



THE GOSSIP TREE

News & Views from the Parish of FONTMELL MAGNA

Kindly Sponsored by an anonymous donor

AUGUST

2021

Issue 329

Fontmell Film Nights 🎬🎬

Great news, we are finally able to restart so do please save the date - Wednesday 15th September.

Our first film is "Love Sarah" a comedy released last year and starring Celia Imrie and Bill Paterson and tells the story of a young woman who wishes to fulfil her Mother's dream of opening her own bakery in Notting Hill.

The film is light hearted and funny which seems a good way to start off our new Fontmell film season.

Tickets will be on sale from 1st September at Fontmell Village Shop & Post office at £6.50 or £7 on the door, cash only please both at the shop and on the door.

The doors and the bar (again cash only) will open as usual from 7pm with the film starting at 7.30

We will be adhering to the current Village Hall Covid regulations whereby all guests will be required to either use the QR code or register their name and address on arrival.

You will also be required to use the hand sanitiser at the door and the use of face coverings will be optional. We will of course do our very best to make sure everyone is safe and comfortable, well apart from the chairs that is!! As I always say, do remember to bring your cushion.

The Fontmell Films committee are really looking forward to seeing you all, it's been a very long time since our last showing!

Best wishes to you all

Libby (01747 11551)

St Andrew's Church, Fontmell Magna

CHURCH SERVICES in FONTMELL MAGNA.

August

1st	9.00am	Sunday Breakfast at the Village Hall
8 th	9.30am	Morning Worship
15 th	9.30am	Sung Communion
22 nd	9.30am	Holy Communion
29 th	10.00am	Benefice service at St Andrew's Church

Sunday Breakfast at Fontmell

The late extending of the Covid-19 restrictions meant that Sunday Breakfast could not start on 4th July after all so now it will open its doors to all on 1st August. We look forward to welcoming you and meeting new residents. In case you missed the earlier item on this, our informal breakfast takes place on the first Sunday of the month in the Village Hall at 9 o'clock.

We have extended our menu to include a healthy 'continental style' breakfast with cereal, toast, croissants and fruit as well as the traditional bacon rolls with the temptation of baked beans!

There will be a thought for the day around 9.30-ish and we continue with refills of coffee or tea until 10 o'clock.

No charge made, although the tip jar miraculously seems to just cover the cost!

You don't have to book a seat – we just hope there are enough chairs! (For safety of course, children will need to be accompanied by an adult.)

Looking forward to welcoming you.

The St Andrew's Breakfast Team

Notices – August 2021

St. Andrew's Church - Services for August

Please see announcement opposite for details

Parish Council Meeting

Next PC meeting

Wed 22nd Sept at 7.00pm in the Village hall

Parish clerk: Sam Smith

clerk@fontmellmagnapc.co.uk

Local Councillor—Jane Somper

Email: cllrjane.somper@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Tel: 07710 395359

Village Shop & Post Office

Normal opening hours:

Mon - Fri 9.00am - 5.30pm

Sat 9.00am - 1.00pm

Sun 9.00am - 11.00am

Enquiries: 811201

The Tea Room Crafters

Weds: 11th and 25th August at 2.30pm in the Tea Room or the garden

Enquiries: Jenny White 812042

The Fontmell—opening hours

Mon-Thu 12-10 and food 2-6/6-8

Fri 12-10 and food 12.30 to 8.30

Saturday 12-10 and food 12-8.30

Sunday 12-6 and food 12-3

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

Next walk: Saturday 21st, starting from Tyneham car park, East Lulworth BH20 5QF at 10.30 a.m. Please bring a picnic. Leader: Claire Watson 07708473568

Bell-ringing

Enquiries: Caroline Rhodes 812002

The Buddleias should be at their most colourful during August.

Please enjoy a walk to Princes Field to enjoy them and butterflies hopefully.

Thank you
Judy



Events in the Village Hall

Fontmell Friendship Garden—Pop up Café and Gardening
Wednesdays 2-4pm
Contact Sian Highnam 811028 or garden.fmvh@mail.com

Fontmell Magna & District Society
1st Friday of month, October to May from 7.30pm.
Enquiries: Dick Stainer 811153

Sunday Breakfast
Meetings resume in July
Enquiries: Janet Smith 811904

Fontmell Films
Restarting, see entry on P1.
Enquires: Libby Gendall 811551

North Dorset Wildlife Trust
3rd Wednesday of month, September to April from 7.30pm.
www.dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk

Archive Society
Meetings will recommence September 16th with the AGM and then on the 3rd Thursday of each month in the village hall 4.00 to 5.30pm
Enquiries: Roger Hillman 811878

Garden Club
Meetings cancelled until further notice.
Enquiries: Sue East 812349

Fontmell Magna Art Club
Meetings weekly on Tuesdays between 2-4pm.
Enquiries: Sandra Jelbart 812468

Carpet Bowls Club
Thursdays 7.30-9.30pm
Enquiries: Gerry Bone 811814

Dru Yoga
Friday mornings 10-11.30
Enquiries: Kirsty Elliot 829281
Kirsty@vhadevelopments.co.uk

Pilates Mon 6.30-7.30pm, Tues 9.15-10.15 and 10.30-11.30am.
STOTT Pilates Matwork with props
Enquiries: Vicci Gillett 07940 961221
vicci@stable-bodies.co.uk

Taekwon-do
Tuesday 7.30 to 8.30 & Friday 5.30 to 6.30 Enquiries:
Sam Donohoo 07584 039351 or sam.donohoo@hotmail.co.uk

Zumba
Thursday 9-10 (Zumba fitness) and 10.15-11.15 (Community Zumba)
Enquiries Abby Down 850867/07901 597129
zumbawithabbyd@gmail.com

To book the Hall, please contact : Sian Highnam on 811028 or email bookings.fmvh@mail.com

Councillors Chronicles No.5 - Potential Perils of (litter) Picking

The motivation needed to join a Parish Council is to want to make a difference to the local community in one way or another. For me, the motivation was to do my bit to protect the environment and to help the green spaces and verges of the Parish to look good but also to function in an environmentally friendly way. One way to achieve this is to litter pick. I organise regular litter picks to trawl the roads and lanes and collect all the many and varied objects that some people feel is appropriate to sling out of their car windows. We've picked up everything from crisp packets to woolly hats, from KFC wrappers to hub caps (and a wine glass!). You can tell when it's getting close to Christmas, the Quality Street and Roses sweet papers are generously supplied by passing motorists. To clear up after the dedicated fly-tipper we call on Dorset Waste Partnership (DWP) who do an excellent job to support us. The DWP also help out with the litter picks, providing the kit and turning up promptly afterwards to take away our collected rubbish. Now you might think that it's a simple matter to arrange a litter pick; you put out the word, hand out the kit, pick the litter and then it's coffee and cake in the Village Hall (thanks due to the Village Hall Committee and especially to Lisa for organising the fabulous cake!). Well actually, litter picking has a few hidden 'issues': our first pick in early spring was a success, everything went swimmingly! However, another venture in the summer was more challenging as the verges and the brambles were hard to penetrate, in the autumn the quantity of fallen leaves concealed much of the litter! It seems that February is the ideal time for a litter pick except for the weather! I'm hoping to arrange our next litter pick soon, so watch this space. In the meantime, when you go out for your walk please take a pair of rubber gloves and a bag and collect what you can – do your own mini-pick and keep the Parish looking good!



IVWG— JULY WALK 2021 FROM EBBESBOURNE WAKE

Twelve of us and two dogs set off in a heatwave from the pretty village of Ebbesbourne Wake (off the A30 on the way to Salisbury) down past the old church and along the road a short stretch to a field of sheep. They observed us closely as we walked along the edge, and then we headed up a shady path, past an interesting barn redevelopment which we felt had probably been made into several airb&b holiday cottages, but very isolated – and probably very bleak in the winter!



We looped round along more fields of new-mown hay, wheat and barley and arrived back at the converted barns before descending into Ebbesbourne Wake to where we'd parked our cars. From there we drove to the Crown Inn in Alvediston for a welcome lunch in their shady garden. What a hot morning it had been, but we all survived and much enjoyed it.

Dorset Historic Churches Trust- St Andrews Fontmell Magna.

The annual Ride and Stride event in support of all our Dorset Churches takes place on Saturday 11th September.

This vital activity is to help raise funds for our county's churches and we at St Andrews have been at the forefront and an important part of the fund raising programme.

During the pandemic the income to keep our lovely churches and buildings in a fit state have taken a dive. We appeal to you all by sponsoring our Riders and Striders. We have a target of £2000 to raise for this year.

We also need parish members to take part by walking to local churches as a group or individuals to raise money, to cycle or ride as a part of the effort to help us achieve the target.

There are sponsorship forms in St Andrews and the Village Shop where Ric, Jan and their willing helpers will assist you.

If you need any further information please contact either Gerry Bone (01747 811814) or David Fangen (01747 811176).

Springhead

a rural centre for creative and sustainable living

The Greenhouse

A magical family performance about the senses of plants at Springhead's open-air theatre.

Sunday 15 August at 11am, 1.30pm and 3.30pm, Springhead Trust, Mill Lane, Fontmell Magna, SP7 0NU

The plant world is full of wonders. Did you know that plants have senses just as we do? They can see, hear and feel you! Sophie and Marie Nüzel present a magical family dance performance about the senses of plants at Springhead's open-air theatre.

The Greenhouse is a magical dance performance for young audiences and their families, and you'll even plant your own plant to take home with you. The show is touring Dorset with Artsreach, the counties touring arts charity. Please bring a chair/rug and dress for all weather. Full guidance including covid information from Artsreach is available online and when booking. There are three separate performances of the show, and the running time is 45 minutes. It is suitable for children of four and above.

You'll be seated on the grass, so please bring low-backed camping chairs, rugs and cushions to sit on. This open-air performance is designed to take place even in inclement weather and so we recommend that audiences come dressed for all eventualities of a British Summer! Assistance dogs only please.

Ticket holders will be welcome to bring a picnic. Tickets are limited cost £6 for an adult, £5 for under 18s and £20 for a family and are available **only** from Artsreach - <https://artsreach.co.uk/event/sophie-n%C3%BCzel-the-greenhouse>



Fontmell Magna Community Land Trust Ltd

(a Community Benefit Society - FCA Reg. No:8113)

email: fontmell.clt@gmail.com website: www.fmclt.org

Registered Office: Middle Farm House, Lurmer Street, Fontmell Magna, SP7 0NT

Fontmell Magna Community Land Trust Ltd (FMCLT) held a Special General Meeting in the Village Hall on the 8th July at 7pm. The Hall was full to its current legal capacity and fortunately it was a warm evening and more members were able to sit outside.

Dick Stainer, the Chairman, welcomed members (and some non-members), and explained that the purpose of the meeting was to seek members' approval of the board's proposal that FMCLT should purchase the freehold of the Village Shop property. He described how a working group had, over the last two years, examined and rejected suggestions that Fontmell Magna should set up a community shop, or establish a new shop at a different location. The Board had come to the conclusion that if the community could own the freehold of the Shop property, that would offer the best prospects for providing the Shop with a long-term home. The purpose of the meeting was for members to consider the proposal, to embark on a fund-raising campaign and to start negotiations with the freeholder with a view to purchasing the freehold. To this end the Board had issued a Prospectus.

Dick said he was delighted to announce that Sir John Elliott Gardiner had agreed to become the Patron of the Fund Raising campaign, and the Board had asked Pen Hadow to be the Fund Raising Coordinator.

Pen outlined the aims of the campaign. He emphasised that the work done by the FMCLT was a team effort and that the way forward was for the community to work together to provide a secure home for the shop in the future. The shop had been supported by the community for the last 150 years, and in turn had provided a high level of service, especially during the pandemic. He pointed out that it was estimated that proximity to a local shop was worth between 1% and 5% of the value of a property, equating to between £5,000 and £25,000 in Fontmell Magna.

There was a lively question and answer session, and then there was a formal vote on the resolution to proceed, which 53 members supported, on a show of hands, with no votes against.

Pen emphasised that that it was essential to move quickly, and to reach a target £200,000 by the end of July. This would put FMCLT in the position to approach grant providers, with the further aim of raising £400,000 in total, if possible without resorting to mortgage finance. Pen and his team have already been active in fund raising, and have secured pledges to a total of over £160,000 towards the target.

If you would like to join the campaign to secure the Shop's future please contact Pen on pen@penhadow.com or any of the Directors. You will find details on FMCLT's website: <https://www.fmclt.org>.

FONTMELL FRIENDSHIP GARDEN

What a wonderful opening afternoon we had on June 26 th. The sun shone against all the odds and it was lovely to get together to celebrate all the work of so many villagers, friends and family.

Thank you so very much to everyone involved , who did so much in so many ways. There were so many helpers and the day was characterised by smiling faces and happy people. Since then, the garden has certainly started to blossom and there are plenty of flowers available to cut.



The fantastic band of volunteers are weeding, watering and dead heading the garden to keep it looking at its best. Please do go and cut flowers- it helps the garden continue to thrive and more flowers to bloom.

The garden is an additional extra asset to our village and a focal point for the Blackmore Vale Practice and in conjunction with the village hall and has been established to complement and involve all the wonderful clubs

which exist . The village hall trustees and village hall committee hope you will all be able to enjoy the space.

We are already thinking ahead and planning for next year and I look forward to sharing that information in the September issue, once I have been able to make contact with all the club chairs and stakeholders in the village.

Can I remind everyone that we have a pop up cafe every Wednesday afternoon from 2-4 pm with the chance to catch up with a cuppa and cake and cut some blooms to take away. We are asking for a small donation of a £1.00 for a cuppa and cake and a small donation for a jar of joy.

There is also the gardening books library which Barbara has set up so brilliantly for us- do pop into the village hall when you are there if you would like to borrow a book. We have had so many wonderful donations.

Looking ahead - in line with our goal to be a garden for health and well being- there will be a chance to make posies from flowers collected from the garden on National Play Day on August 4 th, which Lisa has highlighted in this edition of the Gossip Tree.

On October 7 th, we will be joining up with St Andrew's School to support " Hello Yellow"- to support young minds mental health day. We have some lovely activities planned around the village hall and garden, which will be shared once finalised.

Can I take this opportunity to thank everyone once again for the incredible support and work for and in the garden. I have had so many comments from people outside our village. Without exception, all the comments praise the project and the village and the villagers - thank you very much.

Sian Highnam



Playday

**The National
Day for Play**

Playday is the national day for play in the UK, traditionally held on the first Wednesday in August.

As well as a celebration of children's right to play, Playday is a campaign that highlights the importance of play in children's lives.

04

**Wednesday
August 2021**



**Fontmell
Magna Village
Hall and
Friendship
Garden
12 to 4pm**

PICNIC IN THE PARK

All Children, their families, parents, carers, grandparents, are invited to bring a picnic and join us for an afternoon of play, crafting, friendship, cakes and tea on Wednesday 4th August.

We have two Short Tennis sessions run by Graham Howell planned between 2 and 3pm it's free with all equipment provided. And Pop-Up Play construction and café role play sets provided by Helen Poll. Pottery Painting with Amanda Hottinger, just pay for what is fired. Plus: ping pong, hopscotch, hula hoop games, skipping, face painting, create a button hole or posey, make friendship bracelets and join in with other crafting. Lots of activities and fun things to try, so why not come along and have a go?

Entry to the Playday is FREE but some activities may charge.

All donations for food and drink from the Pop-up Café will be for the Playground and the Friendship Garden (Charity No: 301129)

Hope to see you there

All enquiries to:

playground.fmvh@mail.com



News from the Village Hall

We have run four Pop-up Cafés at the Village Hall since the Grand Opening of the Friendship Garden and they are proving to be very popular. All are welcome to drop in for Tea and Cake (we only charge £1) and please



bring your secateurs so you can cut some flowers to take home with you. We are there every Wednesday from 2 to 4 pm. The first Wednesday in August will be slightly different as we are combining the Pop-up Café with a National Funday afternoon for children and their parents, grandparents, carers and we have quite a few activities planned (see the flyer in this edition). Just bring a picnic.

Our Management Committee AGM was held at the end of July. We are continuing to make improvements at the Village Hall and are planning to install a new sound system this coming Autumn. We are running an Early Christmas Market (similar to last year but without the Covid restrictions we hope) on Saturday 16th October. If you are a local maker or crafter and would be interested in taking a table please get in touch.

Lisa Le Druillenec, Secretary, Fontmell Magna Village Hall

Secretary.fmvh@mail.com Tel: 812 500

The First Child Okeford Art Trail Is Happening!

**Friday 27th August - Monday 30th August, 2021
11 - 4 pm**

15 Artists and Potters will show a variety of quality work

Along with seasoned artists, many will be exhibiting for the first time

Art Trail Leaflets will be available in local shops.

Free Admission

Why not walk our Art Trail, visiting venues throughout Child Okeford

with an opportunity for refreshments at our Pubs, Organic Farm Cafe and Shop.

TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE—WEST STREET FONTMELL MAGNA

West Street will be closed between Lochgallish and Winchells from 9th August 2021 for up to 5 days for sewage connection work by Dorset Drainage Services.

For further information call Dorset Drainage Services (01258 841208 or Dorset Highways Traffic Team (01305 221020) email: traffic-team@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Compost Corner

It's a hot summer's day and in the shade of an olive grove, we enjoy a picnic, with only cicadas and the lapping Mediterranean to break the peace - happy days. It's not just in Southern Europe that olive trees can be grown; I've had one for 20 years, initially brought under cover for the winter months but when it reached 7' it had to take its chance outside and seemed to flourish whatever weather came its way, including the 'beast from the east'. Then disaster - in April this year, every single leaf fell off. I thought it had had its day and made an emergency call to the RHS who were supremely confident that all would be well and that it would recover - and slowly but surely it has. Why it became defoliated is uncertain - it could have been too wet, too dry or perhaps it was the bitter Spring winds, who knows, but it's regaining some of its former glory and may yet provide a little shade when the heatwave arrives!

Alison Main



Village weather for June 2021

Mostly dry for the first two weeks with a mini heatwave before a wet and unsettled period.

9 rain days, no air or ground frost, 1 day thunder

Comp. Figures	2021	2020
Rain (Most 17.7 mm on 27th)	48.8 mm	81.5 mm
Sunshine	167 hrs (ave 5.6 hrs)	189.7 Hrs
Max mean temp. (highest 25.3 °C on 13th)	20.3 °C	19.9 °C
Min mean temp. (lowest 3.9 °C on 23rd)	10.2 °C	10.1 °C

This August 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 September issue contact me via email:

(fmgossiption@gmail.com)

Alternatively, contact the **Chairman, Barbara Humphreys**, email: blueletterbox@btinternet.com for further information.

Submissions for the September issue by Thursday 19th August 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 fmgossiption@gmail.com