



THE GOSSIP TREE

News & Views from the Parish of FONTMELL MAGNA

Kindly Sponsored by Abby Down of Zumba with Abby

APRIL

2022

Issue 337

'Zumba With Abby D' is so much more than *just* an exercise to music class.

I have been operating Zumba classes here in Fontmell Magna – the Parish where I grew up - since my children started at St Andrews Primary School (that's five years between me & you!).

There is nothing I love more than to spread the joy of dancing around and forgetting the real world, making ourselves feel good from all the laughing, having fun with silly humour in a safe space where we can just be ourselves!



And now I am organising a **'Fitness & Family Time Fundraiser'** to raise money for St Andrews Primary School PTFA and the Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance on Saturday 23rd April at Sturfit Sports Centre.

A busy morning is planned to suit all age groups and abilities, whether you like to sit and eat cake, buy raffle tickets, need something to occupy the children at Easter or want to try a new fitness activity. There will be bookable bouncy castles for children aged 3-11yrs. You could even use the morning as a meeting point to catchup with friends/ family: Sturfit is a great location with super facilities and plenty of free on-site parking.

So, what next?

Have a look at the poster within this edition & contact me to show your support however you can help (volunteers to make cakes, helping on the day, purchasing raffle tickets, or to make a donation etc).

Please come along to Sturfit with your children/grandchildren

Let your friends and family know about the event and make it a huge success so that we raise lots of money to support our local school children and the Air Ambulance in their equally important areas.

Call Abby on 07901 597129
or email zumbawithabbyd@gmail.com

Thank you Sue

The Gossip Tree Committee and I'm sure all of the people who Sue Mercer hand delivered to, would like to say how much we have appreciated her hard work and continued commitment to collecting and distributing the Gossip Tree over many years in all sorts of situations and conditions.

Sue has decided that it's time to redirect her energies and will no longer be popping round to houses and the shop with the paper copies. In her place we are grateful to Sue Keen for volunteering to take on this aspect of our community newsletter's presence in the parish.

Thank you so very much to both Sue Mercer and Sue Keen.

From the Gossip Tree Committee and others.

It's doubtful whether Sue Keen will be delivering to this tiny household in Church Lane, Hartgrove.



Notices – April 2022

St. Andrew's Church - Services for April

3rd 0900 Sunday Breakfast at Village Hall
10th 0930 Palm Sunday service
15th 0930 Act of Witness near the Gossip Tree
1400 "Meditation at the cross" in the church
17th 0930 Easter Day Holy Communion
24th 0930 Holy Communion

Parish Council Meeting

Next PC meeting
Wed 18th May 2022 in the village hall
AGM 6.30-7.00pm

Annual Parish Meeting 7.00-7.30pm

Parish Council Meeting 7.30-8.15pm

Parish clerk: Sam Smith
clerk@fontmellmagnapc.co.uk

Local Councillor—Jane Somper

Email: 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

St. Andrew's School

Enquiries: 811500

Fontmell Magna Toddler Group & Under 5s

Enquiries: 812773

Iwerne Valley Walking Group

Saturday April 23rd, walk will be led by Claire. For details please contact her on 07708473568.

Contact: Helen English 01747 853472

Bell-ringing

Enquiries: Caroline Rhodes 812002

Events in the Village Hall

Fontmell Friendship Garden—Pop up Café
Resumes 20th April 2022
Contact Sian Highnam 811028 or
garden.fmvh@mail.com

Fontmell Magna & District Society

1st Friday of the month, October to May from 7.30pm.
Enquiries: Dick Stainer 811153

Sunday Breakfast

1st Sunday of the month
Enquiries: Barry Roberts 811906

Fontmell Films

Enquires: Libby Gendall 811551

Archive Society

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

Fontmell Magna & District Garden Club

Thursday 21st April 7.30pm

Social evening for members

Enquiries: Sue Chippington 811520
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 at 0930 and 1100
Enquiries: Kirsty Elliot 829281
Kirsty@vhadevelopments.co.uk

Pilates

Mon 1730-1930 Tues 1000-1100.
STOTT Pilates Matwork with props Enquiries: Vicci Gillett 07940 961221 stablebodies@gmail.com

Pilates with Sam Whitford – Monday mornings term-time

Mondays 10.30 to 11.30am. Contact Sam Whitford 07740 906515 email: s.whitford@btinternet.com

Taekwon-do

Friday 5.30 to 6.30—suitable for adults and children from 6 years. Enquiries:
Sam Donohoo 07388 342625 or
sam.donohoo@hotmail.co.uk

Tennis court

Booking: Louise Murchie, 27 Orchard Close –
murchie25@btinternet.com Adults £1 per hour,
Children/Students 50p per hour

Aerobics

Thursday 1000-1100 Gentle/Low impact aerobics with Abby
Enquiries: Abby Down 01747 850867 07901 597129
zumbawithabbyd@gmail.com

To book the Hall, please contact :

Sian Highnam on 811028 or email
bookings.fmvh@mail.com

Zumba With Abby D
Presents

Fitness & Family Time
At
Sturfit Leisure Centre
Saturday 23rd April
10am-1pm

Fundraising for
Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance
St Andrews CE Primary School Fontmell Magna

Entry By Cash Donation

Raffle & Tombola
Bouncy Castles & Childrens Activities
Tea, Coffee and Cake
Full Timetable of Classes to try!
Plenty of FREE PARKING!

Suitable for all Ages...
Contact Abby: 07901597129

The Directors of Fontmell Magna Community Land Trust Ltd

(FMCLT) are pleased to announce that our revised application for a grant of £204,800 from HMG's Community Ownership Fund (COF) has been successful. We now have to complete the formalities that apply to recipients of government funding before finalising the purchase of the shop.

This has been made possible by the support and encouragement that we have received from our members and the wider community and we would like to send our heartfelt thanks to all of you.

Dick Stainer

IWERNE VALLEY WALKING GROUP

The route is not yet sorted, but please put in your diary as follows:

Saturday April 23rd, walk will be led by Claire. For details please contact her on 07708473568.



Spring Buddleia Prune

All help welcomed for the annual spring cut of half the buddleia collection.

Wednesday 6th April to
Saturday 9th April between
1000 and 1600.

Thank you

Judy 811302

Fontmell Magna and District Society

Friday 4th of March 2022 – Lucy Barfoot – “Coconut & Cotton” – Living without Plastic

This fascinating talk explained Lucy's journey and to the principles which led her to open her shop in Swan's Yard, Shaftesbury. She graduated from Exeter University with a degree in Physics and began to focus her energy into encouraging others to live with an earth conscious philosophy.

She did an internship in London with food companies who used sustainable products and avoided the use of plastic packaging. She then took a gap year and toured the USA and observed how the States varied in their approaches to recycling and their use of plastics. Lucy then spent 10 months in New Zealand where she set up her own computer website business and then when visiting Bali was distressed to see the shocking amount of plastic pollution in the sea.

This led Lucy to follow her aim of promoting sustainability by setting up her own business to encourage sustainability in others. She chose the word coconut as part of the name because the tree provides us with such a variety of uses for its many products.

Her shop follows three principles:

- 1) transparency of the origin of her goods,
- 2) everything must be plastic free and
- 3) her shop must be welcoming so customers can learn.

Lucy explained the need to thoroughly investigate her suppliers as some companies will lie about what is truly biodegradable. For example, she buys her cork goods from Portugal rather than China where it can be found bonded with plastic.

Lucy explained the concept of “green washing” whereby companies falsely proclaim themselves to be eco-friendly but their credentials aren't always reliable. Similarly, the plastic industry will use unregulated logos which are misleading.

Lucy's knowledge, passion and commitment to working towards a lasting plastic free world was inspiring. It didn't take any persuasion on her part to encourage members to buy some of the goods she had brought with her from her shop.

The next meeting is on Friday April 1st and our guest speaker will be Shaftesbury resident Dr Deborah Jones whose talk is entitled “The Brilliant Burneys” - Stars of the 18th Century.

Lorna McCurrach

Walk from Stourpaine February 19th 2022

As Storm Eunice battered and raged on February 18th the organisers of the walk, Clare Martin and Antonia Eastman, wondered what the morrow would bring: should they cancel the whole thing, but that would be bad for the pub and disappointing for the dogs, should they keep the lunch but abandon the walk, or should they just be thoroughly British and carry on?

In the event, and after consulting the Met Office forecast, a compromise was reached.

Nineteen members of the group braved trees flailing in the strong wind and drove through lashing rain and deep puddles to foregather at the *White Horse* in Stourpaine where splendid pre-ordered meals were enjoyed. While delicious leisurely lunches were consumed the clouds parted, the rain stopped, the wind dropped and the sun came out.

Thus, about eleven doughty walkers donned wellingtons and coats and accompanied by motley mutts set off to climb Hod Hill. Magnificent views were admired from the ramparts of the hill fort and some of the party heard a lark. Members managed to descend the hill on the other side without mishap, although it was very slippery, especially in the gateway. The intrepid group then sloshed and splashed its way along the path by the river; into which two of the dogs plunged and swam, washing some of the mud off.

The heavy going slowed progress down the track but nevertheless the group returned to the car park with no injury and in good spirits. It was, in the end, a very good lunch and enjoyable afternoon.

Antonia Eastman



FONTMELL MAGNA PARISH COUNCIL

As part of our new strategy to continue improving communications within the community, the Parish Council have launched a new Nextdoor Group and Face Book News Page.

Both are titled Fontmell Magna Parish Council News

If you struggle to find either, please email laurakurton.council@gmail.com and she will assist you.

If Facebook or Next door doesn't work for you, please consider joining our Parish Council News Subscription and receive news, and updates via email. Again please email Laura to be added to our list.

If you prefer to find news rather than to be sent it then you can visit the News Page on the Parish Council Website. http://www.fontmellmagnapc.co.uk/News_29463.aspx

Laura Kurton

2022 - Easter Flowers Appeal for St Andrew's Church

We will be decorating the Church for Easter on Sat 19 April. Flowers are becoming astronomically expensive due to exorbitant fuel costs. If you would like to make a donation in memory of a loved one or because you support the Church flower fund, there will be a plate in Church at Sunday's services from 13 March or you may donate directly to me at 15 St Andrew's View.

Many thanks

Joy Murphy

🍿 🍿 🍿 Fontmell Film Nights

Our film showing at Fontmell Magna Village Hall on Wednesday 13th April is "Spencer" (12A) starring Kristen Stewart, Jack Farthing and Timothy Spall. The marriage of Princess Diana and Prince Charles has long since grown cold. Though rumours of affairs and a divorce abound, peace is ordained for the Christmas festivities at the Queen's Sandringham Estate. There's eating and drinking, shooting and hunting. Diana knows the game but this year things will be profoundly different. "Spencer" is an imagining of what might have happened during those few fateful days. Tickets are on sale at the village shop £6.50 or £7 on the door. Doors and the bar open at 7pm and the film starts at 7.30 We look forward to seeing you. For more information please call Libby on 01747.811551

Our next film will be shown in September and full details will be published in the August edition of the Gossip Tree. Thank you for your support.

SHROTON GIN



What was the inspiration behind starting your own Gin company? I've always loved working behind the bar at weddings, in pubs & restaurants. I had imagined that at some point in the future I'd very much enjoy opening a brewery, vineyard, or distillery. What fun it would be to try out new recipes and add in quirky ingredients that you've chosen yourself, and watch a project grow from an idea into something tangible. However, in Summer 2020, I had a thought—why wait? Why not do it now? Once I realised this was a possibility, and not something reserved for later life, the thought of working for anybody else evaporated, and the search for a recipe began.

What has been the most challenging part of the journey? The most challenging part of 'the journey' so far has also in fact been the most rewarding. This is the process of developing an abstract idea into a concrete brand and product, shaping the details that are within your control—not just to make the result simply 'satisfactory' but to create a Gin that you'd be delighted to purchase, receive, and drink yourself.

Have you lived in this area for long? I was brought up in Dorset and spent five years in Yorkshire for undergraduate and postgraduate study. Once I'd had the initial idea of making a Gin, though, I felt it was time to come home, get to work and focus on making the concept of Shroton Fair Gin® a reality.

What are your ambitions for the company? My motivation is to keep producing a delicious high-quality Gin and share it with as many people as possible. Rural Dorset is famed for its artisan craft producers and my objective is to expand this into the domain of spirits. I want my Gin to be exceptional.

Tell me a little about the choice of name. Was this your first choice? Having been brought up in Shroton and educated in the area, I wanted to tie my product to the idyllic village where I was fortunate enough to spend my childhood. When conducting research into the village's history, I was drawn to the story of Shroton Fair. This lost piece of Dorset heritage has all but vanished from collective memory, but I was amazed to discover that it had been a feature of local life for over 700 years. A local historian kindly helped me to find out more about the travelling menagerie that came to Shroton in 1767, bringing a Royal Bengal Tiger to our village. I was excited by the idea that that the tiger's stall would have been pitched almost exactly where the Shroton Cricket Club is now found. It took eight months of alchemy in our kitchen to create my unique recipe—but at the end of it Shroton Fair Gin® was born.

How would you sum up the unique taste of your gin in three words? Warming, Piquant, Aromatic

Other than gin, what is your favourite tippie? On a hot summer's day, I think it's hard to beat a cool, crisp pint of Camden Hells lager (aside from my Gin of course!)

And most importantly (!), where and when can I buy a bottle? We are open every **Friday & Saturday 09:00-12:00 at Ash Farm Courtyard, Stourpaine, DT11 8PW**. We offer 5cl or 70cl bottles of Zummit Dry® for you to savour. Pop along and see where your local Gin is distilled!

On the Shelf of the Friendship Garden Library

Gardening with Grasses by Michael King and Piet Oudolf published by Francis Lincoln, Foreword by Beth Chatto

Oudolf Field at the Hauser and Wirth Contemporary and Modern Art Gallery, Bruton, Hadspen Garden, now part of The Newt at Castle Cary, Bury Court in Farnham, Surrey, all are gardens that helped to inspire the movement for perennial gardening using grasses and herbaceous plants.

If, having visited any of them, you are minded to create your own area of prairie planting, King and Oudolf's book is packed with the most useful details. It may be a few years old – 24 in fact but there is much clear information for both grass enthusiast and novice. And by chance that our copy is off the shelf of the village hall bookcase, you can still buy it on Amazon – well, those happy to use that organisation can.

Grasses are easy to grow even in difficult sites. They can be used as lawns, as well as meadows, for ground cover and to create mood and atmosphere. In the first pages we find out about large and small specimen grasses, mass planting, lining a path with grasses, softening hard surfaces, screening, grasses in a water garden and grasses in containers.

The book concludes with three catalogues of over 150 grass types covering 34 pages - one for annual grasses, another about perennial grasses and a third on rushes and sedges and bamboos. Bamboo doesn't seem to fall naturally into the grass family but that is where it belongs. Each entry gives Latin name, plant height, spread, preferred conditions, appearance and uses.

Michael King and Piet Oudolf both live in Holland working as designers, plant nurserymen and authors. They pioneered prairie planting, a gardening perspective informed by ecology, twenty or more years ago. As the book illustrates, Oudolf's designs use bold drifts of herbaceous perennial and grasses chosen as much for structure as for colour. The photographs, all taken by King, are tantalisingly lovely.



Brookland Wood

Barry Roberts and I have just finished "coppicing" a patch of hazel, cutting the stems back to ground level. Doing this in rotation to a series of different areas provides an annual harvest of by-products, and results in a variety of distinct wildlife habitats as the new growth develops. Contact me on 01747 811888 for beanpoles and pea-sticks: proceeds to the Woodland Trust.

George Darwall



On Saturday 12th March 2022, in FM Village hall, eight new students joined Kim Creswell – (Tutor) to complete a pheasant sculptured from willow. Later that afternoon we walked home triumphantly with the willow pheasants in our arms. The day was a great success, with all of us following our Tutors lead, first making the frame for the body, then intertwining willow to strengthen the frame. The afternoon concentrated on completing the weaving effect of feathers, wings, feet and tail. Red dogwood and white stripped willow for the face and eyes. Kim grows and supplies all materials



including the Elm wooden mount to keep the pheasant on. The willow is all different colours and lengths, prepared after a long soak. The sculptures need a few days to dry, a couple of coats of Danish oil or similar before going into the gardens on display.

Sian said she came away feeling really chuffed! 'It is outside my door where I can admire it'. Laura said she was pleased with herself, having enjoyed the day and feeling a little bit smug! Sue E said she was exhausted and elated, but added she would make it clear how physical it is especially on the hands!

Jane said she achieved something she had never done before and met lots of lovely people.

The atmosphere was buoyant with laughter, frustration, suppressed expletives, chatter then silence of deep concentration or the crack of willow and the sound of 'Doh'.

Motivated by the success of the day there is a plan to hold another workshop – it will be on a Saturday in the autumn, the animal to be sculptured all to be decided. If you are interested and want to get ahead by booking a place then please send an e mail to susanheatley1@gmail.com. Places are limited to 8, the maximum for Kim to facilitate effectively. Laura said – 'Kim was an excellent, enthusiastic and friendly teacher'.

Kim's work and profile can be viewed and read at www.kimcreswell.co.uk.

Fontmell Magna Parish Council – Meeting held on 16th March 2022 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

Present: Cllrs Michael Humphreys (MH) Chair, Andrew Davis (AD), Laura Kurtin (LK), Christine Scott (CS), Clerk Sam Smith (SS), plus 9 members of the public.

Apologies: Andy Main (AM), Jane Somper (JS) Ward Councillor

Presentation on Fraud Safety – Ashley Jones from the South West Regional Organised Crime Unit gave an interesting and thought provoking presentation on how to protect ourselves from telephone and online fraud. A booklet was provided “The Little Book of Big Scams”; some free copies are available from the Village shop.

Public Questions

Gay Mole asked if bus stops would be provided on South Street outside the new Spring Meadows development. MH agreed to raise this with the developers Pennyfarthing Homes.

Dick Stainer raised the poor state of the parking surface at Middle Mill. AD undertook to ask Dorset Highways if they could provide some surplus gravel or chippings to make repairs. Also, he mentioned the fallen tree along Mill Street will be removed in the next two weeks.

Declarations of Interest: None

Minutes of the Meetings on 19th January 2022: These were approved unanimously.

Matters Arising:

Dog Poo Bin – AM was absent but had previously advised that the bin is on order, to be sited near the top of Fontmell Hill.

Pedestrian Safety along West Street – This will be raised at a forthcoming meeting with Tony Burden the recently appointed Road Safety Manager, Dorset Highways.

Dorset County Ward Councillor's Report - Jane Somper could not attend the meeting but provided a full report which is available on the PC website.

Reports from Parish Councillors

a. Planning

Spring Meadows Development, South Street, Fontmell Magna

MH attended a meeting of the Village Hall Committee to discuss how the S106 contributions towards improving the facilities around the village hall should be spent. The contributions available are:

- £60,209 for community leisure and indoor sports;
- £29,025 for provision of equipment for the children's play area;
- £38,364 for improvements to the playground and providing an outdoor sports surface.

The Village Hall Committee will take this forward, in consultation with residents.

The residents survey of preferences for road names produced 69 responses. 'The top choice of Westgate could not be used as it would contravene a Dorset Council policy on using (rather than of using) the name of living people and the second choice Home Field would potentially cause confusion with a street name in Shaftesbury. Thus the third and fourth choices of Sutton View and Old Crown Road were approved by Dorset Council. Details of the numbering scheme for the houses can be found on the parish website: http://www.fontmellmagnapc.co.uk/_UserFiles/Files/Spring%20Meadow/Streets%20and%20House%20Numbering.pdf

MH attended a meeting with the head of St Andrews School Debbie Brown and Howard Jolliffe from the Southern Academy Trust. Debbie stated the school would be keen to promote the use of the drop-off area amongst parents, to relieve some of the congestion in West Street at drop-off and collection times. The school bus would also be directed to use this facility.

Sutton Waldron PC has raised the issue of litter along the footpath adjacent to the site; MH will raise this with the site manager.

The Parish Council plans to set up a separate working party to tackle the issues that arise from the development that will affect the parish community, such as adoption of the drop-off area, tree planting and hedgerows, bus stops, reinstatement. Volunteers are needed from amongst residents; please contact the Clerk at clerk@fontmellmagnapc.co.uk

Planning Applications – MH confirmed that 4 new applications had been submitted and assessed by the Neighbourhood Plan Monitoring Group; their reports are available on the PC website:

Gable Cottage, West Street – erect a two-storey extension and summer house;

Bramblings, 78 Penn Hill, Bedchester – erection of garage and demolish original;

Dragonfly Cottage, Woodbridge Lane Bedchester – erect ground and first floor extension;

Tansys, Gupples Lane, Hartgrove – erect single storey extension.

The PC is pleased to support these applications, as they comply with the Neighbourhood Plan.

Fontmell Magna Parish Council – Meeting held on 16th March 2022 in the Village Hall. (cont)

b. Highways – AD reported that traffic surveys have been completed at three locations in the village, two along the A350 and one in West Street. These will provide the quantitative evidence needed to justify the installation of a Speed Indicator Device (SID).

Road markings on the approach to the s-bends in South Street will be refreshed at end March/early April.

Highways will be clearing the mud on verges along Mill Street.

A planned meeting with the Dorset Highways Road Safety Officer on 25th March will discuss several potential improvements being considered:

- a lined pathway along West Street for pedestrians with signage to warn of pedestrians in the road;
- an advisory 20mph traffic sign on the approach to the s-bends in South Street;
- compulsory 20mph speed limits on the A350 and village side roads;
- camera equipment to detect a pedestrian on the A350 road between Parsonage St and Crown Hill and display a warning to drivers;
- compulsory 30mph speed limit at the Bedchester crossroads.

Peter Mole reported that the volunteer Speed Watch team will be surveying every 3 weeks approximately.

Also the “20’s plenty” campaign is going well with 60 posters issued so far: the PC thanked Peter for his efforts.

c. Environment Protection – No report. A new councillor is needed to cover this area for the parish which includes actions the community can take to address climate change.

d. Social Infrastructure – Dick Stainer reported that the Community Land Trust had been approached by the government’s Communities Department to re-apply for an award under the Community Ownership Fund; At the time of writing a decision is expected shortly. Work on the contracts to acquire the shop is progressing well.

e. District Liaison - No report. A new councillor is needed to cover this area.

f. Footpaths – No report, AM could not attend the meeting.

g. Communications - LK reported on her work to improve communications to residents about parish council matters and community events. She is planning to visit every household in the parish between late March and early April, to seek the views of residents on several topics:

- 20 mph speed limit through the village;
- S106 financial contributions to improve Village Hall amenities;
- how residents can access news, events and information about their parish in a way that suits them;
- community spirit and getting involved with the Parish Council.

A survey form will be posted for residents not at home to express their views.

h. Governance - MH again emphasised the importance of having a full complement of councillors at this busy time and urged new people to come forward to fill the council’s two vacancies. If you are willing to contribute to the community in this way please contact the Clerk at clerk@fontmellmagnapc.co.uk

MH reported that the Clerk will receive a pay rise in line with national agreements, backdated to April 2021.

MH advised that he will be stepping down as Chair of the Parish Council at the forthcoming AGM in May after completing three years in post. A new chair will be elected at the AGM.

Report from the RFO and Bills Presented

Current balance is £9,157. 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, Mar22 - £445.38

Councillor training, DAPTC - £45

Laptop software - £43.97

The 2022/23 Precept has been set at £10,769.

The PC agreed to a donation of £50 to the Gary Payne memorial bench in recognition of the many years of voluntary service he provided to Fontmell village.

Matters Arising from Recent Correspondence - none

Fontmell Magna Parish Council – Meeting held on 16th March 2022 in the Village Hall. (cont)

AOB

AD reported that he has forwarded his recent letter to Cllr Bryan (portfolio holder for highways on Dorset Council Payne) concerning safety on the A350 to neighbouring parishes to keep them informed of our campaign.

The PC supported a suggestion from LK to approach the school to design a logo for the parish council.

Date of Next Meeting: The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Wednesday 18th May 2022 in the Village Hall**, along with the Parish Council's Annual General Meeting and the Annual Parish meeting.

The AGM will include the election of officers to the council and approval of the annual financial return.

The Annual Parish Meeting is the opportunity for clubs and societies to report on their activities for the year April 2021-March 2022 and for residents to raise any issue of concern.

The timings will be:

Annual General Meeting 6.30-7.00pm

Annual Parish Meeting 7.00-7.30pm

Parish Council Meeting 7.30-8.15pm

All residents are welcome to attend.

Compost Corner

Want to give something at Easter, but not chocolate, then how about a chocolate themed plant? Some smell of chocolate, others have chocolate coloured flowers - and there are all sorts from which to choose.

- Chocolate cosmos (*Cosmos atrosanguineus*) is a delightful perennial with velvety maroon-crimson, chocolate scented flowers.
- The chocolate vine (*Akebia quinata*) is a semi-evergreen climber with spicy, chocolate scented, brownish-purple flowers and edible sausage shaped fruits
- Chocolate mint (*Mentha x piperata* f. *citrata*) is a must for chocolate mint lovers - add the dark green leaves to puddings to give them a wonderful aroma
- Leycesteria formosa is a hardy shrub with purple-red bracts and little white flowers. The red-purple berries, once ripe, are edible and taste of toffee/caramel

Heuchera 'Chocolate Ruffles' is a perennial, not edible but it does have exquisite rich chocolate coloured, ruffled leaves.

All great choices - however, I'm not convinced the younger members of our family will be that elated if I give them *Hemerocallis* 'Sweet Hot Chocolate', however delicious sounding, instead of a proper Easter egg.

Alison Main



Village weather for February 2022

An unsettled month with few days without damp or drizzle. Some sunny breaks. Storms Dudley, Eunice and Franklin pummelled the country during the third week, causing a lot of local problems. Calmer and cooler as March approached.

21 rain days, 1 day sleet, 1 day hail 7 air frost, 18 ground frost., 5 gales ; no snow.

Comp. Figures	2022	2021
Rain (Most 19.3mm on 13th)	64.7mm	
Sunshine avg 2.8hrs	77.5 hrs	
Max mean temp. (highest 14.1°C on 16th)	10.7°C	
Min mean temp. (lowest -3.3°C on 11th)	2.8°C	

This April 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 May issue by Thursday 21st 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 always like to receive The Gossip Tree by email, please let us know at **fmgossiptree@gmail.com***