



THE GOSSIP TREE

News & Views from the Parish of FONTMELL MAGNA

July
2018
Issue 293

This issue is kindly sponsored by St. Andrew's Open House and includes reports from eight organisations presented at the Annual Parish Meeting in May

'Open House' Coffee mornings are every Friday morning through the summer from 10.30am till 12 noon in the comfortable social area at the back of St. Andrew's Church. In addition to coffee, tea or hot chocolate, we have biscuits, books for people to borrow and often home-grown garden produce is available for a small donation.

'Open House' Coffee Mornings are for **everyone** in Fontmell village and beyond – so please do come along, we'd love to see you!
Jennie Jones

Traffic Management Scheme – thank you Robin!

We would like to extend our thanks to Robin East for his tireless efforts and work which have produced, against heavy odds and opposition from the local authority and DCC, the new signs, road speeds, works and 'gates' to our village. The gates look really great and add a real country feel to the village as well as very clear signage to drivers.

Robin has spent many months working for us all, at no remuneration, and we feel he should be applauded by all who live here and the surrounding areas. We would also like to thank his wife Sue for her tireless support during this time.

Rick and Jan Attfield (*Rick and Jan speak for all of us; thank you Robin - Ed.*)

Fontmell Magna Village Hall (Registered Charity 301129)

I hereby give notice that the Annual General Meeting of the Fontmell Magna Village Hall Management Committee will take place on Wednesday 25th July 2018 at 7.30pm at the Hall.

1) A new Chairman will need to be appointed at the meeting, following the retirement of the current holder.

2) A Vice-Chairman will also need to be appointed as the post is still VACANT. Nominations in writing, may be made by any person whose name appears on the current Register of Electors for Fontmell Magna and should be signed by the proposer and seconder and confirmed by the nominee. They should be sent to the Hon. Secretary at "Chaseborough", West Street, Fontmell Magna, SP7 0PF and received no later than Wednesday 11th July 2018.

This is a public meeting and open to all. The future or otherwise of the Hall, the Tennis Court & your children's Playground WILL be decided at this meeting.
C. B. Johnston Hon. Secretary 15th June 2018

Martin Lewis recommends 'Christians Against Poverty'

"Christians Against Poverty isn't about helping Christians, it's about helping people. The drive, the reason you do it, is your Christianity and your faith and I will never knock that. I think that's right. The most important thing is the enormous number of results, and every time I mention Christians Against Poverty, I get people who tell me how it's changed their lives. I, not as a member of your faith, will continue to support you with every ounce of being that I have because you are doing good."

So said Martin Lewis, the well-known money saving expert, when he visited the HQ of Christians Against Poverty in Bradford recently.

On **Sunday 29th July at 10.00am** there will be a special service at St. Andrews Church (joined by the other churches in the Benefice) at which there will be a special speaker and a video telling us about the remarkable work done by this organisation in helping people to escape the ravages of debt and for many to experience a complete change of life. Do come and find out for yourself – you will be most welcome.
Philip Smith

Can You Help Me?

I'm a final year undergraduate with an unusual experiment to conduct for my forensic science dissertation. To carry out this experiment, I need access to a small area of land, approximately 3m x 3m (10' x 10'), away from animals and a minimum of 20m from humans.

If you think you may be able to help, please contact Sasha on 01747 812115.

Dog Fouling

There is still a problem with dog fouling on footpaths around the village and across fields.

It is particularly unpleasant for joggers, and children, when they slip on the offending mess. Please, pick up after your dog!



Notices – July 2018

St. Andrew's Church

Sun	1st	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		9.00am	Sunday Breakfast (Village Hall - see over)
Sun	8th	9.30am	Morning Worship
Sun	15th	9.30am	Holy Communion with choir
Sun	22nd	9.30am	Holy Communion (CW)
Sun	29th	10.00am	Benefice Service with presentation by 'Christians Against Poverty'

Prayers each Monday at 9.00am

Parish Council Meeting

Mon 9th at 7.30pm in St. Andrew's School. The meeting is open to all members of the public and starts with Public Questions. Parish Clerk: Marianne Wheatley clerk@fontmellmagnapc.co.uk

The Surgery

Mon - Thur 8.00am - 12 noon.
Enquiries 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

The Fontmell

Thur 19th - Fruit de Mer night 6.00 to 9.00pm
Enquiries 811441

St Andrew's School

Fri 13th - Summer Fete 5.00 to 8.00pm
Fri 20th - Break up for Summer
Mon 3rd September - Autumn Term starts

Fontmell Magna Toddler Group

Tue 17th - 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, biscuits and home-grown produce.

Iwerne Valley Walking Group

Sat 21st to Ballard Down and Old Harry Rocks. Meet 10.30am at the National Trust car park just before The Bankes Arms, Studland (BH19 3AU) and bring a picnic.

Leaders: Pat & Malcolm Watkins on 01305 257988.

Bell-ringing

Tue 17th - Practice 7.30 to 8.30pm
Details Chris Bellers 811734

Bin Collection Dates

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

Village Hall events - see over

Tearoom Crafters

The tearoom crafters will not be meeting in July and August. The next meeting is on 12th September and subsequent meetings will be on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. Barbara Humphreys

Parish Council - The Parish Council has two vacancies. If you want to help make a difference to your community, please put your name forward to the Clerk by emailing clerk@fontmellmagnapc.co.uk

Events in the Village Hall**Sunday Breakfast**

Sun 1st at 9.00am. Run by St. Andrew's Church. All welcome. Details Janet Smith 811904

Village Hall Committee

Wed 4th at 7.30pm
Details Chris Bellers 811734

Archive Society

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

Village Hall AGM

Wed 25th at 7.00 for 7.30pm
Details Chris Bellers 811734

Fontmell Magna Art Club

Tue 2.00 to 4.00pm.
Details Sandra Jelbart 812468

Carpet Bowls Club

Thu at 7.30pm.
Details Gerry Bone 811814

Dru Yoga

Fri 9.30 to 11.00am.
Details Kirsty Elliot 07783 780128

Pilates

Mon 5.30-6.30pm, 6.30-7.30pm.
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

Mon 7.30-8.30pm, Thu 9.30-10.30am.
Details Abby Down 850867
zumbawithabby@gmail.com

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

Zumba

Zumba Fitness with Abby has been successfully running at the hall on Thursday mornings since January this year. There is both local and school interest in the club which recently led to the addition of a Monday night class. Each class averages about 7 people but there is capacity for more. Anyone aged 14yrs and above is welcome to come along - men and women. It is not a case of needing to be fit; you attend my classes to become fit in a fun, welcoming environment. For the year ahead, I would like to increase numbers to perhaps 10 people per class. And to still be running on a Monday night at 7.30pm and a Thursday morning at 9.30am.

Also, please could I express my sincere thanks to everyone in the village who helped me learn 'the ways of the hall' when I first began: Roger; Catherine & her mum, and to those in the village who have given my class a go!
Abby Down

Moviola

Moviola has had another successful year although audience numbers have been around 15% down for January to April this year. We believe this is mainly due to the cold and wet weather since Christmas keeping people indoors! Films shown have included 'The Viceroy's House', 'Churchill' and 'Victoria & Abdul', the latter proving the most popular this Season. The bar continues to thrive and the audiences enjoy their glass of wine on arrival. Moviola is now on the usual Summer break and our next film will be shown on Wednesday 12th September. The films for Autumn 2018 will be listed in the Gossip Tree and on the Moviola website in August.

Libby Gendall

Garden Club

I'm glad to be able to report another good year for the Garden Club, maintaining our membership at around fifty. Our year starts with the winter meetings, held in the Village Hall between October and April. This year our talks included more practical subjects such as choices of plants, and (very artistic) pruning, as well as a fascinating talk from a gardening journalist who covers the Chelsea Show. We also had two social evenings - one for the AGM, the other with Gardeners' Question Time. Then in May we had our annual visit to Castle Garden Nurseries in Sherborne, where we took full advantage of the special terms available to Club members.

Last year, we had our annual outing in June; this took us to Athelhampton House and Gardens. Sunshine and blue skies made for a very enjoyable visit to a fine house and wonderful gardens - rounded off by the surprise arrival of a rally of Stanley steam cars. Then, in August we held our Annual Show in the Village Hall. In spite of last year's horrible summer weather, we had a very good number of high quality entries, which drew favourable comments from our professional judges, and we had a good number of visitors from the Village and around. In September, we had our Members' Lunch, and we also had our stall at the Village Fete. Our meetings are open to all and we welcome new members. Our programme for the coming year includes lots of interesting topics. Sue Keen, our Secretary, or I will be glad to give any further details.
Robert McCurrough

Fontmell Magna & District Society

We have held another year of interesting talks. It started with Julian Richards telling us about the latest discoveries and theories about Stonehenge. After that we seem to have concentrated on food with talks from Charlie Turnbull on cheese, Quentin Edwards on his grass-fed beef cattle and then Rob Comins on loose leaf tea. Because of the icy weather, we had to call off the talk from Jethro Lyne about self-portraiture but he has agreed to come in November this year, so we will have another chance to hear him. We finished off with a talk from Liz Ralph about conservation of documents and books in the Houses of Parliament and the College of Heralds. Attendance at our meetings remains mainly restricted to older people and is slowly declining. We also have a problem recruiting members to serve on the committee.

Dick Stainer

Fontmell Magna Public Amenity Site Trust

This year is the 4th that the trust has owned the Middle Mill Dam site. We finished the repairs to the doors on the pump house at the start of the year and our main work now is maintenance of the site and trying to make it more wildlife friendly. We have hung a bat box on the back wall of the pump house and planted some willows to replace one that died. This year we had a good display of snowdrops and the cowslips are in full bloom at this moment.

Our main expense continues to be insuring the site for public liability, but we have sufficient funds to cover this in the short term. However, we do need at some time in the future to consider the long-term funding of the site. Our aim is not to change the site in any way but to keep it in a condition that allows people to get the maximum enjoyment from a visit.
Dick Stainer

St Andrew's Church

April last year saw the launch of Sunday Breakfast which provides an opportunity for folk from across the village to spend time with each other within a happy and welcoming environment and enjoy an excellent breakfast. About 30 people attend including families and during the meal there is a short time of worship with some activities for the children. We aim to provide an opportunity for families, who may find it difficult to take their children to a more formal service, to experience worship in an informal setting. Meanwhile the regular Friday coffee mornings in the church continue during the warmer months.

On Good Friday there was a Service of Witness by the Gossip Tree and a small cross was erected which remained there during the Easter period. The Harvest Service this year was followed by a meal much enjoyed by those who came, raising funds for the Churches Housing Trust. The September Ride and Stride event for the Dorset Historic Churches Trust was again well-supported by riders, walkers and donors. We had one concert given by a German Youth Chamber Orchestra combined with Claysmore School in October. We also were entertained by the younger children from St Andrew's School at the December 'Piano Club' event.

From September members of our congregation have been hosting Amy Stevenson, who is exploring rural ministry before progressing towards training for ordination. November saw the launch of what is hoped to be a series of lectures. The first being a talk by Rev Canon Alan Amos on 'Understanding Islam' which took place in Fontmell Village hall and was well attended.

The Community Carol Singing has now become a regular village event. This year there were more than 60 singers and it was good to have so many children. The bells continue to be rung for services each month and we had visits from four visiting bands and four quarter peals were rung. As ever, your churchwardens are grateful for all the willing support they receive from both church members and many others in the village who value the presence of the church in this village.

Barry and Janet, Churchwardens

Village Hall

The village hall continues to be well used – income from hall hire increased by over 30% on last year, partly due to hire charge increases from May 2017, but mainly because of extra bookings. As well as all our regular users, we now have four pilates classes, and two Zumba. Apart from a new heater in the committee room, there were no major items of expenditure on the Hall this year, so we are able to add over £2,000 to reserves.

The Play Area adjoining the Hall had to be closed for a time earlier this year because of increasingly rotten timbers. A few dedicated volunteers repaired the worst of the damage. However, the repairs are only a temporary solution. Replacing the play equipment is becoming increasingly urgent, but the cost will be significant – probably upwards of £30,000. Kim Masters has very kindly offered to co-ordinate fund-raising activities, but is first obtaining up-to-date quotes for the work.

I am resigning, after 8 years as Chair of the Village Hall Committee. For the last 6 years, the post of Vice Chair has remained unfilled. And our Secretary, Carl Johnston, has also intimated that, after 10 years, he also wishes to resign. So the Village Hall desperately needs new blood to ensure its continuation. The Hall is in a good state both financially and structurally (with the exception of the Play Area) so please, do come forward to support your Village Hall.
Chris Bellers

Iwerne Valley Walking Group

Lyscombe Bottom walk - Saturday 19th May

Access to the Lyscombe Bottom walk is a couple of miles west of Cheselbourne, at Thorncombe Farm on Drake's Lane. There is a field for parking. The day we walked, a cycle rally was in progress which meant a slow arrival. Indeed, two of our number were so delayed that they missed the start and had to chart their own walk, which we look forward to doing in the future! Our party comprised twelve humans and three dogs.

Lyscombe Bottom is a bowl formed by hills. We walked clockwise up round the rim, in a balloon shaped circle, climbing the west rim to tumuli. Here there are fine views north over the Blackmore Vale, and south over Lyscombe Bottom itself. Our route just glances the Wessex Ridgeway path at this point. We came back down on the east side of the rim, past cross dykes and over the humps and bumps of an old (iron age?) settlement site, to the ruins of a chapel, of C12th origin, and adjacent cottages and evidence of fish ponds, once an outpost of Milton Abbey. Apart from the start, walking north up the easy incline of a farm road, the footpath led entirely through fields, this year all sown for pasture. The weather was sunny, not too hot: ideal for walking. The fields of our descent had sheep with lambs.



John Goodliffe

Fete 2018 Update

It is an aeronautical theme that awaits fete-goers at this year's event, to be held on Saturday 15th September at the Village Hall. From paper plane competitions to flying art projects, we will be running lots of events that commemorate our great airborne heritage. There will also be the usual favourites, including BBQ and bar, teas, bric-a-brac, tombola, penalty shoot-out, bouncy castles, pony rides and photo booth as well as some new additions such as kids' crazy hair spraying!

Organisers are keen to get the local community involved to create a fun-packed event that the whole family can enjoy. After a brilliant performance last year, local musician Tom Clements will be returning with his band. Other performers to be announced. Chairperson, Hannah Lister, explains: "We need as many villagers as possible to join in and support this year's fete, from setting up gazebos to running a stall. Please get in touch if there's anything you think you could help out with."

We are currently accepting donations for the following stalls: bric-a-brac, preserves, tombola, bottle stall, plus any old crockery that might be suitable for the crockery smashing. Drop-off points at: the village shop; Fontmell House; 36 South Street; Blackmore Cottage; and Fosse Cottage.

This year, tickets for our Grand Draw (featuring some amazing prizes!) will be available to purchase from August onwards from Hannah, the village shop and the pub. If you have any ideas or would like to help out, please get in touch with Hannah on 811568 or hannahleadbetter@hotmail.com

Alix Austen

If you wish to donate bottles and/or unwanted crockery, please deliver to Fosse Cottage, 46 Church Street. If I'm not in, please leave in the porch. Sue Mercer Could you please see whether you have anything you could donate to the Bric-a-Brac stall? Many thanks. Alison Main (811304)

Village weather for May 2018



After a wet cool start, a hot sunny week, followed by a brief damp spell, then another mini-heatwave. Some early morning mists. The final week was thundery with some heavy showers but most missed Fontmell.

4 ground frost. 1 air frost. 11 rain days. 2 days thunder. 1 gale.

Comp. Figures	2018	2017
Rain (most 12.4 mm on 29th)	47.2 mm	78.7 mm
Sunshine	248.5 hr (av. 8.0)	194.9 hr
Max mean temp. (highest 27.1 °C on 7th)	19.49 °C	18.6 °C
Min mean temp. (lowest - 1.0 °C on 1st)	6.84 °C	8.6 °C

After a wet March and April, May was particularly sunny with two hot bank holiday weekends. In fact, May broke the UK record for the sunniest May. Judy Westgate's weather records confirm that, in Fontmell, May was the sunniest month since 1995 when her records began, although both 1995 and 1997 came close.

Full Moon – 27th July

The Full Moon in July is the Full Buck Moon, also known as the Full Thunder Moon or the Full Hay Moon.



Full Buck Moon behind Glastonbury Tor - July 2017

The Full Moon coincides with a total lunar eclipse. This occurs when the Moon passes completely through the Earth's dark shadow, or umbra. During this type of eclipse, the Moon will gradually get darker and then take on a rusty or blood red colour. In the UK, we will not be able to see the start of the eclipse as the Moon will still be below the horizon. However, the Moon will already be in the Earth's umbra (the darkest part of the Earth's shadow) and so will already start to look red. Moonrise will be around 9.00pm on the horizon in the south east and the maximum eclipse will be at 9.30pm. The total eclipse will end at 10.22pm when the Moon starts to lose its red colour and the partial eclipse ends at 11.28pm. By 12.37am the Moon will be out of shadow altogether.

Compost Corner



Cow parsley not only has beautiful flowers but it's also edible and that's how it's got one of its many common names, 'mother die'. Because cow parsley looks very similar to giant hogweed, which is very poisonous, whoever was cooking the cow parsley (usually the mother) would try it first to ensure it was the right stuff - if she'd got it wrong....no more mother.

Cow parsley is an excellent cut flower and if you happened to go to St Andrew's church recently you'd have seen them used as part of a spectacular flower arrangement for a wedding. Another plant which has similar white umbelliferous flowers is the annual, summer flowering, Ammi majus and it's very easy to grow from seed - keep deadheading to prolong the flowering season.

And as luck would have it, I have another frothy white flower in our garden - ground elder - anyone for a cutting?

Alison Main

Samuel Lush (1840-1888) – another Canadian emigrant

Samuel was born into a family of cordwainers (shoemakers). His father, also called Samuel (1801-1873), was a cordwainer as were his grandfather Henry and his four uncles. His father Samuel married Virtue Spicer, the daughter of Christopher and Elizabeth Spicer of Parsonage Street. Samuel and Virtue lived in Church Street (it is not clear which house) and had four children, of whom Samuel was the oldest. He was also a shoemaker. In 1867, Samuel married Amelia Hallett (1845-1916) in Gillingham. By that time, Samuel was living at Fisherton-Anger (now part of Salisbury) and was "Attendant at an asylum" at Fisherton House, which was a private lunatic asylum from 1813 to 1954. In 1862, Dr. John Lush, who appears to have been Samuel's relative, joined the management of the hospital, and this could have been the reason for Samuel's move there. Samuel and Amelia had three children while living at Fisherton-Anger and were sufficiently prosperous to send their eldest child, Samuel Richard (known as Dick), to a private school.

By 1874, the family were living on the Isle of Wight, where Samuel and Amelia had another three children (one of whom died in infancy). A year after Samuel's father died in 1878, Samuel, Amelia and their five children set sail for Canada. In 1879, sometime after the family arrived in Canada, they settled in Yorkville, now a part of Toronto, where Samuel owned a dry goods store and operated a market gardening business. Here, Samuel and Amelia had a further child, Anna Sarah (1880-1957).

Samuel was not a successful merchant and his business went bankrupt. There seemed to be only one option - accept a free land grant from the Government. In order to encourage settlement of lands stolen or acquired cheaply from native tribes, the Government gave each adult male settler 100 acres. To receive title to the farmland, each settler had to erect a home of a limited size, and then clear a certain percentage of the acreage each year for five years.

Samuel was granted Lot 29 and 30, Concession 8, in Chetwynd Township, just outside Burk's Falls, Ontario. This is a thickly wooded area with a challenging climate. In the winter of 1885, the family travelled by train and jumper (ox cart) to take possession of their grant in the bush. While Samuel, who was probably not accustomed to manual labour, built a log cabin, and started clearing the land, the family lived with neighbours. From time to time, the pioneer family would require some basic supplies. Those purchases required Samuel to trek sixty-seven miles through wilderness trails to reach Gravenhurst; apparently the return journey took about one week.



Samuel Lush, date unknown

Home Guard

In our last issue, mention was made of Colonel Kelly, who commanded the Fontmell Magna Platoon of the Home Guard but had to retire aged 65. A keen reader, who himself served in the Local Defence Volunteers (the forerunner of the Home Guard), remembers volunteers considerably older than this and, indeed, the TV series 'Dad's Army' also features several older characters. A check of the facts reveals that 'officially' the age limit for members of the Home Guard was 17 to 65, though this was not strictly adhered to. However, it was more difficult to bend the rules for ranking officers, so their age limits were usually applied, as in the case of Colonel Kelly.

Open Garden

Each year, former FM residents Jackie Abbott and Peter Gray open their gardens to the public in order to raise funds for the Julia's House Childrens Hospice for which Jackie is a Charity Ambassador.

This year's event is on Sunday 15th July from 2.30pm at Littlebrook Farmhouse, Belchalwell under Bulbarrow Hill. The postcode is DT11 0EG. Tel. 01258 863683. As well as the chance to view the garden and admire the views, Jackie will be serving teas on the terrace (weather permitting!) and would love to see old friends from Fontmell. Peter Gray



The Lush log cabin near Chetwynd

hardship were no doubt contributory factors. At one point, native Indians broke in; while no-one was hurt, they stole all the food the family had. After her husband's death, Amelia remained on the farm for another two years. In 1890, Amelia, now aged 45, married William Kelsey, aged 63, a prosperous businessman with a house in Burk's Falls. Quality of life improved dramatically and the union lasted twenty-five years, until William's death in 1915, aged 88. Amelia died a year later, aged 71. Her eldest child, Dick Lush, became foreman of the Knight Brothers' Sash and Door Factory, then the largest manufacturer of tongue and groove hardwood flooring in the British Empire.

Chris Bellers, Archive Society (with thanks to Barbara Pellow, from Cobourg, Ontario, grand-daughter of Anna Sarah, Samuel and Amelia's youngest child)

Room to let in Fontmell Magna

Low rent in exchange garden maintenance. Peace-loving, tidy female looked for.

Elizabeth Green 812284

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 July 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).