



THE GOSSIP TREE

News & Views from the Parish of FONTMELL MAGNA

This issue is kindly sponsored by SAV Residents

July
2017
Issue 281

Archive Exhibition – 27th to 30th July

Fontmell Magna Village Archive Society will be holding its 11th Exhibition from Thursday 27th to Sunday 30th July from 10.00am to 4.00pm at the Village Hall. Entry, including light refreshments, is free.

The Exhibition is on 'Land use and ownership in the parish of Fontmell Magna up to 1945'. Members of the Society will present the results of their research



into how the land has been used from the very earliest times to the period during which Fontmell was owned by Shaftesbury Abbey, to the period of ownership under the Arundells, and then the period under the Glyn family ownership, and beyond. Find out about medieval farming and the meaning of a 'virgate' and an 'oxgang'; the spread of the Black Death and its effect on the population; how the parish boundaries were

formed and 'beating the bounds'; about tithes and enclosures; about the geology of the parish, and about farms and advances in agriculture. More importantly, learn about medieval harvesting to inspire you to create your scarecrow for the Fete!

The Exhibition will feature a plethora of maps and many exhibits not seen before, as well as some old favourites. Roger Hillman

A Very Big Thank You

I'd like to say a very sincere thank you to all friends, neighbours and residents of Fontmell Magna, for your support in my recent (and last) escapade. I must say it was an experience, and I'd be willing to support anyone else who'd like to do it!

My worst problem was getting up on the blessed plane but, with a bit of pushing and pulling, I managed to get up there to a cheer from my so called friends, and then it was up, up and away. And to the Gentleman in West Street, who thought I might get covered in "Fly Smash", no, it didn't happen. Thank you also to everyone who came up to the Airfield, to watch me frighten myself witless, it was nice to see so many familiar friendly faces. And to Rick & Jan for letting me put my sponsor forms in the shop, that saved me an awful lot of leg work. Between you, you managed to raise a brilliant sum of £2,269.20 which has been equally divided between the Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance, and the Pembroke Unit at Salisbury District Hospital.

So, on behalf of both charities, can I thank you all so very much.....Eileen



Fontmell Magna Village Hall (Registered Charity 301129)

I hereby give notice that the Annual General Meeting of the Fontmell Magna Village Hall Management Committee will take place on Wednesday 26th July 2017 at 7.30 p.m. at the Village Hall.

The current terms of office for both the Secretary and Treasurer expire this year and the positions will need to be filled. The post of Vice-Chairman is still VACANT and needs to be filled. Nominations, in writing, may be made by any person whose name appears on the current Register of Electors for Fontmell Magna and should be signed by the proposer and seconder and confirmed by the nominee. They should be sent to the Hon. Secretary at 'Chaseborough', West Street, Fontmell Magna, SP7 0PF and received no later than Wednesday 12th July 2017.

This meeting is open to all and is an invitation to everyone interested in the future of the Village Hall. C. B. Johnston Hon. Secretary

Notices – July 2017

St. Andrew's Church

Sun	2nd	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		9.00am	Sunday Breakfast (Village Hall - see over)
Sun	9th	9.30am	Family Service
Sun	16th	9.30am	Holy Communion with choir
Sun	23rd	9.30am	Benefice service at Shroton
Sun	30th	9.30am	Holy Communion (CW)

Open House each Friday 10.30am - 12noon

Prayers each Tuesday at 9.00am

Parish Council

Mon 10th at 7.30pm in St Andrew's School. The meeting is open to all members of the public and starts with Public Questions.

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

Saturday 15th, starting at 10.30am from the car park at Tyneham, nr. Wareham (map ref: SY 882803).

Please bring a picnic.

Leaders: Pat & Malcolm Watkins 01305 257988.

Bell-ringing

Tue 18th - Practice 7.30 to 8.30pm

Details Chris Bellers 811734

Bin Collection Dates

W/C 10th & 24th - Recycling & Food

W/C 3rd, 17th & 31st - Rubbish & Food

St Andrew's School

Fri 7th - Sports Day (or, if wet weather, Tues 11th)

Fri 14th - PTFA Summer Fete

Fri 21st - Break up for Summer

Village Hall events - see over



Events in the Village Hall

Sunday Breakfast

Sun 2nd at 9.00am. Informal breakfast run by St Andrew's Church. All welcome.
Details Janet Smith 811904

Village Hall Committee

Wed 5th at 7.30pm.
Details Chris Bellers 811734

Fete Planning Meeting

Wed 12th at 7.30pm.
Details Hannah Lister 811568

Archive Society

Thur 20th 4.00 to 5.30pm
Details Roger Hillman 811878

Village Hall AGM

Wed 26th at 7.00 for 7.30pm.
Details Chris Bellers 811734

Archive Society Exhibition

Thur 27th to Sun 30th from 10.00am to 4.00pm. All welcome. Free!
Details Roger Hillman 811878

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

Thur (except 27th) 7.30pm.
Details Gerry Bone 811814

Dru Yoga

Fri (except 28th) 9.30 to 11.00am.
Details Louise Hull 01258 860381

Taekwon-do

Tues 8.00 to 9.00pm.
Fri (except 28th) 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

DON'T FORGET!!

SUNDAY BREAKFAST @ 9

All are welcome on Sunday 2nd July.

at Fontmell Village Hall 9.00 a.m.

with St. Andrew's Church



(Next one 3rd September)

Iwerne Valley Walking Group

April walk

On Saturday 22nd April, 19 walkers and 3 dogs assembled at St. James Church Centre in Milton Abbas. We climbed a very steep flight of wooden steps at the side of the Church and, at the top, were rewarded with glorious views of the village.

Our path took us across several fields, including a dairy farm where we saw six very young calves, then we descended to the bottom of the hill with views of Milton Abbey on the way. We continued through a stunningly vibrant field of rapeseed before climbing again to the high point of Gallows Corner – an eerie land mark.

On this beautiful Spring morning, our route took us through woods filled with bluebells and wild garlic and the whole journey covered about five miles, which was completed without having to climb a single stile! Our return journey ended at the Hambro Arms where we enjoyed a very hospitable and an excellent lunch. Penny Wintle and Pam Payne.

May Walk



It was a relief when 15 walkers, and 2 dogs arrived at the Fox and Hounds, East Knoyle on Saturday 20th May, as the forecast had been worrying. We walked up a quiet lane to the bridleway entrance to Haddon Hill wood, still swathed with bluebells but drooping a bit. Down a track we went, muddy in places, then arrived at Upton hamlet and walked up a gently rising track to Cleeve Hill where the view was amazing. While we enjoyed it a trickle of rain started but lasted only about ten minutes. The sky brightened as we walked down to West Knoyle, where we

passed the pretty church and walked for about ½ a mile through the village. We then turned onto Woodland Trust land, extensive fields bordered by woods. Again, we enjoyed wonderful views, now over Dorset. The final bit of the walk was up through a wood, after negotiating a really tricky stile. We then had to cope with mud, fallen branches, and even trunks! Luckily, all present and intact, we arrived at the pub where we enjoyed excellent food and service and enthused about the walk.

Pauline Morphy (sadly without co-leader Fred, our most loyal canine member – now in the Elysian Fields)

Changes to bus services

Following public consultation, Dorset County Council has now awarded new contracts for supported public and schools transport services, replacing those due to expire in July. These have been awarded to four local bus companies: Go South Coast (Damory); First Hampshire and Dorset; South West Coaches; and Vale Coaches.

About 70% of existing public transport routes (accounting for over 90% of public transport usage) will continue to operate after July. DCC is working with the operators to retain some currently subsidised routes on a commercially operated basis, and is also working with communities to advise on community transport alternatives.

Seven public transport routes between Dorset's market towns will start on Monday 24th July. These are:

Route 1 – Blandford to Sherborne – South West Coaches (currently Service X10 operated by Damory)

Route 2 – Shaftesbury to Gillingham – South West Coaches (currently operated by Damory as Services 59 and 158)

Route 3 – Blandford to Shaftesbury – South West Coaches (currently operated by Damory as Service X9)

Route 4 – Sturminster Newton to Gillingham – South West Coaches (currently operated by Damory as Service 309)

Route 5 – Blandford to Dorchester – First Hampshire and Dorset (currently operated by Damory as Services X12 and 187)

Route 6 – Blandford to Salisbury – Go South Coast (currently operated by DCC as Service 20)

Route 7 – Sherborne to Dorchester – South West Coaches (currently operated by Damory as Service X11)

The new school transport contracts, allocated on a 'one school, one operator' basis, will start in September. To book a place, go to <https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/school-transport/apply-and-appeal>

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.

Money Matters - Part 2**New £1 coin**

The new 12-sided £1 coin was introduced into circulation on Tuesday 28th March 2017. It is described as 12-sided though, strictly speaking, it actually has 14 sides. From Sunday 15th October 2017, the round £1 coin will cease to be legal tender, and shops will no longer accept them. Holders will still be able to deposit them into their bank account, but only at the discretion of their bank - Barclays, HSBC, Lloyds/Bank of Scotland, Nationwide, RBS and Santander have said they will only offer this service for their own customers.

The introduction of the new coin has not been without problems. Businesses have had to spend significant amounts to upgrade their machines to accept the new £1 coin. However, it is still possible that not all machines will work with the new coin.

The coin does not only have 12 (or 14) sides and milled edges to make it more distinctive and more difficult to forge. It also has a "latent image", similar to a hologram, etched on to it, which changes between a number 1 and a pound sign as the coin is turned. In addition, it has two metals: an outer ring of gold coloured nickel-brass and an inner circle of silver coloured nickel-plated alloy. Not only that, but the Queen's face contains an invisible code that proves the coins' authenticity. The code exists on the top layer of metal on the surface of the coin; it includes a pigment which is invisible to the naked eye and can only be read when subjected to a specific frequency of ultraviolet light installed in the Royal Mint's special fake coin detection machines.

Since the launch, several people have found slightly imperfect versions of the new coin, and some of these faulty versions are being auctioned online for, allegedly, up to £5,000.

£2 coin

Two new designs will also be unveiled for the £2 coin. From April, the coin pays tribute to the pioneering Royal Flying Corps - the forerunner to the RAF - whose pilots played a crucial role in winning the First World War. From Tuesday 18th July, a Jane Austen £2 coin will celebrate the author, 200 years after her death.

50p coin

From September, the design for the 50p coin will remember Sir Isaac Newton, a former Master of the Royal Mint.

Springhead

Sunday 16th July, open garden, 10.00am to 5.00pm stalls & café serving refreshments and light lunches, £3.50, U16 free, dogs on leads welcome. Wheelchair assisted access. Edward Parker will also talk about his book 'Ancient Trees of the National Trust'.

Thursday 3rd August, 7.30pm, Artsreach presents Flann O'Brien's 'The Third Policeman', open air theatre. Bring a picnic, gardens open from 6.00pm. £12 adult, £10 Friend of Springhead, under 18 £8 & family £32. book online at www.artsreach.co.uk

Springhead Trust, www.springheadtrust.org.uk or info@springheadtrust.org.uk.

Baffling Blandford**Baffling Blandford is Back!**

Paul and Jana, husband and wife illusionists, are back for a second season of 'Baffling Blandford', weekly walks illustrating the quirky character of the town. Jana says, 'It's a half-hour walk packed into 90 intriguing minutes - with impossibilities at every turn!' 'Baffling Blandford' starts from the Crown Hotel's garden at 4.00pm every Sunday and finishes back at the Crown about 5.30pm, having delighted participants with a fabulous magic show at stops along the way.

Reactions in person and on Facebook: "We were spellbound!" "Great fun! Paul and Jana are brilliant and not to be missed." "Sheer enjoyment." "We loved being led to unknown spaces and were amazed by your trickery."

Paul Hyland is a Dorset-born author, broadcaster and magician who has performed magic for celebrities in the UK, in Venice and the US. He has lectured at the world-famous Magic Circle. Jana is an American wordsmith who has performed magic since her childhood in Arkansas. Together they bring Magic about Blandford to life.

The 90-minute tour is wheelchair accessible, with free parking at the nearby Marsh & Ham car park. Baffling Blandford is an entertainment for adults that children (6+) will also enjoy. Come see Blandford with new eyes! Tickets from the Crown Hotel Reception, Blandford TIC or your dynamic hosts, Paul and Jana, on the night. See www.artoftheimpossible.com/magic or like them on Facebook!

Baffling Blandford kicked off its 2017 season as part of the Free Expression Arts Festival in May and will continue every Sunday until 10th September.

St Swithin's Day

Keep an eye out for the weather on Saturday 15th July. According to legend, St Swithin, a monk who died around the year 862, requested his burial in the churchyard of Winchester cathedral in a spot where "the sweet rain from heaven might wet his grave." On 15th July, his remains were moved inside the cathedral and his spirit was supposedly so outraged that it rained for the next forty days. This gave rise to the saying: *St Swithin's Day, if it does rain / Full forty days, it will remain / St Swithin's Day, if it be fair / For forty days, t'will rain no more.* (Note: since the start of meteorological records in 1861, there has never been a record of 40 dry or 40 wet days in a row following St Swithin's Day.)

Village weather for May 2017

The April 'drought' continued for a week then a wet period followed by a hot, dry spell which ended in thunder and unsettled weather.

Generally, warmer than average.

13 rain days. 3 days thunder. No hail or gales.

3 ground frost. 0 air frost.

Comp. Figures	2017	2016
Rain (most 22.0 mm on 17th)	78.7 mm	50.0 mm
Sunshine	194.9 hr (av. 6.3)	191.36 hr
Max mean temp. (highest 25.8 °C on 26th)	18.6 °C	17.3 °C
Min mean temp. (lowest 1.4 °C on 10th)	8.6 °C	7.6 °C

Full Buck Moon – Sunday 9th July

The Full Moon in July is traditionally known as the Full Buck Moon, because the male buck deer begin to grow their new antlers at this time of year. It is also known as the Full Thunder Moon, because thunderstorms are so frequent during this month, and as the Full Hay Moon.



Towards the end of the month, it may be possible to see the Delta Aquarids Meteor Shower.

This Meteor Shower, produced by debris left behind by comets Marsden and Kracht, runs annually from 12th July to 23rd August.

This year, it peaks on the night of Saturday 29th July and morning of Sunday 30th July with up to 20 meteors per hour.

The crescent moon will set by midnight, leaving dark skies for potentially a good early morning show. Meteors will radiate from the constellation Aquarius, but can appear anywhere in the sky.

Compost Corner

I remember, oh so well, a dilemma a friend had when deciding which green carpet he should buy; he was concerned that it would clash with the green of his lawn. An unusual problem for sure, but a heartfelt one.

There are so many shades of green and they all complement one another - I can't think of a single green combination that doesn't work in a garden. If you want to add a bit of a zing to a border you could try the acid green of *Euonymus* 'Emerald 'n' Gold' or *Euphorbia characias* subsp. *wulfenii* and these in turn look amazing next to the purple flowers of lupins or *Campanula glomerata* 'Superba'. Hostas come in so many shades of green - some splashed with cream or white like *Hosta crispula* or *Hosta fortunei* var. *aureomarginata* and they also add a strong architectural element to a border.

And what was the solution to my friend's problem? He got a blue carpet.

Alison Main



Euphorbia characias subsp. *wulfenii*

General Election

Simon Hoare (Conservative) was re-elected to the Dorset North constituency in the General Election on Thursday 8th June with 36,169 votes (64.91%). Turnout was 72.9%. Labour was in second place with 10,392 votes (18.65%), and the Liberal Democrats third with 7,556 votes (13.56%). UKIP did not field a candidate. In the 2015 election, the Conservatives had 30,227 votes, UKIP 9,109, the Liberal Democrats 6,226 and Labour 4785. Turnout was 73.17%.

Footpaths

Any questions about footpaths should be put to the Parish Council, who have a councillor responsible for them.

A leaflet 'A walk around the village', produced by the Archive Society, is on sale at the village shop, price £1 (all proceeds to the shop).

Continuing our series of articles featuring Bedchester.

78 (Bramblings) and 79 (Hoppy Cottage) Penn Hill

These brick and flint cottages appear to have been occupied by three families of labourers until about 1911, when they were occupied by two.

The first dwelling, later to be known as 79 Penn Hill, was occupied from at least 1861 by the Ryall family. John Ryall (1820-1906), a labourer, lived there with his wife Sarah Ryall née Still (1820-1895). John's parents were James Ryall (1786-1861) and Hannah Sharp (1783-1827); in the 1851 census, James is described as a "Pauper (agricultural labourer)". John and Sarah had two sons and three daughters. By 1881, John was a coal carrier. In 1884, their youngest daughter, Hannah, married Edwin Lambert, a labourer born in Compton Abbas. Hannah and Edwin lived with the Ryalls and went on to have two sons and two daughters. In 1909, their youngest daughter, Elizabeth, married Alfred Hayter, a carter born in East Knoyle, and he also lived there with their two sons. By the 1911 census, there were three Lamberts and four Hayters living here. In the 1919 Glyn sale, the dwelling was Lot 87 occupied by Mr Edwin Lambert. In more recent years, 79 was occupied, until they died, by Cecil Charles Brown (1892-1958) and Winifred Ellen (Winnie) Brown née Domoney (1892-1964). Cecil was the brother of Cyril Joseph (Joe) Brown, the smallholder at Perrymead who later lived at Meadowhayes.

The second dwelling, later to be known as 78 Penn Hill, was occupied from at least 1841 by the Spicer family. The dwelling appears to have been smaller than 79 - in the 1901 census, it is described as having 3 rooms (whereas 79 had more than 4 rooms). The Spicer family consisted of George Spicer (1816-1862), a carpenter, and his wife Hannah Spicer née Cole (1816-1898), a laundress. They had six children and also provided a home to several grand-children belonging to their daughter Ellen (1842-1922), a glover and later a laundress. Ellen eventually married the widower Jehu (John) Rideout, born 1844, in 1883, but not before she had had three sons and two daughters. In 1871, on the birth of her fifth child, George, she moved into 73 Bedchester where she lived with Virtue Spicer (1787-1879) and then later Jehu Rideout with whom she appears to have had two further children (one born two years before their marriage). By 1911, Jehu and Ellen were in Bournemouth, where Jehu was a domestic gardener.

Once Ellen had moved out, Hannah appears to have lived alone at 78 Penn Hill until her death in 1898. She was replaced by Maria Stone (1829-1907), a tailor's wife, born in East Stour, previously living in Woodbridge Lane, and her daughter Annie (born 1867). Maria's husband was John Stone (1823-1876). By 1911, Sydney Lot Stone (1874-1920), a labourer, and his wife Sarah Elizabeth Stone (1875-1952) were living there. They had been married for 4 years and had no children. Sydney was the illegitimate son of Mary Stone, one of Maria's daughters. He was christened on the same day (14th February 1875) as Maria's youngest child, Charles. In the 1919 Glyn sale, the dwelling was Lot 86 let to Mr Sidney Stone and shared a well with Lot 87. Both Lots 86 and 87 were bought by Mr C. R. Dickenson. Sidney and Sarah continued to live at 78 Penn Hill until they died.



Road widening - 1980's

The third dwelling, which was also described as having three rooms, was occupied from at least 1861 by Robert Tucker (1791-1883), a labourer, and his wife Ruth. In 1852, Robert's daughter by his first marriage, Mary, became the second wife of James Bradley, in 71 Bedchester, and they went on to have eight children. On the death of the Tuckers, the dwelling was occupied by Tom Dibben (born 1864), also a labourer, his wife Emmeline Caroline, and their two daughters. They had previously been living in South Street, and soon moved to Wootton, near Basingstoke in Hampshire, where Tom became a farmer. They were replaced by the family of Albert Bradley (1862-1937).

Albert was the youngest child of John Bradley (1828-1906) and Emma Bradley née Young (1823-1869) and lived first at 74 Bedchester. Following Emma's death, John married Emma Jane Tuffin (1847-1889) in 1872 and the family moved to Shroton. On the death of his second wife, John moved back to Bedchester, possibly living at Bedchester Farm, while Albert, a labourer, lodged with his sister Emily, now married to William Beale, in Woodbridge. In the next house but one, his other sister, Anne Eliza and her two children, lodged with Caroline Brockway. In 1894, Albert married Fanny Elizabeth Sharpe (1864-1935), and they had three children: Bertie John (1896-1916), Annie Eliza (1900-1989) and Emma (born 1902). In 1901, Albert is described as a 'carter on farm'. By 1911, the family was living in 21 Lurmer Street; Albert was a 'horseman on a farm' and Bertie was an out of work labourer. Bertie later moved to London, enlisted on 6th February 1915, was sent to France on 17th November 1915, and was killed on 27th February 1916 - his name is recorded on the Fontmell War Memorial.

*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 24th July 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).*