



THE GOSSIP TREE

News & Views from the Parish of FONTMELL MAGNA

February

2019

Issue 300

This 300th issue

is kindly sponsored by Abby Down

Depending on the day of the week Abby can be found working in her sewing workroom or keeping fit in Fontmell and Ashmore hall.

A qualified seamstress and soft furnishings maker since she left school, Abby then discovered Zumba Fitness in 2013 and Zumba Gold (that's Community Fitness to you and me!) in 2018.

The misconception with Zumba is that it is hard to do. Well... isn't anything hard the first few times you try it! However...

Community Fitness is a LOW IMPACT, no star jumps, no twisting, keep fit class designed to help you move gently with repetitive movements & focusing on balance and stability. It is primarily aimed at the over 50's but is also a great class for those who are new/returning to exercise or recovering from injury, surgery, illness, pre and post pregnancy.

Zumba Fitness is the next step, a Medium Impact, faster class designed to make you sweat. To lose weight, improve muscle tone and increase your level of fitness.

Regardless of the class you attend, both contain a variety of uplifting music from around the world, and put *having fun as most important*. Why should exercising be boring? Come and make new friends and be the best version of YOU.

Abby is a strong believer that keeping fit in a group setting is great for your mental health and well-being, not just your physical fitness. So please, don't be self-conscious, come along to the next class and you will soon feel a boost in your confidence.

Anyone can give these low and medium impact classes a try in relaxed, friendly and informal settings – just contact Abby to ask questions or book your place:

01747 850867 or 07901 597129 or zumbawithabbyd@gmail.com

Community Fitness:

Mondays: 9.15am at Ashmore Village Hall

Thursday: 10.15am at Fontmell Magna Village Hall

Zumba Fitness:

Thursdays: 9am at Fontmell Magna Village Hall



Notices – February 2019

St. Andrew's Church

Sun	3rd	10.00am	Benefice Service at Sutton Waldron
Sun	10th	9.30am	Morning Worship
Sun	17th	9.30am	Holy Communion with choir
Sun	24th	9.30am	Holy Communion (CW)

Prayers each Monday at 9.00am

Parish Council Meeting

No meeting this month. Next meeting Monday 11th March at 7.00pm in St. Andrew's School Hall.

Parish Clerk: Marianne Wheatley
clerk@fontmellmagnapc.co.uk

The Surgery

Mon - Thu 8.00am to 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

Tue at 10.00am

The Tea Room Crafters

Wed 13th and 27th at 2.30pm. Details Barbara Humphreys blueletterbox@btinternet.com

The Fontmell

Enquiries 811441

St Andrew's School

Fri 15th - Break up for Half Term

Mon 25th - Back from Half Term

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 1st 10.30am to 12 noon at Mulberry, West Street (Jan & Robin Cobby). Please do come and join us!

Iwerne Valley Walking Group

Sat 16th starting at 10.15am (note later time) from The Compasses Inn, Chicksgrove, near Tisbury SP3 6NB. Call Helen on 853472 for more details.

Bell-ringing

Tue 19th - Practice 7.30 to 8.30pm
Details Chris Bellers 811734

Bin Collection Dates

W/C 4th & 18th - Recycling & Food
W/C 11th & 25th - Rubbish & Food

Village Hall events - see over

Bookings Manager wanted for Fontmell Magna Village Hall

We are currently seeking a Bookings Manager to join the Village Hall Management Committee.

Ideally you will have some administrative experience, and access to email and the internet. The role is voluntary and involves running the hall booking system, dealing with hall enquiries by phone and email.

As a Trustee you can also get involved and have your say in the management of the Village Hall. There are 6 meetings a year. You need to be a resident of the parish of Fontmell Magna and appear on the current Register of Electors.

Interested?

For an introductory chat and further information on what the role involves please contact our Chair of Trustees - Rosie-Anne Yates 07710 326339 – ra@yatesmail.org or the Secretary – Lisa Le Druillenec 07962 138039 – lisa.ledruillenec@gmail.com

**Fontmell Magna Village Hall Management Committee – Registered
Charity No: 301129**

Fete Extraordinary General Meeting – Wednesday 27th February

Despite requests for more volunteers to get involved with the village Fete, nobody has come forward. Unfortunately, in these circumstances, it will not be possible to run the Fete this year. The Fete committee would like to outline its position and discuss the future of the fete.

The meeting will be at the village hall at **8.00pm**.

Alix Austen

An Opportunity to Make a Difference

Fontmell Parish Council currently has one vacancy for a new councillor and will be looking for more Councillors to join the Council in May 2019. Only 6 meetings a year - but you could make a real difference to your local community by getting involved. The Parish Council is keen to represent ALL parts of the community so applications are welcome from people of all ages including parents of school age children, younger and older people, in fact anyone who like to have a say in how the Parish is managed!

For more details contact Marianne at clerk@fontmellmagnapc.co.uk

Events in the Village Hall

Fontmell Magna & District Society
Fri 1st at 7.30pm - 'The Hardy Way Challenge' by Margaret Marande
Details Dick Stainer 811153

Fontmell Films
Wed 13th - 'Peterloo' (12A).
Doors open 7.00pm
Details Libby Gendall 811551

North Dorset Wildlife Trust
Wed 20th 'Beavers in Devon - Restoring Wetlands the Natural Way' by Jake Chant from the Devon Beaver Project.
Details Anna Davies 01258 880699

Archive Society
Thu 21st 4.00 to 5.30pm.
Details Roger Hillman 811878

Garden Club
Thu 21st at 7.30pm. 'Abbotsbury Past, Present and Future' by Stephen Griffith.
Details Briony Long 812513

Fete Extraordinary General Meeting
Wed 27th at 8.00pm
Details Alix Austen 812690

Fontmell Magna Art Club
Tue 2.00 to 4.00pm.
Details Sandra Jelbart 812468

Carpet Bowls Club
Thu 7th, 14th, and 28th, and Fri 22nd at 7.30pm.
Details Gerry Bone 811814

Dru Yoga
Fri 9.30 to 11.00am.
Details Kirsty Elliot 829281

Pilates
Mon 5.30-6.30pm, 6.30-7.30pm.
STOTT Pilates Matwork & props.
Details Vicci Gillett 07940 961221
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
Thu - Zumba Fitness 9.00-10.00am.
Community Fitness 10.15-11.00
Details Abby Down 850867
zumbawithabbyd@gmail.com

To book the Hall, call Catherine Allard on 812047 or email catherineallard1980@hotmail.co.uk

The Fontmell Magna Directory 2019

The Gossip Tree Committee thanks Gay Mole for again updating the Fontmell Directory, and apologises for giving her incorrect address in January's issue (she lives at the Old Toll House, not the Old Malthouse). The new Directory is included with this issue. Please let the Editor know of any errors or omissions.

Parish Council Meeting on Monday 14th January

Public Questions: Michael Hobbs asked if the Parish Council could keep up Robin East's excellent work on the A350/C13. He was assured that Cllr. Long had agreed to take over responsibility for Highways.

Five parish councillors were present - Cllr. H. Horstead (Chairman) and Cllrs C. Bellers, M. Humphreys, A. Newbury and L. Williams - as were DCC Cllr. G. Carr-Jones and 17 members of the public. There were apologies for absence from NDDC Cllr. C. Langham; Cllr. J. Long was absent.

Resignation, Co-option and Councillors roles
Hannah Lister has moved away from the area and has had to resign as councillor. There is therefore a vacancy for a Parish Councillor, and Cllr. Humphreys appealed for a resident to come forward to join the Parish Council at this important time in the village's development.

Minutes and matters arising
The minutes of the last PC meeting on Monday 12th November were agreed.

County Councillor's report
This was the penultimate meeting for DCC Cllr. Carr-Jones. He introduced his prospective replacement, Cllr. Jane Somper from Sutton Waldron who has served in the Abbey Ward for eight years. Cllr. Carr-Jones was asked about the distribution of nearly £500,000 from NDDC reserves to five towns and a large village and to the Trailway for various projects. He explained these grants are to projects already in the pipeline. Cllr. Humphreys expressed concern that there was no opportunity for other villages to apply for a grant and felt we had missed-out.

Development Control matters
The PC had no objection to the applications in respect of Bedchester House, Croft Farm House, Little Hartgrove Farm and Gore Farm (two applications) and tree works at Elbury View. The PC raised objections in respect of 21 Lurmer Street. The PC still has to consider the applications in respect of St Andrew's Farm Barn, and tree works at Charlie's Cottage.

No date has been set for the applications for both the Mill Street site and the South Street site but NDDC expected to make decisions on these by March.

The PC discussed the remit of the Planning Working Group and agreed that the PWG should speak to the owners of neighbouring properties who may be affected by a proposed development and other interested parties before submitting its report to the PC.

It was agreed that the PC's response to applications, on which it has been invited to comment, should include reasons, whether the PC has no objection, supports or objects to an application.

Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr. Humphreys reported that the Referendum had been held on 15th November. 249 voters were in favour and 23 against. NDDC met on 25th November and agreed to make the Fontmell Magna Neighbourhood Plan part of the local development plan for the Fontmell

Magna neighbourhood. In total, the Neighbourhood Plan had cost around £16,700, of which about £15,300 was received by way of grants, meaning the cost to the PC was approximately £1,400.

Finance

After some discussion, a precept of £8,500 for the year 2019/20 was agreed. Included in the precept is provision for a grant and planning consultancy support in respect of current and future applications for housing development.

Other Parish Matters

Highways

No report in the absence of Cllr. Long.

Village Hall request for grants

The PC agreed to a grant of £500 in respect of the annual inspection and insurance costs of the play area. It postponed a decision on a further grant request of £1,500 for resurfacing the play area, pending the Village Hall trustees providing further details of the request.

Defibrillator

The defibrillator has been installed at the school and is now live. A training course has been held with 20 attendees. Cllr. Newbury has agreed to be 'guardian of the machine.' Farnfields sponsored the equipment, the installation and the training. They will remain responsible for maintenance for four years, after which the PC will be responsible. There are now three defibrillators in the parish - at the School, Bedchester crossroads and Bleax Close.

War Memorial

The PC agreed to use the £50 received from the Best Kept Village awards towards the cost of repairing one of the names on the War Memorial.

Village Shop

In December, Cllrs. Humphreys and Bellers attended a meeting with Pen Hadow concerning the future of the Village Shop. The shop is experiencing trading difficulties because the parish community makes insufficient use of the facilities to sustain a viable business. Consequently, the owners have put the shop lease up for sale. Residents had previously expressed their strong support for the village shop in the questionnaire which led to the Neighbourhood Plan but, in reality, the day-to-day volume of trade is insufficient to keep it going. Several villages have faced similar problems with their village shop and have raised finance and engaged volunteers to create a community enterprise. If such an initiative started in Fontmell Magna then the PC may be asked to register the shop as an Asset of Community Value. This would facilitate a possible acquisition of the shop by the parish community if it wished to go down that route.

Grit bins

The PC had received a request to fill a grit bin in St Andrew's View but the issue is unresolved. This is one of three bins on that development (there are no others in the parish). There was no other business. The meeting closed at 8.40pm. The next PC meeting will be on Monday 11th March in the School Hall at 7.00pm.

As your main distributor of the Gossip Tree, I need some more supplies of used envelopes big enough to take unfolded A4 sheets of paper. If you have any spare, could you please pop them in my letterbox on the white gate of Fosse Cottage, Church Street, Fontmell Magna. You have my grateful thanks.
Sue Mercer

Thank you to Michael Humphreys for generously sponsoring the special supplement to mark our 300th issue.

Fontmell Film Night

Our film on Wednesday 13th February is 'Peterloo' (12A) directed by Mike Leigh and starring Rory Kinnear and Maxine Peake. Released in November 2018, the film is based on the true story surrounding the events of the 1819 Peterloo massacre, which took place at St. Peter's Field in Manchester when cavalry charged into a crowd of 60,000 people peacefully protesting to demand the reform of parliamentary representation.

The film runs for two and a half hours so there will be no trailer/usual short film that evening and we will have an interval part way through.

Tickets £6 from Fontmell Village Shop in advance or £6.50 on the door. Doors and the bar open at 7.00pm with the film starting at 7.30pm. We look forward to seeing you and don't forget your cushions! For more information please call Libby on 01747 811551.

Future film dates for your diary:

Wednesday 13th March 'The Children Act' (12A)

Wednesday 10th April 'King of Thieves' (15)

Iwerne Valley Walking Group

December walk – Badbury Rings

Well, it certainly was an eventful walk this month! After having recc'ed the proposed walk at White Mill, the two Pams discovered that the beautiful path along the Stour was designated as a "no dogs" path. We couldn't contemplate going without our canine friends - so quickly regrouped to do a walk around Badbury Rings, followed by lunch at the Anchor pub in Shapwick. Well... the day dawned wet and windy. However, 13 intrepid walkers arrived together with 4 intrepid dogs (3 of which were "Archies"! Were we intrepid or foolish? The walk was really bracing but despite the weather and with Jim's help we all made our way around, with 11 of us enjoying a lovely lunch at the pub, steaming gently! A few of us would have benefitted by having windscreen wipers on our specs, though over all a good time was had by all. Looking forward already to the New Year walk on Saturday 19th January, and we're all keeping our fingers crossed for sunny and bright weather that day.

Pam Jelley



Garden Club

The Garden Club met on Thursday 17th January. Laurie Powell, organiser for many years of the Annual Garden Show and lifetime member of the Garden Club, very kindly gave us a talk about preparing exhibits.

We must not take off too many layers from our onions, our runner beans should have their stalks intact and be presented all facing the same way and be of uniform shape. Whatever you do - do not wash your apples and buff them up - they should be presented with their natural bloom. Ironically though you can present your potatoes covered in egg white to smarten them up! These and lots of other tips will have us all thinking before we show our produce at the Annual Show in August. Laurie answered some questions from the floor and then we had a short break to enable the members to cast their votes for the picture competition.

At the December meeting a new feature was introduced to members by way of a picture competition, the topic being - 'Garden visitors over Christmas'. This was won by Carl who received a £5 garden voucher. Next month's topic is 'Spring is sprung'.

The evening was rounded off with an open discussion about some of our successes and failures over the past year, recommendations for trying different varieties of beans for instance. It is good to share our experiences with our fellow members and, hopefully, we will make it a regular feature.

At our next meeting on Thursday 21st February, we will be welcoming Stephen Griffith for his talk 'Abbotsbury Past, Present and Future'. We look forward to seeing you all then and please remember visitors are welcome too.

Sue East

Village weather for December 2018



Relatively mild and damp - with sun in short supply especially at the end of the month into some fog. Wettest mid-month. 22 rain days. 10 ground frosts. 2 air frosts. 4 gales. No thunder or hail.

Comp. Figures	2018	2017
Rain (most 27.0 mm on 18th)	122.8 mm	108.6 mm
Sunshine	27.1 hr (av. 0.9)	37.1 hr
Max mean temp. (highest 14.0 °C on 2nd)	10.42 °C	8.87 °C
Min mean temp. (lowest - 0.9 °C on 4th)	4.54 °C	1.18 °C

According to weather lore, the wind direction on the last day of December can be used as a long-range forecast:

"If New Year's Eve night wind blows South, it betokeneth warmth and growth; if West, much milk and fish in the sea; if North, much cold and storms there will be; if East, the trees will bear much fruit; if North-east, flee it, man and brute."

In fact, on 31st December 2018, it was cloudy with a light North-westerly breeze. This could mean a period of wet and cold weather on the way.

Total rainfall over the year in 2018 was 940.6 mm (163 rain days), the wettest year since 2014. Total rainfall in 2017 was 851.7 mm (195 rain days). In 2018, the wettest months were March and April, and the driest June and July.

On the subject of rain, scientists have found that half the global annual precipitation falls in just 12 days (and this number will likely drop even further by the turn of the century).

Full Moon - Tuesday 19th February

The February Full Moon is the second of three successive Supermoons. The Full Moon is the Full Snow Moon or the Full Hunger Moon.

On Wednesday 27th February, the planet Mercury reaches its greatest eastern elongation of 18.1 degrees from the Sun. This is the best time to view Mercury since it will be at its highest point above the horizon in the evening sky. Cloud permitting, it should be visible low in the western sky just after sunset.

Springhead
a rural centre for creative and sustainable living

Thursday 21st February, 10.00am to 4.00pm, Open Garden with plant stall & café serving refreshments & light lunches. Admission £3.50, U16 & Friends free, wheelchair assisted access and dogs on leads welcome. Springhead Trust, Fontmell Magna, SP7 0NU, tel. 818853.

Compost Corner

On Boxing Day, we enjoyed an invigorating walk by the sea at Studland and it was lovely not to have to trip over bits and bobs of rubbish; the sand was pristine - not a bit of plastic in sight. The beach there is managed

by The National Trust and we spotted that they encourage litter disposal by supplying rubbish collecting kits on the approach to the beach, a really clever idea.

2018 was a year when the problem of plastic pollution made headline news and it's easy to blame others, but I'm afraid we have a problem right on our doorstep here in Fontmell Magna. Collyer's Brook runs right through our garden and, worryingly, even though it only rises only about a quarter of a mile up the road at Springhead, we have all sorts of plastic - bottles, bags, crisp packets and once, even a plastic dog basket (empty - no dog) turning up in our bit of water. Some of the stuff gets caught up in the vegetation by the banks and in the little weir and I fish out what I can, but inevitably a lot carries on downstream heading for the River Stour and, eventually, the sea. Even for us in our little Dorset village - it really is a bit of a wake-up call.

Alison Main

The 1939 Register

The Fontmell Magna Village Archive Society has recently acquired a copy of the National Registration Transcript Book for Fontmell Magna. This was completed by the enumerator Olive Philpott on 6th October 1939. A similar '1939 Register' was compiled by every enumeration district in England and Wales shortly after the outbreak of the Second World War.

As the 1931 census was destroyed by fire during the War and no census was taken in 1941, the 1939 Register provides the most complete survey of the population between 1921 and 1951. In addition, the Register was continually updated while National Registration was in force, when it was a legal requirement to notify the registration authorities of any change of name or address.

The information was used to produce identity cards and, once rationing was introduced in January 1940, to issue ration books. Information in the 1939 Register was also used to administer conscription and the direction of labour, and to monitor and control the movement of the population caused by military mobilisation and mass evacuation.

National Registration ended in 1952, but from 1948 the Register was also used as the National Health Service (NHS) Register, and was updated until 1991, when paper-based record keeping was discontinued. This included notification of deaths and changes of names and addresses. As with Registers elsewhere, the Fontmell Magna Register includes the married name of women even if they did not marry until long after 1939.

While the 1939 Register is not a census, it contains similar, if less detailed, information. It does, however, show exact dates of birth. Military personnel were not recorded. Nor does it include members of the armed forces billeted in private homes, including their own homes. However, the records do include members of the armed forces on leave. The records may not be complete as a few deliberately failed to register, possibly because they thought they could avoid being conscripted.

A number of entries have been closed or blacked out. This is because National Records and Archives operate a 100-year rule: individuals' records remain closed for 100 years from their date of birth or until proof of death. The records of people born less than 100 years ago, but whose death was reported to either the National Registration authorities or to the NHS, should no longer be closed.

According to the 1939 Register, there were 474 residents of the parish. This compares with 448 in 1931 and 534 in 1951. 18 of the 474 entries are closed and have been blacked out. Of those entries that are open, 23 were described as farmers and 43 as working on the land. Of the latter, only one was described as a tractor driver (according to the 1941 Farm Survey, there were three tractors in the parish). 8 were gardeners, of whom 3 were also chauffeurs. 21 were at school and 9 under school age. 27 were described as retired.

The 1939 Register reveals a number of interesting facts, including:

- Manor Farm was called Fontmell Farm and was then run by Leslie Sims.
- Members of the Merefield family lived at 1 North Street, 3 North Street, 4 North Street and 37 South Street.
- Members of the Toomer family lived at 61 West Street, and 72, 73 and 74 Bedchester.
- 13 Lurmer Street was occupied by the same four members of the Lawrence family as occupied it in the 1911 census.
- There was a residence "Caravan 2nd Chalk Pit, Fontmell Hill" occupied by general labourer Stanley Cowley, and also a residence "Golf-Links Bungalow, Gore Clump" for which no occupant was listed.
- Next to the Rectory was a residence "Rectory View" occupied by Henry and Beatrice Hine.
- Cross House, Millbrook House, Brook House, Gable Cottage and the Old Brewery had no listed occupants.

A copy of the 1939 Register will be displayed at the Fontmell Magna Village Archive Society's 12th Exhibition, which will be in the Village Hall from Thursday 18th July to Sunday 21st July. If you would like to be involved, please contact Roger Hillman on 811878.

Welcoming New Residents

Ann Hobbs endeavours to welcome and supply information packs to people who have recently moved into the parish, but in order to do it effectively she needs to be informed when new residents arrive or are about to arrive in the parish.

So, if you know that someone is about to move in near you or if you are about to move out, please let her know on 811189 so that she can see that the new residents get their 'Welcome Pack' during their first few days here when it will be the most useful. If you are a new resident and would like to receive a pack, please feel free to contact her.

Salt/Grit Bins

Following last winter's cold and icy conditions there may be places on the roads within our Parish that would benefit from the provision of a salt/grit bin. The Parish Council would like to assess any current need (fact-finding only at this stage). If anyone knows of any places where a salt bin might be useful, and of any accidents that have occurred there owing to snow and ice, would they please contact Annie Newbury (Parish Councillor) by e-mail at annienewbury@yahoo.co.uk

Defibrillators in Fontmell

A newly installed defibrillator is available in the village, located on the outside wall of St. Andrews School.

The unit, which is easily accessible 24/7 to all village residents and visitors, was kindly sponsored by Farnfields Solicitors who paid for the equipment, installation and training.

Pictured are Joanna Jackson of Farnfields, Kate Fisher of South West Ambulance Trust who provided the training, and parish councillor Michael Humphreys.

There are also defibrillator units housed in the telephone boxes at Bedchester crossroads and Bleax Close, East Orchard; both were funded by the local residents.

Michael Humphreys

Farnfields
SOLICITORS



*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 **Monday 18th February 2019**. Contributions for consideration should be submitted as early as possible to the Editor, Chris Bellers, via e-mail to 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).*