



# THE GOSSIP TREE

News & Views from the Parish of FONTMELL MAGNA

*Kindly Sponsored by Briony & Jeremy Long*

DECEMBER

2021

Issue 333



## Carol singing around the village 23rd December 2021

We could not have the seasonal Carol Singing around the village last year due to the Covid-19 precautions but this year things should be much better. It will be in the open air where we can socially distance as much as we want and most, if not everyone, will have been vaccinated. We will be led by our professional musicians and you can join in as we go, listen at your doorstep or take part from beginning to end - the end being mulled wine and mince pies in the church! Bring push-chairs, babies and singing Santas! What better way is there to celebrate the arrival of Christmas?

The approximate timings are:

- 5:30 Village Hall
- 5:35 West View
- 5:40 Orchard Close
- 5:50 Fontmell Under 5's track
- 6:00 The Maples, West Street
- 6:10 The Fontmell (*outside or we might lose you!*)
- 6:20 Collyer's Rise
- 6:30 The Maltings, Church Street
- 6.45 St Andrew's View

### 7:00 Mulled wine and mince pies inside the Church.

Carol sheets will be available although we shall be singing all the familiar carols. Do bring a lantern or torch and a hi-vis if you have one"

## Fontmell Film Nights

Our film showing on Wednesday 8th December is "Dream Horse" (PG) the inspiring true story of Dream Alliance, an unlikely race horse bred by Jan, the landlady of a Welsh pub. With very little money and no experience she persuades her community to chip in their hard earned cash to raise the horse in the hopes he can compete with the racing elites.

Starring Toni Collette, Damian Lewis, Katherine Jenkins, Joanna Page and many more.

Tickets are £6.50 in advance from Fontmell Post Office or £7 on the door.

The doors open at 7pm when we will be serving complimentary mulled wine and mince pies!

We look forward to seeing you and don't forget your cushion!  
For more information please call Libby on 01747 811551



### GARDENING CLUB

December 9th

Festive flower Arranging"

Ellen from "Bright Blooms

*(Please note this is a 2nd Thursday)*

### ARCHIVE SOCIETY

The December meeting of the Archive Society is on the

**9th DECEMBER 2021**

not the third Thursday as usual.

### IWERNE VALLEY WALKING GROUP

Saturday December 18th starting at 10 a.m. from The White Hart, Bishop's Caundle near Sherborne DT9 5ND, followed by a Christmas lunch at the pub. Further details from Claire on 07708473568 or Helen on 07789845498.

## Notices – December 2021

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

- 5th 0900 Sunday Breakfast at the Village Hall
- 12th 0930 Morning Worship
- 19th 1600 Candlelit Carol service with choir
- 23rd 1730 Carols around the village
- 24th 2330 Christmas Eve ('Midnight') Holy Communion
- 25th 1000 Christmas Day Holy Communion
- 26th 1000 Benefice Service at St Mary's Shroton

### Parish Council Meeting

Next PC meeting

Wed 19th January 2022 at 7.00pm in the village hall

Parish clerk: Sam Smith

[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

### 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

2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at 2.30pm in the Tea Room.

Enquiries: Jenny White 812042

### The Fontmell—opening hours

Mon & Tues—Closed

Weds to Saturday 3-10pm, food served 5-8pm

Sunday 12-6, food served 12-3

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

Contact: Helen English 01747 853472

### Bell-ringing

Enquiries: Caroline Rhodes 812002

## Events in the Village Hall

Fontmell Friendship Garden—Pop up Café and Gardening  
Wednesdays 2-4pm  
Contact Sian Highnam 811028 or garden.fmvh@mail.com

Fontmell Magna & District Society  
1st Friday of month, October to May from 7.30pm.  
Enquiries: Dick Stainer 811153

Sunday Breakfast  
1st Sunday of the month  
Enquiries: Sue Keen 812282

### Fontmell Films

Enquires: Libby Gendall 811551

North Dorset Wildlife Trust  
3rd Wednesday of month, September to April from 7.30pm.  
[www.dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk](http://www.dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk)

Archive Society  
3rd Thursday of each month in the village hall 4.00 to 5.30pm.  
New members welcome.  
Enquiries: Roger Hillman 811878

Garden Club  
See Page 6 for full details of upcoming meetings, commencing on 21st October with the AGM.

Enquiries: Sue Chippington 811520  
[sue.chippington@outlook.com](mailto:sue.chippington@outlook.com)

Fontmell Magna Art Club  
Meetings weekly on Tuesdays between 2-4pm.  
Enquiries: Sandra Jelbart 812468

Carpet Bowls Club  
Thursdays 7.30-9.30pm  
Enquiries: Gerry Bone 811814

Dru Yoga  
Friday mornings 10-11.30  
Enquiries: Kirsty Elliot 829281  
[Kirsty@vhadevelopments.co.uk](mailto:Kirsty@vhadevelopments.co.uk)

Pilates  
Mon 6.30-7.30pm, Tues 9.15-10.15 and 10.30-11.30am.  
STOTT Pilates Matwork with props  
Enquiries: Vicci Gillett 07940 961221  
[vicci@stable-bodies.co.uk](mailto:vicci@stable-bodies.co.uk)

Taekwon-do  
Tuesday 7.30 to 8.30 & Friday 5.30 to 6.30 Enquiries:  
Sam Donohoo 07584 039351 or [sam.donohoo@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sam.donohoo@hotmail.co.uk)

Aerobics  
Thursday 9.30-10.30 Gentle/Low impact aerobics with Abby  
Enquiries: Abby Down 01747 85086 07901 597129  
[zumbawithabbyd@gmail.com](mailto:zumbawithabbyd@gmail.com)

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

## **On the shelf** of the Friendship Garden Library

Is there any gardening bookshelf that doesn't have at least one guide by **Dr D G Hessayon**? The Friendship Garden library has several but not The House Plant Expert Book One. So, in advance of any leafy Christmas present that might be on its way from the garden centre to a home in Fontmell Magna Parish, the book from the shelf this month is **The House Plant Expert Volume Two**. Here is guidance on plants which have become readily available since volume one was produced including the ubiquitous peace lily *Spathiphyllum* shown on the front cover.



Volume Two does what it says on the cover but as useful as the content is, a quick online delve into the life of D G Hessayon was interesting for what he later said about gardening books. British, he was born in 1923 to a Cypriot landowner. His work took him to the United States and the Gold Coast and then back to Manchester to obtain his doctorate. Later he became chairman of Pan Britannica Industries. He wrote over 60 "Expert Guides", (many are reprints) and received awards from amongst other institutions the Horticultural Society, in addition to three honorary doctorates and an OBE.

As long ago as 2009, The Guardian wrote of him that he is "the gardening equivalent of the repair manual, belts and braces as opposed to the frothy polar opposite of the glossy coffee table book". A private man, he ended his writing career by saying that books on technique generate less interest than books heavy with lavish photographs. Books now, he said, are about look at my garden, not about how to achieve the best from plants.

## **Springhead** a rural centre for creative and sustainable living

### **RENOVATING OUR ORCHARD AT SPRINGHEAD**

Would you like to help, working with a friendly team in the fresh air?

All ages/abilities welcome—a chance to learn new skills and meet new people.

Wednesdays at Springhead, 10am to 1pm starting 10th November.

Come and join a friendly, volunteer team helping to renovate our orchards. Hot drinks and tools provided.

Info: [productivegardens@springheadtrust.co.uk](mailto:productivegardens@springheadtrust.co.uk) . Tel: 07963 172895



### **Fontmell Magna Community Land Trust Ltd**

(a Community Benefit Society - FCA Reg. No:8113)

email: [fontmell.clt@gmail.com](mailto:fontmell.clt@gmail.com) website: [www.fmclt.org](http://www.fmclt.org)

Registered Office: Middle Farm House, Lurmer Street, Fontmell Magna, SP7 0NT

As our shareholders know, our application for a substantial grant from the Community Ownership Fund (COF) was unsuccessful.

However, it is important to remember that the COF was set up after we had started preparing our Prospectus, and our original aim was to raise at least £250,000 from the community, topped up with a mortgage of up to £150,000.

We are now proceeding with this - our original "Plan A" - which is likely to mean that we shall be looking for a little bit more funding from the community, and we will be in touch again when we have firmer details.

Our intention is to call a meeting of shareholders and residents to bring everybody fully up to date, as soon as possible.

In the meantime any of the Directors will be happy to answer your queries (our website is [fmclt.org](http://fmclt.org)).

Dear Customers and Friends of the Village Shop.

We very much want to thank all of you for your custom and support (in so many different ways, we haven't got room to list them here) over the last year. We are extremely grateful for everything you have done to date and continue to do.



### **SEASONAL STOCK**

**FUEL:** We're currently stocking smokeless fuel, a variety of kindling and value firelighters at £1 per box.

**PLANTS:** These are in short supply at this time of year, of course, but we do have a few festive perennials, winter pansies and larger red and white cyclamen.

**TREES AND FOLIAGE:** Closer to Christmas time we sell local mistletoe and variegated holly in bunches. Some money from these sales is donated to charity. We also sell quality Christmas trees three sizes. Most of the trees are pre-ordered, as in previous years, but we do buy in extra, so it's worth asking us if you would like one. We hope to have traditional wreaths for sale this year, but that's still to be confirmed.



in

**FOOD and BOOZE GOODIES:** Check out our special festive fayre, including cheeses, bakery, condiments, chocolate and sweets, wines, and liqueurs.

### **ORDER FORMS**

Many of you will have completed your order by now, but if not, please ask at the counter. We are able to supply and deliver, free of charge, all your essential and non essential meat/poultry, dairy, bakery, grocery and greengrocery etc. Remember we use local suppliers wherever possible.

### **GIFTS**

We have a variety of locally made items on sale in the shop and in the cafe and we are also delighted to say that we have a variety of items on sale from Blackfoot Gifts of Shaftesbury owned by Fontmell's very own Nicola and Clive. The usual applies in that you pay exactly the same here as you would in their shop. However don't forget this is only a small amount of the huge range they have in their shop in the High St near the Town Hall.

### **OPENING TIMES OVER CHRISTMAS**

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve 9am to 4pm

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day CLOSED

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> Boxing Day CLOSED

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> Bank Holiday (in place of Saturday) CLOSED

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> Bank Holiday (in place of Sunday) 9am to 11am

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> 9am to 5pm

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> 9am to 5pm

Friday 31<sup>st</sup> New Year's Eve 9am to 5pm

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> Jan. New Year's Day 10am to 12am

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan. CLOSED

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan. Bank Holiday (in place of Saturday) CLOSED

### **POST OFFICE LAST RECOMMENDED POSTING DATES**

Australia & New Zealand, Greece, Italy, Portugal 6<sup>th</sup> December

Sweden 10<sup>th</sup> December

Netherlands, Poland 13<sup>th</sup> December

USA and Canada 13<sup>th</sup> December

Spain 14<sup>th</sup> December

Germany, Luxembourg, Belgium, France, Ireland 16<sup>th</sup> December



You may find that some of the above are earlier dates than published in P.O. leaflets. This year in particular, it would be wise to post all mail earlier than usual, because of the current transport difficulties nationally and internationally.

### **B&B OFFER**

We have an en-suite king size room and over the holiday period we're offering a discount for local people. Contact us direct if your house is going to be crowded! (811201).



### **CHRISTMAS LUNCH**

On the 9<sup>th</sup> December and 16<sup>th</sup> December we'll offer a home made 3 course lunch with trimmings and to include a glass of wine at a price of £17.50 per head. Bookings as soon as possible please. We'll do our best to spoil you.

### **COMING UP**

Over the last couple of months we've been sourcing a new supplier of refillable household cleaning products, as Ecover has been taken over by Johnson's and has become very expensive since then. We're going to be able to offer you a wider range of products at a fraction of the price of Ecover, without losing quality.

Finally, it is only left for us to wish you a wonderful Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2022.

With lots of love.

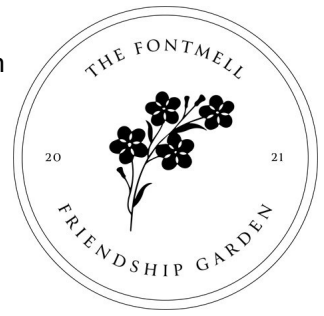
Jan and Rick Attfield



## FONTMELL FRIENDSHIP GARDEN

The frost has certainly knocked our last blooms of the year- with some rudbekia hanging on gamely. We have had blooms to cut since May, which has been fabulous.

Here are a couple of photos of the beds at the moment, with some very creative and exciting planting started .



We have the beds representing the rich and varied clubs we have in the village, plus planting for St Andrew's School and Fontmell Under Fives. We are being ably assisted by four year 12 students from Clayesmore.

Thank you to SJ, Caroline, Helen and team who have planted a crown and flowers in blue, white and silver in preparation for next year's celebrations. It already looks lovely.

The under fives have planted their golden tulips.

Phyl and Sandra have planted up the art club bed with some lovely ideas to represent different eras of the Queen's reign in suitable colours and more flowers to come.

The craft group have their " 70" planted and are planning all manner of crafty ideas for the bed.

The bowls bed is planted with " ball shaped" million bells, allium, sweet william and pom pom dahlia to follow.

We have a bed cleared for Moviola and will have the last bed cleared for the Archive Society's sweet peas, when they are planted in Spring.

The village hall is planted up with sweet williams, wall flowers, pansies and foxgloves and we will be re planting the window boxes by the end of this week.

I have cleared away all the frosted flowers this morning and will be looking to heavily mulch the dahlia bed to give them winter protection.

### DATES OF NOTE .....

SATURDAY DECEMBER 11th

Village hall Christmas tea party in the afternoon - more details to follow.

THURSDAY DECEMBER 23rd- carol singing around the village in the evening

UPDATE ON SEND A COW CHARITY GARDEN IDEA

Thank you to everyone who e mailed back supporting the idea. It was an overwhelming yes. I am awaiting a reply from the Blackmore Vale Surgery before I can go ahead with the idea and will keep you up to date.

### FINALLY - FEEDBACK FROM YOU

I am gathering information to complete an editorial report to celebrate the one year anniversary of the garden. We had the green light for the plan from the surgery in November 2020 . The last two months of 2020 were spent sourcing funds and materials and the garden started to be built at the end of January 2021.

We have achieved so much - and I am planning to send photos and a written article to local media, gardening media and also to the RHS who have requested an update.

Barbara is also kindly including it in our Christmas Chimes.

It would be lovely to have any comments or quotes from those of you who have been involved and made this happen. Comments can be anonymous - but I would welcome any brief thoughts sent to me on my e mail. I am planning to work on this next week and will obviously share it with you all first.

## BUDDLEIAS

Thank you to the brave helpers who faced the rather damp weather to prepare the buddleias for the winter. A great job done until the Spring.

Judy



## **Fontmell Magna Parish Council – Meeting held on 17th November 2021 in the Village Hall.**

Draft minutes and papers of the meeting are available on the PC Website

[http://www.fontmellmagnapc.co.uk/Meetings\\_Minutes\\_and\\_Agendas\\_29213.aspx](http://www.fontmellmagnapc.co.uk/Meetings_Minutes_and_Agendas_29213.aspx)

**Present:** Cllrs Michael Humphreys (MH) Chair, Andrew Davis (AD), Laura Kurton (LK), Andy Main (AM), Annie Newbury (AN), Clerk Sam Smith (SS), DC Ward Cllr Jane Somper (JS), plus 6 members of the public.

**Apologies:** Christine Scott (CS)

**Declarations of Interest:** None

### **Councillor Resignations and Assignment of Responsibilities**

Regrettably Jeremy Long has resigned. Jeremy did some great work on tackling the issues and concerns that have arisen over the parish's roads and lanes, in particular safety along the A350.

Also this was the last PC meeting for Annie Newbury. Annie has brought to the forefront concern for the environment and wildlife, with her campaigns to preserve verges, organizing litter picks and promoting measures to combat climate change. We thank Annie for her contribution to our community over several years on the council.

Andrew Davis was elected as Vice-Chair of the Parish Council to replace Jeremy and will assume responsibility for highways matters.

**Minutes of the Meetings on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2021:** These were approved unanimously.

### **Matters Arising:**

**Speed Watch** – Peter Mole gave an update on Speed Indicator Devices. From several meetings and discussions with experts and other councillors, a new device has been identified that seems very promising for recording and deterring motorists who are speeding along the A350. Recent surveys have shown that over 1000 vehicles per week are exceeding the speed limit by more than 5mph. A trial of the device is being discussed with the Police and Dorset Highways officials; the PC is fully supportive and will help to meet the costs of the project. A concern was raised about compliance with data protection regulations which will be researched further.

**Chelwood House, North Street** – An enforcement investigation is ongoing regarding an apparent commercial business operating from this property.

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

JS referred to several initiatives; full details are available in her report:

Domestic Abuse Strategy – Dorset Council is running a consultation on tackling domestic abuse over the next three years; residents are invited to respond to the proposals.

Gore Clump – Dorset Council is consulting on stopping off a section of Boundary Road.

SEND Strategy – Dorset Council has agreed £37.5m of funding over five years to improve the provision of support for children and young people with special needs and disabilities (SEND).

Grant to develop former council offices to provide new homes.

NHS Outpatient Assessment Centre – to be set up at South Walks House, Dorchester.

Dorset Library Consultation – residents are invited to respond on how they want to shape the use of libraries.

### **Reports from Parish Councillors**

#### **a. Planning**

##### **Pennyfarthing Homes Development, South Street, Fontmell Magna**

A decision on planning permission to build 30 homes including 12 affordable homes is expected by Christmas: the development will incorporate a school drop-off area and public open spaces.

The PC approved two resolutions:

1. The Parish Council would in principle adopt the School Drop-Off area. This is conditional on the availability of a £40,000 maintenance contribution and that this money is ring-fenced for that sole purpose.
2. The Parish Council will not adopt the Public Open Spaces. Our view is that responsibility for these areas is better placed with the eventual residents of the development.

**Planning Applications** – MH confirmed there had been 5 new applications which were assessed by the Neighbourhood Plan Monitoring Group; their reports are available on the PC website.

The PC has no objections to 3 of the applications: Millbrook House, 18 St Andrews View, Willow Cottage.

The PC objected to 1 application: Manor Farm Barn, proposed play equipment.

Whilst the wooden construction of this large skateboard ramp is sympathetic to its surroundings, it clearly presents a clear noise nuisance to the immediate neighbours.

The PC will give conditional support to: Gable Cottage. This is an historic building, and to an extent the proposed work will help to maintain it. However, there are inconsistencies and the Conservation Officer may have reservations over the scale of the proposed works.

## **Fontmell Magna Parish Council – Meeting held on 17th November 2021 in the Village Hall.(cont)**

**b. Highways** – AS has contacted Dorset Highways to report blocked drains in North Street and near Springhead. These fall outside Highways' programme of drain cleaning for A and B roads so there may be a delayed response.

On A350 safety, AS has arranged a meeting with Dorset Highways to discuss options.

**c. Environment Protection** – AN has investigated the possibility of installing an electric vehicle charging point in the village. This and other initiatives will be paused until a new councillor is recruited.

**d. Social Infrastructure** – Robert McCurrach reported that the CLT application for grant funding from the Government's Community Ownership Fund was unsuccessful. Other options are being discussed around purchasing the village shop freehold. A members' public meeting will be held soon.

**e. District Liaison** - Nothing to report. A new councillor is needed to cover this area.

**f. Footpaths** – A dog poo bin will be installed next week at the entrance to the Gallops on Fontmell Hill. The cost of emptying will be met by the PC.

Gore Farm has agreed to widen the bollard gap protecting the entrance to Chalk Pit carpark.

**g. Communications & Governance** – LK reported on her work to improve communications to residents about parish council matters and community events, using NextDoor, email contacts and the PC website. A presence on Facebook is being looked at, to link with other Facebook users in the parish.

MH reported that the achievement of a full council of 7 councillors was short-lived and efforts will now be made to fill the two new councillor vacancies.

### **Report from the RFO and Bills Presented**

Current balance is £10,856.82. Current spending is well within the budget available.

It was agreed bills set out in the Schedule should be paid:

Clerk's salary and expenses – £386.90 Village Hall hire - £18

War Memorial maintenance - £25 Payroll services - £50.50

The RFO has prepared a Precept Plan for 2022/23. Various amendments were agreed to meet expected new cost items 2022/23. The RFO will issue a revised draft for discussion at the next PC meeting.

### **Matters Arising from Recent Correspondence**

**Church Street Grass Area** – two residents have kindly offered to help with maintenance.

Gore Clump Stopping Up – the PC agreed to the proposals made by Dorset Council.

**AOB** – no items

**Date of Next Meeting:** The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2022 in the Village Hall at 7.00pm.**

## **MINCE PIES**

1 Large jar mincemeat, 375g plain flour, 260g unsalted butter (softened), 125g caster sugar, 1 large egg.

Step 1: Place the flour and butter into a bowl and rub together to a crumb consistency.

Step 2. Add the caster sugar and 1 beaten egg and mix together.

Step 3. Tip out onto a lightly floured surface and fold until the pastry comes together, be careful not to overmix. Wrap the pastry in clingfilm and chill for 10 minutes..

Step 4. Heat the oven to 220C/200C fan/gas mark 7

Step 5. Roll out the pastry to 3cm thick then cut 16 bases with a cutter (about 10cm) and place in muffin trays. Put 1 1/2 tbsp mincemeat in each and brush the edge of each pie with a little beaten egg. Reroll out the pastry to cut 16 7cm lids and place on top, then glaze with beaten egg.

Step 6. Bake for 15-20 minutes until golden brown.





FONTMELL MAGNA COMMUNITY LUNCH CLUB  
Invites all Villagers & Residents of the Parish to the:

# CHRISTMAS TEA PARTY

SATURDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER  
3 to 5 pm

At Fontmell Magna Village Hall

We look forward to welcoming you to enjoy a Christmas  
themed Afternoon Tea at the Village Hall with music  
provided by the Clayesmore Horn Quartet and a Christmas  
singalong with Siân Highnam on Keyboard

Please RSVP by 4<sup>th</sup> December to Lisa 812 500 or email: [lunch.fmvh@mail.com](mailto:lunch.fmvh@mail.com)

Thanks to the Community Recovery Fund Grant awarded to us by Dorset Council we are able to offer this  
event completely **free of charge**



Fontmell Magna Village Hall Registered Charity No: 301129



## Fontmell Magna and District Society

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> of November 2021 – Dick Stainer – “Afghanistan before the Taliban

After a long (Covid-driven) absence the Fontmell Society met on 5 November to hear Dick Stainer give a riveting talk and slide show about his days as a tour guide in Afghanistan. He found himself employed by a Geneva-based company to take mainly Swiss and Belgian tourists all over Afghanistan. He first showed slides of where Afghanistan was – landlocked by Iran to the West, Pakistan to the East and South, and the Soviets in the North. This was all long before the Soviet invasion (1979) and in the golden days when travelling overland through Turkey to Afghanistan was a rite of passage for some, although Dick's generally well-heeled clientele flew in and out of Kabul for their 3 week trip with Dick.

Dick reminded us that when he set off by Land Rover from Geneva and got as far as the Eastern border of Turkey, he was barely half-way to Afghanistan. He also described the patchwork quilt of ethnic tribes that make up the country - Pashtun, Tajik, Uzbek, Turkmen, (amongst many) with the Hazara (reputed to be the descendants of the Mongol invaders of the 13<sup>th</sup> Century) at the lowest level of the social order.

There followed slides of a younger Dick as he took groups of tourists to almost all parts of Afghanistan. There were pictures of Afghan faces, camp sites, his Land Rover on its side (Dick hadn't noticed that the road had been washed away – “We took everything out of it and tipped it upright again”), the mountains of the Centre, Bamyan, the plains of the South, bread-making Afghan-style together with many anecdotes. “We were once stopped by a policeman because some of my charges were travelling on the roof of the Land Rover to get a better view. There was a fine of a few dollars and Dick told the roofers that they should come down. “No, no” said the policeman, “You've paid the fine so they can stay up there.” Such was Afghan logic.

The talk was well attended but for those who didn't make it, they missed a gem.

On Friday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December we will have a talk by Julian Richards about his recent search for Mesolithic artefacts around Springhead.

Fiona Thomas

### Compost Corner

Latin is once again to be taught again in many schools and doubtless before long we'll have a plethora of little ones called Marcellus, Hortensia and Titus. And what a useful language it is especially in the horticultural world. All plants have a Latin name from the mightiest tree to a common weed - not one escapes, but what's the point. - what's wrong with plain English?

Plants can sometimes have dozens of common names - cow parsley is also known as: Queen Anne's Lace, keck, adder's meat, wild chervil, devil's weed, bad man's oatmeal, orchard weed, wild caraway, wild parsley and in France, celery. But it only has one Latin name, *Anthriscus sylvestris* and wherever you are in the world, that is its name.

You can also unravel a plant's attributes from its Latin name. Take for example *Lavandula angustifolia* 'Nana Alba', from this name we know that it has narrow leaves (*angustifolia*) is compact (*nana*) and white (*Alba*).

So don't be surprised if your little one requests 'Harrius Potter et Camera Secretorum' from Father Christmas and good luck reading it as a bedtime story.

Alison Main



### Village weather for October 2021

A wet start with 2" of rain followed by a dry week. A real soaking (2 3/4") and another unsettled week with yet another inch of rain. Some good sunshine. Similar rainfall as 2020.

15 rain days, 6 gales, no hail, thunder or air frost, 4 ground frost.

Comp. Figures	2021	2020
Rain (Most 36.4 mm on 20th)	172 mm	171.4 mm
Sunshine avg 2.8hrs	87.4 hrs	62.4 Hrs
Max mean temp. (highest 19.1°C on 10th)	16.1 °C	14.1 °C
Min mean temp. (lowest 1.4 °C on 22nd)	8.0°C	7.01 °C

This December issue of The Gossip Tree was edited by: **Graham Eames.**

We apologise in advance if we have made any errors or omissions

Please would regular contributors for the January issue contact me via email:

**([fmgossiption@gmail.com](mailto:fmgossiption@gmail.com))**

Alternatively, contact the **Chairman, Barbara Humphreys**, email: [blueletterbox@btinternet.com](mailto:blueletterbox@btinternet.com) for further information.

**Submissions for the January issue by Friday 10th December 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 [fmgossiption@gmail.com](mailto:fmgossiption@gmail.com)*