

FVN



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Frampton
in
January
by
Fiona
Sarno



FRAMPTON

The Fete Committee along with our supporters have been discussing the possibility of having the Fete this year. Sadly, regarding the Coronavirus, things still seem to be somewhat uncertain as to when we are likely to get back to near normality, so we have, therefore, decided to **defer the Fete to 5 September**. Whilst we are in no way on the scale of Glastonbury, things have to be planned ahead and certain events booked and it's a disappointment for everyone if these then have to be cancelled. So **please** hang on to all those things you have been turning out and put by for us, we will need them! These include nearly new clothes, books, good quality bric a brac, children's toys, and bottles (in date!) for the tombola. I will update you on progress later in the year.

This will be the last year that Victor Pullman and I will be organising the Fete and feel we need to pass the baton on. It is one of the main events in Frampton's social calendar and it would be a pity to lose it. It also raises much needed funds for the Millennium Green, the up keep of the Church, and the Village Hall. So it may be that you feel you can start giving a bit to the village and feel like running the Fete? Perhaps a husband and wife or two friends? It is very rewarding and we can guarantee a good band of helpers. There is a folder with contacts and details to make things easier. The best thing would be to work with Victor and me this year and learn the basics, then take over next year and put in your own ideas. If you would like to talk about it please get in touch with Cynthia on 01300 320346 or email dcmilestone53@gmail.com or Victor on 01300 320 003 or email vgpullman@btinternet.com

So fingers crossed that by September things will be looking more normal and that we have good weather!

Cynthia Whyte, Chairman, Frampton Fete Committee



Photos: Caroline Downey

- Maureen Stephens - 42 years in Frampton

I am sure many of you will know Maureen Stephens, but may not know her background story in Frampton. Maureen bought the old Sheridan family home, The Court, in 1976 with her friends Peggy and Robert Lazenby, from 100 year old Mrs Elizabeth Sheridan. The Court was built by the Sheridan family in 1931/32 after Frampton House was demolished as, due to high death duties, the Sheridan family could no longer afford to maintain the estate and house.

The three friends had decided to renovate and restore the house and gardens, which had fallen into decay and disrepair, with the initial intention of converting the house into a country hotel. The Lazenby's previously managed a farm in Beaulieu, one of Lord Montagu's farms, whilst Maureen, with her husband, ran a restaurant in Christchurch called The Friar Tuck.

The Court comprised the main house plus 60 acres of agricultural land and gardens. Maureen and the Lazenby's worked as a team over two years gradually restoring the property. Much of the work was their own efforts, having invested much of their respective savings into the actual property purchase. As a team they worked long hours, dividing up tasks equally between themselves. Maureen's professional background as a pattern cutter for a London based design house provided her with the opportunity to make many of the furnishings for the house. Peggy and Robert were both practical and useful with DIY projects which, coupled with their farming background, ensured that there was a broad range of complimentary skills.



Fruit plants



Having taken three years to fully refurbish the house and gardens, the first paying guest arrived in 1978. The land, by then, was used to harvest a variety of fruit and vegetables, some of which were sold as a 'Pick Your Own' venture. Maureen and Robert were also keen to produce their own honey and established a number of hives, all of which were impacted by the flash floods which occurred on the Frome in the late 1970's.

Gradually a herd of dairy Jersey cattle was established to provide fresh milk and cream for the house and provide additional funds to supplement the income from guests. The calves had names relating to their mother, so the friends could establish what strain they came from. The Court was effectively run as a country hotel, offering three doubles and one single room. The venture was successful with many repeat visitors, including several from America, who were charmed by the Court and their hosts' hospitality. Indeed Maureen continues to correspond with some of her old American guests today. The trio continued to work as a team running the Court, undertaking all tasks themselves.



Maureen with 2 of her Goldies plus their friends



Maureen, with Robert and Peggy plus 2 of her dogs, Sally & Tessa, picture taken not long after buying The Court.

Included within the land was a wooded area known as Metlands. The friends so enjoyed the wildlife and their walks within the wood that they created a Right of Way so villagers and members of the public could also enjoy Metlands. At around the same time, Maureen and the Lazenby's gifted Tibbs Hollow to the Village so that it too could be used as a base from

which to both enjoy the scenery from its elevated position and as a car park for walkers.

Maureen was a great dog lover owning eight Golden Retrievers over her time in Frampton. The Lazenby's loved cats, but pleasingly all the pets got along well with one another!

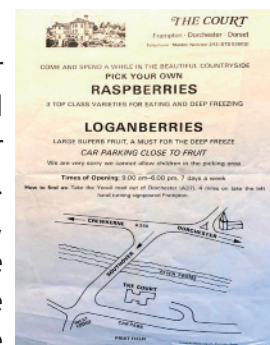
Upon Maureen's marriage to Colin in 1983, the couple moved into the inter-connected former Head Gardener's property. This house has since been split from the main Court house and is now known as Court Cottage. Colin worked for the Royal Fleet Auxiliary and, until he retired, worked for the MOD in London, commuting up on a Monday morning and returning on Friday evening. Upon retirement, Colin helped the friends run and manage the hotel and land.

Maureen, Colin and the Lazenby's had a very enjoyable time at the Court but unfortunately Colin passed away from cancer and this, together with Robert's ill health, meant that the friends decided to sell The Court in 2006 and then buy The Old Byre in Southover, still together.

The trio's hard work and love of gardening has transformed this more recently built house (1997). Roses and dahlias were a particular interest to Maureen, with many planted, turning the garden into a delightful riot of colour in the spring and summer months. Following Robert and Peggy's deaths,

within three months of each other in 2013, Maureen finally decided the property was too large just for her and in 2018, aged 87, sold up. She moved to Poundbury, believing a smaller, more manageable property and one close to local facilities would be more sensible.

Despite extensive alterations to the Poundbury house and gardens, Maureen missed rural life, her friends and bird song. This lure has culminated in Maureen putting the Poundbury property on the market and once again is hoping to return to Frampton and I have no doubt that the village would love to welcome her back!



The opening of the public footpaths through Metlands Wood in 1996

Graham Hart

Name: **Ronnie**

Breed: *part Norwegian Forest*

Owner: *Sue Warren*

Pet love: *climbing furniture and then resting in a cardboard egg box!*

Pet hate: *the rain*

Owner's tip: *wear hedging gloves when handling!*



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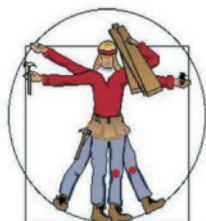
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NATURE NOTES

- Christine Chappell -

I am writing this on a very wet and windy day when the last thing I want to do is go outside even for my daily exercise. However, the birds are out there in all weathers and at this time of year many of them struggle to find enough food to survive, especially the UK's two smallest ones - the wren and the gold crest - who need a large amount of insects and spiders every day in order to get through any cold spells in the winter. In order to keep warm, as many as 60 wrens have been known to huddle together in a bird box to maintain their body temperature. This constant quest for food does make them much easier to spot at this time of year, foraging on the ground and under the leaves and bark of trees.

Other bird species have come to rely on the food we put out for them in our bird feeders and it is interesting to see how many different species can be spotted, some such as blackcaps are predominantly winter visitors to the garden seed containers. It was suggested to me that there has been a general decline in the number of birds using the feeders and I have to say I would agree with this, for whatever reason I can only guess.

An interesting source of food is the dung heap to be found near the Metlands turning in the Park. The warmth generated by this provides a good supply of invertebrates which breed readily in these conditions and I have seen pheasants, jackdaws, both pied and **grey wagtails**, meadow pipits and even a pair of stonechats taking advantage of this useful supply of food. The warmth also gives rise to some **interesting fungi** as seen in the photo.



Wren

The RSPB bird watch took place at the end of January and from my observations I believe the number of birds I recorded may be a little less, but the number of different species remained similar. I spotted 18 different species, including a pair of siskins, and the **sparrow hawk** who flew up the path and landed in the tree containing the bird feeders. He was not successful in catching anything but it certainly caused a mass exodus of small birds. She obligingly remained long enough for me to photograph. Another interesting spot was a marsh tit seen at the eastern end of the village.



On the subject of the more unusual, I was lucky enough to see an otter on 2 February close to the stone bridge when the river was running very fast.

In spite of the weather I have seen signs that spring is not far away; the blue tits are chasing each other, the woodpeckers are drumming to announce their territories and the song thrushes are singing from high branches. Cyclamen, snowdrops and crocus are also bringing some welcome colour to the garden.



FRAMPTON COMMUNITY HELP AND SUPPORT

If you need practical help, support or just a reassuring chat, please contact us below:

Frampton Park: Helena Conibear: 07876 593345 or helena@alcoholeducationtrust.org, Alan and Colleen Riley: 07828 043927 or colleen.courtbothy@gmail.com

Southover: Andrew and Mulu Thomson: 07771 714945 or merrillthomson@gmail.com, Helen Hart: 07805 013513 or southoverharts@gmail.com

Metlands area: Ian and Jayne Tanner: 07867 982548 ian@tannerrose.co.uk

Dorchester Road: Jill Vines: 01300 320084 jill@vines.clara.net; Tony Warne: 01300 321138 or tonywarne@btinternet.com; Karen Graham: 01300 320824 or karenmbruce@hotmail.com

Church Lane: Charlotte Starling: 07775708265 or charlotte.starling@me.com; Charlie Adler: 07791285092 or Charlie.j.adler@gmail.com

North Park/ Sheridan Close: Sandy Christopher: 07799 664414 or sandrachristopher68@outlook.com; Patsy Taylor: 01300 321697 or ptaylor206@btinternet.com

Muckleford: Rosemary Wareham: via 07788436797 or rosemarywdt2@gmail.com

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The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society

by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows

The Author

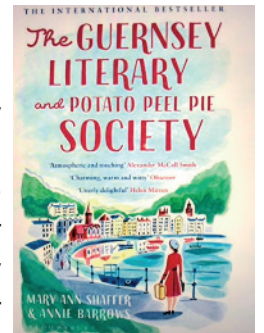
Mary Ann Shaffer was born in 1934 in Martinsburg, West Virginia and as she grew older worked as an editor, a librarian and in bookshops. Her interest in Guernsey occurred while visiting London in 1976 and prompted her to fly over and take a look. Unfortunately she became stranded there as a heavy fog descended and no boats or planes were able to leave the island. As she waited for the fog to clear, she came across a book called "Jersey under the Jack-Boot" and so her fascination with the islands began.

Many years later she decided to write a book based in Guernsey which she almost finished before she sadly died. In 2008 she wrote, "I must tender special thanks to my niece, Annie Barrows, who stepped in to finish this book after unexpected health issues interrupted my ability to work. It was my great good luck to have a writer like her in the family, and this book could not have been finished without her".



The Book

In 1946 a correspondence began between the free-spirited writer Juliet Ashton of London and members of "The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society", a literary society that started in the island of Guernsey due to the German Occupation of the Channel Islands during World War 2. After several months of exchanging letters, Juliet decided to travel to Guernsey to meet with the Book Club and hopefully to write about their experiences during the occupation. However when she told the group of her plans, they were not pleased and made it clear that no permission would be granted by them for articles or a novel. She was disappointed to begin with but as she got to know the club members, better she understood their refusal. Juliet was not one to give up and so the story continues.



This book is told by way of letters, and as the reader you become enchanted by the writers of them and the love Juliet comes to feel for each of the islanders. It is a comical and heart-warming novel which is very entertaining.

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THROUGH THE GARDEN GATE

After one of the worst years in living memory, there appears to be a ray of light at the end of the tunnel. We all hope that, soon, we will be able to get back to some sort of normality, whatever that may be. One thing is certain (and I don't mean death and taxes according to Benjamin Franklin) and that is nature carrying on regardless of what is happening to humans. I don't know about you but I have never been more aware of the beauty of the countryside and have taken much joy in watching the seasons unfold. As I write this, we are still in the grips of bitterly cold winds and deep frost but the sun is shining and spring is on its way.



A few years ago, I bought a couple of witch hazels (*Hamamelis mollis*). One was planted straight away but the other remained in the pot. It stayed by the front door for several years until I finally got round to planting it, last autumn, at the top of the woodland area. It obviously loves the

spot and has been flowering during the coldest spell of the year. Witch hazels have a delicious perfume to tempt any pollinators that are out and about.

Another shrub for late winter perfume is sweet box (*Sarcococca*) which thrives in a shady area.



I left the flower heads on the **Limelight hydrangea** to protect the new shoots until its pruned later on. In the winter sun they look like caramel lollipops and

contrast well with the monkey puzzle tree and eucalyptus. Although the monkey puzzle has



vicious spikes, I noticed that ladybirds are sheltering in it. In the same area, the pink pussy willow (*Salix Mount Aso*) has been even better this year with stems over 4ft long and covered with those gorgeous fluffy pink catkins. There is certainly a lot to give us pleasure at the end of the winter.



It's interesting how garden design has evolved since ancient man started cultivating the jungles and forests in order to grow edible crops. This was



followed, much later, by the emergence of pleasure gardens, the earliest of which were in the Middle East and built as refuges from the desert. A Persian garden would have been based on a pattern of four rivers and four quadrants, representing the world. It created a private space filled with the sound of water under shady trees and became popular in northern

Africa. When the Arabs established control of the Iberian Peninsula, Islamic Spain soon became the centre of civilisation and the **Alhambra Palace** garden in Granada, being one of the most visited gardens in the world, reflects the emphasis of water and lush vegetation. I visited Alhambra in 2012 and was truly impressed by the magnificence of it.

Later on came the Italian Renaissance style, ornate, symmetrical and very grand, incorporating impressive statues and fountains. On a visit to Italy back in the autumn of 2008, I was lucky enough to see numerous gardens including the Villa Carlotta with its impressive terraced entrance on the side of Lake Como. Completely different is Villa del Balbianello, perched on the edge of the lake. Originally a Franciscan monastery it is now maintained by the National Trust of Italy and was

used for location filming in Casino Royale and in one of the Star Wars films. Unfortunately it was too late in the season to actually land on Isola Bella but I was able to see it from a boat on Lake Maggiore. Maybe I'll get the chance to disembark and explore it in the not too distant future.



Villa Carlotta



Villa del Balbianello



Isola Bella

The Renaissance style spread across Europe to France and England and lasted for hundreds of years. These formal gardens were labour intensive and took a considerable number of people to maintain them. The style still remains at some of our grand houses but was modified in the early 1800's to a more romantic and natural concept and England was at the heart of this movement, initially led by William Kent who called himself a "scenic designer". His understudy became well known as Capability Brown and together they re-modelled large swathes of England, moving vast areas of earth to create lakes and building bridges, follies, gothic temples and sweeping carriage drives so that these gardens blended in with the countryside.

Capability Brown, born some 300 years ago, made a huge difference to the landscape of England, creating meadows, woods, rolling hills and beautiful vistas. His lakes and serpentine rivers are world famous and he is viewed as the father of landscape architects. He planted thousands, if not millions, of trees including oaks and native trees as well as the magnificent Cedar of Lebanon. When you walk through the Park, pause and look up at the beautiful specimens we are fortunate to have here in Frampton, all thanks to his work in the 1790's.

Well, I've rambled on enough, for now, about the history of gardening but there is still a lot to write in my next article. Meanwhile there is work to be done outside. Spring is one of the busiest times of the year with pruning, planting and weeding and the dreaded grass mowing. You probably won't be

surprised if I say that I'm very tempted to kill off some more of the lawn! As the moss is returning I could go Japanese and have a moss garden and just pick out the few leaves of grass. Anyway, more about oriental gardens next time.

Tips for March and April:

- Prune repeat-flowering climbing, shrub, bush and miniature roses and give them a good dressing of well-rotted farmyard manure or garden compost
- Sow half-hardy annual seeds under glass. Hardy annuals can be sown outdoors if the ground is suitable
- Start mowing the lawns with the blade on a high setting
- Trim the edges of lawns either with edging shears or a spade to give a neat finish
- Prune hardy fuchsias, buddleias and other shrubs which flower on current season's growth to two or three buds from the base
- Lift, divide and replant snowdrops and aconites once the flowers have faded
- Remove fading flowers from daffodils and narcissi but don't cut off any leaves or tie the leaves into bunches as this restricts the goodness going back into the bulb. Let the leaves die down naturally
- Complete the pruning of large-flowered clematis
- Divide clump-forming perennials not done in the autumn, including the less hardy types such as peonies as soon as growth begins
- Stake tall-growing perennials such as delphiniums and Michaelmas daisies at an early stage of growth
- Plant autumn flowering bulbs such as Nerines and autumn crocuses
- Keep the hoe working hard or you'll never keep up with those pesky weeds!

Finally, take some time out and enjoy the countryside here in Frampton as well as enjoying your own garden. Don't be tempted to travel out of our area as the rest of the country will still be there for you to visit when restrictions are lifted. Happy gardening!!!

Liz Napier

There is certainly nothing to report so far as events past, present or future are concerned as the hall, like most non-essential buildings, is locked down. We have reduced heating just to keep things maintained and in compliance with our insurance requirements. We can but hope for some light at the seemingly endless tunnel of Covid restrictions, but who knows?

However, all is not doom and gloom as we have been using our copious free time to review our plans for the extension work at the back of the hall. Many draft plans have been circulated to the Trustees and taking observations into account I think we have now produced a workable scheme. This provides a meeting / lounge area with a bar and servery, a way to a new toilet suite for ladies and a new unisex toilet for gents and disabled. It also provides new accesses to the existing and new patios.

A bar / servery will make many events less labour intensive as drinking glasses would not need to be brought down from first floor storage except, perhaps, when a very large number are required for special occasions. It will also have the advantage of freeing up the kitchen and providing separate washing up facilities.

Over the past few years, the Trustees of the hall and village helpers have striven tirelessly to raise some of the required funds. Christmas Fairs, Grand Sales, Flower Shows, Big Breakfasts and our wonderful International Dining events have all made their mark on the balance sheet together with use of the hall by local organisations and wedding parties. Not only that, but significant income from our rooftop PV panels has greatly added to our funds since their installation during 2015.

All that adds up now to our ability to provide a very significant amount of money towards the overall cost of the new project. A 'ball-park' figure is currently being calculated so that we have a focus point when pursuing applications for grants.

We have therefore finalised a set of draft plans which are published herewith.

Colin Pook

Chairman of the Trustees FVH

Dorset Alert Co-ordination

Would anyone be prepared to act as Dorset Alert Co-ordinator?

It requires very little time or knowledge.

I will be moving out of the village soon but I am happy to brief anyone who is able to take this role on.

Jill Vines (Jill@vines.clara.net)

<https://www.dorsetalert.co.uk/>

Dorset Alert is a two way community messaging system operated by Dorset Police, which allows Dorset Police to exchange information with you by email or phone at no cost to you. The system is designed to allow people who register, to choose the type of information they would like to receive concerning crime and anti-social behaviour, witness appeals, crime prevention, community events and local good news.

Those who register for alerts will not be notified about every crime or incident that happens in their neighbourhood. The aim is to send out information where to do so will reduce the opportunity for crime and anti-social behaviour or will help Dorset Police to solve a crime.

(The above welcome page has a sign in box where people can register for alerts.)