



THE GOSSIP TREE

News & Views from the Parish of FONTMELL MAGNA

Kindly sponsored by Fontmell Magna Village Shop, Post Office & Cafe

NOVEMBER

2020

Issue 321

From the Gossip Tree Committee

Welcome to the November edition of the Gossip Tree. Thank you to all of the people who responded to the survey about how you would like to receive your copy of the Gossip Tree.

SPONSORSHIP— Now that we are printing paper copies again, we are looking for people to sponsor the monthly editions of the Gossip Tree. The cost is £30 per issue and if you would be interested in sponsoring then please contact Barbara Humphreys (blueletterbox@btinternet.com.)

Graham Eames on behalf of the Gossip Tree Committee

Fontmell Magna Village shop, post office and café



It's coming up to THAT time of year again.

Whilst some things may be different over Christmas and New Year our Christmas Fayre ordering and free delivery service will remain the same.

Most of you will be aware we work alongside many local companies e.g. Chimes card company, The Real Cure (Hartgrove), Dorset honey (Twyford), Dorset Chocolate Co., Prime Cuts (Shaftesbury), Leopard Dairy (Iwerne), Meggy Moo (Shroton), Shaftesbury Wines, Mrs. Mack's dressing, Shaftesbury Gold marmalade, Cann Mills flour, Wiltons wholefoods (huge variety of dried fruits and nuts), Moores biscuits, Plant World (Gillingham) and Long Crichel bakery and of course not forgetting Lavender Blue (Gillingham) cakes and patisserie. We also sell over 40 varieties of cheese so please ask if you can't find your favourite.

Please remember that when ordering through us in most cases you will pay the same as if buying directly from the individual company.

Meat, dairy, fruit & veg, alcohol and groceries can be ordered directly from the shop in person or on 01747 811201.

Christmas trees will be here again this year and ideally be ordered, in person or by phone, by 21st November please. Other products please order asap.

Small trees 4'-5' £25.00

Medium 5'-6' £33.00

Large 7'-9' £45.00



Order forms will be available in the shop from December 1st.

Notices – November 2020

St. Andrew's Church - Services for November

Please see announcement on page 2 for details

Parish Council Meeting

Next meeting Mon 14th December at 7.00pm by Zoom.

Parish Clerk: Marianne Wheatley
clerk@fontmellmagnapc.co.uk

Local Councillor—Jane Somper

Email: cllrjane.somper@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Tel: 07710 395359

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

Enquiries: 811201

The Tea Room Crafters

Meetings 11th and 25th November at 1430.

Enquiries: Jenny White 812042

The Fontmell

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

Enquiries: 812773

Iwerne Valley Walking Group

For details contact Claire on: 07708473568.

Enquiries: Helen English: 853472 or 07789 845498

Bell-ringing

Meetings cancelled till further notice.

Enquiries: Caroline Rhodes 812002

Bin Collection Dates – July

W/C 6th & 20th - Recycling & Food

W/C 13th & 27th - Rubbish & Food

Fontmell Magna & District Society

Meetings cancelled till further notice.

Enquiries: Dick Stainer 811153

Sunday Breakfast

Meetings cancelled till further notice.

Enquiries: Janet Smith 811904

Fontmell Films

Meetings cancelled till further notice.

Enquiries: Libby Gendall 811551

From the Fontmell



we are open every day all day for drinks and food
Monday-Saturday 12-2/6-8 and Sunday 12-4, serving
a daily changing menu - Please support your local!



Events in the Village Hall

North Dorset Wildlife Trust

Meetings cancelled till further notice.

www.dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk**Archive Society**

Meetings cancelled till further notice.

Enquiries: Roger Hillman 811878

Garden Club

Meetings cancelled till further notice.

Enquiries: Sue East 812349

Fontmell Magna Art Club

Meetings cancelled till further notice.

Enquiries: Sandra Jelbart 812468

Carpet Bowls Club

Meetings cancelled till further notice.

Enquiries: Gerry Bone 811814

Dru Yoga

Meetings cancelled till further notice.

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

Pilates

Enquiries: Carol Pirie
07885 798 032 mail@pirieuk.com

Taekwon-do

Enquiries:
Sam Donohoo 07584 039351

Zumba

Enquiries Abby Down 850867
zumbawithabbyd@gmail.com

To book the Hall, please contact :

Sian Highnam on 811028 or email bookings.fmvh@mail.com

St Andrew's Church, Fontmell Magna**CHURCH SERVICE CHANGES.**

Due to the present Covid situation please note the following necessary changes.

REMEMBRANCE DAY 8th November

There will be NO service in church.

War memorial service at 10.45am. Please wear face coverings and observe social distancing.

CHRISTMAS DAY.

Numbers in the church will be limited to 40. To book a seat please add your name to the list in the church or email Lavender using lfbuckland@me.com

There will be the midnight service (starting at 11.30pm) and also a Christmas morning service at 9.30am. To give more people the opportunity to attend we ask that you choose only one of these services.

8.00am SERVICE

The 8am (BCP) Communion service usually held on the first Sunday of each month will be suspended until further notice.

1 st		No Service
8 th	10.45	Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial
15 th	9.30	Holy Communion with choir (CW)
22 nd	9.30	Holy Communion (CW)
29 th	9.30	Advent Service

Village weather for September 2020

A warm, unsettled start followed by a mini heat wave; some cloudless days. September ended cold but sunny until Storm Alex approached with some heavy rain to end the month.

9 rain days, 0 air frost, 3 ground frost. 0 gales, no hail or thunder.

Comp. Figures	2020	2019
Rain (Most 20.3mm on 30th)	55.4 mm	38.1 mm
Sunshine	139.7 hrs (ave 4.7 hrs)	136.7 hrs
Max mean temp. (highest 27.5 °C on 14th)	19.6 °C	19.2 °C
Min mean temp. (lowest 0.2 °C on 28th)	8.6 °C	8.29 °C

Buddleias— A huge thank you to all the helpers who braved the unsettled weather to cut them back, the job was completed in record time.
Judy Westgate

Please welcome the following people who have moved to the village:

Anne & John who have moved into Brooklands Barn from Effingham in Surrey.

Melanie & Gordon who have moved into Nursery Cottage in South St with their 3 children.

Joss & Tony who have moved into Dairy Cottage, North Street.

Obituary—John Gadd

Everyone at the Gossip Tree was very sad to learn at the end of September, of the death at the age of 90, of John Gadd. John supported the Gossip Tree keenly over many years. As part of the inaugural group he attended the first meeting on 13/1/94 and was a past chair of the committee.

John liked facts and here are some supplied by his daughter Alison.

He was born on Christmas day in 1929 in Rochester, Kent to Geo and Dora Gadd. Geo was a Colonel in the Royal artillery. During the second world war John was evacuated to Somerset, he went to Kings School Bruton and then to Aberdeen University. In 1955 he married Barbara and they were together until her death 62 years later in 2017. After moving to Pimperne Dorset in 1964 they came to Scallow Cottage in 1983 so that John was a resident of Fontmell Magna for 37 years.

John was an International Pig Consultant who wrote over 3,000 articles and 4 reference books. He visited 33 countries professionally and loved holidays in Italy. A prolific collector of antiques and books, he specialised in those on WW1, mountaineering and TE Lawrence. John's local interests included archives and Dorset history and he was notable for the 170 volumes of diaries which he kept over his lifetime. They can be seen now at The Dorset History Centre. He died in August.

He is survived by Alison his only daughter who lives in Iwerne Minster. John's ashes will be placed with Barbara's within view of Scallow Cottage in private woodland.

Fontmell Magna Parish Council – Meeting on 28th September 2020 at 7.00pm

Due to the Coronavirus restrictions the Parish Council meeting took place using the Zoom videoconferencing service. Draft minutes of the meeting are available on the PC Website http://www.fontmellmagnapc.co.uk/FontmellMagna-PC/Meetings_and_Minutes_9778.aspx

Present: Cllrs Michael Humphreys (MH) Chair, Annie Newbury (AN), Andy Main (AM) and Clerk Marianne Wheatley (MW), DC Ward Cllr Jane Somper (JS), plus 4 residents.

Public Questions:

No public questions were raised at the meeting. Prior to the meeting a resident had queried the materials and finish of a new property along Parsonage Street, whether these conformed to the planning permission granted.

Apologies – Cllr Long (JL) subsequently sent apologies for his absence.

Minutes of the Meeting 8th June 2020 – these were approved unanimously.

Matters Arising

Development on Land near Home Farm, South Street – The planning application remains undecided. The Chair wrote to the developers Pennyfarthing Home to request an update prior to the meeting but none was forthcoming; the Chair will follow-up.

PC Website – The new website is nearly ready to go live. A significant issue remains unresolved on the presentation of planning applications; the Chair will follow-up.

BT Telephone Box – The owner of the freehold of the village shop has elected to purchase the BT telephone box and accordingly the Parish Council is no longer able to proceed with its adoption. There is no information available on its future use.

War Memorial Hedge – Hedge maintenance is complete and has been paid for by the owners.

Dorset County Ward Councillor's Report - Jane Somper's report is available on the PC website.

JS reported Dorset Council staff would be working from home until at least March 2021, which has made some processes more difficult. Dinah's Hollow would be closed on 5-6th October to install a variable message sign. Proposed work to improve the road safety at Gore Clump is likely to be scheduled at the same time as more extensive stabilization work in Dinah's Hollow; there are legal issues to resolve on both projects. The proposed works would take about 7 months to complete.

Reports from Parish Councillors

a. Planning – MH thanked the Neighbourhood Plan Monitoring Group for their continued work in assessing planning applications for conformance with the NP and providing advice to the Parish Council. A summary of planning applications processed since the NP was made in November 2018 is available on the PC website. It shows that a total of 9 new dwellings have been approved at sites around the parish.

The Government's proposals to reform the planning system are out for consultation. There are major implications for parishes in these proposals; Dorset Council is working to provide more information and advise on the potential impact on parishes. The Parish Council intends to respond to the consultation.

The Chair reported that 9 planning applications has been received for consultation.

The PC is supporting applications at Old Post Office, Bedchester; Pipers Mill Cottage; 25 Orchard Close; Penn Hill Farm; West Lea; Brooklands Barn West; Lower Hartgrove Farm.

The Neighbourhood Plan came into force in November 2018 as part of the Dorset Local Plan. As Dorset Council does not maintain a 5 year housing land supply, the NP has a currency of just 2 years. The PC is taking advice on the desirability and timing of updating the NP so that it can continue to be given its full weight by Dorset Council in considering planning applications that impact the village or wider parish.

b. Highways – JL reported a tree had fallen on BT phone lines along Mill Street. Discussions had been held with the Highways Community Officer regarding the proposed works at Dinah's Hollow. JL confirmed the drains in Parsonage St. had been cleared.

c. Environmental Protection – AN expressed her thanks to residents for participating in the Cut Less Cut Later campaign for verges. There had been a noticeable uplift in wildflowers and herbs in verges around the parish. AN has been clearing pavements in Orchard Close of moss growth. With the current Coronavirus restrictions no date could be set for the next organized parish litter pick. The PC agreed to make a request to residents to clear any litter from the stretch of road adjacent to their property, to keep litter under control; this request will be made in the next Gossip Tree.

d. Social Infrastructure – AN confirmed that the defibrillator pads has been renewed. The call sign and postcode on the defibrillator case would be made more weather-proof.

The newly installed verge posts at Bedchester crossroads had been damaged by Wessex Water. The Clerk will contact Wessex Water to check whether they will re-instate the posts and meet the costs.

AN advised that the Village Hall is operational again and bookings can be taken for regular users. A pre-Christmas fair is planned for 17th October. A fast broadband link will be installed soon and a hearing loop is now available.

e. District Liaison – MH advised he will attend a webinar on “communicating and engaging with your local community in a post-lockdown world”.

f. Footpaths – AM advised he had walked most of the footpaths in the parish and found the access, stiles and gates are generally in good order. He had asked the school to trim the path by the school. Dorset Wildlife Trust had been contacted regarding clearing the ponds along Mill Street which are being clogged by Starwort; DWT are looking to see what can be done.

g. Trees – Dorset Council deals with all applications without consulting the parish council. All applications seen looked reasonable.

h. Governance – MH advised he is liaising with Sutton Waldron on recruiting a replacement Clerk/RFO when Marianne Wheatley steps down in February 2021. Although it seemed sensible for the two parishes to conduct the recruitment jointly this approach is not viable for legal reasons and so the parishes will recruit separately.

Cllr Main will attend a New Councillor's training course.

Report from the RFO

The Clerk provided updated reports on income and expenditure and spend vs budget to date. With receipt of the second half of the precept the available balance stands at £12,401. Spending to date is in line with the budget; the only major item of expenditure coming up is for the website upgrade. Some provision has been made for costs to update the Neighbourhood Plan and payment for Zoom licenses.

Invoices paid since the last meeting: Zoom-£43.17; DAPTC-£251.59; Vale Garden Services-£50 and £25; Hawes Arborists-£294; DM Payroll-£44.50; Clerk's salary Jun Jul Aug-£1041.86.

Review of Financial Regulations, Standing Orders, Code of Conduct and other policies

The Clerk confirmed she had undertaken a review of various council policies and found them to be fit for purpose. A new Code of Conduct is currently being consulted on, which when published would need to be considered by the PC.

Other Matters

Sovereign Housing – JS asked if the PC would be commenting on the planning applications recently submitted by Sovereign Homes in relation to affordable homes in St Andrews View and Elbury View. JS confirmed that Dorset Council's legal team were looking at the affect of the proposed change to S106 agreements and possible implications for tenants. Sovereign Homes have made similar applications in other places in Dorset. The PC agreed that it would comment to say that “The Parish Council had no objection to this application provided it does not affect the current tenants or the provision of affordable housing generally”.

The meeting closed at 8.16pm. The next meeting is on **Monday 14th December 2020 at 7.00pm** and will be held via Zoom videoconferencing.



Imaginative play for children

Pop Up Play VILLAGE

Popping up at
Fontmell Magna Village Hall
Sun 15th November
10.30 - 11.45am

In and Around North Dorset

Play Sessions
Parties
Hire a Play Area

Our play village features:

Veterinary Centre
Construction Site
Play Nursery

Baby Play Area
Café
Library

To book a session or for more information:-
www.popupplayvillage.co.uk
email: northdorset@popupplayvillage.co.uk
@PopUpPlayVillageNorthDorset
popupplayvillagenorthdorset

A New Venture is coming to Fontmell Magna Village Hall

We are very pleased to announce that Pop Up Play Village will be running a regular monthly Play Session for children from Sunday 15th November.

This first session is sold out, but if you are interested in coming along in December please do get in touch with Helen Poll: northdorset@popupplayvillage.co.uk or to see what these sessions offer please view the website: <https://popupplayvillage.co.uk/play-sessions/>

Fontmell Magna Village Hall

To book the hall please contact Sian Highnam on: 811 028 bookings.fmvh@mail.com



Compost Corner

Would you peel a potato with some scissors? No. So when I volunteered to help a friend with some tree pruning and was given some edging shears to do the job I was more than a little puzzled; not exactly the ideal tool for the job. It transpired that shears were the only available option so the pruning was delayed until reinforcements appeared in the form of some nice big loppers and a pruning saw. Having the right tool for any job makes any garden task so much easier, and there is plenty of stuff to do in Autumn including lawn care. Here are a few tools which are really useful right now: leaf rake to collect fallen leaves; leaf grabbers to pick them up (store in sacks which when rotted down become an excellent soil conditioner); spring tine rake to remove thatch from the lawn; hollow tine lawn aerator to improve drainage; half-moon lawn edger to neaten the edges and finally if you have any energy left, use a long handled bulb planter to add some bulbs which can naturalise in the grass.

One of my very bad habits is losing my secateurs in piles of prunings only to rediscover them rusted away in the compost heapso with Christmas not that far away, I know what's going on my list.

Alison Main

NEWS FROM THE VILLAGE HALL

The Pottery Painting Workshop returns

November 28th at Fontmell Magna Village Hall - 10am to 12noon

Here's another chance for you to paint some pottery and create some unique personalised gifts for Christmas.

All you have to do is:

*Choose a piece of pottery. Have a go.
Make a unique gift
Create your own plate, bowl or mug.*

The Pottery Painting is great fun and you only pay for what you paint – prices start from around £5. It is set up with socially distanced tables for individuals or households and operates following all the current Covid-19 compliant regulations.

Here are some photos from last time.



For further information and to book your place please contact:

AMANDA HOTTINGER 07951 062473 or amandarty@hotmail.co.uk

Look out for the promotional posters around the Village coming soon.

The Early Christmas Market

What a fantastic day we had! We were blessed with lovely, bright Autumn weather and plenty of happy, smiling faces. It was such a good day seeing so many villagers and friends being able to get out in safe surroundings. The 22 stall holders had a good day with enough people visiting to make it worthwhile. Many said it was the first market they had been to this year so they were glad just to get out for the day. The day was filled with fun and humour with a number of shoppers caught out by Sian Higham and her identical twin sister running the Mine and Cranborne's stall!

Take Away food supplied by Susannah De Ferry Foster and her team was outstanding. Pulled pork, sausages, soup, chocolate brownies and more, there was not a morsal left – proof of its popularity.

At lunchtime the sound of beautiful pipers echoed around the village as we were entertained by the Pipe Band of Clayesmore School. They were quite outstanding. It was so nice to hear live music again and see a few toes tapping to the beat!

The first preview of The Fontmell Magna Village Hall recipe book, "Recipes From our Dorset Kitchens" compiled and edited by Annie Newbury and Kim Masters, was on show. Kim was on hand to talk to interested buyers. We had good interest and a number of advance orders. More on this in later editions!

We ran a hamper raffle with over 20 fantastic hampers with most of the items being generously donated. I have to say we received many many compliments and managed to sell a good amount of tickets. Thank you to all who donated items and whole hampers.

Events like this cannot take place without the help of many volunteers. A big thank you to:

The team of Gazebo erectors – Dick Stainer, Jim Higham, Tim Le Druillenec, Robin East, Robert McCurrach and Christian Yates who all worked incredibly hard. Roy Foster for putting up the bunting and signage. Lastly a special thank you must go to Lisa Le Druillenec and Sian Higham for all their hard work and mountains of enthusiasm!

Rosie-Anne Yates

Chairman, FMVH



SPRINGHEAD TRUST

I am sorry not to have been in touch for some time but, as I am sure you realise, Springhead has effectively been closed since March. Sadly, we will not be able to host the Christmas *Garden of Delights* this year.

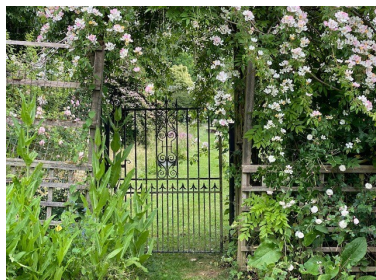
However, through the hard work of our team, we have secured government funding and grants from private trusts which will enable us to continue over the next few months, as well as renovating some of our buildings and improving both the ornamental and productive gardens.

We will be in touch in a couple of weeks with more details of what has been happening in the background at Springhead over the summer and our plans for the future. In the meantime, here are a couple of photos to whet your appetite.

Best wishes

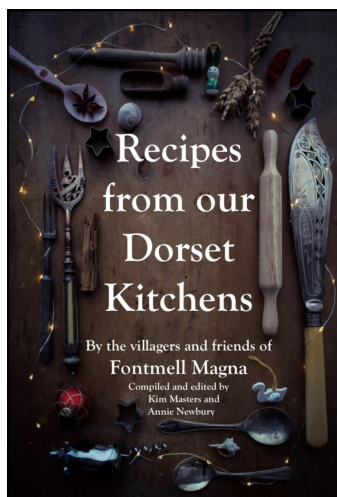
Kate Partridge

Coordinator – Friends of Springhead



Fontmell Magna Cookery Book - £10 - proceeds to the Village Hall Playground Appeal

This much anticipated publication is now available to buy from the Village Shop or direct from the Village Hall Committee just email: cook-book.fmvh@mail.com to order



Obituary - Patrick Murphy

Patrick Murphy of St Andrews's View died peacefully, but unexpectedly at St Denis Lodge, Shaftesbury on 16th September. He was in his 92nd year and had been a resident in Fontmell Magna since 1998. He was loved by all who knew him for his light-hearted attitude to life, his generosity and great sense of humour.

Joy, his wife, would like to thank everyone for the many messages of sympathy received in appreciation of a life well-lived.

Christmas Child Okeford Art Trail

November 27, 28 and 29, 2020

11 am to 4 pm

To bring some Christmas cheer to our village, 16 Artists, painters, potters, glass blowers and scarf makers are offering open studios to see and buy their work in a socially distanced way. Look out for our Child Okeford Art Trail Map which will be available in local shops etc and will help you stroll around our arty village. The cafe and pubs offer refreshments and will be open for the majority of this time. Please do come and support our event, which will be in accordance with government guidelines.

Admission Free

Local artists Martin Brierley (from Hartgrove) and John Goodman (formerly from Hartgrove) will be showing together with Sue Bates (from Shroton), at the Child Okeford Community Centre, as part of this event.

Further information from John Goodman

Email: forrgood@live.com



This November issue of The Gossip Tree was edited by : **Graham Eames**.
We apologise in advance if we have made any errors or omissions
Please would regular contributors for the December issue contact me via email:

(mgossiptree@gmail.com)

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

Submissions for the December issue by Wednesday 18th November please.

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

If you would always like to receive The Gossip Tree by email, please let us know at **fmgossiptree@gmail.com**