



THE GOSSIP TREE

News & Views from the Parish of FONTMELL MAGNA

September
2018
Issue 295

This issue is kindly sponsored by Iwerne Valley Walking Group

Iwerne Valley Walking Group get together once a month, usually on the morning of the third Saturday, to do a walk of between three and six miles somewhere in our region, starting from and ending at a pub (especially fun at Christmas-time!) Once or twice in the summer we might take a picnic instead. Someone from the group volunteers to lead a walk, so it is a wonderful and varied way to see more of our beautiful countryside and make new friends. It costs £2 per person per year to join, and well-behaved dogs are welcome. However, the September walk is actually going to be on the 22nd (the fourth Saturday) so as not to clash with the Fontmell Fete this year.

If you'd like more information, contact Helen English on 07789845498, email: englishhv49@gmail.com.

Fete

Let's keep our fingers crossed for fine weather at this month's village Fete, taking place on Saturday 15th September – a return to the glorious sunshine we have recently enjoyed would certainly be very welcome! This year's festivities will be kicked off by local MP Simon Hoare who will be attending, and we look forward to welcoming you for an afternoon of live music, tasty food and plenty of fun-filled activities, all in aid of our community amenities.

There is still time to contribute bric-a-brac, bottles, tombola prizes or preserves (drop-off in village shop or locations previously listed). If you would like to help set-up or run a stall on the day, please call Hannah on 811568.

We would also appreciate any aeronautical props/costumes you might have for the photo booth – an opportunity to channel your inner Wing Commander or Tom Cruise!

In the week or so before the Fete, the bunting man hopes to adorn the walls and hedgerows of Crown Hill and West Street as in previous years. If you have any query on this, or prefer not to be included, Roy Foster will be pleased to hear from you on 812502.

Fete Bottle Stall & Crockery Smashing

Bottles of alcohol and soft drinks are desperately needed, and can be left at Fosse Cottage at any time leading up to the Fete. The same applies to unwanted crockery. Many thanks.
Sue Mercer

Village Hall

Thank you to the volunteers who came forward in response to appeals for a new Chairman. In fact, following the AGM of the Village Hall Management Committee on 25th July, we now have a new Chairman, Rosie-Anne Yates, a new Vice Chairman, Barbara Humphreys, and a new Secretary, Lisa Le Druillenc. Thank you to all for agreeing to look after the Hall, Tennis Court and Play Area, and also to Carl Johnston. More next month.
Chris Bellers

Barbara Enderby

I would like to extend many thanks to everyone in Fontmell for your kind words of support after my mother's death and also for attending her memorial service on Friday 10th August. It was very much appreciated by both my daughter and myself.
Sue Mercer

(Editor's Note: As well as Barbara's funeral, there were two other funerals at the Church in August. The funeral for Elizabeth Green of Plum Tree Cottage was held on Tuesday 14th, and for Horace Allenby 'Mac' Mortiboy was on Thursday 9th August. Mac died just over 2 months short of his 100th birthday).

Notices – September 2018

St. Andrew's Church

Sun	2nd	8.00am 9.00am	Holy Communion (BCP) Sunday Breakfast (Village Hall - see over)
Sun	9th	9.30am	Morning Worship (CW)
Sun	16th	10.00am	Harvest Festival (CW)
Sun	23rd	9.30am	Holy Communion (CW)
Sun	30th	10.00am	Benefice Service at Sutton Waldron

Prayers each Monday at 9.00am

Fri 28th at 7.30pm - Concert by Gisele Boll (violin) and Colin Howard (piano)

Ride + Stride

Sat 8th - Dorset Historic Churches sponsored rides and walks.

Details Gerry Bone 811814

Parish Council Meeting

Mon 10th at 7.00pm 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

Road Closure

Mon 3rd 9.30am to 3.30pm – Mill Street closed for BT repairs to overhead network.

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 20th 6.00 to 9.00pm - Caribbean Night, In The Garden. Enquiries 811441

St Andrew's School

Mon 3rd September - Autumn Term starts

Fontmell Magna Toddler Group

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 22nd 10.30am, starting at The Golden Fox, Blandford Road, Sturminster Marshall BH21 4AQ. Leader: Pauline Morphy 811972

Bell-ringing

Tue 18th - Practice 7.30 to 8.30pm

Details Chris Bellers 811734

Bin Collection Dates

W/C 3rd & 17th - Recycling & Food

W/C 10th & 24th - Rubbish & Food

Village Hall events - see over

FUN - GAMES - MUSIC - FOOD - BAR

FONTMELL MAGNA VILLAGE FETE

SATURDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER 2018 - 1PM TIL 4PM

FONTMELL MAGNA VILLAGE HALL

TOM CLEMENTS & THE CLEMENTYNES
PONY RIDES - FANTASTIC PRIZES
PHOTO BOOTH - TUG 'O' WAR
ZUMBA - SPORTS - BBQ

Entry: Adults £1, Children free

Events in the Village Hall

Garden Club

Sat 1st at 12.30pm - Members' Lunch
Details Sue Keen 812282

Sunday Breakfast

Sun 2nd at 9.00am. Run by St. Andrew's Church. All welcome.
Details Janet Smith 811904

Village Hall Committee

Wed 5th at 7.30pm
Details Lisa Le Druillenc 812500

Fontmell Films

Wed 12th - 'The Mercy'
Doors open 7.00pm
Details Libby Gendall 811511

Village Fete

Sat 15th 1.00 to 4.00pm
Details Hannah Lister 811568

Archive Society

Thu 20th 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 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

Neighbourhood Plan

The draft Neighbourhood Plan has now been examined by the Independent Examiner, who has stated that "Subject to a number of recommendations (principally for changes to the way in which certain policies are expressed), I have concluded that the Fontmell Magna Neighbourhood Plan meets all the necessary legal requirements at this stage of its preparation, and consequently am pleased to recommend that it should proceed to referendum." After the Plan has been amended, this referendum of the whole parish community is expected to be held on Thursday 15th November.
Michael Humphreys

Fontmell Films

Our first film of the 2018 Autumn Season showing on Wednesday 12th September is 'The Mercy' (12A).

Released in February, this is the true story of amateur sailor Donald Crowhurst, played by Colin Firth, and his disastrous attempt to complete the Sunday Times Golden Globe Race in 1968 and his subsequent attempts to cover up his failure. The struggles he confronts on his journey while his family await his return is one of the most enduring mysteries of recent times. Also starring Rachel Weisz, David Thewlis and Ken Stott.

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!

Future dates for your diary:

Wednesday 10th October 'Entebbe'

Wednesday 14th November 'The Bookshop'

Wednesday 12th December 'The Guernsey Literary & Potato Peel Pie Society'

For more information please call Libby on 811551

Swift Calls in Mill Street

Pedestrians passing No. 33 Mill Street will have heard swift calls coming from loudspeakers fitted onto the front of the house under the eaves. These calls have been played during the morning and evening periods when swifts are most likely to be active.

Swifts nest in groups, and individuals looking for a nest site will be attracted by the calls of other swifts. As there are no breeding swifts near my house or, as far as I know, in the village of Fontmell Magna, I am playing the recorded calls to attract passing birds to the nest boxes.

Juvenile birds do not breed until their 3rd year but they will look for a site on their first return visit and find a mate and start nest building on their second visit. These are the birds that I have been trying to attract to my house with the swift calls, and although a few have been attracted by the calls and flown around the house none have started to build a nest or roost in the boxes.

However, I have not been discouraged by this as I understand that it may take several years before nesting pairs start to breed in my nest boxes. So do not be surprised in May next year when you hear the calls of swifts in Mill Street again.

More information about swifts can be found on the following web sites:

<http://www.bristolswifts.co.uk/swift-info/> and

<http://www.swift-conservation.org/2014-06-21-swiftcallsinstructions.pdf>

Dick Stainer

RISE + STRIDES

Dorset Historic Churches Trust Ride + Stride – Saturday 8th 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.

Garden Club

The Garden Club held its Annual Show on Saturday 11th August in the Village Hall. After a record-breaking drought there was some welcome rain on the day of the show, but that didn't deter a good crowd of members and visitors from coming in the afternoon to see the exhibits of flowers, vegetables, cakes and jams, as well as pictures and photographs from members of the Art Club with a good number of younger entrants in the Novelties Section, including the Matchbox Challenge.



In spite of the dry weather, the number of entries was well up on last year, and it was a very successful show, thanks to the hard work of the organisers, judges and volunteers who worked away from early in the morning in the hall, in the kitchen and behind the scenes, to make it another successful and enjoyable show.

Our next event is the Members' Lunch on Saturday 1st September, and our autumn meetings start on Thursday 18th October with a speaker from Castle Gardens Nursery on 'Success with House Plants.'

Robert McCurrach
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Iwerne Valley Walking Group

July 2018 Walk

Fifteen walkers and Tod, the spaniel, met up at the National Trust car park by the Bankes Arms pub at Studland for the start of our walk to Old Harry's rock, via Ballard Down.

Having overcome the problems with the temperamental car park ticket machine, we set off in bright sunshine on a footpath that ran past the church, where we stopped for those who wanted to have a look inside the building that dates back to Saxon times. We then continued on our way, to the start of our walk. It was good to be walking under trees and in the shade for the first couple of miles, because the remainder of the walk would be in the open and in full sun.

After a while we branched off the main bridleway onto a footpath, walking through part of Godlingston Heath Nature Reserve. Here we stopped to admire the splendid views of Poole Harbour and later to look at the Agglestone Rock in the near distance (where we were given two versions of how the stone came to be there). Soon we skirted round the edge of the Isle of Purbeck Golf Course, before crossing the B3351 Swanage/Studland road to start our ascent up onto Ballard Down, stopping at the obelisk commemorating the supply of fresh water to Swanage in 1892. It had been our intention to have our picnic here but decided that we would rather continue on to the top and eat our lunch there, since it was then downhill all the way to Old Harry.

After lunch and a brief rest overlooking Swanage in a refreshing breeze, we continued onwards and downwards until reaching Old Harry's rock, some say named by sailors after the Devil and others after a pirate of that name who operated out of Poole Harbour. We then made our own way back, some of us via Joe's beach cafe, a swim, a cup of tea and an ice cream, and some of us via the Bankes Arms and a welcome drink or two, having completed a 6¾ mile walk on a very hot day. Malcolm Watkins



News from The Springhead Trust

On Thursday 6th September at 8.00pm, we are pleased to welcome Fred Hageneder talking on the remarkable yew tree. £8 to include a glass of wine or other drink. Please contact the Springhead office to book on 811853 or info@springheadtrust.org.uk. Spaces are limited and early booking is advised.

Fred Hageneder is an author, musician, artist and acknowledged authority on the cultural history of the yew tree. He has written a number of books on trees including 'Yew - A History' in which he wrote that "the yew is one of the most fascinating and versatile life forms on Earth, botanically rich and intriguing, and culturally almost without comparison. In history, mythology, religion, folklore, medicine and warfare, this tree bears timeless witness to a deep relationship with mankind". He is also one of the founder members of the Ancient Yew Group which aims to document and protect the ancient yew trees of Britain.

Britain is particularly rich in ancient yew trees – an estimated 90% of all the ancient yew trees in Europe are to be found in our green and pleasant land. They are also our oldest living things; even in Dorset, we have a number of ancient yews including the magnificent churchyard tree at Woolland which may be over 2,000 years old. The talk will be a fascinating summary of the importance of the yew tree to people both historically and today – from sacred trees in pre-roman times to the use of extracts in the treatment of cancer. Kate Partridge

Well done Margaret!

Further to the article in the April 2018 Gossip Tree, Margaret Marande successfully completed the 220-mile Hardy Way, 23 years after she created the route. She completed the walk in early May over 21 consecutive days and afterwards said "I feel quite a lot fitter now than I did when I started." You can follow Margaret's walk via her Facebook page: www.facebook.com/hardyway and it is still possible to donate via: <https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/hardyway4harrypancreatic> or <https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/hardyway4harryhospital> or Hardy's Birthplace Visitor Centre at Higher Bockhampton.DT2 8QH.

Village weather for July 2018



A hint of rain early then sunny and hot most of the month until the last week when gardens received a small relief from dry conditions. 6 rain days. 2 gales. 1 day thunder 2 rumbles only). No frosts.

Comp. Figures	2018	2017
Rain (most 8.4 mm on 29th)	22.1 mm	107.8 mm
Sunshine	249.1 hr (av. 8.0)	164.5 hr
Max mean temp. (highest 30.7 °C on 8th)	25.6 °C	21.8 °C
Min mean temp. (lowest 7.7 °C on 17th)	11.7 °C	12.1 °C

Apologies to Judy and all readers. Last month's weather report for June in fact repeated May's weather. Here is the actual weather for June:

Blazing June! Only 2 days with no sun. Only 1 rain day with other traces only. 1 ground frost. No air frost. 1 rain day. No gales, thunder or hail. Rain 0.5 mm (most 0.3 mm on 7th). 2017 - 58.4 mm
Sunshine 232.6 hr (av. 7.75). 2017 - 173.4 hr
Max mean temp. 22.3 °C (highest 28.2 °C on 25th & 26th). 2017 - 21.6 °C
Min mean temp. 10.2 °C (lowest 3.7 °C on 22nd). 2017 - 10.7 °C

Full Moon – Tuesday 25th September

The Full Moon in September is the Full Corn Moon, also known as the Harvest Moon.



The Harvest Moon is the full moon that occurs closest to the Autumn equinox each year. The equinox is when the Earth's equator is almost directly in line with the centre of the Sun giving nearly equal amounts of day and night throughout the world. This year, the Autumn equinox, the first day of Autumn, is on Sunday 23rd September.

As well as being the title of a 2015 film, 'Harvest Moon' is also the title of a farm simulation role-playing computer game. It is also the title of a number of songs, including a song by Neil Young, from the 1992 album 'Harvest Moon' and songs by the less well-known Blue Oyster Cult and 2Yoon (sub-group of South Korean girl group 4Minute)

Compost Corner

At long last we've had what can only be described as a proper summer i.e. it's been hot and sunny with very little rain. And it has to be said that no, on the whole we don't necessarily plant for those sort of conditions, because let's face it, they don't happen that often. There's been a lot of talk about replacing our trusty, typically English herbaceous plants and roses with, for example, succulents, even cacti. Can't see some of them surviving last winter or indeed March when we had two snow 'events.'

Of course, some succulents make excellent additions to a summer border and are very hardy too - sedums for example. But before you turn your garden into the High Chaparral, what can you do to weather the unpredictability of our summers? The healthier the plant the more likely it is to survive adverse conditions, so ensure the soil it grows in is in good heart and incorporate lots of organic material which will also help retain water. And don't forget to add a really thick layer of mulch not only in Autumn but also in Spring. Be vigilant about pests and diseases - aphids for example really weaken a plant and can transmit viruses too. Also keep your weeds under control; boring I know, but they too can harbour pests and compete for water.

Oh....since writing this, the Great British Summer has returned - enough said.
Alison Main

Shroton WW1 Exhibition

On Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th November, there will be an exhibition in Shroton Village Hall to commemorate the heroes from Shroton who fought in World War 1 and the people who were left at home. There will be visual displays both written and photographic of local history/people, some of the battlefields where our fallen heroes still lie, memoirs, poetry readings and military artefacts. It will be a time to honour our predecessors who gave up everything for us 100 years ago.

I would love to hear from anyone who has any local family photos of that era, or has interest/expertise in WW1 or who would like to help at the event.

Judith Hewitt 01258 861565

Violin & Piano Duo Concert

Friday 28th September 2018 at 7.30pm in the Church in part a tribute to the violinist Rosalind Richards, late of Springhead.

Once, twice, three times.....a soldier - Walter William Reeves (1858-1937)

Walter Reeves was a soldier three times, including serving during the First World War when he was over 58. At least three of his sons also served in the war - one was killed and one was invalided.

Walter was born in Bourton, Dorset in 1858. He became a labourer but, in 1877, he enlisted at Wincanton as a 'District Recruit' for 12 years' service - six years 'with the colours' and six with the Army Reserve - with the 39th Regiment of Foot. This Regiment had a long connection with Dorset and, when the system of numbered regiments was reformed in 1881, it became the 1st Battalion The Dorsetshire Regiment.

After training, he was posted to the north of India from 1878 to 1882. Like many other soldiers, he suffered various illnesses in the unaccustomed climate and was in the military hospital on five occasions, mainly with fever. In 1883, he was promoted to Corporal. His original term of six years 'Colour' service expired and he was transferred to the 1st Class Army Reserve, consenting to liability to serve only with 1st Bn., Dorsetshire Regiment. He later agreed to extend his Reserve service for a further four years, from 1889 to 1893, but thereafter his liability to recall lapsed.

On leaving regular service in 1883, he came to live in Fontmell Magna, working for the brewery as a drayman, later 'Brewer's Carman'. In 1885, he married Emily Bennett in St Andrew's Church and lived at 54 West Street. Walter and Emily had 13 children: 7 boys (Max, Cecil, Bernard, Clarence, Leo, Maurice and Norman) and 6 girls (Ethel, Vera, Blanche, Dorothy, Hilda and Edna). Two of the boys, Bernard and Clarence, died young, when they were 10 and 8 respectively. Max, Cecil and Leo all appear to have been apprenticed to bakers - either to Robert Edwards in Church Street or to George Hart in North Street.

On the outbreak of the Boer War, Army Reservists were recalled and volunteers sought. In March 1900, now aged 42, Walter re-enlisted as No. 207 Corporal Reeves on a one-year short service engagement and was made up to Lance Sergeant. He does not appear to have served abroad and, the emergency over, was discharged in March 1901 and returned to his family in Fontmell. When the brewery closed down in 1904, Walter became a gardener for the Glyn estate. In his spare time, he was superintendent of the Rifle Range (situated in the garden of Gable Cottage, West Street)

In the First World War, Cecil was the first of the Reeves family to serve overseas, in the 63rd Field Bakery, Army Service Corps, landing in France in November 1914. He was killed on 9th May 1917 and is buried at St Andrew's Church. His story was told in the Gossip Tree of September 2013 and in our booklet 'Fontmell Magna and the First World War'.

His brother Maurice enlisted in October 1915 aged 18 and joined the Royal Army Medical Corps, Field Bakery. He appears to have suffered from trench fever; in April 1917, he was honourably discharged as "no longer physically fit for war services". As well as the British War Medal and the Victory Medal, he was granted the Silver War Badge. The latter was designed to be worn by discharged servicemen to ensure they were not abused by civilians for not serving in uniform or handed white feathers.

Their younger brother, Leo, also enlisted later on in the war, and also served in a Field Bakery of the Army Service Corps. His service record does not survive, but he appears to have served in a theatre of war without mishap and was demobilised in 1919.

Already a member of the volunteer National Reserve, Walter enlisted (in August 1916) for a third time though now aged over 58. The Parish Magazine of September 1916 recorded: "The latest to 'join up' from Fontmell is the veteran soldier, Walter Reeves. We honour him for his patriotism, but he will be missed at the Rifle Range next winter." Walter joined the Royal Defence Corps which had been formed to protect strategic positions, factories, utilities and Prisoner of War (POW) camps across the country. Walter served with several different Protection Companies culminating with guarding a POW camp near Sleaford, Lincolnshire. There he was taken ill, early in 1919, with what was said to be "a mild attack of influenza". Now 60, he was discharged as permanently unfit for further military service.

Emily died in 1935 and Walter in 1937. Both are buried at St Andrew's Church.

Chris Bellers, Archive Society

Stalbridge for Sale! - the other Great Event of 1918

Many cities and towns around the country are devising ways of celebrating the 100th anniversary of the end of the Great War in November this year. In Stalbridge, the Stalbridge History Society is putting together an Exhibition which has an extra dimension. Not only will we celebrate the ending of the War but we will also be looking in some detail at what life was like for the people of Stalbridge at that time.

Lord Stalbridge decided to put almost all of Stalbridge up for sale on 3rd and 4th September 1918. The catalogue of the sale listed all the buildings and land in some detail. Using all that information and the 1911 Census, we will be providing a comprehensive snapshot of life in Stalbridge at the end of the war.

The free Exhibition, with refreshments available, will be at Stalbridge Hall from Saturday 1st to Tuesday 4th September and will be of particular interest to those living in Stalbridge now, as well as those from the surrounding area who had ancestors or distant relatives living in the town in 1918. To find out more take a look at www.facebook.com/StalbridgeHistory/

*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 23rd September 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).*