



# THE GOSSIP TREE

January 2020  
Issue 311

News & Views from the Parish of FONTMELL MAGNA

Kindly sponsored by John Ault

If you would like to receive The Gossip Tree by email, please let us know at [fmgosstree@gmail.com](mailto:fmgosstree@gmail.com)

## From the Gossip Tree Committee

Welcome to the January edition of the Gossip Tree. Thanks to all of the contributors who send their reports in, the news on what is going on in the village is important to us all. This month sees the introduction of a new feature, Local Knowledge, where I will review local businesses, places to walk and local pubs, some of which may have escaped the attention of even the most long standing resident. If you have any suggestions for things to feature in this, please contact us at the Gossip Tree email.

The Gossip Tree team are very grateful to Sue for collecting and delivering the December edition even though her partner was extremely ill in November. We send her sympathy and sincere condolences at this difficult and sad time.

The Gossip Tree Committee ([fmgosstree@gmail.com](mailto:fmgosstree@gmail.com))

## Fontmell Film Night

Happy New Year—Our first film of 2020 will be on Wednesday 8th January and is the 2019 British comedy-drama "Blinded by the Light" (12A) Javed is a British teenager of Pakistani descent growing up in 1987 in the Thatcher era where jobs are being lost and the right-wing National Front is on the rise. Javed writes poetry and uses this together with his love of the music of Bruce Springsteen as a means to escape the intolerance of his hometown and the inflexibility of his Father. Tickets are £6 from Fontmell Village Shop or £6.50 on the door. Doors and the bar open at 7pm and the film starts at 7.30pm. Future film dates: Wednesday 12th February "Downton Abbey" (PG) Wednesday 11th March "Knives Out" (12A)

## OBITUARY—John T Jennings DFC, 22/2/1924—28/11/2019

My Father John Jennings came to the village back in 1975 and bought his first house here having decided this is where he and his family would finally settle down after a life of constantly moving every couple of years. He took a great interest in village life and served as a member of the Parish council for many years, only retiring from the post at the ripe old age of 90. He always took a great interest in the village and the protection of the village boundaries from overdevelopment or interference from the County Council.

He was also a former fighter pilot of world war 2, flying both Hurricanes and Spitfires, he joined the RAF at the beginning of 1942 just shy of his 18th Birthday. He was sent to Canada for training along with approximately thirty two other young men, of whom sadly only nineteen lived to complete the training. He was then posted to serve in Italy, North Africa and Palestine before being demobbed in 1947. After a brief period in Civvi Street he was asked to rejoin the Air Force and remained in it until his retirement in 1979 having attained the rank of Group Captain. After which he spent ten years as Managing Director of NICEIC. During his long service career he flew over thirty different aircraft. To name but a few; Vampire, Meteor, Mustang, Hunter and Lightning. Later during the Aden conflict he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for exceptional flying skills that were instrumental in the rescue and escape of six SAS soldiers. General Sir Peter De La Billière makes mention of these events and his actions in his autobiography. My father on occasion was asked to take high profile passengers on board - both artist David Shepherd and Journalist Clair Hollingworth are two that I recall him mentioning. Another highlight of his flying career was that he led the fly past celebrations for the independence of Kenya and Tanzania in 1963 and very recently he was asked to both proof read and write the Foreword for the Book "Hunters over Arabia" by Ray Deacon"

We will hold his funeral in the village church at 1pm on January 17th

## Notices – January 2020

### 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](mailto: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

### The Tea Room Crafters

Wed 8th and Wed 22nd Jan at 2.30pm. Enquiries: Barbara Humphreys [blueletterbox@btinternet.com](mailto: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](mailto: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 3rd January hosted by Gina & Paul Weldon at Chessels, The Mead, Fontmell Magna  
Fri 7th February hosted by Janet & Phillip Smith at 'Fiferidge' West Street, Fontmell Magna

### Iwerne Valley Walking Group

Sat 18th Jan 10 am starting from Home Farm Tearoom, Tarrant Gunville, DT11 8JW. Leaders: Jim & Cathy Bird Tel: 01258 861526

### Bell-ringing

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

### Bin Collection Dates Jan 2020

W/c 7th & 21st - Recycling & Food  
W/c 14th & 28th - Rubbish & Food

**Events in the Village Hall**  
Fontmell Magna & District Society

Enquiries: Dick Stainer 811153

**Sunday Breakfast**

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

**Fontmell Films**

Wed 8th January 'Blinded by the Light' Doors open 7.00pm Enquires: Libby Gendall 811551

**North Dorset Wildlife Trust**

Wed 15th Jan 'Wildflower Wonders' - an illustrated talk by Dr. Bob Gibbons, author and wildflower tour leader.

[www.dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk](http://www.dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk)

Details: Anna Davies 01258 880699

**Archive Society**

Enquiries: Roger Hillman 811878

**Garden Club**

Thu January 16th Malcolm Mills "Bees in the Garden" 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](http://www.stable-bodies.co.uk)

Tue 9.15-10.15am, 10.30-11.30am. Enquiries: Lyn O'Neil 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 [zumbawithabbyd@gmail.com](mailto:zumbawithabbyd@gmail.com)

**To book the Village Hall, please contact Sian Highnam on 811208 or [bookings.fmvh@gmail.com](mailto:bookings.fmvh@gmail.com)**

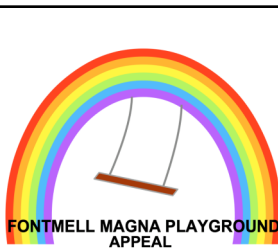


**Village Halls Week comes to Fontmell Magna - celebrating England's 10,000 Village Halls**

Look out for events at **Fontmell Magna Village Hall** this January as part of National Village Halls Week – **20 to 26 January**.

To publicise our new Wednesday Lunches, we will be offering a hot 2 Course Meal for £5 on **Saturday 25th January**.

All are welcome to come along to the lunch and find out more about our special Wednesday Lunches. To book or for further information please contact Lisa on: 812 500 or Rosie-Anne on: 07710326339



**FM Playground Appeal – Logo Competition Winner**

Thank you to all the children who entered the competition to design a Logo for the Playground Appeal. The winner was chosen at the Christmas Fayre and a pass for Crazy Monsters has been presented to Izumi Thom. Her logo will be appearing on our marketing material soon. Congratulations Izumi.



**Playground Appeal funds boosted by 2<sup>nd</sup> Christmas Fayre Fundraiser**

The Christmas Fayre held in the Village Hall on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November raised a very welcome £1,646.38 which brings this year's fundraising total to £4,023.30. The organisers would like to thank everybody who contributed to its success; the volunteer helpers, the cake, jam and chutney makers, Father

Christmas and his elves, and indeed, everyone who donated time and goodies. A special thanks to everyone who came and spent so generously! The lucky winner of the Luxury Christmas Hamper was Louise Murchie.

Fontmell Magna Village Hall, Playground Appeal - Registered Charity No: 301129

**Gifted a gadget this Christmas? Free and friendly help is available**

If you have been gifted a computer or gadget over Christmas and don't know how to switch it on or make the most of it then help is at hand.

There are over 75 Digital Champions volunteering in Dorset libraries to help people with computers, tablets, phones and more. Most have gained experience from their professional careers.

Some Dorset residents say they feel excluded if they are offline and that learning with a Digital Champion boosts their confidence and helps them stay safe and independent.

Thanks to the Superfast Dorset team it is easy to find your nearest volunteer. Call Dorset's Digital Champion helpline on 01305 221048 and we'll answer any questions about the support available. All our help is free.

**LOCAL KNOWLWDGE**

**1. Meggy Moo's, Park Farm, Shroton**

One of the recent trends has been the purchase of milk and other produce direct from the farm. Milk stations are popping up all over the area and Meggy Moo's is an award winning site right on our doorstep.

As well as selling pasteurised, non homogenised milk, which can either be purchased by refilling your own glass milk bottle or in a plastic container, they sell cream, milk shakes, fresh eggs, cakes and meats in the freezer as well as other produce.

They won Best Product/Producer at the 2019 Dorset Food & Drink Farming Awards. For full details of what they do, visit their website [www.meggymoosdairy.co.uk](http://www.meggymoosdairy.co.uk).

**Village weather for November 2019**

A lot of cloudy damp days, only 7 without rain. Colder mid-month ending with some night frosts. 22 rain days, 2 gales, no hail or thunder. 6 air frost, 16 ground frost.

Comp. Figures	2019	2018
Rain (Most 23 mm on 6th)	117.9 mm	53.0 mm
Sunshine	42.1 hrs (ave 1.4 hrs)	95.5 hrs
Max mean temp. (highest 15.1 °C on 1st)	9.6 °C	15.24 °C
Min mean temp. (lowest -2.8 °C on 9th)	3,5 °C	5.6 3°C

**SPRINGHEAD EVENTS**

[www.springheadtrust.org.uk/events](http://www.springheadtrust.org.uk/events)

**Sunday 2 February, 2-3.30, *Storytelling and Indian music workshop.*** Before the performance of *The Ramayana* later, explore the colourful and vibrant world of Indian mythology and music with storyteller, Emily Hennessey and musician and composer, Sheema Mukherjee. Limited places. Tickets £8 from Artsreach [www.artsreach.co.uk](http://www.artsreach.co.uk) or Springhead.

**Thursday 13 February, 10-4** – open garden in conjunction with the Shaftesbury Snowdrops' Festival. The beautiful lakeside gardens at Springhead will be open to visitors with plants for sale and the café open for tea, coffee, cakes and light lunches. Admission is £3.50 with Friends of Springhead and children under 16 free. Dogs on leads are welcome and the gardens are accessible to assisted wheelchair users.

Also on **Thursday 13 February** at 3.00pm, we are delighted to welcome harpist Sarah Deere-Jones who will run a **harp workshop**. Sarah has performed original and traditional music for harp and voice throughout her career, and has been a guest artist at the major harp festivals around the world including the Edinburgh Harp Festival UK, Somerset Festival in New York, Blue Mountain Harp Holiday Australia, Wales International harp Festival, Big Sky in Montana USA and the Lorient and Dinan Festivals Brittany. £20, very limited spaces so please book early.

**Then at 7.30 Sarah will perform a concert** accompanied on guitar by her husband Phil Williams. Her music is an exciting blend of subtle and dazzling arrangements of traditional tunes and haunting singing of folk songs as well as her original pieces for harp which have broken new ground for the lever harp and have been included in exam lists for harp students around the world.

Adult £10, Friends of Springhead and U18 £8. Tickets from Springhead or [www.ticketsource.co.uk](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk)

**VE Day 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – Fri 8<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

The Church, Village Hall and Springhead Trust are working together to organise a special VE Day Anniversary celebration on the Bank Holiday - Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May for the parish. The morning will start with a Church Service, followed by Lunch and a Street Fair in Church Street. There will be a treasure hunt trail through the Village and activities for the Children at Springhead. The afternoon will be rounded off with a Tea Party in the Churchyard.

Needless to say, we are looking for volunteers. If you are interested in helping on the day please contact: Barry Roberts: 811 906 or Lisa Le Druillenec: 812 500

**Fontmell Magna and District Society**

**6th December: The wonderful World of Glass: Dr Francis Burroughes**

The earliest natural glass appeared in the world about 700 million years ago through volcanic activity. This obsidian was very popular with the Victorians who used it to make jewellery. Modern glass was first made by humans around 3000 BC in what became known as Syria and Mesopotamia and its use spread throughout the Middle East and into Egypt, commonly found in Egyptian burial sites. Even at these times (c1500BC), trade brought these glass beads into Europe, and they have been found on many sites, including Avebury.

Dr Burroughes brought a magnificent collection of glass objects which he most trustingly handed around, some of which were extremely valuable and rare, introducing a sense of suspense to the meeting as we passed to each other exquisite vases, goblets and heavy decanters. The earliest of these objects was indeed a set of glass beads dated about 1500 BC from an Egyptian burial site. In about 100 BC the Romans discovered the art of blowing glass at very high temperatures (previously moulds were used) and this technique has remained the same ever since.

The centre of glass manufacture moved from the Roman Empire back to the Middle East, from there to Venice and then to Sussex in around 1260 and thence to south London, the north east, Bristol and Stourbridge. Different substances were added, lead produced clear glass, cobalt blue, uranium (!) apple green. Glass manufacture was a major UK industry until it all but disappeared in the 1960's due to fuel cost rises and a selective employment tax. We saw - and were allowed to handle - some beautiful and precious pieces, and came away with a much better understanding of what lies behind the objects that we take for granted in our daily lives.

**Compost Corner**



Happy New Year to everyone! But will it be a good year for the garden - will it be very cold, very wet, or very hot? There's not much we can do about the weather but here are a few gardening tips they may help in the year ahead:

**-Don't -**

Plant invasive species like comfrey, lemon balm or horseradish

Use slug pellets - they end up poisoning our songbirds

Chop the leaves off daffodils until 6 weeks after they have stopped flowering

Decant chemicals into old bottles

Walk on frosty lawns - it kills the grass

Use old railway sleepers - they are saturated with noxious chemicals and ooze tar

**-Do -**

Make compost - use it to mulch your borders

Feed your lawn - grass is a hungry plant

Leave a bit of your garden wild to encourage wildlife

Stake newly planted trees

Clean your bird feeders to prevent infection

Plant Clematis deep to prevent Clematis wilt

Use a power breaker with all electric garden tools - it could save your life

Happy gardening

Alison Main

**Garden Club meeting November 21st**

We certainly started the new season of talks off with a bang.. Our speaker, Mike Burks, talked about “gardening for climate change”

A very topical subject which he presented with facts, advice and lots of humour. He pointed out the damage constant heavy rain does to the soil which can be alleviated by mulching. The benefits of having something growing even at this time of year by sowing green manure— this all helps the soil from becoming too compacted in the winter months. The importance of conserving rainwater in a long hot summer and told us the story of a lady who did just that, but in 4 pint milk containers piled up behind her garage. Whether or not you believe in climate change, we can all do a lot with our own gardens, large or small, to keep our soil healthy and productive not only for us but also for the benefit of the wildlife that lives in it and feeds on it. A good compost bin is essential—grass cuttings, newspaper, cardboard and kitchen waste used today is our garden’s food for next year! There were certainly lots of questions at the end..

Mike & Louise Burks founded “The Gardens Group” when they opened Castle Gardens in 1987, after graduating from the University of Bath with degrees Horticulture. Brimsmore Gardens opened in Yeovil in 1992 and Poundbury Gardens in 2006. The Gold club, which we are members of, offers Shopping visits, Spring Bulb vouchers, Growing Competitions , Discount opportunities and Expert talks and advice. They have a very informative website, [www.thegardensgroup.co.uk](http://www.thegardensgroup.co.uk).

All are welcome to our talks, a small charge for non members.

**Have You Gone Green?**

At its last meeting the Parish Council voted to declare a Climate Change Emergency in line with Dorset Council and many other Town and Parish Councils. As a part of investigating how, as a community, we can promote and encourage a responsible attitude to our environment the Parish Council would like to explore how many households are already taking positive action. If you have environmentally friendly insulation, solar pv panels or solar thermal panels on your roof, a bio-mass boiler or are using any other renewable energy installation please e-mail [annienewbury@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:annienewbury@yahoo.co.uk) (Parish Councillor) and let us know how you are helping to protect the planet. If you are generating renewable energy could you please tell us

**Iwerne Valley Walking Group—October Walk 2019**

Sandford Orcas is only 3 miles outside of Sherborne but feels very remote. This tiny village is only accessed by single track roads, some with grass growing in the middle, so it was surprising that 11 of us and 2 dogs managed to meet at The Mitre Inn for our monthly walk unscathed. After using the facilities at the pub we set off on a walk which took us across fields, through woodland and even into Somerset at one point. Todd the dog loved splashing in the streams but Archie, the other dog, ignored them.

In one field our knowledgeable naturalist spotted field mushrooms and collected a bagful. Near the end of the walk we stopped at the church of St Nicholas which stands next to the 16th century Manor House. The house has a reputation of being haunted. We were unable to visit as it was not one of its open days.

On returning to The Mitre Inn we were greeted by the very hospitable landlady who had our food ready for us. A few were tempted to the medley of 3 Egyptian puddings which were made by the chef’s wife who is Egyptian. After all the rain in the previous weeks we all thought how lucky we were to enjoy our walk on such a beautifully sunny day. January walk: **Saturday 18th, 10 a.m., starting from the Home Farm Tearoom, Tarrant Gunville DT11 8JW. Leaders: Jim & Cathy Bird (01258 861526)**

This January issue of The Gossip Tree comes from a new Editor, who this month is: **Graham Eames.**

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

Please would regular contributors for the February issue contact us via email: [fmgossiptree@gmail.com](mailto:fmgossiptree@gmail.com) , deadline for submissions is **Wednesday 15th January**

Alternatively, contact the **Chairman, Barbara Humphreys**, email: [blueletterbox@btinternet.com](mailto:blueletterbox@btinternet.com)

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