



THE GOSSIP TREE

News & Views from the Parish of FONTMELL MAGNA

March
2017
Issue 277

*This issue is kindly sponsored by the Fontmell
Magna Public Amenity Site Trust*

The Fontmell Magna Public Amenity Site Trust (FMPAST) was set up at the beginning of 2014 with the express purpose of purchasing the Middle Mill Dam site from Wessex Water and preserving it for the enjoyment of the local population and visitors. The purchase was completed in August 2014 after a successful and well supported fund raising campaign in the village.

Since that date, the site has been regularly maintained and the bench and picnic table refurbished by volunteers. The small building with a pitched roof (the pump house), which formerly housed an electric pump that pumped water to Ashmore, has had its suspended ceiling repaired to provide a dark roof space for roosting bats.



At the end of January this year, as the result of a generous donation, we planted a Swamp Cypress tree (*Taxodium distichum*). It is sited in the area behind the bench as this species, which is a native of the Mississippi region of the USA, thrives near water. Unusually among cypress it is deciduous and locally there are two healthy specimens in the garden at Springhead.

During the Spring, we are planning

to make the whole area more wildlife friendly by installing nest boxes and bee houses, and our maintenance programme will be designed to enhance the attractiveness of the site to the local wildlife and, of course, to all the local people who regularly visit the dam.

Dick Stainer

The Gossip Tree – new printing arrangements

Last month there was a delay in getting The Gossip Tree to our wonderful team of volunteer distributors. This was largely because of problems getting the copies from the printers in Winchester. The Gossip Tree Committee has met to discuss the arrangements and has concluded that the only way to guarantee prompt distribution is to have each edition printed more locally.

The Winchester printers charge just over £34 for 290 copies on one sheet of A3 double-sided paper. This is extremely competitive, and we have been unable to find anyone locally who could provide A3 copies for anything less than about £60. The amount we ask for sponsorship each month is £30.

As we do not believe that we can ask for sponsorship each month of double the current rate, we feel we have no choice but to print The Gossip Tree in stapled, A4 format. The good news is that the cost for this is £30, the same as we ask for sponsorship.

The Gossip is now printed by the Iwerne Valley Benefice Office, a local and more convenient facility based in Shroton. Not only are their printing costs lower than before (so meaning that we will no longer need to ask for one-off grants from e.g. the Fete), but the work is done within the locality to the benefit of both the Benefice and the Gossip Tree, and we should be able to co-ordinate distribution of both The Gossip Tree and Valley Views.

We already have an extensive email distribution list – those receiving The Gossip Tree by email will receive a colour version but, of course, if they print off their version, they will have two A4 sheets (which they could choose to staple). Emailing obviously saves us paper and costs – if you would like to be added to our email list, rather than receive a paper copy, please contact the Editor.

Finally, thank you to the distributors for their patience and hard work and to everyone who contributes to the Gossip Tree in whatever way.

If you have any comments on the new arrangements, please email to: blueletterbox@btinternet.com.

Barbara Humphreys, Chair, Gossip Tree Committee

Notices – March 2017

St. Andrew's Church

Sun 5th 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
Sun 12th 11.00am Family Service
Sun 19th 11.00am Holy Communion with choir
Sun 26th 11.00am Holy Communion (CW)

Fri 3rd 10.30am 'In Home' coffee morning at
Glebe Cottage, Parsonage
Street (Michael & Ann Hobbs)
Tue 21st 10.30am Open House in the Tea Room

Prayers each Tuesday at 9.00am

Parish Council

Mon 13th at 7.30pm 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 - Thu 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 11.00pm (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

Iwerne Valley Walking Group

Sat 18th 10.00am, starting from The Trooper Inn,
Stourton Caundle DT10 2JW. Leaders: Neil & Jane
Davies 01747 811627.

Bell-ringing

Tue 21st Practice 7.30 to 8.30pm
Details Chris Bellers 811734

Bin Collection Dates

W/C 6th & 20th - Recycling & Food
W/C 13th & 27th - Rubbish & Food

St Andrew's School

Fri 7th April - Break up for Easter

Village Hall events - see over

Neighbourhood Plan: Options Consultation Event

The Neighbourhood Plan working group will be holding an Options Consultation event on Saturday 18th March in the Village Hall which will be open to all members of the parish community. The purpose of the consultation is to seek the views of Fontmell Magna Parish residents on the proposals so far for development of the village and wider parish which may go forward into the plan. There will be displays of the ideas being considered and members of the working group will be available to answer any questions that may arise.

Michael Humphreys,
Acting Secretary, Neighbourhood Plan Working
Group

Remember

Clocks go forward one
hour on Sunday 27th
March



Events in the Village Hall

Village Hall Committee Meeting

Wed 1st at 7.30pm

Details Chris Bellers 811734

Fontmell Magna & District Society

Fri 3rd at 7.30pm. 'The Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance'

Details Dick Stainer 811153

Fontmell Film Group

Wed 8th - 'The Girl on the Train' (15)

Doors open 7.00pm.

Details Libby Gendall 811551

North Dorset Wildlife Trust

Wed 15th - illustrated talk on Gardening for Wildlife by Briony Baxter, DWT Community Conservation Officer. 7.30pm.

Details Geoff Peters 811546

Archive Society

Thurs 16th 4.00pm to 5.50pm.

Details Roger Hillman 811878

Garden Club

Thurs 16th 7.30pm. Talk by Stephen Candy 'Kingston Lacy through the Year'.

Details Robert McCurrach 812077

Neighbourhood Plan

Sat 18th Consultation Event 10.00am

to 4.00pm. Details Michael

Humphreys 07850 875429

Fete

Wed 22nd 7.30pm.

Details Hannah Lister 811120

Pilates

Mon 6.30 to 7.30pm.

STOTT Pilates Matwork with props.

Details Vicci Gillett 07940 961221

www.stable-bodies.co.uk

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

Thurs 2nd, 9th and 23rd, and Fri 17th

7.30pm. Details Gerry Bone 811814

Dru Yoga

Fri 9.30 to 11.00am.

Details Kirsty Elliot 07783 780128

Taekwon-do

Tues 8.00 to 9.00pm.

Fri 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

Fontmell Directory 2017

Correction: Michael Humphreys is vice chair of the Parish Council, not Leo Williams as stated.

Iwerne Valley Walking Group

December walk

On Saturday 17th December, perilously close to Christmas, three dogs and seven and a half people (the half being Peter Westgate who did part of the way with us and then took a shorter route back to the pub where we eventually joined him for lunch) set off from The Stapleton Arms in Buckhorn Weston. What a beautiful old village tucked away in a tranquil corner of Dorset!

We walked up and down on country lanes, across fields and streams and over the usual ubiquitous stiles and occasional patches of thick mud that stuck to our soles, in perfect walking weather. We met some folk out shooting, amongst whom were a couple of Labradors with their owner, known to a couple of us from the dog 'school' our dogs attend, so we passed by amicably.



When we got back to the pub, the new landlord had recovered somewhat from his initial grumpiness about a couple of us turning up too early at the start of the walk. He'd also insisted that we all had to choose from either the Christmas menu or the regular one, so we'd all chosen from the regular one. It took a long time to be served.

The food was all right but quite expensive. However,

we were happy to sit at a

comfortable table and chat after our enjoyable walk, in anticipation of the Christmas holiday to

Helen English

January walk

Nineteen people and four dogs joined the walk on Saturday 21st January, starting from the Sherborne Castle Garden Centre, and all seemed to enjoy it (apart from quite a bit of road at the start). We welcomed two new people, Monique & John, retired teachers from Iwerne Minster.

The weather was gorgeous with sun the whole time, and the ground was crisp, so less muddy apart from right at the end. When we passed the ancient little church of St. Cuthberts on the A30, someone discovered we could go in at the side, and it looks like it is still in use.

For a few minutes, we went slightly wrong at the top of the hill leading into the Park as people had walked on ahead and automatically followed the path to the right, so we had to backtrack and keep going straight ahead and on through the gate. Martin saw some deer but nobody else seemed to see them. There were lovely views of the old and new castles, the lake and Sherborne town itself. We saw a newborn lamb at the farm near the entrance to the estate.

Seventeen people stayed for lunch at the Walled Garden Restaurant at the back of the Garden Centre, and the staff looked after us well.

Claire Watson

Fontmell Films

Our film on Wednesday 8th March is the mystery drama 'The Girl on the Train' (15).



Released in October 2016, it tells the story of Rachel (played by Emily Blunt), a recent divorcee, who spends her daily commute fantasising about the seemingly perfect couple who live in a house that her train passes each day, until one morning she sees something shocking happen there and becomes entangled in the mystery that unfolds. Also starring Haley Bennett, Rebecca Ferguson and Justin Theroux.

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. We look forward to seeing you and don't forget your cushion! For more details please call Libby on 01747 811551.

Our next film, on Wednesday 12th April, is 'A Streetcat named Bob' (12a)

Great British Spring Clean Event Fri 3rd-Sun 5th March

The Great British Spring Clean Event will be taking place over Friday 3rd to Sunday 5th March when individuals and groups in villages, parishes, towns and cities up and down the country will be going out to pick up litter. If you can spare an hour or two to be part of this event, you simply need to decide on a section of lane or footpath in our parish to clean up and get out there on one of the three days to suit you.

Naturally there are some do's and don'ts involved with litter picking, such as avoiding busy highways, dangerous substances and heavy objects, and it's essential to wear suitable protective clothing. Full details of the Spring Clean event and the precautions to take can be found at www.greatbritishspringclean.org.uk and at

www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/street-care/community-litter-picks.

If, like me, you are concerned about the increasing amount of litter spoiling our beautiful village and parish, then participating in the Great British Spring Clean Event will make a difference.

Michael Humphreys

North Dorset Wildlife Trust

Gardens, of whatever size, can offer a wonderful habitat for many of our wildlife species. Yet it's not always easy to know just what to plant in order to attract butterflies, birds and other native creatures. The Dorset Wildlife Trust's Community Conservation Officer, Briony Baxter, can help with ideas for flowering plants to attract insects throughout the year, as well as ideas for water features and why dead wood and long grass can make beneficial habitats. And that is just to start you off – she'll have many more ideas for you when she delivers her illustrated talk on **Gardening for Wildlife** on Wednesday 15th March at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. £2 (including tea/coffee & biscuits); no charge for children under 16.

A date for your diary: An illustrated talk on the **Wildlife of Brownsea Island** by Dorset Wildlife Trust Brownsea Island Manager, Chris Thain, on Wednesday 19th April at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. £2 (including tea/coffee & biscuits); no charge for children under 16.

Fontmell Magna and District Society

Friday 3rd February – 'Bhutan, a Himalayan Buddhist Kingdom' by Dick Stainer
Most countries estimate how well they are doing by using as a reference point their G.D.P. The King of Bhutan, in marked contrast to this, has decreed that the reference point for his country must be the index of Gross National Happiness. Indeed, Dick told us, the people there do seem to be remarkably happy and content.

Last October he and Fabienne travelled to this mountain kingdom, squeezed between India and China, for a gruelling trek, taking in a pass nearly 5,000 metres above sea level. We were the beneficiaries of all this hard effort. They brought back wonderful slides of animals, flowers and 7,000 metre high mountains gleaming with snow. We saw a sporting contest where the contestants hurled rocks in much the same way as we put the shot, and everywhere people were dressed in the traditional costume.

By the end of the evening we felt we had also been on a real adventure.

Our next talk will be on Friday 3rd March, when we will hear a speaker from the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance.

Michael Golberg

Garden Club

February's meeting was once again very well attended and we enjoyed another excellent talk. The topic was propagation with Adam Wallis from the Castle Gardens team. He was entertaining and knowledgeable giving practical information and advice plus an interesting insight into how the garden centres do it on their grand scale. Our next meeting will be on Thursday 16th March at 7.30pm when Stephen Candy will join us to talk about 'Kingston Lacy through the Year'. You are welcome to contact us for any further information.

Chairman: Robert McCurrach 812077

Secretary: Sue Keen 812282

Parish Council

The Parish Council will be presenting the outcome of discussions between the A350 Community Group and Dorset County Council (DCC) regarding the improvements to the A350, the C13 and the Fontmell Magna Traffic Management Scheme. Money has been given by the Government to DCC to fund such improvements, and DCC is consulting with parish councils as to how the money should best be spent.

Come to the Parish Council meeting on Monday 13th March at 7.30pm at St Andrew's School to find out more.

Robin East, Acting Parish Clerk

Real Easter Eggs

In 2016, St Andrew's, Fontmell enjoyed ordering these delicious Real Easter Eggs, which contain a little book giving the Easter Story.

In 2017, all the Iwerne Benefice Churches are invited to order - a poster will be displayed in each Church and the opportunity to sign up and book your eggs. For any queries, please ask your Churchwarden in the first place. Closing date for orders is Sunday 5th March.

Original egg- 2017 design (150g) RRP £3.99

The first and only Fairtrade chocolate egg to explain the meaning of Easter. Inside is a beautifully illustrated 24 page Easter story activity book, a milk chocolate egg (125g) and a Fairtrade milk chocolate bar (25g). A charity donation is made from each sale. There are three crosses on the front and under the lid there is a quote from the bible - the resurrection text from Mark, chapter 16. John and Lavender Buckland

Fete – reminder

The next Fete meeting is on Wednesday 22nd March at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. We hope to see as many people as possible to start planning the 2017 Fete.

Hannah Lister

Village weather for January 2017

Cold and relatively dry until the end of the month. Two periods of grey and gloom, but with 10 days of frost and sunshine - then wild and wet.

14 rain days. 16 air frost. 22 ground frost. 2 gales.

Comp. Figures	2017	2016
Rain (most 15.0 mm on 12th)	94.5 mm	137.9 mm
Sunshine	68.4 hr (av. 2.2)	52.3 hr
Max mean temp. (highest 14.2 °C on 31st)	7.8 °C	9.45 °C
Min mean temp. (lowest - 6.2 °C on 23rd)	0 °C	1.99 °C

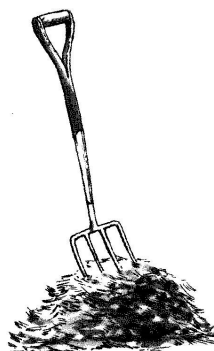
Full Worm Moon – Sunday 12th March

The Full Moon in March is traditionally called the Full Worm Moon by the Native Americans who used the Moons to track the seasons; at this time of year, the ground begins to soften and earthworm casts reappear, inviting the return of robins. In some regions, this is also known as the **Sap Moon**, as it marks the time when maple sap begins to flow and the annual tapping of maple trees begins.



Sunday 12th March is also when Daylight Saving Time begins in the USA and Canada (two weeks before the UK).

Spring officially begins (in the Northern Hemisphere) with the equinox on Monday 20th March. The equinox (which literally means "equal night") marks the moment the Sun crosses the celestial equator (the imaginary line in the sky above the Earth's equator) and shines directly on the equator so that there will equal amounts of day and night throughout the world. However, the amounts of day and night are not actually equal at the time of the equinox. This is because the earth is slightly tilted. Here in Dorset (and at Stonehenge), the actual "equal night" is some two days earlier: on Friday 17th, sunrise is 6.17 am and sunset is 6.15 pm, giving 11 hours and 58 minutes of daylight; on Saturday 18th, sunrise is 6.15 am and sunset is 6.16 pm, giving 12 hours and one minute of daylight.

Compost Corner

It's a good time to plant trees and recently, on Gardener's Question Time, there was a query about the best choice of tree for a small garden. One of the panel suggested that size shouldn't be an issue: enjoy the tree's attributes and when it gets too large, chop it down.

This is all very well, but life isn't that straightforward.

A friend of mine planted a 'dwarf' conifer in a rockery; in no time at all, it was over 20 feet and had completely outgrown its space. So she contacted a tree surgeon, but he advised her she would require planning permission because her garden was in a Conservation area. Unfortunately, the tree officer considered the conifer to be a 'local amenity' and would not grant permission to have it removed.

Bearing in mind that Fontmell Magna is also a Conservation Area, select any new tree with great care.

Alison Main

Welcome

A rather belated welcome to the village to David and Hannah Christopher and their children, Grace and Freddie, who have moved to Millbrook House, Crown Hill. We hope they will enjoy their new life in this beautiful part of Dorset.

Easter Flowers

1st March (Ash Wednesday) marks the beginning of Lent so, as is customary, St Andrew's Church will be without flowers for that 6½ weeks.

To enable us to decorate the church with great splendour for Easter, I am appealing to residents of Fontmell Magna to donate to the flower fund in memory of a loved one. There will be a plate at the back of the church on Sundays from 12th March, or give to me at 15 St Andrew's View, or to Barry or Janet, Churchwardens.

Thank you in appreciation of your generosity. Joy Murphy

Continuing our series of articles featuring Bedchester.

The Bradleys of Bedchester

There have been Bradleys in Bedchester since at least the mid-18th century when Esau and Martha Bradley moved to the parish from Cann. Their son, Thomas, married Susannah Spicer, and they had four children, including George Bradley (1777-1855). In 1839, George lived at what is now Sunnyside, 71 Bedchester. Like George, most Bradleys were agricultural labourers and were extremely poor. Despite this, George appears to have owned the cottage he lived in, and there are records of him selling and purchasing land. On 3rd July 1840, he sold a piece of land of 7 perches for £10 to Michael Wells, blacksmith. Yet, in the 1851 census, George is described as a pauper.

George married Mary Hunt (1775-1856) in 1800, and they had five children: Thomas (1800-1856), Henry (1803-1883), John (born 1805), Martha (born 1812) and James (born 1813-1893). It is not known what happened to John and Martha, but more is known about the other three children, Thomas, Henry and James. The 1841 census shows three Bradley families living next door to each other. In the first was George and Mary with their younger children, James and Martha. In the second was Thomas, his wife Lucy née Spicer and their children. In the third was Henry, his wife Rebecca née Tuffin and their children.

Thomas Bradley

Thomas married Lucy Spicer in 1823 and they had 10 children. Shortly after the birth of their last child, in around 1845, the family (other than the three eldest children) emigrated to the USA where they settled as farmers in Brighton, Macoupin County, Illinois. On the death of his father, one of those who had stayed behind, Martin Robert, joined the rest of the family taking his wife (who died soon after arriving) and two young children. Most of the family lived and died on the farm (which they never owned). Two of the sons, Elijah and James, enlisted in the Union army during the American Civil War – Elijah was captured by the Confederates and it is not known what became of him. James and another son, Henry, died in Oklahoma.

Henry Bradley

Henry and Rebecca had five children (including a son, John, who was living at Woodbridge Farm in the 1841 census – see last issue) and continued living in, or near, 71 Bedchester. By 1871, Rebecca had died and their daughter, Mary Ann, had married Herbert Lankey; Henry went to live with the Lankey family at 75 Penn Hill until his death in 1883. His son John married Emma Young and they had four children: Emily, Ann Eliza, Samuel and Albert. Emma died in 1869, aged 46. Emily had a daughter, Eva Amelia, in 1880 while she was in Shaftesbury Union workhouse. In 1882, Emily married William Beale and lived in Woodbridge Lane (possibly in what is now Woodbridge Meadow) with Eva, described as his step-daughter, William (possibly a child from his previous marriage), and Emily's younger brother, Albert. Emily outlived her husband and died in the workhouse in 1933, aged 79. Albert married Fanny, had three children and, by 1911, was living in 21 Lurmer Street.

James Bradley

James appears to have lived all his life at 71 Bedchester. In 1836, aged 23, he married Alice Pitman, aged 48. They had no children and she died in 1850. In 1852, James married Mary Tucker (1830-1884). James and Mary had six daughters and two sons, George (1862-1930) and Harry (1866-1932). Of the daughters, two died in infancy, one died aged 15, and one (Martha) died aged 17 in the Asylum. By 1891, the family was down to James, now a widower, and three unmarried children: Sarah, George and Harry. James died in 1893, and Sarah, then 41, married Frederick Wareham in 1896. They lived at Meadowhayes and then at '70 The Elms'. Harry never married and eventually lived in East Orchard.

In 1909, George, then aged 46, married Bessie Dando, then aged 24. They had three children: Mary (1912-1977) who married Reginald Curtis and moved to Frome; Fred (1917-1991) who in 1948 married Gladys Burden (1923-1993), daughter of William Burden, and whose son was Alec (who still lives in Bedchester); and Frank (1922-2012) who married Barbara Conway (1932-1993) and had two children. Fred and Frank were the two milkmen pictured in our article on Bedchester Farm (in the August 2016 issue). Bessie may have had another child, Ida, born before her marriage to George. Bessie died in Frome, but her address was given as 82 Bedchester.



Frank Bradley and his mother Bessie c.1930

*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 19th March 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).*