C 7th & 21st - Rubbish & Food

September services at St Andrew's Church:

6th 8.00 Holy Communion (BCP)

13th 9.30 Morning Worship

20th 9.30 Harvest Festival

27th 9.30 Holy Communion (CW)

Everyone is required to wear face-coverings and the seating will be socially distanced.

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 Mon 5.30-6.30pm, 6.30-7.30pm. STOTT Pilates Matwork & props. Enquiries: Vicci Gillett 07940 961221 www.stable-bodies.co.uk

Pilates
Enquiries: Carol Pirie
07885 798 032 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**

The Village Shop

Since the end of lockdown and the social distancing parameters we have moved two tables out of the café in the back of the shop to join with another two tables out into the garden, accessed through the garage. So far this has been really well supported especially by people in the village and surrounding areas and has been mentioned by 'This is Alfred' the Shaftesbury podcast. The garden has been sympathetically planted to retain its homely feel as it really is our garden!

We have amazing neighbours and friends who have helped immensely with the garden, clearance, furniture restoration and last but not least the expansion of products and the purchase of a new awning to replace the old one we took down some years ago because of its condition. The new one will be erected very soon!

Social distancing in the shop has to continue but it is now down to 1 metre plus which equates to 6 people at a time. We ask very politely that customers wear masks as per the Government guidelines but reiterate that if customers have difficulty wearing one then we can shop for them and/or deliver to their home free of charge. Orders can also be phoned through to us on 811201.

You can check out our Facebook page (Fontmell Magna Village shop) and nextdoor.co.uk for a new article about our fruit and veg range and suppliers.

The book exchange is still available but is now located in the garage for ease of space. It's on the left as you go in.

We hope you like what we have in store and don't forget if you can't see it just ask. We may have it in the store room or we may be able to get it for you.

We thank you all for your continued support, in very different ways

Jan & Rick

News from the Village Hall

We are looking forward to the re-opening of the Village Hall this month. We are very lucky that our regular hirers have been very patient and allowed us the time to put various arrangements in place to allow some activities to start up at the beginning of September.



We are welcoming back our mat-based and other exercise classes in early September and other groups will follow as soon as they and their members are ready to do so.

Bookings are now being taken for events such as Wedding and Christening Celebrations, Children's Parties and Funeral Wakes. The numbers allowed to attend these events is still restricted to just 30.

If you would like more information about what can go ahead at the Village Hall please contact Sian, our Bookings Manager on: 811 028 or by email: bookings.fmvh@mail.com

Fontmell Magna Village Hall Management Committee

Cut Less, Cut Later – Thank you!

A big Thank You from the Parish Council to all those who responded so positively to the 'Cut Less, Cut Later' message. The Parish has benefited from some glorious wildflowers, herbs and grasses on our banks and verges. You have helped to provide some beautiful habitat and the essential support for bees, butterflies, birds and all manner of insects. Let's do it all again next year!

Cllr. Annie Newbury



SEASONAL RECIPE—APPLE STRUDEL PIE

September is the month for lots of apples, so thanks to Katie for this recipe, a pastry base with delicious apples, dried fruit and cream filling with a crumble topping with cinnamon.

Pastry:

8 oz plain flour
4 oz butter
1 tablespoon Icing Sugar
1 egg yolk
2 tablespoons of cold water

Filling

2lb cooking apples, peeled, cored & Sliced—not too thinly
2oz raisins or sultanas
4oz plain flour
4oz caster sugar
2oz butter
10 fl oz double cream

Topping:

2 oz caster sugar
2 teaspoons cinnamon - or more to taste

You will need:

10" deep fluted loose bottom flan tin

To make pastry:

Sift flour and rub in the butter, stir in icing sugar and bind together with egg yolk and water.

Roll out the pastry thinly and line the tin

Filling:

Mix apples and raisins together. Sift flour and stir in the sugar and rub in the butter to make a crumble

Spoon half the crumble mixture into the pastry case.

Cover with the apples and raisins

Pour in the cream – all of it – don't be scared.

Spoon over the remaining rubbed in mixture and then sprinkle with the sugar and cinnamon mix.

Bake in a pre-heated oven 200C/Gas 6 for 25 minutes and then reduce the heat to 190/Gas 5 for a further 10 minutes.

If using cooking apples, you may want to leave it in for slightly longer.

Best to leave it to cool for a while until warm rather than piping hot.

Village weather for July 2020

Unsettled start with dribs and drabs of rain and drizzle. Plenty of sun and rather hot ending with 30.5 °C on 31st July.

15 rain days, 0 air frost, 1 ground frost. No gales, hail or thunder.

Comp. Figures	2020	2019
Rain (Most 15.9 mm on 25th)	37.5 mm	35.2 mm
Sunshine	180.1 hrs (ave 5.8 hrs)	213.7 hrs
Max mean temp. (highest 30.5 °C on 31st)	20.96 °C	23.6 °C
Min mean temp. (lowest 4.4 °C on 11th)	10.6 °C	11.35 °C

In the final instalment of the story of our intrepid explorers, I have to report the sad news that after the disappearance of both climbers, the body of one has been found broken at the base of the cairn



We will never know if they achieved the summit before their demise!!



Compost Corner

I remember on an Autumn holiday in The Swiss Alps seeing banks of beautiful pale mauve flowers on a mountain meadow; it was a dazzling sight. These delightful little plants were Colchicum also known as Autumn crocus, meadow saffron and naked ladies (like crocus they grow from corms) and if you take a closer look at them you'll notice that there are just spikes of flowers and no leaves, the leaves appear later. There are over 160 species of Colchicums and they thrive in well drained sunny conditions - a mountainside is ideal but we're a bit short of them in North Dorset, so a suitably located planter or an informal drift in grass would be just fine.

True crocus corms should be planted now. These too grow wild over wide swathes of Europe, some are suitable for rock gardens and others thrive if naturalised in grass and there's a huge selection from which to choose. A few RHS AGM varieties include *Crocus tommasinianus* ('Ruby Giant' has large rich purple flowers)

and one of the earliest flowering varieties, *Crocus imperati*. *Crocus vernus* is another native of Switzerland (known as Dutch crocus) can be seen poking up through the melting alpine snow. And of course there are many species of crocus that do indeed flower in the autumnhorticulture is a confusing business.

Alison Main

Announcing the Early Christmas Fair



With our lack of opportunity to fundraise for the Village Hall and Children's Play Area during lockdown we have decided to go ahead with our Christmas Fair this year, but hold it earlier than usual.

To allow us to have a good range of stalls and a "pop-up Café" we have brought the date forward to **Saturday 17th October**.

So far, we have 11 indoor stalls selling local handmade arts and crafts, gifts and homeware. Outside there will be a plant stall, local produce, the Café in a Marquee, a Grand Hamper Raffle and our usual fantastic selection of home-made cakes and jams.

As always, we are looking for helpers on the day so please get in touch if you can spare some time to help, either with setting up the outside gazebos or helping on one of the outdoor stalls. Donations to the cake and jam stall and towards the raffle are always much appreciated.

We are having a Hamper Raffle this year – with each hamper based on different themes such as a gardener's hamper, a beer hamper, a cook's hamper, children's hamper etc. If this is something you might be interested in getting involved in – perhaps with helping to make up the Hampers with the donated items or donating items suitable to be included in a hamper then please get in touch with Lisa on 07962 138 039; Rosie-Anne on 07710 326 339 or Kim on 811 708 or by email to: playground.fmvh@mail.com

Fontmell Magna Village Hall & Playground Appeal



Guide Dog Puppy Training – Nesta August 2020

We have a new Guide Dog puppy, Nesta, a Labrador/Retriever cross. She has been with us since the end of June and is a year old. Covid 19 had an impact on Nesta's original puppy walker family and they were unable to continue her training. Unfortunately she's had several changes of home since lockdown, however she settled quickly with us and is here to stay. We would expect to continue her basic training for around a further 6 months before she moves on to advanced training at one of the national centres, probably Southampton.

The lockdown has affected much of the work of Guide Dogs including the national breeding programme, the placement of qualified dogs with new permanent owners and fundraising activities.

We are now allowed back in shops, but not yet on public transport. Nesta and I will be out and about each day and planning to add new experiences as restrictions ease.

Nesta is friendly, willing and inquisitive. She is generally well-mannered and quick to follow commands. She can be bouncy and barky and at present she's a terror for picking up and chewing all manner of stuff from the pavement! Work in progress

Tilly: Our previous puppy, Tilly, has completed her training at Leamington Spa. She has been "matched" with her new owner. The Guide Dogs trainer will work daily with both dog and owner for the first few weeks to establish Tilly's working and care regime.

Sue Keen



This September issue of The Gossip Tree was edited by : **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 October issue contact us via email:

fmgossiptree@gmail.com or phone **01747 812195 (Ann Ashford)**

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

Submissions for the October issue by Wednesday 16th September 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***