

THE GOSSIP TREE

May 2019

Issue 303

News & Views from the Parish of FONTMELL MAGNA

This issue is kindly sponsored by Sue Mercer, in loving memory of her parents, John and Barbara Enderby.

The Great British Spring Clean! Thank you!

A HUGE thank you to all the fabulous volunteers who turned out on Sunday 7th April to pick litter and make our Parish even more lovely. Around 25 litter pickers, old and (some very) young did a magnificent job and collected more

than 20 bags of rubbish and recyclable litter - including bottles, cans, part of an exhaust pipe and a deep-fat fryer! Refreshments afterwards, including a range of delicious home-made cakes, were provided by the lovely ladies of the Village Hall - and the sun shone for us! There has been a suggestion that we make this a regular event, spring and autumn, if you would like to be involved in 'Team Litter-Pick' please contact Annie Newbury 812149 or annienewbury@yahoo.co.uk



Postscript: during the litter pick, a handbag was found towards the top of Fontmell Hill. A diary in the bag gave a contact number and the owner was delighted to have her bag back - she had parked near Hod Hill the previous day and gone for a walk (taking her purse) and came back to find the side window smashed and bag taken. There have been a series of similar thefts in the area so beware!

Fontmell Magna Community Land Trust Limited

Invitation to a Public Meeting - Fontmell Magna Village Hall - Monday 20th May at 7.30pm.

There is an opportunity to create a legal entity that can deliver a community benefit to the village. In particular it could help the provision of affordable

A steering group (Dick Stainer, Roger Thomas, Robert McCurrach and Robin East) has been investigating the formation of a Community Land Trust (CLT) for Fontmell Magna. Its purpose is to create a legal vehicle to hold assets, including land or buildings, for the benefit of the community.

So far, the steering group has held several preliminary meetings, and Dorset County Council and Wessex Community Assets have given us support and

The steering group intends to hold a public meeting in the Village Hall at 7.30pm on Monday 20th May. We hope you will attend this meeting. It will address the following:

- What is a 'Community Land Trust' (CLT)?
- What can a CLT do?
- Why should this village and its residents consider a CLT?
- How you can participate
- What next?

There is a fact sheet available as a PDF, copies will be available at the meeting or by email from a steering group member. If you would like more information, please contact any of the steering group.

This is an important opportunity to introduce a means to bring community benefits to the village and its residents. We hope you will be able to come to the meeting. Dick Stainer 811153

Tennis Court Bookings

The tennis court is a valuable asset for people of all ages. It's available for locals and people visiting the village. It's one of the very few courts that doesn't require membership.

The key is available in the greenhouse at 27 Orchard Close (corner of West Street and Orchard Close). Please write your name and the time in the diary and leave the correct money in the tin which contains the key. £1 per person per hour for adults and 50p for children. There is an excellent local tennis coach: Ian Griffin 07727 061077 or email

ian@griffintennisacademy.co.uk.

If enough people are interested a friendly doubles tournament could be arranged, please email me: murchie25@btinternet.com. Louise Murchie

Notices – May 2019

St. Andrew's Church

Sun 5th 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) Sunday Breakfast (Village Hall 9.00am

- see page 2) Morning Worship

Sun 12th 9.30am Sun 19th 9.30am Holy Communion with Choir

Sun 26th 9.30am Holy Communion (CW)

Prayers each Monday at 9.00am

Parish Council AGM and PC Meeting

Mon 13th in St. Andrew's School, immediately following the Annual Parish Meeting which starts at 7.00pm. Parish Clerk:

Marianne Wheatley *clerk@fontmellmagnapc.co.uk*

Mon - Thu 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 Tea Room Crafters

Wed 8th and 22nd at 2.30pm. Details Barbara Humphreys blueletterbox@btinternet.com

The Fontmell

Enquiries 811441

St. Andrew's School

Mon 6th - Bank Holiday

Fri 24th - Break up for Half Term

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 18th - starting at 10.00am led by Pam Payne (811251) & Penny Wintle (81222).

Bell-ringing

Tue at Shroton - practice 7.30 to 8.45pm. Mon 20th - Visiting ringers from 10.30am. Details Chris Bellers 811734

Bin Collection Dates

W/C 13th & 27th - Recycling & Food W/C 6th & 20th - Rubbish & Food

Village Hall events - see over

Notre Dame - By tradition, bells are not rung during Holy Week (the week before Easter Sunday). However, following the fire in Notre Dame on Monday 15th April, a bell was tolled as a mark of solidarity at St. Andrew's Church for seven minutes at 7.00pm on Thursday 18th April in line with cathedrals and churches across England.

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Events in the Village Hall

Local Election

Thu 2nd - 7.00am to 10.00pm.

Sunday Breakfast

Sun 5th at 9.00am. Run by St. Andrew's Church. All welcome. Details Janet Smith 811904

Garden Club

Wed 8th at 7.30pm. Evening visit to Castle Gardens.
Details Briony Long 812513

Fontmell Magna & District Society Fri 10th at 7.30pm - AGM and Members' Evening. Details Dick Stainer 811153

Archive Society

Thu 16th 4.00 to 5.30pm. Details Roger Hillman 811878

Community Land Trust

Mon 20th - Public Meeting at 7.30pm. Details Dick Stainer 811153

European Election

Thu 23rd - 7.00am to 10.00pm.

Fontmell Magna Art Club Tue 2.00 to 4.00pm.

Details Sandra Jelbart 812468

Carpet Bowls Club

Thu 9th, 16th & 30th, Fri 3rd & 24th all at 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

<u>Zumba</u>

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

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



Open Garden and Creative and Sustainable Living Fair, Bank Holiday Monday 6th May, 10.00am to 5.00pm

A great May bank holiday event for all - come and enjoy the beautiful gardens of Springhead in their 'spring' glory.

The picturesque lakeside gardens lie to the east of Springhead's 18th century Mill House. Come and see for yourself the wonderful flowers, shrubs, trees, views and reflections in the changing light; the noisy rush of the great millrace and the gentle ripple below the silt trap; the bird life on the water, especially the swans.

As well as opening the gardens, Springhead is hosting a Creative & Sustainable Living Fair to encourage, showcase, celebrate and promote local crafts people and to inspire a more sustainable way of living. The fair will include stallholders selling vintage and preloved homeware and fashion, upcycled furniture, zero waste products, vegan/natural soaps and beauty products, handmade wood crafts and jewellery from local artists and designers, plants and plant based baked goods.

There will also be short demonstrations and fun creative and sustainable fashion workshops running throughout the day.

For more information on these please email: prettythingspreloved@gmail.com

Adult Entry to the event on the day is £3.50. Friends of Springhead and under 16 free.

Dogs allowed on lead. Assisted wheelchair access available. Drinks, cake and light lunches available at the Mill House Cafe. The Springhead Trust, Registered Charity No. 1112083

Tel. 811853 www.springheadtrust.org.uk info@springheadtrust.org.uk

The Parish Council Parish Councillors

The Parish Council was up for election on Thursday 2nd May 2019, at the same time as the County Council election. There are seven places on the Parish Council but there were only four nominations: Chris Bellers, Mike Humphreys, Jeremy Long and Annie Newbury. Therefore, these four nominations will be elected unopposed with effect from 2nd May. As stated in the April Gossip Tree (Issue 302), Howard Horstead and Leo Williams decided not to stand; the Parish Council thanks them again for their many years of service on the Council.

Consequently, there are now three vacancies on the Parish Council. The removal of a layer of local government means that parish councils have an important role to play in influencing how services are delivered to their local community. With only four parish councillors, when the full complement is seven, the Parish Council will be much less effective in representing all parts of the community and influencing decisions, at a time when the parish is facing significant changes: in local government, with the prospect of large-scale housing developments and with the potential loss of valued village amenities. Therefore, once again, the Parish Council appeals for residents to come forward and become a parish councillor. Anyone who is interested can talk to any of the existing Parish Councillors or to the Parish Clerk (details below) about what's involved; the time commitment is not onerous.

Meetings on 13th May

The next meeting of the Parish Council, open to all residents of the parish, is on Monday 13th May, starting at 7.00pm in St. Andrew's School Hall with the Annual Parish Meeting. This is an opportunity for all parish-based clubs, societies and similar organisations to report briefly (no more than 3 minutes) on their previous year's activities and their proposals for the next twelve months. Any representative from a club/society/organisation who wishes to give a report should inform the Parish Clerk by Tuesday 30th April, by email (details below). The Annual Parish meeting will be followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting at which the new Chairman will be elected and then the bi-monthly Parish Council Meeting at which the end of year accounts and annual return will be approved.

Parish Council Information

Would you like to be kept better informed about parish matters that could affect you? Normally, you might not find out about significant proposals other than at the PC meeting every two months, or in the monthly Gossip Tree.

You might want more immediate information - for example, about new planning applications, road closures, defibrillator training, bus routes changes, extraordinary Parish Council meetings

If you would like to be kept so informed, please send an email to the Parish Clerk and ask to be added to the 'Village & Parish Contacts' email circulation list. So far, the list includes only about 50 names and we are sure more people would like to be kept in the picture (please note: email addresses are kept confidential and are not disclosed.

The Parish Clerk, Marianne Wheatley, can be contacted at *clerk@fontmellmagnapc.co.uk*

Care homes, Trading Standards and your consumer rights - Choosing a care home for yourself or another person is a very important and often emotional decision. Moving to a different care home if the first one isn't right could be a big upheaval, so you need to be confident that you have all the information you need to choose the right home. You have consumer rights regardless of whether you pay all the costs of your care or whether some or all of the costs are paid for by the local authority or another organisation. Knowing these rights help people make informed decisions when choosing a care home, as well as ensuring you are fairly treated and protected if things go wrong. The Competition and Markets Authority have recently contacted all care home providers who provide care for older people with advice to help those providers better understand and meet their obligations under consumer law. Further detailed information can be found at www.gov.uk/government/publications/care-homes-short-guide-to-consumer-rights-for-residents. If you don't think you are being treated fairly, or think a care home is breaking consumer law, contact the Citizens Advice national consumer helpline on 03454 04 05 06. As well as giving you advice, the consumer helpline can pass information about complaints on to Trading Standards to investigate.

North Dorset Wildlife Trust

Sunday 5th May: Steve Oliver (North Dorset Warden) will lead the first of our dawn chorus walks at Ashley Wood, near Tarrant Keyneston. Meet at the entrance to the wood at 4.30am. Parking is available from 4.00am in Tarrant Keyneston Village Hall car park (Turn off the B3082 at the True Lovers' Knot pub; 200 yards down this side road on the left is the Village Hall). Booking essential – please telephone Steve Oliver on 07824 874273. Cost: £6 adults/£3 children.

Please note that the Dawn Chorus Walk on 11th May and the Evening Nightingale Walk on 25th May are both FULL. Any queries regarding these walks, please telephone Roy Davies on 01258 880 699.

Saturday 8th June: Chesil Beach Walk and Boat Ride on the Fleet to see Little Terns and other coastal birds. Led by DWT warden, Mark Smith. Meet at 2.00pm at the Chesil Beach Centre. Cost £5 per person (including boat trip). Numbers are limited to 12 people, so booking is essential. Please telephone Roy Davies on 01258 880 699.

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.

Iwerne Valley Walking Group Walk - Saturday 16th March

21 walkers and 5 dogs met in the National Trust car park for King Alfred's Tower on a windy day. The days of gales experienced over the past week were evident from the cut tree stumps and piles of branches along the approach road, but the hard tracks we followed were mostly sheltered and the threat of drizzle soon vanished, leaving a fine day. Phyl had done the chosen route before and knew which of the many forestry tracks to choose from but the cutting of more timber since our recce was confusing.

We passed tall stands of pine trees but also a lot of replanting for the future. The small trees were protected with bright blue plastic spikes which one can assume would prick the noses of nibbling deer. Many trees were coated in mosses and lichens giving a very green feel. There was only one stile to slow progress and it was only really muddy where timber lorries had been working.

It was a bit early for spring flowers, but foxglove, campion and bluebell leaves were evident. An early patch of oxalis was in flower. A stone-built cottage near the start had flowering daffodils, magnolias and a camellia in the garden which was being upgraded with new hedging. At the end of the walk, some had a closer look at the brick-built 3-sided tower erected to commemorate the end of the seven-year war by Sir Henry Hoare and architect Henry Flitcroft. Nineteen of us drove back to the Red Lion pub in Kilmington for a good lunch with optional rugby on TV. Judy Westgate



Fontmell Magna and District Society

Friday 5th April – Maureen Rose – "I dressed the Queen of England"

This was a wonderful talk with which to end a successful season. Maureen Rose gave an entrancing and very endearing account of her career as a dressmaker. She showed her skill with words was equal to her skill with the tape measure. The proof of her ability was before our very eyes: the wedding dress of Dick and Jennie Jones's daughter was made by Maureen and we were all able to see and admire its beauty.

Maureen worked for Norman Hartnell and Ian Thomas and was dressmaker to the Queen for thirty years. Over that time, they clearly developed a trusting and very affectionate relationship. Success only comes on the basis of hard work and Maureen enjoyed her work so much she even took her sewing machine on family holidays.

Our final event will be the Society's AGM on Friday 10th May. Everyone is welcome to come; there will be a short slide show and quiz followed by a finger buffet and drinks. Please bring a plate of finger food to share. Michael Golberg

Village weather for March 2019





March charged in "like a lion" with gales and rain frequently until mid-month, then "out like a lamb" into calmer, often cloudless sunshine to end the month.

19 rain days. 1 day snow flurry. 13 ground frosts. 3 air frosts. 10 gales.

Comp. Figures	2019	2018
Rain (most 19.2 mm on 5th)	78.5 mm	158.8 mm
Sunshine	102.9 hr (av. 3.3)	63.0 hr
Max mean temp. (highest 16.3 °C on 29th & 30th)	15.4 °C	9.0 °C
Min mean temp. (lowest - 1.4 °C on 26th)	3.9 °C	1.71 °C

Thanks to storms Freya and Gareth, the first half of March was so wet that Northern Ireland broke its March rainfall record and the rest of the UK had its fifth wettest March on record. However, the second half turned so mild, dry and settled that overall it was the tenth warmest March on record.

Met Office figures show that the average temperature across Britain has risen by 1°C over the past few decades, with the four warmest springs on record occurring in the past 12 years – 2007, 2011, 2014 and 2017. The number of days of ground frost has fallen from an average of 37 days between 1961 and 1990, to 34 days from 1981 to 2010.

Full Moon – Saturday 18th May

The Full Moon in May is known as the Full Flower Moon, as well as the Full Corn Planting Moon and the Milk Moon. It is also a Blue Moon. In both January and March 2018 (see the January 2018 Gossip Tree: Issue 287) there were Blue Moons – when there were two Full Moons in a month.

There is an alternative definition of Blue Moon-when a season contains four Full Moons. Normally, there are three Full Moons in each season; as Full Moons occur every 29.53 days, occasionally a season will contain four Full Moons. The third Full Moon of the season is known as a Blue Moon. In 2019, Spring (20th March to 21st June) contains four Full Moons – on 21st March, 19th April, 18th May and 17th June, and the third Full Moon is therefore a Blue Moon.

May is also the peak of the Eta Aquarids Meteor Shower, produced by dust particles left behind by Halley's comet. Here in the Northern Hemisphere, the rate can reach about 30 meteors per hour. The shower runs annually from 19th April to 28th May, but peaks this year on the night of Monday 6th May and the morning of Tuesday 7th May. Meteors can appear anywhere in the sky; best viewing (weather permitting) will be after midnight.



Recently, my daughter phoned me up to ask: "do I like begonias"? A tricky one. I know for sure, Monty Don doesn't rate them, but I doubt whether he'll be a regular visitor to my daughter's garden.

Plants go in and out of fashion - RHS Chelsea 2019 will doubtless headline must-have varieties and colour trends for flowers but should that be of any consequence to the average gardener? When choosing plants the most important consideration is, will they thrive in the conditions I plan to grow them in? Stick an acid loving plant in alkaline soil and it

simply won't thrive. So, back to begonias, the garden ones, in this case Begonia semperflorens (the fibrous-rooted begonia as opposed to the houseplant varieties or indeed the tuberous begonias). They are very useful both in borders as annual bedding and in containers, flowering continuously until the first frosts, requiring little attention and thriving in sun or partial shade. There are some really pretty varieties, one being Begonia 'Volumina rose bicolour ' which has white blooms flushed with rose pink.

So in the end, the begonias were indeed purchased, planted and are doing their job as well as any begonia could.

Alison Main

Playground Appeal

Thank you to everyone who has sent in recipes for the cookbook. We hope to have it compiled and printed over the Summer but we could do with some more recipes before the end of May. Please send your family favourites to *Appeal.fontmellmagnavillagehall.com* or deliver to 3 Church Close or Blackmore Cottage on West Street.

Lisa Le Druillenec

Northern Lights Cruise to Norway: 3rd to 15th November 2019

This is a cruise to Norway for two people on the P&O ship the Aurora, leaving and returning to Southampton. It is for 12 nights, in a double outside cabin with a sea view. All meals/ entertainment are included. You are not guaranteed sight of the Northern Lights but there is a good chance that you will. The cost of the holiday is £1,414 each, and the balance has to paid by 5th August. If you are interested, please contact me asap on 811805 email me mercer sue@hotmail.com Sue Mercer

More on Fontmell Policemen

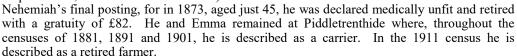
In the February 2019 Gossip Tree (Issue 300), there was an article about PC William Bennett (Bowles). The Archive Society has now obtained further information about him.

He started as a police constable (PC 94) in around 1860 based in Alderholt and was soon promoted from 3rd Class to 2nd Class. In 1863 he moved to Kinson, then to Wimborne in 1866. In 1867, he moved to Horton. In 1868, he was cautioned for "looking for poachers on private land." In 1869, he was reduced from 2nd to 3rd Class for "losing belt and helmet whilst drunk." He was moved back to Kinson and appears to have learned his lesson. In 1871, he was promoted back to 2nd Class. In 1873, he was given a 2nd Class Merit and in 1877 he was promoted from 2nd Class to 1st Class. He was transferred temporarily to Bere Regis in October 1877 to replace PC Thomas Bishop. On 20th September 1877, PC Bishop was escorting a drunken labourer Henry Lock from the Drax Arms in Bere Regis, when Lock smashed Bishop's head in with a piece of flint. The newspapers at the time covered the "murder" extensively but in fact Lock was later found guilty of manslaughter and sentenced to 10 years' penal servitude. Lock served his sentence in Wormwood Scrubs, returned to Dorset, married and had two children. Bishop's funeral was attended by a large number of villagers and local farmers, as well as "a large body of the Dorset constabulary".

In 1878, PC Bennett moved from Kinson to Holt but he succumbed to drink again for, in 1880, his record states "Drinking at Holt. No reports for many years. Removed to Stalbridge at own expense". He stayed in Stalbridge for four years and then moved to his final posting, Melbury Abbas, in 1884.

There was another Policeman from Fontmell, who appears to have joined a little earlier than William Bennett. This was PC 26 Nehemiah Spicer (1828-1917). Nehemiah was the son of John Spicer and Ann Sharp. In the 1841 census, Nehemiah, then only 12, was an agricultural labourer and, with his sister Betsy, was a boarder with Mrs Mary Mayo at the shop in Church Street. In 1851, he was still living in the village, but was now classified as a servant. At some stage in the late 1850s he must have left the village to join the Dorset Constabulary for, in 1860, the police records show that he had been stationed at Langton Matravers and was now posted at Steeple. In 1861, he was moved to Sixpenny Handley where he met and married Emma Lucas and where their first two children were born, Lot in 1862 and Frank in 1863. During this period Nehemiah was promoted from 3rd to 2nd Class constable.

Regular re-locations took the family first to Shapwick from 1864 to 1866 (where his third child George was born) and then to Wimborne and Spetisbury (where Sydney was born). Finally, he moved to Piddletrenthide in 1870 (where Harry, who also became a policeman, and Tom were born). This was



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.



Our final evening meeting for the current club year took place on Thursday 18th April with our Social Evening. We had a quiz, brought along plates of finger food and enjoyed a glass of wine or two as well as a raffle which included some lovely prizes - thank you for your kind donations.

We also put on a slide show of the wonderful Orchid Gardens of Singapore. Robin and I had visited these gardens last year and I thought it would be nice to share some of our pictures with the club. An amateur presentation with a certain amount of 'couples banter' led to an amusing commentary at times! The Gardens are certainly a wonderful experience with an amazing array of orchids set in beautifully designed walks around the garden. A truly memorable place to visit if you haven't been and find yourself needing a stop-over on your travels.

An appeal was also made for new committee members, a situation all organizations are finding themselves in. We love our community and all it has to offer but we do need to share the load if we want them to thrive and, more importantly, survive.

Enjoy your gardens, visit others for ideas and watch this space for future news of our Garden Show on Saturday 10th August.

Sue East

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 <u>Sunday 19th May 2019</u>. 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 <u>in colour</u> (while also saving us printing costs), or if you would like to sponsor an issue (cost £30).

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