



THE GOSSIP TREE

News & Views from the Parish of FONTMELL MAGNA

FEBRUARY
2020
Issue 312

Kindly sponsored by:

Canon Dick and Mrs. Jennie Jones.

From the Gossip Tree Committee

Three things about the Gossip Tree now:

We are glad you are reading this edition and hope that you are happy with the way the valiant new editors have managed the recent transition. We also hope you know that suggestions for articles, written contributions and constructive comments are really welcome and that we are most grateful for those received so far this year.

Thank you hugely to Louise and to Janet for taking on parts of the delivery around West Street and also to Lisa for stepping in immediately after Chris moved away.

If you would like to help reduce costs and the amount of paper we use, please contact: fmgosstree@gmail.com to tell us that you would be happy to receive an email version – with the benefit of coloured pictures!

The Gossip Tree Team

Fontmell Directory 2020

I am starting work on the 2020 Fontmell Directory which will come out with the April issue of The Gossip Tree. The committee would like to thank Gay Mole for her work over the last 13 years in compiling it and keeping it up to date.

The Directory provides contact details for the church, school, clubs and societies in the area as well as details of local businesses.

I will be contacting all of the people listed in the 2019 Directory to check that their details are correct, but if anyone knows of changes to their entry, or would like to be included, please could they email me at:

fmgosstree@gmail.com. Thanks. Graham Eames

Obituary - Roger Wollin

Thank you very much to those of you who either sent me a card (with lovely words inside), or spoke to me on the death of my partner Roger, on 23rd November. I didn't realise how many of the people in Fontmell knew him, although he has been by my side for at least the last 10 years, and used to help me look after Dad and Mum as well. He and I had been friends for nearly 50 years, but did not get together until my husband and I separated and I came to live at Shaftesbury, (and he bought a flat 2 roads away), to be close to Mum and Dad. Roger will leave a large hole in my life, but I am involved with many things in the village and U3A and another choir, so I shall be kept busy. Sue Mercer

Obituary - Jean Thorne

Residents of the village who date back to the 90s will fondly remember Gordon and Jean Thorne who lived at Penlea, opposite the entrance to Church Street from the A350. Sadly Jean passed away on the 23rd December in France where she and Gordon had lived since leaving Fontmell Magna. Jean was a hugely popular figure in the village, involved in every aspect of life and always willing to help and support the local activities. She and Gordon opted to "retire" to the Loire Valley where they converted a derelict farm complex into a luxury and successful Gite showing the same enthusiasm and energy as they did in England. Jean was diagnosed with Leukaemia in September last year and sadly was unable to respond to the treatment given. Her son Brian and his family are now with Gordon whilst her daughter Karen now resides with her family in Australia.

I am sure many residents will join me in sending our condolences to Gordon and the family. Peter Gray

Notices – February 2020

St. Andrew's Church - Services for February

| | | |
|----------|--------|---|
| Sun 2nd | 8.00am | Holy Communion (BCP) |
| Sun 2nd | 9.00am | Sunday Breakfast (Village Hall) |
| Sun 9th | 9.30am | Morning Worship |
| Sun 16th | 9.30am | Sung Communion (CW) |
| Sun 23rd | 9.30am | Holy Communion (CW) |
| Wed 26th | 7.00pm | Ash Wednesday Service at St Nicholas, Ashmore |

Parish Council Meeting

Next meeting Mon 9th March at 7.00pm in St. Andrew's School.

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

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 Feb 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

'In Home' Coffee Morning 10.30am to 12noon

Friday 7th February at Fiferidge, West Street, Fontmell Magna, home of Janet and Philip Smith.

On Friday 6th March at Sixpenny Farm House, Bedchester, home of Jean and Michael Foote.

Iwerne Valley Walking Group

Sat 15th Feb starting at 10am.

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 3rd & 17th - Recycling & Food

W/C 10th & 24th - Rubbish & Food

Events in the Village Hall**Fontmell Magna & District Society**

Fri 7th Feb at 7.30pm - 'Climate Emergency' by Dr Martin Price of Friends of the Earth.
Enquiries: Dick Stainer 811153

Sunday Breakfast

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

Fontmell Films

Wed 12th Feb 'Downton Abbey' Doors open 7.00pm
Enquires: Libby Gendall 811551

North Dorset Wildlife Trust

Wed 19th Feb 'Marine Conservation, MCZs and Plastics' - an illustrated talk by Imogen Davenport, DWT Director of Conservation
www.dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk
Details: Anna Davies 01258 880699

Archive Society

Enquiries: Roger Hillman 811878

Garden Club

Thur 20th Feb. - Neil Lovesey from Picket Lane Nursery 'Herbs' - more than just stuffing balls!
Enquiries: Sue East 812349

Fontmell Magna Art Club

Tue 2.00 to 4.00pm.
Enquiries: Sandra Jelbart 812468

Carpet Bowls Club

Thur 6th, 13th, Fri 21st, Thur 27th 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 811208 or email bookings.fmvh@gmail.com

Local Knowledge**2. OKEFORD HILL DT11 0EF**

We are blessed with some lovely local walks with stunning views on Fontmell Downs and on both Hod and Hambledon hills. But venture a little further afield to Okeford Fitzpaine and you will find a lovely place to walk at Okeford Hill.

There is a public car park at the top of the hill and if you cross the road there is a large area of fields and woods with assorted walks. Most of the walks are reasonably flat, although if you like a hill then you can walk down to Okeford Fitzpaine or Shillingstone (both signposted). There are footpaths crisscrossing the area and the views over Dorset are spectacular.

Also, if you are a keen forager, there are loads of blackberries, wild cherry plums and even wild raspberries to found in abundance in the autumn.

Graham Eames

VE DAY 75th Anniversary

The 8th May will mark 75 years since the end of the war in Europe. To celebrate this momentous occasion, we plan to get the whole village together - old and young, newcomers and old-timers - for a day of activities and commemoration.

If you would like to know more about what is being planned and find out how you can get involved, there will be a public meeting at the **Fontmell Magna Village Hall** on **Wednesday 5 February at 7pm.**

Hope to see you there!

For further information, please contact:

Lisa Le Druillenec on: 01747 812 500

**Springhead Events****www.springheadtrust.org.uk/events**

Sunday 2 February, 2-3.30, *Storytelling and Indian music workshop.* Before the performance of *The Ramayana*, explore the colourful and vibrant world of Indian mythology and music with storyteller, Emily Hennessey and musician and composer, Sheema Mukherjee. Limited places. Tickets £8 from Artsreach www.artsreach.co.uk or Springhead.

Thursday 13 February, 10-4 - open garden in conjunction with the Shaftesbury Snowdrops' Festival. The beautiful lakeside gardens at Springhead will be open to visitors with plants for sale and the café open for tea, coffee, cakes and light lunches. Admission is £3.50 with Friends of Springhead and children under 16 free. Dogs on leads are welcome and the gardens are accessible to assisted wheelchair users.

Also on **Thursday 13 February** at 3.00pm, we are delighted to welcome harpist Sarah Deere-Jones who will run a **harp workshop**. Sarah has performed original and traditional music for harp and voice throughout her career, and has been a guest artist at the major harp festivals around the world including the Edinburgh Harp Festival UK, Somerset Festival in New York, Blue Mountain Harp Holiday Australia, Wales International harp Festival, Big Sky in Montana USA and the Lorient and Dinan Festivals Brittany. £20, very limited spaces so please book early.

Then at 7.30 Sarah will perform a concert accompanied on guitar by her husband Phil Williams. Her music is an exciting blend of subtle and dazzling arrangements of traditional tunes and haunting singing of folk songs as well as her original pieces for harp which have broken new ground for the lever harp and have been included in exam lists for harp students around the world.

Adult £10, Friends of Springhead and U18 £8.

Tickets from Springhead or www.ticketsource.co.uk

North Dorset DWT Programme 2019-2020

The North Dorset Group of the Dorset Wildlife Trust organise a series of talks each autumn and winter at the Village Hall in Fontmell Magna (SP7 0PF). The talks take place on the third Wednesday of the month, start at 7.30pm and usually last 45 minutes. Our talks are open to everyone, admission is £2.50 (including refreshments & Honeybuns cakes) and children under 16 may attend for free. The proceeds from these talks go to provide tools and equipment for the DWT ranger in North Dorset and in the past few years the group has raised (and spent) almost £4,000.

Talks Programme 2020

Wednesday 19th February: Marine Conservation, MCZs and Plastics – an illustrated talk by Imogen Davenport, DWT Director of Conservation.

Wednesday 18th March: Reptiles of Dorset – an illustrated talk by Steve Davis, Head of DWT HR & Volunteering.

Wednesday 15th April: Bees and Wildlife Gardening – an illustrated talk by Brigit Strawbridge, DWT's Make Wildlife Welcome Hero and bee friendly gardener (as seen on TV). This talk will be preceded by a rapid AGM (max. 10 mins.).

Fontmell Film Night

Downton Abbey comes to Fontmell Magna!

Our film on Wednesday 12th February is Downton Abbey written by Julian Fellowes and starring Hugh Bonneville, Michelle Dockery, Elizabeth McGovern, Maggie Smith and a whole host of others! The Crawleys and their intrepid staff prepare for the most important moment of their lives. A royal visit from the King & Queen of England will unleash scandal, romance and intrigue that will leave the future of Downton hanging in the balance.

Tickets are £6 from Fontmell Village Shop or £6.50 on the door

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

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

For more information please call Libby on: 01747 811551

Future film dates:

Wednesday 11th March "Knives Out"

Wednesday 8th April "The Good Liar"

Community Litter**Community Clean-Up: Your Parish Needs You!**

The next Community Litter Pick in Fontmell, Bedchester and Hartgrove is on **Sunday 9th February**. **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

Annie Newbury on behalf of the Parish Council.

**Village weather for December 2019**

A dry start then 23 days of rain which followed a wet October & November so water logged ground persists. Even when not raining, grey skies were common. Christmas Day and 30th Dec were sunny. 23 rain days, 4 gales, 6 air frost, 13 ground frost. No thunder or hale.

| Comp. Figures | 2019 | 2018 |
|---|---------------------------|----------|
| Rain (Most 25.0 mm on 26th) | 157.7 mm | 122.8 mm |
| Sunshine | 48.7 hrs (ave 1.6 hrs) | 27.1 hrs |
| Max mean temp. (highest 13.0 °C on 6th) | 9.6 °C | 10.4 °C |
| Min mean temp. (lowest -0.3°C on 5th) | 3.3 °C | 4.5 °C |

St Andrew's Fontmell - C of E Primary School

Half Term Dates:

Mon 17th - Fri 21st February

Fontmell Magna and District Society

Friday 7th February 2020 **CLIMATE EMERGENCY - How can we respond as individuals?** – Dr Martin Price of F.O.E. Martin Price has lived in Poole for most of his life and was a teacher at college and university level. He has a background in Geography, Sociology, Economics and Education and Management. A long-time member of Friends of the Earth (46 years) he has been a national Director on several occasions and was national Chairman in 1993-94. Martin will talk to us about the effects of climate change on our world and what we can do to minimise our carbon footprint.

Iwerne Valley Walking Group - January 18th Walk

In glorious sunshine after all the rain we've had, 11 of us and two dogs set off from Home Farm Shop outside Tarrant Gunville and headed off along good tracks and paths east towards the Salisbury - Blandford road. We then cut up north, causing a shooting party to "hold their fire" until we had passed" and down towards the corner of Eastbury House estate. Then north again to Chettle, going through the parkland at the back of Chettle House and with good views of that very pretty building. Then walked behind the village (views of the back of the Castleman Hotel), before turning south again and back to Tarrant Gunville. Sadly not enough time to look at the church or shop in Chettle but we can recommend the homemade pies at the shop. The views on the walk were far reaching and covered 360 degrees in all. The climbs are very gradual but after 3 hours walking we were very ready for the delicious meals served at Home Farm. Here's to the next walk!

Cathy Bird

Compost Corner

What is the world's biggest living thing? The giant redwood? No. The Blue Whale? No. Armillaria ostoyae, the 'Humongous Fungus'? Yes!

One specimen of this fungus was found to cover 8.8 kilometres in the Malheur National Forest, Oregon; it lurks underground and feeds off conifer and hardwood forests and eventually kills them. But not all fungi are bad news for plants and it has been found that they can be positively beneficial and help with their establishment, and that includes roses. Winter is the perfect time to plant a bare-rooted rose, (unless the ground is frozen) and adding mycorrhizal fungi (available in garden centres) to the exposed roots really does aid their development and growth and it is only necessary to apply the fungi once for the lifetime of the rose. On the subject of weather, it's not a good idea to plant either a bare-rooted or pot grown rose in waterlogged soil and bearing in mind the rather damp weather we've endured this winter, perhaps any new planting should be delayed a bit until everything is a little less soggy.

Alison Main

Wednesday Community Lunch Club

All are invited to the first of our Wednesday Lunches on Wednesday 26th February at Fontmell Magna Village Hall. Doors open at 12 noon and lunch will be served at 12.30 pm. There will be musical entertainment.

We are offering a hot 2 course lunch for a donation of £2.50

If you would like to come along and know someone who you think would benefit from the companionship this offers please bring them with you.

For our catering it is helpful if you can 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

Details can also be found on www.Nextdoor.com

New Residents

We welcome two new families to Fontmell Magna:

Geoff and Sue Morgan who moved from Kingston upon Thames to Yew Tree Cottage, West Street.

Anne and John Dennys who have moved into Brooklands Barn, from Effingham, Surrey together with their Dartmoor show ponies.

The Tearoom Crafters

The Tearoom Crafters would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who supported the sale of Christmas decorations in aid of Headsmart, part of the Brain Tumour Charity (registered charity number 1150054).

Special thanks also to Jan and Rick in the village Shop and Tea rooms who facilitated the sale through November and December and which raised the amazing total of £320.25.

Garden Club**Garden Club meeting December 13th**

It was certainly a very busy time in the village during the week, and I am pleased to report we had a good attendance for Andrew Humphris's talk on 'Trees and Shrubs for Smaller Gardens'.

Andrew is a member of our Garden Club and has worked in a variety of very interesting places (including National Trust properties) over the years and in his current position as Head Gardener on the West Lodge Estate has just finished creating a brand new garden. His knowledge together with slides proved very informative, especially his skill in planting under shrubs to create borders that overflow with interest. He very kindly produced a sheet for us to take away listing some of the plants/shrubs that he mentioned. Thank you Andrew.

Garden Club meeting January 16th

On this occasion we welcomed Malcolm Mills who has been associated with the Gardens Group for many years and is currently the planteria manager at Castle Gardens. The topic of his talk was 'Bees in the garden' which proved to be very interesting - from types of bees, their different characteristics, habitat and their liking for particular flowers in our gardens. Variety, it seems, even in the bee world, is the spice of life! Malcolm brought with him a wide selection of plants to give us lots of ideas for additional planting to add perhaps more opportunities for our little friends. Creating habitats as basic as cut up bamboo sticks and the like will all help and hopefully assist bees to thrive in these very challenging times. No one wants to end up with a pastry brush pollinating our plants if our friends have disappeared.

Next Meeting is on February 20th 'Herbs - more than just stuffing balls' with Neil Lovesey from Picket Lane Nursery.

Sue East

This February issue of The Gossip Tree comes from the editors, who this month are: **Ann & Mike Ashford**.

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

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

fmgoosiptree@gmail.com or phone **01747 811206**

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

Submissions for the March 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 fmgoosiptree@gmail.com