



THE GOSSIP TREE

News & Views from the Parish of FONTMELL MAGNA

This issue is kindly sponsored by Catriona Pitcairn

**Christmas &
January
2017
Issue 275**

I remember my utterly fantastic brother, Hugh Pitcairn, with this issue of The Gossip Tree. Hugh is buried in St. Andrew's churchyard. January 2017 marks ten years since his death when he fell, as the snow gave way under him, when climbing in the Cairngorms in Scotland.

Hugh was warm hearted, full of humour, enthusiastic, quirky, frank, exuberant, thoughtful, energetic and a loving individual. In the 20 years he lived he brought smiles and warmth to his friends and family.



Hugh and Catriona, Kenya, September 2006

He was studying Mechanical Engineering at Bristol and was enjoying student life. He filled his life with many passions; kayaking, skiing, cooking, gymnastics, yoga and the list goes on.

On his Facebook page Hugh had written the quote, 'Life is like riding a bicycle, to keep your balance, you have to keep moving'.

This was a quote from Einstein, from a letter to his son, and these words have buoyed me up over the years and encouraged me to continue to embrace all that life has to offer.

Parish Council

Just a reminder that the January Parish Council meeting will be setting the Parish's Precept for 2017/2018. This will be the last chance for you to express your views on the Parish's financial priorities before the PC makes its final decisions. It will also be a chance to air your views on the future of the Fontmell and Hartgrove phone boxes (which BT propose to remove). The meeting will be at St Andrew's School on Monday 9th January 2017 and will start at 7.30pm.

Councillor Gideon Roberts will be keeping a watchful eye on Parish residents' access to Broadband and their satisfaction with the service received. The aim is to identify any Parish properties which might be eligible for support under the DCC Superfast team's initiative, the "Better-Broadband-Scheme". If you would like more information Gideon can be contacted by email to gideonroberts@gmail.com or by telephone on 811885.

Robin East

Fontmell Film Nights



Our first film of the New Year on Wednesday 11th January is "I, Daniel Blake" (15). Released in October 2016 and directed by Ken Loach, this drama tells the story of a middle-aged carpenter who requires state welfare after becoming ill and unable to work. He meets and joins forces with a desperate single mother in similar circumstances and together they discover that negotiating through the system's red tape is more than a challenge.

Starring Dave Johns, Hayley Squires and Sharon Percy. Tickets £6 from Fontmell Post Office or £6.50 on the door. Doors and the bar open at 7.00pm and the film starts at 7.30pm.

Future dates:

Wednesday 8th February "Bridget Jones's Baby" (15)
Wednesday 8th March "The Girl on the Train" (15)
Wednesday 12th April "A Streetcat named Bob" (12a)

Libby Gendall

Notices – January 2017

St. Andrew's Church

Sun 1st 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
Sun 8th 11.00am Family Service
Sun 15th 11.00am Holy Communion with choir
Sun 22nd 11.00am Holy Communion (CW)
Sun 29th 10.00am Benefice Sutton Waldron

Fri 6th 10.30am 'In Home' coffee morning at 'Maltings', Church Street (Dick & Jennie Jones)
Tue 17th 10.30am Open House in the Tea Room

Prayers each Tuesday at 9.00am

Parish Council

Mon 9th at 7.30pm St Andrew's School. The meeting is open to all members of the public and starts with Public Questions. Details Robin East 812349

Neighbourhood Plan

Mon 16th at 7.00pm St Andrew's School
Details Mike Humphreys 07850 875429

The Surgery

Mon - Thu 8.00am - 12 noon
Enquiries 812058

Village Shop & Post Office

Mon - Fri 8.00am - 6.00pm
Sat 9.00am - 1.00pm
Sun 9.00am - 12.00 noon
Enquiries 811201

The Fontmell – Opening Hours

Bar 11.00am - 11.00pm (12.00 midnight Fri & Sat)
Kitchen 12.00 noon - 2.00pm (2.30pm Fri & Sat) & 6.00 - 9.00pm (9.30pm Fri & Sat);
Sundays 12.00 noon - 8.00pm

Iwerne Valley Walking Group

Sat 21st at 10.00am, details from Helen English (853472).

Bell-ringing

Tue 17th Practice 7.00 - 8.30pm
Details Chris Bellers 811734

Bin Collection Dates

W/C 9th & 23rd - Recycling & Food
W/C 2nd, 16th & 30th - Rubbish & Food
NB. All collections in the week after Christmas are one day later.

St Andrew's School

Wed 4th - Spring Term starts
Fri 10th February - Break up for Half Term
Mon 20th February - Back from Half Term

Village Hall events - see over

Christmas Greetings and best wishes for a very Happy New Year to all our readers from the Editor, Committee and Distributors of The Gossip Tree. And a big thank you to Catherine Allard for compiling the Christmas Chimes which accompanies this issue.

Events in the Village Hall

Village Hall Committee Meeting
Wed 4th 7.30pm
Details Chris Bellers 811734

Fontmell Film Group
Wed 11th - 'I, Daniel Blake' (15)
Doors open 7.00pm
Details Libby Gendall 811551

Archive Society
Thurs 19th 4.00pm to 5.50pm.
Details Roger Hillman 811878

Garden Club
Thurs 19th 7.30pm. 'Growing
Story of Ansty PYO' by Kay Price
Details Robert McCurrach 812077

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

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

Fontmell Magna Art Club
Tuesdays 2.00 to 4.00pm.
Details Sandra Jelbart 812468

Carpet Bowls Club
Thurs 5th, 12th and 26th, and Fri
20th 7.30pm.
Details Gerry Bone 811814

Dru Yoga
Fridays 9.30 to 11.00am.
Details Kirsty Elliot 07783 780128

Taekwon-do
Tuesdays 8.00 to 9.00pm.
Fridays 6.00 to 7.00pm.
Details Andy Dobbs 07833 252771

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

**Village Shop Opening Times for the
Festive Season:**
Sat 24th December 9.00am-1.00pm
Christmas Day/Boxing Day Closed
Tue 27th December Closed
Wed 28th, Thur 29th, Fri 30th normal
times
Sat 31st December 9.00am-1.00pm
Sun 1st January Closed
Mon 2nd January Closed
Normal times from Tue 3rd January
2017.

Answers to Quiz on page 4

- Q1 False
Q2 Annabelle and Nicola
Q3 Vitamin K (21%)
Q4 True
Q5 Gas release from the onion
Q6 All except hand cream
Q7 Basil & Rosemary (part of
Lamiaceae)
Q8 Cosmopolitan

Twas The Month After Christmas

T'was the month after Christmas and all through
the house
Nothing would fit me, not even a blouse.
The cookies I'd nibbled, the wine list I'd taste.
All the holiday parties had gone to my waist.
When I got on the scales there stared such a
number!
When I walked to the shop (less a walk than a
lumber).
I'd remember the marvellous meals I'd
prepared;
The gravies and sauces and beef nicely rared,
The chocolate and the rum balls, the bread and
the cheese
And the way I'd never said, "No thank you,
please."
As I dressed myself in my husband's old shirt

And prepared once again to do battle with dirt--
I said to myself, as I only can
"You can't spend a winter disguised as a man!"
So--away with the last of the sour cream dip,
Get rid of the fruit cake, every cracker and chip
Every last bit of food that I like must be
banished
Till all the additional ounces have vanished.
I won't have a cookie--not even a lick.
I'll want only to chew on a long celery stick.
I won't have hot biscuits, or puddings, or pie,
I'll munch on a carrot and quietly cry.
I'm hungry, I'm lonesome, and life is a bore---
But isn't that what January is for?
Unable to giggle, no longer a riot.
Happy New Year to all and to all a good diet!
(Author Unknown)

Fitness goals for 2017

With the new year comes new aspirations, often around the subject of fitness. Here's some information for working out important fitness goals.

The respected American College of Sports Medicine have written out guidelines stating recommended fitness for cardiovascular, resistance, flexibility and functional fitness training. When deciding on your fitness goals for 2017, see if you can work towards some of the following (try not to be overwhelmed!):

Cardiovascular training (e.g. Swimming, Zumba) can be achieved through 30-60mins of moderate intensity 5 x a week or 20-60mins of vigorous intensity 3 x a week.

Resistance exercise (e.g. kettlebells, weights at the gym) is suggested 2-3 times a week to train every major muscle group in the body. 8-12 reps of heavier weights improve strength and power, 10-15 reps for middle age and older persons, 15-20 reps of lighter weights to improve muscular endurance. Leave 48 hours between resistance training sessions to allow for muscular adaptations.

Flexibility training (e.g. Yoga, Pilates) should be done 2-3 days per week to improve range of motion. It is suggested stretches be held for 10-30 seconds to the point of tightness or discomfort.

Functional fitness training (e.g. Circuits, Bootcamp) is suggested 2-3 times per week for 20-30 minutes per day. Exercises should involve balance, agility, gait and coordination.

You are probably reading this and thinking, wow, that's a lot, but remember - these are guidelines. Even doing a small portion of this is better than doing nothing! Whatever fitness level you are at, follow the rules of SMART, make your goals: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Timely.

Don't forget to consult a medical professional before embarking on a fitness programme. Especially if you are starting from scratch!

Vicci Gillett, Stable Bodies

Fontmell Magna and District Society

Friday 2nd December – Ken and Caroline Rhodes – 'The Thursday War or Mum, I'm going to marry my missile'

Everyone would agree that the Royal Navy holds a very special place in our hearts, so when HMS Sheffield was hit by an Exocet missile in the Falklands War, our sense of ourselves as a maritime nation was deeply shocked. Caroline and Ken showed us a brief video of that attack to give a context to the Thursday War. This is a training exercise held every Thursday off the south coast of England in which ships are subjected to simulated attacks from land, sea and air by missiles and planes. The exercise is incredibly complicated and is the most rigorous of its kind in the world. Caroline and Ken flew the Dassault Falcons and Hawks involved in this training.

This was a very informative talk and a real eye opener for those of us who cross our fingers and trust to our armed forces to keep us safe.

The talk started with Caroline and Ken giving us an account of their careers. It transpires that Ken flew several times with the new American Secretary of Defence, Mad Dog Mattis. Does this mean, we asked ourselves, that in the event of trouble there would be an extra special relationship between the Pentagon and the Parish of Fontmell Magna?

Our next talk will be on Friday 3rd February 2017 when we will hear from Margaret Marande. She will tell us about her book describing 'The Hardy Way', the long-distance footpath based on the works of Thomas Hardy.

Michael Golberg



Mobile Library Service

The last working day for the provision of the mobile library service to the public will be Friday 23rd December 2016.

People who are unable to access a library due to disability, health or frailty will continue to have access to books, and other reading material delivered to their homes through a partnership with the Royal Voluntary Service (RVS). The RVS is currently contacting mobile library users and others who have expressed an interest in having reading materials delivered to their homes. The council are also encouraging community transport to help people have access to libraries and it will continue to take the home mobile library service van to residential homes.

If you are housebound or unable to get to your local library, the council may be able to arrange for books to be delivered to your home, **free** at regular intervals by Royal Voluntary Service volunteers. It offers a wide range of fiction as well as information books on country life, cookery, travel, biography and other popular subjects. You can request specific books or subjects.

Large print books are available as well as talking books for people with sight problems, illness or other disabilities.

Books and talking books are delivered to your home by volunteers. Volunteers always carry identity cards. Visits are usually every three weeks. There is **no charge** for this Home Library Service.

For more details, contact the Royal Voluntary Service on 01305 236666 or email dorsetwiltshirehub@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk and a member of staff will call to see if they can help you to use the library service.

Village Hall

On behalf of the Village Hall Committee, I would like to thank everyone involved with the Fete which this year raised £3,300. This meant a contribution to the Village Hall of £1,100. This is particularly welcome this year as we have had to spend a significant amount on the external redecoration of the Hall. This has included replacing a number of broken roof tiles, repairs to the woodwork in the gables, new fascias, soffits and guttering, replacing the gulley covers, and repainting the doors and windows. All this work has been carried out to, in our mind, a very high standard by C.A.F. Construction Ltd, and our thanks go to Andre Allard (assisted by Catherine) for all their efforts and attention to detail. Considerable work was done to the three patio doors to ensure that they close properly and more easily. We hope all will agree that the Hall now looks especially smart and well-cared for.

The Committee would also like to thank the Fete for the donation of £550 towards the Play Area. This is also most welcome, though we still desperately need funds to replace the rest of the play equipment which is gradually succumbing to wood-rot.

Finally, the Committee, and all who use the Hall, send their thanks to Tony and Denise Wiltshire for erecting a lovely Christmas tree in the Hall.

Chris Bellers, Chair Village Hall Committee

Common Land

The Gossip Tree Legal Department wish all readers of The Gossip Tree the very best for the festive season. They have been particularly busy recently, and even have had to cancel several golfing afternoons. They recently had to advise on a case involving common land, and offer the following for our readers. As always, they stress that neither they, nor this publication, accept any responsibility for its accuracy or otherwise.

Common land dates from feudal times, and commoners' rights often have medieval names, such as 'turbary' (a right to dig peat), 'marl' (a right to dig clay) 'estovers' (a right to take wood), 'piscary' (a fishing right) or 'mast' (sometimes known as 'pannage' - a right to turn out pigs in woodland in the autumn). The most extensive common right is that of pasturage of domestic stock, usually sheep or cattle (and, particularly in the case of the New Forest, horses).

In many cases, areas of common land are also subject to specific bylaws that govern their use - they may be Sites of Specific Scientific Interest or covered by other legislation. However, common land is still owned by individuals or bodies, and they may exercise rights of ownership (such as keeping animals, putting up fences etc.) as long as these do not interfere with the commoners' rights. Common land is now regulated by the Commons Registration Act 1965 and the Commons Act 2006. Local authorities are required to keep a register of common land and village greens, describing the land, identifying the rights over the land and the commoners who have those rights. If the owner of the common interferes with the rights of common, the commoners may either take legal action or enforce their rights of common by self-help, such as pulling down a landowner's fence or wall that interfered with their rights (in the 1997 case of National Trust v Ashbrook).

North Dorset Wildlife Trust

The Hampshire based Hawk Conservancy Trust works to conserve and rehabilitate a variety of hawks. On Wednesday 18th January, Dr Campbell Murn, FRBSFLS, of the Hawk Conservancy Trust, will give an illustrated talk on the Trust's work at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. We ask a small charge of £2 (including refreshments); no charge for children under 16. Products from the popular DWT online shop will also be available for sale. **A date for your diary:** At 7.30pm on Wednesday 15th February, Stewart Canham will give an illustrated talk on Wildlife Photography.

Village weather for November 2016



A frosty beginning and end with a very wet spell (76.7 mm in 3 days from 19th-23rd November). Relatively mild. 16 rain days. 8 air frost. 19 ground frost. No gales, thunder or hail.

| Comp. Figures | 2016 | 2015 |
|---|-----------------------|---------|
| Rain (most 30.9 mm on 19th) | 103.7 mm | 61.6 mm |
| Sunshine | 67.0 hr (av. 2.33) | 23.7 hr |
| Max mean temp. (highest 15.7 °C on 16th) | 10.3 °C | 13.2 °C |
| Min mean temp. (lowest - 6.3 °C on 30th) | 1.8 °C | 7.3 °C |

Full Wolf Moon – Thursday 12th January

The full Moon in January is the Full Wolf Moon. Traditionally, it appeared in the cold still air as wolves howled in hunger outside the villages. It is also sometimes known as the Old Moon.



Legends about wolves and the moon are part of many cultures, dating back thousands of years. Ovid and Virgil both wrote about men in the form of wolves who roam the forest.

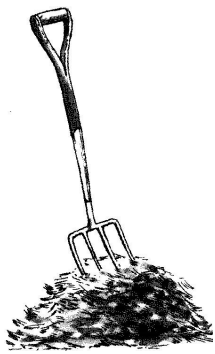
The idea of werewolves became more popular in Europe during the witch trials, when people thought witches could transform themselves into animals. The full Moon being the cause of transformation only became a popular part of the werewolf myth in the 20th century.

In the Northern Hemisphere, the January sun – unlike the January full Moon – rises south of due east and sets south of due west. These far-southern risings and settings of the sun give us the short days of winter. Meanwhile, the full moon lies opposite the sun, mirroring the sun's place in front of the backdrop stars.

That is why the January full Moon, like the sun in summer, will follow a high path across the sky. The Moon rises north of due east around sunset, climbs highest in the sky around midnight and sets north of due west around sunrise.

Stewart runs the DWT Photographic & Video Group and will be happy to offer help and tips on wildlife photography.

Compost Corner



Christmas Dinner Quiz (suitable for vegetarians)

Q1. Carrots help you to see in the dark. True or false?

Q2. There are dozens of varieties of potato. Which of the following girl's names are varieties of potato?
Annabelle; Chloe; Honora; Nicola; Pauline

Q3. Parsnips contain 9 vitamins. Which vitamin comprises the highest percentage?
Vitamin A; Vitamin C; Vitamin K

Q4. Brussels sprouts are named after Brussels in Belgium. True or false?

Q5. Freshly cut onions can cause the sensation of stinging in the eyes and uncontrollable tears. This is caused by:
The release of gas from the onion; Tiny droplets of onion juice; Minute particles of onion flesh.

Q6. Sweet Chestnuts are widely used in stuffing for poultry. Which of the following are Sweet Chestnuts also used for?
Flour substitute; Hair shampoo; Coffee substitute; Hand cream; Beer

Q7. Sage is in the same family as:
Basil; Parsley; Lemon Verbena; Rosemary

Q8. Cranberry sauce is delicious served with Roast turkey, and Cranberry juice is used in which of the following cocktails?
Jingle and Tonic; Donner and Spritzen; Cosmopolitan; Fireman

Alison Main

Answers on page 2

Brain-teaser

Four hikers are out walking. They have been out longer than planned and are worried that they will not complete their walk by 6.05pm to catch their train home. As the light begins to fade, they decide to take a short cut. At 5.47pm they reach a river and know that the train station is just the other side. The river can be crossed only on a weak wooden bridge that can bear the weight of just two hikers at the same time. And, because it is now dark, anyone crossing must carry a torch to light their way, and they have only one torch. To add to their difficulty, each needs different times to cross the bridge. One can cross in 1 minute, one in 2 minutes, one in 5 minutes and one in 10 minutes.

How can all the group cross the river to reach the other side by 6.05pm?

(Please write to the Editor with your answer, if you have one – all winning entries will be published next month!)

Continuing our series of articles featuring Bedchester.

Meadow Hayes/Meadowhayes Cottage, Common Lane

There is evidence that there was a tollgate at Bedchester on the road to Fontmell, and some believe that Meadowhayes was the site of this gate. However, this is by no means certain. It is possible that the gate was nearer Bedchester crossroads - in the censuses from 1891, what are now called Well Cottage and Bede Cottage were known as 68 and 69 Hampton Gate respectively, suggesting that there was a gate nearby. There is also some evidence that there was a gate nearer Penn Hill Farm. In 1825, the Salisbury and Winchester Journal published a 'Notice that the Trustees of the Turnpike Roads in the Shaftesbury Division will meet at the Grosvenor Arms Inn in Shaftesbury ... in order to consult about erecting a ... Side Gate or Bar upon the present Highway at or near Lawrence's corner in the parish of Fontmell Magna.' Lawrence's corner is thought to have been by the footpath beside Penn Hill Farm. Wherever the tollgate was, it seems that, in fact, Meadowhayes was a workhouse. In 1800, the Fontmell Vestry decided to provide a 'Proper Workhouse' within the parish, in compliance with The Poor Relief Act 1782, for paupers other than able-bodied adults. At that time, there were five cottages in Common Lane where Meadowhayes is today. Following the Poor Law Amendment Act 1834, the Shaftesbury Poor Law Union was formed in 1836. This consisted of 19 parishes in and around Shaftesbury, including Fontmell Magna. In 1840, the Shaftesbury Union Workhouse was opened for all paupers in those parishes, and all the parish workhouses appear to have been transferred to the Union. In 1843, the five cottages in Common Lane "now or in the late occupation of Paupers" were sold by the Union to Sir Richard Plumptre Glyn for £100. There is little doubt that Meadowhayes was at one time two cottages, the eastern half Meadowhayes Cottage, and the western half Meadow Hayes – perhaps it was actually five. Or there were other buildings there.



Of the five resident pauper families at the time of the sale, Robert and Mary Rideout continued living there (in the eastern half – Meadowhayes Cottage) until they died in the early 1860's; Priscilla Dibben continued living elsewhere in Fontmell (and was buried in Fontmell in 1892); and both Robert Still, and

George and Frances Mullins, moved out of the parish. Only Martha Still moved into Shaftesbury Workhouse, where she died aged 75 in 1846. It is unclear who lived in the cottage after this but, since at least 1881, it was occupied by William Lawrence (born 1841), a woodman, and his family. His son, Sydney Lawrence, a labourer, still lived there when the cottage was sold in the 1919 Glyn Sale, and bought by Dorset County Council.

The western half, Meadow Hayes, was occupied by another Lawrence family - Henry Lawrence and his wife Dinah. Mention was made of this couple in our article on their great grand-daughter, Olief Lawrence, in The Gossip Tree of March 2016. By 1893, Meadow Hayes was occupied by Frederick and Hannah Wareham. In 1901, Frederick was described as a 'road man'. In around 1906, the Foot family moved here from Hartgrove. Gilbert John Foot was a mill carter and was married to Sarah Ann Derrick. They had five sons and two daughters, although two of their children were born after they moved to the Bath/Westbury area in around 1917.

By the time of the 1919 Glyn Sale, the tenant is recorded as Mr R. Curtis. This could have been the same Robert Curtis who was also listed as the tenant of Hurdles Farm in the 1926 Glyn sale. Meadow Hayes was also bought by Dorset County Council.

At some point, the building became one cottage and was occupied by Rueben Cutler, a smallholder. Rueben also operated a carrier service to Shaftesbury and Blandford using a Ford van; the carrier service ended during the Second World War owing to a shortage of petrol.

In the early 1960's, the Brown family moved to the cottage from The Elms (Perrymead) – see The Gossip Tree of December 2016.

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 **Friday 20th January 2017**. Contributions for consideration should be submitted as early as possible to the Editor, Chris Bellers, 70 West Street 811734 or via e-mail to chris.bellers@hotmail.co.uk. 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).