



THE GOSSIP TREE

News & Views from the Parish of FONTMELL MAGNA

Kindly Sponsored by MacLachlan Solicitors Ltd.

NOVEMBER

2021

Issue 332

Sponsorship for 2022

The Gossip Tree committee are most grateful for all the sponsorship we have received this year – thank you to everyone who has been kind enough to help with the cost of producing 120 paper copies of the newsletter each month.

15 are delivered to the more vulnerable members of our parish and 100 are placed in the Post Office and Shop for anyone to pick up. Thank you to Rick and Sue for their help with this and especially thank you to Sue Mercer for delivering regularly in all weathers throughout the parish.

It would be good to continue to offer the same facility next year so we are looking for sponsors for almost all of 2022. Sponsorship can be anonymous or can include text from the sponsor and costs £30 for an issue.

If you enjoy the newsletter or if you or your organisation use it to tell the parish about your activities please would you consider helping us with costs in 2022? Graham or Barbara will be really pleased to discuss with you through the email addresses on the last page.

Dear Friends and Neighbours of Fontmell Magna Parish.

Do you have some spare time to help out your local community?

We are looking for a volunteer or group of volunteers to tend to a piece of land that is central to our village, Fontmell Magna.

The kind gentleman who has been tending this piece of land needs to retire. He has done such a fantastic job at keeping this lovely area up together for us all to enjoy, be it passing by or taking a moment to sit and enjoy. The area is a village amenity, with a seat provided by the parish council.

The role will include regularly strimming and cutting the grass and clearing the river of weed as and when required.

Part of it could be allowed to grow in Spring/Summer to help the wildlife.

The piece of land is in Church Street. It's the triangular piece between Holbrook and Watermill Cottage (see photo).

If you are interested in taking on this role please contact your Parish Clerk, Sam. clerk@fontmellmagnapc.co.uk



Village Wreath for Fontmell Magna

In readiness for the annual Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial, which this year will take place on Sunday 14th November at 10.50am, there is a collecting box in the shop for donations toward the Wreath which is laid on behalf of all Fontmell residents.

If more is donated than the cost of the wreath it will be sent to the Royal British Legion.

As usual there will be a Remembrance Service commencing in the church at 10.00am and progressing to the war memorial at 10.45.



Notices – November 2021

St. Andrew's Church - Services for November

2nd 1900 All Souls Commemoration Service
7th 0900 Sunday Breakfast at Village Hall
14th 1000 Remembrance Service (and 1045 at the War Memorial)
21st 0930 Holy Communion with choir
28th 0930 Advent, Holy Communion and Baptism

Parish Council Meeting

Next PC meeting

Wed 17th November 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

2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at 2.30pm in the Tea Room.

Enquiries: Jenny White 812042

The Fontmell—opening hours

Mon & Tues—Closed

Weds to Saturday 3-10pm, food served 5-8pm

Sunday 12-6, food served 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:

Leader: Claire Watson 07708473568

Bell-ringing

Enquiries: Caroline Rhodes 812002

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
1st Sunday of the month
Enquiries: Janet Smith 811904

Fontmell Films

Enquires: Libby Gendall 811551

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

Archive Society
3rd Thursday of each month in the village hall 4.00 to 5.30pm.
New members welcome.
Enquiries: Roger Hillman 811878

Garden Club
See Page 6 for full details of upcoming meetings, commencing on 21st October with the AGM.

Enquiries: Sue Chippington 811520
sue.chippington@outlook.com

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 1030-11.30am.
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

Aerobics
Thursday 9.30-10.30 Gentle/Low impact aerobics with Abby
Enquiries: Abby Down 01747 85086 07901 597129
zumbawithabby@gmail.com

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



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

FMCLT and the Village Shop – An October Update

Your support for the project has just topped £200,000 and, as we reported last month, we submitted our application for a grant from the Community Ownership Fund in August.

We have not yet had any response, and the latest indications are that we are unlikely to hear before the middle of November whether our application has been successful or not.

In the meantime, Chris Dymond and his team are getting everything ready to ensure that we can move forward, as appropriate, as soon as we know the outcome of our application.

Thank you all for your support – we will keep you in touch.

Thank you so much to everyone who sponsored me for the recent London marathon. Your support and kind words meant such a lot and I am very grateful. It was an amazing day, made all the more special by running it all the way round with my twin sister, Beth.

We ran the whole course side by side and ran up the Mall holding hands, which was very memorable.

Thank you everyone- with your support we raised more than £3000 each with gift aid, which all goes to JDRF1 - the juvenile diabetes research foundation for type 1 diabetes.

My niece was diagnosed aged 11 out of the blue and is an inspiration to us all. She has entered the ballot for the marathon next year, so we have our fingers crossed for her.

Sian



Fontmell Film Nights 🍿🎬

Our film showing on Wednesday 10th November is "The Last Bus" starring Timothy Spall and Phyllis Logan. It is the story of Tom, a pensioner who after recently losing his Wife decides to take her ashes by bus from John O'Groats, where they lived to Lands End, his original home town, using his free bus pass. Along the way his adventures are recorded by the people he meets and by the end of his trip he has unwittingly become a social media celebrity.

Tickets are £6.50 in advance from Fontmell Post Office or £7 on the door.

The doors and the bar open at 7pm and the film starts at 7.30

We look forward to seeing you and don't forget your cushion!!

For more information please call Libby on 01747 811551

New Monday morning Pilates Class

coming to Fontmell Magna Village Hall
Many of you already know Sam Whitford from when she stood in for Lyn Dix at Fontmell and Ashmore all those years ago! Her classes are fun, challenging, safe and effective. They can be enjoyed by all ages, fitness levels and abilities.

Having spent the last 18 months teaching by zoom she is now back running in person contact classes at Ashmore and is aiming to add Fontmell Magna Village Hall to her list.

If there is enough interest the classes will start from Monday 1st November at 10.30 am. They cost £10 per week and this term runs for 7 weeks. There are discounts available if you already subscribe to her zoom classes.

If you are interested please contact Sam by email s.whitford123@btinternet.com or ring/text on 07740906515

Councillors Chronicles No.7 – Register of Interest

With two new councillors on board, Laura and Andrew, it's great to have a full complement of councillors once again after several years of being under-strength. However, as it happens, we will be seeking a new councillor in the New Year as Annie will be stepping down. We're sorry to see Annie go, she's done a great job, but it does create an opportunity for a new person to join the parish council, and play a part in creating a friendly and helpful community, bringing people together and supporting each other when needed.

One of the first duties of a new councillor is to complete a Register of Interests form. Dorset Council decided some time ago to replace the paper forms with a digital on-line service with the benefits of "giving greater flexibility to elected members and ease of use and far less hassle for Clerks". The new system was launched on 1st October and councillors have until 31st October to submit their registers.

The Register of Interests is a safeguard to ensure councillors are transparent in declaring their pecuniary interests, which could potentially give rise to a conflict when a particular issue comes before the Parish Council, eg. a planning application or awarding a contract. The key categories are employment, contracts and land (including your home) but covers a range of other categories. It also applies to a spouse/civil partner with whom you live.

Every councillor must make a declaration and it must be kept up to date and accessible for all the time a councillor is in office. The Councillors Register of Interests will be available to the public to view on the Dorset Council website <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/>.



IWERNE VALLY WALKING GROUP - OCTOBER WALK 2021

On Saturday the 16th the Iwerne Vally Walking Group met for a 3 - 4 mile walk around Shillingstone – well, the book said 4 miles but it didn't seem like that to us! It was led by Pam Payne and Pam Jelley (a real "Pam sandwich"!)

We were blessed with lovely weather, the mist soon burnt off and we actually had sunshine - for mid-October almost unknown. There were sixteen of us accompanied by four happy dogs.

We started (and ended) at the Old Ox Inn - which provided most of us with smashing freshly cooked pizzas and welcome drinks - for the dogs as well as the humans.



The gentle walk took us through Shillingstone Village, past Hanford School onto the Child Okeford Road and then cross country back to the railway, the dogs taking full advantage of a dip in the Stour on the way - a bit too chilly for wild swimming perhaps!

Although we didn't take the diversion, there was an option to visit Shillingstone Station which, I understand, has a lovely café and a shop - maybe something for the railway enthusiasts next time.

Pam Jelley

November Community Lunch at the Village Hall

We are continuing to offer lunch for up to 40 diners **Free of charge** thanks to a grant specifically for this type of community enterprise from Dorset Council. Many of you have asked for the dates of the future lunches – here they are for this year and next:

2022

Wednesday 26th January
Wednesday 23rd February
Wednesday 30th March

In place of a **December** lunch, we are holding a Village **Christmas Tea Party** on Saturday 11th. A Christmas themed Afternoon Tea will be provided FREE for up to 80. We will have more information about this for the December edition of the Gossip Tree, but keep an eye on social media and the village notice boards too. Anyone willing to help with making food for this or who would like to help with serving food or in the kitchen on the day please do get in touch.

March 2022 is the last of the funded lunches. The popular Friendship Garden Pop-up Café will then take over and we hope to run it weekly from April through to early September on Wednesdays between 2pm and 4pm. Again, we are looking for volunteers so we can run the café on a rota.

Please get in touch by contacting Rosie-Anne 07710 326 339; Lisa 01747 812 500 or Sian 01747 811 028, if you can help in any way. Or email the village hall: lunch.fmvh@mail.com

On the Shelf of the Friendship Garden library

Gardening Through the Year by Ian Spence for the Royal Horticultural Society is a good manual for novices who are planning the gardening year ahead.



Each monthly chapter has clear advice on what to do, how to do it, recommended seasonal plants and reassurance like these words on timing, which although important, "Nature has a way of balancing things out, and even if you think you are very late sowing those hardy annuals or planting out the summer bedding plants, they can still surprise you by growing and flowering beautifully, just at the right time".

In the chapters on November and December, readers are encouraged to do some early garden spring-cleaning and to think about what they would their garden to offer over the next twelve months. And when everything looks like it's going to struggle to overcome winter there are cheery words on plants that will bloom now until spring arrives, despite unfriendly weather. Most encouraging is advice on digging beds which is that if a bed has been prepared properly at the start of its life, letting worms and beetles and other insects keep it turned over and therefore healthy, there is no need to dig it again.

One practise that has been challenged since this 2001 edition was printed, is the guidance on clearing autumnal debris such as leaves and dead material which brings us back to insects. Dan Pearson writing in The Times in the middle of October suggests "Tread lightly on the land. Everybody can do something to improve the environment with thoughtful integrated planning and not being too neat. Leave your garden standing until late winter, because all foliage that drops into the ground will be taken by earthworms. You complete a cycle. You don't interrupt it by tidying too quickly. That improves soil fertility and the soil balance. Which means that your plants grow better".

Maybe some gardeners would prefer to stay with Mr Spence's suggestions, not wanting to see browned leaves swirling in the wind waiting for the worms to do their job or remembering to take extra care on leaf slippery paths, it is a gardening dilemma. Either way, this colourful, helpful book sets out a clear path to an accomplished garden.

FONTMELL FRIENDSHIP GARDEN

Although Autumn is upon us, the garden has been very busy.

In the last six weeks, all the tubs around the village hall have been emptied and re planted with plants for spring - tulips, pansies, wallflowers and sweet williams. We have planted flowers in our red and white theme to celebrate next year's platinum celebrations and more flowers will be added where appropriate.

When you walk around the garden, you will see beds have already been planted for over wintering.

The long St Andrew's school bed is planted with foxgloves, tulips, allium, wallflowers and pansies.

Additional beds are all being planted to represent our fantastic clubs in the village.

The garden club have a fabulous crown themed regal bed at the entrance to the garden, which is already full of plants and is looking wonderful.

The Fontmell Under Fives have been planting golden tulips this week in their green troughs.

The bowls club bed is full of suitably "ball" themed flowers - million bells, allium, sweet williams and a white pom pom dahlia will be a central focal point.

I have also received fantastic plans from moviola, the craft club and the art club and planting will be starting soon - it is going to be stunning!

Finally - we had the MOST fabulous day on October 7th, when we welcomed the whole of St Andrew's School to the village hall to plant yellow daffodils to raise awareness of Hello Yellow day - a national day to raise awareness of mental health as part of Young Minds.

All the children planted daffodils, wore yellow clothes, had yellow food and drink kindly donated by Waitrose and complete yellow craft activities prepared by Sue Jones.

There were ten wonderful volunteers who helped out and it was such an uplifting experience for everyone.

The Clayesmore year 12 volunteer students completed the week with mass crocus planting on October 8th.

In the last six weeks, we have welcomed Fontmell Under Fives, St Andrew's School and Clayesmore to the garden, in addition to all our fantastic volunteers in the village - truly a cross generational project.

Lots more planting will be happening in the next few weeks and seeds will be distributed for planting and over wintering.

Thank you as always to everyone who helps in so many ways - There were so many comments made about the garden in the fab Fair on Saturday.



News from the Village Hall

There really does seem to have been a lot going on during October at the Village Hall and you will notice that the exterior has now been repainted.

We held our Annual Fundraising Event on Saturday 16th October – **The Early Christmas Market**. It was fabulous to be able to run it as a normal event after last year's exacting Covid rules and regulations. It made for a lovely friendly day, more like a Village Fete than a Market. It was great to see so many neighbours out supporting us and we hope you all enjoyed meeting up with people you hadn't seen for a while.

Thanks to everyone involved with the day's catering, both in the kitchen and outside; and the many of you who donated cakes for us to sell both from the kitchen and to take home. We are indebted to our many volunteers who put in a lot of time and effort to make these events possible.

As always, we had a wonderful mix of stall holders offering a range of gifts. Many of us must have made a super early start on stocking up for Christmas as all the stall holders did better than they had expected to, including our own stalls. St. Andrews School had a stand with the children's artwork for sale. It was such a high standard and lovely to see.

I would like to thank Sian and her helpers for organising the raffle this year, there was such a wonderful range of prizes, I have listed the prize winners below ... and yes, I won the first prize and am very much looking forward to a shopping spree in Mistral!

1. Pamplemousse plant, jewellery and Mistral voucher, scarf and candle - Lisa
 2. Plants, Cranbornes voucher, chocolates, earrings - Annie Smale
 3. Beer gifts and a £40 voucher from Hall & Woodhouse, Real Cure Salami - Tim Jackson
 4. Chocolates, beer, cookery book, voucher for tea and cake at Compton Abbas airfield Cafe -Michael Hobbs
 5. Christmas wreath, bottle of vintage port, cup, tea for two at Costa, earrings and Christmas cake - Adelaide Ruddy
 6. Gin hamper - Alison Roach
 7. Waitrose Christmas hamper - Emma Spruce Jackson
 8. Neals Yard gift pack, Kalypsos voucher, discount off beauty treatment, earrings, scarf and bottle of Prosecco - Alison Ruddy
 9. Flower seeds, cut flower book, voucher for garden centre, notebook- Libby Delso
 10. Daisy Delbridge rose, stroll, hat, candle earrings - Sue Jones
 11. Art Club hamper of local and Christmas goods from the Village Shop - Gary Payne
 12. Prosecco and Christmas Cake - Liz Bone
 13. Prosecco and a selection of Park Lane earrings - Ginny Radley
- Children's books and Mousetrap game - Anne Megdiche

Thank you very much to everyone who approached the companies named asking for donations and thanks to all the businesses and individuals who donated these generous prizes.

We raised just over £2,000 which was above our aim. All the profits from the day will be used for improvements to the under 12's play area, the hall grounds, tennis court, Friendship Garden and Village Hall so we can continue to have a community facility that benefits everyone.

Here are some photos of the Day – more will be found on our Village Hall Facebook page.



At our October Management Meeting we voted to spend funds on the following items:

- Cycle Rack, Second indoor notice board, Laser measure for the Indoor Bowls Team,
- New Amplifier, speakers and microphones for the sound and loop system, Outdoor storage shed, Comfy Chairs
- Solar outdoor light for the car park, Re-marking the parking spaces

Next year we hope to raise enough funds through grant applications to update the toilet facilities.

We held our first Community Lunch on Wednesday 27th October – too late for the copy deadline to report - but at the time of writing this we already had 34 villagers signed up to a Free lunch of Cottage Pie followed by Apple Crumble. The next lunch will be held on Wednesday 24th November. See details separately.

Fontmell Magna goes yellow for Mental Health and Wellbeing

The village of Fontmell Magna turned yellow on Thursday 7th October as part of Mental Health Week. The #HelloYellow campaign by the charity Young Minds, saw pupils from the local primary school and members of the community come together – whilst wearing yellow – to take part in an inter-generational project at the heart of the community.

Over one hundred daffodil bulbs were planted outside the village hall by the children, with support from villagers. A team of local residents also put on some fun craft activities for the children – helping them to create bright yellow cardboard sunflowers and daffodils. The younger children helped to decorate the village's 'Friendship Garden' with a collection of knitted bumblebees made by volunteers, and admired the work that has been taking place at the garden, with themed flower beds being planted by different community groups.

The event was organised Debbie Brown (Headteacher of St Andrew's CE Primary School) and local resident Sian Highnam, who has been instrumental in setting up the Friendship Garden. Sian ran the London Marathon this month, and in support of this, pupils from the school took part in a scaled down version of her run, and talked about the importance of exercise for good mental health. At the end of the day the children had an assembly about the importance of mental health and wellbeing, and Sian joined the children to talk about the marathon and show them her medal! The day also raised a fantastic £125 for the Young Minds charity.

Headteacher Debbie Brown said 'It was a magical day from the start, with so many children turning up in sunshine yellow. We have run, planted, created, sung, danced and laughed our way to great wellbeing today. This community are very special and came out in full force to help us focus on this important issue for young people. The school and Fontmell villagers will be planning lots more events together; without a doubt we all felt lifted by today'.

Sian said "What a joy it was to welcome the whole school community of St Andrew's Primary School to our community village hall and to the Fontmell Friendship Garden. The garden has been established in the village to aid social prescribing in the Blackmore Vale Practice through gardening projects to aid and assist the health and well-being of all. How fitting that we should join with our youngest members in the community to recognise the importance of mental health and well-being. The daffodils planted by the children will be a constant reminder to us in the community of all ages joining together on a happy day full of smiles and laughter. We are delighted to be working with the school community and look forward to more adventures together".



Compost Corner

I happened across a very pretty pelargonium whilst on holiday and managed to track it down online but the plant came with a warning, it was 'poisonous to dogs'. Well, it has to be said I don't know many people who add a garnish of pelargonium to their dog's Winalot, and even though our Labrador is extremely greedy he doesn't have a sneaky nibble of my pelargonium 'Attar of Roses', however deliciously fragrant, when he's feeling peckish. And was this pelargonium poisonous for children too and indeed anyone else? That didn't seem relevant. Of course one does have to be cautious, there are some plants that are so toxic I would definitely avoid them - monkshood (Aconitum) is one and if ingested in large doses will cause almost instantaneous death', not a winning description. Anyway, I'm now the proud owner of the pretty pelargonium which turned out to be a variety called 'Millfield', its delicate, small pink flowers are very reminiscent of Rosa Bonica, and to date Ludo our Labrador has shown no interest in it whatsoever, culinary or otherwise.

Alison Main



Village weather for September 2021

Dry weather continued from August. A little rain after 17 days but mostly dry with good sunshine until the final week

9 rain days, 2 ground frost, no gales, thunder, hail or air frost,

Comp. Figures	2021	2020
Rain (Most 13.1 mm on 29th)	37.5mm	55.4 mm
Sunshine	122.7 hrs Avg 4.2 hrs	139.7 Hrs
Max mean temp. (highest 28.3 on 6th)	20.7 °C	19.6 °C
Min mean temp. (lowest 4.0°C on 30th)	10.8°C	8.55°C

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:

(fmgossiption@gmail.com)

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

Submissions for the November issue by Thursday 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 **fmgossiption@gmail.com***