



# THE GOSSIP TREE

News & Views from the Parish of FONTMELL MAGNA

August 2024  
Issue 365

## FONTMELL FRIENDSHIP GARDEN

The garden continues to grow and develop in its new location. It is looking lovely with the later blooms arriving. The poppies have been taken away to dry for seeds for next year and we will continue to collect sweet pea seeds and cosmos seeds as they come to the end of their seasons.

I have ordered salvias, aster and rudbeckia to plug the holes for later flowering while we will continue to enjoy cosmos, dahlia, salvia, hypericum, lavender and lilies.

Thank you to everyone who continues to help with the maintenance and watering of the garden.

## HERE ARE THE POTTER AND NATTER SESSIONS UNTIL THE END OF AUGUST

Tuesday 23.7 9.30-10.30 to prepare for the Happy Gathering club visit the next day

FRIDAY 2.8 - 11.30-12.30

FRIDAY 9.8 - earlier time of 9.30-10.30

THURSDAY 15.8 - 9.30-10.30

FRIDAY 23.8 - 11.30-12.30

From 6.9.24 - back to every Friday from 11.30-12.30 and we will be joined by the students from Clayesmore senior school and the prep school once more and will continue to plan sessions with St Andrew's School and the Under Fives.

Thank you to everyone as always who helps in so many ways in the garden and the cafes - none of this would happen without all your help and I am very grateful.



## POP UP CAFES

FONTMELL MAGNA VILLAGE HALL

In aid of the Fontmell Friendship Garden 3-5 pm  
All welcome - £2.50 for adults, £1.00 for children

Contactsianhighnam@gmail.com

01747811028

7th August, 21st August, 4th September

## Notices – August 2024

St. Andrew's Church - Services for August

4th 0900 Church Breakfast—Village Hall

11th 0930 Worship for all

18th 0930 Sung Communion

25th 0930 Worship for All

Parish Council Meeting

Next PC meeting

Tues 17th September 2024 in the village hall at 1830. Tea and coffee will be served from 6.00pm

Parish clerk: Katie Cooper

[clerk@fontmellmagnapc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@fontmellmagnapc.co.uk)

Local Councillor—Jane Somper

Email: [cllrjane.somper@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:cllrjane.somper@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)

Tel: 07710 395359

Village Shop & Post Office

Normal opening hours:

Mon - Fri 8.00am - 5.00pm

Sat 8.30am - 2.00pm

Sun 9.00am - 11.00am

Enquiries: 811201

**Hillarnias Tearooms - Winter Hours**

Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9-5pm

Saturdays 9-2pm

Tuesday, Thursday & Sunday—Closed

Private hire available

The Tea Room Crafters

Enquiries: Jenny White 812042

The Fontmell

Arnie & Sarah

Enquiries: 812208

Fontmell Magna Toddler Group & Under 5s

Enquiries: 812773

Iwerne Valley Walking Group

No walk in August.

Helen English 01747 853472

Bell-ringing

Enquiries: Caroline Rhodes 812002

**Fontmell St Andrew - Fundraising - Just Giving Page LIVE:**

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/fontmellmagnachurch>

### **Events in the Village Hall**

Fontmell Friendship Garden—Pop up Café

Contact Sian Highnam 811028 or  
garden.fmvh@mail.com

#### Sunday Breakfast

1st Sunday of the month  
Enquiries: Sue Keen 812282  
Email: [susanannekeen@gmail.com](mailto:susanannekeen@gmail.com)

#### Archive Society

3rd Thursday of each month in the village hall  
4.00 to 5.30pm. Enquiries: Roger Hillman 811878

#### Fontmell Magna & District Garden Club

Enquiries: Sue Chippington 811520  
[sue.chippington@outlook.com](mailto:sue.chippington@outlook.com)

#### Fontmell Magna Art Club

Meetings weekly on Tuesdays between 2-4pm.  
Enquiries: Sandra Jelbart 812468

#### Carpet Bowls Club

Thursdays 7.00-9.00pm  
Enquiries: Derek Bone 812505

#### Dru Yoga

Friday mornings at 0930 and 1100  
Enquiries: Kirsty Elliot 829281  
[Kirsty@vhadevelopments.co.uk](mailto:Kirsty@vhadevelopments.co.uk)

#### Pilates

Mon 1730-1930 Tues 1000-1100.  
STOTT Pilates Matwork with props Enquiries: Vicci  
Gillett 07940 961221 [stablebodies@gmail.com](mailto:stablebodies@gmail.com)

#### Pilates with Sam Whitford – Monday mornings term-time

*Mondays 10.30 to 11.30am. Contact Sam Whitford  
07740 906515 email: [s.whitford@btinternet.com](mailto:s.whitford@btinternet.com)*

#### Taekwon-do

Friday 5.30 to 6.30—suitable for adults and children  
from 6 years. Enquiries:  
Sam Donohoo 07388 342625 or  
[sam.donohoo@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sam.donohoo@hotmail.co.uk)

#### Tennis court

Booking: Louise Murchie, 27 Orchard Close –  
[murchie25@btinternet.com](mailto:murchie25@btinternet.com) Adults £1 per hour,  
Children/Students 50p per hour

#### **To book the Hall, please contact :**

**Sian Highnam on 811028 or email  
[bookings.fmvh@mail.com](mailto:bookings.fmvh@mail.com)**

### **RIDE & STRIDE SEPTEMBER 15TH 2024**

We go again as the top Dorset Church last year.

There will be sponsorship forms in St Andrew's Church, the Fontmell Shop and the pub The Fontmell to make a sponsorship donation.

For more information please contact David Fangen

Email: [dfangen@ol.com](mailto:dfangen@ol.com)

Thanks David

### **A Pre- loved fashion extravaganza –**

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2024 10-3pm. Fontmell Magna Village Hall.**

In September the above event is being organised. During July anyone who wants to submit details of items that can be sold on their behalf - clothing and accessories (hats, shoes, scarves) please contact Sue Morgan at [susanheatley1@gmail.com](mailto:susanheatley1@gmail.com)

The item must be in very good condition, CLEAN with details of size and/ brand/or designer name. To set the price it is recommended that looking at comparable online selling sites for clothing and accessories will assist. Selling will be on a 50/50 base i.e. 50% to the item owner and 50% towards the St Andrew's Church (FM) for the roof repairs, or if the item is donated for 100% towards the church fundraiser – this would be welcomed.

So de-clutter that wardrobe, let go!! Help others whilst helping yourself and refresh your collection by putting the date in your diary now.

In the first instance, please contact Sue Morgan ([susanheatley1@gmail.com](mailto:susanheatley1@gmail.com)) preferably with a photograph of the item alongside the detail and your set price. Drop off dates are to be fixed in advance of the sale day. Planning is now in hand and any offers of help for the day would be most appreciated, we are also looking for

Hangers

Clothes rails

Mirrors – large or smaller for accessories table

Mannequins or Torsos/dressmaker dummies

Thank you in advance

Shelley Dunmore, Sian Highnam, Sue Jones, Sue Morgan

### **IWERNE VALLEY WALKING GROUP—JULY WALK**

On the 22nd June nine adults and two dogs met by The Lamb pub in the lovely village of Hindon for the sunset walk. Up the road we walked past the church then onto the footpath that joined an ancient bridleway. It was quite long but with a gentle incline at the end where we followed a lane for a short distance then entered a sloping field. The terrain wasn't easy so we were quite a while descending to join another lane. A footpath took us uphill past two chain-tethered ponies. One enjoyed a polo mint but our member only had one so the other was a bit grumpy.

A short way on we stopped for our picnic and were soon entertained by a variety of bird song. Skylarks and thrushes flew around, undisturbed by our presence. The sun was still large and sinking slowly. After about thirty minutes, refreshed, we continued our walk downwards towards the village. Over a large barley field we walked on a wide footpath, then a lane led us to the village school and the road back to our cars. We were so lucky with the weather and the obliging sunset. Pauline





## News from St Andrew's Church

Work has continued in the churchyard with repairs completed to the path and to the railings, gate and archway. The base of the oak porch doors have also been repaired. The grass is being cut regularly and borders set aside for wild flowers. Next will be work on some of the trees and repairs to the walls. The faculty application ('church planning permission') for the re-leading and insulation of the South Aisle roof has been completed and submitted. Fundraising continues: the Friday coffee mornings have continued to attract a regular clientele and thank you to the good people of Church Close for holding a Yard Sale for us. The D'Cruz Trio held a lively concert in the church on a warm summer evening on 18 July and raised approximately £150 (before Gift Aid) for us; the other half of the retiring collection going to another good cause. At the end of another school year, St Andrew's school held a 'leavers' service' in the church on 23 July, wishing well to pupils heading to 'the big school'. In August we have the second Lunchtime concert on 9<sup>th</sup>, the Summer Tea Party on 17<sup>th</sup>. A meeting of the 'fundraising group' will be held in August to plan our programme for the start of 2025.

## TEDDY BEARS' PICNIC

After a slow start, in wonderful weather, the Teddy Bear Picnic was enjoyed by all who came on Sunday 28 July. Thankfully there were some children who seemed to enjoy themselves: it was lovely to have a fundraiser with children involved! Thanks Mums and Dads and grandparents. 'Big Ted' made an appearance and was chased around in a game of 'hide and seek' and there was a raffle and a guess the name of the bear competition. The 'grown ups' also gave a rendition of Teddy Bear's Picnic! The highlight of the afternoon was the Teddy parachute jump, although most jumpers did so free fall. Thanks to Uncles Marin, Roger and Richard for the ingenious dropping device. There were no serious injuries and plasters and bravery awards were on hand. I am glad to say that the event raised around £100 for the Church Fabric Appeal.

Update on the Friday Coffee Mornings, that started in May and run to the end of September. The proceeds have now passed the £500 mark, so well done and thank you to all involved. Please do come along and perhaps 'bring a friend'.



## GARDEN TEA PARTY AND DUCK RACE

Please join us at Hurdles Farm, West Street, Fontmell Magna on Saturday August 17th from 3pm to 5pm for a garden tea party and duck race to raise funds for St Andrew's Church for the roof repairs.

Tickets are £5.00 a head, payable on the door and ducks will be available to purchase for £5.00 each for the afternoon racing.

Parking is available at the property, weather permitting. The site is accessible and there will be garden games for children.

Please secure a place at the party by e mailing Sian Highnam on [sianhighnam@gmail.com](mailto:sianhighnam@gmail.com) or phone 01747 811028 by August 10th for catering purposes.

Sian Highnam





## FRIDAY LUNCHTIME CONCERTS

**ST ANDREW'S CHURCH,  
FONTMELL MAGNA**

**'UNDER AN HOUR'**

*Please do join our Coffee Morning in the church  
(10 am to 12 noon) before each of these concerts.*

**Both at 12.15**

**9 August Charlotte Collier and  
Caroline D'Cruz-English Song**

**20 September Caroline D'Cruz, Allison  
Gosney (oboe) and Tim Smithers  
(cello)-music for oboe, cello and  
piano**

*No admission charge or tickets for any of these  
concerts. For each there will be a voluntary retiring  
collection in aid of St Andrew's Church Fabric Fund.*

## Child Okeford Art Trail 2024 Friday 23rd to Monday 26th August 2024 11 am to 4 pm daily

Our beautiful village once again offers a warm welcome to the annual Trail, bringing art to our doorsteps and showcasing the artists and craftspeople within our neighbourhood. We've 21 talented artists across four venues exhibiting in their own homes, studios and community spaces this year, **enabling you to view and purchase** a varied collection of arts and crafts. The venues are located within walking distance of the village centre making it accessible for walking or cycling around our picturesque village.

Some of the artists exhibiting in the Community Centre include Martin Brierley, a painter who works in oils on board: he is inspired by land, sea and sky. Also, ceramicist Gaynor Waring who works in various clays and uses smoke-firing methods to create beautiful objects rooted in the local ancient landscape. Plus Karina Gill, a notable Dorset silverware and jewellery designer.

Rob Adams our local plein air oil painter will be in his Clock Cottage Venue alongside artist Sue Fawthrop.

Diane Ablitt will be exhibiting at the Old School House. She is an artist who likes to strip an image of unnecessary detail but still keep a strong design and create flat poster-like pieces reminiscent of a screen print. She will be joined by Kathy Clarke who uses the process of Reduction Lino Printing, which involves cutting away the Lino after each colour is added to the reverse impression of the design.

There will be a group of thirteen artists in the Village Hall where local charity SERO (raising money for Julia's House Children's Hospice) will be offering light refreshments, homemade cakes and sandwiches throughout the four days. Their member Julie Little creates affordable paintings in various media with all profits going to SERO.

Also in the Village Hall will be Sue Bates a talented watercolour artist who uses no pencil before she paints preferring to dive in with colour and negotiate the work by using the spaces in between the subjects. Rachel Chenery will be showing her stoneware pottery designed for home and daily life. Each piece is individual and she is constantly developing her designs and range of ceramics. Diane Mary Alice will return with her paintings inspired by the Dorset countryside and her delightful upcycled and reupholstered children's chairs.

With such a wide variety of artists, from painters to jewellers, photographers to potters and much more, there is something to interest everyone. The trail provides an opportunity to meet local artists in person in their creative worlds and discover new and surprising aspects of their work.

Follow us on social media for artist profiles and more information about the trail and pick up a leaflet from a variety of locations for details about all participants. You can find us on Facebook at Child Okeford Art Trail and on Instagram at coat.24



### Compost Corner

I was very pleased to welcome a self-seeded Verbascum olypticum into a wilder part of our garden. These are statuesque plants and it had reached almost 7ft and was just about to flower when ....argh! Disaster struck. The plant was infested by the brightly coloured caterpillars of the mullein moth and they were happily feasting on the soft, downy leaves; it looked a very sad and sorry sight.

The mullein moth is a nocturnal insect and not one that you'd necessarily spot as it's a dull pale brown and when resting looks a bit like an old twig. In its caterpillar stage it's much more visible being a striking yellow and black and it's certainly a voracious eater feasting on verbascums, buddleia and figwort. Once it's demolished the plant, the caterpillars pupate in the soil beneath and can lie there for many years before emerging once more to start the lifecycle again.

If the plant had been a prized specimen I may have been a bit more concerned about its demise, so I left it alone and before long there was only one place to which it could be relegated: compost corner.

Alison Main



### Village Weather for May & June 2024

Comp. Figures	May 2024	June 2024
Rain	90.7mm, most 30.2mm on 13th May. 16 rain days	17.1mm Most 5.5mm on 13th June 8 rain days
Sunshine	hours Avg hrs	hrs Avg hrs
Max mean temp. (highest on 12th )	°C	°C
Min mean temp. (lowest on )	°C	C

This August issue of The Gossip Tree was edited by: **Graham Eames.**

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

Please would regular contributors for the issue contact me via email:

**(fmgossiptree@gmail.com)**

Alternatively, contact the **Chairman, Barbara Humphreys**, email: **blueletterbox@btinternet.com** for further information.

**Submissions for the September issue by Thursday 22nd August 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 always like to receive The Gossip Tree by email, please let us know at **fmgossiptree@gmail.com***