



THE GOSSIP TREE

News & Views from the Parish of FONTMELL MAGNA

This edition of the Gossip Tree was kindly sponsored by Fontmell Magna Parish Council

AUGUST
2022
Issue 341



THE FONTMELL We are delighted to announce a new lunch menu with a superb range of dishes at a great value price.

Sample menu

To Start All £5

Torched, home cured mackerel fillet, home-made kimchi, sauce vierge
GF

Freshly made leek & potato soup, toasted sourdough VE, GFA
Bubble & squeak, fried egg, streaky bacon, gravy GFA
Calamari, lemon mayo, chargrilled lemon GF

To follow All £12

Honey roasted Wiltshire ham, brace of fried eggs, chunky chips

Homemade lasagne, garlic sourdough, green leaf salad
GFA

Wholetail breaded scampi, garden peas, triple cooked fat cut chips

Spinach, sweet potato & split red lentil dahl, beetroot puree, balsamic reduction, focaccia VE, GF

Greek style salad, flatbread, olives, tomatoes, feta, red onion, cucumber, rocket V, VEA

Grill All £14

The Fontmell Vegan Burger, vegan cheese, vegan bun, tomato, mixed leaf, fries, dill pickle, Fontmell chutney, GFA

Crispy, Cajun, buttermilk chicken breast burger, coleslaw, fries, sweet chilli glaze, bacon, vintage cheddar, onion rings
GFA

The Fontmell 28 day aged, 8oz Aberdeen angus beef burger, vintage Cheddar, crispy smoked bacon, tomato, mixed leaf, fries, coleslaw, dill pickle, Fontmell chutney, onion rings

Sourdough sandwiches. All £9. All sandwiches served with salad, tortillas, chutney. All GFA

Honey roasted Wiltshire ham, mixed leaf, coleslaw (BLT)
Bacon, lettuce, tomato, mayo
Rare roast beef, horseradish
Dorset cider battered fish fingers, lettuce, tomato, tartar, chargrilled lemon

John Crompton

Sian and Jim would like to let villagers know that their daughter is getting married on September 3rd at St Andrew's Church at 2pm, followed by a reception at our home, Hurdles Farm.

There will be cars parking outside church, the school play ground and the village hall and we have asked guests to park carefully, with consideration.

There will be live music in the evening, which will finish at 12pm.

Thank you for your understanding with extra traffic, extra people and wedding reception noise.

Sian and Jim Highnam

Notices – August 2022

St. Andrew's Church - Services for August

7th 0900 Sunday Breakfast
14th 0930 Morning worship
21st 0930 Holy Communion with choir
28th 0930 Holy Communion

Parish Council Meeting

Next PC meeting

Wed 21st September 2022 in the village hall at 1900

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

Cafe 9-4 Monday to Friday and 9-12 Saturday
garden cafe from May - October

A2 licence for home-cooked meals, all day
breakfast, jackets toasties etc

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

Monday - Closed

Tuesday to Friday—12-11pm food served 12-2.30 & 6-9pm

Saturday 12-11pm, food served 12-3pm & 6-9pm
Sunday 12-6, food served 12-4pm

Enquiries: 811441 or john@thefontmell.com

St. Andrew's School

Enquiries: 811500

Fontmell Magna Toddler Group & Under 5s

Enquiries: 812773

Iwerne Valley Walking Group

Next walk Saturday 20th, starting 10a.m. for
10.15 at Martin Down car park on the A354.
Grid reference: 4037 1202.

Please bring a picnic and plenty to drink.
Leaders: Monique and John on 01747 442970.

Contact: Helen English 01747 853472

Bell-ringing

Enquiries: Caroline Rhodes 812002

Events in the Village Hall

Fontmell Friendship Garden—Pop up Café
Resumed 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

See entry on page 6 about the Annual Show.

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
zumbawithabby@gmail.com

To book the Hall, please contact :

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

Buddleias—although some varieties started flowering in July, there should be plenty of colour in August to visit.



The Child Okeford Art Trail is back. Bigger than Ever !

Friday 26th August - Monday 29th August
2022
11 - 4 pm

19 Artists, Sculptors, Jewellers, Textile Artists and Potters
will show and sell a variety of quality work.

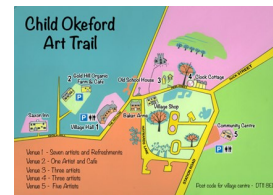
Art Trail leaflets will soon be available in local shops.
Free Admission

For full details including a full-size map of the trail and details of participating artists go to
childokeford.org/events

Why not walk our Art Trail and visit venues throughout Child Okeford.

Take the opportunity for refreshments along the way at our two splendid Pubs - The Bakers Arms and The Saxon Inn: The Village Hall with refreshments by SERO:

our well stocked Child Okeford Village shop: The Cafe on Gold Hill Farm: Gold Hill Organic Farm shop.



On the Shelf of the Friendship Garden Library

The Gossip Tree seems to have had a bit of a scoop on the national press, or rather the book we looked at last month did. **The Great Trees of Dorset** by Pollard and Brawn was ahead of its time by many years it seems. A few weeks ago, The Times newspaper included an article on the work of researchers at Nottingham University who have built models to predict just how many ancient trees there are in England. They concluded that there may be more than two million exceptionally old trees, far more than the 155,000 officially recorded. Their work informs a timely call for these ancient trees to be protected in the same way as 530,000 buildings including bus stops and skate parks, which have listed status.

The Fortingall yew in Perthshire is between 2,000 and 3,000 years old. In 1769 it's girth measured 52 feet despite fires lit under it to celebrate Beltane. By 1833 it was recorded that large branches and even parts of the trunk had been removed to make drinking cups and other "curiosities". The tree, probably the oldest living thing in Britain, is still alive but without heartwood rings that could establish its age. The drinking cups bring us back to the Gossip Tree.

Peter Grey, formerly of Willow Cottage & Springhead Farm, who remembers the original GT, very kindly wrote

"Interesting to read the article on Trees of Dorset and the fate of the original Gossip Tree.

Regarding any mementoes, when it was cut up a number of crosses were fashioned out of the wood and either given or sold to residents. I have two of these, one given to me by the late Pauline Millet who was a great friend of my wife and I during our time in the village. The other was nailed to the wheel from the tenor bell in St Andrews church which was removed and replaced in 2004. That wheel, with the cross attached, currently resides in my garage in Belchawell where I now live.

I am sure there are still other crosses in Fontmell homes, especially those of longer-term residents

Does anyone else, maybe the Archive Society, know of the whereabouts of other GT crosses? Our editor would be really pleased to know about them if they do.

Barbara Humphreys

IWERNE VALLEY WALKING GROUP

MIDSUMMER'S EVE WALK 2022

The walking group had a lovely midsummer's walk on 21st June, on a perfect summer's evening. Fifteen of us met on the edge of Shaftesbury and skirted Wincombe Wood and then out across a couple of fields, filled with very vocal sheep and lambs, to the Donhead road. A few steps along the road and then into Lodge Wood and on into Wincombe Park where we enjoyed a picnic in the fading sunshine.

The effects of storm Eunice were much in evidence and indeed the massive piles of felled trees (as well as a challenging detour around a fallen tree that had yet to be cleared) were testament to the devastation the storm had wrought on the estate.

Packing up our picnics, we walked across the parkland in front of the big house and then through the edge of the woods and back into Shaftesbury. Thank you to everyone who joined us.

Louise Parry



Playday

The National Day for Play

Playday is the national day for play in the UK, held on the first Wednesday in August.

As well as a celebration of children's right to play, Playday is a campaign that highlights the importance of play in children's lives.

03 Wednesday August 2022



At
Fontmell
Magna Village
Hall and
Friendship
Garden

AFTERNOON TEA PARTY AT THE VILLAGE HALL

All Children, their families, parents, carers, grandparents, are invited to bring a picnic and join us for an afternoon of play including a bouncy castle, outdoor games, crafting, friendship, cakes and tea on:

Wed 3rd August

All donations for food and drink from the Pop-up Café will be for the Playground and the Friendship Garden (Charity No: 301129)

Hope to see you there
All enquiries to:
playground.fmvh@mail.com



Sunday Breakfast at the Village Hall

7th August 9am until around 10/ 10.30

St Andrew's monthly Sunday Breakfast starts again on 7th August

everyone is welcome

a friendly, leisurely breakfast and a thought for the day

bring friends and family

no booking, turn up on the day

please join us from 9 o'clock

Hot Bacon sandwiches

Cereal

Fresh fruit

A choice of toasted breads

Croissants

Home-made marmalade

All you can drink tea and freshly brewed coffee

There is no charge. Donations can be made.

We look forward to welcoming everyone

Contact Sue Keen if you need further info
01747 812282

Email: susanannekeen@gmail.com

Fontmell Magna Parish Council – Meetings held on 20th July 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 Andrew Davis (AD) Chair, Michael Humphreys (MH), Christine Scott (CS), Clerk Sam Smith (SS), Jane Somper (JS) Ward Councillor, plus 22 members of the public.

Apologies: Laura Kurton (LK), Andy Main (AM),

Presentation - “20’s Plenty for Us”

Unfortunately, Dilys Garside was taken ill, so Peter Mole stepped in at very short notice to give a summary of the presentation. Notes from the presentation can be found on the PC Website.

The recent Parish Council survey of residents showed overwhelming support for a 20mph speed limit on roads and lanes in the village and along the A350. There is much concern over pedestrians having to mix with flowing traffic where there are no pavements.

20mph limits are being adopted for built-up areas in major cities, towns and villages across the UK. Through various meetings and discussions with Dorset Council Highways there seems to be a strong reluctance to adopt this safety measure on Dorset’s roads, despite the strong evidence of reduced accidents and lives saved, and benefits to the environment.

A resident asked if other parishes are similarly campaigning for a 20mph limit and whether a co-ordinated approach would have more impact.

Thanks were expressed to Peter for his campaigning in this area and to Jane Somper for her strong support.

Public Questions

A resident asked if the recent application to divert Footpath 6 applied to the footpath running across the Spring Meadows site to Sutton Waldron, which it does.

Parish Council Meeting

Apologies for Absence: Received from Laura Kurton and Andy Main.

Declarations of Interest: None.

Minutes of the Meetings on 18th May 2022: These were approved unanimously.

Matters Arising:

Gore Farm – In his written report Andy advised that the bollard gap has been widened at the entrance to Chalk-Pit car park on Fontmell Hill; a note of thanks will be sent to Gore Farm.

“Snicket” Footpath – Pennyfarthing Homes (PFH) and Dorset Council Rangers have agreed on the extent of re-surfacing work on the footpath linking the Spring Meadows site, the School and West Street. An all-weather surface will be laid on the section between the site and the School’s rear entrance. The lower section of the path will be left untouched.

Village Hall – A grant request of £550 has been made by the VH Committee. The PC is seeking further clarification on the intended use of the money.

School Security Lights – The lights are now activated by proximity sensors, reducing any potential nuisance.

Report from the Clerk

Meeting dates for 2023 are being planned, so that JS can attend more PC meetings.

Bank account signatories have been changed to Andrew and Laura.

The contractor that maintains the War Memorial has been changed; there’s no additional cost.

Dorset Councillor’s Report

Jane’s written report will be available on the PC Website. She highlighted the following points:

- changes to Adult Services;
- plans to make it easier to access to health services in rural areas;
- waste collection issues are being experienced in some parishes, residents are asked to report these;
- the PC is asked to be alert to people needing support to meet the cost of living;
- a new single point of contact has been created for people with housing needs;
- security will be tightened for future Dorset Council meetings after a meeting in April was disrupted by climate emergency protestors.

Fontmell Magna Parish Council – Meetings held on 20th July 2022 in the Village Hall. (cont)

Planning

Planning Applications – Mike confirmed that 3 new applications had been submitted and assessed by the Neighbourhood Plan Monitoring Group; their reports are available on the PC website.

Spring Meadows, South Street – addition of an electricity sub-station adjacent to the pumping station.

Hurdles Farm – install a 6kW PV system comprising 17 ground mounted solar panels.

Orchard Corner, Parsons Lane, Hartgrove – certificate of lawfulness to continue using the land to station a mobile home.

The PC is supporting all three applications; details of the applications can be found on the PC website.

Spring Meadows Development – PFH have advised that the School Drop-off Area should be ready to hand-over in April/May 2023. The School's Academy Trust has stated it does not wish to adopt the area but affirmed its commitment to encouraging parents to use the new facility. Other possible owners of the Drop-off Area are the Parish Council or Salisbury Diocese.

PFH have offered to host a site visit for residents interested in looking around the site; anyone interested please contact Mike. Dorset Council has advised that projects drawing down funds from S106 contributions will need to be supported by the Parish Council.

Neighbourhood Plan – A development company, Intelligent Land, has made contact again about the development of Site 22, Blandfords Farm. This is an allocated site in the NP covered by policy FM20.

Intelligent Land has been retained by the landowner to bring forward ideas on how the site might be developed. Consideration needs to be given to the number of homes and their sizes; the types of homes and mix of self/custom build and affordable dwellings; conversion of the barn for employment use; vehicular access via Spring Meadows or via West Street. Intelligent Land will prepare examples schemes of development to discuss with the Parish Council and residents.

A resident mentioned that building work has started on the Middle Farm site off Collyer's Rise, which has planning permission for a barn conversion, two new homes and a large garage structure.

Planning Policy - Mike and Andrew attended a Dorset Council planning briefing on 27th May. The second draft Local Plan is now expected in the Spring 2023. Dorset Planning team has indicated that the housing allocation for Fontmell is unlikely to be much different to the figure of 62 mentioned in the first draft. Also, they expect the existing site allocations in the Neighbourhood Plan plus normal in-filling will be sufficient to meet Fontmell's local housing needs.

Highways

Advisory Signs for 20mph Limit - Several meetings have been held with Dorset Highways to try to gain agreement to have 20mph speed limit advisory signs on the blind "S" bends along the A350. Highways have insisted that first the existing traffic signs through the village should be reviewed, to avoid clutter and confusion. When this is done Highways will look again at the Fontmell's request.

Dorset Speed Limit Policy – A draft policy has been rejected by Dorset Councillors after strong representations by Fontmell councillors and residents, and other parties, attending a recent council meeting. The policy didn't take sufficient account of the growing demand and national trend towards adopting a 20mph speed limit in built-up areas. A recent survey showed strong support amongst Fontmell residents for a 20mph limit on roads and lanes through the village, including along the A350. A revised Dorset Council policy is expected in October.

The Parish Council voted and agreed to adopt a *formal policy on speed limits for Fontmell Magna of 20mph on village roads and along the A350 through the village and to request Dorset Highways to change the required regulations so this policy can be implemented.*

Speed Indicator Device (SID) – The PC wants to proceed with purchasing and installing a SID at positions in the village along the A350. Sam has researched the cost which is around £4000; the PC has a budget shortfall of £2500 to meet this cost so would welcome any fundraising suggestions.

Visibility of Road Signs – Residents are politely reminded they have a responsibility to ensure all road signs on their property boundaries are kept clear of any overhanging trees and bushes, so they are clearly visible.

Environment Protection – No report. There's an ongoing councillor vacancy for someone to cover this important area.

Social Infrastructure

Dick Stainer, as chairman of the FM Community Land Trust, reported on the successful raising of funds to acquire the freehold of the village shop, including a large grant from the HMG Community Ownership Fund.

Contracts were exchanged on 27th June, with completion expected on 29th July. Robin East commented on the 3½ years of effort, particularly the fundraising campaign led by Pen Hadow and the incredible support from residents. A new community lease is being prepared to ensure the future of the shop and a new lessee is being sought. Andrew expressed the sincere thanks of the Parish Council to the Directors and team of the FMCLT for all their hard work in reaching this important outcome, benefiting the whole parish community.

Community Reach (aka. District Liaison) - A new councillor is needed to cover this important area.

Andrew attended a Resilience & Severe Weather training session from DAPTC. A volunteer is needed to compile a list of contacts as part of resilience planning for Fontmell Magna; if interested please contact the Clerk.

Footpaths – Graham Stanley, DC Ranger, will have some funding made available by PFH to improve local footpaths; ideas welcome, please contact Andy.

Communications – Although Laura could not be present, Andrew acknowledged the tremendous work she does outside the PC meetings. Laura is updating the Parish Directory and will continue the house-to-house survey started in April. The School has been invited to design a logo for the Parish Council.

The PC agreed to provide £60 in sponsorship of The Gossip Tree newsletter.

Governance – Acceptance of Office forms are required from councillors.

Finance

The RFO (Sam Smith) reported bank balances of £4,929 (current) and £6,011 (savings) at as 20th July.

The PC's insurance has been renewed at a premium of £746.

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

Clerk's salary and expenses - £409.46

Bills paid since the last meeting:

Clerk's salary and expenses - £377.16

HMRC - £18.80

Dorset Waste Partnership - £59.84

Vale Garden Services - £100

DAPTC (training) - £25.00

Matters Arising from Recent Correspondence

It was noted the X3 bus service on Saturdays from Blandford to Shaftesbury has been withdrawn.

AOB - None

Date of Next Meeting: The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Wednesday 21st September 2022 in the Village Hall starting at 7.00pm**. All residents are welcome to attend.

WILLOW WEAVING WORKSHOP – MAKE AN ANIMAL (PIG) SCULPTURE

SATURDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER 2022 10AM – 4PM
FONTMELL MAGNA VILLAGE HALL, WEST STREET, FONTMELL MAGNA, nr SHAFTESBURY, DORSET, SP7 0JP



Your tutor, Kim Creswell Dip.Herb.Med. MNIMH, is internationally recognised for her sculpture work with willow of 30 years, & teaching for over 20 years. A fore-runner in the willow sculpture industry, Kim's work has featured in publications e.g. 'The Sunday Times Magazine', 'The English Garden', 'Green Parent', 'Garden Life' & the BBC's 'Garden Rescue' series. Examples of sculptures & hedgerow basketry can be found at www.kimcreswell.co.uk. Kim lives at & manages an off-grid, organically run small-holding & nature-reserve in Dorset. Kim is a practicing medical herbalist details can be seen www.goldberryherbs.co.uk

Using different coloured willow, grown, without the use of chemicals at Kim's small holding & nature reserve, you will make and take home a willow pig on it's own wooden stand. Using original techniques developed by Kim participants will learn willow weaving methods which are transferable to other willow sculptures.

Picture inserts courtesy of Kim Creswell

- To book a place contact Sue Morgan—susanheatley1@gmail.com
- Places restricted to 8 so tutor able to effectively facilitate
- Price £62 per person, payable in advance. Closing date 15th August, tools & materials provided
- If there are cancellations, places will be offered from a waiting list and if the event is cancelled, full refunds will be provided.
- Bring your own lunch and mug. Tea, coffee and squash will be available

FONTMELL FRIENDSHIP GARDEN END OF YEAR REPORT

The Fontmell Friendship garden formally opened in a lovely community event on June 26th 2021, just seven months after the original idea was discussed with the Blackmore Vale Surgery.

As a result of a fantastic community effort plus support from sponsors and local businesses, the project was able to launch very successfully. We were blessed with healthy and vigorous blooms all summer which we could all enjoy.

The garden has brought people together in so many ways and there are so very many highlights over the year from July 2021 to July 2022. None of these events would have been possible without the incredible support of volunteers who help in so many ways – growing seeds, donating plants, watering and weeding, maintaining, cooking cakes, serving teas, making posies, making crafts etc etc. A big thank you to each and every person who has contributed so generously and who are a testimony to the name of the garden – “ Friendship “.

Highlights in chronological order are –

AUGUST 2021- NATIONAL PLAY DAY

We welcomed families to the village hall and garden to enjoy picnics, outdoor games, posy making from the garden, craft making and fantastic refreshments.

SEPTEMBER 2021- LINK WITH CLAYESMORE SENIOR SCHOOL ACE PROGRAMME

A link was established with the year 12 students from Clayesmore as part of their voluntary programme. Four young men plus their teacher have spent an hour a week during term time in the garden, helping with maintenance . They have also spent time in Springhead and with George Darwall. This link will continue again from September with four new year 12 students for the academic year.

OCTOBER 2021- HELLO YELLOW

We linked with St Andrew's School to raise awareness of Hello Yellow Day which focuses on the mental health and well-being of young people. Each child from the school planted a daffodil around the village hall, completed some crafts set up by the tea room crafters and enjoyed yellow food supplied by Waitrose. We enjoyed the daffodils in March and April 2022. This will continue this year.

OCTOBER 2021- MARCH 2022- COMMUNITY LUNCHES

Monthly community lunches and a Christmas party took place between these months. Wreaths and Christmas table decorations were sold at our Christmas tea party and the funds raised enabled us to partner the Friendship Garden with an allotment scheme in Kenya as part of the “ Send a cow” charity. We have sponsored a family to grow and tend an allotment and allow them to sell their produce to fund education for their families .

OCTOBER 2021– MARCH 2022 – SEED SOWING

During these darker months, seeds were being sown and grown for this year's garden

APRIL 2022– POP UP CAFES START

Weekly pop up cafes started in April. The café meets every Wednesday until September 7th from 24 pm in the village hall with funds raised by selling cake and tea going towards the Friendship garden.

APRIL AND MAY 2022

Fontmell under fives and St Andrew's school planted up their beds in the Friendship garden . The children from St Andrew's school grew their own sunflowers which are in their own bed in the garden.

Yewstock School visited the garden twice to support their students who have complex learning needs.

JUNE 2022

Councillor Val Potheary visited the garden and was very impressed!

RHS assessment for the “ In your neighbourhood “ award which sits under the umbrella of Communities in Bloom. We will have the formal results at the end of August . We are very hopeful of a very positive outcome.

Clayesmore prep school year five visited as part of their mindful and well being week. The children planted geraniums, installed puzzles in the garden beds and helped us prepare for our Jubilee day.

Clayesmore senior school year tens spent a whole morning volunteering the garden, picking up litter, tidying and weeding.

PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATION

We had a fabulous village day which ended with tea at the village hall and an opportunity to visit the garden. Each bed represented a club , with some incredibly creative planting schemes.

Thank you very much for the garden club, the art club, the moviola group, the bowls club and the archive society for the fantastic planting. It has been lovely to see the Queen's reign celebrated in such a creative way.

JULY – HAPPY GATHERINGS GROUP

We were delighted to welcome the Happy Gatherings club to our pop up café for their club outing. We hope to see them again in the future.

PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR

We have met as a sub committee to discuss ideas for next year and agreed on the theme of a rainbow- which will be interpreted around the garden in so many ways. It has a direct link with St Andrew's School who are very keen to participate in everything we do.

The following links are confirmed-

St Andrew's School- Hello Yellow Day in October, sun flower planting and their own sensory bed.

Clayesmore Prep School – planning to visit potentially on Saturday mornings on certain dates to help in the garden and to take ownership of a bed for edible flowers and herbs. They will also be involved with Hello Yellow

Fontmell Under Fives – will continue with their three troughs.

Clayesmore Senior School will continue their weekly involvement in the garden on Friday mornings and hoping to continue to support the pop up cafes on Wednesday afternoons in the summer term.

Yewstock School – planning to visit on dates convenient to them.

Springhead – discussions underway with the two educational leads to work on similar themes, involving recycling and renewal.

Village Club involvement – several clubs have agreed to keep a bed for themselves and to design a planting plan around the theme of a rainbow. We will have potentially one or two surplus beds which will become cut flower beds again for villagers to cut and enjoy.

Social prescribing team at Blackmore Vale Surgery – we now have a very pro active contact in Mrs Jackie Monkton who is very keen to utilise the garden and is actively promoting our activities.

FUNDING –

We are in a very healthy position with another cheque recently kindly donated to us by Waitrose, who adopted us as their project for 2022 in the Spring season. Rosie Anne Yates has also very kindly secured annual sponsorship of the garden by a local estate agent.

It has been a very busy and very fulfilling year, with so much achieved as a result of the efforts of so many people. We can be extremely proud of this community initiative in our village.

Compost Corner

For night after night we've been treated to the haunting and beautiful birdsong of a nightingale. At dawn, at dusk, it flits from treetop to treetop, singing it's heart out in the hope of attracting a mate. It has a bit of a siesta in the middle of the day but otherwise it's going for it hammer and tongs for hours on end, and I feel rather sorry for the poor chap. Then when I was gardening I found a snail hiding from the midday sun in a plant pot and my first instincts were definitely unkind but then I watched it slide peacefully away in search of something nice and juicy, it's little stalky eyes wavering about, and I felt sorry for it too. No longer were it's days numbered and I re homed it on our compost heap.

Later, I spy a cloud of cabbage white butterflies fluttering so prettily in the summer sun, dazzling against the clear blue sky and I almost want to direct them to our brassicas so that before long, there'll be dozens more to admire; it's hopeless - I think the summer heat is getting to me!

Alison Main



Village weather for June 2022

A damp start and end to the month but small quantities of rain. Some hot dry weather mid month. Rather windy at times.

12 rain days, 1 ground frost, no gales or hail or thunder.

Comp. Figures	2022	2021
Rain (Most 10.8mm on 4th)	34.4mm	48.8mm
Sunshine Avg. 7.0 hrs	210 hours	Avg 5.6 hours
Max mean temp. (highest 27.2°C on 22nd)	20.8°C	20.3°C
Min mean temp. (lowest 2.3°C on 1st)	8.7°C	10.2°C

This August 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 September issue contact me via email:

(fmgossiptree@gmail.com)

Alternatively, contact the **Chairman, Barbara Humphreys**, email: **blueletterbox@btinternet.com** for further information.

Submissions for the August issue by Thursday 18th August 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***