



THE GOSSIP TREE

News & Views from the Parish of FONTMELL MAGNA

APRIL
2020
Issue 314

Kindly sponsored by:

Mrs Tapper

From the Gossip Tree Committee

We are all living in difficult times and events and advice changes on a daily basis. At the time of publishing this edition, most events feature: 'Meetings cancelled till further notice'. We would urge everyone to check the contact details for their clubs and events – particularly those in the Village Hall. For those of you who are members of the 'Next Door' internet site there are regular updates and information. Stay Well!

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
2. John Sutherland Tel 07976 206316 or email 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 – April 2020

St. Andrew's Church - Services for April

All services cancelled till further notice. In the meantime the church will be open daily as it has been for decades, providing a place of quiet contemplation and prayer - do call in from time to time as you would normally do - it complies with the requirement for social distancing as there is plenty of space!

Best wishes Barry

Parish Council Meeting

Next meeting Mon 11th May at 7.00pm in St. Andrew's School. Please check notices. 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

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 till further notice.

Enquiries: Barbara Humphreys
blueletterbox@btinternet.com

The Fontmell

Closed till further notice.

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

Corona Virus permitting:

Saturday 18th April - 10.15 for 10.30 start
From The Rivers Arms at Cheselbourne DT10 7NW. Leaders: Neil & Jane Davies on 01747 811627.

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 – April

W/C 13th & 27th - Recycling & Food
W/C 6th & 20th - Rubbish & Food



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
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@gmail.com

Judy and Peter Westgate thank everyone for their love and support with cards and messages when their daughter died on 11th March after her cancer took over suddenly. She was an inspiration to us all.

Pam joins her brother, Richard, at Ham Down burial ground. RIP.

Buddleias

At the time of going to press—the pruning of the Buddleias at Prince's Field will take place from Tue 31st March – Fri 3rd April 10.00am - 4.00 pm
Please contact Judy Westgate for further information: 811302

From the local Village shop & post Office

What are we offering?

A free delivery service of basic goods to your door. Volunteers, or us, will pick products for you either from our shop or from a supermarket. However, please note we are not able to 'search' supermarkets on your behalf for particular items.

How do you place an order?

Phone through your list the day before you need the items so we can discuss any relevant details then and there.

Safety issues when delivering?

All volunteers will wear gloves, knock on your door and then place the box or crate containing products you have ordered on the floor. The volunteer will step back and you will pick up the goods.

How will you pay for the goods?

You can set up a prepaid account with cash or card in the shop. You can ask a friend or neighbour to do this on your behalf if necessary. You can also set up an account over the phone, using your bank card or credit card. A receipt will then be issued upon each order, so you know how much has been spent and how much is left on your account. If necessary the account can be topped up at a later date.

If you don't have a bank card or don't want to set up a prepaid account, the volunteer will collect cash from you upon delivery. You will be telephoned beforehand so you know how much to give. He or she will bring change if applicable. Once again, an itemised receipt will be given.

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: Anne Cradock 1940 – 2020

Anne was born in Salisbury. She left school at sixteen and, after four years in work, in 1960 she married Derek and became a full-time Farmer's wife. They had three children and, after various management positions, from the early 1980's Derek worked for Lord Salisbury, managing his Cranborne Estate. On his retirement in 1997, he and Anne moved to Fontmell Magna, to live at 'The Log House' (now 'Timbers') in West Street.

Anne was an excellent cook, needlewoman and keen and knowledgeable gardener. She was very gifted artistically and found an outlet for that with her flower arranging, which she did for many years here in St. Andrew's Church. Anne was a keen reader, a member of the Village Book Club, and was often seen at the Mobile Library which used to visit the village every week.

In 2003 Anne and Derek moved to Wales to do up a farmhouse and garden, with some land for Derek. However, after periods of ill health, they moved back to Fontmell in the summer of 2010 and were warmly welcomed back by their many friends. Sadly, Derek died in January 2012 but Anne remained in Fontmell for several years, before finally moving to Lover to be near to her daughter, Helen, and family.

Through most of her life Anne had dogs, which she loved dearly, and she made many friends in Fontmell - not least through dog-walking. I remember Anne as a very caring and loyal person, a lovely neighbour, who was at her happiest in her summer garden with one of her beloved dogs.
Jennie Jones

Parish Council Meeting – 9th March 2020 at 7.00pm

Presentation received from the Dorset National Park team, on proposals to create a new national park mainly encompassing the current Dorset AONB in the south east and south west of the county: a Q&A session followed. The presentation slides are available on the PC website. The proposal will be discussed at the PC's May meeting.

Present: Cllrs Michael Humphreys (MH) Chair, Jeremy Long (JL), Annie Newbury (AN), and Clerk Marianne Wheatley (MW), DC Ward Cllr Jane Somper (JS), plus 8 residents.

Public Questions:

Coronavirus (discussed under AOB). A350 traffic (discussed under Highways)

Apologies – none. **Declaration of Interests** – none.

Co-options. Regrettably no one has come forward to join the parish council, so it remains severely under-populated with only 3 councillors rather than a full complement of 7.

Minutes and Matters Arising – minutes of 11th November 2019 meeting were approved.

VE Day 75th Anniversary – AN reported the PC has donated £150 to the organisers and arranged for the road closures. The Church is covering insurance and the pub is arranging a license. Barry Roberts reported on the 1940s fashion event.

PC Website – The site is being upgraded at a cost of c.£1000, so it's compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act. The new site should be ready in April.

War Memorial Gate – The gate has been inspected and no particular problem found.

BT Telephone Box – The PC will acquire the box, cost £1, once the electrical connection has been checked by DE Scott Electrical. Suggestions are invited for uses of the box; the village shop's book loan facility will stay in the shop.

Dorset County Ward Councillor's Report - Jane Somper's report is available on the PC website.

Reports from Parish Councillors

a. Planning – MH reported that 12 planning applications have been received for consultation. Objections were raised against 2 as they were not compliant with Neighbourhood Plan policies. MH thanked the NP Monitoring Group for scrutinising the applications; all documentation is available on the PC website.

Pennyfarthing Homes has been instructed to include a bat corridor in their plans for developing the site south of Home Farm.

b. Trees – AN has submitted an application for works at her property, otherwise—nothing to report.

c. Highways – JL reported the informal layby at the top of Fontmell Hill has been removed and the alternative car park outside the DWT site improved with a width restriction installed. Drains have been cleared in Mill Street and West Street. Surface flooding continues outside Piper's Mill and 65 West Street. DC Highways have inspected the problem and discussed the solution with JL and JS: new bigger drains are needed but this work has yet to be prioritized and scheduled. A resident reported that more HGVs are using the A350 route south. Dorset Police have recently participated in speed watch sessions. The A350 Community Group has requested a grant of £100.

d. Environmental Protection – AN and JS have looked into road and pavement problems along West Street and Church Street and remedial action taken. Posts have been installed at Bedchester crossroads to protect the verge; the lime tree has been pruned but may need more treatment.

e. Social Infrastructure – AN attended the Village Hall committee. Preparations to mark the VE Day 75th Anniversary are well advanced. Publication of the Village Hall cookbook has been delayed. The re-arranged spring community litter pick will now take place on Sunday 29th March; meet at 10.30am at the Village Hall.

f. District Liaison – MH represented the parish at various seminars hosted by Dorset Council, covering the Climate Emergency, the Local Plan and DC's Planning Service.

g. Footpaths – a finger post to mark the White Hart Link will not be provided at Piper's Mill on West Street as a resident objected.

h. Governance – copies of the leases for the Village Hall land have been obtained.

Report from the RFO – MW reported the current balance is £8,860. Payments were authorized for the Parish Directory sponsorship (£30), VisionICT (£582), Parish Online (£36).

Other Matters

Coronavirus – Barry Roberts provided a useful 10 point list of ways to protect yourself, your family and neighbours: this will be circulated to the Village contacts list and published via Facebook, Next Door and the PC Website. Barry suggested that the PC should consider preparing an action plan but the PC felt this would be inappropriate, as the Government and Public Health England are providing lots of information, and would be impractical because of its limited resources.

Best Kept Village – the PC declined to enter the competition this year.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm. The next meeting is on **Monday 11th May 2020 at 7.00pm** and will comprise the Annual Parish Meeting, where clubs and societies are invited to report on their activities over the past year, and the Parish Council AGM.

VE Day 75th Anniversary

Fontmell Magna's VE Day anniversary celebrations, planned for May 8th, are being put on hold due to the Covid-19 precautions advised by the Government. We will definitely find another date for the village to get together once these difficult times have passed. The organising committee would like to thank all those who volunteered to get involved and will keep you posted regarding a future event...so watch this space.

Many thanks, Alix Austen



Compost Corner

There is a little plant that is so delightful and such asset to any garden that if you haven't already got it, put it to the top of your shopping list. This little gem is *Erigeron karvinskianus*, the Mexican fleabane, a little perennial which has daisy-like flowers which open white then fade to pink. It was named after a Bavarian naturalist, *Wilhelmina Fridrich Karwinsky Von Karwin* who collected it in Mexico in the 19C but despite its origins it is very hardy and thrives in walls and paving crevices and is pest and disease free. It reliably flowers for nine months of the year but the ones I've spotted in many of the gardens in Salisbury Cathedral Close seem to flower non-stop even in deepest winter.

Alison Main

Village Hall & Wednesday Community Lunch Club

Community Lunch Club

Lunches cancelled until further notice.

Village Hall

Following the latest announcement by the Prime Minister and Scientific Advisers we have taken the decision to cancel our Community Lunches with immediate effect until September.

We are however, looking at ways that we can use the hall to help in the provision of food parcels and support to those who fall into the "vulnerable" category and who have been asked to self-isolate for 12 weeks – this also includes pregnant women.

We are looking at running art and craft activities for children and those not in the "vulnerable" groups over the Easter holidays, please look out for more details about these on Facebook, Nextdoor.com and on Village Noticeboards.

We have also taken the decision to make the Tennis Court available free of charge please pick up the key from the Greenhouse in the Front Garden of 27 Orchard Close in the usual way and return it after use.

Any queries please contact: Rosie-Anne Yates (Chairman) 07710 326 339; Lisa Le Druillenec (Secretary) 07962 138 039 or Sian Highnam (Bookings Manager) 01747 811 028

Fontmell Magna and District Society 6th March

Life at the North Pole' by Pen Hadow

If you did not come to this meeting, you will be extremely sorry. Pen Hadow is of course well known and the unprecedented size of the audience reflected this. His talk met all our expectations. He was informative, entertaining and enthusiastic and he spoke with a deep emotional conviction.

He started by explaining why the Central Arctic Ocean is so important to us. The sea absorbs energy from the sun and acts as a heat shield for the planet. In other words it performs a refrigeration service to us all. Secondly the whole movement of the oceans in a kind of conveyor belt system including the Gulf Stream depends on the arctic sea ice and the dense water beneath it.

He then moved on to describe his own incredible solo journey to the North Pole from the Canadian coast in 2003. No one else has ever done this before or since. He pulled a sledge weighing twenty stone. Where the ice had melted, he swam through the water pulling this sledge on an inflatable boat.

In the third part of his talk, he made the point that environment means habitat. The most amazing plants, animals and fish live in the Arctic and they depend on the sea ice. We saw photographs of the Arctic Fox, Polo Bears, Walruses, lots of whales and the Greenland shark, which has a life span of 500 years. This precious ice is melting and as his final point, Pen talked about his attempts to safeguard the biodiversity of this area. He has set up charities, involved politicians and is aiming to promote a formal international treaty to create a protected area where nations agree to no fishing and no sea bed mining. We all hope he succeeds!

Future talks have been cancelled till further notice.

Dick Stainer

Village weather for February 2020

Yet more unsettled weather with 3 stormy weekends—Ciara, Dennis & Jorge. The water table is high allowing springs to flow—some onto footpaths. Sunny days were a rare treat and the mild conditions have prompted the grass to grow and brought early flowering bulbs. 12 days ground frost, 3 air frost, 10 gales. 1 day sleet, 2 days hail & 24 days rain.

Comp. Figures	2020	2019
Rain (Most 28.6 mm on 15th)	151.5 mm	46.5 mm
Sunshine	64.0 hrs (ave 2.2 hrs)	95.2 hrs
Max mean temp. (highest 14.4 °C on 23rd)	10.3 °C	11.6 °C
Min mean temp. (lowest -1.7 °C on 28th)	3.5 °C	2.3 °C

This April 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 May 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 May issue by Wednesday 15th April 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***