



THE GOSSIP TREE

News & Views from the Parish of FONTMELL MAGNA

December
2019
Issue 310

Kindly sponsored by Richard Van Oss

In appreciation of Chris Bellar's past editorship and with best wishes to the new team. Past residents appreciate being kept in touch.

From the Gossip Tree Committee - Update

It is with some relief and much pleasure that we can tell you that the Gossip Tree has two new editors. Four people offered to take on the role and we thank them for coming forward. Time was a bit of a factor in deciding how to proceed so the first two, Graham Eames and Ann Ashford collaborated on devising a way to share the editorship between them. They will work more or less alternately with each responsible for their own monthly editions. This is a really good way to manage the workload and both have very positive ideas for future newsletters. Over the months there will be a few changes which we will be pleased to know your views on.

fmgossiptree@gmail.com or blueletterbox@btinternet.com

Happily, Chris Bellers says he is impressed with the November newsletter produced by Ann and is pleased to be able to stay in touch with Fontmell Magna. His hope is to be in his new home by Christmas.

Graham lives in West Street and Ann in St Andrews View. Ann will be assisted by her husband Mike. All of them welcome your contributions and the committee welcomes more sponsorship. Thank you so much to the people and organisations who promptly offered sponsorship support up to April.

The Gossip Tree Committee

Fontmell Magna shop, Post Office and Tea Room

A three course home-made Christmas Dinner will be prepared in the Tea Room on the 9th of December at £18.50 per person - 16 places will be available on a first come first served basis.

Please call us on 811201 or pop in to reserve your place!

We work with local businesses. You pay exactly the same as you would if you went directly to our sources. For example we are an outlet for:

- Shaftesbury Wines in the High Street
- Prime Cuts butchers in the High Street
- Canvas Dry cleaning and Laundry in Bell Street

Christmas order forms will be available at the shop from Monday 18th November for all your fayre: for, meat, dairy, groceries, gifts, trees (£22.00 and £35.00) cards etc. We can deliver if required.

Christmas decorations have been lovingly made by the Fontmell Craft Group. They are displayed in the window and all proceeds will go to the Headsmart Brain Tumour Charity.

Over Christmas and New Year our opening hours will be: Normal times up to Monday 23rd December

Tue 24th 8.00am- 6.00pm
Christmas Day & Boxing Day CLOSED
Fri 27th 9.00am - 2.00pm
Sat 28th 9.00am - 1.00pm
Sun 29th 9.00am - 11.00am
Mon 30th 9.00am - 6.00pm
Tue 31st 9.00am - 6.00pm
Wed 1st Jan CLOSED

Thereafter we are open as normal.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our customers and supporters and to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Jan and Rick xx



Notices – December 2019

St. Andrew's Church

Sun	1st	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		9.00am	St Andrew's Day Special
			Breakfast feast (Village Hall)
Sun	8th	9.30am	Morning Worship
Sun	15th	9.30am	Sung Communion (CW)
Sun	22nd	4.00pm	Carol Service (Candlelit)
Tue	24th	11.30pm	Midnight Communion (CW)
Wed	25th	9.30am	Family Friendly Christmas
			Day Service
Sun	29th	10.00am	Benefice Service -Shroton(CW)

Parish Council Meeting

Next meeting Mon 9th March 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

Normal opening hours:

Mon - Fri 8.00am - 6.00pm

Sat 9.00am - 1.00pm

Sun 9.00am - 11.00am

Christmas/New Year opening Hours - below

The Tea Room Crafters

Wed 11th Dec at 2.30pm. Enquiries: Barbara Humphreys blueletterbox@btinternet.com

The Fontmell

Opening Hours: Mon & Tue 10.00am - 10.00pm
Wed - Thur 10.00am - 11.00pm
Fri & Sat 10.00am - 11.30pm
Sun 10.00am - 8.00pm

For Christmas Opening Hours

Enquiries: 811441 or john@thefontmell.com

St. Andrew's School

Enquiries: 811500

Fontmell Magna Toddler Group

Enquiries: 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.

After School Club 3.00pm - 4.00pm at the Under 5's
Enquiries: 812773

'In Home' Coffee Morning 10.30am to 12noon

Fri 6th Dec hosted by Hazel & Carl Johnson at 'Chaseborough', West Street, Fontmell Magna
Fri 3rd Jan hosted by Gina & Paul Weldon at 'Fiferidge', West Street, Fontmell Magna.

Iwerne Valley Walking Group

Sat 21st Dec 10.30am starting from The Lambs' Green Inn, Green Lane, Wimborne BH12 3DN
Enquiries: Helen English 853472

Bell-ringing

Tue at Shroton - practice 7.30 to 8.45pm.
Enquiries: Caroline Rhodes 812002

Bin Collection Dates

Wed 11th & Fri 27th - Recycling & Food
Wed 4th & 18th - Rubbish & Food

Events in the Village Hall

Fontmell Magna & District Society
Fri 6th Dec at 7.30pm - 'The Wonderful World of Glass' by Dr Francis Burroughes.
Enquiries: Dick Stainer 811153

Sunday Breakfast
Sun 1st Dec at 9.00am. Run by St. Andrew's Church. All welcome.
Enquiries: Janet Smith 811904

Fontmell Films
Wed 11th Dec 'Yesterday'
With complimentary mulled wine & mince pies.
Doors open 7.00pm
Enquires: Libby Gendall 811551

North Dorset Wildlife Trust
Dec - no meeting
Wed 15th Jan 'Wildflower Wonders' - an illustrated talk by Dr. Bob Gibbons, author and wildflower tour leader.
www.dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk
Details: Anna Davies 01258 880699

Archive Society
Enquiries: Roger Hillman 811878

Garden Club
Fri 13th Dec Andrew Humphris
'Trees & Shrubs for Smaller Gardens'
Enquiries: Sue East 812349

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

Carpet Bowls Club
Thur 5th, 12th, 19th 7.30pm.
Enquiries: Gerry Bone 811814

Dru Yoga
Fri 9.30 to 11.00am.
Enquiries: Kirsty Elliot 829281

Pilates
Mon 5.30-6.30pm, 6.30-7.30pm.
STOTT Pilates Matwork & props.
Enquiries: Vicci Gillett 07940 961221 www.stable-bodies.co.uk
Tue 9.15-10.15am, 10.30-11.30am.
Enquiries: Lyn O'Neill 07989 192424

Taekwon-do
Tue 8.00-9.00pm, Fri 6.00-7.00pm.
Enquiries: Sam Donohoo 07584 039351

Zumba
Thur - Zumba Fitness 9.00-10.00am.
Community Fitness 10.15-11.00am
Enquiries Abby Down 850867

St Andrew's Breakfast

Sun Dec 1st 9.00am - Village Hall.
This month's breakfast will be a Scottish Breakfast Feast in celebration of St Andrew's Day.

If you enjoy a good breakfast including: black pudding, buttered toast, Scottish cup cakes, fruit juice and all the coffee and tea you can drink then please come along. **All welcome**

Parish Council Meeting – 11th November 2019 at 7.00pm

Present: Cllrs Michael Humphreys (MH) (Chair), Jeremy Long (JL), Annie Newbury (AN), and Clerk Marianne Wheatley (MW), DC Ward Cllr Jane Somper and 10 residents. **Apologies** – None **Declarations of Interest** – None

Public Questions:

Concern was raised about the blocked drains along most Village roads, particularly Mill St, Lurmer St, West St and Church St; the PC will request Highways to clear the drains.

Residents expressed a strong desire to acquire the BT Telephone Box in Church St.

A question was raised about faded road repair markings in West St that had not seen actual repairs; Highways will be asked to make repairs.

Road signs on the A350 had become obscured by vegetation; Highways will be asked to clear.

Election of Chair – Michael Humphreys was elected Chair, and Jeremy Long elected Vice-Chair.

Co-options

With the current complement of just 3 councillors it was decided to reduce the frequency of PC meetings to four per year until more councillors are available. Thus in 2020 meetings will be held in March, May, September, December, and special meetings called as necessary to deal with any urgent matters.

Minutes and Matters Arising – minutes of 2nd September meeting were approved.

VE Day 75th Anniversary – Barry Roberts outlined the plans for events on 8th May 2020. This is a combined effort by the Village Hall Committee, the Parochial Church Council and the Springhead Trust. Events will include a church service, games for children, lunch in Church St., a street parade. More details to follow. The PC will arrange for road closures, insurance and a temporary event license.

Parish Council Website – The PC is required by law to maintain an effective website. It was agreed in principle to spend c.£1,000 in upgrading the PC website, so that it is compliant with accessibility legislation and is supported fully in the future. The first stage to be initiated will be the of a design a new site.

Trees & Verges at Bedchester Crossroads – Work will go ahead to prune the Lime Tree. Discrete posts will be installed to reduce further erosion of the verge.

Farm Access in Mill Street – No further work has been undertaken on this development. However the large ditch is full of water and inadequately fenced from the adjoining footpath. DC will be contacted to address the flood risk and safety concerns with the landowner.

Dorset County Ward Councillor's Report

A presentation will be held on 5th December for local parishes on the priorities for the next four years and seeking views.

Highways are trialling a new micro-surface treatment for residential roads to fill cracks and holes.

DC has agreed that young people who have spent time in foster or residential care will be exempt from paying Council Tax. DC is working with the Dorset Community Foundation to help people in fuel poverty.

DC has declared a climate change emergency. A seminar will be held on 19th November to give advice on measures to reduce carbon emissions and what support will be available from DC.

DC is consulting on the working relationship it should have with Town and Parish Councils.

Reports from Parish Councillors

a. Planning – MH reported that the PC raised no objection to planning applications for the Chapel on Church St, Bedchester House and Little Hartgrove Farm. The PC will object to the application for Fernlea Cottage, Mill St, as the proposed hayloft dormer style window above the toilet is too large and is incongruous in this domestic setting; the PC believe this is contrary to Policy FM9 in the Neighbourhood Plan which deals with Building Design.

The PC agreed to purchase the BT Telephone Box in Church St as a heritage asset; potential uses include a library, information hub, gallery.

b. Trees – The PC had no objection to tree works at 27 Lurmer St, Charlies Cottage, 27 Orchard Close, 66 West St, 4 Orchard Close.

c. Highways – JL will attend a meeting of the A350 Community Group on 22nd January; there is a potential request for £250 for pollution monitoring equipment.

d. Environmental Protection – AN reported a successful parish litter pick on 3rd November with two dozen people turning out; the next litter pick is scheduled for February.

Cont'd/

e. Social Infrastructure – AN reported on plans for the Village Hall Christmas Fayre on 30th November; hopefully this event will be well supported. Dick Stainer provided an update on the FM Community Land Trust and possible support for the Village Shop: a liaison group is being formed to take forward the idea of a community hub combining the Village Hall and Surgery, JL will represent the PC on this group.

The idea of installing an electric vehicle charging point at the Village Hall is being explored.

f. District Liaison – MH reported on a recent DC workshop discussing the relationship between DC and town/parish councils; DC's proposals will be published in February.

g. Footpaths – JL will monitor footpaths around the parish.

h. Governance – MW described recent updates to the PC's policies and governing documents. Revised versions were approved and will be placed on the website www.fontmellmagnapc.co.uk

Report from the RFO

MW reported the current balance is £10,982.

A draft budget for 2020/21 was discussed, with projected expenditure of £9,471 in the financial year. It was agreed to spread the cost of the web site upgrade over two years to limit the increase in the precept and consequently the precept was set at £9,000 for 2020/21, compared to £8,500 for 2019/20.

Other Matters

War Memorial Gate – its condition will be examined and repairs instigated if necessary.

Climate Change Emergency – the PC decided to declare a climate emergency, joining many other towns and parishes in Dorset.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm. The next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council will be Monday 9th March 2020 at 7.00pm in the School Hall.

Fontmell Film Night

Our Christmas film showing on Wednesday 11th December is the musical comedy "Yesterday" directed by Danny Boyle and starring Himesh Patel, Lily James and Andrew Carlyle. Set in Lowestoft Jack Malik is a struggling singer-songwriter whose dreams of fame are fading fast when the world suffers a mysterious global blackout during which Jack is hit by a bus in a freak accident. Waking up to find that he is the only person who remembers the music of the Beatles Jack begins to play their music, claiming it as his own and becomes a worldwide sensation.

Tickets are £6 from Fontmell Village Shop or £6.50 on the door.



Doors and the bar open at 7pm when we will be serving complimentary mulled wine & mince pies with the film starting at 7.30pm!

Do come and join us and don't forget your cushion.

For more information please call Libby on 01747 811551.

Details to follow.

Community Litter! Thank you!

A HUGE thank you to all the fabulous volunteers who turned out on November 3rd to pick litter and make our Parish even more lovely. Litter pickers, old and young, did a magnificent job and collected significant amounts of rubbish although it was noted by everyone that there was less to collect this time, possibly because we've previously cleared the backlog!

Refreshments in the village hall afterwards were much enjoyed and special thanks are due to Lisa Le Druillenec for her hard work and delicious baking. Dorset Waste Partnership were as efficient as ever in providing the kit and collecting the rubbish afterwards. Our next community litter pick will be in early February when we're hoping that the autumn leaves will have blown away and the weeds will still be dormant. Details to follow.

Annie Newbury on behalf of the Parish Council.

Fontmell Magna and District Society

1st November - Commander Vernon Phillips- "Royal Navy Hovercraft in the Falklands 52 Years Ago"

Mention the Falklands Islands to anyone of a certain generation and they will immediately think of the 1982 war; but as Commander Vernon Phillips showed in his fascinating talk, evidence of the conflict was there long before.

In 1966 a group of Argentinian protesters hijacked an aeroplane, landed it on Stanley racecourse and briefly held a number of the Islanders captive. The Royal Navy decided to send out a hovercraft team to enable the Royal Marines stationed on the Islands to move swiftly to defend any settlement under attack.

The Commander and his team spent a year there, then handed over to a new team, after which incursions began.

This was a beautifully illustrated talk, using slides that the speaker had forgotten about until unearthing them in an attic. They showed the outstanding scenery with lots of sunshine and amiable King Penguins.

The next talk will be on 6 December: The Wonderful World of Glass, by Dr Francis Burroughes,

Village weather for October 2019



Another wet month with only 7 days without recordable rain (Requires over 0.2mm). The Celts, celebrated 'Samhain' on 31st Oct - a festival marking the end of the harvest and the start of 6 months of winter darkness.. Rather overtaken by Halloween these days.

1 ground frost, 8 air fronts, 1 day of thunder, 24 days of rain and 1 gale.

Comp. Figures	2019	2018
Rain (Most 25.3 mm on 12th)	135.0 mm	53.0 mm
Sunshine	58.4 hrs (ave 1.9 hrs)	98.8 hrs
Max mean temp. (highest 17.5 °C on 1st)	14.4 °C	15.2 °C
Min mean temp. (lowest -0.6 °C on 28th)	6.7 °C	5.6 °C



Compost Corner

I was listening to a radio programme recently all about artificial grass and its possible effect on the environment when another issue popped up in the discussion: how it is becoming quite common for people to request gardening companies to remove all berries from their shrubs and trees - why? - to discourage birds from their gardens and the consequent soiling of their York stone patios. Perhaps the next trend will be to have artificial shrubs with lovely plastic berries.

The bird population in the UK has declined by 44 million since 1966. Some species are now increasing in numbers, like sparrows (which had been in decline for several years) but others, like the turtle dove, are rarely seen. We can help birds by putting out feeders but they instinctively prefer natural food like berries and seeds. In our garden, one of the most popular berries that blackbirds particularly like is the common laurel, *Pyracantha* is another favourite - I remember once making a Christmas wreath for my door from *pyracantha* berries but then, some bird with not a hint of festive cheer, gobbled the lot.

So if you're struggling to think of Christmas presents, why not choose a berrying shrub or tree (a real one!) - and what's more, it's the ideal time to plant one.

Alison Main

VILLAGE CAROL SINGING

This year's carol singing will be on **Friday 13th December**

Everyone is welcome to come along and sing.

We meet at the Village Hall at **5.30** to collect the words and test our voices

then move on to

5.35 West View

5.45 Orchard Close

6.00 Fontmell Under 5s track

6.10 Parsley Cottage

6.15 The Gossip Tree

6.30 The Village Shop

6.35 Church close

6.45 St Andrew's View

(These times are approximate)

7 o'clock in the church for mulled wine and mince pies (or other goodies).

We do not knock on doors (or collect money) so please look out for us and encourage us by opening your doors and joining in.

Farewell to the Fontmell Fete...

Sadly, due to a lack of volunteers willing to help organise the annual village fete, it was decided at the October AGM that the constitution would be dissolved and the residual funds distributed between the church and the village hall.

Fete money has also been set-aside to support community activities and there have been suggestions that these might include a street fair/party next year to celebrate the 75th VE Day Anniversary. It would be great if the whole village could get behind such an event – we will be asking for your help in the New Year so please consider getting involved.

Finally, a huge THANK YOU to those who have organised and supported the fete over the years – you have been fantastic!

Alix Austen

Garden Club AGM 17th October 2019

I am pleased to report we had a good attendance at our AGM - despite the weather! Thank you one and all.

The business of the evening went reasonably well with all of the committee, except Briony Long, agreeing to stand again. A warm welcome to Jane Wallace who will be taking up her position on the committee this year and to Caroline Rucker for agreeing to join us.

We have 4 members who have agreed to organise the Garden Show next year, many thanks to Pat & Laurie Powell and Liz & Derek Bone. The role of secretary remains unfilled.

After a short recess to enjoy the goodies brought in by our members we resumed with an open discussion on some of our highs and lows of the gardening year - tips and tricks to help us all - Thank you.

Our evening concluded with the draw of a very flowery raffle - Thank you SJ.

Our next Talk this season will be on Friday Dec 13th 7.30 in the Village Hall.

Andrew Humphris will talk on 'Trees & Shrubs for Smaller Gardens'.

Please remember our talks are open to non members for a small charge of £2.00. Refreshments will be available.

Sue East

This December issue of The Gossip Tree comes from new Editors, who this month are: **Ann & Mike Ashford.**

We apologise in advance if we have made any errors or omissions.

Please would regular contributors for the January issue contact us via email:

fmgossiptree@gmail.com or phone **01747 812195**

Alternatively, contact the **Chairman, Barbara Humphreys**, email: **blueletterbox@btinternet.com** if you would like further information

Submissions for the January issue by Friday 13th December please.

The views expressed in this publication by contributors are not necessarily those of the Editors or of the Committee of The Gossip Tree.