



THE GOSSIP TREE

August 2019

Issue 306

News & Views from the Parish of FONTMELL MAGNA

This issue is kindly sponsored by Roy & Hilary Foster

Garden Club

Garden Show - Our show this year is on Saturday 10th August. Schedules are out and additional copies are available in the shop along with the box to place your entries. There are, as usual, some categories which are open to all. All entry forms must be received by 12 noon on Friday 9th August in the shop box, and all exhibits should be brought to the Village Hall between 9.30am - 11.30am on Saturday 10th.

PLEASE NOTE doors will open at the slightly earlier time of 2.30pm with teas being served from 3.00pm. Raffle and Auction of produce at 4.00pm. For further information please contact Sue East Tel. 812349

Annual Outing - This year, on Tuesday 25th June, we decided to go to 'The Subtropical Gardens at Abbotsbury'. Although we had rain during the night and early morning, I am pleased to report we enjoyed a very pleasant day. In fact, the rain had made the gardens feel so fresh and vibrant. We had an excellent guide in Sean, one of the five gardeners who look after the 20 acres there. His knowledge, manner and passion for his job were very evident and we enjoyed a leisurely tour where he pointed out some of the amazing plants there and answered all our questions. We all climbed up Magnolia Walk to stand on the cliff top to take in the view of Chesil Beach. As we continued on our way most of us walked across the rope bridge, which took the challenge very well and, I'm pleased to report, is still intact!

After the tour we had a very pleasant lunch in the Colonial Restaurant and some of us managed to find some treasure or other in the plant shop, where a large percentage on display are cultivated on site. A good day out. Sue East



Free Fontmell Family Fun!

The Village Hall Committee are hosting a free family 'Tea Party' at the Village Hall and playground on Saturday 31st August from 2.00 to 4.00pm. There will be tea, cake, sandwiches and squash provided - no ticket needed! There will also be games and raffles - you could win one of the fabulous prizes! Ice-cream will be on sale, and there will be stalls selling local produce. Some of our local clubs and associations will be providing information about their activities - new members always welcome! Come along and enjoy an afternoon of old-fashioned fun, learn a bit about what's going on in the Hall, enjoy your free tea and the opportunity to chat to friends old and new!

VE Day - 75th Anniversary

Next year marks the 75th Anniversary of VE Day. This will be commemorated on 8th May 2020 with the early May Day bank holiday being moved back four days to coincide with it. Events are being planned across the country - is there anyone in Fontmell who would like to organise anything? If so, please contact the Parish Council Clerk clerk@fontmellmagnapc.co.uk.

Archive Society

The Archive Society's 12th Exhibition, held on Thursday 18th July to Sunday 21st July, has once again proved to be successful drawing visitors from far and wide. A stand on the Saturday by the Weymouth & Portland Metal Detecting Club of finds made in the parish was particularly popular - more next month.

STOP PRESS

Our film titles for September until Christmas have just been confirmed and are as below. Full details and more information to follow in the September Gossip Tree, we look forward to seeing you all. Libby

- Wednesday 11th September - 'Fisherman's Friends' (12A).
- Wednesday 9th October - 'Red Joan' (12A).
- Wednesday 13th November - 'All is True' (12A)
- Wednesday 11th December - 'Yesterday' (12A). Christmas Film night with complimentary mulled wine and mince pies!

Notices - August 2019

St. Andrew's Church

Sun 4th	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
Sun 11th	9.30am	Morning Worship
Sun 18th	9.30am	Holy Communion with Choir
Sun 25th	9.30am	Holy Communion (CW)

Prayers each Monday at 9.00am

Parish Council Meeting

No meeting this month. Next meeting Mon 2nd September at 7.00pm in St. Andrew's School.

Parish Clerk:

Marianne Wheatley clerk@fontmellmagnapc.co.uk

The Surgery

Tue 8.00am to 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 11.00am. Enquiries 811201

Coffee in the Café

Tue at 10.00am

The Tea Room Crafters

Wed 14th and 28th at 2.30pm. Details Barbara Humphreys blueletterbox@btinternet.com

The Fontmell

Enquiries 811441

St. Andrew's School

Mon 2nd 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

Friday Coffee

Every Friday in St. Andrew's Church social area from 10.30 until 12 noon. All welcome.

Iwerne Valley Walking Group

Sat 17th - meet at 10.00am at The Kings Arms, Stoborough BH20 5AB.

Leader: Helen English 01747 853472.

Bell-ringing

Tue at Shroton - practice 7.30 to 8.45pm.

Details Chris Bellers 811734

Bin Collection Dates

W/C 5th & 19th - Recycling & Food

W/C 12th & 26th - Rubbish & Food

Village Hall events - see over

Defibrillator Training in Fontmell

There will a defibrillator training session in Fontmell Village Hall on Wednesday 11th September at 2.30pm lasting approximately an hour and a half.

Training is free but places are limited.

If you would like to do this life-saving training please email annienewbury@yahoo.co.uk or phone on 01747 812149 to book your place.

The list closes on Wednesday 28th August.

Events in the Village Hall

Garden Club Annual Show
Sat 10th from 2.30pm. Bring your entry between 9.30 and 11.30am on the day. Details Briony Long 812513

Tea Party
Sat 31st from 2.00 to 4.00pm.

Fontmell Magna Art Club
Tue 2.00 to 4.00pm.
Details Sandra Jelbart 812468

Carpet Bowls Club
Thu 7.30pm.
Details Gerry Bone 811814

Dru Yoga
Fri 9.30 to 11.00am.
Details Kirsty Elliot 829281

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
Thu - Zumba Fitness 9.00-10.00am.
Community Fitness 10.15-11.00
Details Abby Down 850867
zumbawithabby@gmail.com

To book the Hall, please contact Pippa Bealing on 812132 or email bookings.fmvh@gmail.com



Tea & Teddies Parachute Jump

While fearless teddies and their soft friends descend elegantly by parachute from the church tower, doting spectators can enjoy tea and cake on Sunday 8th September between 3.00 and 4.30pm at St. Andrew's Church. Parachutes will be available for hire and there will be a first aid station for any teddies with bumps or scrapes from over-eager landings.

A small charge will be made for the launching service by our experienced team at the top.

Do come and enjoy a relaxing afternoon at a family-friendly event for all ages.

St. Andrew's Church, Fontmell Magna

Please Note

Buddleias will be flowering in August for anyone to visit at Princes Field. Judy Westgate

Parish Council Meeting – Monday 8th July at 7.00pm

Before the meeting there was a 40-minute presentation by the Chris Conway, Cyber Crime Prevention Officer .

There were no questions from the public. Cllrs. C. Bellers (Chair), M. Humphreys, J. Long, and A. Newbury were present – along with Marianne Wheatley (Clerk), Dorset Cllr. Jane Somper and 6 members of the public.

Co-options

There are still vacancies for three new councillors to join the PC.

Minutes and matters arising

The minutes of the last PC meeting on Monday 13th May were agreed subject to a minor amendment. Matters arising:

Springhead distillery - The prospectus denies any liability for its accuracy or otherwise, so it was agreed that there was nothing further the PC could do.

War memorial - The lettering has been repainted at a cost of £200.

Land at Mill Street - The Clerk will chase the Enforcement Team for a response.

Report from County Councillor

Cllr. Somper reported that work was under way on a new Local Plan with the aim of it being adopted by 2023, though any Neighbourhood Plans that have been finalised will still form part of planning decisions going forward. Cllr. Somper is on Dorset Council's Climate Change Advisory Panel.

Reports from Parish Councillors

Planning - Cllr. Humphreys reported that the PC supported the application for a barn door in respect of Middle Farm House. In respect of land south of Little Orchard, Parsonage Street, the PC objected on the grounds that this was not in accordance with the Neighbourhood Plan. The PC is still considering applications in respect of three new dwellings at Gupples Farm and an extension at 2 North Street. Planning permission was refused for 29 dwellings at Mill Street on the grounds that: the location would give rise to unsustainable development and would have detrimental impact on heritage assets; permanent loss of agricultural land; it would not contribute to provision of affordable housing. The applicant has six months to appeal.

In respect of the possible development on land south of Home Farm, Cllrs. Humphreys and Bellers had met with Hamish Laird, DC Planning case officer for this application. They emphasised that the PC is not expecting major investment in facilities, other than a turning area for school buses and parking for parents, as well as investment in play equipment at the Village Hall. They did not wish to see the essential elements of the scheme (a maximum of 30 dwellings, 40% to be affordable) compromised in order to satisfy a large S106 demand. Hamish Laird undertook to speak to Ed Gerry to seek a way to reach agreement.

Trees - Cllr. Long reported that works in respect of Leylandii at Knapp House had already been actioned by the time the PC was aware of the application.

Highways - Cllr. Long reported that work on the road at Dinah's hollow was completed on 29th June, although there are still some signs and information boards to go up. The bridge at Durweston closed on 24th June and is scheduled to be completed by 21st July.

There were two major traffic instances in the village, a week apart. In the first, a car overturned after hitting a telegraph pole opposite Middle Farm. In the second, to the south of the village, a lorry and a van ended up in a hedge and two other vehicles were written off. Fortunately, there were no major injuries.

Environmental Protection & Social Infrastructure - Cllr. Newbury reported that she had distributed 50 questionnaires to Bedchester residents regarding the suggestion for a community bench at the Bedchester crossroads. 16 questionnaires were returned, with seven in favour, three in favour with reservations and six against. The PC decided that, in view of some of the strong views expressed against the bench, many from those who lived closest, it would not proceed.

She has also put up the 'No Dogs' and the 'Dog Fouling' signs in appropriate sites around the village and completed the defibrillator returns each month as required.

District Liaison - Cllr. Humphreys reported that he had not attended any District Liaison event since the last meeting.

Footpaths/Governance - Cllr. Bellers said that the stile on the footpath between the first and second fields behind the school has still not been repaired. However, the gate has remained open, so it is not a problem at the moment. The White Hart Link is passing through the parish, from Sutton Waldron to Pipers Mill – way marking signs have been put up and this part of the Link will be opened on Saturday 20th July with a presence at the Village Hall during the Archive Exhibition.

Cllrs. Long and Newbury attended the New Councillor Induction training and Cllr. Bellers attended the Practical Chaining Skills training.

Finance

The PC has a current balance of £8,750.15.

Other matters from recent correspondence

Operation London Bridge - This is the protocol on the death of Her Majesty the Queen. The PC agreed to purchase the option to include suitable imagery and words on the parish website during the period of ten days state mourning.

VE Day 75th Anniversary - This will be commemorated in 2020; the PC agreed not to organise any special event.

Community Land Trust - The PC resolved that it strongly supports the CLT and will continue to investigate whether it can legally become a member.

Website - The platform for the PC's current website is not readily updateable. The PC agreed to pay £30 for modest upgrades and will budget for major changes next year.

Electrical Vehicle Charging Point - The PC agreed to approach the developer of the South Street site to see whether this could be provided.

Bedchester crossroads – trees and verge - The PC would obtain quotes for maintenance of the tree by the phonebox and will contact Highways about protecting the verges.

The Lime Tree opposite Brook House - Highways are responsible for maintaining the tree and the ground on which it stands. Highways have inspected the tree and cut the grass.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm. The next PC meeting will be at 7.00pm on Monday 2nd September in the School Hall.

Events at Springhead

Thursday 1st August at 7.00pm, the Miracle Theatre perform *A Perfect World* - a young woman ventures into a boy's-own world of undiscovered jungles, treasure maps, campfires and penknives. Adult £12, Friend/U18 £10, Family £32 (2 adults, 2 children). Garden open for picnics from 5.30pm. This is an outdoor performance so wrap up warm, bring a chair and a torch. Bar in interval.

Thursday 22nd August - The beautiful lakeside gardens at Springhead will be open to visitors August between 10.00am and 5.00pm with plants for sale and the café open for tea, coffee, cakes and light lunches. Admission is £3.50 with Friends of Springhead and children under 16 free. Dogs on leads are welcome and the gardens are accessible to assisted wheelchair users. The Springhead Trust Ltd, Tel: 811853 Email: info@springheadtrust.org.uk www.springheadtrust.org.uk

Iwerne Valley Walking Club

The Three Counties Walk – Saturday 18th May

We selected and planned this walk to include a number of significant landmarks centred around Bourton. Our title refers to the junction of three Counties along the way: Dorset, Wiltshire and Somerset, and which is marked by Egberts Stone which marks the spot where King Alfred assembled his armies before defeating the Vikings. The stone once fell into the River Stour but it was recovered and re-erected. Nearby is Bourton Mill which is mentioned in the Domesday Book and which has, over the centuries, been used as a Linen Mill, a Blast Furnace and then for the manufacture of Boilers, Steam lorries and Gas Engines. During WW1 it produced munitions after which it was used, in more recent times, for food production before being abandoned in 1998.

Sixteen members and four very excited dogs began the walk from the Bourton Inn and, after crossing two fields, we were rewarded almost immediately with glorious views over Somerset. Passing the entrance to Bull Pits Farm, we crossed the road through a small gate to the golf course and arrived at the junction of the three counties marked by Egberts Stone. We followed the road downhill to Pen Selwood and over the bridge by a row of cottages, taking a well-trodden path up the hillside and gradually bearing to the right, before heading down again to the brook where the dogs had an amazing time splashing about in the water.

Continuing along the path, we reached the White Gates to Swallowfield where a peacock stood guard on a wall as we entered the woods. A wide, very attractive track rose gently through the bluebells and wild garlic and, as we moved deeper and higher into the woods, we saw Deer and heard our first cuckoo calling. Further on we saw azaleas bordering the edges of Stourhead. We followed a quiet lane into Pear Ash and after crossing two fields we turned left into Coombe Street. Then we had a short walk downhill before turning right towards Bourton some ¾ mile ahead.

After two more fields we headed down to the Mill where we turned left. We walked up a short way before turning right across one more field, followed by a final right turn towards the Pub where we could all look forward to our well-deserved lunch. Some very, very tired dogs settled down quietly under the tables. Penny and Pam

Midsummer Walk – Saturday 22nd June

On a warm, quintessentially beautiful English midsummer evening, fifteen two-legged and two four-legged beings set off from the top of the Downs between Bishopstone and Wilton to see the sun setting over a glorious landscape.

To start with we struggled along the overgrown edge of a wheat field before eventually circling back onto the Old Shaftesbury Drove, passing a pig farm with lots of large sows with their piglets. En route we spotted the following wildlife: a deer, a red kite, and two hares. We turned off the drove road and followed a track past Hoop Side and the 'King Barrow', an ancient tumulus once thought by some antiquarians to be 'the tomb of King Carvillius' – a shadowy British king in the 1st century BC – whose long-forgotten capital of Carvillium was said to be the forerunner of the town of Wilton.

After spotting lots of wild orchids including, to much excitement, quite a few lovely Bee Orchids, we carried on to the Punch Bowl with everyone starting to feel a bit peckish by now. We gratefully arranged ourselves along a grassy bank overlooking the Bowl (a spectacular natural amphitheatre in the Downs and the site of a World War II rifle range) and ate our picnics. Such an amazing view all round! From there it wasn't too far back to the cars through some deep dark woods. We all agreed it had been a wonderful way to celebrate the Summer Solstice together.



Helen English

Village weather for June 2019



A rather cool unsettled start to the month with rain. Fontmell missed the extremes of rain on the 24th when floods were reported in Lincolnshire. A hot sunny end with fresh winds.

12 rain days. No hail, thunder, gales or frost.

Comp. Figures	2019	2018
Rain (most 27.7 mm on 10th)	79.7 mm	0.5 mm
Sunshine	146.6 hr (av. 4.9)	232.6 hr
Max mean temp. (highest 29.5 °C on 29th)	20.1 °C	22.3 °C
Min mean temp. (lowest 3.8 °C on 6th)	9.7 °C	10.2 °C

The UK had about 10% more rain than normal for June and it was especially wet in England and Wales. Lincolnshire had 2.3 times its normal June rainfall while Wales had 60% more than average.

Across England and Wales it was a largely gloomy month and was very cool at times until the plume of hot air from the Sahara lifted temperatures at the end of the month. It was particularly warm in Europe, which had its hottest June on record. Germany had its hottest June with 38.9 °C as did Switzerland with 37 °C while, in Gallargues-le-Montueux, France recorded an amazing 45.9 °C, the hottest of any month.

Across the world, April was the second warmest April on record and May the fourth warmest, while 2019 is on track to the third warmest year on record.

Full Moon – Thursday 15th August

The August Full Moon is known as the Full Sturgeon Moon, or as the Green Corn Moon or the Grain Moon.

On Friday 9th August, the planet Mercury reaches its greatest 'western elongation' (19.0 degrees from the Sun). The planet should be visible low in the eastern sky just before sunrise. The Perseids Meteor Shower peaks this year on the night of Monday 12th August and the morning of Tuesday 13th August, producing up to 60 meteors per hour. The Perseids are produced by comet Swift-Tuttle, which was discovered in 1862.



Clear skies on the night of Tuesday 16th July meant that the partial lunar eclipse could be seen clearly. A rare treat after so many cloudy nights.

Compost Corner

Sitting outside on a hot summer's night we were often bombarded by huge flying insects, stag beetles, and as a child I found them rather scary, although they were in fact quite harmless. But sadly, I can't remember

seeing one for years.

It's not just bees that are under threat, many insects are endangered including stag beetles. But we can all help a little bit and one way is to build an insect hotel, and it's something that children can help with in the school holidays. I won't bore you with long instructions because there is plenty of guidance on the Internet, but basically you need to make a sandwich of bricks and wood interspersed with sticks, pine cones, hollow stems, straw, broken tiles etc. - i.e. places where insects can hide and hibernate. And stag beetles will certainly benefit from a nice woody retreat (the larvae feed off rotting wood for several years). Bury some of the sticks so that they can rot down which is just what a stag beetle needs.

If you're looking for inspiration, take a walk to the Westgate wood where there is a really splendid insect hotel.

Happy holidays. Alison Main

Community Bench at Bedchester

The Parish Council recently received a suggestion that a wooden bench be sited at the Bedchester crossroads for the use of both residents and visitors. To gauge the level of interest and support, a questionnaire was distributed to all the properties in Bedchester.

There was some limited support for a bench and some generous financial pledges towards the costs were received, but the Parish Council also received several letters expressing some serious concerns about the project. These included the increased wear and tear to the greenspaces, the invasion of privacy and the issues of potential litter, noise and road safety. The Parish Council discussed the matter carefully but on balance, taking into consideration the objections received and the financial cost to the parish, it was decided not to go ahead with the bench.

Discussions about a possible bench highlighted two other issues - the size of the tree at the crossroads and deterioration of the verge. These are both now being considered by the Parish Council.

Scam victims to be refunded by their bank

People who make a payment to an account that they believe belongs to a legitimate person or business, that turns out to be a fraudulent account run by a scammer, will now in most cases be given a refund by their bank. The added protection for consumers is due to a new code of practice agreed by most major banks. The code states that victims should be reimbursed unless they ignored their bank's warnings about the scam or were 'grossly negligent' in transferring the money. It applies to scams reported from Tuesday 28th May and only to transfers of money between UK accounts; overseas accounts aren't covered. Until then, while banks have generally given refunds when payments are fraudulently made without customers' authorisation, they haven't been obliged to give a refund when someone has been tricked into making a payment themselves.

This type of scam is called an Authorised Push Payment (APP) scam as the customer unwittingly authorises the payment to be made, usually either online, in person or over the phone. It is reported that £228.4 million was lost in 2018 due to APP scams.

The voluntary code commits banks that are signed up to it to a series of measures to tackle APP fraud, such as educating customers about scams and how they work. The code also encourages banks to identify customers who are at higher risk of becoming a victim, warn customers when they've spotted a scam and try to delay payments while investigating. Scams can have a devastating impact on people, causing distress and hardship, some people will have lost whole life savings. This new code is therefore seen as a really positive step forward until the industry can agree more permanent plans on how victims of such scams will be refunded.

If you think you have been a victim of this type of scam, then report it to your bank. For advice about scams and to report something to Trading Standards call the Citizens Advice consumer helpline on 03454 04 05 06.

The Gossip Tree Legal Department

Our legal people, sunning themselves on an Italian coast, were much perturbed to receive a (burning) question from home – "my neighbour has a bonfire going in the middle of the day; I thought this was illegal." Our learned friends were able to answer this one without even the help of a textbook. After taking out the "hereinafters" and "aforesaid", this is the gist of what they said:

Generally speaking, if you live in a domestic property and are burning domestic or garden waste, you can have a fire whenever you like. There are no restrictions on the time of day, or day of the week, that someone can have a fire. However, there are laws that protect people from being affected by the smoke caused by bonfires.

If your neighbours are lighting bonfires which are causing you nuisance, you should politely let them know how the bonfire is affecting you (they may be unaware of the way smoke is blowing and the effect it is having on you). If the neighbour continues to regularly light bonfires which you feel cause you nuisance, you can report the problem to Dorset Council (this can be done online) and they will investigate. If the nuisance happens on a regular basis (probably more than once a month), the Council may issue an 'abatement notice' which, if breached, could lead to a fine of up to £5,000.

There is no law against an occasional bonfire as long as:

- The smoke does not blow across a road and so cause danger to the traffic on it; and
- You do not burn anything that could cause pollution or harm to public health, such as plastic, rubber, old engine oil, etc.

If you are planning to have a bonfire it is neighbourly to either tell those living around you (so they have time to close their windows) or wait until wind conditions mean that the smoke will not affect others.

The Priority Services Register

The Priority Services Register (PSR) is a free service provided by energy and water suppliers and network operators to customers in need. Each supplier and network operator maintains its own register. You can receive the services available if you:

- are of pensionable age;
- are disabled, chronically sick, or have a long-term medical condition;
- have a hearing or visual impairment or additional communication needs;
- live with a child under five;
- use medical equipment/aids reliant on electricity and/or water.

If you register as a priority services customer, you may be eligible for free services including:

- Priority assistance during a power cut or water supply interruption;
- Emergency power and/or water supplies during prolonged supply interruptions;
- Connection to local emergency services;
- Communication in a format that suits your needs, e.g. Braille, textphone, audio CD or a language other than English.

To be added to the Priority Services Register, you simply need to contact your energy or water supplier. You can find their contact details on your utility bill or phone 0800 294 3259 (free).

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 25th August 2019**. 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).*