



THE GOSSIP TREE

News & Views from the Parish of FONTMELL MAGNA

Kindly Sponsored by The Platinum Jubilee Committee

JUNE
2022
Issue 339



Fontmell Magna's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations Sunday 5th June



at 9.30am the bells start ringing for a full day of events with... a special Jubilee Service, displays, crown-making, treasure hunt, music, Bar, teas, Street party, and ending up at The Fontmell for Pizzas, drinks and live music



For full details, see the flyer that will be dropping through the door of everyone in the Parish

If you live in the village and will need a lift to/or from any of the Platinum Jubilee events on Sunday 5th June, or you live in the village and would be willing to drive villagers on the day, please let Robert Wellen know, preferably before Wednesday 1 June, on 01747 811070 or by e-mail: robertwellen@btinternet.com and he will attempt to coordinate transport. This 'service' is only for those who cannot otherwise get to/ or back from village events that day (i.e. cannot walk, do not have a car or family or neighbours who can offer a lift). You will need to be able to get in and out of an 'ordinary car', your fold up wheelchairs and rollators will be carried if required. The drop-off point will be the 'Gossip Tree' end of Church Street.



Public Notice

dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/travel/dorset • [@TDorset](https://twitter.com/TDorset)

TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF CHURCH STREET, FONTMELL MAGNA FOR A STREET PARTY FOR HM THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

DORSET COUNCIL has issued an Order under Section 16A of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 to prohibit the use of the following roads by cyclists, horse riders and all mechanically propelled vehicles, except those taking part in the event and emergency vehicles, to facilitate a public event on the highway.

On Sunday 5 June 2022 between 09:00 and 18:00.

Church Street, Fontmell Magna to be closed in its entirety.

There will be no information made signed for traffic on this occasion.

For further information about the event call Andrew Davis on 01783 182446. To discuss this Order call Dorset Highways Traffic Team on 01209 222020 or email highways@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk. Find this information online: www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/traffic

May 2022

JANE SULLIVAN, Executive Director of Place, Dorset Council, County Hall, Dorchester DT1 1LE. Any unauthorised Person who uses or permits the use of the roads indicated in contravention of the Notice will be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £1,000.

Notices – June 2022

St. Andrew's Church - Services for June

5th 1000 Family Service of celebration for HM the Queen
12th 0930 Baptism service
19th 0930 Holy Communion with choir
26th 0930 Holy Communion

Parish Council Meeting

Next PC meeting
Wed 20th July 2022 in the village hall at 1930

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

Mon 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: Tuesday June 21st, 6.15 for 6.30pm.
from Wincombe Lane, Shaftesbury SP7
8PZ. Please bring a picnic. Leaders are Louise
Parry (07753 897292) and Hannah Barrington

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

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

IWERNE VALLEY WALKING GROUP

Ashmore Wood on Saturday 23 April 2022

Phyl and I had been blown over by the carpet of bluebells amongst beech trees in Ashmore Wood a couple of years ago. So we wanted to share this with the walking group but we needed to work out a route that would work with somewhere to have lunch. Whereas traditionally bluebells tend to appear in May, with global warming it seems to be a lot earlier now so we suggested leading a walk in April, taking pot luck that the bluebells would be at their best on the 4th Saturday of April (a week later because of Easter the week before). Helen and I did a recce and promptly got lost but eventually came across the same area of bluebells but none of it was as lush as I'd remembered them. However, by 23rd April it seems they peaked (see below) and it was also much less muddy. We planned to include Compton Abbas Airfield into the walk but they were only allowing members to use their indoor café and wouldn't allow parking when not there. So we went for a simple 4.3 mile walk in the woods, then drove to the King John for lunch.

Twenty-one people (including 3 members of my family who were visiting from the US and Kent) were booked on the walk but this reduced to 17 due to various ailments. As we walked down from Ashmore pond towards the woods, while horse riders went up the hill to our right, 4 hares were seen bounding across the field. We also spotted a kite overhead being teased by a crow. The weather was dry but overcast and windy with no sun shining through the trees. But suitable gasps were heard as we came to the beech tree part of the wood with its huge expanse of blue carpet. Further down there bluebells gave way to wild garlic. 9 of us had a lovely lunch at the King John where some sampled Gritchie's beer from Guy Ritchie's brewery.



FONTMELL MAGNA VILLAGE ARCHIVE SOCIETY

PLATINUM JUBILEE EXHIBITION

FONTMELL MAGNA VILLAGE HALL

Thursday to Sunday 2nd - 5th June 2022

2.00 – 5.00 pm.

The Society will be holding a small exhibition in the Village Hall to mark the occasion with relevant material from the Archives.

What was Fontmell Magna like in the early 50s?

What caused the fuss about the Cross Tree?

Who were the children in the school?

How was the coronation marked at the time?

See how the coronation was reported in the newspapers of the day and how the Village celebrated the Coronation and other anniversaries.

Where were YOU on coronation day? **Those not born can just enjoy their youth!!**

If anyone has souvenirs of the coronation or succeeding anniversaries and would be prepared to lend them to the Society for display please contact Roger Hillman on 01747 811878.



SPRING MEADOWS FONTMELL MAGNA

Pennyfarthing Homes held the official launch for the new development in Fontmell Magna on Thursday 12th May in the Fontmell



There will be a collection of two, three, and four bedroom houses at Spring Meadows, comprising a mix of detached and semi-detached homes with first completions due for Winter of 2022, and this will include the show home. They are also aiming for the first homeowners to move in during Winter 2022. Details of the houses have appeared on Rightmove (www.rightmove.co.uk) and are being sold from the Blandford office of estate agency Symonds & Sampson, which is on Blandford high street. Below are a couple of examples of the style of housing that will be available in the development



WASSAIL THEATRE PRESENTS WHISPERING WILLOWS

11TH JUNE 2022

Its 1929 Morris has been planting, harvesting, basket making and drinking tea on his Somerset willow farm since before he can remember. Every year the same pattern repeats itself. Plant, harvest, weave – Plant, harvest, weave. One day he pulls up a particularly large piece of willow with a girl clinging to the end of it! She eats too much, breaks everything and is a complete nuisance. But as time moves on, they teach each other the ways of the willow. Planting, harvesting, weaving; the cycle continues, and all is well until the chaos of WW2 and the invention of plastic threaten to destroy the farm and their livelihoods. Can they find a new use for willow before it's too late?

Founded in 2015, Wassail is a Somerset based theatre company. Pack a picnic and join them in the gardens for a beautiful, non-verbal story that's suitable for all the family featuring puppets crafted from Somerset willow and an evocative original soundtrack. Touring Dorset with Artsreach, the county's touring arts charity.

Suitable for ages 6+

First show: 11.30 am-12.20 pm

Second show: 2.00 pm- 2.50 pm

Adults: £8.00 U18: £5.00 Family: £22.00

Outdoor performance – bring a chair, dress for all weather and picnic in the garden. Assistance dogs only

Please book on line through Artsreach by following the link :

<https://artsreach.co.uk/event/whispering-willocks>



OPEN GARDEN FOR CHARITY

Past resident Jackie Abbott is once again opening her gardens at Littlebrook Farmhouse, Belchalwell DT11 0EG on Sunday 12th June from 2.30pm in aid of Julia's House Hospice. Enjoying spectacular views across the Blackmore Vale, the grounds include formal and water features, orchard and vegetable areas and there will also be refreshments for sale on the terrace. Entry to the Gardens is £5 per person.

JULY GOSSIP TREE

Due to the editor being on holiday, the print edition of the July Gossip Tree will not be ready until the first week of July. The electronic version will be distributed at the end of June.

Graham Eames, Editor

THE FARRANT SINGERS

On the 5th May we were treated to a wonderful concert in St Andrew's Church, with the Farrant Singers. Tickets were sold in aid of improved accessibility at the church, and there was a retiring collection in aid of Ukraine. The Farrant Singers are the longest-established chamber choir in Salisbury, founded in 1958, and they brought us a programme of choral music, with an underlying theme of Light

Their opening number was a twentieth century rendering of the ancient hymn "Hail Gladdening Light", by David Briggs, a very skilful rendering of a difficult piece. We then jumped back several centuries, with plainchant, followed by two very beautiful (and equally beautifully sung) Tudor motets by Robert White and William Byrd. To take us to the interlude, we heard a Nunc Dimittis by Palestrina.

To give the singers a well-earned break, Chris Mahon on the organ gave us a Bach Prelude in G, followed by a whimsical rendering of the well-known "English Country Garden".

The singers returned with a thoughtful rendering of the State Anthem of Ukraine. This was a moving reminder of one of the concert's aims, to raise funds for Ukraine.

Back to the twentieth century (just), with two motets, one by the American Eric Whitacre, the other by Sir William Harris (to words by John Dunne), followed by a Nunc Dimittis by Gustav Holst, after which we had two Bach chorales.

As a finale, the choir split, with half at the back, and half at the front of the nave, to give us a thrilling performance of Charles Wood's version of Hail Gladdening Light.

It was a great privilege to hear live music performed with such precision and skill, by an enthusiastic choir, led by their dynamic and sensitive conductor, Andrew Mackay.

Our thanks to Andrew and the Farrant Singers for a brilliant concert. Let us hope we can hear live music in St Andrews again before long.

IWERNE VALLEY WALKING GROUP

Saturday 21st May 2022 – Walk from Chetnole near Sherborne.

On a sunny Saturday in May 12 walkers and 2 dogs gathered in the car park of the Chetnole Inn. We set off just after 10:30 with a promise of the first point of interest on this walk, a remote railway halt. Chetnole station is a request stop on the Dorchester to Yeovil line.



Over the fields and into the woods following a bubbling stream. The ground was a carpet of white wild garlic flowers and hidden between them early purple orchids.

Leaving the wood we came across a trig point half way up a hill! It was a good spot to stop and enjoy the far reaching views and take some photos.

Through a farm yard and into the hamlet of Melbury Bubb we reached the next point of interest, St Marys. A 12th century church that has no electricity and is lit by oil lamps and warmed with a wood burning stove. The font is upside down. It was thought to be the original preaching stone on the site before the church was built.

We continued over the railway bridge and into fields and fields of golden buttercups.

Returning to the village of Chetnole we called in the church before enjoying an excellent lunch in the very hospitable and charming pub.

Neil & Jane Davies



UKRAINIAN REFUGEES

Halyna and Mariia have recently arrived with us in Hartgrove under the Homes for Ukraine scheme.

To help them settle in, we are hoping to find other families in the area who are also hosting Ukrainian families so that they can potentially get together.

Also, if anyone can help support them in any other way or know of groups or organisations that have been set up to assist with their acclimatisation in England, then we'd love to hear about them.

Camilla Balmer
camillakeppie@googlemail.com
07769 906810

Fontmell Magna Parish Council – Meetings held on 18th May 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), Andy Main (AM), Christine Scott (CS), Clerk Sam Smith (SS), plus 12 members of the public.

Apologies: Laura Kurton (LK), Jane Somper (JS) Ward Councillor

Annual General Meeting

Welcome & Apologies – MH welcomed members of the public attending. Apologies were received from Laura Kurton and Jane Somper.

Election of Chairman 2022-23 – MH has stepped down after 3 years in post but will continue as a councillor. Andrew Davis was elected as the new chairman of the Parish Council. AD proposed a vote of thanks to MH for his service as chairman.

Election of Vice-Chairman 2022-23 – Laura Kurton was elected unanimously as vice-chair.

Assignment of Councillors Responsibilities – Councillors agreed to take the lead over council matters as follows:

Planning – Mike Highways – Andrew Environmental Protection – *Vacant*

District Liaison – *Vacant* Communications – Laura Social Infrastructure – Christine

Footpaths – Andy Governance – Andrew

Details of these areas of responsibilities are available on the PC website.

Annual Parish Meeting

Reports from Parish Clubs & Societies - representatives were present from many of the parishes clubs and societies to give a report on their activities over the past year:

Speedwatch & 20's Plenty – Peter Mole St Andrews Church – Barry Roberts

Garden Club – Sue East Community Land Trust – Robert McCurrach

Archive Society – Roger Hillman Gossip Tree – MH for Barbara Humphreys

Village Hall – *report provided post-meeting*

These reports will be published on the PC website with the meeting minutes.

Public Open Forum – no questions or issues of concern were raised by the residents present.

Parish Council Annual Report 2021-22 – the report is available on the PC website and was well received as a record of the PC's achievements and activities through the past year (worthwhile bedtime reading for all residents). No questions or issues were raised.

Report from Dorset Ward Councillor – JS could not be present but provided a written report available on the PC website.

Parish Council Meeting

Declarations of Interest: None

Minutes of the Meetings on 16th March 2022: These were approved unanimously.

Matters Arising:

Dog Poo Bin – AM reported that the dog poo bin is now in place at the top of Fontmell Hill. AM will contact Gore Farm amount widening the gap between the concrete bollards at the entrance to Chalk Pit carpark.

Spring Meadows Development – It has been confirmed with Pennyfarthing Homes that there are no plans to install bus-stops outside the new development on South Street. Also a litter bin has been provided for building contractors to use, following an issue raised with the site manager.**Reports from Parish Councillors**

a. Planning

Spring Meadows Development, South Street, Fontmell Magna

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

Gupples Farm, Hartgrove – erection of agricultural storage building.

The PC has objected to this application as the size and scale of the proposed building is felt not to be in keeping with the Grade II listed farmhouse.

3 Shaftesbury View, Hartgrove – erect single storey extension – PC is supporting this application.

Barn at Penn Hill Dairy, Bedchester – change of use, conversion of agricultural building to a dwelling—PC is supporting this application provided that a small dwelling is retained and the large barn is relocated.

Grove Farm, Hannahs Hill, Hartgrove – amended plans to erect link extension with attic storey.

PC is supporting this application.

Tansys, Gupples Lane, Hartgrove – amended plans for single storey extension.

PC is supporting this application.

MH is attending a Dorset Council planning briefing on 27th May, which is expected to provide an update on the Local Plan with potential implications for Fontmell Magna. This may trigger the need to update Fontmell's Neighbourhood Plan which will require people to come forward to form a working group to undertake the update work.

Spring Meadows Development – Pennyfarthing Homes held a sales launch event in The Fontmell on 12th May. Occupation of the first property in the development is expected in October. MH will arrange a meeting with the School Head to discuss the use of the school drop-off area by parents.

b. Highways – AD reported that traffic surveys have been completed at three locations in the village, and all three sites meet the threshold of installing a Speed Indicator Device (SID). Consequently AD proposed that the PC should approve in principle the purchase of an SID subject to clarification over funding which was agreed. The cost estimate currently is £6,200, which is beyond the funds of the parish council so some fund-raising activity will be needed. If the SID is acquired the existing VAS (Vehicle Activated Speed) signs on the A350 at the north and south entrances to the village would be removed.

AD to request a review by Highways of traffic signs on the A350 through the village.

Road markings on the approach to the s-bends in South Street have been refreshed.

Four residents attended a recent meeting at Dorset Council on a new Speed Limit policy, and read out letters detailing issues of concern, as the policy would inhibit the adoption of a 20mph limit on some local roads. This input had some influence in councillors rejecting the policy and asking officials to redraft it.

The recent community survey conducted by LK produced some useful stats on road safety: from 63 household responses:

- 95% support a 20mph limit on village roads;
- 82% support a 20mph limit on the A350 through the village;
 - 34% use a car to make a short trip to the village hall or shop because they feel the A350 is too dangerous to walk on without a pavement;
 - 71% would support a painted pathway along West Street (from Timbers to the Village Hall).

These stats will be used to try to persuade Dorset Highways to deploy 20mph speed limits where appropriate.

A request has gone to Highways to install a bell bollard at the corner of the West Lea property.

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 funds are in place to acquire the freehold of the village shop and contracts are ready to exchange. He expressed his thanks to the community for their support to this project.

Efforts will continue to determine if a network provider could increase the level of network service available in the village and wider parish.

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

f. Footpaths – A request has gone to the school to clear the path which runs alongside the school which is overgrown. Discussions are being held with Pennyfarthing Homes on re-surfacing this footpath, a condition of their planning permission.

g. Communications - LK has completed a house-to-house community survey across a large chunk of the parish. This reaching out to the community was generally very well received and many people expressed their willingness to help the community with organising and running community events; a list has been provided to the Village Hall Committee. Useful information was also gathered on people's preferences for investment of the S106 contributions arising from the Spring Meadows development.

h. Governance – MH recently conducted an annual review for the Clerk to address any concerns. The PC approved an increase to the Clerk's salary to £11.73 per hour, providing an annual salary of £4,504.

Finance

The RFO reported for the financial year ended 31/03/22 total income was £9,751 and total expenditure was £7,692. The bank balance at 31/03/22 was £9,132.

An internal audit for the year end has been completed with no comments made.

The PC's insurance policy is due for renewal at end of May with a premium quoted of £746, fixed for three years. Alternative quotes will be investigated.

The PC has purchased 36 Queen's Platinum Jubilee mugs to give to all under-16 children in the parish as a memento.

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

Clerk's salary and expenses, May22 - £431.98

St Andrews Churchyard maintenance – £400

DAPTC Annual Subscription - £267.43

Vale Garden Services - £50

Parish Online software licence - £45

The grant request from the Village Hall for £550 towards playground maintenance costs needs to be discussed further as the playground is closed, CS to action.

Andrew and Laura to be added as signatories for PC cheques.

The Clerk will arrange dates for PC meetings in 2023 to see if Monday evenings would be available for meetings.

Matters Arising from Recent Correspondence - none

AOB

Clare Reynolds expressed concern over the recent addition of security lights at St Andrews School. This was done without any consultation and is causing disturbance to adjoining properties and to bats. Also, seemingly, this contravenes the Neighbourhood Plan Dark Skies policy. AM has written to the Head to raise the issue but has yet to receive a response.

Date of Next Meeting: The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Wednesday 20th July 2022 in the Village Hall.** All residents are welcome to attend, and especially anyone who is interested in potentially joining the parish council to see what we do.

FONTMELL MAGNA AND DISTRICT GARDEN CLUB

April 21st 2022 7.30pm – the Garden Club assembled for a social evening at The Village Hall. Traditionally this is the last gathering before the summer recess – next social get together will be on September 3rd. Members brought a fabulous array of nibbles, salads and desserts to accompany platters of roast ham. The turnout was impressive and Sue East welcomed the assembled throng. After the obligatory safety briefing Sue outlined the plan for the evening and detailed upcoming events. These include the members' evening at Castle Gardens in May, an outing to Compton Acres in June and the much-awaited Garden Show in August. Buffet, quiz, raffle, judging the narcissus competition – a full and enjoyable evening ahead! Raffle prizes - kindly donated by a number of local businesses (special mention to Coconut & Cotton, Bright Blooms and Homebase) as well as several members - were on display and a brisk business in ticket sales followed. Delicious food accompanied by various beverages and animated conversation was enjoyed by all. Sue Morgan was voted the winner of the bulb competition, Helen Ellis presided over the quiz results, several lucky people took home various raffle prizes including pots, plants, bulbs, books, garden tools, candles, hand cream and even chocolates, and all in all a good time was had by everyone. Many thanks to all who made the evening a great success and to the willing hands that helped with preparation and washing up!

Iwerne Valley Walking Group

Our next walk is:

Midsummer's Eve walk, Tuesday June 21st, 6.15 for 6.30 p.m., from Wincombe Lane, Shaftesbury SP7 8PZ. Please bring a picnic. Leaders are Louise Parry (07753 897292) and Hannah Barrington.



CHAIRMAN OF DORSET COUNCIL VISIT JUNE 15 th - INFO AND PLEA FOR HELP

I am delighted to say that our local councillor Jane Somper, has arranged for the Chairman of our council, Cllr Val Potheary to visit the garden on the afternoon of Wednesday June 15 th. She will visit our pop up cafe and have a look at the garden.

I have invited the surgery, social prescribing representative, our school volunteers, seed growers, planters, tea servers, cake makers, crafters, and chairs of clubs.

This invitation to come along is extended to everyone on this mailing list. It would be lovely to have a good number at the pop up to meet our chairman and share what we do with her.

HELP....If you would be able to make a cake for that day for the pop up cafe - I would be so very grateful.

We have four volunteers on rota to serve tea that day - but do not have the Clayesmore students sadly due to their timetable that week. I would be so very grateful for a few more tea servers please on that afternoon .

On the Saturday morning (June 11 th) from 9.30-12.00, I am lucky to be having a volunteer team of ten students from Clayesmore to help. I will be working with them to get the garden looking fab and the area around the village hall really tidy in preparation for her visit.

DATE AHEAD.....

SATURDAY JULY 16 th.

St Andrew's School PTA have kindly asked if we would like to attend their school fete.

We are going to buy two or three tables for the fete and will have crafts and our cookery book on sale.

Additionally, we are going to sell jars of jam and surplus plants to raise funds for the Friendship Garden.

If anyone would like to join me on Friday July 15 th for a few hours of jam jar posy making for the stall at my house, from 2.30-4.30 (maximum) that would be lovely.

Cups of tea and cake on me!

Additionally, if anyone has any surplus plants we could sell, that would be fantastic.

Can you ping me an e mail if you would like to come along. I will have cut the flowers the day before from my garden and anywhere else I can find!

Sian sianhighnam@gmail.com



Compost Corner

Crazy paving, deckchairs, immaculate lawns, rockeries, regimented bedding plants - these are some of the typical features of 1950s gardens and as we're about to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee I've been reflecting on how much gardens and gardening has changed in the last 70 years. Weeds and pests were unacceptable to the proud gardener, and eradicated using some terrifying chemicals with sprays, drenches, even noxious gases. But having said that, other wildlife was very much in evidence - hedgehogs were regular visitors as were slow worms, frogs and toads. Garden centres hadn't arrived but there were specialist nurseries and many plants were raised from seeds and cuttings. Bedding plants edged perfect striped lawns and herbaceous borders were double-dug every year and plants divided. My mother reminded me what a back breaking job it was, but considered essential for a perfect display.

And planted at the bottom of the garden, as far away from the house as possible, was a baby in a pram whilst mother prepared lunch for her of puréed brains and father, dressed in shirt and tie, busied himself with his chrysanthemums.....ahhh....the fabulous fifties.

Alison Main

And the baby ...was me



Village weather for April 2022

April started with typical cool, showery weather with some frosts. High pressure then dominated and blocked further rain. Some cool cloudy days but plenty of sunshine

8 rain days, 1 day hail, 1 gale.

Comp. Figures	2022	2021
Rain (Most 7.3mm on 6th)	23.7mm	9.4mm
Sunshine	Avg. 6.3 hrs	Avg. 7.4 hrs
Max mean temp. (highest 20.1°C on 21st)	14.7°C	12.8°C
Min mean temp. (lowest -4.3°C on 3rd)	4.8°C	0.67°C

This June issue of The Gossip Tree was edited by: **Graham Eames.**

We apologise in advance if we have made any errors or omissions
Please would regular contributors for the July issue contact me via email:

fmgossiptree@gmail.com

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

Submissions for the June issue by Thursday 23rd June please.

The views expressed in this publication by contributors are not necessarily those of the Editors or of the Committee of The Gossip Tree.

*If you would always like to receive The Gossip Tree by email, please let us know at **fmgossiptree@gmail.com***