



THE GOSSIP TREE

July 2019

Issue 305

News & Views from the Parish of FONTMELL MAGNA

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

Archive Exhibition - 18th to 21st July

Fontmell Magna Village Archive Society will be holding its 12th Exhibition from Thursday 18th July to Sunday 21st July from 10.00am to 4.00pm each day at the Village Hall.

The Exhibition features a number of diverse subjects. These include:

- A history of the Cross Tree (or Gossip Tree)
- Emigration
- Fontmell Magna and the Workhouse
- Fontmell Bridges
- Fontmell's very own rock band - The Ramblers
- Wills & Inventories of some Fontmell Yeomen
- The 1939 Register
- A history of the turnpike between Shaftesbury and Blandford
- The Big Freeze of 1978
- Rolf Gardiner's 100th Anniversary & Springhead Tree-Planting
- Brookland Wood
- Fontmell Fiction

In addition, on Saturday 20th July, there will be a stand by the Weymouth & Portland Metal Detecting Club exhibiting finds in Fontmell. Also that morning, supporters of the White Hart Link will be walking from Fontmell to Stourpaine, and will be calling in at the Village Hall before they set off.

Entry to the Exhibition is free. Light refreshments, including home-made cake, will be available for a small charge.

Roger Hillman

You Can Make a Difference!

Fontmell Magna Parish Council should have seven councillors; currently there are only four. So why might you decide to join the Parish Council?

- because you care about your village and parish as a place to live;
- to improve your local amenities and facilities;
- you might have concerns about housing development locally;
- you might like to be consulted on decisions taken by Dorset County that will impact the parish;
- you would like to contribute ideas on something you care about, e.g. local environment, needs of young people.

If any of these statements ring true for you then please consider joining the Parish Council. With three councillor vacancies at present the council is not properly representative of the parish and cannot be fully effective. With a full complement of councillors the time commitment would be just a couple of hours per week and you'd be playing an important role in how local government operates and affects Fontmell Magna.

If you're interested in becoming a parish councillor or would like to know more about what's involved, please contact the Clerk, Marianne Wheatley, at clerk@fontmellmagnapc.co.uk or telephone 01305 873838. There is more information on the parish council at www.fontmellmagnapc.co.uk or on the role of councils at http://www.dorset-aptc.gov.uk/DAPTC-Web/role_of_councils-7156.aspx.

From: Annie, Chris, Jeremy and Mike of Fontmell Magna Parish Council

Fontmell Magna Village Hall (Registered Charity 301129) - AGM

I hereby give notice that the Annual General Meeting of the Fontmell Magna Village Hall Management Committee will take place on **Wednesday 31st July 2019 at 7.00pm** in the Village Hall.

The post of Vice-Chairman is still VACANT and if anyone is interested in taking on this role please contact the Secretary for further information or a nomination form. Nominations can be made by any person whose name appears on the current Register of Electors for the Parish of Fontmell Magna. Completed forms should be sent to the Secretary at Blackmore Cottage, West Street, Fontmell Magna, SP7 0PF to be received no later than Wednesday 17th July 2019.

The AGM is open to all and you are warmly invited to join us for drinks from 7.00pm – the meeting starts at 7.30pm.

Lisa Le Druillenec, Secretary: 07962 138 039

Notices – July 2019

St. Andrew's Church

Sun	7th	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		9.00am	Sunday Breakfast (Village Hall - see page 2)
Sun	14th	9.30am	Morning Worship
Thu	18th	6.00pm	Cathedral-style Choral Evensong sung by visiting choir Laudemus
Sun	21st	10.00am to 3.00pm	Day of Vision
Sun	28th	9.30am	Holy Communion (CW)

Prayers each Monday at 9.00am

Parish Council Meeting

Mon 8th 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

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 12.00 noon. Enquiries 811201

Coffee in the Café

Tue at 10.00am

The Fontmell

Enquiries 811441

St. Andrew's School

Fri 19th - Break up for Summer

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. Special cake stall on 12th July and produce when available. All welcome.

Iwerne Valley Walking Group

Sat 20th - meet at 10.00am at the Challow Hill car park, Corfe Castle (OS ref: 964823) for a walk to Swanage, picnic on the beach and steam train ride back to Corfe Castle.

Leaders: Monique & John Goodliffe 442970

Bell-ringing

Tue at Shroton - practice 7.30 to 8.45pm. Details Chris Bellers 811734

Bin Collection Dates

W/C 8th & 22nd - Recycling & Food
W/C 1st, 15th & 29th - Rubbish & Food

Village Hall events - see over

Village Tea Party

The Committee and Trustees of Fontmell Magna Village Hall invite you to a Tea Party at the Hall on

Saturday 31st August

2.00 - 4.00pm

Tea, cake, sandwiches, soft drinks - all free
Games, activities, raffle, local crafts and produce

Events in the Village Hall

Sunday Breakfast

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

Archive Society Exhibition

Thur 18th to Sun 21st from 10.00am to 4.00pm. All welcome. Free entry! Details Roger Hillman 811878

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

Fontmell Magna Community Land Trust

Following the public meeting on Monday 20th May, the CLT has received over 50 applications for membership by subscribers wishing to buy £25 worth of shares.

This is an encouraging start for the CLT although we hope to at least double that number in the coming days.

Share certificates are being issued to members when we have confirmed receipt of their payment, perhaps not as quickly as on the London Stock Exchange but this is all new territory for the CLT.

We have set up a working group, chaired by Jim Highnam, to try to find a solution for a viable and sustainable shop for the community. This group has already held its first meeting. Jim has also agreed to be co-opted as a director of the CLT.

Application forms for shares are available from the village shop and from the directors, Robin East, Jim Highnam, Robert McCurrach, Dick Stainer and Roger Thomas.



More reports from the Annual Parish Meeting on Monday 13th May:

Fontmell Magna & District Society

We have had another interesting season of talks, including two from village residents Jethro Lyne and Margaret Marande. We finished with a remarkable lady who spent her whole life following a career as a dressmaker and was dressmaker to the queen for over 30 years. In common with some other groups in the village, we are finding difficulty in attracting new members, especially to serve on the committee, so if you would like to join us please contact our secretary Fiona Thomas. Dick Stainer

Fontmell Magna Public Amenity Site Trust

The main activity has been maintenance of the site to enable it to be enjoyed by the community and any visitors. We are lucky to have the help of Gary Payne to do this. He keeps the grass near to the car park cut so that people can use the picnic table and bench. The picnic table has been repaired with new wooden slats for the benches. With the increased traffic in Mill Street during work on the C13, the bank by the roadside is being steadily eroded by vehicles squeezing past each other at this point. We hope that the situation will return to normal when the work finishes at the end of the month. Dick Stainer

Village Hall

The Village Hall has had a number of Trustee changes this year with the retirement of Chris Bellers, Carl Johnson and Catherine Allard and the election of a new Chairman, myself (Rosie-Anne Yates), Lisa Le Druillenc as Secretary, Kim Masters as Playground Rep, Pippa Bealing as Booking Manager and with continued support from Dick Stainer as our Treasurer and Leo Williams as our President. I am also very grateful to the user group representatives for giving their time to support such an important village facility.

This year we have been focussing on raising funds, primarily for the updating of the playground and set up the Playground Appeal in October 2018 in order to replace the equipment and surface. Our first fundraising event was the well-supported Christmas Fayre. We raised through income and donations just over £2,000 bolstered by our registration for Gift Aid. We aim to build on this and announce that the second Christmas Fayre will be on **Saturday 30th November**.

Other fundraising efforts are taking place and we received a very generous donation from Maureen Knies who nominated our appeal for donations in memory of her late husband Don. With the help of a very generous donation from the Parish Council and the Appeal Fund money, volunteers repaired rotten wooden posts in the playground and laid a new blue rubber chip surface that will last 15 years.

Improvements to the hall include the purchase of a hearing loop and this will be installed shortly. We are in the process of creating our own website which will allow us to link to all social media platforms promoting the village hall, the regular events, as well as a venue for wedding receptions and birthday parties. Finally, I would like to extend an invitation to the whole village. We will be hosting a Garden Party on **Saturday 31st August**. This

will give us an opportunity to show case our Appeal and thank the village for their continued support. We hope to see as many of you as possible on the day. Rosie-Anne Yates

St. Andrew's Church

We continue to have services in Fontmell Magna each Sunday and while there has been a very slight decline in Sunday attendance, the attendances for Christmas, Easter and Harvest have by contrast increased.

The value of the presence of the church in village life is shown by the large number of weddings and funerals over the past year. Each year the School continues to hold its regular five services in the church and we again provided the 'Christmas Experience' event for the Junior School which was greatly appreciated.

Our biggest social event of the year was the Auction of Promises to raise money for our boiler which had reached the end of its life. This was very successful and naturally we are grateful for all who contributed so willingly.

This year saw the 100 year anniversary of the end of the First World War; many in the village got out their knitting needles and created enough poppies to make an impressive display of knitted poppies in the church, while on the main road 'silent soldiers' appeared.

This year the main recipients of donations were The Leprosy Mission for their work in Nepal, the Trussell Trust (the local food bank charity) and Tearfund (for the crisis in Mozambique), all of which were match-funded by the UK Government.

Thanks as always go to all those who maintain the church and keep things going, to those who faithfully maintain the churchyard, to those who clean, the tea-makers, flower-arranger, grass cutters and bell-ringers – you are all very much appreciated and we could not do without you. Barry Roberts

The Gossip Tree

The February 2019 edition of The Gossip Tree was the 300th edition and marked its 25th anniversary - the first issue edited by Peter Hood, was published on 20th March 1994. We were delighted to be able to celebrate this milestone by linking with St. Andrew's School students who offered us their thoughts on 'Being part of Fontmell Magna'. They produced delightful pieces and it was a pleasure to be able to focus specifically on these young members of the community. In recognition of their thoughtful work the school was presented with two colourful and, hopefully, enjoyable books for the library.

The Gossip Tree depends entirely on volunteers – the generous individual sponsors; Sue, who collects the 290 printed copies from Iwerne each month and distributes them to the hardworking band of 15 people who deliver throughout most of the parish in all sorts of weather; the regular contributors; the people who put together special editions and Gay who compiles the Directory. Thank you so much to everyone involved.

Fresh ideas, constructive comments and additional contributions are welcomed and we would like to hear from anyone who can deliver to Fontmell Hill, the western part of Hartgrove or Kit Hill as people living in these parts of the parish are not receiving paper copies currently. Barbara Humphreys

Events at Springhead

Sunday 14th July at 6.00pm, Folk duo *Ninebarrow*, with support from Will McNicol. Adult £13 in advance, £15 on door. Friend/U17 £11 in advance, £13 on door. Garden open for picnics from 4.30pm.

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.

Both are outdoor performances so wrap up warm, bring a chair and a torch. Bar in interval. The Springhead Trust Ltd, Tel: 01747 811853

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

North Dorset Group Wildlife Trust

The North Dorset Group of the Dorset Wildlife Trust holds talks and guided walks throughout the year. All talks take place at the Village Hall on the third Wednesday of the month (from October to April) and start at 7.30pm. A small donation of £2.50 is invited to defray expenses and this includes tea/coffee, Honeybuns cakes & biscuits. There is also a stall selling items from DWT's extensive range of sales goods and a table displaying a variety of free leaflets on Dorset's flora and fauna.

Summer 2019 Walks Programme:

Friday 5th July: Morning Walk on Fontmell Down led by North Dorset DWT Warden, Steve Oliver. Meet at 10.00am at the National Trust car park – as space is limited, please car share if possible. Numbers are limited to 20 people – please telephone Roy Davies on 01258 880 699 to reserve your place. There is no charge for this event, but voluntary contributions are welcomed.

Saturday 27th July: Evening bat walk with local bat expert, Chris Dieck. Meet at 8.30pm at Stour Meadows car park, Blandford Forum (near Tesco & behind brewery). Limited to 20 people (£3 per person) so please telephone Roy Davies on 01258 880 699 to book your place.

Saturday 3rd August: Bat Walk – this date will only be used if more than 20 people wish to attend the first walk in July.

Anna Davies

Tilly – Guide Dog Puppy

Tilly is a year old now. She is making good progress with her training; she has clear strengths and thankfully, few weaknesses. She learns quickly, is confident and inquisitive, very affectionate, well-mannered, playful, comical, greedy and gorgeous.

When wearing her blue coat Tilly knows this is work. She comes everywhere with me now and is confident with trains, buses, lifts, all different shops, banks, shopping centres, crowds, traffic, hospitals, GP, pubs, restaurants, church, exhibitions, National Trust, cinema ... the beach is next on the list.

Tilly is still distracted by other dogs when she is working and should ignore them. We are currently focussing our training on this and spend our time in local towns practising, with the aid of cheddar cheese, walking on by.

We love her free runs and her favourites are playing with other dogs, mud, water, more mud and diving full length into long, wet grass.

What has struck me this year is how narrow many pavements are, how many obstacles are in the way, how much interesting (for dogs) rubbish is around indoors and out, how people walk straight out of shops without looking, but also how very friendly & interested all sorts of people are, how many smiles we get and how many parents I hear say "no you mustn't touch her, she's working, she's a special dog".

Tilly will be with me for a few more weeks then moves on to another family and the second stage of her training.



Sue Keen

Superfast broadband . . . it's the Norm in Dorset

Digital Norm is a character developed by the Superfast Dorset programme to show people in Dorset how easy it is to get better broadband. His family switches to superfast broadband (defined as download speeds of at least 24 megabits per second) and saves money at the same time. More than 97% of Dorset premises can now get superfast fibre broadband and over half of homes and businesses have already switched, making it the norm in Dorset. These faster, more reliable connections mean everyone can be online at the same time, quicker downloads, TV and films on demand and video calling without the annoying lag. But the uplift in speeds isn't automatic – you must contact your internet provider and ask to switch to fibre broadband. If you need a little help using computers or the internet phone 01305 221048 and Superfast Dorset will match you with one of its Digital Champion volunteers in your area. For more information, contact the Superfast Dorset Team on 01305 228825.

Village weather for May 2019



A cool start with 2 air frosts. Only one day of useful rain as later showers missed Fontmell, so a dry month. Some good sunshine. 11 rain days. 6 ground frosts. 2 air frosts. No gales, thunder or hail.

Comp. Figures	2019	2018
Rain (most 12.3 mm on 7th)	22.9 mm	47.2 mm
Sunshine	186.4 hr (av. 6.0)	248.5 hr
Max mean temp. (highest 23.5 °C on 25th)	18.68 °C	19.49 °C
Min mean temp. (lowest - 1.3 °C on 5th)	4.58 °C	6.84 °C

According to the Met Office, the mean temperature for May was 0.2 °C below the 1981 -2010 long-term average, making it the coolest May for four years. It would have been even cooler were it not for a warmer spell from the 25th onwards which produced a high of 24.8 °C at Heathrow (London) on the 30th. Rainfall was below normal over much of the west and south and generally near normal elsewhere, with 75% of the average overall, making it the driest May since 2010. Sunshine totals were 106% of average, with most regions near or slightly above average.

Full Moon – Tuesday 16th July

This Full Moon is the Full Buck Moon, also known as the Full Thunder Moon or the Full Hay Moon.

On Tuesday 2nd July, there is a total Solar Eclipse but this will only be visible in parts of the southern pacific Ocean, central Chile, and central Argentina. However, a partial lunar eclipse on Tuesday 16th July should be visible (cloud permitting); a part of the Moon will darken as it moves through the Earth's partial shadow.

On Tuesday 9th July, Saturn will be at its closest approach to Earth and its face will be fully illuminated by the Sun. A medium-sized or larger telescope will allow you to see Saturn's rings and a few of its brightest moons.

The Delta Aquarids Meteor Shower, which produces up to 20 meteors per hour, peaks this year on the night of Sunday 28th July and morning of Monday 29th July. Best viewing will be from a dark, cloudless location after midnight.



Compost Corner

Fancy having a go at recreating an RHS Chelsea garden?

Include these elements: green, a tree, native flowers, Geum and The Plant of The Year - and you're almost there.

If there was one colour and indeed

word that summed up RHS Chelsea this year, it would be 'green' - green flowers, furniture even tiles. Coloured flowers, predominately native species like foxgloves, ragged robin and red campion, were used sparingly in beautiful naturalistic very green spaces and clouds of frothy cow parsley everywhere. Trees were also a big feature - the bigger the better and the RHS 'Back to Nature' garden included a much publicised treehouse.

One perennial that was included in many of the gardens was Geum also known commonly as avens. It's not the showiest of plants having small nodding flowers on spindly stems, but it is easily cultivated, preferring damp soils in full sun or partial shade. It also has a long flowering season so it's an easy and useful plant to include in your garden.

However, the plant of the year wasn't a native to this country but was discovered on the shores of Lake Michigan. It is Sedum takesimensis 'Atlantis' a smallish plant with variegated foliage and little yellow flowers. Being robust, easy to grow, drought resistant and attractive to bees, I can see it's going to be popping up in many a back garden. Alison Main

European Election

At the European Elections on Thursday 23rd May, there was a 41.14% turnout in Dorset (the national average was 36.9%). The South West returned three MEPs from the Brexit Party (including Ann Widdecombe), two from the Liberal Democrats and one from the Green Party.

Volunteers needed for Citizens Advice North Dorset

Due to the increasing need for support in our local community, Citizens Advice are seeking new Volunteers within North Dorset to help out in our offices in Gillingham, Shaftesbury, Sturminster and Blandford for one whole day or two half days per week. Contact 835016 or admin-nd@dsnd.org.uk

Percy Foyle (1896-1969)

Percy was one of nine children of Charles and Annie Foyle. In 1898, the family moved from Kington Magna to Hartgrove, where Charles became the farmer at Greens Farm. The family remained there until Charles died in 1939. All the children attended the school in East Orchard. Percy's brother, also called Charles, later took over nearby Hatchers Farm but he died aged only 34 in 1929.

Percy enlisted at the start of World War 1 and, with a number of other Fontmell men, joined the QODY (Queens Own Dorset Yeomanry). After a period of training, QODY was sent to the Dardenelles from August to October 1915, suffering heavy casualties. Percy appears to have survived unscathed. Afterwards, the QODY was stationed in Egypt, and were ordered to the Western Desert where a combined force of Senussi (a religious sect primarily composed of Libyan tribesmen), Turks and some Germans had invaded. At the battle of Agagia in February 1916, the QODY took part in one of the few cavalry charges of the war, routing the enemy rearguard. Percy was one of 26 men wounded in the charge (32 were killed). Although the Senussi were defeated, they remained a threat, and regular patrols of the Libyan desert were necessary.

It became clear that cavalry horses were unsuited to desert patrolling. In the spring of 1916, the Imperial Camel Corps (ICC) was formed - essentially mobile infantry who, transported by camel, would go into action on foot. A number of volunteers from British yeomanry regiments joined, including Percy.

As well as being divided into battalions, companies and sections, when away from the base, the men were further divided into self-sufficient groups of four. Each had one man in charge, and groups were responsible for their own cooking and for feeding their own camels (camels generally had to be watered every three to five days, when they would drink up to 30 gallons). A recent book, 'Dorset Brothers at War' by Jessica Christian (2017) describes one of these groups comprising Stanley George (one of the Dorset brothers in the title): "I was with Foyle, who is from Fontmell. His skin is the colour of red brick dust and he speaks the broad 'Dorset', finishing his remarks with the words 'you' or 'like'. In front of us were Mark Ward and Budden, the two other members of our group of four...Mark Ward is the leader of our little group."

Percy appears to have remained with the ICC until the end of the war, later serving in Palestine and Syria. He was demobilised in April 1919 and returned to Greens Farm. On 26th September 1919, the Western Gazette reported: "Trooper Percy Foyle, late of the Dorset Yeomanry, unveiled a memorial tablet at an impressive service at the Hartgrove Wesleyan Church. The tablet was to the memory of

Frederick George Frampton and Maurice Burden, former church members who made the supreme sacrifice in the Great War." There is a memorial to Frampton and Burden in East Orchard Church.

In 1921, Percy married Winifred May Kick (1897-1973) and they had four children. Winifred was one of nine children of Adolphus Kick, a smallholder at what is now Perrymead, Bedchester. In 1939, the family were living at Bicester where Percy was Foreman of a concrete works. Chris Bellers, Fontmell Magna Village Archive Society

The Archive Society's next Exhibition is in the Village Hall from Thursday 18th July to Sunday 21st from 10.00am to 4.00pm.



Percy Foyle (centre) in camp at Sollum, spring 1917 flanked by Privates Priddle (left, from Wyke Regis) and Maiden (right, from Bere Regis)

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 July 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).*