



THE GOSSIP TREE

News & Views from the Parish of FONTMELL MAGNA

This issue is kindly sponsored by Fontmell Films

December
2017
Issue 286

Fontmell Films, in association with Moviola, have had another successful year during which we have shown a selection of films ranging from the very thought provoking and brilliantly directed 'I Daniel Blake' to the comedy drama 'A Streetcat named Bob'.

For those new to the area, Fontmell Films have now been running for over ten years showing eight films each year chosen from a recently released selection available under licence from Moviola. Fontmell Films is run by a committee of volunteers who select and market the films, provide the bar/teas and cover all the associated finances.

Our film on Wednesday 13th December will be the comedy 'Whisky Galore'. A remake of the 1949 film, it tells the story of the real-life incident when the SS Politician ran aground in a gale off the Hebridean island of Eriskay. The tale of how a group of local islanders raided the shipwreck for its consignment of 24,000 cases of whisky quickly became legend. Starring James Cosmo, Eddie Izzard, Ellie Kendrick and many others.

Do join us from 7.00pm when we will be serving complimentary mulled wine and mince pies and the film will start at 7.30. Tickets £6 are on sale at the Village Shop/Post Office or £6.50 on the door.

.....and finally, thank you to our wonderful audience who support the films and to the committee for all their hard work. Thanks too to Perry & Son for their help with the posters, Paul our Moviola presenter and of course to Jan and Rick at the village shop who act as our Box Office; your help is very much appreciated.

My best wishes to you all for the festive season.

Libby Gendall

It's almost Christmas, time to party and get festive with us at The Fontmell....

We've a fantastic Christmas party menu created by Head Chef Tom which is guaranteed to get your taste buds tingling! Our New Year's Eve Party will, certainly go down in history, as we love a PARTY!

Get in touch if you'd like to book as tickets are selling quickly. Enquiries 811441

The team and I are really looking forward to giving you a warm welcome...

Festive Hours

24th Dec: Food served from 12.00 to 8.00pm (last orders 7.45) A la Carte menu

25th Dec: Bar open 12.00 to 3.00pm, Lunch served at 12.00pm (fully booked)

26th Dec: Bar open from 10.00am, Brunch Menu served from 10.30am to 6.00pm (last orders 5.45pm) Bar closes 10.00pm

27th & 28th Dec: Closed

29th & 30th Dec: Open as normal

31st Dec: Open as normal till 3.00pm; party from 7.00pm – 1.00am close (Carriages 1.30am) – Ticket only

1st Jan: Food served from 10.30am to 3.00pm (last orders 2.45pm). Close at 6.00pm

2nd Jan – 16th Jan: Closed

Re-opens: 17th January

Cheers, John The Landlord

Remembrance Poppy Wreath - as usual, the village was very generous and we made £37.00 which is £2.00 more than last year! I am sure the British Legion will be very pleased, and THANK YOU very much.

Sue Mercer

Fontmell Magna's conservation area – have your say

As a resident, you are being asked what you think of a study of the character of the Fontmell Magna conservation area.

Conservation areas are places of special architectural or historic interest that are protected to ensure people can continue to enjoy their character for years to come. North Dorset District Council is responsible for deciding which places in North Dorset should be conservation areas and for ensuring that their special qualities are safeguarded. The draft study can be viewed at the Village Shop in the Tea Room and online at the Parish Council website (www.fontmellmagnapc.co.uk, select 'Neighbourhood Plan' and then 'Conservation Area Appraisal'). Comments can be made from Friday 1st December to Friday 12th January 2018.

The Neighbourhood Plan Working Group members and officers of the District Council will be available to answer questions on the report at a drop-in session at the Village Hall on Wednesday 6th December from 9.00am to 7.00pm and all are welcome to call in. Comment forms will be available at the drop-in session and also on the Parish Council Website – the forms can be returned via the Village Shop by Friday 12th January. (We are grateful for the corrections already notified which will be included in the revised version in due course.)

Barry Roberts

Notices – December 2017

St. Andrew's Church

Sun	3rd	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		9.00am	Sunday Breakfast (Village Hall - see over)
Sun	10th	10.00am	Family Service
Sun	17th	4.00pm	Carols by Candlelight
Sun	24th	11.30pm	Midnight Holy Communion
Mon	25th	9.30am	Special Christmas Day Service
Sun	31st	9.30am	Holy Communion
Fri	1st	10.30am	'In Home' coffee morning at 'Chessels', The Mead (Gina and Paul Weldon)

Mon 18th 5.30pm Carol Singing (see page 4)

Tue 19th 10.30am Open House in the Tea Room

Prayers each Monday at 9.00am

Parish Council

Tue 28th November at 7.30pm in St Andrew's School Hall - Extraordinary Meeting on the A350/C13.

Parish Clerk: Marianne Wheatley

clerk@fontmellmagnapc.co.uk

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

CLOSED 25th, 26th & 31st December and 1st

January. Saturday opening hours 27th - 30th December and 2nd & 3rd January. 9.00am to 4.30pm on 4th & 5th January. Normal times from 6th January. Enquiries 811201

St Andrew's School

Fri 8th - Carol Service 6.00pm in St Andrew's Church

Fri 15th - Christingle 9.15am in St Andrew's Church Break up for Christmas

Tue 2nd January - Spring Term starts

Fontmell Magna Toddler Group

Tue 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

Iwerne Valley Walking Group

Sat 16th - Christmas walk starting from The Crown, Marnhull DT10 1LN at 10.00am. Leaders: Monique and John Goodliffe 442970.

Bell-ringing

Tue 12th - 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

*Collections in W/C 25th, 2 days later than usual

Village Hall events - see over

Events in the Village Hall

Fontmell Magna & District Society
Fri 1st at 7.30pm - 'Grass Fed beef'
by Quentin Edwards
Details Dick Stainer 811153

Sunday Breakfast

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

Fontmell Films

Wed 13th - 'Whisky Galore'. Doors
open 7.00pm
Details Libby Gendall 811551

Garden Club

Thu 14th at 7.30pm. 'Alternative
Plants in Alternative Places' by
Steve Fry (Castle Gardens)
Details Robert McCurrach 812077

Archive Society

Thu 21st 4.00 to 5.30pm.
Details Roger Hillman 811878

Pilates

Mon 6.30 to 7.30pm.
STOTT Pilates Matwork & props.
Details Vicci Gillett 07940 961221
www.stable-bodies.co.uk
Tue 9.15-10.15am, 10.30-11.30am.
Details Lyn O'Neill 07989 192424

Fontmell Magna Art Club

Tue 2.00 to 4.00pm.
Details Sandra Jelbart 812468

Carpet Bowls Club

Thu 7th, 21st & 28th, Fri 15th, all at
7.30pm.
Details Gerry Bone 811814

Dru Yoga

Fri from 9.30 to 11.00am.
Details Kirsty Elliot 07783 780128

Taekwon-do

Tue 8.00 to 9.00pm
Fri 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**

Answers to Quiz on page 4

A pesticide to control weeds
An ornamental planted wood
A 'deep hole' through a wall or hedge
A piece of equipment used to work
top dressings into a lawn
A grafted tree in its first year
A layer of dead organic material that
accumulates on the soil surface of
lawns
A young root
The outer bark of a tree or shrub
Porous limestone rock
A young seedling or grafted tree
A spatula shaped tool for pricking
and seedlings

Iwerne Valley Walking Group**October Walk**

On Saturday 21st October, Hurricane Brian was wreaking havoc in Ireland and threatening to do the same to us in the West Country, so it was very difficult to decide whether to go ahead with our walk or not. In the end I went up to the King John in Tollard Royal as planned and was joined there by four other intrepid walkers.

We set off up the track from the pond towards Win Green and, once at the top and out in the open, we started to get blown about by Brian a fair bit so, instead of heading left up to Win Green and coming back down through the Ashcombe Estate, we opted to turn right and follow the Ox Drove along a parallel path through the trees. Eventually we found a footpath on the right that took us across fields and back down through the woods into Tollard Royal. On the way we passed a site where Pitt-Rivers had done some archaeological excavations in the last century and discovered coins and human bones. There was a standing stone with the details inscribed on it, but so covered



in lichen that we couldn't decipher much of it. (Apparently a good way to clean such a stone is to paint it with talcum powder!) It was hard going against Brian across the fields as he tried to blow us over, but the sun shone and, once back at the pub, we could relax - very glad to have made the effort after all - and could enjoy our lunch together. By the next day, Brian had run out of puff.

Helen English

Garden Club

From the roar of aircraft to one of lions.....

Matthew Simpson, of Simpson's Seeds, near Warminster, was the speaker for the Garden Club's first meeting of the season on Thursday 19th October.

In the 1990s, plants for the seed collection were first grown in Oxted, Surrey, under the Gatwick flight path, but a larger and quieter garden became necessary. This was found in the walled garden on the Longleat Estate. As it hadn't been cultivated for many years, it took months of hard work to clear the ground, add paths and build numerous raised beds, in addition to replacing 800 panes in the two large glass houses. A polytunnel has since been added as Matthew found that, like many of us, there is never enough undercover space, especially as he continues to trial new varieties of tomatoes and chillies, in particular, before selling the seeds. A high priority is flavour as well as reliability.

Two free tasting days are held each year, one on Saturday 26th May 2018, mainly for chilli plant sales, and the other on Saturday 15th September of tomatoes, chillies and Matthew's own chilli sauces, some of which he brought to the meeting. Details on the website www.simpsonsseeds.co.uk.

Looking through his very extensive and informative catalogue, there is a large range of seeds and also vegetable and flower plug plants available to order, preferably by email. The website gives details of opening times, as plants can be collected after the initial rush of mail orders is over.

Maybe next year's Annual Show will have a selection of these exciting and colourful varieties.

Please come and join us.

Gay Mole

Fontmell Magna and District Society

Friday 6th October – Julian Richards – 'Stonehenge, old rocks new ideas'

Stonehenge is not the oldest megalithic monument in Europe, nor is it the largest. It is however the most fascinating and the most spectacular. In his riveting talk, Julian asked fundamental questions about the place and gave us possible answers: why was it built? what was its purpose? why was this particular site chosen? how were these massive stones erected?

The story begins in about 3,000 BC with its evident use as a burial site. Five hundred years later the stones are erected, right at the end of the Stone Age, and the site continues in use for another thousand years. Over this long period of time it no doubt had many different uses. The fact that the stones were laid out on a major solstice alignment points to its use as a temple. Possibly it was built as a communal endeavour bringing in people from far and wide to celebrate the midwinter solstice.

Another theory is that the stones were thought to possess magical healing powers. Indeed, at the end of this wonderful talk, as we stepped out into a beautiful moonlit autumn night, we felt very much as if some magic had been cast onto Fontmell Magna.

Our next talk is on Friday 1st December when Quentin Edwards will talk to us about 'Grass Fed Beef'.

Michael Goldberg

Wanted

Kings and shepherds (under 5 feet tall) needed to take part in the Carols by Candlelight at St Andrew's Church on Sunday 17th December. Come dressed in your costumes by 3.50pm for the service at 4.00pm which will last about an hour. You are welcome to bring your parents and grandparents and even your baby brothers and sisters. No experience needed! All are welcome.

Janet Smith

Parish Council

Nearly 60 members of the public attended the meeting held on Monday 13th November, brought forward to start at 7.00pm so that an update on the traffic management scheme and the north/south strategic route could be given. In the event, the speaker from Highways was unable to attend, and Cllr. East was absent due to sickness.

Public Questions

A number of residents expressed concern over the proposals of the draft Neighbourhood Plan for a housing development of 30-40 houses on site 20 (Land South of Home Farm). They were concerned that the Plan proposals on housing seemed to be focussing on one large development (rather than several small developments) which, it was contended, the village did not need or want. Other residents defended the proposals on the grounds that the project group were constrained by the sites that had come forward for potential development (there were simply not enough smaller sites that were suitable); also, the site recommended would adversely affect the minimum number of residents while providing considerable benefits to the village as a whole (in particular by substantially reducing school traffic on West Street and not adding to traffic on Mill Street). Cllr. Horstead stressed that the proper way to comment was in writing, through completing a pre-submission consultation questionnaire, to the Neighbourhood Plan project group.

Roger Thomas provided a brief summary of a meeting that he and Cllr. Horstead had attended that afternoon with DCC officials regarding the A350/C13. Resurfacing work continues on the C13, and the intention is to move to a 40mph speed limit between Fontmell and Compton Abbas. On 6th December, the DCC cabinet will be considering various options concerning HGV traffic and whether to keep the existing one-way system advisory or make it compulsory. One option is to route all HGV traffic down the A350. This would entail having traffic lights somewhere around the entrance to The Mead and by The Fontmell and making the Knapp one-way from the A350. This would have considerable implications for Fontmell residents. There will therefore be a special meeting of the Parish Council in the School Hall at 7.30pm on Tuesday 28th November to discuss the matter. Meanwhile information on the six options will be made available to residents.

Alan Forfar reported that the stile on the footpath to the Lynchets was broken. The Clerk confirmed that this had been reported at least twice on the Dorsetfor you website. She will write to the landowner, Sir John Eliot Gardiner.

Parish Council Meeting

Six parish councillors and the Clerk were present, and around 30 members of the public. Apologies were received from Cllr. East and the NDDC/DCC Cllr.s. There were no declarations of interest. The minutes of the last PC meeting on

Monday 11th September were approved and signed. There were no matters arising.

County/District Councillor's Report

The go-ahead for the move to two unitary authorities is likely to be given.

Planning

The PC had raised no objection to the planning applications for Springhead Farm and Woodbridge Farm. An application for tree works at the Old Rectory is still to be considered, but no objection is likely.

Finance

A draft Budget had been circulated to Cllr.s and would be considered at the next meeting.

Statutory documents

Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Freedom of Information policy, Risk Management guidelines, Code of Conduct, Contract of Employment, Disciplinary and Grievance procedures and Equal Opportunities policy had all been circulated and were adopted.

Other Parish Matters**Highways**

Mud on the road at Bedchester had been reported by Mr Coupland. The Clerk agreed to write to the farmers responsible if she was given their addresses and would also write to Mr Coupland.

Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr. Humphreys reported that the developer of site 20 (Land South of Home Farm), Pennyfarthing Homes, asked the PC to support a public engagement exercise on Monday 4th and Tuesday 5th December to explain their plans for the site to residents, and had offered to show the PC a preview of their presentation. The PC declined the latter but had no objection to the exercise taking place. The current Draft Plan pre-submission consultation ends on Monday 20th November. The draft Plan will be amended in line with the feedback received and will return to the PC in March 2018 for submission to the District Council. It is envisaged that the referendum on the final Plan will take place in September 2018.

There will be one final grant of funds in 2018 and the PC should budget for a contingency of £300.

Bedchester allotments

Cllr. Horstead reported that there had been a meeting with DCC on site and that the PC had been given Heads of Terms and a draft lease, with a proposed handover to the PC on Saturday 29th September 2018. DCC would first provide a hardcore parking area (and, possibly, a water supply).

Broadband

A new cabinet is being installed at Hartgrove.

Community Defibrillator - Cllr. Horstead had looked into possible sites but had only identified the Fontmell as a possibility; the Fontmell had yet to respond. Chris Bellers pointed out that he had contacted the PC to say that (a) the Village Hall was willing to house a defibrillator and (b) Bedchester residents were keen to have a defibrillator in their newly painted phone

Village weather for October 2017

A rather grey month with small amounts of rain or drizzle. Strong gale and heavy rain mid month followed by a drier, sunnier end and the first air frost.

2 gales. 17 rain days. 5 ground frost. 1 air frost.

Comp. Figures	2017	2016
Rain (most 11.5 mm on 3rd)	71.4 mm	46.0 mm
Sunshine	82.7 hr (av. 2.7)	94.9 hr
Max mean temp.	No readings (mercury thermometers no longer allowed)	15.12 °C
Min mean temp. (lowest - 1.0 °C on 30th)	7.71 °C	6.35 °C

box (and had already started fund-raising).

Unified Parish website - Cllr. Roberts agreed to have a look at what is needed.

Police liaison - Cllr. Horstead reported that our PCSO, Chris Mullens, was currently unwell. The Clerk said that the Police & Crime Commissioner is addressing Stourpaine Parish Council later this week. She would enquire whether the Commissioner could also visit Fontmell some time.

Maintenance of Bedchester Notice Board and Pump House - The Clerk would look into the necessary maintenance work.

Shaftesbury and Fontmell Magna Patient Group Cllr. de la Perrelle reported on a recent meeting of this group, which anyone can attend. The Practice now has its full complement of GPs and there has been some improvement to the local service.

Signs at Bedchester crossroads - Mr Coupland had asked whether anything could be done about event signs being left at Bedchester crossroads even when the events they were advertising were long past. The Clerk will reply.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

The next PC meeting will be on Monday 9th January in the School Hall.

North Dorset Wildlife Trust

A date for your diary:

On Wednesday 17th January 2018, DWT Conservation Officer, Emma Tomlin, will give an illustrated talk on the importance of 'Wet Woodlands' in our local environment. The talk will start at 7.30pm in Fontmell Magna Village Hall (SP7 0PF). Entry is just £2 and includes tea/coffee & biscuits. Everyone is welcome to attend our events and there is no charge for children under 16. Also available at this event will be a selection of DWT sales goods, free leaflets on the work of DWT and details of membership of this very important local environmental charity, which currently has more than 27,000 members.

Compost Corner

When one of our daughters was a little girl she had her own peculiar language. She made up all sorts of words but one of our favourites was, 'Ishwish', which meant a toothbrush - makes sense really.

The gardening world too has its own particular terminology and not just Latin names for plants, but all sorts of odd words that aren't necessarily everyday vocabulary.

Here is a selection of some - do you know what they mean?

Acaricide
Bosket
Clair-voyee
Crinkle-crankle
Lute
Maiden
Thatch
Radicule
Rind
Tufa
Whip
Widger

Answers on page 2

Alison Main

Village Carol singing

♪ Monday 18th December ♪

All are welcome to join with us in singing carols around the village or to join in on their doorsteps as we pass by.

Bring your lanterns, dogs and babies in buggies.

We meet at the village hall at 5.30pm and end at church at 7.00pm for well-earned mulled wine and mince pies.

Time table

5:30 Village Hall
5:35 West View and Elbury View
5:50 Orchard Close
6:10 Under 5's
6:15 Parsley Cottage
6:25 Gossip Tree
6:30 Moores Farm
6:45 St Andrews View
7:00 outside the church

Followed by mulled wine and mince pies inside.

Springhead – Garden of Delights Christmas Sale

The sale runs from Friday 1st December to Sunday 3rd December, 10.00am to 4.30pm, £2 entry (children free). There is also a cafe serving light lunches and teatime treats. Enquiries www.springheadtrust.org.uk or 01258 456285/456781

The Village Pump

The recently completed Conservation Area Appraisal, one of the supporting documents for the draft Neighbourhood Plan, refers to the village pump and its thatched shelter as a 'locally important feature' and is, indeed, admired by residents and visitors alike. 67 West Street is named 'Pump Cottage' as a result.

In fact, the pump is a relatively recent addition, having been donated in 1995 by Judy Russell who then lived in Cleeve Cottage, Church Street. It was refurbished by John Enderby and installed in the thatched structure by Jim Abbott, while Clive Carter re-thatched the housing. The pump itself was made by Joseph Evans & Sons (Wolverhampton) Ltd which traded from 1810 to 1964, although the pump dates from before 1890 (for this information, we are indebted to a website for true village pump aficionados - www.villagepumps.org.uk).

The wooden shelter used to house one of the village taps.

Towards the end of the 19th century, a piped water supply was introduced to the village. This was provided by the Glyn Estate (then owners of most of the village) who constructed a covered brick and cement reservoir in a field called Pineywell Close to store water from springs above the village to the north-east. The reservoir is still in that field, which is located opposite the end of the lane to Croft Farm and just south of the old cricket field.

The water was piped to certain houses in the village and also fed five communal taps around the village. The right to draw water from these communal taps was specifically mentioned in property conveyances after this time as was the obligation to contribute towards the upkeep of the system.

The following estate properties had inside taps supplied with piped water from the estate reservoir: Dairy Cottage (7 North Street), The Village Shop/Post Office, the Malthouse (burned down in 1941), Moores Farmhouse, Cleeve Cottage (47 Church Street, previously a bakery), Cross House (home of the Glyns until around 1918), Millbrook House (previously the brewmaster's house) and the School House. For most of the rest of the villagers, they either had to draw water from a well (some by using a pump) or go to one of the communal taps for their daily water supplies. As for toilet arrangements, the 1926 Glyn sale particulars reveal that 43 properties used an earth closet, 18 used a pail closet and only five had a water closet.

As well as the tap outside what is now Pump Cottage, the other four taps were situated:

- Near the Blacksmith's shop at what was then 10 North Street. The three cottages here were demolished in the 1950's, and have been replaced by Penleas and Willow Cottage. No trace of the tap remains.
- Near No. 27 Lurmer Street (Tudor Cottage). The tap is still there but has not functioned for many years. It is mostly underground by the side of the A350 at the north end of the parking space in front of the house.
- By Watermill Cottage in Church Street (the recess where it used to be can still be seen).
- By Brook House (no trace of this tap can be seen).

Some (or all) of the taps had metal surrounds, similar to an old fireplace. One of these surrounds appears to have been moved to Springhead where it is houses a tap that is still in use.



The tap at Springhead with distinctive metal surround and shell design

The pump and its thatched structure outside Pump Cottage are owned by the Parish Council having been gifted the property in 1972 by the then owner of 67 West Street, Bessie Saltmarsh. On her death a few years later, Bessie made a number of other bequests for the benefit of the village. When the cottage was sold by her executors in 1982, it came with the benefit of an agreement

"relating to the piece of land and building housing a water supply tap adjoining or adjacent" to the cottage, as contained in a Deed of Gift dated 1st December 1972 made between Bessie Saltmarsh and the Parish Council.

Chris Bellers, Archive Society



The thatched structure before 1995 - with no pump

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 17th December 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).