



THE GOSSIP TREE

News & Views from the Parish of FONTMELL MAGNA

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For as long as I can remember the sea and sailing ships have always fascinated me. I've taken courses on boating and navigation, built and restored a few boats, including scale models and even put ships in bottles. But where did this love of the sea and sailing come from? It assuredly wasn't part of my life growing up in rural Ontario. Then what was it? Oh sure, I knew that my father was a Newfoundlander and that he served in the Merchant Navy during the Second World War, but that was the extent of it.

However, several years ago my sister Jean and brother Sam found our maternal grandfather's personal journals recounting his exploits in the Newfoundland fishery and mercantile trade. After reading the journals and through ancestry research I finally learned where my love for the sea and sailing ships came from. I discovered that both my grandfathers were sea captains. Philip Burton skippered schooners out of Fortune, Newfoundland while Samson Bradley sailed out of Grand Bank, Newfoundland.

Grandfather Bradley's story needed to be told and, although not an experienced writer, I felt confident enough with knowledge of sailing and nautical terms to edit the journals for publication. Intending to add a prologue to the book, I began researching our ancestors from England, starting with our Great-grandfather Samuel Bradley. When, where, why and how did he end up in Newfoundland? Internet research brought me to The Gossip Tree and Chris Bellers. With Chris' help I believe I have a credible theory on how and why Samuel Bradley from Bedchester ended up in Newfoundland. The current working title for the book is "Grand Bank Schoonermen". I hope to have it completed and ready for publishing early next year. For more information on the book and the Bradley family within Canada contact wsburton@295.ca.

Neighbourhood Plan

Following the Options Consultation carried out by the working group in May, which found that local residents were generally in favour of our proposals, we have produced a draft Neighbourhood Plan. We have presented the draft Plan to the Fontmell Magna Parish Council and, after some minor changes, the PC has approved it for "pre-submission consultation" with residents of the parish and other interested parties.

This consultation, which acts as a final check before it is submitted to the District Council, will run from Monday 2nd October to Monday 20th November. From 2nd October, we will publish the draft Plan and supporting documents on the Parish Council website http://www.fontmellmagnapc.co.uk/FontmellMagna-PC/neighbourhood_plan-9778.aspx. A copy of the Plan will also be available at the Village Shop, and there are a limited number of printed copies available for those unable to access the Plan online.

We will be holding two open meetings 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**. You will be invited to complete a Questionnaire/feedback form to give your views on the proposals. A copy of this form will also be available on the website. All completed forms should be handed in to the Village Shop.

At the end of the consultation period (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, Chair Neighbourhood Plan Working Group

Welcome Back Award

At the awards event for the 2017 Dorset Best Village Competition, Fontmell Magna won the 'Welcome Back Award' given to the village which scored the highest percentage mark in the category; i.e. amongst the villages which had not submitted an entry into the competition for some (unspecified) years. The award consists of a commemorative plate (see picture) and a cheque which will come from the sponsor Blackmore Vale Magazine. Thank you to John Crompton of The Fontmell, who submitted the application.

Michael Humphreys



Notices – October 2017

St. Andrew's Church

Sun	1st	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		9.00am	Sunday Breakfast (Village Hall - see over)
Sun	8th	9.30am	Family Service
Sun	15th	9.30am	Holy Communion with choir
Sun	22nd	9.30am	Holy Communion (CW)
Sun	29th	10.00am	Benefice Service at Shroton

Mon 2nd 7.30pm Evening of Music -
Clayesmore School Choir,
Clayesmore Pipe Band,
CODA German Youth
Chamber Orchestra

Fri 6th 10.30am 'In Home' coffee morning
at 'Greensands', Mill
Street (Judy and Peter
Westgate)

Prayers each Monday at 9.00am

Parish Council

No meeting this month. Parish Clerk: Marianne
Wheatley clerk@fontmellmagnapc.co.uk

Neighbourhood Plan Working Group

Mon 23rd at 7.00pm in St Andrew's School
Details Michael Humphreys 07850 875429

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

Sat 21st 10.00am, starting from The King John Inn,
Tollard Royal SP5 5PS. Leaders: Helen English
(01747 853472) and Clare Martin (07769 553999).

Bell-ringing

Tue 24th - Practice 7.30 to 8.30pm
Details Chris Bellers 811734

Bin Collection Dates

W/C 2nd, 16th & 30th - Recycling & Food
W/C 9th & 23rd - Rubbish & Food

St Andrew's School

Fri 20th - Break up for Half Term
Mon 30th - Back from Half Term

Village Hall events - see over

Don't Forget

From Sunday 15th October, the round £1 coin will
cease to be legal tender.
The clocks go back on Sunday 29th October.

Events in the Village Hall

Sunday Breakfast

Sun 1st at 9.00am. Breakfast run by St Andrew's Church with 'Thought for the Day'. All welcome.
Details Janet Smith 811904

Fontmell Magna & District Society

Fri 6th at 7.30pm - 'Stonehenge - Old Rocks New Ideas' by Julian Richards
Details Dick Stainer 811153

Fontmell Films

Wed 11th - 'The Time of Their Lives'. Doors open 7.00pm
Details Libby Gendall 811551

North Dorset Wildlife Trust

Wed 18th at 7.30pm. 'Owls of Dorset and Their Habitat' by wildlife photographer Paul Sturgess.
Details Geoff Peters 811546

Archive Society

Thur 19th 4.00 to 5.30pm
Details Roger Hillman 811878

Garden Club

Thur 19th at 7.30pm. 'Resuscitation of the Kitchen Garden' by Matthew Simpson
Details Robert McCurrach 812077

Post Fete Meeting

Wed 25th at 7.30pm
Details Hannah Lister 811568

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

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

Dru Yoga

Fridays from 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 Sam Donohoo 07584 039351

To book the Hall, call Catherine Allard on 812047 or email

catherineallard1980@hotmail.co.uk

Parish Council

The following items were discussed at the meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 11th September 2017.

Public Questions

Barry Roberts questioned the need for another access to Springhead Farm (recently the subject of a planning application).

Parish Council Meeting

Six parish councillors, NDDC Cllr. C. Langham and the Clerk were present, and 14 members of the public. Apologies were received from Cllr. Humphreys and DCC Cllr. G. Carr-Jones. Cllr. De la Perrelle declared an interest in Woodbridge Farm.

The minutes of the last PC meeting on Monday 10th July were approved and signed.

Matters arising

Cllr. East reported that permission had been refused for the Vodafone base station at the sewage works on the grounds that the tower was too tall and in the wrong place. The PC thanked Paul Phillips for repainting the Bedchester phone box. The Clerk had written to Mr Phillips expressing the Parish Council's gratitude.

Cllr. Horstead welcomed back Marianne Wheatley as Clerk and thanked all those who had helped during the Clerk's absence, in particular Cllr.s East, de la Perrelle and Humphreys.

County/District Councillor's Report

The go-ahead for the move to two unitary authorities is still awaited. Cllr. Langham has copied in the Clerk with information about community led housing, which might be of interest to this parish. Despite 10 years of work in preparing the Local Plan, the Plan has failed because of a lack of a five year land supply. While sufficient sites had been allocated, the developers were not coming forward to develop them. As a result, it may be more difficult to refuse planning permission for less suitable sites.

School traffic concerns

Concerns have again been raised from residents about school traffic, made worse by there now being three school buses instead of one. The current Chair of Governors, M. House, said that, since half-term, at least one governor was on duty at the start and end of the school day at the school gates to monitor drop-off/pick-up, and the issue is on the agenda for the next Governors' meeting – the school has the same safety concerns as the rest of the village. From Sunday 1st October, the school is moving from a local authority primary school to become part of an academy with Shaftesbury and Motcombe. It will remain a church school but the move will entail a change of ownership of the land and possibly also a change in those responsible for running the school.

Planning

The planning applications for Springhead Farm and Woodbridge Farm are still to be considered. Cllr. East reported that Bedchester Chapel had scaffolding and, on enquiry, it emerged that it was being converted to a two-storey dwelling. It is understood that a planning enforcement

notice is being issued to the owner.

Finance

The Clerk, now also RFO, reported that the PC's accounts had a balance of £11,885.91 as at 31st August, of which £2,301.40 was the unspent part of the latest grant for the Neighbourhood Plan.

Other Parish Matters

Highways

Cllr. East reported that he had met with Andrew Brown from Highways to discuss proposals for the A350 through Fontmell. In February, the road through Fontmell will be re-built and new road markings and signage with then be done, as well as gates at the two entrances to the village (paid for by DCC). The gate and 30mph limit at the north end will be moved northwards towards the Pavilion. The 30mph limit will continue through the village. The speed limit on the A350 between Shaftesbury and Blandford, where not 30mph, will be 50mph. There are plans to do resurfacing work on the C13 in October/November. Peter Mole said that he had sent a questionnaire to the 15 households on the A350 between The Mead and the Knapp the results of which overwhelmingly supported warning signs, traffic speed indicators and a 20mph limit on this particularly dangerous stretch.

Cllr. East also reported that there was to be a meeting of the A350 Community Group, including senior DCC officials, to discuss making the advisory one-way system for HGVs mandatory. This could actually increase traffic as making it mandatory could mean that the roads become recognised freight routes.

Neighbourhood Plan

The PC had met informally the previous week to consider the draft Neighbourhood Plan. Some amendments were requested and the Plan had been updated accordingly. The PC agreed that the draft Plan could now be submitted for consultation.

Bedchester allotments

Cllr. East will be meeting DCC on site to identify all the issues that need to be addressed by DCC before handover to the PC. Subject to these being resolved, he thought the allotments would be a valuable parish asset.

Community Defibrillator

Two residents had enquired about a defibrillator. Cllr. Horstead would look into suitable sites.

Grant request

The Fete Committee had asked for a grant of £900 for the cost of two gazebos. After some discussion, it was agreed to grant the Fete £450.

The Gossip Tree

It was agreed that no report was required this month from the PC, as these meeting notes would be sufficient. Cllr. East said that there had been a positive response to parish e-notices, and he would put another invitation in the next issue.

Other business

The PC agreed to send a representative to attend the Best Kept Village awards meeting

The meeting closed at 9.06pm.

The next PC meeting will be on Monday 13th November in the School Hall.

Buddleia help

Anyone who would like to help cut back the buddleias ready for the winter gales would be very welcome from 10.00am on Monday 2nd October and any time that week ending Thursday 5th October.

Judy Westgate 811302

Brookland Wood - Corrigendum

As must have been quite clear from the context of my piece last month, the Dorset Charcoal Company does not derive its products from 3rd World rainforests!

George Darwall

Springhead Events

Concert by CODA, the German Youth Chamber Orchestra.

Directed by Valerie Robeson-Groling, on Sunday 1st, at 3.00pm, they will perform a number of pieces including: Prince of Denmark's March (Jeremiah Clarke), Jupiter's Aria from "Semele" for Cello and Strings (G.F. Handel), Gypsy Dance (Saint-Saëns), Recorder Concerto in C major (John Baston), Hungarian Dance no. 5 (Brahms), In the Hall of the Mountain King "Peer Gynt" (Grieg), Waltz from "Jazz Suite" no. 2 (Shostakovich). Tickets are £7.50, £5 for Friends of Springhead and under 16s free.

AshScape, a project in celebration of the ash tree.

We hope to raise awareness of the remarkable roles ash trees have played in the development of European society since the Bronze Age and the likely effect of ash dieback disease. A number of events will be open to the public (but ticket numbers are limited):

Tuesday 10th, 10.00am to 5.00pm, free entry to AshScape, an exhibition of paintings, prints and photographs inspired by the ash tree.

Friday 13th, 10.30am to 4.00pm, lectures covering the mythology and utility of ash, the effect of ash dieback in hedgerows and the collection of genetic material to find dieback resistant strains of European ash - £30 including buffet lunch.

Saturday 14th, 10.30am to 4.00pm, lectures covering mythology of ash with a storyteller, the medical importance of ash trees and their future role in the treatment of Parkinson's disease and obesity - £30 including buffet lunch.

Sunday 15th, 11.00am to 5.00pm, £4.50 payable on the day, Grand Musical Finale and Springhead Open Garden – three performances by a 90-strong choir drawn from the locality singing specially composed songs.

For further information and to book please see www.springheadtrust.org.uk or contact info@springheadtrust.org.uk, Tel 01747 811853.

Iwerne Valley Walking Group

Unexpected rain fell just as we reached the Grove Arms for the start of the walk on Saturday 19th August. 10 walkers and 2 dogs enjoyed the track past watercress beds and over farmland: grassland and ripe wheat waiting for dry weather to harvest. Views across the valley as we climbed gently up towards Win Green were spectacular with billowing clouds and patches of sunlight. Wiltshire stiles proved difficult to climb without a cross plank and they were not always dog friendly. Luckily one dog, Rigby, was a good jumper and the other, Lola, was lighter weight. Thank you, Malcolm, for his assistance to all of us.

The first shower arrived as we were in the shelter of Elliot's Shed woodland so was scarcely noticed. We reached the road from Ludwell to Ashmore and had some busy traffic, even early steam fair vehicles but reached the start of the Oxdrove path safely. We were able to enjoy some late chalk downland flowers on the roadside bank with harebell, knapweed, scabious and vetch. We had a hazardous walk along the Oxdrove as the long grass, nettles and encroaching brambles had not been cut so obscuring some deep ruts in the path. The next shower added to the difficulty. When we reached the county border junction with the road leading to Zig-Zag Hill, we found a parallel path to avoid walking along the short stretch of road. The stile here was the worst to negotiate, but it was downhill all the way back from here through more standing wheat and past a farm to Charlton. The path led through a private sports area and more fields back to the other side of the watercress beds and Pub in good time for an excellent lunch. We walked 5.2 miles in just under 3 hours. Judy Westgate

Fontmell Films

Our film on Wednesday 11th is "The Time of Their Lives", a comedy starring Joan Collins, Pauline Collins and a host of others. Determined to gatecrash her ex-lover's funeral in France, former Hollywood siren Helen (Joan Collins) escapes her London retirement home with the help of Priscilla (Pauline Collins) a repressed English housewife. Pooling their limited resources, they hit the road together by coach, ferry, car and foot in a race to get to the funeral on time, becoming entangled with a reclusive Italian millionaire along the way. On this unforgettable journey, they find true friendship in one another - and have the time of their lives.

Tickets £6 from Fontmell Village Shop 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 everyone and please don't forget your cushions! For more information please call Libby on 811551

Future film dates for your diary:

Wed 8th November "Viceroy's House"; Wed 13th December "Whisky Galore"

Barbara Gadd

Barbara, who died aged 87, was an acknowledged expert on classical opera, taking many Fontmell residents to Glyndebourne of which she was a life member. A mountaineer, skilled upholsterer, dressmaker and cook, Barbara came to Fontmell with John in 1984, and was clerk to the Parish Council for a while. A regular assistant at the village fetes of the 1990s, she helped with the famous VE and VJ Day 50th Anniversary street parties, and hand-sewed the 30 yard-long red tablecloth for them. When she came here, several residents were amazed that this cultured and elegant lady had already been a tough mountaineer for 30 years with first ascents to her credit.

She was well respected in the world of classical opera and met most of the famous singers, including Domingo, who borrowed books from her extensive library. He was affectionately known as 'Fred' by the family and signed his letters of thanks 'Fred Domingo', a signature which one day will surely be worth thousands. But she never got to meet Pavarotti whose golden voice she considered 'unparalleled;' nevertheless describing him as 'a singing baroque wardrobe', which highly amused the opera cognoscenti.

Confined to virtually one room for the past 3 years due to progressive joint trouble (a common legacy of climbing, as in those days we had to carry all our heavy camping gear up high) she was regularly visited by several loyal friends, mostly from the village which made life just that little bit more bearable. She asked me to thank you all so much.

John Gadd

October 2017

Village weather for August 2017



A cool damp start to the summer school holiday but warmer and drier towards the end of the month.

2 gales. 1 day thunder. No frosts. 17 rain days.

Comp. Figures	2017	2016
Rain (most 12.9 mm on 2nd)	54.4 mm	58.0 mm
Sunshine	140.1 hr (av. 4.5)	160.3 hr
Max mean temp. (highest 27.2 °C on 28th)	20.8 °C	22.5 °C
Min mean temp. (lowest 5.7 °C on 23rd)	10.6 °C	11.5 °C

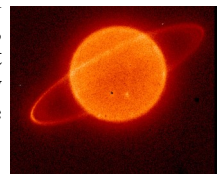
Full Hunter's Moon – Thursday 5th October

This moon is also sometimes called the Travel Moon, the Blood Moon or the Dying Grass Moon. This year it is also known as the Full Harvest Moon because it is the Moon that falls nearest to the autumn equinox which was on Friday 22nd September.



October is also the best time to view Uranus. On Thursday 19th, the blue-green planet will be at its closest approach to Earth and its face will be fully illuminated by the Sun.

It will be brighter than at any other time of the year and will be visible all night long. However, because of its distance, it will only appear as a tiny blue-green dot in all but the most powerful telescopes.



Compost Corner



Pollution is something we expect in cities, industrial areas, or by busy roads but surely not in the depths of Dorset, or right inside our village homes? However, I'm afraid it's true, we are indeed inhaling noxious substances every day in what we think is a safe environment. So where are these pollutants coming from? All sorts of chemicals are released from our computers, carpets, cleaning materials, even scented candles and air fresheners, including: benzene, trichloroethane, formaldehyde, nitrogen dioxide and carbon monoxide. But there is a very easy way of lessening these pollutants: introducing some house plants to your home. Some of the best varieties are: Spider plant; Weeping fig; Rubber plant; Philodendron sp.; Peace lily. And if you think that house plants smack a bit of the 1970s, the good news is that they're back in fashion so they're a win-win solution.

Alison Main

The last in our series of articles featuring Bedchester.

Samuel Bradley (1826-1883) and Newfoundland

The March 2017 issue of The Gossip Tree featured the Bradleys of Bedchester, including Henry and Rebecca Bradley. They lived at the bottom of Penn Hill (at 73 or 74) and had five children. Their eldest child was Samuel Bradley. He is listed in the 1841 census but, although it is possible to trace what happened to the other children, there is no subsequent mention of Samuel. So, what happened to him?

The answer was supplied by Scott Burton of Ottawa, Samuel's great grandson, who came across The Gossip Tree as part of his researches on his grandfather, Samson Bradley (Samuel's son). It transpires that Samuel settled in Grand Bank, Newfoundland, where he married Christianna Buffett Pardy on 3rd November 1863. Grand Bank was a large fishing settlement. In the 1871 Lovell's Directory of Newfoundland, there is an entry under Grand Bank for a "Samuel Bredley, planter". As there is no other record of a Bredley ever residing in Grand Bank, it is very likely that this entry referred to Samuel Bradley. He is listed as "planter", which means that he owned either fishing premises, boat or small vessel for fishing out of Grand Bank. A planter was the term used for a resident fisherman (as opposed to one sailing from another country) and was generally sponsored by a merchant who assisted the planter in obtaining a crew who would work for a share of the catch.

Samuel and Christianna had four children, including Samson (1871-1941). Samson joined the fishery when he was 15 and worked his way up to becoming a sea captain of several different schooners. He married Deborah Buffett in 1897 and they had five children, including Mary, Scott's mother.

It is not clear what circumstances led Samuel to emigrate or to settle in Newfoundland. There is no evidence that anyone else from his family or neighbourhood went with him, though he may have been encouraged to leave by the emigration of his neighbour and uncle, Thomas Bradley, together with most of the rest of the family, to the USA in 1849.

Although not obvious now, for many years there was a strong connection between Dorset and Newfoundland. Following John Cabot's discovery of Newfoundland in 1497, growing numbers of ships sailed from South West ports, particularly Plymouth and Poole, to exploit the cod-rich North Atlantic. To crew the ships, the merchants in Poole increasingly looked inland for recruits. Sturminster Newton became a recruiting centre, luring young agricultural labourers (like Samuel) to working for the planters, assuming perhaps that they would be working on land.

Sturminster had other links to Newfoundland in the form of the swanskin industry. Swanskin was a coarse, wool-based cloth known for its warmth and waterproof qualities, hence its popularity among those working in the harsher Newfoundland climate. It was also used for soldiers' uniforms. Swanskin was white, which may explain its name (it had nothing to do with swans).

There is evidence that the swanskin industry dates back to at least 1578. In 1611, a wooden fulling mill was built alongside Sturminster's traditional corn mill. Here water-powered fulling stocks hammered the fabric until it was sufficiently felted to make it waterproof. The cloth was stretched on racks in the open fields. The trade expanded during the 17th and 18th centuries and by 1793 employed no fewer than 1,200 Sturminster people, with others employed in Shaftesbury and villages across North Dorset.

The fulling mill survived until about 1800, by which time, because of competing products and industrialisation in the North and Midlands, the swanskin industry had declined almost to nothing – by 1823 cloth-making was no longer carried out in the town. With the decline in cloth-making, some Sturminster merchants went into the cod trade, though there was now increased competition following the end of the Napoleonic Wars. By now, large numbers of people from Poole and the surrounding area had settled in Newfoundland.

Newfoundland ended up as Canada's most English province. For example, the 1991 Census records that 82% of the population claimed to have some English ancestry. Dorset culture, dialect and surnames remain, and the province continues to honour England's patron saint by declaring a public holiday on 23rd April (St. George's Day).



1883 - Samson Bradley aged 12

Harry Holberry

After a long illness Harry died in the Westminster Memorial Hospital on 21st August. He had lived in South Street for 35 years having worked as a horticultural instructor at Guys Marsh Young Offenders Institution for over 15 years.

He retired through ill health in the early 1990s but subsequently helped upkeep the gardens for several families in the village thereby making some good friends. He would have been delighted to know that the beds in the Westminster Hospital have been saved as the care he received there was outstanding. His partner, Margaret Marande, is hoping to do a long distance (220 miles) walk on the Hardy Way next Spring to raise funds for the hospital and for pancreatic cancer research.

Thank you

I would like to thank everybody for their prayers, messages of support and good wishes, which have made such a difference to me as I faced the first stage of treatment for a brain tumour this summer – this went extremely well and the operation was very successful. Robin and Sasha join me in expressing our appreciation of all the support we have received during this difficult time.

Jan Cobby

Fete

A big thank you to all those who helped make last month's village Fete such a success - full report and pictures in the November issue. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 25th (7.30pm in the village hall) when we will be accepting requests for grants from funds allocated to the community chest. This will be followed by the AGM on Wednesday 22nd November. Hope to see many of you there!

Alix Austen

*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 23rd October 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).*