



THE GOSSIP TREE

News & Views from the Parish of FONTMELL MAGNA

This issue is kindly sponsored by Ann & Mike,
The Millhouse

September
2017
Issue 283

Fontmell Magna Village Fete – Saturday 16th September

Our harvest-themed village fete will commence at 1.00pm this year (with BBQ available from 12 noon). Entry is free and programmes are available on the door or in advance at the shop for a small charge of £1. There are two lucky numbers in this year's programmes, entitling the winners to either a one month family swim membership or a one month all-inclusive membership at Clayesmore.

This year we are introducing some exciting activities to keep the whole family entertained, including an assault course, pony rides and crockery smashing. In addition to traditional favourites such as the bottle and cakes stalls, photo booth and Bric-a-Brac, there will also be new stalls selling fun jewellery and jams and preserves. Entertainment comes in the form of Tom Clements and his band, who will be performing two sets during the afternoon. Local group 'Steps in Time' will also be dancing.

There will be no shortage of tasty treats to tempt visitors to this year's fete, as we are running in conjunction with The Fontmell's Annual Beer Festival. Freshly cooked food will be available from 12 noon and throughout the day. There will also be a bar serving local beers and ciders, Pimms and wine. For those with a sweet tooth, there will be tea and cake in the hall and ice-cream courtesy of the Blackmore Vale Dairy.

Don't miss out on purchasing your ticket for the Grand Draw - they will be on sale at the fete during the afternoon. We have some fantastic prizes, including a pair of autumn international rugby tickets and a visit to the Houses of Parliament, including tea on the terrace. The winners will be announced towards the end of the day; detailed timings for this and all other activities can be found in the program.

Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances, the dog show will not be running this year.

There is plenty of parking available, please follow the signs.

We look forward to welcoming you to this year's Fontmell Magna Village Fete for what is sure to be a fun-packed afternoon.

Help still needed!

We do still need donations for the **bottle stall** and for the **crockery smashing**; these may be left at Fosse Cottage, Church Street – if no one is in, then please just leave in the porch. Prizes for the **tombola** stall would also be welcomed and can be left at the Village Shop or at Fontmell House. If we could also repeat our request for **cakes**, these can be brought to the hall on the day of the fete or please call Sue Green on 811207 for more information.

Bric-a-brac is also needed (no large items please e.g. bikes, buggies, furniture or books). Contact Alison Main on 811394.

If there is anyone who would like to help set-up, this will commence at 7.00pm on Friday 15th for a couple of hours. Free bacon sandwiches and coffee will be on offer to all early-bird helpers between 7.00 to 9.00am on the morning of the fete.

Finally, we still need **more volunteers** to help run a stall so please do get in touch with Hannah on 811568 if you can spare any time on the day - thank you.

Fete Scarecrows

It's never too late to start if you haven't yet unearthed your props for the annual scarecrow competition – just to remind you, the theme is Harvest and/or Medieval Farming and your entry may benefit from including recyclable or discarded materials, especially straw. As well as the Trophy for the overall winner, we have a £25 voucher for adults and a £10 voucher for under 12s. Judging will take place on the morning of the Fete, wherever your scarecrow is located, so be sure to tell Barry where this is (on 811906). If you would like to bring your scarecrow to the Fete area to display afterwards it would be great, but we know that some might not easily be moved!

Barry Roberts



Notices – September 2017

St. Andrew's Church

Sun	3rd	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		9.00am	Sunday Breakfast (Village Hall - see over)
Sun	10th	9.30am	Family Service
Sun	17th	11.00am	Harvest Festival
Sun	24th	9.30am	Holy Communion (CW)

Open House Fri 1st, 8th & 15th 10.30am - 12 noon

Prayers each Tuesday at 9.00am

Ride + Stride

Sat 9th - Dorset Historic Churches sponsored rides and walks.

Details Gerry Bone 811814

Parish Council

Mon 11th 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@fontmellmagna.co.uk

Neighbourhood Plan Working Group

Tue 12th 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 (see also page 2)

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 23rd starting at 10.00am. For details, please contact Claire Watson on 07708473568.

Bell-ringing

Tue 19th - Practice 7.30 to 8.30pm

Details Chris Bellers 811734

Bin Collection Dates

W/C 4th & 18th - Recycling & Food

W/C 11th & 25th - Rubbish & Food

St Andrew's School

Mon 4th - Autumn Term starts

Fri 20th October - Break up for Half Term

Village Hall events - see over

Farewell & Welcome

We bid farewell to Tony & Denise Wiltshire after 20 years in the village and wish them well for the future. We welcome Graham and Katie who have moved from Tollard Royal to Parsley Cottage, 59 West Street.

Events in the Village Hall

Garden Club

Sat 2nd - Members' Lunch.
Details Sue Keen 812282

Sunday Breakfast

Sun 3rd at 9.00am. Breakfast run by St Andrew's Church with 'Thought for the Day'. All welcome.
Details Janet Smith 811904

Village Hall Committee

Wed 6th at 7.30pm
Details Chris Bellers 811734

Fontmell Films

Wed 13th - 'Their Finest'
Doors open 7.00pm
Details Libby Gendall 811551

Village Fete

Sat 16th 1.00 to 4.00pm
Details Hannah Lister 811568

Archive Society

Thur 21st 4.00 to 5.30pm
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

Thursdays at 7.30pm.
Details Gerry Bone 811814

Dru Yoga

Fridays from 9.30 to 11.00am.
Details Louise Hull 01258 860381

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

Dog Fouling

There seems to have been an increase in dog fouling on footpaths around the village and across fields. Please, pick up after your dog!



Fontmell Films

Our first film of the 2017 Autumn season on Wednesday 13th September is 'Their Finest', a comedy drama released in April this year. Set in London 1940, with the nation bowed down by war, the British Ministry turn to propaganda films to boost morale at home. Realising that a film could use "a woman's touch", Catrin Cole (played by Gemma Arterton) is hired as a scriptwriter for the film based on the Dunkirk rescue, which is to star the gloriously vain former matinee idol, Ambrose Hilliard (played by Bill Nighy). As bombs drop all around them, cast and crew work hard to make a film that will warm the hearts of the nation.

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 don't forget your cushions!

Our future film dates for your diary:

Wednesday 11th October 'The Time Of Their Lives'

Wednesday 8th November 'Viceroy's House'

Wednesday 13th December 'Whisky Galore'

For more information please call Libby on 811551.



Brookland Wood

For the last 5 years the Woodland Trust has been managing part of Brookland Wood by the traditional method of coppicing: i.e. cutting down some of the hazel stools each year in rotation to achieve a patchwork of areas at different stages of regrowth, with their associated diversity of wildlife habitats.

While the Trust is motivated by nature conservation, coppicing has been practised commercially for millennia owing to the value of the wood that is harvested. Helped by other enthusiasts I have been cutting a patch each winter, making some of the rods into hurdles while selling beanpoles, pea-sticks and kindling wood in aid of the Trust. By a happy coincidence the annual yield of timber too heavy for such purposes neatly equates to a full truck-load of feedstock for the Dorset Charcoal Company! The Trust is paid in charcoal, which it is now selling wholesale to the Village Shop. Please buy it for your BBQ. While we can't guarantee that every sack will actually have come from Brookland, you can be assured that it will have been produced locally and from a 3rd World rain forest.

There are winners all round from this arrangement. The Trust gets its habitat managed and a return from the sales; wildlife gets the habitats; and three local businesses - my own, the Shop and the Charcoal Company - are supported. All we need now is some sunny weather!

George Darwall

Village Shop, Post Office & Tea Room

We would like to thank all customers for their continued support of the village shop. We regularly research suppliers in order to try and get the best deals on products but as you may or may not know Tesco has bought out our main wholesaler and we have had to diversify even more! In order to do this we continually try and source local products and you'll see notices in the shop stating 'local'.

We use local businesses wherever possible in order to help keep our local economy flourishing. An example of this is a deal we have in place with Prime Cuts butchers in Shaftesbury. You can order and collect from us here at the shop and you won't pay a penny difference as we receive a discount at source enabling us to save you money and time travelling!

Just to remind you, we also continue to provide a dry cleaning and laundry agency service for Barkers Group. Again, this service enables you to drop and collect here rather than having to go to Shaftesbury. We received a notification on 1st August that Blackmore Vale Dairy would no longer be supplying milk. We now have to get our milk where we can in order to meet the demand and at a cost that remains the same to you and us. To this end we now stock Cotteswold milk. Since the Brexit vote we have found that a lot of products have increased in price on the suppliers' shelves and in some cases have risen by 15%. We try very hard not to pass this cost on to our customers and hope that by sourcing other brands we can even reduce the cost of your shopping.

We have now installed a chest freezer and hope to increase our stock of frozen and chilled products. This is in line with retail trends but more particularly in our case because our upright shop freezer blew up! The tea room and Post Office businesses continue to grow, albeit slowly and again we thank you for using these facilities. We have a free book exchange here so please come in and see if you'd like a book to take home or even sit with a cup of tea and peruse the shelves. We haven't forgotten flowers and plants that you regularly ask for. We are trying to negotiate a deal with a new supplier and hope this will be sooner rather than later.

We would like to thank our staff and volunteers once again for their very hard work and especially agreeing to cover for us when we're away. Our next break is between the 9th - 16th of September and the shop, post office and tea room's opening hours will be as follows:

Sat 9th - 9.00am to 12 noon

Sun 10th - closed

Mon 11th, Tue 12th & Wed 13th - 9.00am to 4.30pm

Thur 14th & Fri 15th - 9.00am to 5.30pm

Sat 16th & Sun 17th - 9.00am to 12 noon

Normal hours resume from Monday 18th onward.

Last but not least we would like to thank you all for your support.



Jan and Rick

RIDE + STRIDES

Dorset Historic Churches Trust Ride + Stride – Saturday 9th September

Join in this sponsored event, and walk, cycle or horse-ride to as many churches as you can, whilst exploring our wonderful Dorset countryside and enjoying the hospitality of our church communities.

Half of the money raised is returned directly to St Andrew's Church, and the other half is used to fund the Dorset Historic Churches Trust's grant program. This program helps conserve Dorset's churches, chapels and meeting houses to keep them active and at the heart of their communities for the use of future generations.

Please contact the Parish Organiser, Gerry Bone, on 811814 for sponsorship forms if you can **take part**, or **help as a steward** at St Andrew's Church to offer refreshments to Riders and Striders from other parishes.

'Number 11'...A fine effort

'Effort' being the operative word for our 11th Village Archive Exhibition - effort from the exhibition team in providing over 21 displays of Fontmell's land use since earliest times. Dave Hardiman showed how the village developed from AD 932 – 1539, ably backed by 'Enclosures' compiled by Gay Mole, and 'Major Agricultural Developments' on which the village depended, by Carl Johnston. Chris Bellers provided an interesting map of the parish boundary stones of which 23 have so far been identified, although two seem to have been lost and one was definitely stolen in 2000, near to the Gore Clump car park on Fontmell Down (probably by someone appropriating it for their garden).

Chris also researched and explained the custom of 'beating the bounds' for us. Essential in past times to confirm visually in the minds of parish residents, landowners and apparently the parish priest, who exactly owned what land on the edges of the parish.

The display of dozens of items found in Alison Main's garden at Cross House was a stroke of genius, as was the loan of a genuine chest-mounted hand 'fiddle' for broadcasting grain, lent by the Westgates. Overheard was "They've been in the village long enough to have used it, I'm sure"!

Leafing through the comments in the Visitors' Book, one notices how many appreciated the huge amount of information on show. Thinking ahead 50 to 100 years from now, how future local historians and residents will bless the Society's present and past ten years of exhibition teams who every two years have spent much time on compiling this valuable research, which is always carefully retained in the archive collection. They won't be around to receive the plaudits of course, but they can rest assured there will be many of them. John Gadd

Garden Club

The Garden Club's Annual Show was held in the Village Hall on Saturday 12th August. In spite of the early August weather we had a good number of entries, and gave our judges plenty to do not only among the vegetables and flowers, but also the cakes and jams, and the paintings and photographs.

On a fine sunny afternoon, we had a good number of visitors from the village, and it was a very enjoyable occasion. It was also rather a special occasion in that Laurie Powell, who has organised the Show, with Pat, for the last twenty years or so, has decided to step down. He will be a hard act to follow and we are most grateful to him for all he has done to establish it as a very popular, regular feature of Fontmell Magna. We welcome new members to the Club. Our next meeting is the Members' Lunch on Saturday 2nd September, and then our Autumn meetings start on Thursday 19th October, with a talk by Matthew Simpson on Resuscitation of a Kitchen Garden.

Robert McCurrach



Iwerne Valley Walking Group

Our midsummer walk was a repeat of one done a couple of years ago. Fifteen of us gathered in the car park at Bere Regis on a fine clear warm sunny evening, a perfect start to our walk. From there the walk took us along beside the River Bere to the delightfully named Shitterton. And from there the path took us across the meadows and up to the top of the ridge which separates the Bere valley from the Piddle valley. The path then ran west above the main road which could be heard below then down into the Piddle valley with lovely views across it. We stopped half way down for our picnic supper, taken sitting on the grass in the sunshine. We had a visit from a local horse and rider whilst eating. From here we carried on down to the bottom of the valley and then along to the hamlet of Throop where there is a redundant church. From Throop, it was up the hill again towards Bere. Along the way, we passed a standing stone called the Devil's Stone or the Five Fingered Stone. It is megalithic in origin and was used by the Romans as a road marker as they had a road running past it. From there it was downhill back to Bere, passing the school and across the river.

Jim & Cathy Bird

Village weather for July 2017



A hot dry start to July with plenty of sun, followed by a more variable but hot mid-month and ending cooler and showery.

No frost, gale or hail. 14 rain days. A single rumble of thunder on 22nd.

Comp. Figures	2017	2016
Rain (most 23.2 mm on 21st)	107.8 mm	15.3 mm
Sunshine	164.5 hr (av. 5.3)	153.2 hr
Max mean temp. (highest 28.7 °C on 6th)	21.84 °C	21.8 °C
Min mean temp. (lowest 7.5 °C on 23rd)	12.08 °C	11.3 °C

Full Corn Moon – Wednesday 6th September

Keen readers of The Gossip Tree will notice that, this time last year, the Full Moon in September was the Full Harvest Moon. This year, however, the Full Harvest Moon is in October. This is because the Harvest Moon is the Moon that falls nearest the autumn equinox which is on Friday 22nd September (the Full Harvest Moon will therefore be on Thursday 5th October).

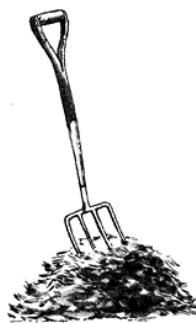


The September Full Moon is the Full Corn Moon because it traditionally corresponds with the time of harvesting corn. It is also called the Barley Moon, for a similar reason.

September is a good time to view both Neptune and Mercury. On Tuesday 5th September, Neptune will be at its closest approach to Earth and its face will be fully illuminated by the Sun. It will be brighter than any other time of the year and will be visible all night long. On Tuesday 12th September, Mercury will be at its highest point above the horizon in the morning sky. Weather permitting, it should be visible low in the eastern sky just before sunrise.

Nancy Shilling

Hannah ("Nancy") Shilling who lived with her husband Bob in the Mead from 1980 to 2001 passed away peacefully at Westminster Hospital Shaftesbury on Friday 11th August, a month before her 95th birthday.

Compost Corner

Narcissus have got to be one of the best garden plants: varieties can flower from Christmas to late spring, they are cheap to buy, easy to care for and are relatively pest and disease free.

Garden centres will now have a wide range of Narcissus bulbs in stock and unlike some bulbs they should be planted as soon as possible.

As a rough guide, they should be planted at least 1½ times their own depth; if they are planted too near the surface of the soil, they are more unlikely to flower.

There will be dozens of varieties from which to choose - here are a few suggestions:

For fragrance - Narcissus 'Cheerfulness'

Early flowering - Narcissus 'Rijnveld's Early Sensation'

Multiple flowers - Narcissus 'Grand Soleil d'Or'

Late flowering - Narcissus poeticus var. recurvus

White flowers - Narcissus 'Ice Follies'

Short stemmed - Narcissus 'Minnow'

And very importantly, once they have flowered, leave the foliage to die down for 6 weeks and then enjoy year after year.

Alison Main

Our series of articles featuring Bedchester is coming to an end. Next month's issue will feature the last one - unless someone can suggest a further article. All the articles are being put together in a single document for possible display in the repainted Bedchester phone box!

Well and Bede Cottages (68 and 69 Hampton Gate)

The 1774 Ingham map shows there to be dwellings where these cottages are today, and it is likely that the cottages date back to at least the date of the map. However, neither are listed buildings. They both appear to have been named Hampton Gate, indicating that a toll gate may originally have been here. It is not known why they were named Hampton - this name does not appear on the 1774 map or, indeed, any other map. The 1851 census names four different families living at Hampton: Thomas Barton, age 60, a widower and farmer of 60 acres; Joseph Wright, 46, an agricultural labourer and his wife Ann

and four children; James Spicer, a shoemaker, and his wife Susan (James died in 1856); and John and Ann Toomer (though the Toomers actually lived at 72 Penn Hill).

Well Cottage (68 Hampton Gate)

From around 1877, the Chaldecott family was living there. Thomas Chaldecott was born in 1843 in Mappowder and became the miller there. He married Julia Ann Vardy (1845-1917) who was born in Yetminster. In the 1871 census, Thomas is recorded as a 'journeyman' miller living at Yetminster. At Bedchester, he may have helped at Piper's Mill or Woodbridge Mill. Between 1869 and 1883, Thomas and Julia had 9 children, though two died young. The family were still at the cottage for the 1891 census (Thomas was described as a 'Grinder', rather than miller). The cottage appears to have been empty at the 1901 census, but this may have been because all their children had left home and Thomas and Julia were visiting their daughter Florence, now married to Albert Harvey, a gamekeeper, in Evershot. By the 1911 census, Thomas (still described as a miller) and Julia were living at 63 West Street.

In 1911, the cottage was occupied by Emily Cross Matthews, 35, single, 'monthly' nurse, born in Slowford, Devon. In the 1919 Glyn sale, the cottage was Lot 90 and was let to Mr I. Baker. He shared the well next door at Bede Cottage (as did George Bradley at 71 Penn Hill). Lot 90 was bought by Mr F. Sykes. More recent occupiers were Roy Scammell, the Westlakes and the Wallaces.

Bede Cottage (69 Hampton Gate)

By 1891, the cottage was occupied by the Coombes family. William Stephen Coombes (1836-1910) was an agricultural labourer. In the 1881 census, he was living in North Street with his wife Susannah nee Still (1854-1928). With them were his children: Ellen (born 1859), Annie (1862-1907), both glovers and James (born 1873). Susannah must have been William's second wife. By 1891, William was a carpenter's labourer, and there were two other children: Frederick T. (born 1886) and Mary Elizabeth (1888-1941). Two children had also been born, and died, in 1880.

By 1901, William was an estate labourer, Frederick was a thatcher's labourer and Mary a domestic servant, and there was another son, Henry George (born 1893). William died in 1910. In 1911, only Susannah, now a laundress, and Henry George, a labourer, were living there. In the 1919 Glyn sale, the cottage was Lot 89 and was let to Susannah. It was this property that had the well, and not next door. Lot 89 was purchased by Mr J. W. Baker, although Susannah continued to live here until her death in December 1928, aged 75.

Later, the cottage was occupied by the Spicers. When Margaret Galpin retired from running the shop in the 1960s, she lived in Bede Cottage for a few years before she died in 1971.

Harvest Festival

Everyone is welcome to come to the Harvest Festival at St Andrew's at 11.00am on Sunday 17th September and is invited to the light lunch which will follow.

This year contributions are requested for the food bank, so if you would like to join in please bring such items as pasta and pasta sauces, tinned fish, sugar, tinned tomatoes, tins/packets of soup, tea bags, instant coffee etc.

There will be a collection for a charity working with the homeless in Britain. We look forward to seeing you there. Janet Smith and Barry Roberts (Churchwardens)

Barbara Gadd

Beloved and loyal wife of John Gadd for 62 years, and mother of Alison who lives in Iwerne, died peacefully aged 87 on Sunday 20th August from complications after a bad fall on 2nd August. More next month.

Neighbourhood Plan

The Working Group met on Thursday 17th August for the 20th time and agreed 'final' changes to the draft Neighbourhood Plan. This draft has now been given to the Parish Council.

At its meeting on Monday 11th September, the PC will decide whether to approve the draft plan so that the Group can start the 'Neighbourhood Plan Pre-submission Consultation.' This involves a six week public consultation period which offers a last opportunity at parish level to comment on and influence the Plan before it is submitted to NDDC. The Group will let you know when this consultation period starts, and what options you have to let the Group know your views.

Dick Stainer

*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 25th September 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).*