



# THE GOSSIP TREE

News & Views from the Parish of FONTMELL MAGNA

*Kindly Sponsored by Sue Mercer in loving memory of her parents  
John and Barbara Enderby who lived in Fontmell for over 20 years*

JULY  
2021  
Issue 328

## From the Gossip Tree Committee

Welcome to the July edition of the Gossip Tree. The gradual opening up continues with the Tea Room Crafters resuming and the Film nights set to return later in the year....hopefully the harbinger of life getting back to normal.

Graham Eames on behalf of the Gossip Tree Committee  
[fmgosspitree@gmail.com](mailto:fmgosspitree@gmail.com)

## **The 2021 Directory for Fontmell Magna**

For many years the The Fontmell Magna Directory has been published in conjunction with the Gossip Tree. It is a list of local organisations, clubs and businesses together with their contact details and anyone is welcome to ask to be included.

It was not possible to produce a meaningful edition last year but we announced in the May 21 issue of the GT that we would try to have one ready for this summer.

However there didn't appear to be much interest and the plan was dropped until the situation changed. Now we have received a generous offer from some local residents who are willing to resurrect it

We will send more details when we have them but if you, your club or your business would like to be listed in the directory please do let us know. It will be sent out as a paper copy to all households in the parish and could be very useful especially to new residents or for new organisations.

## **St Andrew's Church, Fontmell Magna**

### **CHURCH SERVICES in FONTMELL MAGNA.**

July 4th Sunday Breakfast cancelled due to continuing restrictions, but there will be an informal service of morning worship in the church at 9.30am led by Chris Jervis

July 11th 9.30am Morning Worship

July 18th 9.30am Sung Communion

July 25th 9.30am Holy Communion

August 1st 9.00am Sunday breakfast in the Village Hall

Regrettably, we will still not be able to sing but must wear face-masks until 19th July!

## **Fontmell Film Nights**



Great news ..... it seems so long since our last film, which was shown in the first week of March 2020 but we are now able to make plans to return, hooray, with our first showing on Wednesday 15th September and we look forward to welcoming back our lovely audience and new film goes too. Full details will be confirmed in the August edition of the Gossip Tree, by which time we will know the film titles that are available and fingers crossed we will have the latest COVID regulations update from the Government. Sending our best wishes to everyone and looking forward to seeing you all again soon.  
The Moviola Committee

## **Notices – July 2021**

St. Andrew's Church - Services for July  
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](mailto:clerk@fontmellmagnapc.co.uk)

### Local Councillor—Jane Somper

Email: [cllrjane.somper@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto: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

Meetings to restart in the Fontmell Village Shop garden on

Weds: 14th and 28th July at 2.30pm

Enquiries: Jenny White 812042

### The Fontmell

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](mailto: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 more information please contact

Helen English: 07789 845498

### Bell-ringing

Meetings cancelled until further notice.

Enquiries: Caroline Rhodes 812002

## **FONTMELL FRIENDSHIP GARDEN**

The official opening of the Garden took place on Saturday 26th June. A full report will appear in the August issue of the Gossip Tree.

There was a lovely report on the This is Alfred Podcast on Sunday (about 3 minutes in) <https://thisisalfred.com/podcast/the-alfred-daily-27th-june-2021/>

## 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  
Meetings cancelled until further notice.  
Enquires: Libby Gendall 811551

North Dorset Wildlife Trust  
3rd Wednesday of month, September to April from 7.30pm.  
[www.dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk](http://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 will recommence on Tuesday 25th May and will meet weekly 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@vhdevelopments.co.uk](mailto:Kirsty@vhdevelopments.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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:zumbawithabbyd@gmail.com)

**To book the Hall, please contact : Sian Highnam on 811028 or email [bookings.fmvh@mail.com](mailto:bookings.fmvh@mail.com)**

## **Community Speed Watch**

Have you seen 3 or 4 yellow clad beings lurking beside the A350 recently?

Community Speed Watch has resumed activities having been unable to carry out speed checks during the pandemic.

On Bank Holiday Monday (31<sup>st</sup>) the CSW team and one police staff member observed speeds on the A350 in South Street between 0900 and 1000. 268 vehicles passed and 12 were sufficiently in excess of the speed limit to be sent fixed penalty notices.

Motorcycles are often a problem in the village, particularly at weekends, both in terms of speed, which is dangerous to pedestrians, and also anti social noise. On the morning of the observations the police recording van had earlier been in Compton Abbas and observed a motorcyclist coming south who stopped, used the phone and then turned back towards Shaftesbury. Motorcycle groups are understood to send out "scouts" in advance of larger groups intending to use a route at high speed later in the day. During the Speed Watch session only three motorcycles were seen. They were in convoy, travelling at excessive speed, the leading registration number was recorded and a fixed penalty notice was subsequently sent to the registered keeper.

There is little doubt that Speed Watch makes our winding and narrow roads less dangerous. The police would like residents to advise them of any near miss incidents. I have recently taken over as Co-ordinator from Robert McCurrach and would be pleased to hear from anyone wishing to join the convivial band of volunteers who seek to make Fontmell a safer place.

Peter Mole 811669 or email [peter.mole@btopenworld.com](mailto:peter.mole@btopenworld.com)

## **Dorset beaches under pressure when the Summer Sun comes out**

Lifeguards are provided by the RNLI on Dorset beaches in Lyme Regis, West Bay, Weymouth and Bournemouth. Fundraising to keep these beaches safe has been impossible during the last year of Covid 19.



We are expecting more families than ever to book holidays in Dorset this year. People are excited to get away – and that is how it should be. But it is so easy to get into trouble by the water. For walkers to get cut off by the tide or for a paddling child to be swept out to sea.

Nick Chavasse, Chairman Blackmore Vale Branch RNLI said 'The last year has been very difficult to do any fundraising, but we are now faced with an immediate challenge to ensure the local beaches are properly manned with life savers in what promises to be an incredibly busy year for staycation holidays.'

The Branch also needs to recruit a new treasurer, after the untimely death of David Duvall, an exceptionally talented church organist in the Stour Vale Benefice. We have stalls at local events such as the Gillingham and Shaftesbury Show, which this year is on 18-19 August. If you have an interest in joining our team to help raise funds for our RNLI lifesavers, please contact Nick Chavasse on 07919 026629 or by email at [nrgchavasse@btinternet.com](mailto:nrgchavasse@btinternet.com).

## **SPRINGHEAD TRUST**

Open Air Theatre at the Springhead Trust, Sunday 15 August  
11.30, 1.30 and 3.30 Mill Lane, Fontmell Magna, SP7 0NU

We are delighted to be hosting, via Artsreach, three performances of *The Greenhouse*, a magical dance performance about the senses of plants.

Tickets via Artsreach only £6 for an adult, £5 for under 18s and £20 for a family.

More details and booking information at <https://www.springheadtrust.org.uk/2021/06/the-greenhouse/>

Please bring something to sit on and be prepared for the weather! You are also welcome to bring a picnic.

Kate Partridge, Coordinator – Friends of Springhead

## **Fontmell Magna Parish Council Meetings held on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2021 in the Village Hall.**

Draft minutes and papers of the meeting are available on the PC Website [http://www.fontmellmagnapc.co.uk/FontmellMagna-PC/Meetings\\_and\\_Minutes\\_9778.aspx](http://www.fontmellmagnapc.co.uk/FontmellMagna-PC/Meetings_and_Minutes_9778.aspx)

**Present:** Cllrs Michael Humphreys (MH) Chair, Annie Newbury (AN), Andy Main (AM), Christine Scott (CS) and Clerk Sam Smith (SS), DC Ward Cllr Jane Somper (JS), plus 11 members of the public.

**Apologies:** DC Ward Cllr Jane Somper

### **Annual General Meeting**

**Election of a Chairman 2021-22:** Cllr Humphreys was nominated and there being no other nominations was duly elected. MH notified the council that 2021/22 will be his last year on the council as he will be stepping down in May 2022.

**Election of a Vice-Chairman 2021-22:** Cllr Long was nominated and there being no other nominations was duly elected.

### **Appointment of Councillor Responsibilities for 2021-22:**

**Planning** - planning applications, Neighbourhood Plan, Planning Working Group, planning regulations. Cllr Humphreys

**Trees** - applications for tree works, encouraging tree planting. Cllr Long

**Highways** - road maintenance, signage and potholes, traffic management, Speed Watch, strategic planning, A350CG. Cllr Long

**Environmental Protection** - flood protection, grit/salt bins, verges, litter and fly tipping, grass cutting, grounds and hedgerow maintenance, dog fouling, encouraging tree planting, Best Kept Village. Cllr. Newbury

**Social Infrastructure** - maintenance of parish council assets, Home Watch, defibrillators, broadband and mobile coverage, recreation, allotments, Village Hall liaison. Cllr Scott (currently assisted by Cllr Newbury)

**District Liaison** - Police, health & medical services (e.g., Patient Partnership Group, Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group, Shaftesbury Hospital), DAPTC, Dorset Unitary Council, neighbouring Parish Councils, Compton Abbas airfield. Cllr Humphreys

**Parish Communications** – vacant

**Footpaths and Rights of Way** - Cllr Main

**Governance** - procedures, new councillor recruitment and induction, councillor training, Annual Parish Report, risk management, contingency planning. Cllr Humphreys

The Parish Council is still actively seeking to recruit 2 more Cllrs.

**Finance:** The PC accounts have been approved by the internal auditor and will be made available on the parish website for residents to review. The financial year started with an opening balance of £7,702.05 and closed with a balance of £7,073.64. Income in 2020/21 was £9,209.63 and expenditure was £9,838.04. The small overspend was due to recruitment of a new clerk and purchasing a staff laptop. The period of inspection of the accounts started on 14<sup>th</sup> June and runs for 30 days.

**Fontmell Magna PC Risk Assessment:** A risk assessment for 2021/22 was approved.

### **Parish Council Meeting**

**Declarations of Interest:** None

**Minutes of the Meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021:** These were approved unanimously.

### **Matters Arising:**

**Variable Speed Indicator** – A resident's suggestion to install a variable speed indicator along the A350 through the village was raised again. The advice from Highways is that the benefit is marginal, but the PC undertook to keep the matter under review.

**Hedge on Lurmer Street** – The overgrown hedge was eventually trimmed by a private contractor and replacement trees planted. The PC met the cost of £795.

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

## Parish Council Meeting (cont)

### Reports from Parish Councillors

**a. Planning** – MH confirmed there had been 5 new applications which were assessed by the Neighbourhood Plan Monitoring Group; their reports are available on the PC website. The PC had no objection to 4 applications: Glevum House, Land at Penn Hill, 38 South Street and Bedchester House. The PC objected to 1 application: barn erection on Land at Gupples Farm. The application at 54 West Street went to Dorset Council Planning Committee and was approved.

The proposed development of 30 homes on Land at Home Farm, South Street, continues to await a decision on the planning application. The developer has agreed with Dorset Council the basic components of the S106 Agreement and has also set aside money to replace the play equipment in the Village Hall children's playground. The PC has been approached to adopt the school drop-off zone which includes 19 parking spaces and the open-spaces within the development; this is being discussed with the developer.

**b. Highways** – JL reported that West Street is due to be resurfaced along with Church St; also Woodbridge Lane and Hannah's Lane. Gupples Lane is being reviewed by Highways as it's in a poor state. The side-road junctions at Gore Clump on the C13 are being revised to improve safety. An accident occurred outside the Fontmell Pub; road markings will be reviewed at a result.

**c. Environment Protection** – AN reported that "Clean it Up (dog waste)" signs have been placed along Penn Hill, but signs at the Gossip Tree have been removed with the cable ties cut; they'll be re-instated. The annual litter pick is on hold until the Autumn. Prince Charles' campaign for tree planting for the Jubilee in 2022 will be supported if a suitable site can be found.

**d. Social Infrastructure** – CS has assumed the Village Hall liaison role for the PC. A new initiative called "Chase & Chalke Landscape" has been set up by the Cranborne Chase AONB office. CS expressed a vote of thanks to the Village Shop for all their support over the pandemic and a request made to keep supporting the shop and tearoom.

**e. Footpaths** – AM reported that a local permissive footpath that runs from Fontmell's West Street to Sutton Waldron has been closed by the landowner and the land is for sale. This footpath has been used regularly by walkers for more than 30 years. A plea to the owner to re-open the path has been rejected. Representations will continue to try to get the footpath re-opened, with help from the Dorset Council Rangers team.

**h. Governance** – With Christine Scott joining the PC, a revised list of councillors' responsibilities is available on the website.

### Report from the RFO and Bills Presented

It was agreed bills set out in the Schedule should be paid:

Clerk's salary and expenses – £386.90 DAPTC subscription - £259.14  
Vale Gardens - £25.00 Zoom license - £14.39  
Came & Co (insurance) - £611.08 FM Village Hall grant - £485

The meeting closed at 7.00pm.

**The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 22nd September 2021 at 7.00pm.**

## Annual Parish Meeting

The annual parish meeting started at 7.00pm with 9 members of the public attending.

### Reports from Parish Clubs, Societies, Committees, Groups, etc.

Reports on activities over the past year were received from:

Village Hall Committee  
Fontmell Friendship Garden  
The Gossip Tree  
Speedwatch  
PCC St Andrew's Church  
FM Community Land Trust

These reports are available on the parish website.

**Public Open Forum:** There were no issues raised by residents. A resident expressed a vote of thanks to the Parish Council for their hard work over the past year.

**Parish Council Annual Report:** A summary of the parish council's activities over 2019/20 is available on the parish website.

**Report from Dorset Councillor:** The annual report 2019/20 from the DC Ward Councillor Jane Somper is available on the parish website.

The meeting closed at 7.35pm.



## The Friendship Garden Library

As well as social prescribing and offering flowers for all, the Friendship Garden next to the village hall has been fortunate in acquiring over 40 books with which to form a small gardening library, free for anyone to use. Many people from Fontmell Magna Parish and beyond have generously donated or lent books and The Potting Shed in Swan's Yard, Shaftesbury has very kindly contributed others. Thank you all.

The variety of the books is testament to how diverse gardening can be. Subjects range from how to make a wildflower meadow to the great trees of Dorset, memoirs to handbooks for garden design. There are amongst others, books on pests and diseases, ground cover, using polytunnels, rejuvenating a tired garden and gardening in an allotment. Also, manuals and encyclopaedia, books by well-known gardeners and others by specialists and an extensive range of gardening magazines collected over years it seems. The library really does cover most needs. A list of all the books is on the PC website and also in a blue folder with the books.'

Library books are numbered with three digits (the numbers don't have a system) which is just inside the cover. They are grouped into four categories at the moment:

General gardening related texts

How to and specialist skills

Design

Encyclopaedia

They are on the shelves of a lovely wooden cabinet, also kindly donated, in the committee room of the village hall. Anyone can use the Friendship Garden Library. All that is needed is for borrowers to write the number of the book they are taking in the small floral notebook in the cabinet, along with their name and the date borrowing began. It would be helpful to check the book back in within a fortnight by writing the date the book was returned.

The village hall will be open during the summer on Wednesday afternoons for the Pop-Up Café between 2 and 4pm and this would be a very good time to browse or borrow. Other times can be arranged by emailing :

[gardenfmvh@mail.com](mailto:gardenfmvh@mail.com)

## Fontmell Magna Village Hall

(Registered Charity 301129)

I hereby give notice that the Annual General Meeting of the Fontmell Magna Village Hall Management Committee will take place on

**Wednesday 28th July 2021**

**starting at 7.00 pm**

**at the Village Hall**

The post of Vice-Chairman is Vacant.

Nominations, in writing, for this role may be made by any person whose name appears on the current Register of Electors for the Parish of Fontmell Magna and should be signed by the proposer and seconder and confirmed by the nominee.

The form is available by request from: [Secretary.fmvh@mail.com](mailto:Secretary.fmvh@mail.com) or by phone 07962 138039.

**Completed forms should be returned to the Secretary no later than Wednesday 21st July 2021.**

This meeting is open to all and is an invitation to everyone interested in the future of the Village Hall and the Fontmell Friendship Garden.

**Doors open at 6.45pm**

**AGM starts at 7pm prompt.**

This year the AGM will be followed by refreshments and then a short talk by Laura Scott-Walby - Behind the Bouquets - a Kenyan Flower Journey

Lisa Le Druillenec, Secretary, Fontmell Magna Village Hall Management Committee

## News from the Village Hall

The Village Hall is open and available to hire so if you are considering an event please get in touch with our Bookings Manager Sian Highnam on 811 028 or by email: [bookings.fmvh@mail.com](mailto:bookings.fmvh@mail.com)

The new low energy LED lights are now fitted and they really make a huge difference to the quality of the lighting at the Hall. We have a little more disruption planned towards the end of July when the existing fire alarm system is being upgraded in line with new Fire Safety Standards and a new 4 zone Fire Alarm system will be installed. Work is on-going in the play area and we are pleased to see it has been getting a lot of use.

The Pop-up Café at the Village Hall in partnership with the Friendship Garden continues on Wednesday afternoons throughout July and August, so please pop in for a cuppa and a look round the garden between 2 and 4 pm.

As reported last month we are also planning an event for Children and their Parents/Carers as part of National Play Day on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> August – “Picnic in the Park” – it will run from 1pm to 4pm alongside the Pop-up Café. Fun activities for children and their parents/carers/grandparents are being planned.

This month it is also our AGM and as it falls after the new Freedom day date, on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> July, we are looking forward to welcoming any residents of Fontmell Magna Parish that would be interested in attending. This year our AGM is followed by drinks and then a short talk by Laura Scott-Walby - Behind the Bouquets - a Kenyan Flower Journey - we hope to welcome many of you to this informal event.

Finally, as many of our regular activity and social groups return to the hall we would love to hear from you with suggestions for any new activities that you would like to see being run at your Village Hall.



Lisa Le Druillenec, Secretary, Fontmell Magna Village Hall

[Secretary.fmvh@mail.com](mailto:Secretary.fmvh@mail.com) Tel: 812 500

## Compost Corner

Defrost your prawns, marinate some cherries - the 1970s dinner party is back on the scene and prawn cocktail and black forest gateau are menu favourites. Celebrate in style in your dining room and decorate it with house plants, because they too have made a comeback.

A good old favourite is tradescantia, named after John Tradescant a 17c plant collector and it originally came from America. It's such an accommodating plant, virtually indestructible and so easy to propagate. On holiday in Montenegro by the Adriatic Sea I spotted a huge tradescantia purpurea, a beautiful variety which has elegant elliptic leaves and little pink flowers, covering a steep bank within a garden; but the plant isn't frost hardy and in this country is best kept indoors.

And another 1970s comeback is the colour brown, now being described as tobacco, chocolate and russet; so ditch your grey and get painting.

Alison Main



## Village we ather for May 2021

A rather cold, wet month until high pressure took over at the end. Quantities of rain were mostly small. Good sunshine at times and several windy spells

18 rain days, 3 air frost, 11 ground frost. 1 day hail and 7 gales

Comp. Figures	2021	2020
Rain (Most 4.7 mm on 30th)	98.5 mm	4.4 mm
Sunshine	172.3 hrs (ave 5.6 hrs)	326.5 Hrs
Max mean temp. (highest 23.3 °C on 31st )	14.9 °C	19.3 °C
Min mean temp. (lowest -2.2 °C on 7th)	5.1 °C	7.8 °C

This July 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 August issue contact me via email:

[\*\*\(fmgossiptree@gmail.com\)\*\*](mailto:fmgossiptree@gmail.com)

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

**Submissions for the August issue by Wednesday 21st July 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\*\*](mailto:fmgossiptree@gmail.com)*