



THE GOSSIP TREE

News & Views from the Parish of FONTMELL MAGNA

This issue is kindly sponsored by a friend who wishes to remain anonymous

**Christmas &
January
2018
Issue 287**

Neighbourhood Plan - Pre-submission Consultation

Thank you to everyone who responded to the pre-submission consultation which ran in October/November. We received a total of 145 responses from residents of Fontmell Magna parish, considerably more than the response to the previous consultation. The responses showed strong support (over 90% favourable) amongst residents for most of the policies. Support was less strong but still favourable (above 75%) for the housing policies. To the final question "Overall, if the referendum were tomorrow, would you vote in favour of the Plan?" 111 residents (77%) said yes, 18 did not know or left the question blank and just 16 said no.

90 of the 145 respondents included comments on their questionnaire forms. All the comments received have been recorded and the Working Group is now going through each comment and deciding what changes to the Plan are appropriate, with guidance from North Dorset District Council's planning policy and conservation teams. It is clear that some important issues have been raised and some genuine concerns highlighted.

Once the Working Group has considered each comment, and made appropriate changes to the Plan, the Group will present the Plan to the Parish Council for approval to be formally submitted to North Dorset District Council for examination. The final step in making the Plan is a referendum of all parish residents which is expected to take place in September 2018.

Michael Humphreys

My Orchard Hedge

Walkers on the track between Parsonage Street and Springhead will have noticed changes over the years to my orchard hedge. Up to 2010, it consisted of massively overgrown, ivy-entangled, hazel trees with hardly any hedge at all underneath! George Darwall, his colleague and I then laid it, re-establishing a regime whereby it would be left untrimmed to regenerate until ready to lay again. That duly happened last winter, when the cost of laying was covered by the value of the hurdle rods, beanpoles etc. we cut out. There was vigorous new growth last summer to show that we had fully restored what was once a common feature of the Dorset countryside, now rarer than hen's teeth: a traditionally managed, in-cycle, hazel hedge that could pay for its own sustainable maintenance in good condition, indefinitely, without any grants of taxpayers' money.

We were somewhat put out, therefore, when we recently discovered that an ill-briefed contractor working for my neighbour's farm manager had driven down the track with a mechanical cutter and given my hedge a short back & sides without informing me first, let alone asking permission which would certainly **not** have been granted! It was especially galling as some weeks earlier George had presented a display, featuring before-and-after photos of the hedge, at the National Championships at Stourhead of the National Hedge Laying Society. There is no merit in crying over spilt milk. It was a regrettable misunderstanding for which we have received profuse apologies. The hedge will recover from this set-back. But to preserve the reputations of owner and woodsman alike, I must emphasise that the recent trimming was no way to treat **any** newly laid hedge, let alone a hazel one.

Dick Stainer

The Fontmell - reminder

1st Jan: Food served from 10.30am to 3.00pm (last orders 2.45pm). Close at 6.00pm. 2nd Jan – 16th Jan: Closed. Re-opens: 17th January.

The Fontmell Magna Directory

The Directory is currently being updated. If you have an entry which needs altering, or an entry that you no longer want included, please contact Gay Mole by Friday 19th January on 811669 or write to Gay Mole, The Old Tollhouse, South Street, Fontmell Magna, or email alice.mole@btinternet.com. It is hoped that the new directories will be delivered with the February issue of The Gossip Tree.

Christmas Greetings and best wishes for a very Happy New Year to all our readers from the Editor, Committee and Distributors of The Gossip Tree. And a big thank you to Catherine Allard for compiling the Christmas Chimes which accompanies this issue.

Notices – January 2018

St. Andrew's Church

Sun	7th	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		9.00am	Sunday Breakfast (Village Hall - see over)
Sun	14th	9.30am	Morning Worship
Sun	21st	9.30pm	Holy Communion with choir
Sun	28th	9.30pm	Holy Communion (CW)
Fri	5th	10.30am	'In Home' coffee morning at 'Cranbrook', Collyers Rise (Gerry & Maureen Bone)

Tue 16th 10.30am Open House in the Tea Room

Prayers each Monday at 9.00am

Parish Council

Mon 8th at 7.30pm in St Andrew's School Hall. The meeting is open to all members of the public and starts with Public Questions.

Parish Clerk: Marianne Wheatley
clerk@fontmellmagnapc.co.uk

Neighbourhood Plan Working Group

Mon 15th at 7.00pm in St Andrew's School Hall.
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
CLOSED 25th, 26th & 31st December and 1st January. Saturday opening hours 27th - 30th December and 2nd & 3rd January.
9.00am to 4.30pm on 4th & 5th January.
Normal times from 6th January. Enquiries 811201

St Andrew's School

Tue 2nd January - Spring Term starts
Fri 9th February - 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

Iwerne Valley Walking Group

Sat 20th, 10.00am starting from The Woodpecker, Spetisbury, led by Claire. For more details call 07708473568.

Bell-ringing

Tue 16th - Practice 7.30 to 8.30pm
Details Chris Bellers 811734

Bin Collection Dates

W/C 8th* & 22nd - Recycling & Food
W/C 1st*, 15th & 29th - Rubbish & Food
*Collections in W/C 1st, 2 days later than usual and collections in W/C 8th, 1 day later.

Village Hall events - see over

Events in the Village Hall**Sunday Breakfast**

Sun 7th at 9.00am. Run by St. Andrew's Church. All welcome. Details Janet Smith 811904

Fontmell Films

Wed 10th - 'Hampstead'. Doors open 7.00pm
Details Libby Gendall 811551

North Dorset Wildlife Trust

Wed 17th - see page 3

Garden Club

Thu 18th at 7.30pm. 'Behind the scenes at Chelsea' by Sally Nex
Details Robert McCurrach 812077

Archive Society

Thu 18th 4.00 to 5.30pm.
Details Roger Hillman 811878

Fontmell Magna Art Club

Tue 2.00 to 4.00pm.
Details Sandra Jelbart 812468

Carpet Bowls Club

Thu 4th, 11th & 25th, & Fri 19th, all at 7.30pm.
Details Gerry Bone 811814

Dru Yoga

Fri from 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 to 9.00pm
Fri 6.00 to 7.00pm.
Details Sam Donohoo 07584 039351

Zumba (from 11th January)

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

Conservation Area Appraisal

34 residents attended the drop-in session at the Village Hall on Wednesday 6th December which was run by members of the North Dorset Conservation team. You can make comment on the draft appraisal, which can be viewed at the Village Shop in the Tea Room, and online at www.dorsetforyou.uk/conservationareas/north until Friday 12th January.

The comments form can be downloaded at the same website or collected from the Village Shop and should be returned either to the Village Shop or sent to the Conservation team using the address on the form. Barry Roberts



Have you heard about the high & low intensity aerobics class happening over at Clayesmore? Abby Down has brought Zumba Fitness ® (& her eclectic style) to Iwerne Minster's Sports Centre – an excellent choice of exercise for weight loss and body toning.

An instructor with an infectious energy promoting a fun and non-intimidating fitness party. So, grab a friend and go along to start the New Year in an exciting way. PAYG weekly on Mondays, for a 7.30pm start resuming Monday 8th January 2018. Please note, you do NOT have to be a Member of the Sports Centre to participate.

Call Abby on 01747 850867/ 07901 597129 or email zumbawithabbyd@gmail.com for full information of January offers and to book your special introductory rates.

Now Abby has decided to add a Thursday morning 9.30am Zumba fitness class in Fontmell Magna Village Hall starting on Thursday 11th January, as well as Mondays at Clayesmore.

Knit & Stitch, Stitch and Bitch, Pins and Needles, Happy Hookers

Whatever a group like this is might be called, Jenny White and I are planning to meet in the Village Tea Rooms for a couple of hours each month to stitch, felt, crochet, embroider, rag rug, do patchwork or make Kantha pieces, lace, Dorset buttons – or maybe just knit.

We invite others who enjoy these and related crafts and who want to share company, ideas and skills over a cup of tea and cake, to join us – by kind permission of Rick and Jan Attfield of the Village Shop and Post Office.

Our first session will be on Wednesday 10th January at 2.30pm and we welcome everyone at any level of skill. You don't need to bring your current project only some money for tea or coffee, biscuits or cakes perhaps. We really look forward to meeting you if you are interested in taking part in these informal, drop in sessions.

For more information please contact Barbara by email: blueletterbox@btinternet.com

Incidentally, here are some other published names for fibre based craft groups: Woolly Loopers, Trebles and Purls, Girl on Purl Action, Fiddlesticks, Commuknity, Pin Tin, Woolly Wednesdays, Purlly Girls (only girls?) and The Ropemakers in Bridport. One lot meet at the Scribe Tattoo Parlour Café in Pokesdown, another more prosaically, in the Hobbycraft Store at Longham. The Village Tea Rooms will be perfect.

Barbara Humphreys

Fontmell Magna and District Society**Friday 3rd November – Charlie Turnbull: Cheeses with PDO Status**

This was an evening like no other in the history of the Fontmell Society. It was dedicated to gluttony and good taste. Charlie Turnbull is an expert cheese-monger and has run 'Turnbulls' the delicatessen in Shaftesbury since its opening in 2003. He divided the audience into six groups, each group sitting round a table in the middle of which lay a large cheeseboard holding seven different types of cheese.

We tasted each cheese in turn while Charlie explained where it was made and the particular characteristics each one had that made it special. He was a fount of knowledge. The smelliest cheeses are washed rind ones like Epoisse or Stinking Bishop. Stilton does not come from Stilton nor does Shropshire Blue have anything to do with Shropshire. We ended the evening wanting more, but as Charlie said "there are over nine hundred British cheeses. Come to the shop in Shaftesbury. We have one for you".

Friday 1st December – Quentin Edwards: My Herd of Grass-fed Beef Cattle

The herd in question is one of red poll cattle which Quentin breeds at Cools Farm near East Knoyle. The so called red breeds were originally brought to this country by the Vikings and cattle have been grazing at Cools Farm for generations.

With beautiful illustrations, Quentin took us through the farmer's revolving year. His farm is blessed with springs and the grass (provided it is cared for) is rich and lush. In summer the herd is in the fields and, in the winter, they eat the hay that Quentin has cut. His is a pedigree herd of organic beef.

The point that he put across forcibly is that, if we want our countryside to be looked after and for it to produce genuine wholesome food, as a society we must be prepared to pay more for it. His farm used to support four families, but currently, without the B & B and the holiday cottages, it would not even support one.

By the end of this enthralling talk we could not wait to taste the beef. Luckily Quentin sells his meat on the third and fourth Thursdays of the month at Shaftesbury market, and he will even tell you how to cook the different cuts.

Our next talk is on Friday 2nd February by Michelle Comins on 'The World of Loose Leaf Tea'.

Michael Goldberg

Fontmell films

Our first film of the New Year on Wednesday 10th January is the comedy drama "Hampstead". Starring Diane Keaton, Brendan Gleeson and James Norton it is based on a case of a real-life Hampstead Heath squatter. Diane Keaton plays an American widow who finds unexpected love with a man living wild on Hampstead Heath when they take on the developers who want to destroy his home. 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! For more information please call Libby on 811551

Future film dates: Wednesday 14th February "Churchill"; Wednesday 14th March "Victoria & Abdul"; Wednesday 11th April "Murder on the Orient Express".

Parish Council – Extraordinary General Meeting

At a well-attended meeting called by the Parish Council on Tuesday 28th November, residents, councillors and North Dorset councillor Graham Carr-Jones were informed by Parish councillor Robin East of the options for addressing the problems of HGV traffic on A350 and C13 roads, which were going to be decided at the Dorset County Council Cabinet meeting on Wednesday 6th December. Four options were put forward although, after the meeting it was clear that there were six options (the two not mentioned were Options 2 and 4, which essentially are the reverse of 1 and 3 respectively:

1. Advisory one-way northbound on A350 and southbound on C13 for HGVs (the current system).
2. Advisory one-way northbound on C13 and southbound on A350 for HGVs.
3. Enforceable one-way northbound on A350 and southbound on C13 for HGVs.
4. Enforceable one-way northbound on C13 and southbound on A350 for HGVs.
5. Advisory 'Unsuitable for HGVs' signs at both ends of the C13.
6. Enforceable 7.5 tonnes (except for access) HGV ban on C13.

More detailed information can be found on the website <https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/A350-C13-improvements>

Robin explained the anticipated effects on the village of all the options and residents took the opportunity to express their views and ask further questions, many of which Robin was able to handle but others, such as the 'mitigation measures' for Fontmell Magna were not as yet known. (Keeping a watch on the above website might provide further information but it appears that the 'traffic lights' proposal in Fontmell has been scrapped as unworkable.) Once there were no further comments or questions from residents, a straw poll was taken and it was clear that the overwhelming majority of residents present would favour Option 1 (i.e. maintaining the existing system) subject to proper signage to deter drivers from ignoring directions and mitigation measures for Melbury Abbas where the present traffic light arrangement is not yet working as desired.

It was however accepted that all the options were no more than 'sticking plaster' short term attempts to deal with the problem of using roads which all accept are not suitable for the traffic which they are carrying; the long-term solution has to be the upgrading of the C13 and a by-pass for Melbury Abbas.

Robin went on to mention:

- the work of re-building the road surface through Fontmell Magna during three weeks in February which would involve night working;
- the relocation northwards of the 30mph limit signage on North Street;
- the provision of 'gates' on entering the village from both the north and south, together with count-down markers and coloured strip across the road; and
- the reassessment of existing signs for clarity.

He would continue to press for a pinch pint on South Street and a 20mph limit in West Street near the school. There may be an opportunity for the residents to meet the Head of Highways at a meeting in Fontmell later.

Robin was warmly thanked for the immense amount of work he has done.

Note: On Wednesday 6th December, the DCC Cabinet voted unanimously in favour of Option 1. Thank you to all Fontmell residents who attended.

Garden Club

On Thursday 14th December, the Garden Club had a talk from Steven Fry on "Alternative Plants for Alternative Gardens". Steven is from Castle Gardens nursery in Sherborne and he has informed and entertained us on previous occasions.

Once again, his talk was full of useful insights into unusual aspects of gardening. He started this talk with unusual colours: white strawberries, and a whole range of colourful carrots, some of which were commonly eaten centuries ago (and which apparently have a very good flavour). He talked about the use of aquaponic systems, and ways of covering walls and roofs with plants such as sedum.

As far as vegetable gardens were concerned, he discussed a host of unexpected plants such as hosta, fuchsia and bamboo, parts of which can be delicious if properly grown and cooked.

He also told us lots about skirret, which was very popular until the arrival of the potato in the late sixteenth century. It was a very well-informed and interesting talk which we much enjoyed.

Our next meeting is on Thursday 18th January, when Sally Nex will take us "Behind the scenes at Chelsea". All are welcome!

Robert McCurrach

North Dorset Wildlife Trust

On Wednesday 17th January, DWT Conservation Officer, Emma Tomlin, will give an illustrated talk on the importance of 'Wet Woodlands' in our local environment. The talk will start at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Entry is just £2 and includes tea/coffee & biscuits. Everyone is welcome to attend our events and there is no charge for children under 16. Also available at this event will be a selection of DWT sales goods, free leaflets on the work of DWT and details of membership of this very important local environmental charity, which currently has more than 28,000 members.

A date for your diary: Wednesday 21st February: Badgers, Badger Ecology and Bovine TB. An illustrated talk in the Village Hall by Imogen Davenport, Director of Conservation at the Dorset Wildlife Trust. Everyone welcome. Anna Davies

Village weather for November 2017

A foggy start then a wet week, followed by milder, dull, damp weather. A colder, frosty end into sunshine.

2 gales. 18 rain days. 22 ground frost. 14 air frost.

Comp. Figures	2017	2016
Rain (most 18.5 mm on 3rd)	77.1 mm	103.7 mm
Sunshine	68.8 hr (av. 2.3)	67.0 hr
Max mean temp. (10 days only*)	9.40 °C (highest 14.7° on 22nd)	10.3 °C
Min mean temp. (lowest - 3.4 °C on 30th)	1.98 °C	1.8 °C

* New maximum temperature instrument installed 21st November.

Fete

At the Fete AGM, held on Wednesday 22nd November, Hannah gave a very positive summary of the year, highlighting the benefits of having the Fete in September, including fine weather and a good turnout. It was noted that the stalls, both old and new, were very popular and that it added a great deal to the Fete coinciding with The Fontmell's beer festival. The dog show and teddy bear parachute jump were missed and it is hoped they may return again next year.

The effort of ALL those involved was praised and particular thanks went to The Fontmell, Tom and Jean Foote (who's balloon-filled tractor complemented the harvest theme beautifully), Jim Highnam, Leo Williams, Alison Main, David and Roy, Mary-Anne, Sam and Cathy, Jenny and Lisa, Sue Mercer, Alix Austen.

While the absence of the dog show, and the cost of the new gazebos purchased (offset by a generous £450 grant by the Parish Council and a very kind £150 anonymous donation), had an impact, stall takings were £180 up on last year. This meant that £2,700 was available for distribution, with £900 going to each of the Village Hall, the Church and Community Chest. From the latter, £100 was donated to Steps In Time, £100 to The Gossip Tree towards printing costs, £250 for Brookland Wood grass cutting and £200 to the Archive Society towards the cost of their recent Exhibition. The remaining £250 was retained in the Community Fund in case future applications are received.

The Chairman (Hannah Lister) and Secretary (Alix Austen) were both willing to continue in their roles, but Peter Gray stepped down as Treasurer, being replaced by Susannah de Ferry Foster.

Hannah and Alix were both congratulated on the success of the year, with special thanks to the outgoing Treasurer.

Alix Austen

Compost Corner

There's been no shortage of news this year, good, bad and intriguing. One bit of unexpected news was the comeback of that unforgettable dessert, 'Angel Delight', really popular in the 1960s and now re-launched for a new generation of gourmets.

And if you're looking for that last minute present, there's another retro comeback you could consider - a terrarium. These were originally introduced in Victorian times then became very popular again in the 1970s but, once again, they're back in the high street. You can buy enclosed ones which are good for plants that like humid conditions like ferns and open ones which are good for cacti or 'air' plants which don't even need soil.

And - contain your excitement - if you're still stuck for a present idea...believe it or not, the fondue set is back on the scene....and macramé plant pot holders.....you're spoilt for ideas!

Happy Christmas.

Alison Main

Welcome

We welcome to the village Lynne Bentley and her dog Varden who have moved from Frogmore in Devon to No. 4 Coach House.

We also welcome Pat and Jenny White who have moved from East Orchard to Midsomer Cottage, 2 St Andrew's View.

We look forward to meeting them as they join in the many and varied village activities.

House numbering

House numbers in the parish went from 1 to 109; they were not numbered by street. It is possible that the numbering was based on the order in which rent was collected - we know this to be the case in some other Dorset villages (Briantspuddle for one). This theory is supported by the fact that neither properties formerly forming part of the Glebe estate (i.e. church property) have numbers, and nor do farms/industrial buildings (they may have been part of a different rental system). Neither the 1840 Tithe map nor the 1893 Cottage Book referred to the house numbers that we have today, and there is no record of house numbering until the 1911 Census.

Back in 1911 (and confirmed by the auction particulars for the 1919, 1926 and 1927 Glyn sales), the numbering went down North Street, 1-9, and then Lurmer Street, 10-29 (three sets of buildings, each of three cottages numbered 10-12, 13-15 and 23-25, have since been demolished). The numbering then came down Mill Street, 30-35. Parsonage Street had one number, 36 (Sallow Cottage) although Estyard House was out of sequence (numbered 70). The numbering then came down South Street, 37-39, and up Church Street, 40-52. West Street is numbered 53-69, but here the numbering starts on the southside to Pipers Mill and comes back on the north side (though, confusingly, at Pipers Mill, 63 is on the north side of West Street, and 64 and 65 on the southside). In 1939, 70 was added next to 66 West Street (it is possible that, by then, Estyard House was no longer numbered 70). Later, 29 Orchard Close was built on the other side, so 70 West Street is now between 66 and 29.

The numbering continued along Common Lane to Bedchester where, for unclear reasons, Well and Bede Cottages are numbered 68 and 69 Hampton Gate. The numbering then goes up Penn Hill, 71-81, down Woodbridge Lane, 82-91, through Hartgrove, 92-94, 102, 103, 106 and 108-109 Bleeks and on to Kit Hill, 96-99.

Housing developments since the second world war have used their own numbering. The significant developments have been:

1949: Orchard Close 1-35

1949: West View (east side) 1-8

1974: West Street infilling - names only e.g. The Maples, Brambledown

1975: West View (west side) - names only

1981: Collyers Rise 1-8

1980: The Mead, South Street 1-3

1994: Elbury View 1-4

1995: Church Close 3 & 4 (1 & 2 not known)

1997: Elbury View 5-9

1998: St Andrew's View 1-24

2008: The Coach House 1-5

The Towns Improvement Clauses Act 1847 requires councils to "cause" every building in a street "to be marked with numbers as they think fit". Occupiers must mark their houses with those numbers in an approved form and renew the numbers as often as they become obliterated or defaced. Failure to comply is punishable by a fine, although prosecutions are rare. There are more prescriptive rules in London.

Technically, occupiers must always display the official street number outside their house, but no permission is needed to change the name of the house.

Chris Bellers, Archive Society

January 2018 - once in a Blue Moon?

Readers who have missed our articles on Full Moons will be delighted to know that there will be two Full Moons in January, the second of which is a Blue Moon (the second Full Moon of a calendar month). The first Full Moon, sometimes known as the Full Wolf Moon, the Old Moon or the Moon After Yule, is on Tuesday 2nd January. The second Full Moon is on Wednesday 31st January. This means there will be no Full Moon in February.

Not only is this second Full Moon a Blue Moon, but both Full Moons in January are Supermoons. These are Full Moons that coincide with the moon's closest approach to Earth in its orbit, making the moon a little brighter and closer than normal. These are the only two Supermoons of 2018. The last Supermoon was on Sunday 3rd December 2017 (the only Supermoon of 2017), and the next will be in 2019.

On average, a Blue Moon occurs every 2.7 years. The last Blue Moon was in July 2015. However, there will be another Blue Moon in March 2018 (on Saturday 31st March, following the Full Moon on Friday 2nd March). After that, the next Blue Moon will be in October 2020, but it will not be until 2037 that there are two Blue Moons in the same year.

A Blue Moon is not actually blue, although it appeared bluish in 1883 after the volcano Krakatoa erupted and dust in the air acted as a filter. Other events, such as forest fires and dust storms can also cause the moon to turn blue. In fact, the January Blue Moon is more likely to appear red as it coincides with a total lunar eclipse. Such an eclipse is sometimes called a Blood Moon because of the reddish tinge of the eclipsed Full Moon. Depending on the composition of the atmosphere during the eclipse, different parts of the light spectrum are filtered out, so the Moon may also look yellow, orange, or brown during a total lunar eclipse. All of which is a little academic as, sad to say, the eclipse will only be visible in western North America, eastern Asia, Australia, and the Pacific Ocean.



*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 21st January 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).*