



THE GOSSIP TREE

News & Views from the Parish of FONTMELL MAGNA

JUNE
2020
Issue 316

From the Gossip Tree Committee

As I write this some LockDown measures are starting to ease. From emails and notices, it would seem that many of you have been enjoying the lovely weather and spending time in your gardens and outside.

We are still only sending electronic copies of The Gossip Tree at the moment and are exploring getting hard copies for the future. In the meantime, please print a copy for your neighbours who do not have the internet (obviously observing all social distancing and contamination measures).

Ann Ashford on behalf of The Gossip Tree Committee

Village Shop

Dear Customers,

We hope you enjoyed the Bank Holiday sun. We really did want to say thanks for your understanding and support!

Have you seen the new shelving yet?

We're so pleased with it and are busily filling it with a wider variety and stock. Also, we've been able to find regular stationery stock and have added new lines in gift bags, rolls of gift wrap and coloured tissue paper as well as candles and balloons.

Once again thank you to all who support us, especially those working behind the scenes on our behalf, and of course the amazing volunteers. We are incredibly grateful to you all.

Finally, please do let us know if you can't find something or want to order some fruit, veg, dairy, meat, alcohol etc.

We hope you all stay safe and well, and like us, get to see our dispersed families again very soon.

Jan and Rick xx

Fontmell Magna Public Amenity Site Trust

You will all be aware that the bench at the Middle Mill Dam Site was removed some time ago as its condition had deteriorated and it had become quite rickety.

As a result of a generous donation we were able to order a new bench from Abbott Street Forge (on the Kingston Lacy Estate), this time made of metal. Due to his workload and of course the Coronavirus epidemic the bench has taken some time to complete but I am pleased to say that it was installed on the concrete plinth Tuesday the 26th May.

The accompanying picture shows the bench before galvanising and painting.

Dick Stainer
Chairman –
Fontmell Magna Public Amenity
Site Trust

Note from The GT Committee:
Now the lovely new bench is in situ—
if anyone has a photo, we will include
it in the next GT Edition.



Notices – June 2020

St. Andrew's Church - Services for June

All services cancelled till further notice.

Parish Council Meeting

Next meeting Mon 8th June at 7.00pm via
Zoom—please see separate article 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 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

Enquiries: 811441 or john@thefontmell.com
See entry for more info on takeaway service

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 – June

W/C 8th & 22nd - Recycling & Food
W/C 1st, 15th & 29th - Rubbish & Food

An amusing fact:

This year every person in the whole world is
the same age!

There's only once chance of this every
1,000 years.

Your age this year plus your year of birth,
the total for every person is = 2020.

It's so strange that even experts can't ex-
plain it! You figure it out and see if it's 2020.
It's a thousand year wait.

Take a shot! Let everyone calculate it!

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@mail.com

Parish Council – Annual General Meeting

The Parish Council will hold its Annual General Meeting on Monday 8th June at 7.00pm. Because of the current Coronavirus restrictions the meeting will be held virtually using the Zoom audio/videoconferencing service and will be recorded.

Residents are welcome to join the meeting, by laptop, tablet or smartphone, or alternatively can participate by telephone. If you wish to participate please contact the Clerk on or before 12pm on 4th June by email:
clerk@fontmellmagnapc.co.uk
or phone 01305 873838 who will provide joining instructions.

You should aim to join the meeting 5 minutes before the start time in case of connection problems.
Please note the proceedings will be recorded.



From The Fontmell

The Fontmell are now serving takeaway food and drink on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays as well as an online shop for fresh fish, wine, beer and soft drinks. Orders must be placed 24hours before collection. Please visit our website to place your order and see all available options www.thefontmell.co.uk. Be sure to select your collection time slot by adding to your online basket when ordering your food.

Our current menu choice includes:
Friday and Saturday 5pm-8pm
Jurassic coast aged beef burger and fries £9
The real cure venison burger and fries £9
Vege burger and fries £9
Fish and chips £9
Raspberry and white chocolate cheesecake £3.50
Sticky toffee pudding £3.50

Sunday's 12pm-2pm
Our famous roast pork £12
Our famous Sunday roast Beef £12
A bit of both roasts £12
Raspberry and white chocolate cheesecake £3.50
Sticky toffee pudding £3.50

Ordering freshly caught fish is very easy to do through our website using Localshops2U, we have 2 collection or delivery days, order before 3pm on Monday for collection/delivery on Tuesday or 3pm on Wednesday for collection/delivery on Thursday.

We look forward to seeing you all soon, please ensure social distancing when collecting from the pub, stay safe.

Kind regards
Ben Moxham



Cut Less, Cut Later

Your verges can help to save the bees!
Our verges and banks are now blooming with spring flowers, they provide a valuable source of nectar for the bees and early butterflies.

We need all our pollinators to thrive.
If you have any beautiful wild blooms (yes, including dandelions!) on your verge or roadside bank, PLEASE leave the strimmer and the mower in the shed.

Only GOOD things will happen if you do nothing now –
Nothing bad will happen if you don't mow or strim until late autumn.

Develop your own wildlife haven right outside your door

Fontmell Magna Parish Council



Village weather for April 2020

Some early frosty nights. Plenty of almost cloudless sunny days. April showers rescued gardens and flowers from the very dry conditions at the end of the month. 7 rain days, 1 day hail and thunder, 2 air frosts and 6 ground frosts.

Comp. Figures	2020	2019
Rain (Most 14.2 mm on 29th)	57.2 mm	61.9 mm
Sunshine	217.4 hrs (ave 7.3 hrs)	180.4 hrs
Max mean temp. (highest 25.3 °C on 11th)	17.34 °C	16.4 °C
Min mean temp. (lowest – 3.2 °C on 1st)	5.38 °C	4.9 °C

Fontmell Magna and District Garden Club

The Garden Club was going to sponsor the printing of The Gossip Tree for the month of June, but as there are no hard copies at the moment— here we are with a bit of news about the club and a simple vegetable and fruit quiz to amuse the children (and your good selves as well).

Obviously our well-attended Garden Club gatherings have been postponed until further notice although it seems gardening activity has positively blossomed during The Lockdown! Anyone who has tried to get runner beans, courgettes or tomato seed online may have been disappointed! Many centres did a great job with telephone and online ordering and friendly deliveries. However, for the moment garden centres have reopened with all the necessary social distancing and precautionary measures required by The Powers That Be! Our chairperson, Sue East, has been working hard with the village shop (pause for applause for Rick and Jan) and there are now bedding plants, hanging baskets, veggie plants displayed outside and bags of compost also available. If you have any queries or would like anything in particular PLEASE contact Sue on Tel. 812349 or email: fontmellmagnagc@gmail.com.....but be quick because they sell out fast! We do hope that you are enjoying your garden and that the recent cold snap did not scupper your efforts!

Unfortunately, it has been decided to cancel the Garden Club Annual Show this year, however, if come August or September the lock down measures have been relaxed enough we will have a get-together - perhaps a BBQ and a celebration of our gardens in some form or another. We would like to extend this invitation to you all.

It would be great if you would take pictures of your gardens and make notes of anything you have improvised, unusual plants you have grown, how old were the seeds you planted that actually came up anything that you feel is noteworthy. This period in our lives will form part of our history, so with your help we could put together a record of some kind for future generations.

A lot of us already appreciate the value of planting, nurturing and harvesting and we are sure more of you have discovered those pleasures too – whether it be a vegetable patch, a border of flowers, a pot or window box – there are no limits when you get hooked!!

As soon as we can, we will post news of future meetings etc.....until then stay safe.

Obituary:- Leo and Priscilla Williams

Leo and Priscilla Williams who had been very much part of Fontmell life since they moved here in 1985, sadly died in April, a few days short of their 55th wedding anniversary.

Both were born and brought up in Shaftesbury and attend local schools. On leaving school Leo joined the family firm of Williams Bros. as an apprentice plumber, eventually becoming a full member of the Institute of Building. He was called up for National Service in 1960, and served with the Dorset and Devon Regiment touring Cyprus and Libya, a period of his life that he looked back on with great fondness.

Priscilla, having left school, started work as a nanny to the 4 children of a local solicitor, and later at Boots the chemist.

They married in 1965, and their two children, Mark and Peter, were born soon afterwards. Priscilla devoted herself to raising their two sons, but as the children grew older, she joined the family firm as a secretary.

Leo worked during the day and immersed himself in charitable activities in the evening. This charitable work meant that the Shaftesbury Scouts got a new headquarters, the elderly and frail a new day centre, the Silver Band a new Band Hall, the Shaftesbury Carnival prospered and Gold Hill was restored.

He served on both the Borough Council, and later the NDDC for many years, and for 12 years was a JP, becoming Chairman of the Bench.

As a trustee and active member of the William Williams Charity he did much to help the people of Shaftesbury, Blandford and Sturminster Newton who were in hardship.

In 1985 he and Priscilla bought Perry & Son and together they built up the excellent reputation it has today. Many in the village will have reason to be grateful to Leo for rescuing them when a plumbing disaster loomed. Leo was soon immersed in village life, firstly as Chairman and later as President of the new Village Hall, for which he did much of the design and fundraising. He also served as a Parish Councillor where his sound common sense was much valued.

For many years he and Priscilla were involved with the Village Fete and ran the very successful tombola stall.

After recovering from her initial treatment for cancer in 2006, Priscilla volunteered three days a week at the Joseph Weld Charity shop in Blandford, which she continued to do until ill health forced her to retire earlier this year.

They were excellent party givers and Parsonage Street parties to celebrate various national events were much enjoyed by many in Fontmell. They will both be sorely missed by their many friends.

Michael & Ann Hobbs

Compost Corner

Our gardens are as individual as we are, little parcels of land where we choose what goes in, what goes out. We tend them: getting rid of weeds and pests, pruning and snipping, we are in total control, or are we?

Last year I was very sorry to see that in our garden a magnificent, *Viburnum plicatum* 'Mariesii' was looking a bit under the weather: it's flowers were spookily small and the leaves undersized and sickly. Needless to say, it soon died. I think that the problem was its proximity to other larger shrubs which were sucking up all the available water; *Viburnums* don't like to dry out. It was great loss to the garden because it really is an eye-catching plant. But later in the year I spotted that a new shrub had sprung up some distance away and this year it came into full and healthy flower. It was a new *Viburnum plicatum* 'Mariesii'. This little bit of horticultural magic was achieved by one of the original shrub's stems 'layering' and creating a new plant in a much more suitable place - with absolutely no help from me at all.

The genius of plants and nature to prevail is indeed a real tonic.

Alison Main

SPRINGHEAD'S DIRECTOR, EDWARD PARKER, EXPLAINS HOW THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC HAS AFFECTED SPRINGHEAD, AND HOW WE ARE PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE.

Springhead has been closed now for the best part of 8 weeks. This coincided with our busiest time when there are usually school groups staying during the week and weddings and other functions every weekend. All events have been cancelled until the end of August which is very disappointing for those who were looking forward to spending time here, but also means that we have been put in a difficult financial situation.

We have had to furlough most of our staff, reduce expenditure dramatically and apply for help via government grants. We are also unable to welcome our regular volunteers but have continued to work on the Productive Gardens project, restoring and improving our kitchen gardens, planning for the restoration of our orchards, and looking into options for community growing areas. We hope to be able to distribute some of our produce locally while we don't have our usual visitors here.

We have been reflecting on the successful year we had in 2019 - see www.springheadtrust.org.uk/about-us/our-impact/.

2020 is going to be a very hard year but we are still planning for the future, and by looking after our buildings and gardens we will be ready to re-open almost instantaneously when permitted, later in the year or early 2021. In the meantime, with the help from Government schemes and some of our regular funders we hope to be able survive lockdown. If you wish to support our charity during this difficult time by making a donation or becoming a Friend of Springhead please go to:

www.springheadtrust.org.uk/support-us/

Helping the NHS

Once the shock of lockdown and my work disappearing due to Covid subsided, I realised It was important to me to try and "help or do something". I heard about the need for home sewers to make Scrubs, Gowns, Scrub hats and other items as the usual suppliers cannot rapidly fulfil demand. The risk of catching the virus means that those on the frontline need to protect their clothes or wear scrubs (pyjama style tunics and trousers).

Dusting off my sewing machine it took a week and lots of unpicking to conquer the relatively simple sewing pattern. Since then the demand has continued. One group I am sewing for in London have received over 100 orders from hospitals, care homes, charities and GP practices. They have supplied over 7000 items at last count. The order I am currently sewing for was requested by a local hospital - 200 pairs of scrubs are required across 11 wards. People of all ages and experience are sewing and doing what they can, some are shielding or self isolating and find the "connection" helpful. I've set up my sewing machine in the garden and try to complete two sets a week, I'm not fast as I do other things but the quality is improving!

There is a Shaftesbury Scrub Hub which can be accessed by those with internet access

Here is the info about the Shaftesbury scrub hub:

There is a link on here where people can register interest. www.shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk/shaftesbury-scrub-hub/

There is a Shaftesbury Scrub Hub which can be accessed by those without internet access:

The scrub hub is at the town Hall, Shaftesbury and is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday 11.00-13.00 and Tuesday and Thursday 14.30-16.30. People are welcome to join the Facebook page.

Amelia Berriman

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 July 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 July issue by Wednesday 17th June 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

Quiz From The Garden Club

1. What is a tomato? Vegetable Fruit Nut Legume	10. Which fruit did British sailors eat to prevent illness on long voyages? Oranges Limes Lemons Kumquats
2. What is the national flower of the Netherlands? Daffodil Rose Hyacinth Tulip	11. What is the art of creating miniature trees called? Boring Bonsai Botulism Binding
3. The spice, saffron, comes from which flower? Iris Lily Poppy Crocus	12. Most beetroot is what colour? Green Purple Pink White
4. Where is the biggest tree in the world? Russia UK USA China	13. Which is the most famous new potato? Cornish Crispy Spanish Spud Jersey Royal Yorkshire Gold
5. Which of these is a root vegetable Cauliflower Carrot Corn Cabbage	14. And the most famous cooking apple? Golden Delicious Pink Lady Bramley Seedling Galloway Pippin
6. What is kale? Vegetable Disgusting Legume Fruit	15. What is the most eaten vegetable in the world? Corn Carrot Potato Onion
7. What is the national flower of England? Thistle Shamrock Daffodil Tudor Rose	16. What is the plural for cactus? Cacas Cactuses Cactortus Cacti
8. Which part of broccoli do we eat? Stem Head Root Flower	17. What is the name of the process used by plants to create energy? Philosophy Photography Photolysis Photosynthesis
9. Which vegetable is associated with Wales? Turnip Onion Leek Broccoli	18. What is the main ingredient of a Moussaka? Potato Tomato Aubergine Cabbage

A Poem for our times

Cast adrift from those we love in these strange and testing times,
 'Oh' for life's familiarities; to hear the sound of church bell chimes .
 Searching for reassurance that things will soon be back on course,
 A world that has become disconnected by a powerful invisible force.
 I long to hold you in my warm embrace, to feel the warmth of your hearts glow,
 I need to cup these hands around your beautiful face and allow our love to flow.
 I need to see the sparkle that shines so brightly from your big brown eyes,
 To remind you to take care where ever you are; to encourage you to be wise.
 But most of all, I just need to hug you and to find ways of keeping you safe,
 To be able to whisper how much I love you, and to keep you in God's grace.
 Geoff Urch

Quiz Answers

1. Fruit
2. Tulip
3. Crocus
4. USA
5. Carrot
6. Vegetable
7. Tudor Rose
8. Head
9. Leek
10. Oranges
11. Bonsai
12. Purple
13. Jersey Royal
14. Bramley Seedling
15. Carrot
16. Cacti
17. Photosynthesis
18. Aubergine