



THE GOSSIP TREE

News & Views from the Parish of FONTMELL MAGNA

Kindly sponsored by Springhead Trust
Events listed below

November
2019
Issue 309

From the Gossip Tree Committee

We are so pleased that this month, The Gossip Tree is produced and edited by Ann and Mike from St Andrew's View. It is such good news that they were willing to help with this November issue and they have begun by setting up a dedicated email address for all contributions to the newsletter which is fmgosstree@gmail.com

Other people came forward too, to our call for an editor to take over from Chris and we are working to ensure that the GT continues being published with their generous offers to help. There will be more information about any further changes in following editions, when plans have been made.

Now, we have another request, which is for sponsors for 2020 GTs. Sponsorship is £30.00 per issue and can be acknowledged in the heading or can be anonymous. I'd be pleased to discuss ideas or offers by email or in person.

We will miss working with Chris and are very sorry that he has moved away but wish him well in Devon and hope he enjoys living there, near to his family in beautiful walking country for two and four legs. His editorship was superb and he and Nikki were committed members of the Fontmell Magna community for which we thank them hugely.

Barbara Humphreys blueletterbox@btinternet.com

Suggestions for future editions of The Gossip Tree are welcome.



Come and see the Historic House and our Christmas Fair

The Springhead Trust would like to extend an invitation to everyone from the village who would like to see the latest renovations of the Historic House, which will be open during our Garden of Delights Christmas Fair. The newly renovated Historic House will be open to visitors between 11.30am and 1.00pm and 2.00 to 3.00pm for those who would like to look round.

Thursday 7 November, 7.30, the *Pagoda Project*, a unique musical collaboration described as an intriguing crossover between contemporary folk, jazz and chamber music. £10, Friends of Springhead and U18 £8. Licensed bar

Sunday 17 November, 5.00pm, Artsreach presents *The Methera Quartet*, playing chamber music. Adult £12, Friends and U18 £10, Licensed bar

Friday 29 November to Sunday 1 December, 10am to 4.30pm, the *Garden of Delights*, free admission, a chance to buy Christmas gifts direct from artists and craftspeople. Refreshments and light lunches will be served. Fontmell Magna, SP7 0NU
springheadtrust.org.uk, 01747 811853

Tickets are available on line through the events' page of our website or through the office.

Thank you.

Kate Partridge
Coordinator – Friends of Springhead



Notices – November 2019

St. Andrew's Church

Sun 3rd 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
9.00am Sunday Breakfast (Village Hall)
Sun 10th 10.00am Remembrance Service
(10.45am at War Memorial)
Sun 17th 9.30am Sung Communion (CW)
Sun 24th 10.00am Benefice Service at Shroton
Prayers each Monday at 9.00am

Parish Council Meeting

Next meeting Mon 11th November 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

Mon - Fri 8.00am - 6.00pm;
Sat 9.00am - 1.00pm;
Sun 9.00am - 11.00am

'Black Friday' 29th Nov

Enquiries: 811201

Coffee in the Café

Tue at 10.00am

The Tea Room Crafters

Wed 13th and 27th Nov 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

Fri 6th Dec hosted by Jean & Michael Foot at 'Sixpenny Farm House, Penn Hill, Bedchester.
Please come and join us!

Iwerne Valley Walking Group

AGM Sat 16th Nov
Enquiries: Helen English 853472

Bell-ringing

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

Bin Collection Dates

W/C 14th & 28th - Recycling & Food
W/C 7th & 21st - Rubbish & Food

Events in the Village Hall

Fontmell Magna & District Society
 Fri 1st Nov at 7.30pm - Royal Naval Hovercraft in The Falkland Islands 25 Years Ago
 Enquiries: Dick Stainer 811153

Sunday Breakfast

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

Fontmell Films

Wed 13th Nov 'All is True'
 Doors open 7.00pm
 Enquires: Libby Gendall 811551

North Dorset Wildlife Trust

Wed 20th at 7.30pm 'The Ecology of Sea Horses' - an illustrated talk by Julie Hatcher, Marine Awareness Officer for the DWT Living Seas Team.
 Details: Anna Davies 01258 880699

Archive Society

Enquiries: Roger Hillman 811878

Garden Club

Thur 21st Nov Mike Burke
 'Gardening for Climate Change'
 Enquiries: Sue East 812349

Fontmell Magna Art Club

Tue 2.00 to 4.00pm.
 Enquiries Sandra Jelbart 812468

Carpet Bowls Club

Thu 7th, 14th, 28th and
 Fri 22nd 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: Lyn O'Neill 07989 192424

Taekwon-do

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

Zumba

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

Buddleia Cutting

A big thank you to the brave souls who came to trim the buddleias for the winter in spite of the many showers of rain. I hope their efforts will show in the display next year.

Judy Westgate

Goodbye Chris, Hello Problem!

As you may be aware, the Chair of our Parish Council, Chris Bellers, has stepped down and moved away from the parish. We're sure you would wish to join us in thanking Chris for all he has contributed to our neighbourhood over many years – not just the Parish Council, but the Fontmell Archive Society, St Andrew's Church bell ringers, and as editor of The Gossip Tree.

With Chris' departure the Parish Council now has just three councillors. This is the minimum number of councillors for a quorum of the Parish Council, for meetings and decision-making. Therefore if one of the councillors is unavailable for any reason it won't be possible to hold a PC meeting or to make any progress with council activities. With this in mind the PC is proposing to reduce the frequency of council meetings to quarterly intervals.

Please will you consider joining the Parish Council at this important time in the development of our community so that it can continue to function effectively. Our team is energetic, hard-working, forward thinking and committed to improving community facilities and amenities, but we do need your help. For more information or to express an interest please contact the Clerk at clerk@fontmellmagnapc.co.uk

Annie, Jeremy, Mike Fontmell Magna PC

**Fontmell Magna Community Land Trust Ltd**

(a Community Benefit Society - FCA Reg. No:8113)

email: fontmell.clt@gmail.com website: www.fmclt.org

Registered Office: Middle Farm House, Lurmer Street, Fontmell Magna, SP7 0NT

Fontmell Magna's Neighbourhood Plan came into its own a year ago, with its formal adoption into the planning process by Dorset Council. It brings a local dimension to planning, and was also an opportunity for Fontmell Magna to highlight the importance of local community amenities.

This was the impetus for a small group to set up a vehicle which could manage these amenities, and to this end Fontmell Magna Community Land Trust (CLT) was established, with its formal registration with the FCA in May this year. A CLT is a form of community-led organisation, run by ordinary people, which is able to develop and manage homes and other assets important to the community, such as shops, pubs, workplaces, or food growing enterprises.

Whilst many CLT's are just involved in affordable housing, it was evident at the inaugural meeting of FMCLT on the 20th May that there was concern in the village over the future of our village shop, and this was reported in detail in June's Gossip Tree. The CLT therefore set up a working group (the Village Shop Group, or VSG) to examine options for a shop to serve the community of Fontmell Magna and the surrounding area. The VSG has done a lot of useful work, including the survey, as was reported in the last edition of the Gossip Tree.

The CLT is obliged to hold a **Special General Meeting** within six months of its registration, and this meeting will be at **7.30pm on Wednesday the 30th October, in the Village Hall.**

After the conclusion of the formal meeting, members of the VSG will present their findings on the options for a village shop, after which light refreshments will be provided.

All residents of Fontmell Magna and neighbouring villages are warmly invited to come to this meeting. Although only people who have become members (by subscribing to £25 of shares in the CLT) will be able to vote on resolutions put to the meeting.

The CLT has already attracted over eighty subscribers, and the Directors hope that many more will join to ensure that the community is well represented.

The Directors of the CLT are Dick Stainer, Robin East, Jim Highnam, Robert McCurrach and Roger Thomas.

Distributor(s) wanted Please!

Is anyone prepared to distribute The Gossip Tree in West Street and Orchard Close? There are 35 copies for each area, but could be split. If you can help - please contact Barbara Humphreys at blueletterbox@btinternet.com Thanks in advance.

Iwerne Valley Walking Club

SEPTEMBER 2019 WALK

21st September 2019 saw the Walking Group mustering at the Fighting Cocks pub at Godshill in the New Forest. 14 of us plus 4 (or was it 5?) dogs set off past the Sandy Balls holiday park after which we had glimpses of the River Avon through lovely mixed woodland. Most of the walking was through woods, with the occasional field and track. We did a small diversion to take in the view of the Avon. I found it surprising how high we were, the car journey was deceptive. It all took about 3 hours, including the viewpoint, but fairly easy going. Back to the Pub where the ponies and donkeys knew it was opening time and we enjoyed good grub, served chaotically but enthusiastically by two young lads!

Helen English

Community Clean-Up: Your Parish Needs You!

The Autumn Community Litter Pick in Fontmell, Bedchester and Hartgrove is on **Sunday 3rd November**. **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



This Photo by

Fontmell Film Night

Our film showing on Wednesday 13th November is "All is True" starring Kenneth Branagh, Ian McKellan and Judi Dench. Set in 1613 the Globe Theatre has burned to the ground. Haunted by the death of his only Son Hamnet, William Shakespeare returns to Stratford on Avon to face a troubled past and a neglected family.

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

Doors and the bar open at 7pm with the film starting at 7.30pm.

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

For more information please call Libby on: 811551

Our next film "Yesterday" will be on **Wednesday 11th December** when we will be serving complimentary mulled wine and mince pies we look forward to seeing you.

Fontmell Magna Village Hall News

A big THANK YOU to everyone who came along to the Summer Tea Party, it was lovely to see you all. From the stalls and all your generous donations, we raised £393.55 which will now be divided equally between the Playground Appeal and the Village Hall.

We are also delighted to announce that Sian Highnam has kindly volunteered to take on the Village Hall Bookings from 1 November. If you would like to book the hall or make an enquiry, you can call her on 01747 811028 or e-mail her: bookings.fmvh@mail.com

AND Our **Christmas Fayre** this year will be on Saturday November 30th in the Village Hall. But we need Christmas helpers! If you would like to be a volunteer, please contact **Rosie-Anne Yates on 07710 326339**.

Farewell to those sadly missed:

Lieutenant General Sir Hugh Patrick Cunningham KBE. (4th Nov 1921 - 2 Sept2019).

A Thanksgiving service was held at St Andrew's View on 2nd October with family and many friends.

Hugh was born in Completown on the Kyntre Peninsula, but grew up in Madras, India, before returning to boarding school in England as a young lad. In 1939 he joined the Army and by 1945 had fought in the jungles of New Guinea & Burma - at the young age of 24! He married his wife, Jill—meeting her on a 'blind date' in 1955 and they went on to have 4 children; John, Richard, Susan & Caroline. After many assignments abroad, he was promoted to Major General in 1971, and three years later to Lieutenant General and knighted for his service. After the loss of Jill in 1992, he married Zoe and lived in Fontmell Magna for 24 years. Hugh was a great supporter of FM and a regular attendee at the Church. He was a major contributor to St Andrew's and supported the renovation of the Philip Salkeld Cross memorial (a tribute to a fellow Royal Engineer and the first recipient of the VC awarded posthumously) When Hugh retired, he turned his not inconsiderable energy to industry and to numerous local causes including Port Regis School and the Clouds House and Rehabilitation Centre in Shaftesbury and many others. Fontmell Magna is grateful for his (generous and continuing) support over many years.

Village weather for September 2019

Temperatures fell a little at the official start of autumn. After an unsettled period the sun shone and it was almost cloudless for a week. Then 5" of rain fell during the final days of the month.
1 ground frost, no air front, 1 day of thunder, 15 days of rain and 2 gales!

Comp. Figures	2019	2018
Rain (most 59.4 mm on 23rd)	152.9 mm	38.1 mm
Sunshine	117.2 hrs (av3.9)	136.7 hrs
Max mean temp. (highest 24.1 °C on 21st)	19.1 °C	19.2 °C
Min mean temp. (lowest 3.4 °C on 8th)	9.7 °C	8.39 °C

Climate Change Emergency

We are all becoming increasingly aware of Climate Change; the school strikes by young people and the protests by Extinction Rebellion have made headline news.

Town and Parish Councils across Dorset are joining Dorset Council in declaring a Climate Change Emergency. Fontmell Magna Parish Council will discuss whether to make this declaration at its next meeting on **Monday 11th November**.

There would be little point in making a declaration unless it is followed up with positive actions to reduce the carbon footprint of the Parish. Initiatives could include tree planting, switching to green energy supply, improving home insulation, reducing use of plastics, reducing litter, rewilding, car sharing, etc.

Should Fontmell Magna declare an emergency? What initiatives would you like to see? Please come along to the PC meeting to share your views or alternatively send an email to the Clerk at clerk@fontmellmagnapc.co.uk



Compost Corner

Succulents have become a fashionable, 'must have' plant; everyone is selling them - in garden centres, supermarkets, furniture shops - they're everywhere. And generally they're pretty easy to grow requiring minimal care. But where should they spent the winter months? Not necessarily languishing in some terracotta pot in the garden next to the BBQ.

But there are succulents and succulents, some like the sempervivums (house leeks) and sedums are fully hardy but others, like aeoniums certainly can't spend winter outside; they originate from Madeira and the Canaries where they grow happily on even north facing slopes but where of course it's much warmer and drier than North Dorset. So bring them in to a frost free spot, maybe a porch or conservatory and keep them on the dry side, they hate having wet feet and will soon rot if left waterlogged.

One hardy succulent, Sempervivum arachnoideum, would make a great addition to your Halloween decorations. It's also known as the Cobweb houseleek and has rosettes of red tipped leaves covered in a web of white hairs, mimicking a spider's web. However, in summer it morphs into something a little less spooky with beautiful, usually pink, starry flowers.

Alison Main

Fontmell Magna & District Society

On Friday 1st November it will be:

'ROYAL NAVAL HOVERCRAFT IN THE FALKLAND ISLANDS 52 YEARS AGO'.

Speaker Commander Vernon Phillips

For further information re this and future talks please contact Fiona Thomas



Springhead
In Winter

Village Hall - Play Ground Appeal

Christmas Fayre at Fontmell Magna Village Hall

Saturday 30th November – 10.30am to 4.00pm

Get into the festive spirit by coming along to our Christmas Fayre. The stalls are run by local independent small businesses and local artisan crafters offering a wide selection of handicrafts, local produce, homemade soap, Christmas gifts, cards and decorations, children's clothes and wooden toys. There will be a delicious range of cured meats plus homemade jams and chutneys

Bring your children to visit Santa in his grotto from 1pm to 3pm.

Tickets are £4.00 and each child will receive a wrapped gift, drink and sweet.

We will have hot food, mulled cider, hot drinks, cakes and mince pies.

GRAND RAFFLE: 1st PRIZE - A LUXURY CHRISTMAS HAMPER
(Raffle tickets available from the Village Shop)

For further information please email: playground.fmvh@mail.com or visit our Facebook page

All proceeds raised from this event are being donated to the
Playground Appeal

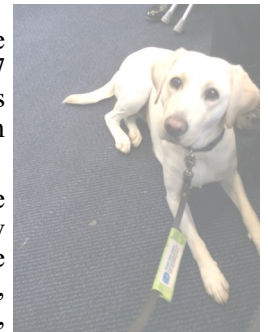
ENTRY TO THE CHRISTMAS FAYRE IS FREE—ALL WELCOME

Reminder—The closing date for the Children's Logo Competition is Mon 11th November. Entries should measure at least 10cm x 10cm.

More details are in the October issue of The Gossip Tree or contact Kim Masters: 01747 811 708 playground.fmvh@hotmail.com

Guide Dog Puppy Tilly

Tilly reached the end of her initial training in the middle of October. She came to us when she was 7 weeks and now, aged 15 months, she has left and has gone to the Guide Dog training centre at Leamington Spa.



There she will live with a new family and attend the training school each week day. Over the next few weeks she will be introduced to the harness, learn the art of guiding: negotiating obstacles, road safety, guiding on to buses and trains, finding stairs and lifts, learning routes and routines and having a willingness to work.

I understand that only around two thirds of the dogs successfully complete the training.

If successful the final stage will be to match Tilly with a suitable new owner (strong and fast walking!).

I have had regular training guidance from Guide Dogs and a huge amount of interest and support from the village; thank you.

I won't see Tilly again and I dearly hope that she is successful and look forward to the progress updates I will receive over the next few months.

Sue Keen

This is the first issue of The Gossip Tree by new 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 December issue contact us via email:

fmgosiptree@gmail.com or phone **01747 812195**

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

Submissions for the December issue by Friday 15th November please.

The views expressed in this publication by contributors are not necessarily those of the Editors or of the Committee of The Gossip Tree.