



# THE GOSSIP TREE

News & Views from the Parish of FONTMELL MAGNA

September  
2024  
Issue 366

## 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

## FULL FIBRE BROADBAND IS COMING TO FONTMELL MAGNA

Wessex Internet will be bringing full fibre broadband to Fontmell Magna with work having already started on putting the fibre network in place, with installations expected to start in November 2024.

Full fibre broadband offers a faster, more reliable internet connection and is part of a government funded project to offer an alternative to the existing copper network provided by OpenReach.

A community meeting will be held in the Village Hall in September (details to follow soon) to let villagers know all about the project but if you have any questions before that or would like a visit from one of the sales team, please contact [graham.eames@wessexinternet.com](mailto:graham.eames@wessexinternet.com)



## Notices – September 2024

St. Andrew's Church - Services for September

1st 0900 Church Breakfast—Village Hall

8th 0930 Service for infant baptism (all welcome)

15th 0930 Sung Communion

22nd 0930 Harvest Festival (Holy Communion)

29th No service at St Andrews, benefice service at Shroton at 10am

### 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 - 4.00pm

Sun Closed

Enquiries: 01747 811201

### Hillarnias Tearoom & Gift Shop

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday

10am-4pm Private hire available

### The Tea Room Crafters

Meet at The Writer's Block, Clayesmore School

2nd & 4th Wednesday of the month

2pm to 3.30pm

Enquiries: Jenny White 01747 812042

### The Fontmell

Arnie & Sarah

Enquiries: 01747 812208

### Fontmell Magna Toddler Group & Under 5s

Enquiries: 01747 812773

### Iwerne Valley Walking Group

Saturday September 21st a.m. from Ibberton, near Blandford. For further details, contact Claire on 07708 473568

Helen English 01747 853472

### Bell-ringing

Enquiries: Caroline Rhodes 01747 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

Returns in 2023

Contact Sian Highnam 01747 811028 or  
garden.fmvh@mail.com

#### Sunday Breakfast

1st Sunday of the month  
Enquiries: Sue Keen 01747 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 01747 811878

#### Fontmell Magna & District Garden Club

Enquiries: Sue Chippington 01747 811520  
[sue.chippington@outlook.com](mailto:sue.chippington@outlook.com)

#### Fontmell Magna Art Club

Meetings weekly on Tuesdays between 2-4pm.  
Enquiries: Sandra Jelbart 01747 812468

#### Carpet Bowls Club

Thursdays 7.00-9.00pm  
Enquiries: Derek Bone 01747 812505

#### Dru Yoga

Friday mornings at 0930 and 1100  
Enquiries: Kirsty Elliot 01747 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 01747 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



## **You are invited to a Bridge and Afternoon Tea Charity Event**



**On Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2024**

**From 2:30pm – 5:30pm**

**At Fontmell Magna Village Hall**

**A pleasant afternoon of bridge, tea and cakes and raffles in aid  
of raising funds for St Andrew's Church Roof in Fontmell  
Magna**

**Entry Fee is £20 per player (booking as a pair)  
£80 per table of four**

**For further information contact: [howcrofrita@gmail.com](mailto:howcrofrita@gmail.com)**

**07766 706210**

**For booking a place follow the link or use QR code below**



**or request a form and return it to me once completed.**

**With the kind support of Dorset Bridge♣**



The **FONTMELL CRAFTERS** are a group of ladies that meet twice a month for a cuppa and a craft session.

You can find us at The Writer's Block at Clayesmore School from 2-3.30 on the 2nd & 4th Wednesday each month. At present we support two charities, Fish & Chip Babies and Teddies for Tragedy, you can read online about both of these worthwhile causes.

Recently a call came out from Dorset & Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service for teddies. We were able to supply the Shaftesbury Fire Service with 23 Teddies knitted by various members of our group. If you are a person who has not knitted for years but feel you would like to join us please come along or you may have other craft expertise you could share with us, it's always good to learn new skills.

If you would like more information please contact Jenny White 01747 812042 or Sue Jones 01747 811822. It would be nice to hear from you soon



## GARDEN TEA PARTY AND DUCK RACE

We were blessed with a dry and sunny afternoon for the recent tea party and duck race at our house to raise funds for the church roof. Thank you to the 74 villagers and friends who came along to chatter, enjoy tea and take part in the race.

Chris had cleared the river brilliantly which ensured the ducks raced along and were caught well at the finish line by Jim and the children.

We had two races, one won by Annie Smale and one by Robert Wellen.

Keri Jones from This Is Alfred popped down and presented a lovely write up and interview of the afternoon.

With thanks to everyone's generosity and gift aid - we raised £825 for the church roof appeal. Siân Highnam



## GOOD NEWS FROM ST ANDREWS

If you have not attended one of our Church Breakfasts on the first Sunday of the month please do; good food and chat. One of our younger attendees thinks it's the "Best Church Breakfast Ever", thanks Olivia. Over July and August a series of repairs have been completed in the churchyard: the gate, archway and railings have been preserved and painted, the stone walls have been repaired, the path repaired and trees cut back (oh, and the wooden outside doors in the porch have been mended). As part of our 'living churchyard' the dead tree has been cut up and left as a 'bug hutch' and the edges of the grass are looking good with wild flowers. On the fabric front, it has been arranged that Colin Avery, stonemason, will start work on the repairs to the North Aisle pinnacles on 16 September. The work should take between 6-8 weeks to complete. During this time access to the churchyard and church will be unaffected, but please use common sense and take care if you go on the North side of the outside of the church near the scaffolding. On the fundraising side, the Friday morning coffee mornings continue to be popular and will now continue to be weekly in the church until the end of October (so long as the weather is mild), and over the winter will be held on a monthly basis in villagers' homes until returning to the Church in the Spring. A second lunchtime concert was well attended on 9 August (thank you Caroline D'Cruz and Charlotte Collier) and a huge thank you to Siân and Jim Highnam for hosting a lovely summer tea party and duck race in their lovely house and garden on 17 August, which raised around £660. I am also delighted to say that the Dorset Historic Churches Trust has awarded us a grant of £6000 towards our fabric repairs, thank you so much. Plans are starting for Christmas and 2025, the two big events hoped to be staged are a Christmas Tree Festival and a Summer Fete; both of which will need volunteers to help – more on that next month, but before then do contact me if you wish.

**Robert Wellen (Churchwarden)**

01747 811070 or 07817 633584 (no signal at home)



## FONTMELL FRIENDSHIP GARDEN

August has been a month of sun and rain which has ensured the blooms have flourished

There are plenty of dahlias, ammi, strawflowers, malope to pick - please help yourselves when you are passing by.

The garden has been maintained throughout the month by lots of volunteers who help on a daily watering rota and/or in the garden on Friday mornings. The contribution from the volunteers is immense and I am so very grateful. It ensures the space always looks lovely and inviting, supported brilliantly by Derek and Liz's superb maintenance of the grass, banks and hedges.

## POTTER AND NATTER SESSIONS

The potter and natter session in September are on

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 5th 9.30-10.30

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 13th 11.45-12.50 with Clayesmore students

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 20th 11.45-12.50 with Clayesmore students

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 27th ...potentially students only In these sessions, we will be completing Autumn planting - removing the spent blooms, planting perennials for next year and starting the Spring bulb planting.

Anyone is welcome to join in and September marks the return of cakes and hot chocolate post session! Please just drop me an email if you would like to join in. The gardening is not strenuous and volunteers can pick a job to suit their needs.

## AUTUMN GARDEN PROJECTS

I am meeting Mr Dan King Head of St Andrew's School at the start of term and we will be thinking about projects for the children in our village school with village hall and garden activities.

Clayesmore Prep and senior school will also be involved all year and I will share the plans for the term once we have all met and will have a time table of activities for the October edition of the Gossip Tree.

## POP UP CAFE

The LAST cafe of the season is on Wednesday September 4th from 3-5 pm. Thank you to everyone who has helped over the season in so many ways and to everyone who has popped in. The funds raised make a big difference to the garden and I am currently placing orders for new plants and bulbs thanks to the funds raised from the Spring fair and pop up cafes.

Regards, Siân





## A Fontmell Friends Event 'NEVER LATE FOR SCHOOL'

An entertaining evening with  
**TIM LAYCOCK**

Fontmell's own folk musician, actor and storyteller

The captivating evening will include performances of some of the songs, stories and poems that he associates with the village.

"You will not want this evening to end, it's magic...."

7.00 pm Wednesday 9th October, Fontmell Village Hall

Doors open 6.15 pm for pop-up bar and soft drinks.

Tickets £3.00 from Fontmell Village Shop or £4.00 on the door.

## IWERNE MINSTER CRICKET CLUB

The recently re-formed Iwerne Minster CC have a home fixture against Broughton Gifford on Sunday 8th September. It will be a 40 over match starting at 1pm at IMCC ground in Iwerne Minster.

If you are interested in joining the club, please contact Andrew Osborne in [aojo1980@gmail.com](mailto:aojo1980@gmail.com).

## Compost Corner

Slugs have hit the news of late, and our gardens. It appears that all the wet weather has brought them out in there droves - my daughter reckoned she had at least 40 six inch specimens on her terrace one morning. How she, or rather her husband, dealt with them is too grisly to recount here, but they didn't survive another dawn. I've heard sad and sorry tales about dahlias being munched to the ground before a single bloom appeared, crops of lettuce...non existent, even the humble radish - a disaster. Deary me, such a sorry state of affairs. But not entirely. Those lucky enough to have resident hedgehogs, frogs, slow worms or ducks (or raccoons if you live in the U.S.) haven't fared so badly as these garden visitors are all voracious slug eaters, so no need for the exasperated gardener to resort to the environmentally questionable slug pellet which of course will not only destroy slugs but also other animals in the food chain....hedgehogs, frogs and so on. There are some hard choices to be made when gardening- who said it was a straight-forward hobby?!

Alison Main



## FRIDAY LUNCHTIME CONCERT

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH,  
FONTMELL MAGNA

'UNDER AN HOUR'

Please do join our Coffee Morning in the church  
(10 am to 12 noon) before the concert

at 12.15

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

No admission charge or tickets. There will be a  
voluntary retiring collection in aid of St Andrew's Church  
Fabric Fund.

## St Andrew's Parish Church Fontmell Magna



**HOLY COMMUNION**  
**Sunday 22 September**  
**2024 at 9.30 a.m.**

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come  
Raise the Song of Harvest Home!

Refreshments after the Service  
Voluntary Non-perishable donations  
welcome for the Gillingham Foodbank

## HARVEST HOME—IWERNE MINSTER

There will be a service of choral evensong to celebrate Harvest Festival on Wednesday 25th September at 5pm in St Mary's Parish Church, Iwerne Minster.

There will be an octet of hand picked singers to celebrate this ancient and much loved act of worship.

## Village Weather for July 2024

A wet first half of July ending dry and hot

Comp. Figures	July 2024	July 2023
Rain	89.3mm, most 20.5mm on 8th July. 13 rain days	125.6mm
Sunshine	hours Avg hrs	hrs Avg hrs
Max mean temp. (highest on 12th )	°C	°C
Min mean temp. (lowest on )	°C	C

This September 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:

**([fmgossiption@gmail.com](mailto:fmgossiption@gmail.com))**

Alternatively, contact the **Chairman, Barbara Humphreys**, email: [blueletterbox@btinternet.com](mailto:blueletterbox@btinternet.com) for further information.

**Submissions for the October issue by Tuesday 24th September 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 [fmgossiption@gmail.com](mailto:fmgossiption@gmail.com)