



THE GOSSIP TREE

News & Views from the Parish of FONTMELL MAGNA

Sponsored by Pauline Morphy.

MAY
2021
Issue 326

From the Gossip Tree Committee

Welcome to the May edition of the Gossip Tree.

One of the projects that was postponed due to the pandemic was the new edition of the Fontmell Magna Directory. Now that life is returning to normal we will be publishing a new edition in a couple of months time. To that end, I would be grateful if all local clubs and societies could let me have their latest contact details, meeting times etc.

In addition, the Directory contains details of local businesses so if you own a local business or know of one that you think should be included, please let me know.

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

St Andrew's Church, Fontmell Magna

CHURCH SERVICES in FONTMELL MAGNA.

2nd No service at St Andrews
9th 9.30am Morning Worship
16th 9.30am Sung Communion
23rd 9.30am Holy Communion
30th 10.00 am .Benefice Service at St Mary's, Iwerne Minster*

* It will be necessary to book a place for this service to keep within Covid-safe limits.

Please phone David Parkhouse, Churchwarden on 01747-812603

THE FONTMELL

We will continue as we are until the 16th May then from the 17th we will open 7days a week again,

Monday to Thursday 12-10 and food 12-2 / 6-8. Friday 12-10 and food 12:30-8:30 Saturday 12-10 food 12-8:30 Sunday 12-6 and food 12-3

Support your local.



IWERNE VALLEY WALKING GROUP

Here are details about our May walk.

At last we're able to start up again!

Saturday May 22nd, starting at 10 a.m. from Child Okeford. For further details, please contact Helen on 07789845498.



Notices – May 2021

St. Andrew's Church - Services for May

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

Please see announcement opposite for details.

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

See entry opposite for details of the May walk.

For more information please contact

Helen English: 07789 845498

Bell-ringing

Meetings cancelled until further notice.

Buddleias—Thank you to all helpers who cut back half the bushes. Lets hope the pesky frosts spare most for flowering in July and August.

We completed the task in record time so apologies to those who came to find the job done. Judy

Correction

Notes of the Parish Council meeting on 8th March omitted to record Jeremy Long in the list of councillors present; sincere apologies to Jeremy. Mike Humphreys for FM Parish Council.

Events in the Village Hall

Fontmell Magna & District Society

Meetings cancelled until further notice.

Enquiries: Dick Stainer 811153

Sunday Breakfast

Meetings cancelled until further notice.

Enquiries: Janet Smith 811904

Fontmell Films

Meetings cancelled until further notice.

Enquires: Libby Gendall 811551

North Dorset Wildlife Trust

Meetings cancelled until further notice.

www.dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk

Archive Society

Meetings cancelled until further notice.

Enquiries: Roger Hillman 811878

Garden Club

Meetings cancelled until further notice.

Enquiries: Sue East 812349

Fontmell Magna Art Club

Meetings cancelled until further notice.

Enquiries: Sandra Jelbert 812468

Carpet Bowls Club

Meetings cancelled until further notice.

Enquiries: Gerry Bone 811814

Dru Yoga

Meeting every Friday morning 9-11.

Enquiries: Kirsty Elliot 829281

Pilates Mon 5.30-6.30pm, 6.30-7.30pm and Tues 9.15.

STOTT Pilates Enquiries: Vicci Gillett 07940 961221 www.stable-bodies.co.uk

Pop Up Play Village

Details for future events

Contact: Helen Poll email: northdorset@popupplayvillage.co.uk

website: <https://popupplayvillage.co.uk>

Taekwon-do

Tuesday & Friday evenings

Enquiries: Sam Donohoo 07584 039351

Zumba

Every Thursday at 09.30

Enquiries Abby Down 850867

zumbawithabby@gmail.com

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



Cut Less – Cut Later! You can make a difference to nature in our Parish!



It's spring – hooray! The weather is warming up, the days are longer and the insects are out and about.

Insects need flowers, flowers need insects to pollinate them, we need the pollinators too. Without the bees, butterflies, moths and whole host of other insects our harvests would fail. At this time of the year the early pollinators rely heavily on WEEDS!

Please don't cut the verge or bank outside your home, it may be just a dandelion to you but it's a lifesaver for that bee! Instead, cultivate and enjoy the bright colours of spring – and do your bit for nature! PLEASE....

Parish Council AGM and Annual Parish Meeting – Change of Date!

It has become necessary to change the arrangements for holding the Parish Council's Annual General Meeting (AGM) and the Annual Parish Meeting. The government has decided not to renew the regulations that allowed councils to hold meetings virtually. After 7th May 2021 it will be unlawful for the council to hold virtual meetings.

The AGM and Annual Parish Meeting will now be held physically on Thursday 27th May 2021 in the Village Hall, with timings as follows:

6.00-6.55pm Parish Council AGM and Council Meeting

7.00pm Annual Parish Meeting

Residents and group representatives are invited to attend either or both meetings. Attendance will be subject to Covid restrictions and those wishing to attend must notify the Clerk at clerk@fontmellmagnapc.co.uk or on 01258 880310 by noon on Tuesday 25th May.

The main business of the AGM will be to elect the officers of the council, and to approve the end of year financial accounts and the Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR). The meeting will include also any essential matters that the council should address, such as payment of bills. Once approved the accounts and AGAR will be published on the parish council website for public scrutiny http://www.fontmellmagnapc.co.uk/Finance_29458.aspx

The AGM will be followed by the Annual Parish Meeting, where the parish's clubs, societies, committees and organised groups are invited to report to residents on their activities in the past year and plans for the coming year, and where residents can raise any issues of concern. Groups should provide a written report which can be read at the meeting or sent to the Clerk in absentia. All reports will be posted on the council's website.

For further information please contact the Clerk, Sam Smith.
Mike Humphreys, Chair, Fontmell Magna Parish Council

Village weather for March 2021

A cold dry start, milder wet week followed by another dry spell. 3 unsettled days ending with a mini heat wave.

12 rain days, 6 air frost, 20 ground frost. 2 days hail and 3 gales

Comp. Figures	2021	2020
Rain (Most 10.8 mm on 12th)	41.5 mm	mm
Sunshine	108 hrs (ave 3.5 hrs)	hrs
Max mean temp. (highest 21.2 °C on 30th)	11.6 °C	°C
Min mean temp. (lowest -4.4 °C on 8th)	2.8 °C	°C

FONTMELL FRIENDSHIP GARDEN

The garden has been continuing to develop and expand during April, with a great deal of work continuing behind the scenes.

Since the March update, all the beautiful plant signs have been completed by Fontmell Magna Art club and positioned on boards made by Martin Bolton - one of the DT teachers at Brynston.



Our own George Darwall has cut hazel supports and pea sticks to ensure our plants grow up-right and Springhead have kindly made more beds for the garden - two will house "calm and scented" plants and another will support the sunflowers being grown by local children and three year groups from St Andrew's School.

Surplus sweet pea plants have been sold at the shop to fund the garden and the first jars of joy have been made. Briony Long and myself will be planting up some initial tubs for the pub, using flowers grown for the garden.

On April 24th. we had a working party in the garden in the morning to plant buddleia kindly given to us by Judy Westgate and a prunus Kazan donated by Joy Murphy in memory of her late husband Patrick.

The beds will have structures put in place to support the plants for their May 22nd plant out and all the troughs which will be in the garden will be filled.

We will soon have a new entrance gate and benches for the garden.

The local children are growing sweet peas and three year groups from St Andrew's School visited the garden on April 20th to see where their sunflowers will grow.

The Fontmell Magna under fives group will be planting their bee bomb plants in the next fortnight.

We have had more lovely publicity. The RHS - The Garden magazine mentioned us in their April edition and we are going to be featured in the RHS newsletter to groups in the community gardening section. I am also awaiting the date for the release of the village halls podcast which will be featuring our village project.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

MAY 18th . 1.30-4.30. Flower demonstration by final year students from Kingston Maurward College.

There are only four places left for this event. Tickets are £5 payable on the door to include the demonstration plus tea and cake. I am also running a little raffle for the demonstrations. Those of you who have already booked will receive information from me by the end of April. If anyone wants one of the last four places, please e mail me on gar-den.fmvh@mail.com

MAY 22nd . 10 am- 1 pm. Flower plant out.

We will be planting out the flowers grown by our villagers and friends. If anyone would like to help to plant out - please do contact me on garden.fmvh@mail.com (If you have already contacted me, I have you on the data file)

JUNE 26th GRAND OPENING OF THE GARDEN 1-4 pm This is the formal opening afternoon, when there will be live music, tea, cakes, a plant stall, friendship bracelet stall, jars of joy stand, village cook book and cake stall, raffle stall.

John Crompton will be running a BBQ and bar.

This is a chance to celebrate what the volunteers have been doing for the last few months, to thank sponsors for their kind support of the project and to enjoy some time together.

IF YOU ARE PLANNING TO COME ALONG- IT IS REALLY IMPORTANT IF YOU WOULD LIKE ONE OF JOHN'S FAMOUS FONTMELL BEEF OR VEGETARIAN BURGERS, PRICED AT £5 EACH THAT YOU E MAIL ME IN ADVANCE PLEASE ON garden.fmvh@mail.com I will need to know numbers coming and what burger you would like. If you are planning to come but you are NOT having a burger , please do not e mail me.

If you have already contacted me as a volunteer from your invitation - there is no need to reply again.

There are more events planned over the summer and I will share those details in the next edition of the Gossip Tree.

Thank you to everyone involved in every way - I am constantly being stopped and offered help or e mailed - and it is truly wonderful. Thank you to our wonderful village.

Sian Highnam



Update from the Village Hall – Preparing for Stage 3 Re-opening

As many of you may know we re-opened the Village Hall on from 12th April for Taekwondo and Pop up Play Village Children's Activities. It has been operating very well as a Covid-19 Secure Venue during this time. We are very grateful to our Caretaker, Pat Guy, for keeping up the exacting covid cleaning regime. We are also allowed to host Business Meetings and Trustee meetings. Dance Practice for Adults can resume as long as they are in the same household. Outdoors we can currently host Wakes for up to 15 guests and Wedding Celebrations for up to 15 guests – we do have 2 large gazebos that can be hired to help with this. Outdoor Fetes and Markets are also permitted.

There have been changes to the signing in procedure at the Village Hall – everyone – even if you are part of an organised Group– must scan in using the QR poster on display at the Hall. If you don't have the NHS app or a smart phone then you are asked to sign into the visitor book. Your details will be held for 21 days and then shredded.

For the purpose of the Elections on 6th May when the hall is being used as a Polling Station – you do not need to sign in on the QR code as you will only be in that building briefly in order to cast your vote.

We are now looking forward to inviting many more of our regular users back to the Village Hall from **Monday 17th May** when the hall will be allowed to host **controlled** indoor events at 50% capacity – such as:

- Hobby Groups, Coffee Mornings, Social Clubs, Indoor Bowls
- Singing and music practice and rehearsals but no audience
- Archive Society
- Art Group
- Educational Talks
- Moviola, Plays and Concerts
- Adult Exercise Classes – Yoga, Pilates, Zumba (reduced capacity)
- Wedding Receptions (up to 30 guests)
- Funeral Wakes (up to 30 guests)
- Christening celebrations (up to 30 guests)
- Organised outdoor entertainment
- Indoor hospitality can go ahead - but food must be ordered whilst seated



The **Rule of 6** will apply **indoors** and the **Rule of 30** will apply **outdoors**

It is looking unlikely that Children's Parties will be allowed at the Hall until after **21st June** but we understand that parties organised by a professional children's party organiser can go ahead. Please get in touch with our bookings manager to discuss your requirements as we are receiving regular updates on this from our advisers.

The Tennis court has been open since **Monday 29th March** for social play Singles and Doubles is allowed but players must maintain social distancing. 1 to 1 coaching is permitted but spectating is not allowed. Parents may supervise children (one parent per player). To hire the court please contact Louise Murchie by email: murchie25@btinternet.com or visit the Greenhouse at 27 Orchard Close to make your booking. £1 an hour per adult. Students and Children 50p.

Under 12's Playground

We have received a very generous donation to the playground appeal and are currently looking at some options for a new piece of play equipment for the under-fives. All the playground suppliers are incredibly busy at the moment but I hope to have an update from our supplier for the June edition. In the meantime routine maintenance is being carried out but please take care and supervise your children at all times. Please continue to use hand sanitiser.

Recreation Area

Good progress is being made with our joint venture with the Blackmore Vale Practice towards the Fontmell Friendship Garden and a gate between the hall and the garden is due to be installed very soon. The grassed playing area is still roped off, this is to allow the newly sown grass seed to establish.

You can find regular updates for the Village Hall and the Fontmell Friendship Garden on Instagram and Facebook: @villagehallfontmellmagna, @fontmellfriendshipgarden and Nextdoor.

For any queries about restarting your activities at the Village Hall please email: secretary.fmvh@mail.com or bookings.fmvh@mail.com – Sian and I are very happy to advise on what activities are permitted and how you can run events safely at the Village Hall.

We are looking forward to seeing many more of you back at the Village Hall soon.

Lisa Le Druillenec, Secretary: Fontmell Magna Village Hall Committee



Springhead

a rural centre for creative and sustainable living

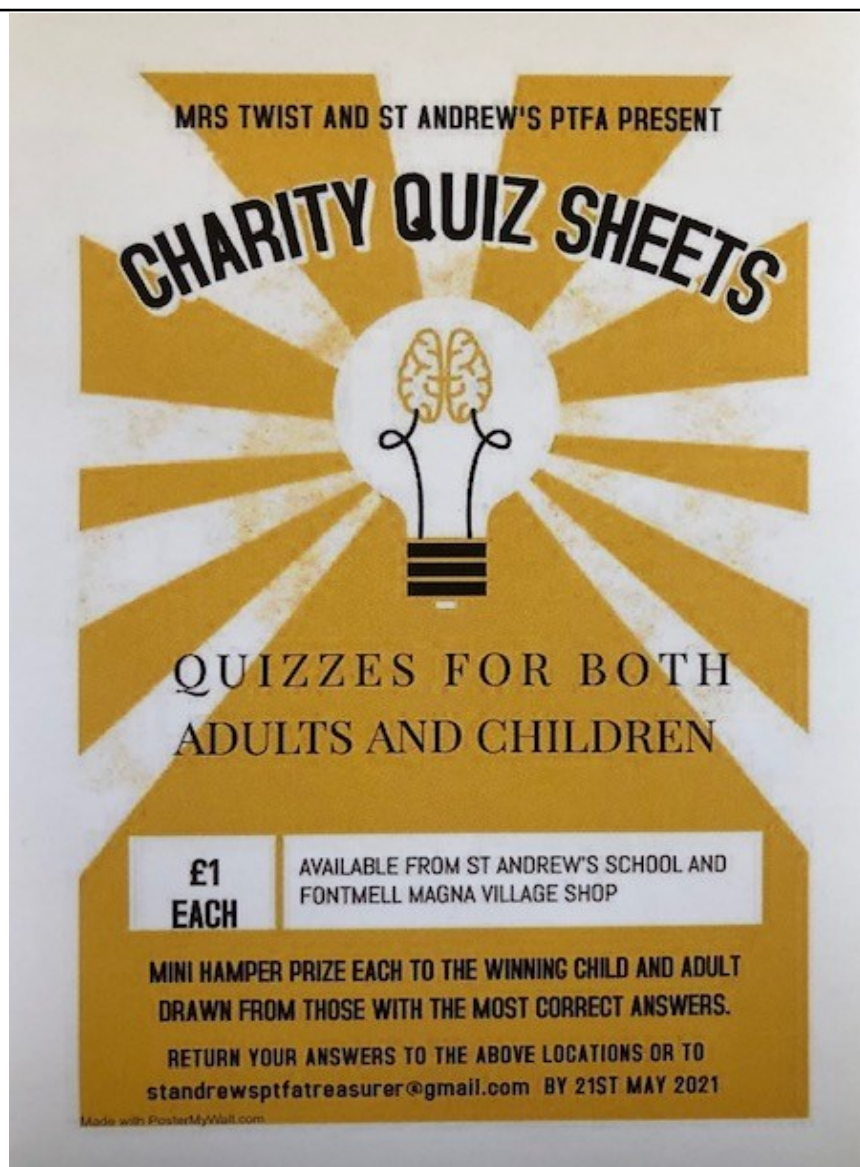
Visit Springhead to view our blossom and springtime gardens.

Springhead's gardens will be open on Sunday 2 May and Monday 3 May from 1130 to 1630.

There is no charge but donations are welcome. Please observe social distancing, especially across the walkways. Toilets are open in the main Mill building but no Café though you are welcome to bring your own refreshments. Dogs on leads only please.

See our website for further details, we would love to see you.

Kate Partridge Co-ordinator Friends of Springhead.



Councillors Chronicles No.3—Christine Scott

“Chase and Chalk”

In 2019 I moved into Fontmell Magna . Well just as I was settling in to various activities within the local community along came Covid and we all know what that meant. The one salvation was living in such a beautiful area full of friendly people!

Well then I thought why not get onto the Parish Council and find out how I can get more connected and caring about the place where we live. At present it is all a learning curve and makes you realise just how much there is to be aware of happening around us. It is made up of a small dedicated team who care about protecting our area and environment so I hope I can make a useful contribution their efforts.

One area I am getting involved with is “Chase and Chalke” a government funded scheme to help conserve and enhance AONB areas, by getting local people interested in various projects within, in our case, the Cranborne Chase. It is surprising just how large an area this covers, a large swathe of Dorset, Wiltshire and part of Hampshire.

At this time the Countryside Ranger is liaising with members of many local Parish councils to get feedback on how we can take this forward to get some structure for various projects such as footpath protection, conserving natural habitats and history of the area.

Volunteers will be asked to help in many ways by the sound of it!

Just go online to “Chase and Chalke” Landscape Partnership Scheme. You will find an interesting site full of information including quite a few walks you may not have found. This site is being added to and updated all the time.



Compost Corner

What have Princess Charlotte, Sir David Attenborough and Miss Muffet got in common? Spiders. The first two mentioned are great fans, Miss Muffet less so. Many people however are terrified of them maybe because they have all those hairy legs that move so rapidly but they're such busy, useful animals and they catch and devour many insects, some of which are a real nuisance to gardeners. I was particularly impressed to see a spider lie in wait and pounce on a vine weevil, sting it then wrap it up like a parcel ready for a picnic. Vine weevil grubs can do irreparable damage to container plants, so I wasn't in the least bit distressed to see an adult vine weevil become a spider's snack.

A spider's web has got to be one of the most extraordinary structures in the natural world and many birds, including chaffinches and long tailed tits, use spiders webs to help construct their nests and spiders are also an important food source for baby and adult birds.

So before you squish a spider try and embrace your inner Sir David or failing that your inner Miss Muffet, scamper away and leave the little arachnid unharmed.

Alison Main



SEASONAL RECIPE—RHUBARB CAKE

8oz Butter 8oz Caster Sugar

8oz Self raising flour 4 eggs

1tsp good vanilla extract

A couple of good handfuls of sliced rhubarb, or more to taste

2-3 tsp of ground ginger to taste (optional)

Put all ingredients apart from the rhubarb into a mixer and beat until smooth. Around 2 minutes.

Fold in the rhubarb

Put in either a large loaf tin or 8 inch round cake tin (lined and greased) and bake in the oven at around 180 degrees for 45 minutes to an hour depending on your oven or until a



skewer inserted into the middle comes out clean. Cool on a wire rack and serve.

If you want to add some ground ginger then it works really well.

This May 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 May 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 Thursday 20th May 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***