



THE GOSSIP TREE

News & Views from the Parish of FONTMELL MAGNA

Sponsored by MacLachlan Solicitors Ltd.

JUNE
2021
Issue 327

From the Gossip Tree Committee

Welcome to the June edition of the Gossip Tree. As our lives continue to return to normal, many clubs and societies are starting to resume their activities. The details in our notices are as up to date as we can manage but please check directly with them for confirmation.

Graham Eames on behalf of the Gossip Tree Committee
fmgosiptree@gmail.com

GOSSIP TREE SPONSORSHIP

The Gossip Tree relies on sponsorship from local individuals and societies to cover the printing costs of the 100+ paper copies that are made available to villagers each month.

We currently have a shortage of sponsors for the coming months so we would be delighted if people would like to come forward and sponsor a month, the cost is £30 and we are happy to either credit your sponsorship or for you to remain anonymous.

If you would be interested in sponsoring an issue please contact our Chairperson Barbara Humphreys at blueletterbox@btinternet.com

Many Thanks Graham

St Andrew's Church, Fontmell Magna

CHURCH SERVICES in FONTMELL MAGNA.

6th No service at St Andrews

13th 9.30am Holy Communion

20th 9.30am Sung Communion

27th 10.00am Benefice Service at St Andrew's— this is an opportunity to celebrate the end of the various Coronavirus restrictions, so we will be able to SING, greet one another and sit where we like - and NO FACE MASKS (Subject of course to confirmation by HM Government!)

Sunday Breakfast is back!

St Andrew's Church invites all residents, old and new, to our informal breakfast on the first Sunday of the month in the Village Hall, starting on 4th July at 9 o'clock.

We are extending our menu to include a healthy 'continental style' breakfast with cereal, toast, croissants and fruit as well as the traditional bacon rolls with the temptation of baked beans – how could you resist! (Tho' you need to arrive promptly to feast on all the available fare.)

There will be a thought for the day around 9.30-ish and we continue with refills of coffee or tea until 10 o'clock.

With the removing of Covid-19 restrictions this will be a wonderful opportunity to meet socially, especially for new residents. We know that some like to come along each month and others as and when they can, but everyone is welcome.

No charge made, although the tip jar miraculously seems to just cover the cost!

You don't have to book a seat – we just hope there are enough chairs! (For safety of course, children will need to be accompanied by an adult.)

Notices – June 2021

St. Andrew's Church - Services for June

Please see announcement opposite for details

Parish Council Meeting

Next meeting AGM & Annual Parish Meeting

Thu 27th May at 6.00pm in the Village hall

Parish clerk: Sam Smith

clerk@fontmellmagnapc.co.uk

Local Councillor—Jane Somper

Email: cllrjane.somper@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Tel: 07710 395359

The Surgery

Closed until further notice.

Enquiries: 856700

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

Meetings cancelled until further notice.

Enquiries: Jenny White 812042

The Fontmell

Mon-Thu 12-10 and food 2-6/6-8

Fri 12-10 and food 12.30 to 8.30

Saturday 12-10 and food 12-8.30

Sunday 12-6 and food 12-3

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

For more information please contact

Helen English: 07789 845498

Bell-ringing

Meetings cancelled until further notice.

Enquiries: Caroline Rhodes 812002

Zumba Gold (Low Impact) - dancing to stay fit at Fontmell Magna Village Hall

Thursdays 9.30 to 10.25am

A lovely, friendly, welcoming class in a beautiful location awaits you.

Booking & payment in advance please.

To get involved contact: Abby

Down [01747 850867](tel:01747850867)/07901 597129 –

Zumbawithabbyd@gmail.com

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
Meetings resume in July
Enquiries: Janet Smith 811904

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

North Dorset Wildlife Trust
3rd Wednesday of month, September to April from 7.30pm.
www.dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk

Archive Society
Meetings will recommence September 16th with the AGM and then on the 3rd Thursday of each month in the village hall 4.00 to 5.30pm
Enquiries: Roger Hillman 811878

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

Fontmell Magna Art Club
Meetings will recommence on Tuesday 25th May and will meet weekly 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@vhdevelopments.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

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

Zumba
Thursday 9-10 (Zumba fitness) and 10.15-11.15 (Community Zumba)
Enquiries Abby Down 850867/07901 597129
zumbawithabbyd@gmail.com

To book the Hall, please contact :
Sian Highnam on 811028 or email bookings.fmvh@mail.com

IWERNE VALLEY WALLING GROUP—MAY WALK 2021

Fourteen of us and five dogs were so lucky to have picked, by chance, a day of dryness and even occasional sunshine, sandwiched between two miserably wet, grey and often windy days, to do a lovely walk from Child Okeford led by Claire Watson.

We set off from the Gold Hill Organic Farm towards Hambledon Hill, then walked along the bottom of the hill in the direction of Iwerne Minster, up what Jim said used to be known as 'Pig Shit Lane' on account of the pig farm there in days gone by, and did a little detour to view an intriguing stone circle constructed in the twentieth century by the landowner. We stood for a while being eyed up by a couple of alpacas who were grazing by the stones and had recently been shorn.

From there we headed round in a circle to Far-
rington and thence back to Child Okeford. Not only was it the first time in very many months that we were able to walk in a group of more than six, but also it was the first time that after the walk, we'd been able to sit outside round one table and enjoy a good lunch and a drink and a chat at an actual pub (The Saxon). A cause for celebration indeed!

Helen English



Councillors Chronicles No.4 - Uses for Telephone Boxes

A few weeks ago, a parish council in Hampshire made the headlines when the Chairman asked whoever was leaving adult fiction in the parish telephone box to please "find another outlet for your collection". He added that the community knew who was responsible and that "they aren't very well thought of".

Thankfully, FMPC doesn't have that situation to contend with but does have one parish owned telephone box, bought from BT and put to healthier use. It houses the as yet unneeded defibrillator at Bedchester cross-roads which is monitored by a nearby resident in generous community spirit.

Another box, just outside the parish boundary by the old school at Bleax Hill, is the property of East Orchard. It also has a defibrillator, deployed a while ago and doubles as a rather active library. Books in the box change often, well, most of them do, and all are wholesome. It is satisfying to think that this exchange system is appreciated, facilitated by a few shelves and not too much effort. A rota of local people checks the defibrillator on a weekly basis and cleans the box half yearly, offering six months of respite to the resident spiders. In an emergency, a team of volunteers who live in both Hartgrove and East Orchard is available to transport the device to wherever it is needed including to parts of our parish. They have just four minutes to do this.

Fontmell Magna's other defibrillator has its own cabinet on the wall of the school building and it is monitored by councillor Annie Newbury.

Here are some alternative ways inventive owners have found to utilise redundant phone boxes: mini medical centre, art gallery, display case for flowers, booth bar (with alcohol), Disney store, toilet, picnic store, being available for wedding photos, canvas for children's art, hot drink dispenser, booth for grocery essentials, pop-up art exhibition complete with on-line monitor, costume changing station, bird cage, fish tank, weighing station, rinse and spit facility for oral hygiene, hair drying salon, juke box, cakes in a callbox. And, intriguingly, casing for a cooling device for easing hot flushes.

Outside Fontmell shop and post office, the telephone box which does not belong to the parish, is owned by a non-resident and not for sale. This is a pity with all those potential uses for us to think about.



FONTMELL FRIENDSHIP GARDEN



There have been noticeable changes since last month's Gossip Tree.

We have had a lovely community prep morning when we started to plant on April 24th and The Fontmell also has some of our flowers in planters.

Reception, years one and two have planted the sunflowers they have grown and a team of six men installed the irrigation kindly donated by MJ Abbott. The irrigation went in on Saturday May 16th, the day before the rain to end all rain arrived!

We had our first social event on Tuesday May 18th with a flower demonstration by Kingston Maurward College led by Head of Floristry Mrs Tracey Nadin. It was really lovely to get together again safely.

On Saturday May 22nd we are planting the little flower plants which have been grown by so many people around the village and beyond. Thank you to the 28 seed growers, plant propagators and those who have donated plants of all sizes. This has been an incredible community effort - thank you to everyone.

Looking ahead -

JUNE 26th 1-4 pm. Garden opening afternoon.

This is an afternoon to celebrate the opening of the garden and to thank all the sponsors and volunteers who have contributed so much. The Lord Lieutenant of Dorset will formally open the garden, together with Mr and Mrs McCurrach who named the garden. There will be live music all afternoon, a bar and BBQ run by The Fontmell, teas and cakes, plant stall, jars of joy stall, a friendship bracelet stall, cake stall and a grand raffle stand. It is a chance for us to come together again. We will be ensuring everyone feels safe, with precautions in place.

As highlighted in last month's edition, if you are planning to come to the opening - I would be very grateful if you could indicate whether you are going to pre order one of The Fontmell's beef or vegetarian burgers priced at £5. The closing date for this is May 29th, so John can order food in advance. I am afraid there is no guarantee there will be a burger available if you have NOT pre ordered. PLEASE E MAIL ME ON garden.fmvh@mail.com to let me know if you want a burger.

PARKING FOR THE GARDEN OPEN AFTERNOON ON SATURDAY JUNE 26th .

PLEASE NOTE THE GARDEN WILL OPEN AT 1 PM.

Local villagers - Please can we suggest you walk over to the garden to reduce traffic and congestion in the village .

There will be parking for visitors at the Village Hall, the surgery and overspill parking in St Andrew's School car park. If you are parking along the street- please ensure exits and driveways are kept free,

YOU MIGHT LIKE TO BRING A POP UP SEAT ALONG WITH YOU - we will have chairs for the refreshments, but numbers are looking lovely, so a pop up seat might also be useful. The sun will definitely be shining and it will definitely be warm and we can sit and enjoy the entertainment.

GRAND RAFFLE DRAW

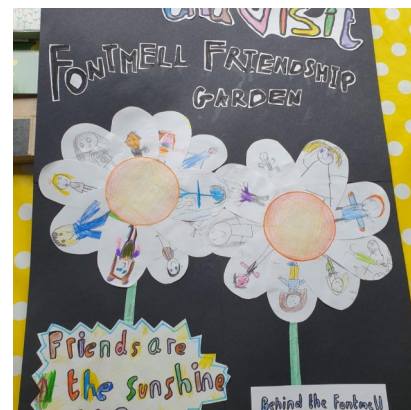
Tickets for the raffle are now on sale in the shop . There are some fantastic prizes which I listed last time, plus highlighted on Next Door Neighbour, our face book and instagram page.

Highlights include - hampers from Neals Yard, Mine, Cranbornes, Virginia Hayward, Our village shop, The Botanical Candle company plus gifts from Folde. There are gift vouchers from The Potting Shed plus an RHS encyclopaedia, vouchers from King Alfred's Kitchen, vouchers from Cranborne Garden centre and tea for two at their cafe.

We have vouchers for pilates and Yoga plus a sports/ garden massage from Vicci, Kirsty and Paula respectively. There are bouquets from Pamplermousse and Daisy Delbridge and a gift voucher for Bright Blooms. Additionally, there is beer, wine with accompanying glassware, hair products and soaps. We also have a unique and original painting by local acclaimed artist Annie Field.

Please do buy tickets from the shop or from me (I always have some on me!). Funds raised will go to the village hall and garden and will help us to develop the garden next year.

Thank you everyone so much.
Kind Regards Sian



News from the Village Hall

The Village Hall is open and available to hire so if you are considering an event please get in touch with our Bookings Manager Sian Highnam on 811 028 or by email: bookings.fmvh@mail.com

Apologies to our hirers and regular users for the extra maintenance that is currently underway. We are replacing the high wattage lights in the uplighters with dimmable low energy LED lights. They are being converted in batches of 4 so hopefully they won't cause you too much inconvenience on these lighter summer evenings. The work should be completed by the end of June.

We have a few events to look forward to in June including the Grand Opening of the Fontmell Friendship Garden on Saturday 26th June and the launch of the Pop-up Café at the Village Hall in partnership with the Friendship Garden on Wednesdays starting Wednesday 30th June from 2 to 4 pm - All are welcome for a cuppa, cake and a chat. We are also planning an event for Children and their Parents/Carers as part of National Play Day on Wednesday 4th August – Picnic in the Park – we'll have more details about this next month.

Lisa Le Druillenec, Secretary, Fontmell Magna Village Hall

Secretary.fmvh@mail.com Tel: 812 500



Compost Corner

There are some children who continually ask, 'why': my brother was one such child and was intrigued to read that lettuces were 90% water, so he decided to find out for himself whether this was true. He took a lettuce and proceeded to feed it through our grandmother's mangle; the result was inconclusive and the mangle left bright green.

Water is of course vital for plant life so when you notice a pot plant has wilted, what do you do? Water it of course. But wilting can be caused by overwatering - the roots drown and ultimately the plant dies - never leave a plant sitting in water for long. Another reason for wilt is the dreaded vine weevil, the little grubs eat the plant's roots yet again leading to an ex-plant. Careful watering is also important for border plants, a good soaking once a week is far preferable to a sprinkling everyday although newly established plants should never be allowed to dry out.

I have to say my grandmother wasn't overly impressed with the use of her mangle for botany experiments but it didn't deter my brother who was pondering, 'what would I catch if I dug a deep hole in the garden and camouflaged it with twigs and leaves.....' That's another story.

Alison Main



Dorset Council is revising the waste collections in North Dorset and nearby areas to make the service more efficient and cost-effective. **This means, from early June, they will be changing the way they deploy vehicles and crews to empty household bins in and around the north of the county.**

They will be writing to all affected households over the next few weeks to inform them of what's happening, so please keep up an eye out for a letter. Some will have their bin days changed, while others won't notice a difference. **If you don't receive a letter from, please assume your service is unaffected.**

There will be no reduction in service. Rubbish and recycling collections will continue to run on a fortnightly basis (rubbish one week, recycling the next etc.), with food waste bins still emptied weekly but now using a separate vehicle.

Village we ather for April 2021

A cold dry month, similar to 2020 but much colder. Only 0.8mm of rain until 27th April when showers started. A lot of night frosts damaging blossom but some days of unbroken sunshine.

4 rain days, 2 snow flurries, 12 air frost, 25 ground frost. 1 day hail and 0 gales

Comp. Figures	2021	2020
Rain (Most 4.7 mm on 30th)	9.4 mm	57.2 mm
Sunshine	hrs (ave 7.4 hrs)	Hrs (ave 7.3 hrs)
Max mean temp. (highest 18.2 °C on 24th)	12.8 °C	17.3 °C
Min mean temp. (lowest —4.4 °C on 8th)	0.67°C	5.4 °C

This June 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 July issue contact me via email:
fmgossiptree@gmail.com

Alternatively, contact the **Chairman, Barbara Humphreys**, email: blueletterbox@btinternet.com for further information.
Submissions for the June issue by Wednesday 23rd 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