



THE GOSSIP TREE

News & Views from the Parish of FONTMELL MAGNA

This issue is kindly sponsored by John Jennings

April
2018
Issue 290

On Sunday 1st April 2018, the Royal Air Force (RAF) will be celebrating its 100th birthday. The centenary will be marked by special events at local and national level and will include a fly-pass over London on Tuesday 10th July. Locally, the Shaftesbury branch of the RAF Association will focus celebration on the Gold Hill Fair on Sunday 1st July.

As my life-span embraces all but the first 6 years of the RAF's 100, and I wore the Blue for almost 40 years, I look forward to these celebrations.

Remarkable feats were performed by the RAF in WW2 and it is no exaggeration to state that in 1940 the fate of the nation lay in its hands. It is a chastening thought to consider the circumstances that would exist today if the battle had been lost. A goodly number of those who did survive the battle were killed on later operations and a much smaller number actually survived the war. I was privileged to know and serve with them.

Britain entered WW1 with two air elements: the Royal Flying Corps (RFC) – to provide artillery spotting and reconnaissance for the army; and the Royal Naval Air Service – to provide support to the Navy. The aircraft in use were inadequate against the Zeppelins and later the large bombers (Gothas) which were able to fly with impunity over large areas of the country. Isolated patrols were sent up but it was not until the night of 2nd-3rd September 1916 that an RFC pilot managed to destroy a Zeppelin (and was awarded the Victoria Cross). Gothas first appeared over Britain in May 1917. In a raid by 14 Gothas on London in June, a bomb dropped on a primary school in Poplar killed 16 children and wounded 30. The total number of casualties for the raid was 162 killed (which included my grandmother) and 432 wounded.

Throughout these raids, public and parliamentary clamour had been steadily rising and there were outbreaks of arson and rioting. The Government was forced to take action and, as a result, a committee was formed under General Smuts which led in due course to the creation of the Royal Air Force that we have today.

Group Captain John Jennings D.F.C.

Coffee and company....

An opportunity to meet old friends and make new ones?

Do come and join us at our 'Open House' Coffee mornings every **Friday morning through the summer from 10.30am till noon** in the comfortable social area at the back of St. Andrew's Church. In addition to coffee, tea or hot chocolate, we have books for people to borrow and often home-grown garden produce is available for a small donation.

Starting on **Friday 20th April** - when there will also be home-made cakes and a Bring and Buy Stall – 'Open House' Coffee Mornings are for **everyone** in Fontmell village and beyond – so please do come along, we'd love to see you!

Remember! Every Friday 10.30am to 12 noon. A warm and friendly welcome awaits you!

Jennie Jones



Fontmell Magna Annual Parish Meeting

This public meeting, open to all residents of Fontmell Magna Parish, will be held on Monday 21st May at 7.00pm in St Andrew's School hall immediately before the Parish Council AGM and bi-monthly meeting.

All parish based clubs, societies and similar organisations are invited to report briefly (no more than 3 minutes) on their previous year's activities and their proposals for the next twelve months. Any representative from a club/society/organisation who wishes to give a report should inform the Parish Clerk by Wednesday 9th May, by email: clerk@fontmellmagnapc.co.uk. As in previous years, individual invitations will not be sent.

Sponsored Walk

Accompanying this Gossip Tree is a press release describing my sponsored walk, raising funds for three good causes, of the 220-mile Hardy Way. The send-off for the walk is at 10.30am on Wednesday 18th April at the Hardy's Birthplace Visitor Centre when Lord Julian and Lady Fellowes will be present. Anyone from the village who would like to attend will be very welcome. I will do a daily blog on the Hardy Way Facebook page.

Margaret Marande

Play Area and Village Hall – HELP! Volunteers needed

Volunteers are needed at the Play Area for vital repair work on Saturday 21st April from 10.00am. Any repairs made can only be temporary – a new Play Area is needed. Please therefore attend an open meeting at 7.00pm on Wednesday 25th April in the Village Hall to discuss how this might be achieved. Kim Masters has very kindly offered to co-ordinate fund-raising efforts. Finally, the Village Hall desperately needs a Chair and Vice Chair to enable it to continue.

Notices – April 2018

St. Andrew's Church

Sun	1st	9.30am	Easter Day Holy Communion (CW)
Sun	8th	9.30am	Morning Worship
Sun	15th	9.30am	Sung Communion (CW) Dedication of the Memorial Plaque to Canon Charles Pigott Edmonds (<i>see page 4</i>)
Sun	22nd	9.30am	Holy Communion (CW)
Sun	29th	10.00am	Benefice Service at Ashmore

Prayers each Monday at 9.00am

Parish Council

No meeting this month - next meeting Monday 21st May after the PC AGM and Annual Parish Meeting.

Parish Clerk: Marianne Wheatley

clerk@fontmellmagnapc.co.uk

The Tea Room Crafters

Wed 11th & 25th at 2.30pm. Details Barbara Humphreys blueletterbox@btinternet.com

The Surgery

Mon - Thur 8.00am - 12 noon.

Enquiries 856700

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

St Andrew's School

Mon 16th - Summer Term starts

Fri 25th May - Break up for Half Term

Fontmell Magna Toddler Group

Tue 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

'Open House' Coffee Mornings - All Welcome!

Every Friday 10.30am to 12 noon in St Andrew's Church social area. Coffee/tea/hot chocolate and biscuits and home-grown produce.

Iwerne Valley Walking Group

Sat 21st starting at 10.00am from the Moreton Tea Rooms at The Old School DT2 8RH which will take us past T. E. Lawrence's cottage at Clouds Hill, owned by the National Trust.

Leaders: Neil and Jane (811627)

Bell-ringing

Tue 10th & 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

Village Hall events - see over

Events in the Village Hall

Fontmell Magna & District Society
Fri 6th at 7.30pm. 'Working with old relics in the House of Lords' by Liz Ralph.
Details Dick Stainer 811153

Fontmell Films

Wed 11th - 'Murder on the Orient Express' Doors open 7.00pm
Details Libby Gendall 811551

North Dorset Wildlife Trust

Wed 18th at 7.30pm - 'Herbal Remedies - Healing with Plants' an illustrated talk by Julie Wood
Details Geoff Peters 811546

Garden Club

Thu 19th at 7.30pm. Social Evening.
Details Robert McCurrach 812077

Archive Society

Thu 19th 4.00 to 5.30pm.
Details Roger Hillman 811878

Play Area

Sat 21st from 10.00am - repairs
Wed 25th from 7.00pm - fundraising
Details Chris Bellers 811734

Fontmell Magna Art Club

Tue 2.00 to 4.00pm.
Details Sandra Jelbart 812468

Carpet Bowls Club

Thu 5th, 12th & 26th, & Fri 20th, all at 7.30pm.
Details Gerry Bone 811814

Dru Yoga

Fri 9.30 to 11.00am.
Details Kirsty Elliot 07783 780128

Pilates

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

Taekwon-do

Tue 8.00-9.00pm, Fri 6.00-7.00pm.
Details Sam Donohoo 07584 039351

Zumba

Thu 9.30am.
Details Abby Down 850867
zumbawithabbyd@gmail.com

To book the Hall, call Catherine Allard on 812047 or email catherineallard1980@hotmail.co.uk

Parish Council

About 60 members of the public attended the meeting held on Monday 12th March 2018 at 7.00pm. The plans for the proposed development at Middle Farm are being redrafted and will be re-submitted. Any comments should be made on the revised plans for which there will be a new deadline.

Public Questions

Carl Johnston said that, if Chris Bellers was co-opted onto the PC, he would be stepping down as Chair of the Village Hall committee. For the past 6 years, it has not proved possible to fill the post of Vice Chair, and he was concerned about the future of the Village hall. He therefore appealed for someone to come forward to fill these posts.

Other questions reflected disquiet about the proposed development on Mill Street. The developer had asserted that Fontmell's Neighbourhood Plan was not advanced enough to be given weight in assessing the planning application. This Plan has been developed over two and a half years and is at an advanced stage; it has the support of the majority of the parish. Anyone objecting to the Mill Street plans should refer to the Neighbourhood Plan, as more weight will be given to the Plan if it is referred to in objections. Potential light pollution (which is specifically covered in the Plan) should also be mentioned.

Parish Council Meeting

Six parish councillors, DCC Cllr. Carr-Jones, NDDC Cllr. Langham, Jo Witherden (Planning Consultant) and the Clerk were present. There were no apologies and no declarations of interest. Chris Bellers was co-opted and joined the other councillors. Maggie de la Perrelle resigned as a councillor with effect from 31st March. Cllr. Bellers agreed to take over responsibility for footpaths from her.

The minutes of the last PC meeting on Monday 8th January were approved and signed. Under matters arising, Cllr. Humphreys said that the Conservation Area Appraisal had been adopted by NDDC on 14th February as an official policy document and proposed a vote of thanks to Barry Roberts; this was given unanimously.

County/NDCC Report

The move to two unitary authorities has been approved. DCC coped well with the snow disruption and caught up with bin collections within three days. The Norden hub has now opened. Council Tax will be increasing (by £5 a year for a Band D property). DCC has agreed a ban on the release of helium balloons and sky lanterns from all council property.

Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr. Humphreys stated that the Neighbourhood Plan was ready to submit to the District Council for examination. Once submitted, there would be a 6-week public consultation following which an examiner would be appointed. After any final changes to the Plan following the examiner's report, it would be put to a referendum of the whole parish. This should be around September/October. There were 145 responses from residents to the 'pre-submission' consultation, of which 90 made comments. There were also a number of comments from statutory consultees. The Working Group has been through all the comments with the aim of addressing the concerns raised. It has prepared a thirteen-page document setting out the changes made as a result of comments received. The PC agreed to approve the Plan and accompanying documents for submission to NDDC. Cllr. Horstead thanked everyone who had contributed in any way to the Plan. The submitted Plan and supporting documents will be available on the Parish website and copies will be held in the

Village Shop & Post Office.

Planning

The proposed development at Mill Street is an outline application for approval in principle. As there is no 5-year land supply (only 140 houses were built last year in North Dorset), planners are expected to approve applications unless the adverse effects outweigh the benefits. These adverse effects are set out in a draft letter prepared by Jo Witherden. The PC agreed to use Jo's draft as the PC's report, subject to some further amendments.

There was no objection to proposed works at Little Orchard, Woodbridge. The PC would object to the application in respect of 21 Lurmer Street as it represents a change to a listed building.

Other Parish Matters

Highways:

Robin East reported that most of the work on the A350 was done. Subject to the weather, the road lines should be painted by the end of March. These would include two pinch points on the southern part – one by the footpath and one by The Mead. Direction signs would be replaced and simplified. Gates at both ends of the village are still being discussed. He will look into progress on the missing Bedchester sign.

Cllr. Horstead said that those living on the A350 had been given a card inviting comments on the quality of work on the A350; his impression was that the work had been carried out with as little disruption as possible. It was commented that the noise from the new road was significantly quieter, though this did make it more dangerous for pedestrians.

Bedchester allotments:

Cllr. Horstead reported that DCC was putting some pressure on the PC to take over the allotments, but had made no progress in providing a hardcore parking area and a water supply. It appears that even existing tenants were unaware of the possible change. Carl Johnston, who had managed allotments in the past, advised the PC not to take on responsibility for the allotments because of the considerable administration required.

Defibrillator:

Sue Keen said that there was a defibrillator in the Surgery but it could not be accessed when the Surgery was closed. She would liaise with Bedchester residents, whose plans for a defibrillator in the phonebox were well advanced.

Unified Parish website:

No progress had been made and the matter would be dropped.

Talk by Rural Crime Team:

This will take place at the PC meeting on Monday 9th July. The Abbey View Partnership had offered to give a talk – the Clerk will follow this up.

Maintenance of Bedchester Notice Board and the Pump House:

Cllr. Williams estimated that repairs to the Notice Board would cost in the region of £300. He was asked to pass a formal quote to the Clerk. The Clerk will ask a gardener to look at the Pump House.

Any other business

Cllr. Humphreys said that he and Barry Roberts were putting together an application for the Dorset Best Kept Village Competition 2018 (Community Heritage Award).

Dick Stainer said that Pennyfarthing Homes had just put in a planning application for the land south of Home Farm and it was along the same lines as that displayed in the School in January. The meeting closed at 8.42pm.

The next PC meeting will be on Monday 21st May following the Annual Parish Meeting and PC AGM - all in the School Hall, starting at 7.00pm.

Thank you to everyone who supported the Fontmell Magna Art Club Exhibition on Sunday 25th February. It proved to be a very successful and enjoyable afternoon and a cheque for £131 has been sent to the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance. Sandra Jelbart

Spring Buddleia Pruning Session

Volunteers are invited to help cutting back buddleias from Friday 13th April to Tuesday 17th April. All welcome. Judy Westgate 811302

North Dorset Wildlife Trust

Plants have been used for health and healing for many centuries and modern science has helped confirm their efficacy for many uses. Julie Wood is a Dorset based Medicinal Herbalist and a member of the National Institute of Herbal Medicine. She has worked for Neil's Yard Remedies and has also helped Shaftesbury Abbey's Director of Gardening to expand their Anglo-Saxon herb garden to include some 100 varieties. On Wednesday 18th April, Julie will give an illustrated talk on 'Herbal Remedies – Healing with Plants' at the Village Hall at 7.30pm. Entry is £2 (to include refreshments) and there is no charge for children under 16.

Later in the summer Julie will also give a guided walk of Shaftesbury Abbey Gardens. This event, on Thursday 12th July at 6.30pm, will include drinks and nibbles in the £10 cost. Numbers are strictly limited so please contact Roy Davies on 01258 880 699 to book.

Anna

Springhead

Tuesday 17th April: Open Garden, 10.00am to 5.00pm, with stalls and café serving refreshments and light lunches. Admission £3.50, under 16 and Friends of Springhead free. Dogs on leads welcome and assisted wheelchair access.

On the same day, between 10.00am & 1.00pm, award winning photographer and writer Edward Parker will be running a course on garden photography. This is suitable for people of all abilities using any type of camera. The idea is to demonstrate when and how to get the very best out of your camera and explain the basic principles needed. During the course, you will be shown how to change the settings on your camera to improve the results. For example, the lens zoom settings are particularly important. It is possible to get excellent images using natural light with almost any sort of camera with a bit of tuition. In many ways, compact cameras are as good as DSLR's for general photography. A lot of the success of general photography relies on understanding a little about composition and the use of foreground, background and lighting, all of which are equally relevant irrespective of the type of camera used. A tripod and reflectors will be available for participants on the day but do bring your own along too if you have one. Outdoor shoes and a coat are also recommended. £25 per person. To book contact: The Springhead Trust Ltd. Tel: 811853.

Email: info@springheadtrust.org.uk www.springheadtrust.org.uk

Fontmell Films

The last film of this season showing on Wednesday 11th April is 'Murder on the Orient Express'. This new version, released in 2017, is directed by and stars Kenneth Branagh as Hercule Poirot, together with Johnny Depp, Derek Jacobi, Dame Judi Dench and a host of others. A lavish trip across Europe quickly unfolds into a race against time to solve a murder. Can Hercule Poirot find the killer before he/she strikes again? 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: Our first film of the Autumn 2018 Season will be on Wednesday 12th September, full details will be published nearer the date.

Brookland Wood

Some further patches of hazel are being coppiced this winter – i.e. cut back to ground level so they will sprout numerous straight stems which will be ready for cutting again in about 7 years' time. This ancient management technique dates from the days of the flint axe and benefits nature since areas at different stages of regrowth offer distinct wildlife habitats. Neolithic woodsmen were more concerned with growing useful timber! As usual, I shall be selling beanpoles and pea sticks in aid of the Woodland Trust. The Trust exchanges the heavier logs for charcoal from the Dorset Charcoal Company. That will be for sale in the Village Shop once the weather's become more suitable for BBQs.

George Darwall (811888)

Garden Club

The Garden Club met on Thursday 15th March for a talk by Linda Bunting, of Dorset Wildlife Trust. Her talk was on "Gardening for Wildlife". She explained how changes to the environment since the end of WW2 had seen wildflower meadows shrink by 90%, housing and roads had proliferated, and most of the old heaths had gone - though admittedly agriculture was much more efficient. She told us about DWT's Great Heath Project, which aims to provide a wildlife corridor from Purbeck to the New Forest. Gardens are a patchwork of habitat types, and there a plenty of opportunities for gardeners to help wildlife. Among the most important are avoiding chemicals, avoiding peat, and providing suitable habitats. These include heaps of stones or logs, mature trees, and even sheets of tin and corrugated iron, which are much loved by frogs, toads, and creepier reptiles. In terms of flowers, bright colours attract insects, and nectar rich, single head flowers are attractive to bees. Blooms all the year round are important, and she singled out hellebore and mahonia as winter blooms. We are most grateful to Linda for an interesting and entertaining evening; it was almost a homecoming for her, as her grandfather had farmed in Fontmell Magna.

Seed potatoes for the Members' Potato Competition are now available. If you haven't got yours, please contact Sue (812282) or Robert (812077). Our next meeting is a Social Evening, on Thursday 19th April. It will include a Gardeners' Question Time – so please let Sue or Robert know if you have gardening questions you would like to have answered.

Robert McCurrach

Village weather for February 2018



Relatively dry and cold with a wet period mid-month, plenty of sunshine & frost, ending with a hint* of snow and very cold.

20 air frost. 26 ground frost. 9 rain days. 1 day hail. 2 gales.

Comp. Figures	2018	2017
Rain (most 10.8 mm on 14th)	43.3 mm	58.6 mm
Sunshine	118.4 hr (av. 4.2)	48.8 hr
Max mean temp. (highest 11.0 °C on 20th)	7.15 °C	9.55 °C
Min mean temp. (lowest - 6.3 °C on 28th)	- 1.75 °C	3.23 °C

Apologies to Judy and all readers. Last month's summary of January's weather reported that there had been no ground frosts. In fact, Judy had reported 16 ground frosts.

The above figures reveal that February 2018 was one of the sunniest, driest and coldest Februaries in Fontmell since records began in 1987. Indeed, Met Office figures confirm that, across the UK as a whole, February was the second sunniest on record, there was about a quarter less rainfall than is normal across the UK, and it was particularly cold.

Saturday 24th February was St Matthias's Day. It was also freezing cold. Weather folklore says that: "If it freezes on St Matthias's Day, it will freeze for a month together". This is because high-pressure systems often become stuck for some time over northern Europe, especially Scandinavia, at this time of year, sweeping cold air over the UK. There are other sayings too: "A February spring is not worth a pin" and "Of all the months that are in the year, curse a fair Februeer" advising that, even when there is sunny weather in February, winter could easily return. In the event, winter did return (twice), in the form of 'the beast from the east' and its less stormy cousin 'the mini-beast from the east.' *The hint of snow was perhaps an understatement, as the 'beast' struck the very next day.



The Full Moon in April is on Monday 30th. As Spring has officially sprung by now, this is the Full Flower Moon. It is sometimes known as the Corn Planting Moon, Bright Moon or Milk Moon.

Compost Corner



Planters come in all shapes, sizes and materials like terracotta, stone, wood and metal. Recently, I gave a 10' long galvanised cattle water trough to my daughter as a potential planter. However, she had no idea what plants

would be suitable for it. I wanted her to make her own choices so I suggested that, to kick off the design process, she could draw the shapes of the plants she liked. In all we required 15 plants, which included in the middle a large spiky plant, some small-leaved ones, a tall one with flowers, a grass, and a couple of ball shaped ones. Then we went off to a garden centre and chose ones that would fit the bill. She decided that a limited colour palette would be preferable so we opted for soft greys, pinks, white and of course green. You can use exactly the same method when designing a border and it really isn't that tricky.

The only problem now is that my daughter is going to move house. She only has access to her garden through the house - getting it in initially wasn't exactly easy - moving it out, planted and full of soil is certainly going to be a challenge. Perhaps I should have given her a jumper. Alison Main

Welcome

We welcome to the parish Sarah McComas from Shaftesbury and John Sutherland from Poole who have moved into Hame, West View. Also Elisa (Eli) and Jim Adams and their children Jude and Seren, together with Elf their dog, who have moved from Shaftesbury to Magna House, Lurmer Street.

Farewell

To Mum & Dad, Reg and Doreen Pitman, who have recently moved to The Pavilions in Shaftesbury from 2 North Street, having lived there for 62 years, all of their married life. (Ray Pitman)

Charles David Ashby Wallis (David) passed away quietly in his sleep on 4th March. The cornerstone of our lives, he will forever be in our thoughts and minds and will be greatly missed. (Family of the late Mr Charles Wallis) Geoffrey William Tapper died peacefully on 2nd March 2018, aged 86. Memorial service at Bell St Methodist Church at 2.00pm Monday 9th April. More information about Dr. Geoffrey Tapper next month.

The Revd. Canon Charles Pigott Edmonds (1871-1957)

On the North wall by the main altar of St Andrew's Church is a plaque commemorating Robert Salkeld, Rector from September 1819 until his death in January 1866 (46 years and four months) although he appears to have been too ill to officiate after October 1865.

Below this plaque is a new plaque, which will be dedicated at the service on Sunday 15th April. During the week preceding the dedication, there will be an Exhibition on Canon Edmonds in the Church. The plaque reads:

*Canon Charles Pigott Edmonds M.A.
Rector of this Parish with West Orchard:
May 1903 – December 1949*

*A faithful servant of God
Ministering to the community through two
World Wars and the sale of the village
"O Lord of Hosts, Blessed is the man that
trusteth in thee": Psalm 84:12*

This plaque has been erected thanks to the tireless efforts of Canon Edmonds' granddaughter, Tricia May. When she visited the Church for the first time in April 2016, she noticed that there was no mention of him in the Church other than his name on the list of Rectors, and a handwritten framed note by the font. She felt very strongly that Canon Edmonds contributed as much, if not more, to church life in the parish as anyone who was already commemorated, and that he deserved formal recognition. Not only was he the longest serving Rector of the Parish - from May 1903 to December 1949 (46 years and seven months), but he served during an era of major upheaval and significance for the parish. During WW1, some 90 men from the parish were on active service, leaving few able-bodied men to work the land. His wife, Agatha, lost her brother in the War while Canon Edmonds lost his good friend Humphrey Springfield (killed in 1916, and commemorated on a plaque on the south wall of the Chancel). The sales of Glyn property in 1919, 1926 and 1927, meant that many villagers had to move elsewhere - all the church officials in West Orchard were forced to move, as were three sidesmen at Fontmell. In WW2, Canon Edmonds' younger son Humphrey was one of 34 men, as well as 6 women, from the parish who were on active service.

Canon Edmonds was born in 1871 in Southrop, Gloucestershire (near the village of Bibury). He was one of 10 children. His father, William Edmonds, farmed nearly 2,000 acres employing scores of labourers. They lived at the manor house. Having received an M.A. from Trinity College, Dublin, Canon Edmonds became a curate at St Johns, Wimborne. He was instituted as Rector of Fontmell Magna in April 1903. While living at the Rectory (now Fontmell House), he married Agatha Mary Harkness (1876-1959). They had three children: Charles, Agatha and

Humphrey.

By 1931, he was Rural Dean of Sturminster Newton and, in 1935, he was elected to the Canonry of Salisbury. In 1939 he was prebendary of Salisbury Cathedral. Throughout his time in the parish, he produced and edited the parish magazine.

Throughout 1949, Canon Edmonds suffered from ill-health and he retired, aged 79, at the end of December that year. On his retirement, he was presented with a small ring bound book by the parishioners "as a token of their esteem". It contains a few photos and a list of all the parishioners (numbering 327, plus families) who contributed to his farewell gift, as well as poems by William Lush and Olive Philpott.

After they retired, Canon and Mrs Edmonds moved to Buckinghamshire where they are both buried in All Saints Churchyard, Emberton. However, the hearts of the whole family remained in Dorset: Canon Edmonds even named his new home in Buckinghamshire 'Fontmell Cottage' while his son Humphrey built a house in an orchard in Hertfordshire which he named 'West Orchard'.

When Canon Edmonds died in 1957, the PCC agreed to raise a memorial to him. After much discussion, it was decided to restore the Norman font, return it to its original position, attach a suitably inscribed bronze plate to the base and replace the existing Victorian font. It would appear that the work to the font was completed as planned. However, for reasons that are unclear, no bronze plate was ever attached. Instead, a note written by Ann Locke (nee Chick) was framed and propped against the Norman font. This note reads as follows:

"This Font was carved by a village craftsman between 1075 & 1125 AD. It was removed from the Church last century & has been restored & replaced in memory of Canon Charles Pigott Edmonds, Rector of this parish 1903-1950, who died on 28th January 1957, aged 86 years. Agatha Mary, his wife, worshipped regularly in the Church & was a true friend of all. She died on January 9th 1959, aged 83 years."



Canon Edmonds in Church Street at the Coronation Celebrations on 12th May 1937, with his youngest son, Humphrey (Tricia's father) and daughter, Agatha.

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 22nd April 2018**. 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).