



THE GOSSIP TREE

News & Views from the Parish of FONTMELL MAGNA

Kindly Sponsored by Fontmell Magna Village Shop

FEBRUARY

2022

Issue 335

THE FONTMELL

The pub re-opened on 19th January with a fresh new menu, details are available on their website
www.thefontmell.com



As well as the usual pub classics, some of the new menu additions are:

While you decide

Warm, home-baked focaccia bread board, compound butter, olive oil with balsamic reduction 6

Mixed pitted olives GF 5

Honey & mustard glazed chipolata sausages 6

Warm, mixed, curried nuts 5

To Start

Tempura king prawns, Fontmell soy & ginger sauce, sesame seeds 9

Freshly made warming soup (roasted tomato & red pepper) 7

The Real Cure charcuterie board, Parmesan, cornichons, balsamic reduction 11

Seared diver scallops, confit shallots, roasted red pepper, Parma ham, herb oil 12

Pork and calvados terrine, apple and parsnip puree, apple textures 8

Conker gin cured gravlax, pickled cucumber, cucumber puree, Conker and lemon gin cream 9

To follow

Smoked haddock, crispy bacon & pea risotto, Parmesan cheese, crispy basil

28 day aged Aberdeen Angus Beef fillet wellington, buttered mash, creamed spinach, carrot & swede puree, gravy 25

Spinach, sweet potato & split red lentil dahl, beetroot crisps balsamic reduction VEA 15

Pan roasted locally raised lamb rump, dauphinoise potatoes, parsnip crisps, seasonal greens, mint 22



Notices – February 2022

St. Andrew's Church - Services for February

6th Sunday Breakfast—Cancelled*

13th 0930 Morning Worship

20th 0930 Holy Communion with choir

27th 0930 Service with Baptism

* Covid precaution, restarting in March

Parish Council Meeting

Next PC meeting

Wed 16th March 2022 at 7.00pm 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

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

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

Community Lunch Club

Last Wednesday of the Month October to March—
contacts: Rosie-Anne Yates 07710 326 339 and Lisa
Le Druillenec 812 500 or email: lunch.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 17th February 7.30pm 'Epimediums'

A talk by Sally Gregson

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 6.30-7.30pm, Tues 9.15-10.15 and 1030-11.30am.
STOTT Pilates Matwork with props Enquiries: Vicci
Gillett 07940 961221 vicci@stable-bodies.co.uk

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 9.30-10.30 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

FONTMELL FRIENDSHIP GARDEN



GARDEN

We welcomed back the Clayesmore volunteers last Friday and despite the cold, we were able to cut back plants, prune roses, empty the compost bins and mulch the beds.

Many flowers are thriving and the bulbs which were planted around the village hall by the children from St Andrew's School and Clayesmore school are pushing through. Thank you to everyone who has offered to grow seeds for the garden again - and very happy to include as many people as would like to be involved. If any of you would like to be involved in some seed growing again - please do let me know . (If you have already offered, no need to tell me again - you are on my list !) I have lots of strong well established hardy annuals at home, ready for the garden . I will be starting to distribute seeds in the next fortnight.

INITIATIVES

Clayesmore Volunteer programme.

We will continue to welcome Mrs Wansey and four of the Clayesmore year 12 students until the end of the Summer term. Thank you to Catherine Simmonds from Springhead who is also working with the boys for three weeks, when they will learn how to cut willow and make some plant supports . Thank you Catherine

Yewstock School have contacted me and I am delighted to say they are also going to become involved in the garden and the village hall. Students from the school will be coming to the garden on selected Fridays to help plant beds and they have also offered to bake some cakes and come along to our pop up cafes once they start again in Spring.

The RHS communities team have been in contact and have encouraged us to join various community RHS schemes. They are also keen to include us in their news section, which is wonderful. I will be looking at these schemes in the next week.

We successfully sponsored the allotment scheme with the Send a Cow charity, and this morning I received an e mail thanking us for our sponsorship, which will enable families to become trained in establishing allotments and provide a means of income for these families.

Looking ahead - seeds will be distributed to provide us with the blooms for the garden.

I anticipate planting out at the end of April - provisionally April 23 rd, to ensure blooms for the Platinum jubilee weekend.

I would appreciate any help on the morning of Saturday April 23 rd from 10-12 to plant out the first of our hardy annuals . These will include the sweet peas for the archive bed and initial plants for the Mo-viola bed.

As they finish, we will have more blooms to see us through the end of the Summer season.

The village would like to welcome the following who have recently moved to the Fontmell Magna Parish.

Camilla and Tom Balmer and their three young sons who have moved to Yew Tree Farm, Gupples Lane, Hartgrove.

Robert Wellen who has moved to 20 Lurmer Street, Fontmell Magna

Judy and Guy Gibbs who have moved to Twiga, The Mead, South Street, Fontmell Magna.

We look forward to meeting them at the various village events during the coming months.

SNOWDROPS AT SPINGHEAD www.springheadtrust.org.uk

As part of the Shaftesbury Snowdrop Festival, Springhead will be opening its gardens to the public every weekday in February between 11am and 3pm so people can come and enjoy the fabulous displays of snowdrops in the lakeside gardens. The gardens will also be open on the weekend of 12th and 13th between 11am and 3pm.

Entry is free (although donations will be welcome). Dogs on leads are permitted. Unfortunately, due to the current situation regarding Covid we do not have the staff to run a refreshments café.

Springhead's gardens are located on Mill Street in Fontmell Magna (SP7 0NU) 4 miles south of Shaftesbury on the A350.



OBITUARIES

Gary Payne – A memorial from Fontmell Magna Public Amenity Site Trust

Gary, who died on the 7th of December last year, was a familiar presence around the Middle Mill dam site and as our volunteer maintenance man kept the area in immaculate condition throughout the year. He always enjoyed talking to everybody who came past and was never too busy to stop for a chat.

To show our gratitude for all the work he has done at Middle Mill and in the rest of the village (resulting in several 'best kept village' awards) we have decided to start a fund to purchase another bench for Middle Mill that will be dedicated to his memory.

If you would like to make a donation towards this bench could you please send the money to Alan Forfar our treasurer.

His contact details are: email: alan.forfar@sky.com tel: 01747 812497

Ron Day

We are sad to announce that Ron Day of Fontmell Magna died peacefully in Salisbury hospital on 21st January 2022 after a short illness. Ron spent several years distributing the Gossip Tree throughout the Parish. He was also an active member of the bowling club. His presence in the village will be greatly missed.

His funeral is on the 17th February, 1pm at Salisbury crematorium. All are welcome. We are honouring Ron with a contribution to Tower Hill Stables Animal Sanctuary.

🎬 🎥 🎞️ Fontmell Film Nights 🎞️ 🎥 🎬

Our film showing at Fontmell Magna village hall on Wednesday 9th February is "Nowhere Special" starring James Norton, Daniel La-mont and Eileen O'Higgins. Set in Northern Ireland and based on a true story, John, a thirty five year old window cleaner, when given only a few months to live, attempts to find a new perfect family for his three year old Son, determined to shield him from the terrible reality of the situation.



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

IWERNE VALLEY WALKING GROUP

Saturday 19th, 10 a.m. from the Village Hall car park in Stourpaine, followed by lunch at The White Horse. Leaders: Clare (on 07769 553999) and Antonia (on 0793 0873304).



Fontmell Magna Parish Council – Meeting held on 19th January 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 Kurton (LK), Andy Main (AM), Christine Scott (CS), Clerk Sam Smith (SS), plus 15 members of the public.

Apologies: Jane Somper (JS) Ward Councillor

Public Questions

Dick Stainer asked if a pedestrian way could be installed along West Street linking the footpath alongside Timbers with the Village Hall. AD to raise this with Highways.

Dick also advised that a commemorative bench will be purchased in memory of Gary Payne who passed away recently.

Barry Roberts asked if the external light outside the Village Hall could be adjusted to work better at night.

Declarations of Interest: None

Minutes of the Meetings on 17th November 2021: These were approved unanimously.

Matters Arising:

Dog Poo Bin – AM reported that the bin is ready to be installed next week at the entrance to the Gallops on Fontmell Hill. It will be emptied on a two-month cycle initially.

St Andrews View Footpath – A resident had raised with JS the difficulty of navigating the footpath for disabled people. The path is not an official footpath and is therefore outside the remit of the Parish Council.

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

Pennyfarthing Homes Development, South Street, Fontmell Magna

Planning permission has been granted for the construction of 30 homes, including 12 affordable homes, on land at Home Farm South Street. The development by Pennyfarthing Homes, based in New Milton, will be marketed under the name "Spring Meadows". Construction work is expected to start in late February and to last for about one year. The development will include a School Drop-Off Area for parents to use when taking and collecting their children to school and a turning space for the school bus. This is designed to relieve the traffic congestion in West Street at school drop-off and pick-up times.

A page on the parish website will hold documents relating to the Spring Meadow development for residents to access http://www.fontmellmagnapc.co.uk/Spring_Meadows_Development_41017.aspx

The housing development will bring with it substantial financial contributions to the parish, for improvements and/or upgrades to facilities, amenities and infrastructure around the village including the village hall, childrens' play area and footpaths. A summary of all the contributions is available on the parish webpage.

The PC approved setting up a working group, reporting to the PC, to tackle the issues that arise from the development that will affect the parish community. The first of these is to suggest some names for the roads in Spring Meadows; a survey of residents views is under way. If you are interested in participating in the working group please contact the Clerk clerk@fontmellmagnapc.co.uk

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

2 Shaftesbury View, Gupples Lane, Hartgrove – erect single storey extension and garden store

21 Lurmer Street, Fontmell – replace four windows and carry out external alterations

Grove Farm, Hannah's Hill, Hartgrove – erect linking extension

Pipers Mill, Fontmell – construct all weather riding arena and fencing

Woodbridge Cottage, Bedchester – erect outbuilding, demolish existing

The Parish Council will support all these applications.

b. Highways – AD has continued discussions with Dorset Highways on how to mitigate the impact of traffic volumes and speeds along the A350 and through the village and parish lanes, a major concern of residents.

AD has written to Laura Russ, Dorset Highways, to ascertain if they would look at a Local Transport Planning Grant (LTP) for a safety survey and money to create a footpath for pedestrians' safety. AD is liaising with the wider A350 Community Group of villages to apply more pressure for additional road safety measures. The poor road surface conditions of Parsonage Street and Gupples Lane have been raised with Highways.

b. Highways cont) – Peter Mole updated the meeting on his work with others to have a Speed Indicator Device installed to help reduce traffic speeds; the PC will fund a traffic survey to determine if the criteria are met for installing an SID.

Peter is exploring the possibility of introducing a 20mph speed limit on the A350 through the village and has become the local coordinator for the “20 is Plenty” campaign; he has posters available for anyone wishing to promote the campaign.

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 – Robert McCurrach reported that the funds needed to purchase the freehold of the Village Shop are now in place, solicitors have been appointed and contracts being prepared. The acquisition will include the telephone box outside the shop.

The Village Hall is in discussion with vendors on replacing the childrens’ play equipment. Three items of the current equipment are out of use for safety reasons.

CS reported that the 5G Rural Dorset project is preparing plans for connecting vulnerable people.

CS also mentioned several community events being organized by the Chase & Chalke Landscape Partnership; more details on their website.

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

f. Footpaths – With the dog poo bin installed on Fontmell Hill, AM will contact Gore Farm to ask them to widen the gap between the bollards protecting the entrance to Chalk Pit carpark.

A concern was raised about the footpath from Pipers Mill to Sutton Waldron which has become badly rutted; AM will raise this with the Dorset Ranger.

g. Communications - LK reported on her work to improve communications to residents about parish council matters and community events, outlining a three-phase plan. A Facebook page for Fontmell Community News has been created to promote community events, to complement NextDoor, the parish website, The Gossip Tree, email lists and notice boards. The plan will be discussed at subsequent PC meetings.

h. Governance - MH explained that 2022 will be a busy year for the parish council, with the Spring Meadows development, Queen’s Platinum Jubilee, Neighbourhood Plan update, etc. and emphasized the importance of having a full complement of councillors at this time. He urged new people to come forward to fill the council’s two vacancies: ideally a person passionate about the environment and tackling climate change, and another person with some legal training and/or experience.

Report from the RFO and Bills Presented

Current balance is £10,062. Current spending is well within the budget available.

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

Clerk’s salary, Dec21 - £371.60 Clerk’s salary and expenses, Jan22 - £392.90

Councillor training, DAPTC - £30 Gossip Tree Chimes sponsorship - £30

The RFO provided an updated Precept Plan for 2022/23. There was lengthy discussion on whether to include the full cost of a SID at approx. £3000 in the next precept. It was agreed by majority vote to include £1500 in the next precept and to fund the balance from other sources – fundraising, grants, PC reserves. The 2022/23 Precept will be set at £10,769.

Matters Arising from Recent Correspondence

Queen’s Platinum Jubilee 2-5th June – Lisa Le Druillenec reported a group has formed to organize some events, including a street party and church service.

AOB

The Parish Council joined many Fontmell residents in expressing its great sadness at the recent death of Gary Payne. Gary volunteered a lot of time to keeping the village neat and tidy, clearing leaves and litter, maintaining the verges and hedges. He was instrumental in helping Fontmell win the Best Kept Village in Dorset award three times. The PC offered its sincere condolences to his family and friends.

Date of Next Meeting: The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Wednesday 16th March 2022 in the Village Hall at 7.00pm**. The meeting open with a presentation from Dorset Police on cyber-crime.

IWERNE VALLEY WALKING GROUP—CHRISTMAS WALK DECEMBER 18TH 2021

Eleven people and only one dog this time set off from The White Hart, Bishop's Caundle, in slightly overcast weather, across fields and along tracks that were edge-to-edge deep in mud in places, chatting as we went.

A very welcome Christmas meal awaited us back at the pub, complete with crackers, the ubiquitous jokes and paper hats. Six more people and one more dog joined us for the meal, and a jolly time was had by all.

Helen English



NEWS FROM THE VILLAGE HALL

Community Lunch Club

We have now held 3 lunches and 1 Christmas afternoon tea, just two more lunches to go until the grant funding runs out. The lunch, this month, is on Wednesday February 23rd and next month (our final free lunch) on Wednesday 30th March. The lunches have been really well attended and great fun. We have a fabulous team of volunteer helpers and cooks and we have been delighted to be able to make the most of the grant given to us for this purpose.

If you've not been along to one of our Community Lunches then please do get in touch and book in for February or March or both! If you have new neighbours then please invite them along with you to get to know other villagers.

To book your place or for more information please call Rosie-Anne on 07710 326 339 or Lisa on 01747 812 500 or email: lunch.fmvh@mail.com

Look forward to seeing you at the February lunch

The Fontmell Magna Community Lunch Team

The Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

Plans are afoot for a Street Party in the Village on Sunday 5th June as part of the National "Big Jubilee Lunch". We are looking for volunteers to help with the planning of this event, as well as finding some volunteers to help on the day. If you would like to get involved please contact Lisa on 01747 812 500; Sian on 01747 811 028 or Barry on 01747 811 906 for more information. We will hold a Village Meeting in March, open to all, so please look out for more information in the March edition of the Gossip Tree.

The Jubilee Gang

News from the Village Hall

Maintenance work continues at the hall to become more energy efficient. The entrance foyer lights have now been replaced with low energy LED's and the sodium light in the car park is being replaced with a solar powered light very soon. To encourage people to cycle to the hall we have ordered a cycle rack, which will be installed this month. During Village Halls week, at the end of January, we pledged to encourage users of the Village Hall to recycle where possible.

Three items of play equipment were cordoned off following advice from our Playground Inspector of rot in some of the supporting timbers, we have consulted with playground specialists and hope to have the equipment back in use very soon.

Village Hall Management Committee

Fontmell Magna Village Hall

Wed 23rd February Community Lunch

All are welcome to join us for a
FREE LUNCH at

Fontmell Magna Village Hall

Doors open 12 noon

Lunch Served from 12.30 pm

To book call: Lisa 01747 812 500 or

Rosie-Anne on 07710 326 339

email: lunch.fmvh@mail.com

We can cater for
most dietary
requirements,
please just let us
know in advance



Food for the Community Lunch Club is provided free of charge thanks to the Community Recovery Fund Grant we received in September 2021 from Dorset Council.

Councillor Chronicles No.8 - Community Spirit by Laura Kurton

Part 1

"There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about" – Margaret J Wheatley

Community. What does it mean to you?

At our core, we are social beings - we crave acceptance and love and feel our most joyful when we can share happiness with others. There is a certain magic of seeing ourselves reflected in our family, our friends and even complete strangers. And this magic is the realisation that although we are our own people and very much individual, at all of our centres, we are one and the same. And it is through this understanding that we can give our time, our energy and our resources more freely to others because we know that they are us.

That is what community means to me.

When we come together as a community with a common goal or mutual understanding, we are able to see how, when we join forces, we have the power to make mountains move, to create great waves of positivity through activities that benefit others, and this ripples out as a domino effect.

Community spirit is so important right now, because let's be honest, we are living in an entirely new world than what we used to know - but we're moving through this together. With technology taking over 80% of our time, non-stop staring at brightly lit up screens, pulling us away from the present moment - a lot of us may be experiencing a very lonely existence... However, there has been a great shift in our human consciousness and although the COVID-19 pandemic forced us into our homes, distancing us from loved ones and hiding our smiles away behind cloth masks, it has gifted us with a deeper understanding of empathy, as we all endure the same suffering together. And this empathy can be felt in the community if you just reach out to it.

Community support during this difficult time has been a saviour for many - and it is a safe place for you to join if you ever need to be uplifted.

Of course, making the decision to get active and involved in the community spirit has to be a very conscious choice. It doesn't just happen; we choose to want community spirit. It's more than just community. It's a community with love and so, it is something that needs to be invested in, worked at and grown by the people that want and need its benefits.

And there is always something that we can be doing as an individual for the benefit of our community, from as little as a smile to improve our neighbour's day!

The communities that we live in and our social networks have a significant positive impact on our psychological and physical health. Social networks, opportunities and support can eliminate chronic loneliness, isolation and depression. Offering many a lifeline and others a purpose.

So, reach out and connect with me if you would like to get involved in any way on the Parish Council here in Fontmell Magna at all!

In the next chronicle I'll be sharing more about me, and then more about what I do, so you'll hopefully feel more comfortable with reaching out to me, before we even meet!

Warm regards and well wishes,

Laura Kurton

Well Cottage Bedchester.

07977564585, 01747 812449

laurakurton.council@gmail.com



BELL RINGING PEAL AT FONTMELL MAGNA

The peal attempt on the morning of Wednesday 26th January was successfully completed in 2hrs 53mins. The band, from Devon, Somerset and Dorset, rang a total of 5040 different changes comprising 17 different methods. This was only the 8th full peal on the bells of St Andrew's, the last one being on the 13th June 2004 when a peal was rung immediately prior to a service of thanksgiving following the restoration of the tower roof, bells and stained glass windows.

By Bob Crighton of Child Okeford who rang the Treble bell (lightest) during the peal.



On the Shelf of the Friendship Garden Library

We are approaching sunny daffodil time again when it's so easy to make a place look lovely just by plonking daffs in a vase with water and smiling. That's hard to get wrong really. However, for this month's book, we return to **Dr D G Hessayon** and his guide **The Flower Arranging Expert**.



His first lines "if you cut an assortment of flowers and leafy stems from the garden and put them into a water filled jug or vase, you will have made a flower arrangement. Some of the plant material will quickly die, the colours may clash and the overall effect may be a mess, but it is an arrangement.

The purpose of this book is to show you how to do better."

Flower arrangement is a craft with thousands of years of history: by 2,500BC ancient Egyptians, the earliest known flower arrangers, were utilising vases, the Romans and Greeks created garlands and wreaths, in ancient China 207 BC flowers were an integral part of religious teaching and medicine, for Europeans in 1000 CE it was a skill practiced in churches and monasteries, using interesting plants brought back by the Crusaders and it was of course, the Victorians who introduced to us, rules for arrangements.

According to Dr Hessayon, people arrange flowers for much the same reasons as for any other craft, that is to satisfy creative needs, for an attractive environment, to make money and to achieve success by showing. His guide includes advice on good design features, knowing the best time to cut a flower by age and development, golden rules, preserving and drying, artificial flowers and very importantly what to do with flowers before plonking them – conditioning.



Compost Corner

It's a new year with a fresh start, so how about a garden visit? In winter? Absolutely yes! But what's there to see in winter, is it worth the effort? If you're a galanthophile (keen on snowdrops) there's an unusual and beautiful garden you could consider, it's the Painswick Rococo Garden in the south Cotswolds, a bit of a trek, but worth the effort. Not only will you enjoy a spectacular display of snowdrops in mid-February but also some unusual garden features including an Exedra (the garden's most notable feature) and other whimsical buildings like the Eagle House, Red House, Gothic Alcove, Doric seat and Pigeon Loft. There is also an immaculate kitchen garden, maze, fish ponds and tunnel arbour. If you wanted to extent your trip there are some delightful villages nearby. The unspoilt, elegant village of Painswick is just a short drive away and a little further afield is the little village of Slad in an atmospheric hidden valley, famous as the childhood home of Laurie Lee and the setting of his classic novel, 'Cider with Rosie'.

Happy exploring.

Alison Main



Village weather for December 2021

A lot of grey, damp days with little sunshine. A cold start; dry but cloudy mid-month—ending with a very mild wet week

20 rain days, 1 day sleet, 5 air frost, 14 ground frost.; no gales, hail or snow.

Annual Rainfall 828.3mm in 2021, 1054mm in 2020..
10 year average 948.5mm

Comp. Figures	2021	2020
Rain (Most 18.1 mm on 25th)	88.9 mm	78.7 mm
Sunshine avg 0.9hrs	27.8 hrs	60.6 Hrs
Max mean temp. (highest 14.4°C on 31st)	10.2°C	12.51°C
Min mean temp. (lowest -3.2°C on 3rd)	4.4°C	5.7°C

This February 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 March issue contact me via email:

(fmgossiptree@gmail.com)

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

Submissions for the March issue by Friday 18th February 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***