



THE GOSSIP TREE

News & Views from the Parish of FONTMELL MAGNA

This issue is kindly sponsored by The Village Shop and Post Office

November
2017
Issue 285

Dear Customers,
We can't believe it's that time of year again. For some weeks wholesalers have been pestering us for our Christmas orders and it's now our turn to pester – sorry, gently remind you – that Festive Fayre order forms can now be collected from the shop.

Ordering for Christmas - For those of you new to the village, we are able to order your meat, poultry, dairy products, most vegetables and fruit, and bakery and grocery items, from local sources wherever possible. These can be ready for your collection from the shop immediately before Christmas or sooner if you wish. We will also deliver free of charge, including coal, kindling and firelighters, which we supply at very competitive prices.

Christmas Cooking - Wiltons Wholesalers have delivered everything you need to make your Christmas cakes and puddings etc., including a wide variety of dried fruit, nuts, marzipan and glacé cherries.

Christmas Cards and Wrappings - As usual we will be supplying a wide range of boxed cards, in packets of 5 or 10, as well as personal and family stationery. Local artists also provide cards with Christmas themes. We believe our cards are excellent value and well worth a look.

Christmas Trees and Wreaths - Large, medium and small Christmas trees will be available from the second week in November (we know some of you start early – just for the children's sake of course) and this year we will be selling two designs of Christmas

wreath made by Caroline, who lives in the village. Holly crosses can also be made to order. Pictures and related prices are all available in the shop. Also, we try to source a few seasonal goodies/gifts which you're less likely to find in Shaftesbury.

Tea Room - Following your great support last year, we will be offering a three course Xmas lunch on Monday 11th, Friday 15th and Monday 18th December at a cost of £15 per head. Bring your own wine or buy it in the shop! Booking is essential.

Post Office - As most people know, we don't praise the P.O. often, but they do produce a very good gift card, which can be used in a wide range of shops as well as restaurants and garden centres. We've got plenty in stock. Christmas dates for posting: Leaflets have been available at the Post Office for a while now, giving the last recommended posting dates for Christmas

Shop Opening Times

Sat 23rd 9-1	Sat 30th 9-1
Sun 24th 9-12	Sun 31st CLOSED
Mon 25th CLOSED	Mon 1st CLOSED
Tues 26th CLOSED	Tues 2nd 9-1
Wed 27th 9-1	Wed 3rd 9-1
Thur 28th 9-1	Thur 4th 9-4.30
Fri 29th 9-1	Fri 5th 9-4.30

Normal opening times from Saturday 6th January onwards.

We look forward to seeing you soon and once again we would like to thank you all for your custom throughout this year. We wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Healthy, Happy New Year. With very best wishes.

Jan and Rick, Village Shop

Fontmell Magna Neighbourhood Plan

The current pre-submission consultation runs until Monday 20th November, giving parish residents and other interested parties the opportunity to review the draft Plan and modify it, if necessary, to reflect residents' wishes. This acts as a final check before the Plan is submitted to the District Council for approval. The draft Plan and supporting documents can be found on the Parish Council website (www.fontmellmagnapc.co.uk). Paper copies of the Plan are also available at the Village Shop, the Surgery, the School Office and the Fontmell pub, for those unable to access the Plan online.

Two open meetings will be held in the Village Hall to present the draft Plan. These will be on **Wednesday 1st November from 6.00pm** and on **Saturday 4th November between 10.00am and 4.00pm**. Please come along and examine the proposals. You will be invited to complete a Questionnaire/feedback form to give your views on the Plan content; a copy of the form is enclosed with this edition of the Gossip Tree. (*Your name and address is requested on the questionnaire in order to validate that the response is from a parish resident and will not be disclosed in any way*). All completed forms should be handed in to the Village Shop or sent by email to np@fontmellmagnapc.co.uk.

At the end of the consultation period (Monday 20th November), we will analyse all the feedback and, if necessary, re-draft the Plan. We will then submit it to the Parish Council for approval before submitting it to the District Council, who will organise its independent examination before organising a referendum.

Dick Stainer, Acting Chair, Neighbourhood Plan Working Group

Notices – November 2017

St. Andrew's Church

Sun	5th	8.00am 9.00am	Holy Communion (BCP) Sunday Breakfast (Village Hall - see over)
Sun	12th	10.00am	Remembrance
Sun	19th	10.00am	Benefice service at Sutton Waldron
Sun	26th	9.30am	Holy Communion (CW)
Thur	30th	9.30am	Holy Communion (St. Andrew's Day)
Fri	3rd	10.30am	'In Home' coffee morning at 'Fiferidge', West Street (Janet and Philip Smith)

Tues 21st 10.30am Open House in the Tea Room

Prayers each Monday at 9.00am

Parish Council

Mon 13th at 7.30pm in St. Andrew's School. The meeting is open to all members of the public and starts with Public Questions.

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
Enquiries 811201

The Fontmell

Enquiries 811441

St Andrew's School

Mon 6th - Back from Half Term
Fri 10th - Fireworks Night (opens 6.30pm, fireworks start at 7.15pm).
Mon 13th - PTFA AGM at 7.30pm

Fontmell Magna Toddler Group

Tues 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 18th at 3.30p.m. AGM at Hartgrove Farm SP7 0JY. Optional walk from there at 1.45pm before the AGM. Details Helen English 853472

Bell-ringing

Tue 14th & 28th - Practice 7.30 to 8.30pm
Details Chris Bellers 811734

Bin Collection Dates

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

Village Hall events - see over

Events in the Village Hall**Neighbourhood Plan Open Meetings**

Wed 1st from 6.00pm
Sat 4th 10.00am to 4.00pm. Details
Michael Humphreys 07850 875429

Fontmell Magna & District Society

Fri 3rd at 7.30pm - 'Cheeses with
PDO Status' by Charlie Turnbull
Details Dick Stainer 811153

Sunday Breakfast

Sun 5th at 9.00am. Run by
St. Andrew's Church. All welcome.
Details Janet Smith 811904

Fontmell Films

Wed 8th - 'Viceroy's House'. Doors
open 7.00pm
Details Libby Gendall 811551

North Dorset Wildlife Trust

Wed 15th at 7.30pm. 'Dorset
Dragonflies' by Pete Allen
Details Geoff Peters 811546

Archive Society

Thur 16th 4.00 to 5.30pm. AGM.
Details Roger Hillman 811878

Garden Club

Thur 16th at 7.30pm. AGM
followed by Quiz and buffet
Details Robert McCurrach 812077

Fete AGM

Wed 22nd at 7.30pm
Details Hannah Lister 811568

Understanding Islam

Fri 24th at 7.30pm. An evening with
Rev. Canon Alan Amos OBE
Details Barry Roberts 811906

Village Hall Committee Meeting

Wed 29th at 7.30pm
Details Chris Bellers 811734

Pilates

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

Fontmell Magna Art Club

Tues 2.00 to 4.00pm.
Details Sandra Jelbart 812468

Carpet Bowls Club

Thur 2nd, 9th, 23rd & 30th,
Fri 17th, 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**

North Dorset Wildlife Trust

Chasers, darters, skimmers, Emerald and Golden – just the names of these prehistoric aerial acrobats delight and intrigue. Dragonflies are spectacular airborne predators that can be found worldwide, and Dorset is home to many of the UK's 25 different species.

Our rare heathland habitat is particularly important to rarer species, including the Black Darter. The Emperor is the UK's largest and heaviest species (the B52 of the insect world) and this early summer arrival is easily identified around garden ponds by its vibrant turquoise and apple green colouring.

Unlike damselflies, the dragonfly has a robust body shape and is a fast flyer with eyes that are very large. Some, like the Hawkers, are very territorial and aggressive.

Climate change is already leading to species extending their range northwards, and Dorset is now becoming home to species that have not previously been recorded here. Hampshire dragonfly recorder, Pete Allen, will cover this interesting aspect in his talk on 'Dorset Dragonflies' on Wednesday 15th November at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Refreshments are included in the £2 entry and there is no charge for children under 16. Everyone is welcome to attend our talks – membership of DWT is not essential.

'Open House' at St. Andrew's Church

For ten years now, from April to September each year, Coffee Mornings have been held in the Social Area at the back of St. Andrew's Church to which all villagers are invited and welcomed. Attendance is usually between 15 and 25 people and includes both those who are 'churchgoers' and those who are not.

During these past six months, we have welcomed an average of 20 people every Friday morning who have enjoyed each other's company over a cup (or two) of coffee (or tea or hot chocolate) and biscuits, and have had the opportunity to purchase a variety of home-grown produce. We do not make a specific charge for anything but donations towards the coffee, produce, etc. are always gratefully received. On the first Friday of the season, we also had a Stall of home-made cakes, preserves and 'Bring & Buy' on sale. Next year we hope to do this on two more Fridays during the summer.



During the winter months, because it is difficult and costly to heat the church to a comfortable level, we meet once a month in people's homes. The dates and venues for these Coffee Mornings are advertised on the church noticeboards, in The Gossip Tree, and in our Parish Magazine 'Valley Views'. We also meet in our Village Shop Tearoom on the third Tuesday of the month from October to March.

SO ... if you have not been to 'Open House' before, please do come along and join us – we would love to see you!

Jennie Jones

Fontmell Films

Released in March of this year, our film on Wednesday 8th November is 'Viceroy's House' starring Hugh Bonneville, Gillian Anderson, Michael Gambon, Simon Callow and many more. Set in New Delhi 1947, the final Viceroy of India, Lord Mountbatten, is tasked with overseeing the transition of British India to independence, but meets with conflict as the different sides clash in the face of such monumental change.

Tickets £6 from Fontmell Village Shop or £6.50 on the door. Doors and the bar open at 7.00pm with the film starting at 7.30pm. We look forward to seeing everyone and don't forget your cushions! For more information please call Libby on 811551

Date for your diary: Wednesday 13th December 'Whisky Galore'

Late Summer Evening Concert

The church of St Andrew's, Fontmell Magna was full on Monday 2nd October to enjoy an evening of classical music presented by the Coda Youth Chamber Orchestra, Berlin and the Clayesmore School Chamber Choir. It was a mixed programme featuring music from the 17th century to the present day and mixed styles from Orchestral to Bagpipes and Choral music to Barbershop Group. Particular mention needs to be made of the soloists from the German orchestra who included a cello solo, a trumpet concerto and a combined cello and double bass performance of a modern piece of music.

The Clayesmore Barbershop Group provided us with some very entertaining numbers while the Pipe Band gave a full throttle performance of Scottish tunes. The choir and orchestra provided a very moving rendering of Fauré's 'Cantique de Jean Racine' and ended the concert with a rousing performance of Sir Karl Jenkins' 'Adiemus'.

Members of the audience were very appreciative of the skilful performances of these young people, many of whom, they felt, were destined for great things in the music world in the future. We are indeed fortunate to have a local school in the Benefice with such talented pupils and good overseas contacts whose performances we are privileged to enjoy.

The retiring collection for church funds amounted to £400.

Philip Smith

Iwerne Valley Walking Group**September Walk – Hod Hill**

On Saturday 23rd (a week late to allow for the Fontmell Fete), 11 people and 2 dogs attended our walk starting at the White Horse in Stourpaine. We had a gloriously sunny day and, as the walk was under three miles long, we went at a steady pace, enjoying the scenery and wildlife, including lots of Red Admiral butterflies as well as Speckled Wood and Large White and, amongst the flowers, mostly devils bit scabious, late knapweed and the yellow hawkbits. We wandered through this lovely village with its many thatched roof cottages, past the Duchess of Cornwall's sister's home, then along the River Iwerne before walking up to Hod Hill, an Iron Age fort which covers around 54 acres. It once protected a large population occupying at least 250 Round Houses, the foundations of many of which can still be seen. The Romans captured the fort in around 44 A.D., removing the settlement and building their own defences.



After reaching the top, one walker chose to go straight across the settlement while the rest of us walked around the right-hand inner rampart in an anti-clockwise direction. We met at the other side and walked down the meadow to the right into the hazel coppice and wood leading

down to the river Stour. We followed a muddy path along the river coming round to the bottom of Hod Hill and back towards Stourpaine, where we had a look at its very well kept and documented church, the Holy Trinity. Then eight of us took advantage of the dog-friendly White Horse pub and its special deals for senior citizens - main course, dessert & coffee for only £11.95! This was a short walk but all the walkers were very appreciative, not least because of the wonderful weather.

Claire Watson

Village weather for September 2017

Westerly or South Westerly airflow brought frequent damp weather - and some mild spells. Not much sunshine and rather cool.

1 gale. 1 day thunder. 23 rain days. 1 ground frost on 22nd September.

Comp. Figures	2017	2016
Rain (most 11.5 mm on 3rd)	61.0 mm	57.3 mm
Sunshine	86.2 hr (av. 2.9)	94.6 hr
Max mean temp. (highest 22.7 °C on 4th)	17.2 °C	20.5 °C
Min mean temp. (lowest 3.3 °C on 22nd)	8.76 °C	11.2 °C

Understanding Islam - An Evening with Revd Canon Alan Amos OBE

We hear and see so much in the media these days about Islam, often in a negative context, that it is easy not to be aware of the place of Islam within world history, and of its relationship to other faiths, particularly Judaism and Christianity. We feel that our world is at crisis point, with strident voices trying to divide people from one another, particularly on the basis of religion – at the same time, both our faith and our humanity require us to try to understand our neighbours.

Alan Amos, who has extensive experience of the Middle East through having lived there for many years and being actively engaged in interfaith relations, would like to take this opportunity to share his own journey of exploration with us, and to engage with our questions.

Friday 24th November at 7.30pm - Fontmell Magna Village Hall. Refreshments available after the talk.

Barry Roberts

A Harvest Fete

Despite a changeable forecast, the rain held off (much to the relief of the committee!) for our annual village fete. Our merry band of volunteers, fuelled by coffee and bacon sandwiches, got the marquees erected bright and early and, with the arrival of Tom Foot's tractor, the bouncy castles and our very own fete pony (courtesy of Claire), the scene was set for a fun-packed afternoon.

Once Mac had opened proceedings, we were treated to a couple of brilliant sets by Tom Clements and his band, whose eclectic combination of rock classics and current hits certainly got toes tapping. These were interspersed with Steps in Time's charming set-dances, which seemed particularly suited to this year's Harvest theme.

As always, John and his team from the pub put on an excellent BBQ and bar – no mean feat as The Fontmell was also running its own beer festival that weekend which really added to the day's vibe. Sweet treats came in the form of The Blackmore Vale Dairy's delicious ice creams and the wonderful teas, run by Jenny and her helpers, providing a quiet haven for visitors in the hall. This was also where the bottle stall, homemade jams, delicious freshly baked cakes and village plan information could also be found.

There were a good variety of activities to keep all ages entertained; our youngest fete-goers let off steam on the inflatables or pitted their skills against a couple of local Sport Billy's in Steven's penalty shoot-out. Sam's photo booth was a big hit with the teenagers, as was Gareth's welly-wanging, with rubber chickens being hurled almost as far as Sutton Waldron! Our new crockery-smashing stall, run by Sue, had a permanent line of punters, as did Alison's ever-popular bric-a-brac.

There was great anticipation ahead of the various awards and prizes to be given out for various 'best in shows' and the Grand Draw. David did a sterling job of compering the proceedings and, after the hiccup of some unclaimed tickets, a lucky few left for home with some wonderful treats in store thanks to a number of generous donations.



It was fantastic to see the community come together and the committee would like to thank everyone who helped make this year's fete a success – your support is invaluable. We invite you all to our AGM on November 22nd (7.30pm at the Village Hall), when we will allocate funds and listen to any feedback...oh and did we mention, there will be wine and nibbles.

Alix Austen

Springhead – Garden of Delights Christmas Sale

The beautiful setting of Springhead, with its enchanting garden, lake and Mill Room, is the venue for the fifteenth *Garden of Delights* Christmas sale which will be showcasing talented artists and craftsmen from the west country. The show will include pottery, jewellery, cards, prints, paintings, stained glass, hand-made furniture, fine wood turning, lampshades, printed cushions, painted and decorated items and woven textiles.

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

Roger and I would like to thank all those who donated bottles and crockery for the Fete.

Sue Mercer

Compost Corner

With autumn leaves falling, and lots of herbaceous material needing to be cleared, there is plenty of material to put on your compost heap. And what a useful source of organic material it is; every soil type be it clay, sand or loam

benefits from the addition of home-made compost.

Getting the right balance of composting material is important; it shouldn't be too dry or too wet - the recipe for good compost includes:

Vegetable peelings, fruit waste, teabags, plant prunings, chopped up tree leaves (do this with your lawn mower), grass cuttings, cardboard egg boxes, egg shells, scrunched up paper even shredded natural fibre clothes/towels etc.

Do not add:

Any meat or dairy products, no diseased plants, no dog/cat poo, perennial weeds, weeds with seed heads.

Then, in maybe as little as six months, you could have some sweet smelling, friable compost to refresh your spring borders - and all for free. Alison Main

On Saturday 9th September, four parishioners set off in rather inclement weather for the annual Ride & Stride event in aid of The Dorset Historic Churches Trust, visiting churches in the Diocese either on foot or cycle. The grand total raised through generous sponsors amounted to £1,776, of which half will benefit St. Andrew's Church. Grateful thanks to all sponsors, and also those who manned St. Andrew's Church throughout the day, to welcome visiting riders & striders with refreshment. Gerry Bone

Buddleias

A big thank you to the volunteers who came to help. The bushes are now comfortable for the winter.

Judy Westgate

Remembrance Poppy Wreath

I shall be ordering the above village wreath soon and will need at least £17.00 to cover the cost. I am hoping that you will be as generous as last year, by putting a small donation in the tin that you will find at the Village Shop, during the 2 weeks leading up to Remembrance Sunday. Thank you on behalf of the British Legion.

Sue Mercer

Despite what was stated last month, one more article featuring Bedchester!

Woodbridge House

Woodbridge House appears to date from around 1800 and may have been built to house clergy. In the 1850's, the Rev. John Acton lived there before becoming the vicar of Iwerne Minster in 1860. He was followed by Henry Davis, Curate of East Orchard, with his wife, eight children and four servants. In 1867, the house was occupied by Alexander Codrington, gentleman, before he left to get married in 1869. It was then occupied by Mary Ann Pope, a widow of 65. From at least 1875, the house was occupied by the Glyns' land agent, George Carleton Day, and he continued to live there with his wife Clara until at least 1923. One of his final jobs was to arrange the erection of the War Memorial opposite the shop in 1920.

On his retirement, the house was sold to Alfred James Downes Simey (1875-1931). Alfred was born in Sunderland. In January 1900, he joined the Royal Irish Constabulary (RIC) as a cadet officer and was on duty at the time of Queen Victoria's visit to Ireland in April that year.

In 1901, he married Hilda Katherine Stillingfleet (1875-1970) while stationed at Tipperary. Like many of his colleagues, he signed up during the First World War and was given a temporary commission as Captain in the Army Service Corps from 18th December 1915 to 13th February 1919. Probably as a result of his police background, he was attached to the Military Police and was Assistant Provost Marshal for 6 Division on the Somme. In this capacity, he commanded firing squads on at least four occasions, for those sentenced to death by Court Martial where there was no reprieve by the Commander-in-Chief (France), Sir Douglas Haig. There were over 300 executions in total, and Alfred carried out those of Private Harry Farr (18th October 1916), Sapper F. Malyon (4th April 1917), Private Wilfred Clarke (9th February 1918) and Private Joseph Nisbet (8th August 1918). He may also have commanded the firing squad for Private William Nelson (11th August 1916), and there may have been others.

After the war, Alfred rejoined the RIC, serving in Kerry (Kenmare) as District Inspector until disbandment in 1922. He died on 8th December 1931 from the effects of gas while on service in France during the war. Alfred and Hilda's son, Cyril Stillingfleet Aylmer Simey, was born in 1905 and represented Great Britain at the 1928 Olympics in Amsterdam in the team foil event, though he did not come away with a medal. After serving in the army during the Second World War, he worked as a civil servant in Nigeria. During a visit back home, he went missing from a yacht in the English Channel on 18-19th September 1952 and was lost at sea.

Alfred and Hilda's daughter, Dorothy Victoria, married Gerald Fulton Richardson (1905-1980) of Child Okeford in 1936. They had three children: Michael, Caroline and Anthony. The family lived at the house with Hilda. In 1972, the house was bought by Donald Ogilvy-Watson but he was forced to sell when he was unable to return to the country from Singapore after allegations of insider trading at a company called Haw Paw. In 1977, Woodbridge House came onto the market, and was bought by the current owners.



A stone cross on the left of the path leading up to St Andrew's Church marks the graves of Alfred, Hilda, Cyril and Dorothy, as well as that of Dorothy's husband, Gerald.

Village Carol Singing

The carol singing around the village this year will be on Monday 18th December. Further details next month. Janet Smith

Help Wanted

The cleaning team at St Andrew's Church would welcome volunteers to join their rota. With more helpers we hope that names will only be on the rota once every 3 months. For more information ring Jan Cobby on 812115.

*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 November 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).*