



# THE GOSSIP TREE

News & Views from the Parish of FONTMELL MAGNA

*This issue is kindly sponsored by The Village Shop and Post Office*



December  
2018  
Issue 298

Dear Customers,  
Just a note to thank all those who have supported the Village Shop, Post Office, Tea Room, B + B and, on many occasions, Rick and I personally. In particular, we must once again thank all those who contributed towards our five-year anniversary present from the village, as well as those mischievous fairies who organised it all! I'm ashamed to say I have still not displayed photos of the lovely times we shared at your most gratefully received expense. Top of my New Year's Resolution List!

As usual, we are taking Christmas Orders for meat, poultry, fresh veg., dairy, and other locally supplied groceries. Collect your form from the shop after the beginning of December, as we have to wait for meat prices per kilo.

Christmas Trees arrive on Friday 30th November. Many have ordered already, but if you would like a tree please let us know a.s.a.p.

Christmas lunch in the Tea Room has become a bit of a tradition over the last few years. Some of our regular groups enjoy it, as well as friendship and neighbourhood groups. Kate's in charge so it's always good! This year we are cooking on Monday 17th and Thursday 20th December – a three

course meal with festive trimmings for £25 per head. Bring your own wine or purchase it from the shop. Bookings only, as you can imagine!

Xmas opening times:

24th Dec 9.00am to 2.00pm  
25th Closed  
26th Closed  
27th to 31st (inc.) 9.00am to 1.00pm  
1st January 2019 Closed

In the meantime, however, we are following national trends and hosting a 'Black Friday' event on Friday 30th November. Selected items in the shop will be marked, indicating a 20% reduction in price. Just look for the black cat! Please do come in and update yourselves on the produce now available in your local store.

Last, but not least, we are beginning to extend our alcohol stock – finally! It's been a goal of ours for some time. If you have favourite wines/spirits/beers/ciders that you drink regularly and would like to buy locally, we will definitely consider stocking them.

May we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Hope you have a wonderful time with family and friends.

Very best wishes.  
Jan and Rick Attfield

## Christmas Fayre – Village Hall

The much loved and well used Fontmell playground is now 20 years old and most of the equipment is badly in need of repair or renewal. A magnificent effort last year successfully raised enough money to replace some equipment but now more funds are needed.

The Village Hall committee's big programme of fundraising will kick off with a Handmade Christmas Fayre in Fontmell Magna Village Hall on Saturday 1st December from 11.00am to 4.00pm. Entry is free and there will be stalls selling arts and crafts, local produce, and even Christmas trees! Hot dogs, mulled cider, and other refreshments will also be available. And..... By VERY SPECIAL arrangement, Father Christmas is going to be there! You can pre-book a slot with him by e-mailing [Appeal.FontmellMagnaVillageHall@mail.com](mailto:Appeal.FontmellMagnaVillageHall@mail.com) Full details can be found under Events on [www.dorsethalls.net](http://www.dorsethalls.net) and Facebook.

There will also be a VERY SPECIAL RAFFLE! First Prize is a Luxury Christmas Hamper containing all you need for Christmas Day - and lots of other amazing prizes! – Raffle tickets can be bought in advance from the Fontmell Magna Village Shop or at the Fayre.

If you'd like to be involved and can spare an hour to volunteer please contact Lisa on 07962 138039.

## Village Remembrance Wreath

On behalf of The British Legion I would like to thank everyone who so generously donated to the village poppy wreath. We collected £35.00, which is £1.00 less than last year. If you didn't get to see the wreath, it is not in the shape of a traditional one (it is called a Chaplet), and has a blue ribbon across it with the words "Lest We Forget", which I think is rather nice and different.

Sue Mercer

And thank you to everyone who contributed towards the magnificent poppy display in the Church, and to those who displayed silhouettes of the fallen along the A350 (Editor).

## Notices – December 2018

### St. Andrew's Church

Sun	2nd	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		9.00am	Sunday Breakfast (Village Hall - see over)
Sun	9th	9.30am	Morning Worship
Sun	16th	9.30am	Holy Communion with choir
Fri	21st	5.30pm	See page 4
Sun	23rd	4.00pm	Candlelit Carol Service
Mon	24th	11.30pm	Midnight Communion (CW)
Tue	25th	9.30am	Special Christmas Day service
Sun	30th	10.00am	Benefice Service at Shroton

Prayers each Monday at 9.00am

### Parish Council Meeting

No meeting this month. Next meeting Mon 14th January 2019 at 7.00pm in St. Andrew's School.

Parish Clerk: Marianne Wheatley  
[clerk@fontmellmagnapc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@fontmellmagnapc.co.uk)

### The Surgery

Mon - Thur 8.00am - 12 noon. Enquiries 856700

### Village Shop & Post Office

Mon - Fri 8.00am to 6.00pm  
Sat 9.00am to 1.00pm; Sun 9.00am to 12.00 noon  
Enquiries 811201

### Coffee in the Café

Tues (except Christmas Day) at 10.00am

### The Tea Room Crafters

Wed 12th at 2.30pm. Details Barbara Humphreys  
[blueletterbox@btinternet.com](mailto:blueletterbox@btinternet.com)

### The Fontmell

Enquiries 811441

### St Andrew's School

Fri 21st - Break up for Christmas  
Mon 7th January - Spring Term starts

### Fontmell Magna Toddler Group

Details 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. Details 812773

### 'In Home' Coffee Morning

Fri 7th 10.30am to 12 noon at Sixpenny Farm House, Penn Hill, Bedchester (Jean & Michael Foote). Please do come and join us!

### Iwerne Valley Walking Group

Sat 15th at 10.00am. Christmas walk from the White Mill car park, Sturminster Marshall BH21 4BX. Leader: Pam Jelley on 01747 812786.

### Bell-ringing

Tue 11th - Visiting ringers 9.30 to 10.15am  
Tue 18th - Practice 7.30 to 8.30pm  
Details Chris Bellers 811734

### Bin Collection Dates

W/C 10th & 24th\* - Recycling & Food  
W/C 3rd, 17th & 31st\* - Rubbish & Food  
\*Collections in W/C 24th & 31st, 2 days later than usual

**Village Hall events - see over**

**Events in the Village Hall**Christmas Fayre

Sat 1st 11.00am to 4.00pm  
Details Lisa Le Druillenc  
07962 138039

Sunday Breakfast

Sun 2nd at 9.00am. Run by  
St. Andrew's Church. All welcome.  
Details Janet Smith 811904

Fontmell Magna & District Society

Fri 7th at 7.30pm - 'Soldiers and  
Sleuths' by Lieutenant Colonel  
Crispin Black MBE MPhil  
Details Dick Stainer 811153

Fontmell Films

Wed 12th - 'The Guernsey Literary &  
Potato Peel Pie Society'  
Doors open 7.00pm  
Details Libby Gendall 811551

Garden Club

Thu 13th at 7.30pm. 'Giant  
Vegetables' by Claire Hart.  
Details Robert McCurrach 812077

Archive Society

Thu 20th 4.00 to 5.30pm.  
Details Roger Hillman 811878

Fontmell Magna Art Club

Tue 2.00 to 4.00pm.  
Details Sandra Jelbart 812468

Carpet Bowls Club

Thu 6th, 20th and 27th, and Fri 14th at  
7.30pm.  
Details Gerry Bone 811814

Dru Yoga

Fri 9.30 to 11.00am.  
Details Kirsty Elliot 07783 780128

Pilates

Mon 5.30-6.30pm, 6.30-7.30pm.  
STOTT Pilates Matwork & props.  
Details Vicci Gillett 07940 961221  
[www.stable-bodies.co.uk](http://www.stable-bodies.co.uk)  
Tue 9.15-10.15am, 10.30-11.30am.  
Details Lyn O'Neill 07989 192424

Taekwon-do

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

Zumba

Mon 7.30-8.30pm, Thu 9.30-10.30am.  
Details Abby Down 850867  
[zumbawithabbyd@gmail.com](mailto:zumbawithabbyd@gmail.com)

**To book the Hall, call Catherine**

**Allard on 812047 or email**  
**[catherineallard1980@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:catherineallard1980@hotmail.co.uk)**

Come to.....COFFEE IN THE CAFE

A small number of villagers meet regularly in our Village Shop TEA ROOM on a TUESDAY morning from about 10.00am for a chance to relax over a 'cuppa'.

Rick and Jan make us very welcome with a choice of excellent Coffee, Tea or Hot Chocolate and biscuits .... and, sometimes, a piece of delicious cake. Please do come along and join us!

Jennie Jones

**Parish Council – Meeting on Monday 12th****November**

Six parish councillors were present - Cllr. H. Horstead (Chairman) and Cllr.s C. Bellers, M. Humphreys, H. Lister A. Newbury and L. Williams - as were DCC Cllr. G. Carr-Jones and 21 members of the public. There were apologies for absence from NDDC Cllr. C. Langham.

**Co-option and training**

Jeremy Long was co-opted onto the PC, which now has its full complement of seven councillors.

**Minutes and matters arising**

After approving the minutes of the last PC meeting on Monday 10th September, the PC agreed to send a letter of support to Cranborne Chase AONB further to their bid to be an International Dark Sky Reserve.

**County Councillor's report**

NDDC are holding a special meeting to adopt our Neighbourhood Plan on Wednesday 28th November. Matt Prosser is to be the Chief Executive of the new Dorset Council. Branding for the new Council had been agreed and final recommendations made for ward boundaries (Fontmell will be in the Beacon ward to be represented by one councillor). From April 2019, Council Tax will be equalised across the County; this means it will increase for those living in North Dorset.

**Development Control matters**

The PC had no objection to the applications in respect of 59 West Street, Croft Farm, Penn Hill Farm, Brach Farm, Gupples Farm, land south of Little Orchard (Parsonage Street) and Little Orchard (Bedchester) and to tree works at Brookfield.

The PC still has to consider the applications in respect of: Lower Hartgrove Farm, 3 Marshlands (Bedchester) and tree works in Elbury Close.

Latest indications are that the applications for both the Mill Street site and the South Street site will be subject to delegated decisions but such decisions will not be made until December, or possibly January.

The PC agreed Terms of Reference for a new Planning Working Group, to carry forward the Neighbourhood Plan and to assess planning applications in relation to Plan policies. Parish residents are invited to join this new group.

**Neighbourhood Plan**

55 residents attended the drop-in session on Saturday 10th November. The PC urged all residents to turn out for the Referendum on Thursday 15th November and support the Plan, as otherwise the parish would have very little influence over future housing or other

**Fontmell Magna Neighbourhood Plan Referendum**

The culmination of three years' work by the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group was reached on Thursday 15th November when the adoption of the Neighbourhood Plan was put to a referendum in the parish. The results were as follows:

Votes in favour of adoption - 249 (91.5%). Votes against - 23 (8.5%). Turnout - 272 (47.8%)

The Working Group is very pleased to have such a strong endorsement of the Plan and the policies that it contains and would like to sincerely **thank all those who turned out** in such numbers to support the Plan.

The final step will take place on Wednesday 28th November when NDDC will formally 'make' the Neighbourhood Plan part of the development plan for North Dorset. This means that proposals for development in the parish will be considered against the policies in the Neighbourhood Plan alongside policies in the Local Plan, national planning policy and other material considerations.

The Working Group will be reformed as the Planning Working Group to monitor planning applications in the parish in relation to the policies in the Neighbourhood Plan. Comments on applications will be passed to the Parish Council for their information.

developments.

Following a letter from the PC, Ken Parke Planning Consultants (the agents for the Mill Street site) have withdrawn suggestions, in their comments to the Examiner, of impropriety associated with the site selection process in the Neighbourhood Plan.

**Finance**

The Clerk has circulated to councillors a note on precept planning in advance of a draft Budget, to be considered at the next meeting.

**Other Parish Matters****Highways**

Robin East reported that 90% of the Traffic Management Scheme has been achieved, though he still chasing Highways for the white lines by Middle Farm and for assurances that hedge trimming will ensure road signs are clear. He is also concerned about the lack of enforcement of speed limits. This will be the last report he makes for the PC and the meeting of the A350 Community Group on Wednesday 5th December will be his last (Cllr. Long agreed to accompany him). The PC thanked Robin for all that he has achieved over the years.

***Proposed new path from St Andrew's View to the lane to Croft Farm***

The landowner had taken legal advice and decided to no longer allow such a path, so there is no further action the PC can take.

**Defibrillator**

Cllr. Humphreys reported that the defibrillator housing has been installed at the school, though it is not yet fully operable. He is corresponding with Farnfields (who are sponsoring the defibrillator) to arrange training for school staff as well as any residents who would like to attend.

**Maintenance of Bedchester Notice Board**

Cllr. Williams said that a new notice board had been made and this was now in place at Bedchester crossroads.

**New Dog Waste Bin**

Cllr. Horstead had been unable to speak to anyone at the pub (who asked for the bin), so nothing further could be done.

**Any other business**

Fontmell Magna was runner-up in the Community Heritage Award at the Dorset Community Action Best Village Awards 2018 for our recent Conservation Area Appraisal. Barry Roberts was thanked for all his work.

The PC's new Training Policy will be placed on the parish website. It was agreed to start all future PC meetings at 7.00pm.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm. The next PC meeting will be on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2019 in the School Hall at 7.00pm.

**Fontmell Magna and District Society**

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> November – Jethro Lyne – ‘I Selfie Therefore I Am’

Jethro started his talk with a photo of two girls taking a selfie. He pointed out that they were standing in front of one of the finest medieval churches in Lisbon but that they were facing the wrong way to include the church in their photo. He then showed a picture of another girl taking a selfie whilst sitting on a wall and leaning backwards. Another picture from below the wall showed that there was a large drop on the other side. At this point he informed us that there have been more than 250 selfie related deaths since 2011.

Jan van Eyck painted what is probably the earliest example of a self-portrait dated 1433. It is not a very large painting but, in an enlarged view, we could see the remarkable detail of the stubble on the man's chin. Dürer painted several self-portraits throughout his life, the earliest at the age of 13 in 1484. Jethro showed us others from 1493 and 1498 where we could see the developing character and confidence of the painter. In 1498, returning from a stay in Italy, his portrait shows his hair in ringlets and his striking clothes as if he wants to show how sophisticated and fashionable he has become. In 1500 he paints himself in a pose, usually reserved at that time for Christ. He shows himself in full face gazing directly at the viewer dressed in clothing with a fur collar. This is interpreted as Dürer showing his status; he has arrived as a successful and wealthy painter. Jethro left us with a desire to see more of the paintings that he described and to be careful whilst taking selfies.

Our next meeting this year on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December is entitled ‘Soldiers and Sleuths’. Lt. Col. Crispin Black MBE, MPhil, will talk to us about the influence of war on crime fiction and thrillers. Please come early to share a glass of wine and a mince pie with us.

Dick Stainer

**Our Fete Is In Your Hands...**

This year's Fete generated an amazing £3,000 to be distributed between the Church, the Village Hall and various community projects, such as Brookland Wood and the Playground Appeal. While the money generated by the Fete makes a real difference to our village, the event itself provides a wonderful opportunity for residents and visitors alike to get together and it epitomises what villages like ours should be about.

The Fete is run by a small committee and holds around six meetings annually; we begin our planning in the Spring and finish with an AGM in November. Being involved is not a big commitment (you don't have to attend every meeting). However, we do need more volunteers. Anyone can come along, and it would be brilliant to get some fresh ideas and see some new faces. Sadly, it may not be feasible to run the Fete next year with the current level of support. I'm sure we all agree that this would be a real blow for our community. If you think you could help in any way, please contact:

Alix on 01747 812690 or [alix\\_austen@hotmail.com](mailto:alix_austen@hotmail.com)

**Fontmell Films**

Our Christmas film showing on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December is ‘The Guernsey Literary & Potato Peel Pie Society’ (12A) starring Lily James, Michael Huisman, Tom Courtenay and Penelope Wilton plus a host of others. The film is set in 1946 when a London-based writer begins exchanging letters with residents on the island of Guernsey, which was German-occupied during WWII. Feeling compelled to visit the island, she starts to get a picture of what it was like during the occupation.

Tickets are £6 from Fontmell Village Shop or £6.50 on the door. Doors open at 7.00pm when we will be serving complimentary mulled wine and mince pies.

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

For more information please call Libby on 01747 811551

Our next film will be on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2019, details to follow.

**Springhead Trust, Fontmell Magna SP7 ONU**

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December 10.00am to 2.00pm.** Pan Asian Cookery Classes with Teruko Chagrin. £50 per person. More info: 07804 425429 [www.tekos-kitchen.com](http://www.tekos-kitchen.com)

**Garden Club - October meeting**

The Club's 2018/19 varied programme of meetings opened with Lucy Simpson from Castle Gardens, Poundbury, giving an attentive audience advice on how to be more successful with our houseplants. Sales in foliage plants are booming as the younger generation chose plants that were very familiar to the members. In the UK we keep our plants for years, while in Europe, they are treated more like cut flowers and thrown away once the flowers are over.

Lucy had brought a selection of plants, all available to buy, suitable for a variety of positions in the house - shade, partial shade and full sun. Plants should be chosen for the light levels and warmth of where they will be kept. Inconsistency in watering causes problems in plants, overwatering in particular and, we were told, rainwater should be used whenever possible.

There was a useful question and answer session and advice on how to remove and treat pests; there are only a few chemicals available now and some biological controls. There are specific feeds for cactus, citrus plants and orchids, general feed suitable for the majority of plants and ones to encourage repeat flowering.

Our next meeting is the AGM on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> November at 7.30 pm and December's meeting is being held on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30 pm the subject being ‘Giant Vegetables’.

Sue Keen

**Village weather for October 2018**

A mild fairly dry start, followed by a wet week, ending with frost and sunshine. The frost finished off the garden dahlias.

13 rain days. 14 ground frosts. 4 air frosts. No gales, thunder or hail.

Comp. Figures	2018	2017
Rain (most 20.3 mm on 13th)	53 mm	71.4 mm
Sunshine	98.8 hr (av. 3.19)	82.7 hr
Max mean temp. (highest 22.4 °C on 10th)	15.24 °C	No record
Min mean temp. (lowest -2.9 °C on 30th)	5.63 °C	7.71 °C

According to the Met Office, the mean temperature for October was provisionally 0.2 °C above the 1981-2010 long-term average, with maximum temperatures mostly above normal, and minimum temperatures rather below normal. Much of England had a dry October, and sunshine was generally above normal. Overall, rainfall was 73% of average and sunshine was 128% of average.

**Full Moon - Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> December**

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December is the winter solstice, the first day of winter so, not surprisingly, this Full Moon was known by early Native American tribes as the Full Cold Moon - when the cold winter air settles in and the nights become long and dark. The Full Moon is also known as the Full Long Nights Moon and the Moon Before Yule.

**Do you have room in your heart and your home for a child?**

Could you offer stability for a young person needing short or long-term care?

With children's services budgets stretched, and to avoid paying independent fostering agencies huge sums, Dorset County Council needs to sign more foster carers up directly. Generous fees and allowances are on offer to people who foster youngsters through the council. Placements can be anything from one weekend a month to long-term placements - and YOU are in control of how much or how little you'd like to offer.

Never assume you won't be considered suitable to foster - you can be a homeowner, in rented accommodation, including a council house, and you can be single or married, of any gender or sexual orientation. If you have a spare bedroom and are aged over 21, we'd love to hear from you.

To find out more go to [www.fosterindorset.com](http://www.fosterindorset.com), or email [fosteringenquiries@dorsetcc.gov.uk](mailto:fosteringenquiries@dorsetcc.gov.uk), or call 01305 225568. You'll be provided

with lots more information, and there is no obligation to proceed at any stage.



**Compost Corner**

Christmas presents.... what a nightmare they can be. The good old reliable gifts - books, CDs, DVDs - no longer needed in this digital age and as for 'stuff' it's now de rigueur to be minimalist. But it's nice to have something parked

under the Christmas tree apart from the dog (a favourite spot for ours) - so what to buy? Well it's fairly easy to choose something for a gardener - here are some suggestions:

1. Gardening tools - good quality secateurs, robust trowel and hand fork, sharpening tool for shears.
2. Gardening gloves - thin ones, thick ones, waterproof ones.
3. A rose - if the ground's not frozen, it's a good time to plant one.
4. Frost proof containers - I lost loads of terracotta last year. Try zinc or stone or look-alike stone.
5. Unlike interiors, people love accessorising their outside spaces - there are fairy lights, candles, cushions, nest boxes...
6. Fire pits are useful for evening parties.
7. And....if you remember the 1970s you'll remember macrame plant holders, and believe it or not, they're really popular again as indeed are house plants.

So that's that sorted - now how to wrap up a fire pit.....and then, try and relocate the dog. Happy Christmas!

Alison Main

**Pamela Lonsdale Collin (3rd May 1924-16th October 2018)**

Pamela Lonsdale Tucker was born in Pinner, Middlesex, to Stella (née Slee), a milliner, and Nathan Tucker, an insurance clerk, who both came from Liverpool. Serving with the Wrens (Women's Royal Naval Service) during the second world war, Pamela was bitten by the acting bug after performing in its productions. On demobilisation, she went into repertory theatre as an assistant stage manager. She did some acting - taking her middle name as her stage name - then moved to London to work mainly as a stage manager in West End theatres such as the Duke of York's, where she met Reginald Collin in 1955.

Pamela moved into television, as a production assistant for the ITV company ABC. One of the Armchair Theatre plays she worked on, *Three on a Gas Ring* (1959), was banned because of its then controversial content, the story of a single mother. She became a director and, between 1963 and 1968, made episodes of the arts series *Tempo* (produced by Reggie) as well as many magazine programmes and *The Sunday Break*, a religious show for young people. She graduated to producer, first with schools programmes and then for children's TV. The latter included a 10-part adaptation of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* (1967). In Radio 4's *Last Word*, Liz Crowther (who played Lucy) remembered Pamela as a fiercely intelligent woman who was a trailblazer and pioneer of children's television. Liz recalled that Pamela kept a model of Aslan at her retirement home (St Denis Lodge) and sent Liz a letter from the brother of C. S. Lewis saying what a wonderful production it was.

However, her greatest gift to television was *Rainbow*, the lunchtime show for pre-school children that achieved cult status during its 20-year run; as well as directing some episodes, Pamela produced the first nine series from 1972 to 1980. *Rainbow* began after a government restriction on television broadcasting hours was lifted, opening up the afternoon schedules. For the first time, ITV investigated the possibilities of making shows for pre-school children, after deciding against screening the American educational series *Sesame Street* because of its unsuitability for the age group.

Pamela worked with an education adviser on a format that would help to develop language and social skills for those on the verge of going to primary school. Despite having a limited budget, Pamela insisted on the highest production standards. While somewhat in awe of Pamela, Ronnie le Drew (the puppeteer behind Zippy) acknowledged her passion for children and how proud she was of everyone in her team when *Rainbow* won the BAFTA Harlequin award in 1975 for best children's programme (ahead of *Blue Peter*).

The opening credits and animated inserts were made by Brian Cosgrove and Mark Hall of Stop Fame Productions. When that business closed in 1975, Pamela was instrumental in setting up Cosgrove Hall Films as a subsidiary of Thames Television, the ITV company that produced *Rainbow*. The show's puppet characters gained a devoted following that endured beyond *Rainbow*'s run of more than 1,000 episodes. This ended in 1992 when Thames Television lost its ITV franchise. Two attempts by other companies to revive the programme between 1994 and 1997 failed to attract the same ratings.

Pamela's career as a producer or executive producer of many fondly remembered children's programmes at Thames continued with *Shadows* (1975-78), *The Boy Merlin* (1979), *The Latchkey Children* (1980), *The Squad* (1980), *Stig of the Dump* (1981), *Educating Marmalade* (1982), *S.W.A.L.K.* (1982), *The All Electric Amusement Arcade* (1983), *Chocky* (1984), *Danger: Marmalade at Work* (1984), *Chocky's Children* (1985) and, for Central Independent Television, *News at Twelve* (1988). Before retiring in 1991, she made several pictures for the Children's Film Unit. She was executive producer of its 1988 production *Hard Road*, which won the children's award at the Lucas international festival of films for children and young people.

Pamela married Reginald (Reggie) Collin in 1960 and they spent many weekends in Fontmell Magna. In 1970, they bought the derelict Watermill Cottage in Church Street. At the time, the cottage was uninhabitable with a missing wall and soil floor, and refurbishments took longer than planned. For a while they stayed in a caravan in the garden until they could move into the cottage in the late 1970's.

In the late 1980s and 90s, once established in the village, John Gadd recalls that Pamela and Reggie were noted for their very enjoyable evening dinner parties where it was occasionally possible to meet individuals from the BBC and the acting professions. This was interesting, especially the differences between recognised stage and TV actors and their equivalents in the opera world, whom John was fortunate to meet socially elsewhere.

Issue 216 of *The Gossip Tree* (February 2012) featured an obituary of Reginald (Reggie) Thomas Collin (1927-2011). *The Editor wishes to sincerely apologise for incorrectly referring to Pamela as 'Pam' and Reginald as 'Reg' in our November issue.*

**Village Carol Singing**

All are welcome to join us in singing carols around the village on Friday 21st December - or just listen on your doorsteps. Please watch out for us as we come down your way (we don't knock on doors unless asked to) and perhaps join in as we pass.

Bring your babies in buggies, dogs with decorations (or not!) and your lanterns. We meet at the Village Hall at 5.30pm and finish at the Church about 7.00 with Christmas drinks and nibbles.

Our approximate times are:

- 5.35 West View
- 5.40 Elbury View
- 5.50 Orchard Close
- 6.00 West Street opp. Myrtle Cottage
- 6.10 West St at Parsley Cottage
- 6.15 The Gossip Tree
- 6.25 The Shop
- 6.35 Church Close
- 6.45 St Andrew's View
- 6.55 Church gates for those who can't go as far as St Andrew's View.
- 7.00 inside Church for refreshments.

*The views expressed in this publication by contributors are not necessarily those of the Editor or of the Committee of The Gossip Tree. Last copy date for the next issue is **Sunday 16th December 2018**. Contributions for consideration should be submitted as early as possible to the Editor, Chris Bellers, via e-mail to [chris.bellers@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:chris.bellers@hotmail.co.uk) or phone 811734. Please also contact the Editor if, rather than have your Gossip Tree delivered to you, you would like to be emailed a copy and benefit from seeing the pictures in colour (while also saving us printing costs), or if you would like to sponsor an issue (cost £30).*