



# THE GOSSIP TREE

News & Views from the Parish of FONTMELL MAGNA

June  
2018  
Issue 292

This issue is kindly sponsored by the  
Fontmell Magna Carpet Bowls Club

The Fontmell Magna Carpet Bowls Club meets every week, usually on Thursday evenings in the Village Hall from 7.30 to 9.30pm.

We are a mixed club of both male and female players who enjoy a very social evening together. We always welcome new members, so why not come along and join us.

No special clothing or shoes are required. Pop in any Thursday to see what we are about with no obligation to join.

We hold a friendly in-house competition each year and this year's Club Champion was Ron Day who played the Ladies Champion Phyl Burbidge to win the Club Title.

Phyl partnered Carl Johnston to win the mixed doubles title beating Maureen Bone and Dennis Pike.

Our most improved player this year is Liz Bone.

Contact Gerry Bone 811814 or Laurie Powell 811382



## **Grand Action of Promises - In aid of St Andrew's Church Boiler Appeal**

**Saturday 30th June** in the Village Hall - **Candlelit Meal** 6.00 for 6.30pm - **Auction** 7.30pm.

The church boiler will shortly be no more, passed away, having turned up its toes, fallen off its perch – in short, gone to join the fire eternal. Systems were costed – ground heat source was tricky (dodging the graves), heat pump hideously expensive, so the replacement oil boiler will cost around £7,000.

Mrs Gillian Rouse gave the appeal an amazing start by donating £1,000 (+Gift Aid). Her husband Martin, who died last year, was Churchwarden here for nearly 30 years while Gillian was a flower arranger. She says he would have been organising the appeal himself if he was still here! They bought Fontmell House in the 1960's - locals recall their wonderful summer parties in the grounds - moving to Blandford in 2010. Gillian now lives in Hampshire near her sons and we thank her for her wonderful generosity.

Those dining (for the princely sum of £15) arrive at 6.00pm for a glass of wine or soft drink. At 6.30pm, waiters will serve Chilli, Jacket Potato and Salad or Vegetable Pasta Bake and Salad. Followed by Lemon Tart or Strawberry Meringue. Followed by Coffee & Mints.

The bar throughout the evening will serve a glass of wine £3.00, a bottle of wine £10.00, a soft drink £2.00.

**The Auction** starts just after 7.30pm, with extra seats for bidders unable to book for the meal. If you can't attend you can always **leave a bid** with Peter (email below). Those who remember the village hall seats may choose to bring a cushion!

Many **promises** have been made by locals, some worth hundreds of pounds. Two tickets to the July India v England cricket match at Lord's; £1,000 worth of home extension drawings; two weeks' ironing; beef joint and steaks from a local farm; lunch and a round of golf; an Imogen Mann original Painting. Look out for the growing lists in the shop, church porch and village. New promises are still welcome. Offers can be made on any unsold promises for four weeks after auction. **Donations are also welcome, large or small!**

Do support this important cause – the church is used for regular gatherings, worship, weddings, funerals and baptisms and occasionally for concerts. It is an asset to the village & parish but without heating it will be grim in winter and the fabric will deteriorate.

All offers or enquiries to Peter Keen, [peter.keenhearing@btinternet.com](mailto:peter.keenhearing@btinternet.com) who walked into organising this with his eyes open!

## **'Open House' Coffee Mornings for June**

On Friday 1st June, there will be NO coffees in St. Andrew's Church, due to a Memorial Service.

Fridays, 15th, 22nd and 29th, 10.30am-noon - Coffee/Tea/Hot chocolate + Home-grown produce. Friday, 8th - Special session with Cakes' Stall. All Welcome .... Do Come and Join Us for Coffee & Chat!

Jennie Jones

## **Notices – June 2018**

### St. Andrew's Church

Sun 3rd 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)  
9.00am Sunday Breakfast (Village Hall - see over)

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 AGM and PC Meeting

No meeting this month - next meeting Monday 9th July in St. Andrew's School. Parish Clerk: Marianne Wheatley [clerk@fontmellmagnapc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@fontmellmagnapc.co.uk)

### The Tea Room Crafters

Wed 6th & 20th in the Shop at 2.30pm. Details Barbara Humphreys [blueletterbox@btinternet.com](mailto:blueletterbox@btinternet.com)

### 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

### The Fontmell

Thur 21st - Asian Curry Night  
Enquiries 811441

### St Andrew's School

Mon 4th - Back from Half Term  
Fri 29th - Sports Day  
Fri 20th July - Break up for Summer

### Fontmell Magna Toddler Group

Tue 19th - 9.00am in the School Hall  
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

### 'Open House' Coffee Mornings - All Welcome!

Every Friday (not 1st June) 10.30am to 12 noon in St. Andrew's Church social area. Coffee/tea/hot chocolate, biscuits and home-grown produce.

### Iwerne Valley Walking Group

Thur 21st, Midsummer's Eve walk, starting at 5.00pm from the car park at Win Green. Please bring a picnic. For further details contact Helen on 853472

### Bell-ringing

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

### Bin Collection Dates

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

### **Village Hall events - see over**

### **Football**

The World Cup starts on Thursday 14th June with the hosts Russia playing Saudi Arabia. England, the sole representative of the home countries, is in Group G. England plays Tunisia on Monday 18th, Panama on Sunday 24th and Belgium on Thursday 28th.

**Events in the Village Hall****Sunday Breakfast**

Sun 3rd at 9.00am. Run by St. Andrew's Church. All welcome. Details Janet Smith 811904

**Fete Planning Meeting**

Wed 20th at 7.30pm  
Details Hannah Lister 811568

**Archive Society**

Thu 21st 11.00am to 5.30pm.  
Details Roger Hillman 811878

**Promises Auction & Candlelit Meal**

Sat 30th 6.00 for 6.30pm (*see p.1*)

**Fontmell Magna Art Club**

Tue 2.00 to 4.00pm.  
Details Sandra Jelbart 812468

**Carpet Bowls Club**

Thu 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)**

**The Future of the Village Hall**

The clock is still ticking inexorably towards Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> July. At the time of writing the need for a Chairman & Vice Chairman remains unresolved; without them, the Management Committee & the Hall will no longer be able to function. This will inevitably impact on both the Play Area, where the outlook is already bleak, and the Tennis Court; which both have to be 'managed'.

It has also occurred to me that, after 10 or so years, I need to resign as Secretary. Is some community minded person prepared to fill this position, which is not very onerous? All it needs is someone who can read & write. This would then give me the option to take on another role!

The future good of the Village is at stake. Please consider how You can make a positive difference. I am uniquely situated to appreciate how much the Play Area is used & enjoyed by children & others. We are doing all we can to continue this for the foreseeable future, BUT we need help! Carl Johnston, Hon. Secretary. 812144

**Parish Council**

The Annual Parish Meeting was held on Monday 21st May at 7.00pm in the School Hall.

Short presentations were made by or on behalf of eight organisations: Moviola, Zumba, the Fontmell Magna & District Society, the Fontmell Magna Public Amenity Site Trust (owners of the Middle Mill site), the Archive Society, the Church, the Garden Club and the Village Hall.

The Editor hopes to be able to include some or all of these reports in the July Gossip Tree.

The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council was held following the Annual Parish Meeting.

**Public Questions**

Gay Mole had reported a broken curbstone at the entrance to The Mead on the Dorsetfor you website and asked if this was the right course of action. The Clerk confirmed it was but asked that she also copy in Robin East.

2 representatives from Pennyfarthing Homes gave a short presentation regarding the proposed development on South Street. The latest plan incorporated all the changes asked for by the PC. There also appears to be a commitment by the developer to contribute towards the costs of resurfacing the footpath to West Street and also the existing play area.

There was also a short presentation by the agent of the developer of Middle Farm on the amended plans. This was the subject of a number of negative comments. These include: the development would not be in accordance with the Neighbourhood Plan; the access through Collyers Rise and traffic management; proximity to Collyers Rise; the houses proposed are too big; and insufficient consideration given to flood risk and sewerage.

**Parish Council Meeting**

Five parish councillors (Cllrs. Ayre, Bellers, Horstead, Humphreys and Williams) were present, together with NDDC Cllr. Langham and 35 members of the public.

Apologies were received from DCC Cllr. Carr-Jones. Cllr. Roberts was not present.

Cllr. Ayre resigned and Hannah Lister was unanimously co-opted onto the PC. This means that there is still one councillor vacancy.

Cllr. Horstead was re-elected Chairman for the year 2018/19. Cllr. Humphreys was elected Vice Chairman.

The following responsibilities were assigned:

Neighbourhood Plan – Cllr. Humphreys.

Development Control – Cllrs. Horstead.

Footpaths – Cllr. Bellers.

Flood Warden – Cllr. Williams.

Trees – Cllr. Lister.

Robin East kindly agreed to continue to represent the PC on Highways matters.

There were no declarations of interest.

The minutes of the last PC meeting on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March were approved and signed.

**Matters arising**

Cllr. Humphreys said that he was still trying to find out how many families are involved with the Dorset Youth Association.

**County/District Councillor's Report**

NDDC Cllr. Langham reported that work was underway to revise rural wards so that each ward represented around 3,000 people. Rates in North Dorset will have to increase to be in line with those in Bournemouth.

**Planning**

The PC had no objection to the application in respect of Penn Hill Farm, but objected to the size/design of the proposed new house on the land south of Little Orchard (Parsonage Street).

In respect of Middle Farm, the PC would ask Jo Witherden to update her comments, following the revised plan.

The applications in respect of White Cottage, Mill Street and Little Orchard (near Bedchester), are still to be considered.

Cllr. Langham understood that the application in respect of the proposed 27 houses in Mill Street could come before the Planning Committee in July.

**Finance**

The PC started the financial year April 2017-March 2018 with a balance of £8,041 and closed with a balance of £8,924. Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Return for 2017/18 were approved and signed. The schedule of assets and the payment of bills, including insurance renewal, was agreed.

**Other Parish Matters****Neighbourhood Plan:**

Cllr. Humphreys reported that the NDDC consultation ends on 8th June. The NDDC will shortly be appointing an examiner and the PC must approve the appointment. The PC does not wish to be involved in the development of any site for retirement housing.

**Highways:**

Robin East said that the judicial review regarding HGVs and the C13 by Melbury has been thrown out by the High Court with costs awarded against.

Line marking for the resurfaced A350 is taking place shortly – speed limits are being reduced with extended 30mph zones, more 40mph zones and an overall maximum of 50mph.

**Bedchester Allotments:**

The Clerk reported that DCC has now decided to retain control of the allotments. No further action is therefore needed.

**Defibrillators:**

The Clerk said that Farnfields were offering a defibrillator at no cost for four years. The PC now has to decide the most appropriate location for it.

A defibrillator is now in place in the Bedchester phonebox. Bedchester residents have fund-raised for this and asked the PC for a grant of £400. As the PC has been assured that it is not responsible for maintenance costs, but the £400 appeared partly to cover future costs, the PC agreed a grant of £200.

**Maintenance of Bedchester Notice Board and Pump House:**

The Clerk is still obtaining quotes.

**Middle Farm – listing "important local building":**

After some discussion, the PC agreed to give this more consideration.

**Any other business**

The PC asked whether it would support the provision of a dog bin by the pub. The Clerk will follow this up with Dorset Waste Partnership.

The meeting closed at 9.24pm.

The next PC meeting will be on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> July in the School Hall.

**Sunday 24th June**

Tashi Lhunpo Monks - Masked dance and sacred chant from a Tibetan Monastery  
 Tickets £10, £7 for U18 and Friends of Springhead, £28 (family 4 – max 2 adults)  
 Artsreach ([www.artsreach.co.uk](http://www.artsreach.co.uk)) or send a cheque payable to The Springhead Trust  
 with a stamped addressed envelope. Early booking advised – tickets are going fast!  
 An interactive workshop is being held from 4.30-6.00pm, £5. Very limited spaces.  
 There is an outdoor performance so bring a chair, torch and wrap up warm. There will  
 be a bar and tea and coffee and the gardens will be open for picnicking from 6.15pm.  
 Kate Partridge, Coordinator - Friends of Springhead  
 Mill Lane, Fontmell Magna, SP7 0NU. Tel: 811853  
 Email: [info@springheadtrust.org.uk](mailto:info@springheadtrust.org.uk) [www.springheadtrust.org.uk](http://www.springheadtrust.org.uk)

**Iwerne Valley Walking Club**

Our walk on Saturday 21st April started at Garston Wood car park, Sixpenny Handley. Seventeen people and three dogs somehow managed to shoehorn their cars into the tiny carpark where we were to begin the walk. We chose lunch and sent a willing husband back to the Roebuck Inn with our order for a 12.45pm return. Just as we were ready to set off at 10.15am another walking club arrived – sadly they all had to park in the road!

We had a gentle walk up Pribdean Wood; the trees were beginning to show their leaves, giving us dappled shade at the top - and we could hear a cuckoo calling. Crossing the field, we skirted the farm buildings and dropped down to Deanland. Following a narrow path down the side of the hill, we came to the main road, following it briefly for 50 yards before passing a pond, then through a gate and into the tiny hamlet of New Town.

We had a long but gentle walk through Hill Coppice up to Draw Coppice before turning into Foxberry Lower Hedge, dropping down to Shermel Gate. From there we took the path up to Mistleberry Wood. Primroses lined the paths with the wonderful perfume of wild garlic making us feel very hungry as we reached towards Sessions Gate where the bluebells took over and we could see rivers of blue. On the left-hand side of the wood we could see very young lambs in the fields.

We arrived back at the car park in 2¼ hours having walked about 4 miles accompanied only by the wonderful sound of birdsong and all in beautiful sunshine. Our walk had been entirely devoid of stiles, cars and people.  
 Pam Payne



**North Dorset Wildlife Trust**

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> June – a guided walk around Shaftesbury Abbey Herb Garden with herbal specialist, Julie Wood, who is a medical herbalist. The cost is £10 and includes refreshments. Numbers are restricted on this walk so please book in advance by telephoning Roy Davies on 01258 880 699.

**8,000.....and counting**

Since we gave you news that Fontmell Magna’s John Gadd had written a major textbook ‘Modern Pig Production Technology’, especially for the Chinese pig industry (and published in Mandarin, of course), John has revealed that, in its first year, over 8,000 copies have been sold. If every single pig farmer in the UK bought a copy, they would only account for a quarter of this total, confirming how gigantic the Chinese pig industry is - and how they love pork.

Remain tied to the EU? “For goodness, sake let’s hurry up and leave.” John says. The book shows how Britain, with good products the world wants, can really prosper in a world market. His mantra...“Get out there and get in first!”

**John Gadd’s book – worth £5,000?**

John amusedly writes that he had a client email him recently asking about pig production. The answers were all in his first and third pig textbooks. So, to point the farmer in the right direction, John checked on Amazon and Abe books, only to find them listed at £909 to £2,200 for one and £818 to £3,632 for the other, with one offered at £5,086!

John hastens to say that he is not as famous as that! What happens is that when a book goes out of print/out of stock, dealers fix a “Nobody will pay that price” to discourage potential buyers from bothering them, at least until the publishers reissue the volume. So, if you come across a silly price or two online - that’s the reason.

**Village weather for April 2018**



A wet start, then a week of summer before ending into cooler April showers.  
 4 ground frost. 0 air frost. 15 rain days. 2 days thunder. 1 hail. No gales.

Comp. Figures	2018	2017
Rain (most 13.9 mm on 1st)	165.3 mm	12.9 mm
Sunshine	103 hr (av. 3.4)	187.6 hr
Max mean temp. (highest 24.9 °C on 19th)	13.9 °C	15.05 °C
Min mean temp. (lowest 1.2 °C on 10th )	8.7 °C	3.3 °C

Like March, April was a particularly wet month. In fact, it was the wettest April since 1988 (when Fontmell records began) other than April 2000, when 186.6 mm fell. The maximum temperature on 19th April was also unusually high, although 25.6 °C was recorded on 17th April 2003, and several consecutive days in April 2011 had high temperatures going up to 25.8 °C.

Looking ahead, 8th June is the feast day of St. Medardus and it is said that, as with St. Swithun’s Day (15th July), whatever the weather on his feast day, it will continue for the forty days following **unless** the weather changes on the feast of St. Barnabus (11th June).

**Full Moon – Thursday 28th June**

The Full Moon in June is known as the Full Strawberry Moon as it coincides with the peak of the strawberry harvesting season. The moon is also known as the Full Rose Moon and the Full Honey Moon.

Also this month, Thursday 21st June is the June solstice, the first day of summer and the longest day of the year. On Wednesday 27th June, Saturn will be at its closest approach to Earth and its face will be fully illuminated by the Sun. It will be brighter than any other time of the year and will be visible all-night long. A medium-sized or larger telescope will allow you (clouds permitting) to see Saturn’s rings and a few of its brightest moons.



*Strawberry Moon rising behind Glastonbury Tor in June 2016*

**Compost Corner**

You may have come across 'Garden Escapees' on your travels. No, not mutinous gardeners escaping from weeding, but garden plants that have become established in the countryside. One such plant is the beautiful, dazzling blue, evergreen *Agapanthus* which can be found in western Cornwall. They originated from Africa but have very happily established themselves in the mild south western climate and an amazing spectacle they are too.

In Norway, up in the mountains, lupins have colonised vast swathes of land, they look stunning but are so successful that they have now become a real problem. Hailing from America, they were originally introduced along roads and railway lines to combat soil erosion but rapidly spread and are now considered a major problem.

Japanese knotweed is a plant that was introduced in Victorian times to Britain for its striking size and racemes of white flowers but with disastrous results - its shoots are so strong that they can penetrate concrete - if it's on your land and you fail to control it, you could be faced with a hefty fine.

Well, Lupins certainly won't be taking over our garden - despite successfully propagating loads of them from seed when they reached a few inches high, over one warm spring night, the whole lot were eaten by snails; it was as though they'd never been.

Perhaps they don't have many snails in Norway.

Alison Main

**Garden Club**

The Garden Club annual outing will be on Thursday 28th June, with a visit to Longstock Gardens and Water Gardens, on the Leckford Estate near Stockbridge. Robert McCurrach

**Targeted for burglary?**

Recently, two houses in Bedchester had a white stone left outside the property. This could be some sort of marker system that burglars use to highlight properties that they think are unoccupied. The occupiers removed the stones and advised Dorset Police, in case there is a pattern in the area. Anyone coming across anything similar should do the same. Chalk marks on the road outside your property should also be viewed with suspicion.

**Pipers Mill**

Recently, a visitor to the village shop asked what the building was by the stream (Fontmell Brook) at the northern end of Brookland Wood. There is a substantial section of stone wall laying across the stream, and evidence of the remains of more building on the other side of the stream. The answer is that the stonework was at one time a sluice or weir for the mill leat to Pipers Mill. The course of the leat can still be seen, though much has been filled in.



The view in this picture from Pipers Mill towards the east, through the archway where the waterwheel once turned, shows where the mill pond was; the course of the leat follows to the right of the fencing stretching all the way to the north of Brookland Wood and runs parallel to Fontmell Brook.

It is not known exactly how long there has been a mill at Pipers Mill. The current building dates from only about 1795 (it was advertised as 'new-built' in the Salisbury Journal of 9th November 1795).

It was probably used as a grist mill for processing animal feed stuffs. Earlier in the 18th century the miller was James Lawrence but, on his death in 1788, his wife Barbara took over the running of the mill and the replacement of the old mill house with a new one.

James and Barbara's son, John Lawrence (1786-1865), became the miller but provided another link between Fontmell and Newfoundland (discussed in Issue 284, October 2017). In 1810, he crossed the Atlantic to Newfoundland where he met his wife Jane, the daughter of a merchant then active in trade with England. They were married in 1815 in Bonavista and then decided to return to Fontmell, where they had four children. Jane did not survive the birth of their fifth child and was buried here in 1822, aged 26.

John and Jane's eldest son, also called John (born 1817) also travelled to Bonavista where he married Ellen Strathie in 1843. They had ten children in Newfoundland, and later in Nova Scotia. John's younger brother, Joseph Feltham Lawrence (1820-1895), took over the mill. He married Mary Ann Baker in 1845. In his will, dated 1895, he left a sum of money in trust "for the children of my deceased brother John, now living in Newfoundland."



Mary died 1893 and when Joseph died childless in 1895, the mill passed to his wife's family in the form of James William Baker. James must have been friends with William Jesse of Woodbridge Mill - on William's death in 1905, James acted as an executor of his will and had some responsibility for his children's upbringing (their mother having died earlier).

The Glyn sale particulars of 1926, Lot 96, described the mill premises as being "stone built with tiled roof", with three floors containing, on the ground floor, a store house and meal house (with two bins). The fixed machinery included an Overshot Water Wheel, pit wheel, flywheel and spare wheel for gear. On the second floor were 12 Grunters (or bins).

The whole property was withdrawn from sale and was then included as Lot 1 in the 1927 Glyn sale. James Baker appears to have bought the property; in 1928, he arranged for an Armfield water turbine to be fitted in November that year when the water wheel ceased to work.

The 1931 Kelly's Directory records the owner as being Colonel Waldron Harold Fletcher Kelly D.S.O. In September 1940, he was put in command of Fontmell Magna Platoon of the Shaftesbury Company of the Home Guard. On 1st December 1943, he reached the age limit (65) and had to relinquish his command and leave the Home Guard.

By 1962, the mill was derelict. The 1963 Mill Survey notes that the mill had a stone pentrough and iron shutter. Unusually, the spur wheel was 4-armed (most were 6-armed). The wheel had such large cants that it appeared almost solid. The mill also had a seven-armed crown wheel (most mills had six-armed wheels).

The 1972 RCHME inventory for North Dorset lists the building as: "a corn mill of two storeys with attics, has ashlar walls and a tiled roof", illustrated by a photograph showing the structure in good order externally, much as it is today.... The ashlar is of good quality, with a plain plinth and a moulded eaves cornice. The mill-race has segmental-headed openings on the N. and S.; other openings have flat arches. Inside, the water-wheel has gone, but much of the original machinery remains. The mill-pond, now dry, has ashlar retaining walls".

The mill building remains much the same today.

Chris Bellers, Archive Society

*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 24th June 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).*