



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

March 2024
Issue 360

Fontmell Magna Neighbourhood Plan Consultation

We are seeking feedback on the draft of our new Neighbourhood Plan. The Consultation Period will run from 12 February to 31st March.

Please see the pre-submission Draft Neighbourhood Plan on the Parish Council Website www.fontmellmagnapc.co.uk. You can download copies of the Draft Plan, see where to inspect paper copies and obtain paper feedback forms, and share your views by email to np@fontmellmagnapc.co.uk. If you prefer, there will also be a Survey Monkey online survey available during the consultation period.

Full details of how to give feedback will be on the website and PC noticeboards.



We at the Fontmell aim very much to become the hub for this amazing village and surrounding area.. We pride ourselves on offering freshly prepared food by our talented head chef Matt Walker and his team, also with a very warm and friendly welcome offered by our fantastic team. We are very much looking forward to the times ahead and are very excited about making the most of our outdoor space in the coming months, all to be announced in due course .

We would both like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your amazing support over the last six months and for welcoming us back to Fontmell Magna.

With kind regards Arnie and Sarah

Telephone number 01747812208

Email - fontmellthepub@gmail.com

Website - www.ourvillagepub.com

Winter Opening hours Monday closed Tuesday to Saturday 11:00 till 22:00 Sunday 11.30 am till 19.00

Food served Monday closed Tuesday to Saturday 12:00 till 14:30 17:00 till 20:30 Sunday 12:00 till 16:00

Notices – March 2024

St. Andrew's Church - Services for March

3rd 0900 Church Breakfast—Village Hall

10th 0930 Family service for Mothering Sunday

17th 0930 Sung Communion

24th Palm Sunday 0930 Holy Communion

29th Good Friday Witness—meet at church porch at 1045 to walk to the gossip tree

31st Easter Day 0930 Holy Communion

Parish Council Meeting

Next PC meeting

Tues 19th March 2024 in the village hall at 1830. Tea and coffee will be served from 6.00pm

Parish clerk: 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 8.00am - 5.00pm

Sat 8.30am - 2.00pm

Sun 9.00am - 11.00am

Enquiries: 811201

Hillarnias Tearooms - Winter Hours

Monday Closed

Tuesday to Friday 1-5pm

Saturdays 9-2pm

Sunday Closed

Private hire available

The Tea Room Crafters

2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at 2.30pm in the Tea Room.

Enquiries: Jenny White 812042

The Fontmell

Arnie & Sarah

Enquiries: 812208

Fontmell Magna Toddler Group & Under 5s

Enquiries: 812773

Iwerne Valley Walking Group

Next walk: Saturday 16th March. Starting at the Rushmore Golf Club SP5 5QB. 10.30 a.m. Contact Louise Parry on 07753897292 for further information.

Helen English 01747 853472

Bell-ringing

Enquiries: Caroline Rhodes 812002

Events in the Village Hall

Fontmell Friendship Garden—Pop up Café

Returns in 2024

Contact Sian Highnam 811028 or
garden.fmvh@mail.com

Sunday Breakfast

1st Sunday of the month

Enquiries: Sue Keen 812282

Email: susanannekeen@gmail.com

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 this page

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 7.00-9.00pm

Enquiries: Derek Bone 812505

Yoga

Friday mornings at 09.30 and 11.00

Enquiries: Kirsty Elliot 829281

Kirsty@vhadevelopments.co.uk

Pilates

Mon 1730-1930 Tues 10.00-11.00.

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

To book the Hall, please contact :

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

Fontmell Magna & District Garden Club

The next talk on the Fontmell Magna and District Garden Club programme is on Thursday 21st March at 7.30pm at FM Village Hall.

The talk is 'From Seeds to Sales - Growing Flowers for Floristry', by Deborah Harris.

Guests are welcome (£2.50 payable on the door) and refreshments are available. For further details on the Garden Club please contact Sue Chippington 811520.

Fontmell Magna Village Hall

6th, 20th & 27th March 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 on 01747 812 500

email: lunch.fmvh@mail.com

Main Course
Dessert
Tea and Coffee
We can cater for
most dietary
requirements.



The Blackmore Vale
Partnership
The heart of the community



KLINIK

Our Wellbeing Team is coming back to the Fontmell Magna Lunch Club on:-
Wednesday 6th March 2024

Wellbeing Team Support -13:30-14:30

Klinik and Tech support -14:00 -14:30pm

Come and talk to our team about what matters to you!

We know how difficult it can be when things move online, so please feel free to bring your tablets, smartphones, or laptops that you use at home, and we will be happy to guide you through our new online triage system, Klinik.

We look forward to seeing you there.



Growing runner beans or sweet/garden peas?

As usual, I shall be selling beanpoles and pea-sticks this year, by-products of management of Brookland (and other) woods and hedge laying.

Proceeds will be split between the Woodland Trust and St Andrews Church repairs.

George Darwall 01747 811888

Announcing the Spring Fair at Fontmell Magna Village Hall



Based on the format for our previous Early Christmas Markets run in the Autumn of 2020 and 2021 we are, for the first time, holding a Spring Fair this April.

We have a lovely selection of indoor and outdoor stall holders and are also hosting 3 local charities (Springhead Trust, Dorset Wildlife Trust and Homestart) plus 2 stalls run by St. Andrews Church and a Friendship Garden Gazebo with lots of lovely stuff to buy.

Amongst our many varied stalls we have once again signed up The Real Cure, The Truckle Truck, Tackroom Gin, Freckledy Speckledy and Dorset Eco. New stallholders include Full Circle Coffee, Sinceris candles and gifts, Tropic Skincare, plus several stalls selling arts and crafts.

We will also be holding a Grand Hamper Raffle with several lovely hampers to give away thanks to donations. If you have any new and unused items that you would like to donate to help fill one of these hampers please get in touch by email: secretary.fmvh@mail.com

Raffle tickets will be on sale from the beginning of April.

Fontmell Magna Village Hall Fundraising Committee

<p>ST ANDREW'S PARISH CHURCH, FONTMELL MAGNA</p>  <p><i>Mothering Sunday</i></p> <p>MOTHERING SUNDAY FAMILY WORSHIP</p> <p>Sunday 19 March 2024 9.30 a.m. CHILDREN AND FAMILIES VERY WELCOME</p>	<p>ST ANDREW'S PARISH CHURCH FONTMELL MAGNA EASTER 2024</p>  <p>PALM SUNDAY (24 March) 9.30 a.m. HOLY COMMUNION <i>Celebrated by Bishop Tim Thornton</i></p> <p>GOOD FRIDAY (29 March) 10.45 a.m. Public Witness <i>Meet at Church Porch</i></p> <p>EASTER DAY (31 March) 9.30 a.m. HOLY COMMUNION <i>Celebrated by Reverend Garry Bennett</i></p>
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Welcome to the village

The Gossip Tree would like to welcome Ken and Jenny Burden who have moved from Chandlers Ford to No 4 Old Crown Rd

Fontmell Magna Art Club

The twenty two members of Fontmell Magna Art Club will be holding their popular biennial Art Exhibition on Sunday 17th March between 2pm and 5pm.

Everyone is welcome. It's free entry.

Tea/coffee/cakes are available and profits go to charity.



FONTMELL FRIENDSHIP GARDEN

Welcome everyone – established and new villagers to a short update on our Fontmell Friendship Garden as we enter our growing season. For those new to the village, the garden was established from nothing and opened in June 2021 on land behind the Surgery. The garden operates as part of the Village Hall and is managed by a sub committee of the village hall committee which is coordinated by myself, Sian Highnam.

The garden is completely self funded and was created with generous support from local businesses, villager plant donations and fundraising events. The goal of the garden is to provide a space to come together to grow seeds, plant flowers, cut and enjoy flowers, tend the garden and work with other stakeholders in the community. We also have links with the well being team through the Blackmore Vale Practice, which allows clients to be signposted to our project. We also link with St Andrew's Primary School, Clayesmore School across all ages, Fontmell Magna Under Fives, Springhead, Yewstock School on occasions and we have also supplied plants in the past to the village shop and intend to supply flowers to Arnie and Sarah in the pub.

The garden has been recognised by several awards in the last two years – Level 5 and outstanding achieved from the RHS “In your neighbourhood” assessment, a Dorset volunteering award and a High Sheriff of Dorset award. This has been a wonderful reflection of all the hard work by so many volunteers.

In the last six months, due to the closure of the surgery, we were asked to vacate the land. Although disappointing, we have taken stock and moved all the original beds and majority of the perennial plants and replanted everything in areas surrounding the village hall. This represented a huge effort with over 120 people involved over a six week period and hundreds of man hours.

We are therefore entering our first season of the garden in its current location.

There are planters and tubs sited on the Village Hall Patio, two new beds on the road side end of the village hall and six beds opposite the new playground with benches for rest and relaxation. Over 500 daffodils and over 300 crocus were planted last autumn by St Andrew's School, Clayesmore Prep, Clayesmore Senior school and Fontmell Under Fives and they are now surrounding the village hall.

The garden is for everyone in the village and we welcome anyone to visit, sit and enjoy the garden, cut the flowers when in bloom to enjoy at home and also join the fantastic team of friendly volunteers in a whole variety of activities. I send out a weekly garden update to over a hundred villagers and please do e mail me if you would like to be added to that list to receive information regarding the garden.

I have a planned schedule of events for the garden and anyone is welcome to get involved in as much or as little as they would like. It is a lovely project for making friends and enjoying blooms. It is not hugely labour intensive and the beds are easily accessible for management.

This is the schedule for the next six weeks. If you would like to join in with any of these activities, please do e mail me on sianhighnam@gmail.com

Refreshments are provided at every activity and if the weather is against us, I schedule an alternative dry weather activity – typically potting on seedlings, sewing seeds or associated jobs.

DAY AND DATE	TIME AND LOCATION	ACTIVITY
23.2.24	11.30-12.45 Village Hall	Weeding and tending the garden beds – joined by Clayesmore senior school
1.3.24	11.30-12.45 village hall	As above
8.3.24	11.30-12.45 Village hall	As above
5.4.24	11.30-12.45 village hall	Villagers only – weeding , tidying, planting out
12.4.24	11.30-12.45 village hall	As above
17.4.24	9.30-11.30 Sian's house	Spring wreath making to sell at the Spring Fair to raise funds for the garden, potting on and labelling plants for selling
18.4.24	9.30-11.30 Sian's House	Completing Spring wreaths, potting on plants and making jars of joy
19.4.24	11.30-12.45 Sian's house and garden	Completing all preparations for for Spring Fair on 20.4.24
20.4.24	10 am onwards – Village Hall	Helping on the stall for the village Spring Fair on the Friendship Garden table
May onwards	Watering rota – which will be far less this year due to irrigation plans .	

If anyone would like to get involved on any of those dates – please e mail me on sianhighnam@gmail.com

FONTMELL FRIENDSHIP GARDEN—POP UP CAFE

From mid May we will be opening up our garden pop up café in the village hall from 3-5 pm.

Dates will be publicised in the April edition of the Gossip Tree. The cafes will run fortnightly on Wednesday afternoons offering teas, coffees and cake. We just ask for a donation towards the cost and any funds raised are used for the future of the garden. They are lovely and relaxed and I always pop a little plea out for volunteers to help me run these by making a cake and / or helping me serve teas .

This year, I am aiming to run some little activities – making Small posies, summer wreaths etc .

If would like to help with these and have a free Wednesday now and then when you might be able to help, please do e-mail me.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the garden over the last two years and for helping with the massive task of relocation last October. I look forward to seeing the blooms again this year and to sharing cut flowers with the village and welcoming new faces to our lovely group.

Kind Regards

Sian (07774 647060 / sianhighnam@gmail.com)

The Fontmell Society is starting again!

FONTMELL FRIENDS TALK
'Insights on Life from 90°North'



7.00pm, Wednesday 13th March
Village Hall
Doors open 6.30pm for pop-up bar and soft drinks
Tickets £2.50 from Village Shop or £3.00 on the door.
Further details from Andrew Davis 07831 162446

Many Fontmell Magna residents will be delighted to learn that the Fontmell Society is going to start again! Now to be known as “Fontmell Friends”, the aim of the new society will be to stage events from time to time which they hope will be of interest to everyone and give opportunities to meet and make new friends. The first event is going to be held on Wednesday 13th March at the Village Hall when the world famous explorer and conservationist Pen Hadow is going to give a talk entitled “Insights on Life from 90 degrees North”.

Advance tickets can be purchased at the village shop for £2.50 and tickets on the night can be purchased for £3 on the door. Doors open at 6.30 , refreshments will be available, talk starts at 7.00 pm. Look forward to seeing you there!

The Friendship Garden Library in March 2024

Over the last months the Friendship Garden library has been gifted another 20 books by very kind gardeners and others who may not be gardeners but who want uncluttered bookshelves. Thank you all.

Some of the books cover aspects of gardening already represented in the library, others offer further paths to explore.

The oldest donation is ‘Compost Gardening’ by W E Shewell-Cooper and rather touchingly, was published in 1974, making it 50 years old, so maybe older than some library readers.

‘The Border Planner’ by Richard Bird, ‘Hostas’ by Diana Grenfell, ‘Ponds and Water Features’ an RHS publication, and ‘Food Politics’, the frontispiece of which suggests it might have strayed from the University of California, are thirty years younger.

Three ‘Expert’ books by the prolific Dr DG Hessayon – have joined the six the library already holds. Perhaps surprisingly, they are all titles the library did not have – ‘The Garden Expert’, ‘The Fruit Expert’ and ‘The Vegetable and Herb Expert’.

Dr Hessayon would have been 36 years old when ‘Compost Gardening’ was published. Last month in Letters to the Editor (of The Times) the journalist and author, Joseph Connolly wrote of meeting him.

“Sir, seeing Dr DG Hessayons 96th birthday recorded in the Times reminds me of when I encountered him in the 1990s at a Hatchards “authors of the year” party. I asked him how he could account for the fact that his many “Garden Expert” books were constantly in the best-selling charts and continued to sell thousands of copies every year. “Cheap binding,” he replied.”

It's good to know that cheap binding does not preclude longevity.





Ever thought of having ago at Shamanic drumming.



**I will be hosting Shamanic Drumming circles at the
FONTMELL MAGNA village Hall SP7 0JP.**

Next one 5th March, 2nd, 16th April, 28th May, 11th June.

6.30PM TILL 8.00PM

I teach rhythm patterns, beat emphasis, and much more.

**Meditate and cleanse the MIND, BODY and SPIRIT with the
rhythm and power of the drum,**

accompanied by me playing the Native American flute.

**Book YOUR DRUM if you don't have one, or just turn up with
your own. Keeping free will alive.**



**I have drums for use or for sale. Please phone
me to reserve your DRUM for the evening
Phone.....Steve 07551036949**

Iwerne Valley Walking Group—January 2024 walk

We met at The White Horse pub in the centre of Hinton St Mary. Our walk took us through the village, stopping at St Peter's church and onto the Manor House. The Hinton St Mary estate has been in the hands of the Pitt-Rivers family for over six hundred years. Our walk continued to the Home Farm and back into the village.

We then walked down to the B3092, crossing over and continuing along Marriage Lane to Cutt Mill which stands by the River Stour. Although now derelict, it is an interesting place to see. More about its history can be found online. Our walk then continued along the river. Although we had recently experienced severe flooding, fortunately the water had receded but we could see clearly how high the river had reached by the amount of debris attached to the fencing. We stopped to talk to a fisherman who had just landed a very good sized pike with large teeth!

We left the river to join Wood Lane which led us back up to the B3092. At the top of the lane is the site of the Hinton St Mary mosaic which was originally discovered in 1963. The site has been excavated several times and most recently for the past three years. The mosaic is with the British Museum at the time of writing. Plenty of information is available online. We crossed back over the main road and continued up Stearts Lane to arrive back at the pub where we started. Some of us then enjoyed an excellent lunch at The White Horse.

Caroline Hart



Obituary: Canon Dick Heath Remi Jones (1932-2023) Written by Stephen Dunning



Canon Dick Jones died, at the age of 91, on Wednesday 22nd November 2023 at The Cedars Nursing Home in Shaftesbury, Dorset. His funeral, held on Saturday 20th January 2024 in St. Andrew's Parish Church, Fontmell Magna, was attended by approximately 270 people, many of whom joined the family for the Wake in the village hall after the service.

Born in 1932 to a British father and a French mother, Dick knew from an early age that the Anglican Priesthood was his calling. Following in his father's footsteps, he studied at Jesus College, Cambridge, and then Lincoln Theological College.

Dick married Jennifer Church in October 1957. He and Jennie moved to Ipswich, where he served his first Curacy. He was ordained a Priest in 1959 and would then serve his second Curacy in Putney. In 1965 they moved to Shropshire, where Dick would eventually become the first Team Rector of the newly-formed Parish of Central Telford and would also serve as a Prebendary of Lichfield Cathedral and Rural Dean of Telford. It was during his 15 years in the Telford parishes that, in partnership with his friends and colleagues, he developed a new style of Team Ministry, later with a strong ecumenical focus. Together, they worked closely with the Roman Catholic, Baptist and Methodist Churches in Telford, pioneering various forms of ecumenical worship and pastoral community care that had a significant impact in developing the Christian Faith and a sense of

community in the New Town environment.

In 1980, having returned from a sabbatical in America, the family moved to Bournemouth, Dorset where Dick became Team Rector of the Bournemouth Town Centre Parish, and would later serve as Rural Dean of Bournemouth. During his 16 years of ministry in the Bournemouth parishes, he oversaw the restoration and reordering works at St. Peter's Church. He served as Chaplain to the Dunkirk Veterans' Association, the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra and Bournemouth Sinfonietta, and was co-founder of the Bournemouth Bach Choir when it was re-formed in 1987.

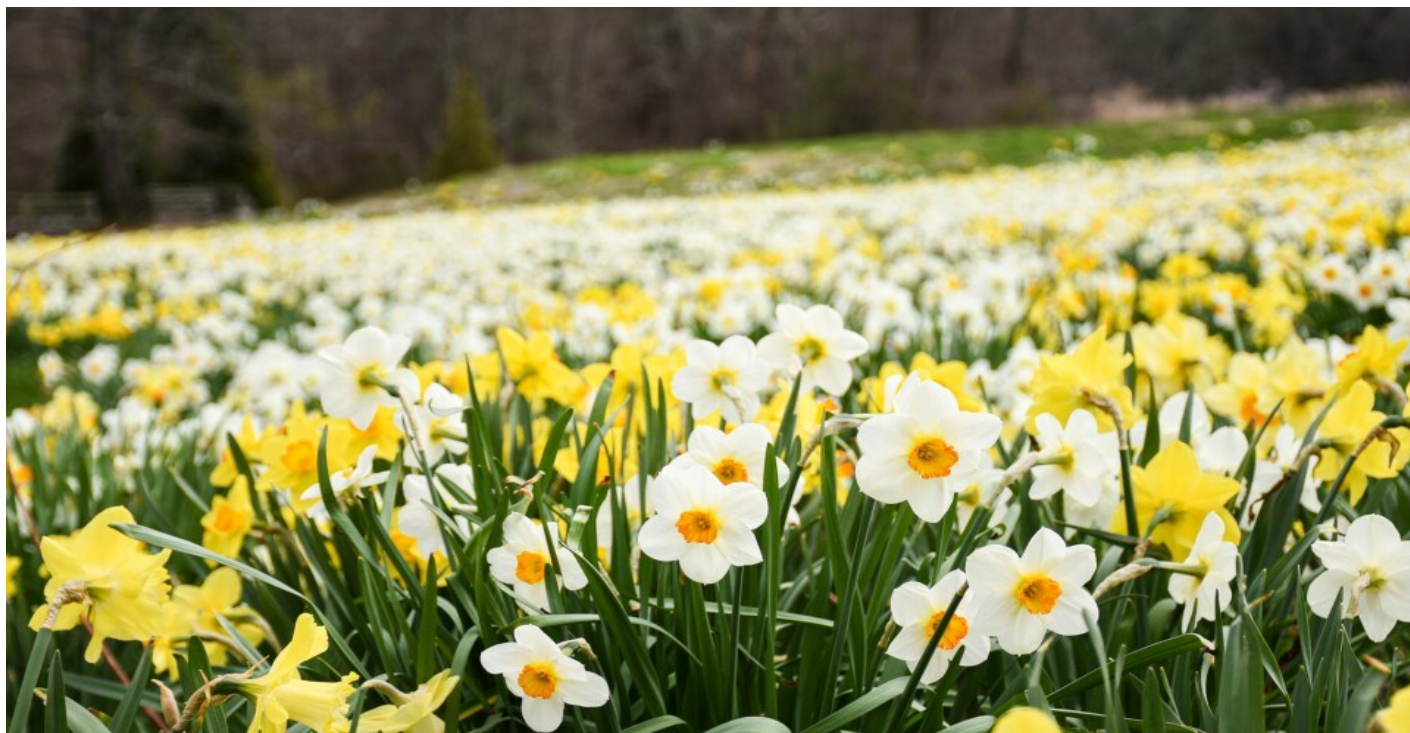
In 1990, Dick was made an Honorary Canon of Winchester Cathedral and in 1996 he retired from his professional ministry. He and Jennie moved to Fontmell Magna where they became active in St. Andrew's Church and the life of the village and the Benefice. Dick contributed to many community and Church projects, including the successful restoration of the bells of St. Andrew's Church, and could often be found working alongside others to help maintain the churchyard. He also helped raise money for the Dorset Historic Churches Trust each year by taking part in their annual Ride and Stride appeal and served as a school governor for St. Andrew's Primary School. He continued to serve as a voluntary clergyman in the Iwerne Valley Benefice until the advance of Alzheimer's disease ended his active ministry in the summer of 2017.

Dick was a kind and compassionate man, with a slightly mischievous sense of humour. He enjoyed sports, debating, fine wine and a good game of chess. During the 1960s, he was a passionate and radical political activist. Later in life, he became a thought-provoking and well-regarded preacher.

His death brings to an end a continuous, multi-generational ministry that began over 175 years ago when his great-grandfather was first ordained. He would have been the first to admit that his ministry was informed by the legacy of those who went before him and shared by those who worked with him. It is that humble yet impactful legacy that will continue to live on in those he leaves behind and the lives he touched. Dick is survived by his wife, Jennie, their daughter, Suzie, and four grandchildren.

A Memorial Concert given by the Bournemouth Bach Choir will be held in St. Andrew's Church, Fontmell Magna, on Saturday 20th April 2024.

Dick was a lifelong member and supporter of Amnesty International UK. If you would like to make a donation in his memory, please donate online at www.amnesty.org.uk or send a cheque, made payable to Amnesty International UK, to Amnesty International UK, Human Rights Action Centre, 17-25 New Inn Yard, London EC2A 3EA.



Compost Corner

I was leafing through an old 1966 book, 'Amateur Gardening - Planter's Guide', and what a different world it was back then. The chapter on lawn care was really horrific to us in the 21st century - would anyone really want to poison worms with chlordane or spray it with lead arsenate to remove leather-jackets? The chemical DDT crops up throughout the book for eradicating just about anything with lots of legs: aphids, capsid bug, frog hoppers, caterpillars, thrips and earwigs. Of course all the beneficial garden insects - ladybirds, hover flies and bees would have been eliminated too. Eventually DDT was banned in 1986.

One job, which it was suggested should be done on an annual basis, was the dreaded double-digging, absolutely backbreaking work and now considered so damaging to the soil's structure. Now, thank goodness any digging is really considered unnecessary, just add lots of well rotted compost to the soil and let the worms incorporate it into the soil. Even advice on watering was so different all those years ago; having a perfect, weed free, green striped lawn was considered essential and it was recommended to give it a good soaking in times of drought. No longer the case: a parched brown lawn will recover eventually and of course 'no mow May' is becoming increasingly popular. All in all, I wouldn't bother to seek out, 'Planters Guide' at an antiquarian book shop, but a current one that is really inspiring and useful is 'Organic Gardening, the natural no-dig way' by Charles Dowding.

Alison Main



Village Weather for January 2024

Yet more rain with storm Henk then a cold dry spell with some hard frosts and sunny periods. Storm Isla added more rain at the end of the month. A few new leaves on 8th January

Comp. Figures	2024	2023
Rain (Most 24.7mm on 4th)	73.3m	40.4mm
Sunshine	62.7 hours Avg 2.04 hrs	54.1 hours Avg 1.7 hrs
Max mean temp. (highest 13.0 on 3rd)	0.3°C	0.9°C
Min mean temp. (lowest -9.4C on 18th)	4.0°C	0.3C

This March 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 issue contact me via email:

(fmgossiption@gmail.com)

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

Submissions for the April issue by Thursday 21st March 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 fmgossiption@gmail.com