



THE GOSSIP TREE

News & Views from the Parish of FONTMELL MAGNA

MARCH 2020
Issue 313

Kindly sponsored by:
Alix Austen & Family.

From the Gossip Tree Committee

We hope that you are enjoying the Gossip Tree under its new joint stewardship!

We have added the contact details for our local councillor, Jane Somper, as she is based locally and has been a big help to local residents recently during the recent weeks! If there are local issues that you would like to raise then she would be delighted to hear from you.

Growing up in Fontmell Magna

One of the best things about being raised in the countryside is how you come to notice and appreciate nature and its seasonality. Don't get us wrong, we have been known on many an occasion to complain that it's boring here, there's nothing to do and the WIFI is rubbish. However, during more reflective moments, we can look back on the past ten years with happy memories of a free-range childhood and for that, we are very grateful.

Spring sees the landscape burst from its icy shackles, with snowdrops, daffodils and crocuses carpeting verges and lawns. The tree-swing up on the hill behind our house was always a favourite destination, our dog Oscar (the best-known member of our family) loved it too - bounding up and down the steep sides of the valley in pursuit of a daft pheasant.

Next comes our favourite season, summer. Sandwiches next to the brook in Millennium Wood before cycling or skateboarding to the park. On our way home, tired from our play, we would stop for ice-creams at the village-shop. There are flowers everywhere, the village at its best - Mr Gadd's fragrant roses and the lakeside gardens of Springhead in full bloom. Friday nights mean pizzas at The Fontmell - villagers chat and laugh over a bottle of rose (or two!).

Summer yields to autumn and the last gasps of warmth stubbornly remain. The leaves turn a thousand shades of orange, yellow and red and we discovered, during one of our October half-term 'adventures', that canoeing was not strictly permitted on the mill pond. The school puts on its dazzling fireworks, the air filled with pungent smells of bonfires and hot-dogs with fried onions.

Finally, winter arrives with her mud, her cold and, if we're lucky, her snow. The magic of waking-up to a garden blanketed in white and the excitement of a day off school and snowball fights. Our boots sink with a muffled crunch as we trudge up the hill with our sledges, joining the colourfully-attired locals sliding their way back down. Back for hot chocolate with numb hands and rosy cheeks. Christmas comes and goes with our house full of family and merriment - we tracked Santa on the Internet getting ever-more excited as he crossed Continents towards our small village. Awaiting him, a mince pie and brandy; a bucket of water and carrots outside for the reindeer.

It won't be long before the whole cycle starts again, the rhythm of nature reliable but also precious and precarious. As each year passes our planet comes under increasing pressure - we hope that there's still time to ensure that our wonderful childhood will be replicated for many generations to come.

By Tom, Will, Tiff & Belle Austen

Notices – March 2020

St. Andrew's Church - Services for February
Sun 1st 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
Sun 1st 9.00am Sunday Breakfast (Village Hall)
Sun 8th 9.30am Morning Worship
Sun 15th 9.30am Sung Communion (CW)
Sun 22nd 9.30am Holy Communion (CW)
Sun 30th

Parish Council Meeting

Next meeting Mon 9th March at 7.00pm in St. Andrew's School.
Parish Clerk: Marianne Wheatley
clerk@fontmellmagnapc.co.uk

Local Councillor—Jane Somper

Email: cllrjane.somper@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk
Tel: 07710 395359

The Surgery

Tue 8.00am to 12 noon. Enquiries: 856700

Village Shop & Post Office

Normal opening hours:
Mon - Fri 8.00am - 6.00pm
Sat 9.00am - 1.00pm
Sun 9.00am - 11.00am

The Tea Room Crafters

Wed 11th & 25th March at 2.30pm. Enquiries:
Barbara Humphreys blueletterbox@btinternet.com

The Fontmell

Opening Hours: Mon & Tue 10.00am - 10.00pm
Wed - Thur 10.00am - 11.00pm
Fri & Sat 10.00am - 11.30pm
Sun 10.00am - 8.00pm
Enquiries: 811441 or john@thefontmell.com

St. Andrew's School

Enquiries: 811500

Fontmell Magna Toddler Group

Enquiries: Kelly Oakley 07792 425609

Fontmell Magna Under 5's

Breakfast Club every morning for St. Andrew's pupils from 7.45am at the Under 5's.
After School Club 3.00pm - 4.00pm at the Under 5's
Enquiries: 812773

Iwerne Valley Walking Group

Sat 14th Mar from Greyhound Inn, Sydling St Nicholas DT2 9PD, starting at 10am for 1015 start..
For details contact Claire on: 07708473568.
Enquiries: Helen English: 853472 or 07789 845498

Bell-ringing

Tue at Shroton - practice 7.30 to 8.45pm.
Enquiries: Caroline Rhodes 812002

Bin Collection Dates – February

W/C 2nd & 17th - Recycling & Food
W/C 9th & 23rd - Rubbish & Food

Events in the Village Hall

Fontmell Magna & District Society

No meeting
Enquiries: Dick Stainer 811153

Sunday Breakfast

Sun 1st March at 9.00am. Run by St. Andrew's Church. All welcome.
Enquiries: Janet Smith 811904

Fontmell Films

Wed 11th Mar 'Knives Out'
Doors open 7.00pm
Enquires: Libby Gendall 811551

North Dorset Wildlife Trust

Wed 18th Mar 'Reptiles of Dorset' – an illustrated talk by Steve Davis, DWT Head of HR & Volunteering
www.dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk
Details: Anna Davies 01258 880699

Archive Society

Enquiries: Roger Hillman 811878

Garden Club

Thur 19th Mar. – Sally Gregson from Mill Cottage Plants on 'Epidemiums'
Enquiries: Sue East 812349

Fontmell Magna Art Club

Tue 2.00 to 4.00pm.
Enquiries: Sandra Jelbart 812468

Carpet Bowls Club

Thur 5th, 12th, Fri 20th, Thur 26th
Feb 7.30pm.
Enquiries: Gerry Bone 811814

Dru Yoga

Fri 9.30 to 11.00am.
Enquiries: Kirsty Elliot 829281

Pilates

Mon 5.30-6.30pm, 6.30-7.30pm.
STOTT Pilates Matwork & props.
Enquiries: Vicci Gillett 07940 961221

www.stable-bodies.co.uk

Tue 9.15-10.15am, 10.30-11.30am.
Enquiries: Carol Pirie
07885 798 032 mail@pirieuk.com

Taekwon-do

Tue 8.00-9.00pm, Fri 6.00-7.00pm.
Enquiries:
Sam Donohoo 07584 039351

Zumba

Thur - Zumba Fitness 9.00-10.00am.
Community Fitness 10.15-11.00am
Enquiries Abby Down 850867
zumbawithabbyd@gmail.com

To book the Hall, please contact :
Sian Highnam on 811028 or email
bookings.fmvh@mail.com

FONTMELL MAGNA VE DAY 75th Anniversary



FRIDAY 8 MAY 10.30 - 17.00

There was a good turnout for the village meeting held on February 5th to discuss plans to celebrate the 75th anniversary of VE Day. Barry Roberts, Lisa Le Druillenec, Susannah de Ferry Foster and Sian Highnam updated those assembled on the timetable for the festivities and described some of the wonderful events that are scheduled for the day. We were also joined by Edward Parker, who outlined the activities that the Springhead Trust will be putting on, such as a Dig-for-Victory garden display. Sue and Jeff Morgan kindly offered to sponsor an event porta-loo.

VE DAY Villagers and volunteers are encouraged to get into the spirit of the forties by dressing-up and Kalypsos Hairdressers will be on hand to style hair and make-up for free. Other highlights include a village sing-along, formation fly-past, live bands and a host of fun games, activities and stalls. Food and drink will be available from the village tea rooms, there will be a bar and BBQ and cream teas available in the church. In the lead-up to the event, there are a number of ways you can get involved:

The **Tea Room Crafters** are offering to help people create their own VE Day jumper or tank-top so if you fancy dusting-off your knitting needles, they meet at the village shop tea rooms on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday afternoon of the month.

Wartime Fashion Workshop: Saturday 7th March 12-4pm, Fontmell Magna village hall – those planning on dressing-up can get advice and styling tips at this *free* workshop hosted by Jan (formerly of Gladrags, Semley). Jan specialises in supplying costumes for amateur dramatics and historical events – she will be bringing along a selection of uniforms, suits, pinafores and other items from the era to hire at very competitive prices. She will also show some simple ways to adapt your own clothes to a 1940's style.

Community sing-along rehearsal: as part of the celebrations on the day, there will be an opportunity to join-in with favourite songs from the era. Anyone who would like to get a bit of practice in first is welcome at **Hurdles Farm on 13th March at 2pm**. Please contact Sian Highnam by

email - sianhighnam@gmail.com

Hat upcycling workshop - this will run next month. Look out for details in the April Gossip Tree.

Volunteers - if you are interested in volunteering, we need road marshals as well as help running stalls and games e.g. tombola, skittle alley.

First-Aiders required – we are looking for a couple of people with the relevant qualifications/experience to set-up a First Aid point.

Donations - we need prizes for the tombola as well as clean, de-labelled jam jars.

Jams and Cakes – if you have any old recipes you'd like to cook-up, we'd be delighted to have any cakes or jams to sell on our wartime stall.

The next village meeting will be on Wednesday 25th March at 7pm.

For further information about the day or to volunteer, please contact:

Lisa Le Druillenec on 01747 812500 or email: lisa.ledruillenec@gmail.com or Barry Roberts on 01747 811906

**Fontmell Magna Village Hall
Wednesday Community Lunch Club**

25 March – Doors Open 12 noon – Lunch served 12.30 pm

All are invited to our Wednesday Community Lunch Club with music provided by pupils from St Andrews School

We are offering a hot 2 course lunch with tea and coffee for a suggested minimum donation of £2.50 and we look forward to welcoming you.

For those of you who have attended previous lunches, if you know of someone you think would benefit from the companionship this offers please bring them with you. To help with catering please try to let us know if you will be joining us for lunch.

Please RSVP to: Rosie-Anne on 07710 326 339 or Lisa on 01747 812 500 or by email to: Lunch.fmvh@mail.com

Village weather for January 2020

A rather grey, gloomy month, 17 days with no sun. A week of seasonal frost and then back to wet and wild again. 4 days gales, no hail, thunder or snow. 5 air frost, 13 ground frost, 23 rain days

Comp. Figures	2020	2019
Rain (Most 23,4 mm on 14th)	92.7 mm	43.4 mm
Sunshine	34.7 hrs (ave 1.12 hrs)	48.8 hrs
Max mean temp. (highest 12,7 °C on 14th)	9.17°C	7.26 °C
Min mean temp. (lowest -5.0°C on 21st)	3.2 °C	0.22 °C

Fontmell Film Night

Our March film showing on Wednesday 11th March is "Knives Out" starring Daniel Craig, Jamie Lee Curtis, Christopher Plummer, Michael Shannon and many more. A modern day "Who Dunit" - when renowned crime novelist Harian Thrombey is found dead at his estate just after his 85th birthday, the inquisitive and debonair Detective Benoit Blanc is mysteriously enlisted to investigate. From Harlan's dysfunctional family to his devoted staff, Blanc sifts through a web of red herrings and self-serving lies to uncover the truth behind Harian's untimely death.

Tickets are £6 from Fontmell Post Office or £6.50 on the door

Doors and the bar open at 7pm and the film starts at 7.30

Do come and join us and don't forget your cushions!

For more information please call Libby on 01747811551

Future film date: Wednesday 8th April "The Good Liar"

JUMBLE SALE

To raise funds to create a disabled access to St Andrew's Church.

March 21st from 2 until 4 o'clock in the village hall.

entrance fee 30p.

Contributions including clothes, bric a brac, books and childrens toys (no shoes or underwear please) can be left at the village shop.

Collections available on request. For further details ring Janet on 01747 811904.

FONTMELL MAGNA ART CLUB EXHIBITION

Sunday 8th March

2pm - 5pm, Fontmell Magna Village Hall

Free entry

Tea, coffee and cakes

Supporting air ambulance

IWERNE VALLEY WALKING GROUP

February's walk was cancelled due to the appalling weather, so below is a report on the December walk which has not featured before.

Corfe Mullen from Lambs Green Inn, on **Saturday 21st December 2019**

Thirteen people and three dogs joined us for this winter walk despite forecasts for rain – only 2 cried off. We were so lucky as we only had about 2 minutes of rain and, while we had our lunch, it poured down. This was a short walk (3 miles) which was ideal in the winter so near Christmas. Several people said how much they enjoyed it and how surprised they were to find wild countryside in an area they regarded as quite built up. We had a mixed terrain, walking through woods, near the disused railway that used to go from Bournemouth to Bath, past an old Roman road dating back to 40 AD which was used by smugglers. We walked through Corfe Hills Nature Reserve looking towards Canford Heath, through some fields with horses and up a hill through the woods again. The meal at the pub was a bit disappointing though. Despite ordering all our meals in advance, we had to wait over half an hour before we could eat and the food wasn't as tasty as when we did the recce, possibly because they struggled with the numbers or there was a different chef.

Claire Watson

Compost Corner



Recently, I was asked for a bit of advice about a houseplant. The 'houseplant' being the remains of a potted hyacinth, the flower long gone and its leaves drooping and forlorn. The advice required was, 'will it flower again soon?'. Mmm..the reply, 'maybe in

early 2021' was not a welcome answer. The best thing to do with it would be to replant it in the garden but future flowers would probably be disappointingly small; potted hyacinths being specially forced to bloom early and not necessarily designed to flower well in the future. Other potted bulbs fair much better - most narcissi varieties for example - but they should be planted at the correct depth for a bulb not the depth they are in the pot.

However, if you want a reliable houseplant that is tough, easy to care for and has beautiful white flowers, try a Peace Lily (*Spathiphyllum wallisii*), I've got one that has been going strong for

SIAN IS RUNNING THE LONDON VIRGIN MARATHON

In a moment of madness, I entered the London marathon this year as a complete novice and was amazed to gain a place.

I am running for Junior Diabetes Research in tribute to my niece Chloe, who aged 11 was diagnosed out of the blue with type 1 diabetes. She is now 22 and is an inspiration to us all. This life changing illness has not daunted her, despite daily regular injections and health issues to contend with.

I have never run more than 10 miles (a long time ago) in my life and you may very well see me on the roads in the village plodding along.

I am running it with my twin sister Bethan (Chloe's mum) - there were too many double numbers to ignore! We are 55, my niece is 22 and it is 2020. I would be very grateful for any sponsorship. My web page can be found by going to the Virgin Money Giving website and typing in Sian Highnam under the search bar.

Alternatively, Jan and Ric have kindly agreed I can leave my sponsorship form by the till in the Post Office.

Many thanks for any help at all.

Kind Regards
Sian

Community Clean-Up – NEW DATE!



The last litter pick was cancelled thanks to storm Ciara! But we have a NEW date. The next Community Litter Pick in Fontmell, Bedchester and Hartgrove is on **Sunday 29th March**. **Please come along and be a volunteer!** Meet at the Village Hall at 10.30am to collect equipment, refreshments will be provided back at the

hall afterwards. For queries contact Annie Newbury 812149 or annienewbury@yahoo.co.uk

Garden Club

Garden Club meeting February 20th

Despite illness leading to the last-minute substitutions of both the Club Chairman Sue and the planned speaker Neil Lovesey, the Fontmell and District Garden Club had an enjoyable evening as Tina Wright of the Old Vicarage East Orchard, who had kindly agreed to step in at the last minute, entertained us with the story behind the creation of her garden – one that since 2011 has been part of the National Garden Scheme

Tina's presentation took us through the transformation of a large garden (1.7 acres) from an ordinary space into the glorious spectacle it is today. With landscaping, planting, and creative thinking, including the provision of a plant pool, it was clearly very much a labour of love.

Her garden will be open in March (visit ngs.org.uk for details) and many of the club's members will be visiting.

Sara Jane Glanville (acting chair) thanked Tina on behalf of the Club and passed on the news that Tina had just become our newest club member. We look forward to her company at future meetings.

Many thanks from me to SJ and the committee et al for keeping the ship on course.

Sue East

This March issue of The Gossip Tree comes from the editors, who this month is: **Graham Eames**.

We apologise in advance if we have made any errors or omissions.

Please would regular contributors for the April issue contact us via email:

fmgossiptree@gmail.com or on 01747 812195

Alternatively, contact the **Chairman, Barbara Humphreys**, email: **blueletterbox@btinternet.com** if you would like further information.

Submissions for the April issue by Wednesday 12th 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 like to receive The Gossip Tree by email, please let us know at fmgossiptree@gmail.com