



THE GOSSIP TREE

News & Views from the Parish of FONTMELL MAGNA

The Garden Club is delighted to sponsor this edition of The Gossip Tree

August
2017

Issue 282

Garden Club

We have just had our annual outing, which was a visit to Athelhampton House on Tuesday 13th June. We were fortunate to have a beautiful summer's day, and the Tudor house and its gardens looked wonderful against the clear blue sky. After a very interesting tour round the house, followed by a cup of coffee, we were free to wander round the gardens before meeting together for an excellent lunch.



After lunch, we had the opportunity to revisit the house in our own time and to explore the rest of the gardens. We had two bonus events: first, our visit coincided with the Athelhampton Flower Festival, and the Owermoigne Flower Club had floral displays and exhibits in many of the rooms, and all round the gardens; second, a rally of Stanley steam cars arrived at the house in the afternoon, and parked on the lawn.

This year our Annual Show will take place in the Village Hall on Saturday 12th August. Most of the entries are for members, but as usual there is a photograph and a painting competition for non-members, entitled "Friend or Foe in the Garden". In addition, we have a new class for non-members, called Matchbox Challenge, which we hope will appeal particularly (but not exclusively!) to younger competitors. The challenge is to see who can get the most different items into a standard size matchbox. We hope to see lots of entries, from all ages, and we look forward to seeing you all at the Show. All you have to do is bring your entry to the Village Hall on Saturday 12th August between 9.30 and 11.30am and ask for an entry card.

The Club has a full programme of meetings through the winter, starting in October, and we shall be covering topics of interest to gardeners from both a practical and a theoretical point of view. We welcome new members to the Club; our Committee would always like to hear from anybody who would like

to come and play an active role in helping to run the Club.

For more details please contact Robert

McCurrach
(Chair) 812077
or Sue Keen
(Secretary)
812282.



Notices – August 2017

St. Andrew's Church

Sun	6th	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
Sun	13th	9.30am	Family Service
Sun	20th	9.30am	Holy Communion with choir
Sun	27th	9.30am	Holy Communion (CW)

Open House each Friday 10.30am - 12 noon

Prayers each Tuesday at 9.00am

St Mary's Church, Shroton

Fri 25th at 7.00pm - dedication of the newly re-hung bells by the Bishop of Sherborne

Parish Council

No meeting this month. Next meeting Monday 11th September in the School Hall.

Acting Parish Clerk: Robin East 812349

The Surgery

Mon - Thur 8.00am - 12 noon.

Enquiries 812058

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 – Opening Hours

Bar 11.00am to 10.00pm (Sun, Mon & Tue) 11.00pm (Wed & Thur), 12.00 midnight (Fri & Sat)

Kitchen 12.00 noon to 2.00pm (2.30pm Fri & Sat) & 6.00 to 9.00pm (9.30pm Fri & Sat); Sun 12.00 noon to 8.00pm.

Enquiries 811441

Iwerne Valley Walking Group

Sat 19th, starting at 10.00am from The Grove Arms, Ludwell, nr. Shaftesbury SP7 9ND.

Leader: Judy Westgate (811302)

Bell-ringing

Fri 4th - Visiting Ringers 2.45 to 3.30pm

Tue 15th - Practice 7.30 to 8.30pm

Details Chris Bellers 811734

Gillingham & Shaftesbury Agricultural Show

Wed 16th between 8.30am and 6.30pm at the Motcombe Turnpike Showground. Free bus service at 9.20am by The Crown, returning at 4.00pm.

Bin Collection Dates

W/C 7th & 21st - Recycling & Food

W/C 14th & 28th - Rubbish & Food

St Andrew's School

Mon 4th September - Autumn Term starts

Village Hall events - see over

BodyMobile Sports and remedial massage, Thai yoga massage and Barral Institute Visceral, Neuro-meningeal fascial work is now at Trinity Practice, 42 Bell street, Shaftesbury Monday and Wednesday 3.00 to 6.00pm.

For bookings with Paula Edwards call reception at 01747 851726.

Events in the Village Hall

Garden Club Annual Show

Sat 12th from 3.00pm.
Bring your entry between 9.30 and 11.30am on the day.
Details Robert McCurrach 812077

Fete Planning Meeting

Wed 30th at 7.30pm.
Details Hannah Lister 811568

Pilates

Mon 6.30 to 7.30pm.
STOTT Pilates Matwork with props.
Details Vicci Gillett 07940 961221 www.stable-bodies.co.uk

also
Tues 9.15 to 10.15am and 10.30 to 11.30am.
Details Lyn O'Neill 07989 192424

Fontmell Magna Art Club

Tues 2.00 to 4.00pm.
Details Sandra Jelbart 812468

Carpet Bowls Club

Thursdays at 7.30pm.
Details Gerry Bone 811814

Dru Yoga

Fridays from 9.30 to 11.00am.
Details Louise Hull 01258 860381

Taekwon-do

Tuesdays 8.00 to 9.00pm.
Fridays 6.00 to 7.00pm.
Details Sam Donohoo 07584 039351

To book the Hall, call Catherine Allard on 812047 or email catherineallard1980@hotmail.co.uk

Parish Council Information

Would you like to be kept better informed about parish matters that could affect you? Normally, you might not find out about significant proposals other than at the PC meeting every two months, or in the monthly Gossip Tree. You might want more immediate information - for example, about changes to bus routes, road closures, contentious planning issues, changes of times of Parish Council meetings etc. If you would like to be kept so informed, please send an email to the Parish Clerk at clerk@fontmellmagnapc.co.uk and ask to be added to the PC email circulation list.

Robin East

Parish Council

The following items were discussed at the meeting held at 7.00pm on Monday 10th July 2017.

Public Questions

Bluebridge Communications. Dick Stainer said that every household in the parish had received a letter from the Neighbourhood Plan Project Group (NP Group) and the Parish Council. This letter explained that the recent consultation document was not from them and had not been sent to them. Consultation on the Neighbourhood Plan is still ongoing and everyone will have the opportunity to comment on the draft Plan when it is published in September. Gay Mole asked what criteria had been used by the NP Group in discounting site 12. Dick replied that, as part of the process, the NP Group had undertaken a 'call for sites' following which 15 sites had been put forward. Applying the same criteria to each site, four sites were short-listed, and these were put forward at the consultation event in April.

Vodafone base station. The PC had received a proposal from GallifordTry to site a base station, including a 17.5 metre mast, on land owned by Wessex Water at the sewage treatment plant. A question was raised as to why the church tower was not feasible. Barry Roberts confirmed that the matter had been discussed by the Parochial Church Council, but the tower window openings were too narrow and could not be adapted. Another question asked about emissions. The information available to the PC was that the risk of harmful emissions was minimal.

Other Public Questions. Peter Mole had questions having visited the A350 Improvements Consultation at Stourpaine. It was agreed to cover this under *Highways* below. Chris Bellers said he was pleased to note that painting of the Bedchester phone box had started, but this highlighted the need to repair the nearby noticeboard (owned by the PC). Cllr. East would deal with it.

Parish Council Meeting

The PC meeting started at 7.14pm. Six parish councillors were present, as were DCC Cllr. G. Carr-Jones and 32 members of the public. Apologies for absence from NDDC Cllr. C. Langham. There were no declarations of interest.

Minutes

The minutes of the last PC meeting on Monday 8th May were approved and signed.

Matters arising

Cllr. East said that the Bedchester phone box was being painted by a local resident (Paul Philips) free of charge (the PC is paying for the paint) and the PC thanked Paul for his work.

PC vacancy

Maggie Ayre has come forward for consideration as a parish councillor. The PC confirmed her co-option and she joined the other councillors. Cllr. Horstead said that Marianne Wheatley is returning as paid clerk

and RFO from Friday 1st September. The cost of this has been allowed for in the Precept.

County/District Cllrs' Report

Cllr. Carr-Jones said he did not have much to report, having only been elected in May. He is involved in setting up a joint committee of all the Dorset councils. The NDDC Cllr. reported that the council has been unable to prosecute fly-tippers and recommended the setting up of covert cameras where dumping is likely.

Development Control matters

None.

Finance

The acting RFO reported that the PC's accounts currently held £13,074.50 but this included £4,300 for the Neighbourhood Plan - this is mainly to pay the consultant's fees. The consultant is now charging VAT but this can be reclaimed by the PC. The PC agreed to revisit the review of the Financial Regulations when Marianne takes over as RFO. Cllr. Humphreys asked whether the PC needed to do more on risk management and contingency planning. This would also await Marianne's return.

Other Parish Matters

Highways

Cllr. East reported that the proposals put forward by Dorset Highways for the A350 did not include all the points he had discussed with Highways, and he is in ongoing discussions with them. Consultations on the A350/C13 had taken place at Stourpaine and Melbury Abbas; the consultation was now closed and the results awaited. Highways had advised that there would be no traffic calming on South Street as this would not pass a safety audit. This is despite evidence that, without any calming, it was not safe to walk beside the road. He is confident that we will get gates at the entrances to the village, and he hopes that the northern ones will be sited by the old cricket pavilion. Peter Mole said that it was lamentable that the views of the community were being ignored and that nothing could be done to make crossing the A350 safer. Michael Hobbs said that similar roads not far away had 20mph limits and that we ought to press for the same. Emma Reeman was concerned with people crossing the road, in particular children crossing after getting off the school bus. They frequently have to run across through gaps in the traffic. She has cleaned the 'children crossing' sign. Simon King pointed out that the Bluebridge Communication traffic management survey suggested that "there is more than enough time to cross the road safely".

Cllr. East said that the recent incident involving an ambulance stuck in Melbury highlighted the problems of the one-way system for HGVs. A tripartite agreement between Dorset, Somerset and Wiltshire was needed to get a joined-up solution to traffic between the

M4 and Poole. As far back as 1933, DCC had said that the A350 was not suitable.

Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr. Humphreys reported that a Conservation Area Appraisal, justifying Fontmell's status as a Conservation Area, had been submitted to NDDC but there had so far been no response; the PC would chase this up. Barry Roberts and John Knight were congratulated by the PC on the document. The NP Group had discussed the Bluebridge Communication document and a letter had been sent to all parish residents stating that this consultation had not been produced by the NP Group; the PC thanked Dick Stainer for supplying the paper and envelopes for the letter. The Neighbourhood Plan work has now been running for two years and it is hoped to produce the draft plan in mid-August so it could be discussed by the PC at the September meeting. The draft Plan would then be issued for consultation by the whole Parish community so everyone would have plenty of opportunity to comment. Cllr. Carr-Jones said that NDDC's priority was the Local Plan, so there were limited resources to consider the many neighbourhood plans that were being submitted; patience would be needed. Cllr. Humphreys asked whether the 'experts' who had produced the Conservation Area appraisal could have a role in helping with future planning applications, and the PC agreed this would be considered in due course. The PC agreed to the Archive Society having access to Parish Online for the purpose of producing footpath leaflets.

Unified Parish website

Cllr. Roberts said that work is getting underway. The PC website may amalgamate with the Archive Society's. Cllr. Humphreys asked that the website also include the needs of the Village Shop.

Liaison with the Police

The Police would be asked to send a representative once a year to update the PC on police matters affecting the community.

Community Defibrillator

Cllr. East asked for feedback from residents as to whether one was needed and, if so, where it would be located.

Village Shop

The PC agreed to a sign for the shop, similar to the one for the village hall, going up by the Gossip Tree.

Bedchester Allotments

DCC own these allotments but have asked if the PC would lease them (for £1 a year) and manage them, in return for receiving rents from allotment holders. The PC will investigate the position.

There was no other business.

The meeting closed at 8.29pm.

The next PC meeting will be on Monday 11th September in the School Hall (time to be confirmed).

North Dorset Wildlife Trust - Summer Walks and Events

Thursday 20th July: Mindfulness Naturally – run by Briony Baxter, DWT's Community Conservation Officer.

Meet at 2.30pm at the Community Orchard, New Road, Broad Oak, Sturminster Newton. Booking is essential as there are only a few places remaining.

Saturday 12th August: Evening Bat Walk with local bat expert, Chris Dieck.

Meet at 8.30pm at Stour Meadows car park, Blandford Forum. £3 charge – all proceeds to the local Bat Group. Booking is essential as numbers are strictly limited.

Please contact Roy Davies on 01258 880699 for both these events.

Open Air Theatre at Springhead Gardens

Thursday 3rd August at 7.30pm - Miracle Theatre presents The Third Policeman by Flann O'Brien.

With its hilarious characters, streaks of dark humour and unforgettable plot twist, The Third Policeman earned its author a worldwide reputation as one of Ireland's comic geniuses. His scorching wit and delicious turn of phrase, combined with Miracle's delight in physical comedy and absurdity, has to be a winning combination. Fans of this cult classic and newcomers alike should expect the unexpected! Suitable for 8 years +

The play will be performed in Springhead's amphitheatre and the gardens will be open for picnicking from 6.30pm. There will be a bar in the interval. Please bring torches, chairs, rugs etc.

Tickets £12, £10 (Friends of Springhead), £8 (U 18), £32 family (4 – max 2 adults). To book please send a cheque payable to The Springhead Trust to the above address.

For further information see www.springheadtrust.org.uk, 01747 811853 or info@springheadtrust.org.uk. You can also book online via www.artsreach.co.uk.

Village Fete

Just a quick reminder that we are still looking for volunteers to help out with the stalls at this year's Fete. Please let us know if you can spare an hour or two during the afternoon. We are also accepting donations for the bottle stall, tombola and Grand Draw, as well as any old china you have for our new crockery-smashing stall. Contributions may be delivered to Sue Mercer, Hannah Lister or Alix Austen. Please contact Alix on 812690 if you want to get involved.

If you wish to donate bottles and /or unwanted crockery to the Fete please deliver to Fosse Cottage, 46, Church Street. If I'm not in at the time, please leave in the porch. Sue Mercer

Harvest Scarecrows

We are looking forward to an exciting collection of scarecrows this year on the theme of Harvest and Medieval Farming, and if you can include recyclable or discarded materials, especially straw, that would be really good. If you were able to get to the wonderful Archive Exhibition last month then that should have inspired you. This year we have two prizes - for the under 12s a £10 token from Box of Allsorts (the toy shop) and for the 'grownups' a £25 token from Prime Cuts in Shaftesbury.

Good luck – we are looking forward to an interesting display around the village and the judging will probably be on the Friday evening 15th September.

Make sure you tell Barry where the scarecrow will be – Tel. 811906.



Iwerne Valley Walking Group

The venue for July's walk was the coast, meeting at Tyneham village. Eight hardy souls duly assembled in the car park and set out up to the ridge, heading east along the coast path towards Kimmeridge. The weather was ideal for walking with high cloud and a welcome breeze to cool us after our ascent to the top, during which we made a couple of brief pauses to admire the views! Here we had a choice of walks, some coming with us, whilst a couple walked along the higher ridge path to meet up later for lunch. We continued along the ridge before following the path down and along the edge of the cliffs until almost reaching the 'nodding donkey', just west of Kimmeridge. We then turned back inland again and back onto the top of the ridge, pausing at a good vantage point to admire the splendid views, before heading back and along a higher path.

It was about twelve thirty when we reached our picnic spot for a welcome lunch break and where our two, who had earlier split off from us, were waiting for us. Having eaten, we continued our journey back along the ridge towards Tyneham beach, dividing the group again as some wished to take the path back to the village & home. We continued along to the end of the ridge and a steep descent down to the coast and beach. Although one of our number had brought her bathing costume with her, she decided the water was just not quite inviting enough to take a dip as there was still quite a cold breeze! After our stop on the beach we headed back along the main track to the car park, taking a short diversion through the woods and arriving back from the woodland side, instead of via the main path. By that time, we all felt we had had a good walk, and would sleep well after all that sea air. We covered a total distance of 6.8 miles.

Malcolm Watkins

Village weather for June 2017



June started with an unsettled week then 15 dry days including some very hot sunny days with no cloud - cloud returned during the last week and rain on the 27th relieved the drought.

No thunder, hail or frost. 2 gales.

Comp. Figures	2017	2016
Rain (most 23.4 mm on 27th)	58.4 mm	77.3 mm
Sunshine	173.4 hr (av. 5.8)	86.0 hr
Max mean temp. (highest 30.7 °C on 21st)	21.6 °C	18.9 °C
Min mean temp. (lowest 5.1 °C on 4th)	10.7 °C	10.6 °C

Full Sturgeon Moon – Monday 7th August

The Full Moon in August is traditionally known as the Full Sturgeon Moon, because this was the time that the sturgeon of the Great Lakes were most readily caught. The Full Moon is also called the Full Green Corn Moon, the Wheat Cut Moon, the Moon When All Things Ripen and the Blueberry Moon.



On Monday 21st August, there is a solar eclipse. Parts of America will witness (weather permitting) a total eclipse but, here in Dorset, we will only see a partial eclipse. The moon will only cover the bottom left-hand part of the sun. The eclipse will start from 7.40pm and will reach its greatest extent at 8.05pm before the sun sets at 8.17pm.

Compost Corner

When my brother was a young schoolboy, he had no problem filling the long hot days of the summer holidays: he made long cycle rides to go fishing; climbed the huge elm trees opposite our house; or conducted various experiments - one memorable one was calculating the amount of

water in a lettuce by putting it through our grandmother's mangle.

These sorts of activities would doubtless be frowned upon now but there are things children can do outside which are both safe and absorbing...

- Make an assault course, with things to climb through and balance on;
- Make a water slide from a bit of plastic sheeting with the hose playing on it;
- Dens can easily be made from a few sticks and old sheets;
- Plan a treasure hunt with really challenging clues, and provide a prize;
- Co-opt a child to help with your weeding.....only joking.

Anyway, whatever you do, have a great summer holiday!
Alison Main

St Bartholomew's Day

24th August is traditionally the feast day of St. Bartholomew, one of the twelve apostles. He is reputed to have been flayed alive and crucified, head downward, in Armenia, having brought Christianity there. A number of weather sayings are associated with this day: "At St. Bartholomew, there comes cold dew." "If the twenty-fourth of August be fair and clear, then hope for a prosperous autumn that year."

Welcome – and farewell

We welcome to the village Darren and Vikki Eyres who have moved from Bournemouth to Grey Cottage, Parsonage Street. We also welcome Mark and Paula Edwards and their two cats Duffy and Marley who have moved from Barnet, North London, to Rose Cottage, Orchard Close; Mark loves photography and they both enjoy the outdoors. We hope they will all enjoy their new life in this beautiful part of Dorset.

We bid farewell to John Smalley who has moved back to the Southampton area. John worked in the nuclear industry and he and Marjorie (who sadly died last year) moved to Gundells, West Street, twenty-two years ago. Along with Marjorie he was an active member of the community with his membership of a bridge group, the bowls club and as a scratch golfer at Rushmore. He was deeply involved, as treasurer, with the village group that built the new Village Hall.

Continuing our series of articles featuring Bedchester.

Penn Hill Cottage and 81 Penn Ridge Cottage

The 1774 Ingham map shows there to be a dwelling on this site, though the present houses are more recent. The brick and flint Penn Hill Cottage appears to date from around 1860, while 81 Penn Ridge Cottage appears to be older. Until around the 1920's, three families, mainly of labourers, appear to have occupied the two cottages, each with three rooms.

Right hand part

This part of the cottage appears to have been occupied by Samuel Still (1817-1867) and an agricultural labourer, his wife Sarah (born 1822) and their seven children. By 1861, they appear to be living opposite Pipers Mill at 65 West Street.

Their place was taken by the Creasy (sometimes written as Cressy or Cresey) family. Stephen Creasy (1825-1911) was an agricultural labourer. With his first wife, Sarah née Andrews (1823-1885), he had five sons and two daughters. Two sons died in infancy, as did both daughters. The sons who survived were all agricultural labourers. After Sarah's death, Stephen married, in 1887, Mary Ann Plowman, a widow (born 1827-1910). By the time Stephen died, shortly after Mary's death, he was living in the Union Workhouse, Alcester (Shaftesbury). By 1911, the Creasy's three rooms appear to be occupied by Harriet Lawrence, 87 and her grandson, Harold Tuffin, 11.

Middle part

The middle part of the cottage was occupied by a number of different families. In 1851, it was Silas and Elizabeth Toogood (Silas was a tilemaker). In 1861, it was George and Sylvia Feltham, who went on to live at 58 or 59 West Street. In 1871, it was Robert and Eliza Mullins and, in 1881, it was Charles and Jane Tuffin. Charles was a butcher and, by 1891, he was living in Gossip Tree Cottage.

From at least 1891 until sometime after 1901, the three rooms were occupied by the Stone family. Edwin Tom Stone (1855-1937) was a bricklayer's labourer, later a bricklayer. He was married to Sarah Ann née Langley (1857-1934) and they had two daughters. By 1911, they had moved to Shillingstone, and their place was taken by Henry Jesse Rideout (1880-1953), a farm carter, and his wife Ada Louisa née Tucker (1886-1974). They had been married for 1 year and had no children.

Left hand part

The Frampton family lived here since at least 1851 until sometime before 1901. John Frampton (1795-1880) married Ann Tuffin (1806-1886). They had two daughters: Susannah (1842-1877) and Leah (1846-1923). Both were glovers. Susannah appears to have married in 1866 and moved away. Leah never appears to have married, but had three children; Edwin (1862-1918), Caroline (1865-1942) and Ellen (born 1870). By 1891, Leah was living in Bromley with her daughter Caroline, her son-in-law Peter Lullett and their children. This left Edwin, who by then had married Priscilla Gray (1867-1927). They had three sons, including Frederick George (1896-1916), and two daughters. By 1901, Edwin and his family were living at Bleeks (Bleax) Farm, Hartgrove and were still there in 1911.

Frederick George Frampton was an agricultural labourer and, in the 1911 census, was living with his uncle and aunt, Herbert and Emily Gray, at Harpitts Farm, East Stour. He was killed in action on 5th April 1916, aged 20. His war record does not survive, but he is recorded as having enlisted in Devizes, joining the 5th Wiltshires (service number 19209). He was one of 184 casualties suffered by his battalion on an attack on Turkish trenches at Falahiyeh, Iraq (then Mesopotamia). He is one of more than 40,500 casualties with no known grave commemorated on the Basra Memorial (Panel 30 and 64). He was posthumously awarded the 1915 star, the British War medal and Victory medal, and is commemorated on the Fontmell War Memorial. His brother Bertram also served in the war (with the Dorsets).



By 1901, the three rooms previously occupied by the Framptons were the home of Frederick Hiscock (1870-1932), an engine fitter born in Poole, with his wife Martha Ellen nee Jesse (born 1868), and their son Frederick. Martha was the daughter of John Jesse and Mary Bennett Bishop (her brother was William Jesse, the miller at Woodbridge Mill). They soon moved to Wimborne and, by 1911, the three rooms were occupied by William John Green, 45, a farm labourer, his wife of 15 years, Jane, 50 and their four children. They were all born in Iwerne Minster.

At the 1919 Glyn sale, Dorset County Council bought a number of properties, partly as investments and partly to comply with the Small Holdings and Allotment Act 1908. They included a number of farms as well as residential properties, the latter including Meadowhayes, Perrymead, 71-76 Penn Hill and also Penn Ridge Cottage (but not Penn Hill Cottage).

*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 **Monday 21st August 2017**. Contributions for consideration should be submitted as early as possible to the Editor, Chris Bellers, via e-mail to 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).*